

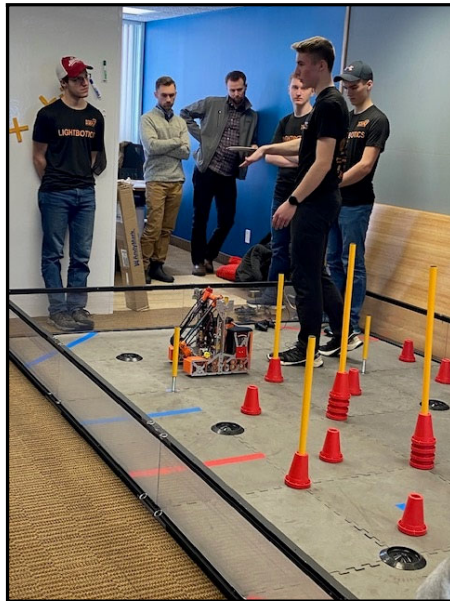
2023 Engineers Week Banquet Highlights



On February 24, ASPE held the 2023 Engineers Week Banquet at the Westmark. The evening started with a social hour, complete with music by The Headbolt Heaters and a welcome by Emily Winfield. A last minute substitute had Samuel Mitchell as the Master of Ceremonies. Emily Winfield presented the 2023 Engineer of the Year Awards, and Chris Miller presented the Lifetime Achievement Award .

Special thanks to Emily Winfield, Samuel Mitchell, Jeff Putnam, Eliza Cink, Dantasia Baum, Deanna Woods, Grant Olson, Marina Jones, Josiah Alverts, and Emory Mildon for helping in different capacities with the event.

Lunchbyte with Lightbotics



On Tuesday March 7, Lightbotics, a high school robotics team with IDEA Homeschool, came to give us a demonstration. Lightbotics won the 1st Inspire Award at the FIRST Tech Challenge state tournament. They were then invited to Houston, Texas to represent Alaska at the first World Championship.

First Tech Challenge teams are tasked with designing, building, programming and operating robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge.

The team consists of Alex Burgess, Curtis Beck, Jordan Zesiger, Lucan Nussbaumer and Zach Burgess.



You have unlimited financing to invent the most ridiculous thing you can think of: what do you make?	
Cathryn Petersen	Whale dairy farms. Blue whales produce 50 gallons of milk a day, as opposed to ~8 a day from a jersey cow, and the milk is 35-50% fat, as opposed to the cow's 3%. Infuse the milk with some fancy vitamins and voila! End world hunger, and get a bunch of pet whales as a bonus. You're welcome, world. (I'll name the head whale Francesca and get her a dainty pink leash with sequins on it so she can feel pretty.)
John Rowe	I would create a "Environmental Bubble" capable of engulfing a 1 acre lot and allow the administrator to control the temperature, humidity, etc.. inside the bubble. I would love to have a nice tropical pool and garden to relax in (January, February and March especially).
Chris Miller	For my wife, smart eyeball lenses. They would automatically focus, zoom, have night vision, infrared range, facial recognition, dim for bright sun. Everything you always want in glasses but no external hardware and no daily contact maintenance.
Samuel Mitchell	If I had unlimited money to invest in a start-up company, it would be for a moose farm. Moose milk, moose cheese, moose sleigh rides, etc. The Russians already do it so if/when Putin has his hairbrained idea to retake Alaska, I will be ready to kick-off my operation since it isn't likely to fly currently - especially because a Norway study recently found ties between excess moose and global warming.



Congratulations Mitchell Family

As Samuel said:

Laurel Jade surprised us with a very fast delivery on the side of Goldstream Road early in the morning Monday, January 30. Ally and baby are doing great. Older siblings, Oliver and Hazel, are settling in to their new roles nicely.

Laurel weighed 9 lbs 1 oz and was 19.5 inches.



Valentine's Day Sweet Treats



On Valentine's Day, Design Alaska employees were treated to an array of sweet treats. There were muffins, cupcakes, yogurt dipped pretzels, chocolate drizzled strawberries, and huge cookies baked by Dantasia.





Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Recycle

By Taylor Tharp



In today's world, so many of our products come in plastic containers and it feels like an insurmountable task to eliminate our plastic waste. As someone who is new to the trend of choosing more environmentally friendly options, I have to remind myself that it doesn't have to be all or nothing, every little bit helps in the long run. This past year I switched some of my cleaning products and hand soaps to Blueland refillable products. This small change has opened my eyes to how many other plastic products I use around my house that contribute to plastic waste. This coming year I will be working towards transitioning everyday products in my life to more sustainable choices and I thought this would be a great opportunity to share some of the changes that I am looking into to help and encourage others to do the same. As a reminder, this is also one of the wellness challenges this year, so feel free to use this information to help yourself earn a star!

