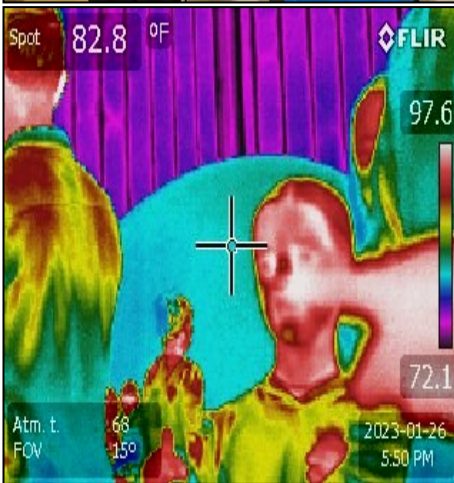


Blowing off STEAM

By Emory Mildon and Ryan Morse



Ryan and Emory from our Architecture and Mechanical Departments spent an evening this winter with the students and families of Pearl Creek Elementary School at their first Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) event since 2020. The event kicked off with a taco buffet before the gymnasium quickly filled with over 300 curious minds. Design Alaska set up a booth to demonstrate our Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) camera for visitors to SEE the heat around them. An abundance of fruit snacks helped lure prospective learners to our table.

Other booths, jumping kids, and the thermal bridging of the gym walls provided ample examples to talk about how this technology works and how we apply it to building design. The booth also included kettles of boiling water, boxes of snow, and a Sterling engine demonstration to introduce visitors to the 'magic' of thermal dynamics. Those wearing puffer jackets saw their body heat well insulated except for the glowing seams, while cold water became invisible ink for writing on paper, clothing, and skin visible through Infra-Red video. We enjoyed sharing the evening with over 50 industry peers along with the next generations of design professionals and look forward to being invited back next year!



President's Corner

Professional Societies

Design Alaska has recently expanded their Professional Society Policy to pay the membership dues of one organization for any exempt employee. Professional Societies serve a very important purpose in our business. They provide technical research, scholarships, networking opportunities with peers, and leadership experiences. Memberships have a wide variety of benefits across organizations, but in general, it provides validation that individuals support the mission's of the groups, and provides some revenue to fulfill basic operational needs.

I want to encourage individuals to be active in their societies. Although we do not pay for your time during work, we want to make it easy for you to participate and provide the flexibility that is needed during work days. Active can mean attending in person training meetings, serving as an officer, fundraising, serving on a committee, or managing the checkbook. We have seen many examples over the years of peers who have been very active in their groups and the positive reinforcement that comes back in their growth. This benefits both the community and profession at large.

I am currently active in the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Alaska Society of Professional Engineers. I also attend some activities for International Code Council, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Alaska Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and the Society of Military Engineers. It is beneficial to coordinate with your co-workers and join different organizations, so we can spread our energy and experience throughout the industry. Not everyone needs to belong to the same group. We track memberships through our Administrative Department so we can utilize member discounts that may be available for books on applicable standards.

If you are actively involved in a professional society related to your work, we will support you with payment of your dues. If you have paid dues without reimbursement since January 1, 2023, you can turn in an expense report for your dues.

If you don't know where to start to find a group that you might be interested in, please talk with your peers. They are probably on a mailing list of a group and would likely be willing to introduce you to the correct folks.

Please share in your next department meetings what you do to actively participate with your peers and professional societies. What have your experiences been?



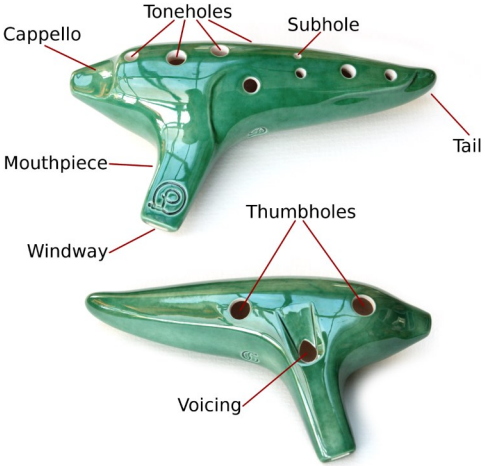
Be Active!

