

UAA Women in Engineering

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) put on a Women in Engineering event on Friday, March 22. Our very own Emily Winfield, Elizabeth Johnston, Taylor Tharp, Tessa Anderson, and Emory Mildon were able to attend and discuss challenges facing women in the industry from a recruitment and retention perspective.

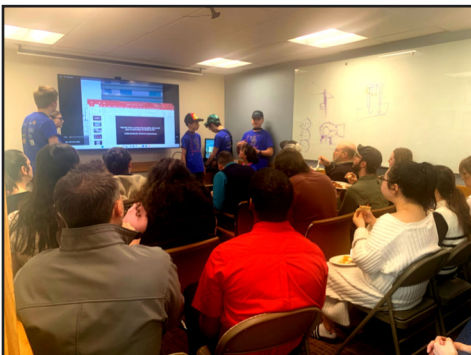
For over seventy years, SWE has provided women in engineering with a distinctive platform and voice in the engineering sector. As a non-profit educational service organization, SWE boasts a membership exceeding 15,000 international professionals and engineering students. We are proud to have such incredible representatives be a part of this organization and attend these events!



The Hungry Robot Robotics Team Lunchbyte

On March 13, Design Alaska hosted a Lunchbyte where The Hungry Robot team had the opportunity to practice their presentation and showcase a video of their robot demonstration. They also provided insights into the three components of the First Lego League (FLL): innovative project, robot design/performance, and core values.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to The Hungry Robot team for their outstanding achievements securing first place in the Anchorage competition, clinching First Place for the Champion's Award and Robot Performance Award in the Alaska Robot Rendezvous, as well as the First Place Champion's Award in the Fairbanks FLL Qualifier. As a Gold Level Travel Sponsor, Design Alaska proudly supported The Hungry Robots in traveling to Houston for another tournament. We wish them the best of luck!



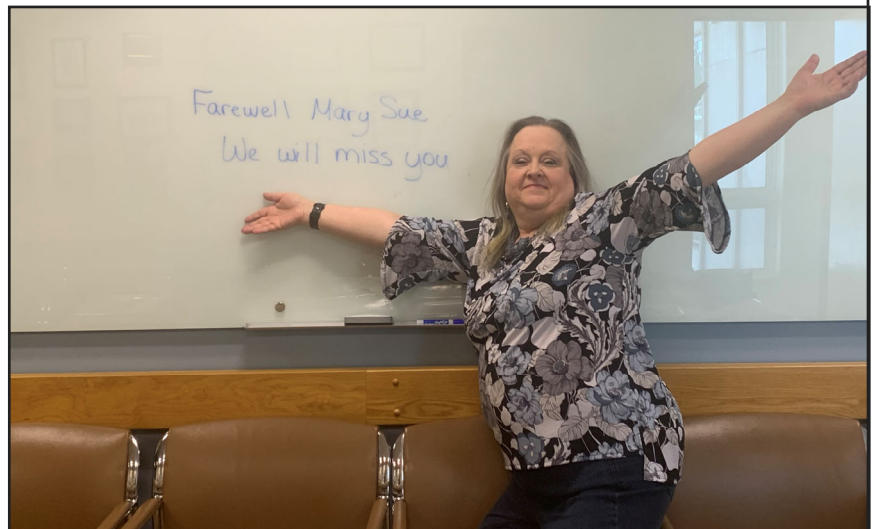
STEAM Night at Hunter Elementary

Hunter Elementary hosted their first STEAM Night on April 5, held in the newly renovated library, a project completed by Design Alaska. Design Alaska showcased our infrared (IR) imaging with the large IR camera set up to display viewers enlarged on the TV. Tessa Anderson and Jeff Leonelli attended the event as volunteers and brought along an array of hot and cold items to demonstrate how IR technology works. The two most popular items used were ice cubes and a hair dryer. The students enjoyed seeing themselves in IR and learning about the technology through hands-on activities like drawing with the ice cubes on their face and using the hair dryer to see both the cooling and heating effects on the screen.



Farewell for Mary Sue Dates

On Friday, March 29, we said a fond farewell to Mary Sue Dates. After over 10 years with Design Alaska, she is off to begin some new adventures. We celebrated her achievements here with a Nacho and Taco Bar as we wished her well on her new opportunities. We will miss you, Mary Sue!



