



Monthly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

November 2025



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

Fall Update

By Kellie Fritze

As fall settles in, the UAF campus is full of energy and progress. Facilities Services has been working diligently behind the scenes to ensure our classrooms, labs, offices, and residence halls are ready for a productive semester.

Summer construction projects wrapped up successfully, and our teams prepared academic and residential spaces for returning students and faculty. The grounds crew kept campus looking its best despite heavy rainfall, while our utilities and HVAC staff managed the seasonal switchover from cooling to heating—keeping campus comfortable no matter the weather.

One of the most exciting projects underway is the new planetarium, made possible by the largest donor gift in UA history. Construction is moving forward quickly, with a grand opening planned for February. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for science education and community engagement—a true example of collaboration between Facilities, Development, Research, and Academic partners.

At the same time, planning continues for new student housing. These projects are complex, but progress is steady as teams refine options and coordinate with campus partners to create modern, welcoming living spaces that support student success and enhance the UAF experience.

Facilities Services is a large and diverse team—Utilities, Maintenance, Grounds, Transportation, Design and Construction, and many others—all playing vital roles in keeping UAF strong and thriving. Our newest group, the Environmental Community Partnership team, is already making positive contributions across campus.

Finally, thank you to the campus community for your patience, feedback, and collaboration. Your support helps us improve and ensures UAF continues to grow as a safe, efficient, and inspiring place to learn and work.

**In this newsletter
you can expect:**

Fall Update

UAF Events

Employee of the Month

"The Sick" Kevin Carroll
opening reception

Monkey Business at Utilities

UAF Canned Food Drive

UAF Benefits

Current Recruitments

First Friday Tour at the
Central Heat and Power
Plant

UAF Events

NOV 7	UTILITIES FIRST FRIDAY TOUR 1:30 PM
NOV 7	INDIGENOUS ART SHOW 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
NOV 11	ANNUAL ALL FS MEETING 8:30 - 11:00 AM
NOV 17	2025 ART STUDENT INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION
NOV 19	LARS HOLIDAY MARKET 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
NOV 27	HAPPY THANKSGIVING

[UAF NEWS AND EVENTS](#)

[SUPPORT UAF SPORTS](#)



Employee of the Month - Dan Bates

By Kellie Fritze

Please join me in congratulating Dan Bates from Central Receiving/Surplus Property as our November Employee of the Month!

Dan's leadership, innovation, and commitment to sustainability have made a lasting impact across Facilities Services and the broader UAF community. His creative problem-solving, upbeat attitude, and customer-first approach set a strong example for all of us. Please join me in congratulating Dan on this well-deserved recognition and thanking him for all he does!

Reasons for Nomination

Achievements and Accomplishments:

Dan has significantly reduced UAF's environmental footprint during his time running Surplus. He's negotiated with local vendors to provide free bins for storing various metals, which are then picked up for recycling. This change has likely saved the university thousands of dollars in disposal fees each year - while also keeping our local landfill a little smaller.

Positive Attitude and Behavior:

Dan is consistently upbeat and approachable. He's always in a great mood, helpful, and fun to talk to. His deep knowledge of the vast range of items available through Surplus makes every interaction both productive and enjoyable.

Teamwork and Collaboration:

Dan never says no to a department in need. He goes above and beyond to ensure every request is met - or exceeded. From moving entire racks to make space, to personally picking up surplus so departments can reclaim their areas sooner, Dan is always willing to lend a hand.

Leadership and Initiative:

Under Dan's leadership, Surplus has transformed from a once-a-year auction into a thriving monthly store that continues to grow in popularity. His initiative has created new value for the university and improved access to resources across departments.

Customer Service and Satisfaction:

Dan truly embodies the spirit of service. He believes we're all part of the UAF family, and if there's a way to meet a department's need, he'll find it - because helping one area strengthens the whole university.

Congratulations to Dan! If you'd like to nominate a colleague for next month's Employee of the Month, you can do so [here](#).

UAF Canned Food Drive

The UAF Police Department is teaming up with the Food Bank and other local agencies for this year's community canned food drive! You can drop off non-perishable food items in the collection bin at the UAF Police Department entry and at the Wood Center.

Donations will be accepted through Monday, November 24

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Max Becker and the UAF Police team.



