

Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk

The Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk took place on Sunday, June 26 at Creamer's Field. The event was put on hold for the last 2 years due to Covid-19, so having it take place this year was a treat for all. Members of the community came out to enjoy a walk through the field while shopping at local vendors' booths, participating in activities for the children, and observing a quick draw event that featured many local artists, including Tammy Holland, who provides the artwork displayed throughout the Design Alaska buildings. Every year Design Alaska picks an employee to create a design for the mugs that are then created and given as a complimentary gift for each family that attends the event. The design for this year's cup was a Peregrine Falcon done by Isaac Ladines.



President's Corner

Business culture (Corporate Culture) is a term that describes the office environment, the way we do business, and how we represent ourselves when we are out in the community engaging in projects for Design Alaska. Culture is not just one item that is easily described, but a whole collection of thoughts, actions, and values that make up a whole. Culture is not static and evolves over time (the 1950's culture is not the same as 2020s). It is the decisions and actions that we make in everything we do that help evolve workplace culture.

Design Alaska's core values to Serve the Client, Support the Employee, and Strengthen the Community, and our purpose to Provide our Employees with a Rewarding Professional Work Experience is built into our culture. The way we serve our client is part of culture. Our drive to provide quality work, on agreed to schedule, and with consideration of their budget is part of our culture.

We are proud of the culture that is reflected by these values, and we show it in a variety of ways:

- Financially supporting participation in professional societies and community groups.
- Promoting wellness from challenges, ACEC Designed Wellness (health care plan), to offering free visit to local financial planner for retirement advise.
- Food trucks and monthly company BBQ's.
- Professional development classes and certification support.
- Hiring college interns and supplying meaningful work that shows them the industry.
- Sponsoring community events such as the Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk and Eielson AFB events.
- Maintaining company policies and standards to better reflect our current times, technology, and
- professional inclusivity so that we can provide consistent products backed by experience to our customers.

Culture can also be as simple as focusing on projects, putting the time needed to get projects out on schedule, and having the flexibility when our work ebbs to get out and enjoy our community. We are professionals and we foster a professional approach in everything we do. Cultures do shift over time; however, our values and purpose help us make decisions that evolve our culture in a way that we can all continue to take pride in our professional Design Alaska team.

~ Chris Miller P.E.

President

Design Alaska Company Picnic



We had a luau for this year's company picnic which was held on Friday, June 10. Suka's Polynesian Cuisine and Bristol's Shave Ice provided delicious food and large shave ice throughout the event.

Employees took the time to socialize, play cornhole and guessing games, took selfies at the selfie station, and watched the children play in the bounce house/pool all while Cold Steel played upbeat tunes for all to enjoy. As usual, it was a great event!!



Merle K. “Mudhole” Smith Airport

By Josh Clifton



Figure 1: Looking west off the end of the runway towards Cordova

We had a site visit back in May to investigate replacing the airport lighting and navigational aids at Merle K. “Mudhole” Smith Airport in Cordova. Mudhole is a fitting name for the airport given that it is completely surrounded by wetlands, and at times, the runway lights are actually below the water creating water geysers when the light covers are removed. Despite how fitting a name it is for the airport, Mudhole was Merle

Smith’s nickname, which he earned after one of the

wheels on his plane dropped into a hole on take off from the runway near Bremner Mine (South of McCarthy), causing the plane to nosedive into the muddy runway, propeller still spinning at 1,800 RPMs, and dig a hole. A fellow pilot with a bit of beef with Smith overheard the story, gave him the nickname, and it stuck.

Alaska Airlines has a short little write up on his life and significance to Alaska aviation for anyone who is interested in reading further in to the story of his nickname and his life:

<https://www.alaskaair.com/content/about-us/history/mudhole-smith>



Figure 2: A WWII machine gun bunker located just off the runway

More Pictures from the Company Picnic



New Employee Spotlights



Shane Bennett is the newest addition to the Mechanical Department. He is here as a Mechanical Intern. He decided on trying for a position at Design Alaska after reading reviews online from former employees about the workplace. He said during his interview, he felt like management was very welcoming.

Shane was born and raised in Southeast Alaska, moving to Fairbanks in 2018 for the UAF STEM programs. Shane explained, "My family is from Wrangel and Ketchikan where my Tlingit and Tahltan roots have been for thousands of years. My Scandinavian and English ancestors arrived in Alaska four generations ago. I treasure my heritage." Shane currently lives in Fairbanks with his partner Kristian, their plant pets, and a tank of snails.

