



# Monthly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

02 January 2025



PHOTO BY SARAH MANRIQUEZ

## Exciting Updates Ahead: Check Out What's New This Month!

Welcome back to this year's first edition of Facilities Forum. Time for the announcements!

Congratulations to **Michelle Strickland**, she is January's Employee of the Month. If you know someone who you think deserves to be recommended as a future Employee on the Month, please visit this [link](#) to nominate them.

Reminder that R01 timesheet changes need to be submitted to FS HR ASAP.

January 20th is an observed UA Holiday for Martin Luther King Jr Day and the celebration of Alaska Civil Rights.

Please help welcome **Russell Lambeth**, a new shuttle bus driver, and **Steven Meade**, in the Electric and Trades Maintenance Shop, who both started last month.

ABM has updated maps and schedules that can be found [here](#).

**Please plug in vehicles!**



Thank you for being a part of Facilities Services!

*Facilities team x*

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Nathan's 2025 Predictions

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Art Students Explore CHP

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Owl Sighting

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Current Recruitments

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PHOTO BY LEIF VAN CISE

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# Nathan's Facilities Services Predictions for 2025

**by Nathan Platt**

Hello everyone! Each year, I make ten predictions about what will happen to UAF Facilities in the next 12 months. Some are serious, and some are just for fun. Next December we'll look back on these predictions to see how I did.

1. The UAF Child Care Center planned for Upark will receive full funding and full support from the University administration. Renovation efforts will start mid-summer, and by the end of 2025 we'll be planning a grand opening ceremony for the building, which will serve the UAF and Fairbanks community with safe, affordable, licensed child care for many years to come.

2. The Honors House on Copper Lane has been on the "tear down" list for many years. I predict that in 2025 it will NOT be demolished, rather the University will decide to put a new roof on the building, conduct a small interior renovation, add a wheelchair ramp, and keep it open for the Honors Program for several more years.

3. I have a different prediction about the Chancellor's House. I suspect that in 2025 the University will determine that the structure is beyond its useful life, and schedule it to be removed. The site will eventually be used for new housing (but not in 2025).

4. I predict that we will install the much-anticipated standby generator at the Physical Plant building. This generator will allow our building to be 100% functional in a power outage, enhancing our abilities to serve the rest of campus during those events.

5. During 2025, the new Planetarium will be finished on the west side of the UA Museum of the North, and open to much fanfare. I predict the opening ceremony will be attended by at least one US Senator and tickets to the shows held in the building will sell out for months. It will increase visitation to the Museum, particularly in the winter months.

6. I predict that the University will make important decisions about the future of the lower campus residence halls in 2025, keeping two of them open and planning the demolition of the other three. Although I don't think any of them will actually be torn down in 2025, I predict they will not house students after August of this next year.

7. Facilities Services will conduct a large brush clearing effort on campus to meet new insurance guidelines, especially north of the Cutler apartment complex. Trees will be cut back more than 100 feet from the buildings. I predict that, as part of that effort, a long-forgotten research project will be rediscovered deep in the woods, leading to a stoppage of work while it's investigated by scientists.

8. I predict that interest in building a new UAF hotel on campus will continue to grow in 2025, a final site will be chosen (which I think will be a big surprise to everyone, and it will NOT be directly across the road from the SRC), and a design concept will be finalized. UAF will work with a local developer to design the building, and by the end of 2025 we'll be scheduling a ground breaking ceremony for the spring.

9. This is a two-part prediction... UAF will achieve two important "firsts" on campus in 2025... we'll get our first electric car charging station and our first drive-through coffee stand.

10. Superintendent of Operations, Darrin "Bear" Edson's retirement party in October of 2025 will be the social event of the year for Facilities Services. Bear will go on to become a reality TV star, write adventure novels, and eventually come back part-time to help train the next generation of UAF equipment operators.