The Sick BFA Thesis Exhibition

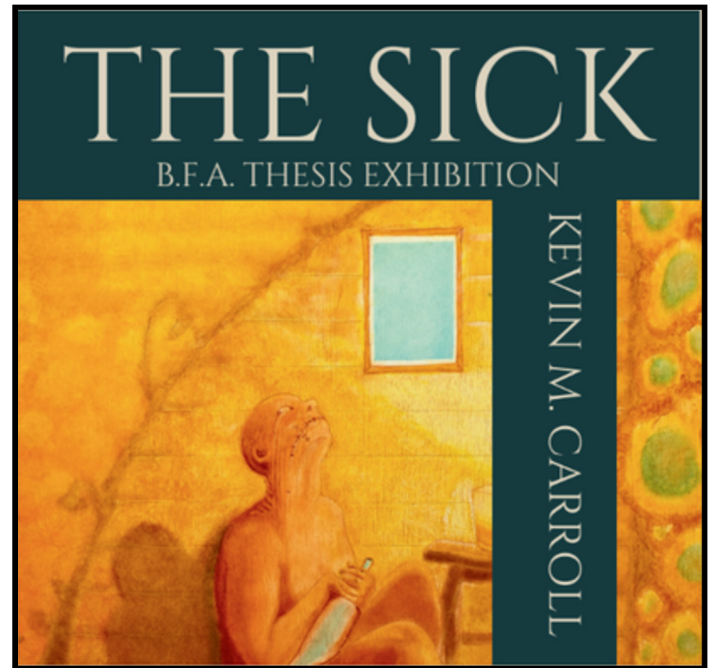
By Lesa Sears

Kevin Carroll worked at Facilities Services from 2017 to 2024. Kevin will be having his BFA Thesis Exhibition this month at the UAF Art Gallery.

According to the Health Analytics and Vital Records Section of the Alaska Department of Health's Division of Public Health, the number of drug-related overdoses in the state of Alaska increased by 45% from 2022 to 2023. Artist Kevin M. Carroll designed a survey to capture public perceptions of addiction through questions that ask respondents to describe addiction using adjectives and subjective reflection. Using this data, Carroll created a body of work consisting of 45 artworks, representative of the 45 percent increase. Carroll said "The Sick" is my reflection on past traumas of growing up in an urban environment. I combine my own experiences with those of 45 survey respondents, reflecting on their experiences with addiction & substance abuse to answer questions about what addiction looks like to them in colors, shapes, images, and personal stories."

The body of work is titled "The Sick," named for the illness that inflicts those who struggle with addiction. This exhibition features soft pastel and oil glazed layered paintings. The show's central themes of poverty, addiction, and trauma are expressed through vibrant color schemes & blending of natural forms often seen in graffiti art that are both beautiful & unnerving.

All UAF Art events are free and open to the public.



Monkey Business at Utilities

By Lesa Sears

There's a new face swinging around Utilities—and no, it's not a new hire! If you've wandered through the utilities buildings lately, you may have spotted a mischievous little character hanging out (literally). Meet the Turbine Monkey—a fluffy, adventurous stuffed animal who has made himself quite at home among our turbines, pipes, and rafters.

No one's quite sure how he got here, but one thing's certain—he's on the move! He's been spotted hitching a ride in the elevator, relaxing in the skybridge, and even swinging from the rafters like he owns the place. Wherever he goes, the Utilities crew seems to be one step behind, relocating him for his next grand adventure.

Who knows where he'll turn up next—just keep your eyes open... and maybe look up!

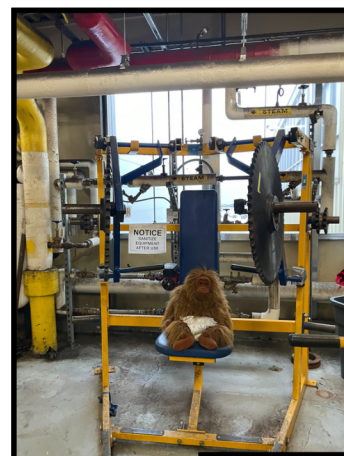


PHOTO S BY LESA SEARS

UAF Benefits

Contact the UA Benefits team
(907) 450-8242 | ua-benefits@alaska.edu
[Schedule one-on-one time](#)

Need personal benefits help?
[TouchCare](#) | 1-866-486-8242
assist@touchcare.com | [TouchCare's Website](#)

Current Recruitments



[Alarms Technician - 530903](#)

[MSW4 Utilities Laborer - 531506](#)

[HVAC Technician \(MSW4-CTI\) - 531479](#)

[CT2 Building Maintenance Technician - 531567](#)

[UAF Grounds Temporary Small Equipment Operator - Swing Shift - 531576](#)

[UAF Grounds Temporary Small Equipment Operator - Night Shift - 531569](#)

All Facilities Service Meeting



Tuesday November 11th

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Wood Center Ballroom



Light refreshments to be served

Free T-shirt for all attendees

Shuttle service from Power Plant and Physical Plant to North Wood Center

First Friday Tour at the Central Heat and Power Plant

The Utilities Operations Division of Facilities Services offers monthly tours of the UAF Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant. Tours take place on the first Friday of each month at 1:30 p.m., meeting on the first floor of the CHP Turbine Building (north side entrance).

To help us plan for the appropriate number of tour guides, please email UAF-chptours@alaska.edu in advance to reserve your spot. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a special tour, please contact us at the same email address.

We look forward to seeing you!



Thank you for reading!