In Alaska, we have limited options for recycling and doing take-back programs cost more to ship from Alaska, which also contribute to shipping emissions. As such, my focus has been on finding products that don't contain plastic so that they are more biodegradable as well as items that are reusable and refillable. I've been surprised how many items are available out there and the list below are some of the products and brands I'm working on switching. Most of these products are sold locally at Sunshine Health Foods. If you have additional ideas or would like personal feedback from me as I switch to these products, please feel free to reach out.

Toothbrush/Hairbrush

Options: Wood or bamboo handles. Toothbrushes can come with nylon bristles or boar bristles.

Toothpaste

Options: Paste or tablets that come in glass containers and tablet refills are available in paper pouches.

Brands: UnPaste, Bite

Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Soap

Options: Bars or refillable containers.

Brands: Lush, J.R.Liggetts, and there are so many more options online.

Locally Sold: Sunshine Health Foods has a refilling station for body soaps, shampoos, conditioners, and more.

Laundry & Dishwasher Detergent/Dish Soap

Options: Detergent sheets, refillable containers, powders with biodegradable containers, bar dish soap with brush.

Brands: Blueland, Earth Breeze, True Earth

Locally Sold: Sunshine Health Foods has a refilling station for liquid laundry & dishwasher detergent and dish soap, also have other options available.

Cleaning brushes & Sponges

Options: Wood with boar bristles, natural loofah walnut, or coconut husk sponges.

Trash Bags/Sandwich Bags

Options: Compostable trash bags and sandwich bags, beeswax wrap.

Face Cleanser/Lotions

Options: Bars, glass containers, refillable products, make your own.

Locally Sold: Sunshine Health Foods has a refilling station for face cleansers and lotions.

Razors/Shaving Creams

Options: Metal safety razors (for men & women), bar shaving cream or soap with wood brush.

Brands: Leaf Shave, Rex Supply

Makeup (Mascara, Foundation, Blush, Eyeshadow, etc.)

Options: Fillable metal tins with wood brushes, many products have a magnetic case that you can replace the refillable insert, non-plastic containers.

Brands: Kjaer Weis, Dab Herb, Clean Faced Cosmetics, check out Sustainable Jungle for more recommendations.

Over the counter Medications

Options: Refillable glass containers

Brands: Cabinet

For the DIY Enthusiasts

Options: Endless resources available through books and online to make your own toothpastes, shampoos, cleaning supplies, beauty products, etc.

Brands: Create your own brand!

Water Bottle Filling Station

Design Alaska has recently installed water bottle filling stations in the Main Building downstairs hallway near the Marketing Department and in the Annex on the opposite side of the wall of the Kitchen near the Electrical Department. This is a continued effort to promote reducing plastic waste and using reusable bottles as well as increase awareness of healthy beverage choices by providing clean, cold, filtered water available easily throughout the work day for employees.

A little tip when filling your water bottle and preventing spills on the floor, tilt your water bottle outwards as shown in the image, which will help stop the filling process and any excess water will go into the catch drain rather than on you or the floor.

Stay hydrated!

~Wellness Committee



2023 World Ice Art Championship

Design Alaska is a proud sponsor of the 2023 World Art Championships.

This event runs through March 31. Since it started in 1990, they have had ice sculptors come from 7 continents, 52 countries, and 1752 cities!

Bring your family and friends, look at the beautiful ice sculptures, go down the slides, and then warm up with a cup of hot chocolate!



April 2023 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Table Massages	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Cake Day	18	19 Table Massages	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Manager's Meeting	28	29

March and April Birthdays Design Alaska Anniversaries

Jeffrey Leonelli	March 3
Mary Sue Dates	March 7
Samuel Mitchell	March 21
Susan Walker	March 22
Chris Miller	March 27
Adam Shilling	March 31
Jennifer Davis	April 3
Aaron Wilbur	April 14



Bob Gras	37th Anniversary	April 14, 1986
James Bartlett	27th Anniversary	April 19, 1996
Kym Pihlaja	22nd Anniversary	March 1, 2001
Don Hopkins	20th Anniversary	April 14, 2003
Jeffrey Leonelli	13th Anniversary	March 22, 2010
Blake Burley	5th Anniversary	April 9, 2018
Aaron Wilbur	4th Anniversary	April 10, 2019
Ryan Morse	3rd Anniversary	March 02, 2020

Don't forget to file for your PFD by March 31!