Shane collects camping gear, and is an avid camper. He also enjoys hammocking, rock climbing, and laying in the sun after a long hike. If Shane could live anywhere in the world, he thinks Hawaii would be nice; he fell in love with mahi mahi on Oahu.

He feels like he is most productive in the mornings, but happiest in the afternoon, typically right after work. Shane's favorite song is "Doesn't Remind Me" by Audioslave. While he does love pho and mahi mahi, his ideal meal is grilled fish on a croissant with Vietnamese soup.

His perfect day is listening to Audioslave in a hammock on a tropical coastline with a mahi mahi sandwich on the edge of a cliff in the midafternoon.

Welcome to Design Alaska Shane!



Amie Miller recently joined the Architecture Department as an Interior Designer. Originally from Kansas, Amie came to Alaska with her husband while he was enlisted in the Army. They eventually ended up in Texas. She applied to Design Alaska because she wanted to move back to Alaska. She wanted to do interior design, but focus on commercial design. Where she lived in Texas limited her to mostly residential opportunities. If Amie could live anywhere, it would be Rome, Italy.

Amie has one daughter, Allison, who is a student at Texas Tech and engaged to her high school sweetheart. Amie is owned by a pair of miniature dachshunds named Dash and Krieger. She has had doxies her whole life, and is a firm believer that they are like potato chips, you can't have just one.

Her hobbies include yoga, gardening, and reading. She has also done Middle Eastern dance. She is a huge sports fan and will watch just about any sport. Her favorites are NCAA basketball, to be more specific the current National Champions, the Kansas Jayhawks and the March Madness Tournament. She is also extremely passionate about NHL hockey and the Colorado Avalanche.

She doesn't consider herself a morning or night person, saying she can be either depending on the situation. However, she does find herself more productive in the morning. She tried to narrow down her favorite songs and said that she would need to pick a song from every genre to fit her mood. Her favorite movie is *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!* Julie Newmar.

Welcome to Design Alaska Amie!



David Cox recently joined the Electrical Department as an intern. He decided to apply for a position at Design Alaska because of our “well-known reputation and the fact there were only four places in the state offering Electrical or Computer Engineering internships in the state of Alaska.”

David comes from a military family, and while he was born in Ohio, he moved around for the first ten years of his life. At age 12 they moved to Alaska, and he considers it home. He recently finished his third year at Cedarville University, near Dayton, Ohio, which is close to where he was born. He is doing the five year program, which has given him the freedom to add several minors to his degree: mathematics, computer science, and biblical studies.

David has been engaged to his fiancé Triniti since October 2021. His dad is a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Fairbanks, and his mom is a massage therapist. David’s younger sister is majoring in Molecular Biology, and his younger brother is in Industrial Design. He has two dogs, Sitka and Keetna.

For fun David likes to do landscaping and astrophotography; he used to do time-lapse of the aurora. Not many people know he was once stung by a jellyfish in the Arctic Ocean at Point Barrow.

If David could live anywhere he would stay in Alaska, if money and a job weren't a factor he would live in a cabin in the Eastern Alaska range. But since those do factor in, he would like to stick to Fairbanks or the MatSu area.

He is definitely a night person, although school has forced him to become a morning person. He said that cramming for an 8 a.m. exam is easier at 6 a.m. than it is to stay up until 2a.m. His favorite song is Chasing the Wind by Wolves at the Gate, his favorite movie is Hawksaw Ridge, and his favorite childhood show was Duck Dodgers. His ideal meal is buffalo chicken pizza and chocolate cheese cake. He wouldn't mind if there were some breadsticks thrown in as well. David would like to travel to Antarctica and space.

David is excited to see what engineering actually looks like, instead of the just doing the school course work.

Welcome to Design Alaska David!



3 Tips for Post-Exercise Muscle Recovery

By Ridgeview Chiropractic

June 2022 Newsletter | Ridgeview Chiropractic



After finishing a workout, you might be tired-but you'll also feel accomplished, and that's a great feeling! The next morning might not be as great. Sometimes, soreness sets in, sidelining you from your daily exercise routine.