Employee Question of the Month

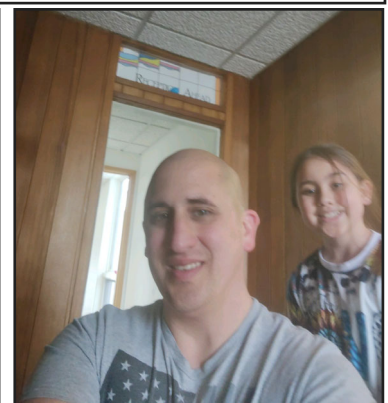
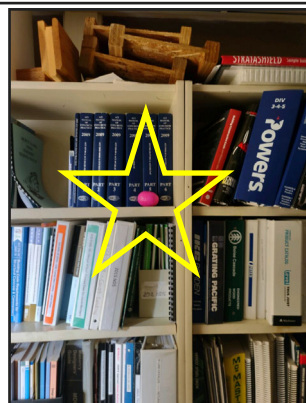
What is the most unusual or interesting thing you have in your vehicle?	
Kate VanDerZanden	Smiley face slippers.
Leah Monego	I have what we call the dinner basket in my car. With two older kids in sports and two toddlers along for the ride, we never know when we might need to eat dinner on the go. Plates, bowls, silverware, napkins, straws, towels, a serving spoon, salt and pepper because you never know when the crockpot may end up in the car.
Marina Jones	In my Tacoma I keep a roll of toilet paper and a harmonica. Because you never know when you want to break out in song or need to stop quick to use the loo behind a tree...or break out in song while going to the loo.
Blake Burley	A mostly eaten jar of M&M's from the company picnic guessing game last summer.
Don Hopkins	Small silicone pig with suction cup really meant to prop up phones. I don't use it for my phone, but to put on the dash as a reminder of something I need to do. When done, move back to center console so the piggy can rest.
Pat Brandon	I have a 15,000 lb winch that mounts into a 2" receiver. I also have 2" receivers on both the front and back of my truck, allowing me to mount the winch on either end. This way I can pull myself up my driveway, pull people out of the ditch, or pull myself backwards out of the ditch. It comes in handy a few times a year. I also have a 2" lift on my truck's front end and the brightest LED headlights money can buy, sorry fellow commuters!
Samuel Mitchell	I keep a baseball bat and glove under my back seat...You never know when you'll be driving along and suddenly a baseball game breaks out! Play Ball!
Cathryn Petersen	Since I'm not currently in my vehicle, I guess I can't pick myself, so I guess I'll say the heat sink off a video card, which hangs out next to my cup holder. Yes, on purpose. I will take no questions.



Easter Eggs at Design Alaska



Our very own Easter Bunnies, Jim and his daughter Bella, hid Easter Eggs around Design Alaska on Saturday March 30. Since then, our staff has been discovering vibrant eggs and sweet surprises scattered across our offices, with many more still waiting to be found!





10 Reasons You Should Begin Journaling Today

By Marina Jones



If you are like me, you hate writing. Especially when you spend your engineering career writing reports, narratives, meeting minutes, and professional articles. However, you may not have thought about it, but journaling could be your centering in a world gone mad and here are some reasons and ways why you should be doing it.

Spiritual Wellness Challenge: Keep and contribute to a journal or jar every week for 6 months.

#1. See yourself:

Constant stress turns your brain to spaghetti. You think stupid thoughts. Journaling shows you your own craziness.

Record your thoughts to understand yourself.

#2. Discovery:

Writing is thinking. You think new thoughts while you record current ideas. One sentence leads to the next.

#3. Action:

Answer this simple question in your journal. "What do you want to do about that?" In your head it's self-affirming to blame. Structured journaling enables responsibility-taking.

#4. Emotional expression:

You need a place to say things you can't say in public. Go ahead. Write that stuff down. Find clarity by reading your own thoughts and feelings.

Great challenges require clear thinking.

#5. Goal setting:

Set and track a simple daily goal. Record one thing you must do today. Think of something that moves you toward the person you aspire to become.

#6. Memory:

You forget your own life. Jot down a few things you want to remember. Record a success. Document progress. Memorialize challenges you have overcome.

#7. Creativity:

Give expression to your creative side. Self-expression is freeing especially in a place that doesn't directly impact others.

#8. Gratitude:

Write a sentence that begins, "I'm grateful for..."

Write another sentence that begins, "I'm grateful to..."

#9. Problem-solving:

Record three ways to solve a current challenge. Which one will you choose?

#10. Pattern recognition:

You repeat what you don't notice. Skim your journal once a week looking for recurring topics. Savor joyful patterns. Confront painful patterns.

TIP: Don't write *War and Peace*. Begin by setting a timer for three minutes.

Reference: <https://leadershipfreak.blog/2024/01/04/10-reasons-you-should-begin-journaling-today/>

May 2024 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Table Massages	2	3 Pre-Cinco de Mayo BBQ	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Floating Holiday	11 Company Adventure
12	13 Birthday Cake	14	15 Table Massages	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Food Truck Lunch	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Manager's Meeting	31	

May Birthdays

Leah Monego	May 8
Kayla Messina	May 8
Marilyn Fye	May 28
Marina Jones	May 28
Eric Gabrielson	May 29



Design Alaska Anniversaries

Jack Wilbur	49th Anniversary	May 19, 1975
Marilyn Fye	23rd Anniversary	May 21, 2001
Cutter Degerlund	20th Anniversary	May 10, 2004
Jeff Putnam	16th Anniversary	May 1, 2008
Marcus Curley	15th Anniversary	May 11, 2009
John Rowe	14th Anniversary	May 23, 2010
Pat Brandon	11th Anniversary	May 6, 2013
Matt Krueger	9th Anniversary	May 18, 2015
Josh Clifton	6th Anniversary	May 7, 2018
Samuel Mitchell	6th Anniversary	May 7, 2018
Emory Mildon	5th Anniversary	May 13, 2019
Taylor Tharp	5th Anniversary	May 13, 2019
John Dennis	2nd Anniversary	May 16, 2022
Kyle Callegari	1st Anniversary	May 15, 2023

Local Events in May

Hospice Plant Sale	May 25th, 9am-2pm
<i>2000 Turner Street, Fairbanks AK 99701</i>	
Golden Heart Clean Up Day	May 11th, 2024
Community Yard Sale	May 25th, 10am-4pm
<i>Ken Kunkel Community Center Parking Lot</i>	
<i>2645 Goldstream Road, Fairbanks AK 99701</i>	