Chris Miller, PE

President, Design Alaska

What is your favorite musical instrument? Did you ever play an instrument or do you play today?	
Mary Sue Dates	Harp, it is soothing!
Blake Burley	The harp is one of my favorites, it's a very distinctive and pleasant sound. I got a lesson or two, but you probably don't want me to play for the next company picnic. One of Courtney's sisters is quite talented though. She even released an album a few years back, it's on Spotify if you search Carissa Martus: Maple Harp Christmas.
Elizabeth Johnston	I play the piano and am an on-again-off-again student of Dr Zilberkant at UAF. I never finished my music degree, but someday might.
Taylor Tharp	I started out playing the electric bass in band and jazz band in early middle school and then switched to standup bass in orchestra. Standup bass was surprisingly more fun as you could insert more emotion into the music with the use of a bow. I played with the Yavapai Community College and Pops Symphony Orchestra all through high school before moving to Fairbanks and have played occasionally since. My favorite instrument, and if I ever choose to learn a new instrument, would have to be the cello.
Cathryn Petersen	No question, French horn has the most beautiful sound. But if you don't have a group of people to play with, piano is better. I play piano, xylophone/marimba, most brass instruments, most non-reed woodwind instruments, guitar, and a little ukulele. I played at churches, weddings, and schools in a professional recorder ensemble for nearly ten years. We dressed up in Renaissance costumes and everything. I still have my full range of recorders, from bass to garklein, if anyone wants to start up an ensemble with me...
Lyle Axelarris	It's all kazoos and cow bells over here.
Isaac Ladines	I started playing piano around the age of 8. I played right up until I learned the James Bond Theme song. I still remember the day I could play it without fault. EPIC. Then my poor 12 year old developing mind got peer pressured into thinking instruments were for nerds and I completely stopped playing. Wish I could go back and tell that kid to embrace the nerd. Hoping to get back into it someday!
Chris Miller	<p>My Favorite is the Baritone Saxophone. The big one with the curly neck. I played in high school and to this day every time I hear a Bari Sax, I will move toward the sound so I can hear it better.</p> <p>Today I play Steel Drums in the local band Cold Steel. My primary instrument in the 2 barrel Guitar Pan which plays very similar music to a Bari Sax in a similar range. I also play the Bass Pans which are 6 full size barrels, and sometime sit in on drum kit to hold the groove. I have been playing in the steel drum band since 2003!</p>



Sabrina Davis	I love violin music. It is very relaxing to me. I played when I was in elementary and middle school. I took lessons again as an adult but got busy with kids and haven't played in years. I still have my violin and hope to play again someday.
Josiah Alverts	<p>My favorite instrument is probably bass or harmonica, because I think nothing makes a song groove more than some good bass and nothing charges a song with emotion better than harmonica (think Neil Young style). I just happen to play guitar! (picture of St. Patty's day)</p> 
Eliza Cink	<p>I used to play the flute, but it's been years. However, my favorite instruments are the ocarina and the theremin, mostly because they're unusual and weird, and I like that.</p>  
Jack Wilbur	My favorite instrument is the violin, which I played for a few years as a young adult. My daughter Sara is an accomplished violinist and currently plays with the Flagstaff, AZ symphony. I played the piano when I was in Junior High School and am currently having a lot of fun with a Ukulele.
Kym Pihlaja	My favorites change over the years. Piano has always been the favorite, but now enjoy listening to the violin and I would love to learn how to play the drums.
Ryan Morse	I've spent just enough time to be able to play a few passable pieces on a saxophone, or guitar-like object to develop a massive appreciation for people who truly master an instrument. As a listener there is nothing that fascinates me more than the music a single person can create once they have mastered the cello. 🤖

<p>Don Hopkins</p>	<p>Probably a Mandolin. Small but powerful sound. I used to play guitar, but have relatively short pinky finger so was not really very good. PS: I owned a business where I repaired musical instruments in a previous life, so know how to operate most (to know they worked) but make music ... Not so much.</p>
<p>Marina Jones</p>	<p>Not many people know this about me but I LOVE musical instruments in general and find it fun to pick up a new instrument and figure out how they work. I went to the Crane School of Music in New York for Piano Performance in College for 3.5 years before leaving for other endeavors. I was taught to conduct an orchestra, teach music classes, understand the basic workings of instruments and repair. Instruments in my house currently: Piano, electric guitar, electric bass, mandolin, tenor saxophone, didgeridoo, harmonica, practice chanter (mini bagpipe), portable melodeon (I also like to play the spoons in an impromptu jam). I have also dabbled in violin, trumpet, drums, bongos, flute, clarinet, and french horn for kicks. Did I mention I have a secret obsession with instruments?</p>
<p>Samuel Mitchell</p>	<p>I love when a steel guitar gets a solo intro or riff. Just something about that clear sound that gets me. Intro to "Far Behind" by Candlebox is a great example. Personally, I have played the piano and banjo - never mastered either, but still pick up my banjo occasionally.</p>



Clean Up Day



Save the Date: May 6th, 2023

Let's talk trash about

CLEAN UP DAY



Thank you to all community partners:

















What is Clean Up Day?