Your routine may be missing proper recovery techniques, leading to injury or unnecessary soreness. Here are a few tips to follow after completing a workout.

1. Stretch it out. You'd be surprised at how many people don't stretch! After your cool down, spend 10 minutes stretching your lower back, legs, and arms.

2. Do active recovery. This means that you don't just end your workout when your heart rate is elevated. Instead, bring it down gently. This is also known as a “cool down.”

3. Consume enough protein. Exercise causes tiny micro-tears, which can help us get bigger and stronger. Protein helps muscles heal effectively.



| What's your favorite board game and what do you enjoy most about it? | |
|--|--|
| Adam Shilling | Settlers of Catan – I love that sweet sweet free market capitalism with the wood for sheep, supply, and command. |
| Chris Miller | I have played board games recently, but I still have the fondest memories of 'RISK, a game of strategic conquest'. The strategy and tactics really appealed to me. My family tolerated playing with me, but I had to keep the game moving fast, or they would lose interest. 'Ticket to Ride' is a good family game that is more modern that I like to play for similar reasons and much less war. |
| Blake Burley | My family used to spend winter evenings playing Trouble. A quick game that somehow we never lost interest in despite the hundreds of games we played. |
| Mary Sue Dates | Scrabble for two reasons: 1. When I was raising my family, it was a great "spelling" and language game; without my kids realizing it and 2. When families play games, of any kind, all walls come down and that is a great time to have conversations, a good way to get to know each other, and so much more. |
| Eliza Cink | Pandemic. I've only recently found it but love the fact that it's a cooperative game for adults and not a competitive one. |
| Robin Rader | My favorite board game floats over time. It was Monopoly in elementary school, then Risk in high school, next was Settlers of Catan, and currently it is Ticket to Ride. |
| Kayla Messina | My favorite board game is Clue and the best thing about playing it is seeing how long I can get away with "cheating." In my defense, if your clue sheet or cards are out in the open, what's going to stop me from peeking? I'm just trying to be a good detective. ☐ |
| Molly McGuire | My friends and I are playing Gloomhaven. I like it because it's a D&D style role playing game, but the background work has already been done for you. It comes with a multiple path story line, board pieces you assemble to make the various scenario maps, and characters ready to go. It's a good alternative for people who like role playing games, but don't have the time to create a campaign every time they play. They have a streamlined version called Gloomhaven: Jaws of the Lion which we started out with since half of us hadn't played the main game before. It was a good introduction and much less expensive. |
| Lyle Axelarris | Ticket to Ride has a great balance of strategy, luck, risk taking, geographical education, and potential for nastiness. |
| Deanna Woods | Depends who I am playing with. My son and I like to play Dinosaur Escape. It is a cooperative game, so it helps teach him teamwork. If I am playing with friends I like Catan and Pictionary. We are all extremely competitive. These two games usually get extremely intense. |

July 2022 ~ Upcoming Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----|
| | | | | | 1 Company BBQ | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Independence Day-Office Closed | 5 | 6 Table Massage | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Wellness Lunchbyte | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Table Massage | 21 Food Truck | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Managers' Meeting | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

June and July Birthdays

Design Alaska Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Sebastian Rodriguez | June 13 |
| Patrick Brandon | June 18 |
| Emily Steele | June 20 |
| John Rowe | June 20 |
| Shane Bennett | July 6 |
| Grant Olson | July 16 |
| Mitchell O'Bryant | July 18 |
| Don Hopkins | July 22 |
| Deanna Woods | July 28 |



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|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Susan Walker | 22nd Anniversary | June 12, 2000 |
| Bill Kinne | 18th Anniversary | June 1, 2004 |
| Mitchell O'Bryant | 12th Anniversary | June 1, 2010 |
| Lyle Axelarris | 10th Anniversary | June 4, 2012 |
| Isaac Ladines | 3rd Anniversary | June 3, 2019 |
| Robin Rader | 30th Anniversary | July 20, 1992 |
| Eric Gabrielson | 28th Anniversary | July 30, 1994 |
| Molly McGuire | 9th Anniversary | July 15, 2013 |
| Emily Winfield | 8th Anniversary | July 30, 2014 |
| Dantasia Baum | 5th Anniversary | July, 10, 2017 |
| Pete Jacobsen | 5th Anniversary | July 24, 2017 |