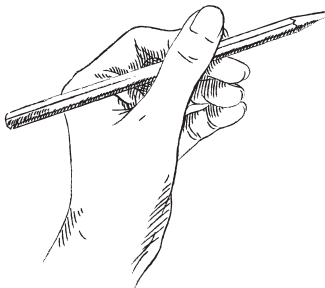
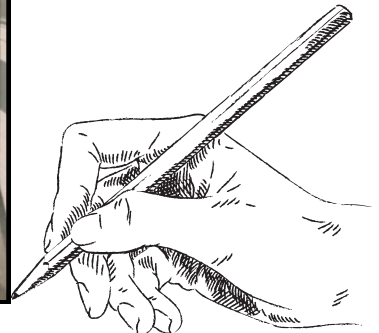
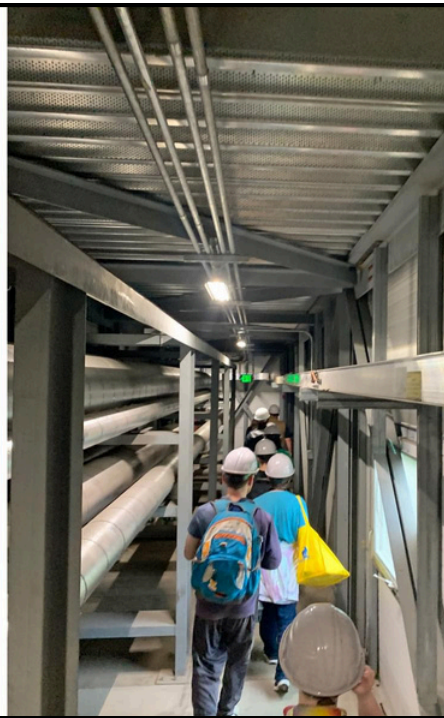
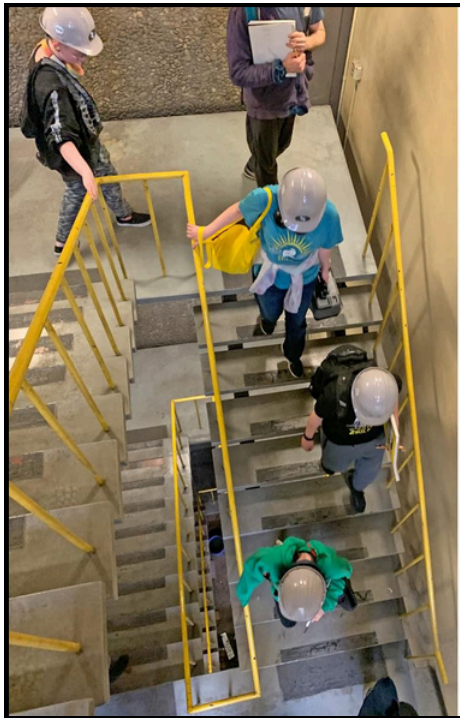
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# Art Students Explore Power Plant

**by Lesa Sears**

UAF Art students recently had the unique opportunity to tour and sketch at the UAF power plant, at the beginning of October. Professor Jamie Smith, a UAF instructor in Drawing and a renowned Alaskan cartoonist, coordinated with UAF Utilities to arrange this exciting experience for his drawing class.

The students explored the new and old power plants and the surrounding grounds, using the environment to practice sketching linear perspectives. Lesa Sears, UAF Utilities' administrative assistant and an art student at UAF, guided the group to various locations helping them capture the intricate industrial designs in their sketches.









## Owl Sighting



Bob Crenshaw took this photo of a visiting owl in December at the PMI office. Was this beauty one of the younglings we watched grow this last summer?

### Current Recruitments

[Procurement Technician](#)

[Instrumentation Mechanic](#)

[Building Tech - Kodiak](#)

[Painter/Maint Mechanic](#)

[Maintenance Mechanic](#)

*Thank you for reading!*



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