Clean Up Day is a community wide volunteer initiative to clean up the trash uncovered by melting snow in the Fairbanks North Star Borough before tourist season begins.

WHERE TO GET CLEAN UP DAY BAGS?

Boy Scouts - 1400 Gillam Way, Monday - Friday 9 AM to 5 PM, Saturday, May 14th, 2022 from 9 AM to 1 PM

Cowles Heating - 1675 Richardson Hwy, Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM

Central Recycling Facility - 1855 Marika Road, Tuesday - Friday noon to 5:30 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM

Green Star of Interior Alaska - 1101 Wells Street, hours vary, please call (907) 452-4152



Financial Wellness: Better Credit Habits

By: Jennifer Davis



Although it may not seem important, credit and credit scores are woven into our everyday lives. Excellent credit scores (780+) can help you save money on premiums for auto and homeowners insurance. Additionally, rental agencies can use credit to determine who to approve, and utilities can use credit to determine if deposits are necessary.

High credit scores can also help you leverage lower interest rates for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards. Currently an excellent credit score (780+) will qualify you for a mortgage loan that is up to 1.6% less than an average credit score in the 600s. This may not seem like a large difference, however that can equate to an increased payment of \$200 a month, or almost \$70,000 over the 30 year term for a \$200,000 mortgage.

With such a large impact credit can have on you finances, I'm sure you're wondering how you can increase or keep your score as high as possible. Here are some quick tips and suggestions:

- Apply for credit only if needed.
- Maintain on-time payments.
- Keep revolving credit, or credit cards, at 30% or below of their limits. Paying off credit cards monthly does not negatively impact your scores.
- To have a credit score, you must have an active credit account. This could equate to a credit card with one charge a month, paid in full every month.
No active lines of credit, over time, will actually revert your credit score back to its original 0 starting point.

Now that you know how to receive and maintain an excellent credit score, make sure to set up reminders to monitor it every 4 months.

- You are eligible for free credit reports every 12 months from each credit bureau. (Experian, Equifax and Transunion)
- Set up a reminder to check your report for errors, or ensure that you are not subject to identify theft.
- Visit AnnualCreditReport.com to check your reports. By checking one company every 4 months, to keep track of your credit year-round.
- Checking the information is free to you. Having the Bureaus reported score will cost a minimal fee.

North Pole High School Job Shadows

On Wednesday, March 29, Design Alaska hosted two job shadows from North Pole High School. Benjamin Smith and Kayden Walker started their day at 10 a.m. By day's end at 4 p.m., they had visited Architecture, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Survey, and Admin. The last stop of the day was meeting with Chris. It was great getting to know these students and wish them luck as they follow the path they've chosen for their future careers. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time to spend with the students. Special thanks to Mechanical for the pizza!



May 2023 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Table Massage	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Cake Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Mangers' Meeting & Food Truck	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

May Birthdays

Leah Monego	May 08
Kayla Messina	May 08
Marilyn Fye	May 28
Marina Jones	May 28
Eric Gabrielson	May 29



Design Alaska Anniversaries

Jack Wilbur	48th Anniversary	May 19, 1975
Marilyn Fye	22nd Anniversary	May 21, 2001
Cutter Degerlund	19th Anniversary	May 10, 2004
Jeff Putnam	15th Anniversary	May 01, 2008
Marcus Curley	14th Anniversary	May 11, 2009
John Rowe	13th Anniversary	May 23, 2010
Pat Brandon	10th Anniversary	May 06, 2013
Matt Krueger	8th Anniversary	May 18, 2015
Josh Clifton	5th Anniversary	May 07, 2018
Samuel Mitchell	5th Anniversary	May 07, 2018
Emory Mildon	4th Anniversary	May 13, 2019
Taylor Tharp	4th Anniversary	May 13, 2019
Grant Olson	3rd Anniversary	May 13, 2020
Deanna Woods	2nd Anniversary	May 24, 2021
John Dennis	1st Anniversary	May 16, 2022



Marcus Curley and Blake Burley having a little fun at a job site.