



# Monthly Newsletter

## FACILITIES FORUM

April 2026



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

### PERFORMANCE REVIEWS - LET'S GET THEM DONE

By Kellie Fritze

The FY26 staff performance evaluation process is underway. These reviews are an opportunity for supervisors and employees to connect, discuss expectations, and align goals with FS and UAF priorities. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring their team's evaluations are completed.

Evaluations should be finished by the end of the fiscal year. For those on shortened or contract schedules, please complete your review before going off contract. To stay on track, Facilities Services has set an internal deadline of June 1.

Reviews can be completed through the myUA dashboard or using a paper/PDF form. Training materials are available [here](#), and HR can assist with questions. Please connect with your supervisor to complete your review and keep things moving forward.

In this newsletter you can expect:

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS
UAF EVENTS
Employee of the Month
Kudos
Staff Recognition and Development Day
OPEN ENROLLMENT
UAF Benefits
Current Recruitments
First Friday Tour at the Central Heat and Power Plant

### UAF Events

MARCH 31 - APRIL 21 -  
APRIL 10  
JUNE 12, 12P-1:30P

OPEN ENROLLMENT  
STAFF RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT DAY  
SUMMER PICNIC ON THE WOOD CENTER PATIO

[UAF NEWS AND EVENTS](#)

[SUPPORT UAF SPORTS](#)



# Employee of the Month - James Mitchell

Please join me in congratulating James Mitchell as our April Employee of the Month!

James is someone who consistently shows up, takes ownership, and makes things better without needing recognition. He brings a steady presence to his work, steps in where needed, and can be counted on to follow things through the right way. He represents the kind of dependable, behind-the-scenes leadership that keeps Facilities Services operating effectively day in and day out. This recognition reflects both his work ethic and the impact he has across campus.

## Reasons for Nomination

### Achievements and Accomplishments:

James has become the campus “leak detective,” taking the lead on roof diagnosis and triage and helping track down problems wherever water decides to appear next. His work goes far beyond replacing ceiling tiles. From locating stubborn roof leaks to coordinating repairs that prevent larger structural and interior damage, James plays a key role in protecting campus facilities. During an especially demanding winter, he has also moved what can only be described as a heroic amount of snow, helping keep buildings safe, accessible, and operational. His consistent follow-through ensures issues are resolved quickly and thoroughly.

### Positive Attitude and Behavior:

No matter the weather, workload, or surprise emergency, James shows up ready to work with a steady, positive attitude. He approaches challenges with practicality and professionalism, making him someone coworkers and supervisors can depend on when conditions are less than ideal. His willingness to step in and help wherever needed sets a strong example for others.

### Teamwork and Collaboration:

James regularly works across shops to address issues that require coordination between trades. He communicates clearly and respectfully with coworkers, customers, and leadership, helping everyone stay aligned on priorities and solutions. His collaborative approach ensures that problems are solved efficiently and strengthens the team's overall effectiveness.

### Leadership and Initiative:

By taking ownership of campus roof triage, James has demonstrated initiative and leadership beyond routine responsibilities. When emergencies arise, he responds quickly, assesses the situation, and guides next steps to minimize damage and disruption. His proactive mindset helps the department stay ahead of problems rather than simply reacting to them.

### Customer Service and Satisfaction:

James delivers excellent customer service through responsiveness, clear communication, and quality workmanship. His communication with both customers and his manager is consistently top-shelf, ensuring expectations are clear and updates are timely. Customers trust that when James is involved, the issue will be handled professionally and resolved the right way.

### Additional Comments:

I would like to nominate James Mitchell for Employee of the Month in recognition of his consistent dedication and the positive impact he makes across campus operations. James represents the kind of dependable, solutions-focused employee who quietly keeps things running, often behind the scenes and under challenging conditions. His work reflects a strong commitment to the Facilities Services mission and the people we support, and the following highlights illustrate the value he brings to the team each day.

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

# Staff Recognition and Development Day - April 10

By Kellie Fritze

I want to encourage everyone in Facilities Services to participate in this year's Staff Recognition and Development Day on April 10, whether in person or via Zoom.

This is a great opportunity to step away from the day-to-day, recognize our colleagues, and invest in your own development. I'm especially proud to share that 32 Facilities Services employees will be recognized for longevity milestones this year - a strong reflection of the experience and commitment across our team.

The day includes the longevity ceremony, staff appreciation lunch, and a variety of development sessions. If you're not able to attend, consider submitting a note (submit kudos) of appreciation for a colleague to be shared as part of the event.

I hope you'll take part in celebrating our people and the work we do.



Year	Full Name	Department
5	Guerra, Adam	FS Design & Construction
5	Hautala, Kendrick A	FS Intergovernmental Support Agree
5	Kozevnikoff, Tod	FS Utilities
5	Levchenko, Pavel P	FS Design & Construction
5	Machak, Matt J	FS Design & Construction
5	Malzahn, Travis M	FS Maintenance
5	Nonamaker, Sarah K	FS Maintenance
5	Smith, Nicki D	FS Maintenance
5	Swenor, Ben L	FS Maintenance
5	Walmsley, Cody S	FS Maintenance
5	Wilkes Jr, Ron E	FS Design & Construction
10	Anderson, Larry G	FS Maintenance
10	Faro, Leo W	FS Maintenance
10	McLellan, Ashley S	FS Utilities
10	Strickland, Joshua	FS Utilities
15	Beasley, Terry R	FS Operations
15	Dillard, Temple G	FS Custodial
15	Green, Douglas E	FS Operations
15	Gridley, Dustin T	FS Utilities
15	Rego, Mike P	FS Utilities
20	Fritze, Kellie E	FS Admin
20	Karrick, Micah Wayn F	FS Utilities
20	May, Antoinette U	FS Operations
20	McKirgan, Amber L	FS Operations
25	Barney, Stephanie F	FS Utilities
25	Bolinger, Stan J	FS Maintenance
25	Hearns, Karrah R	FS Admin
25	Orcutt, Bradford K	FS Maintenance
25	Platt, Nathan J	FS Maintenance
25	Rathbun, Noel P	FS Design & Construction
25	Rodgers, Elizabeth A	FS Maintenance
30	Edson, Darrin M	FS Operations



March 2026 From Douglas Robinett:

Many thanks to the groomer, Tudor, for the hard work grooming during a hard winter with limited equipment for deep snow.

"Shoutout to Grounds because they really are doing the work over here."

Thank you and grounds for being awesome!

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## UAF BENIFITS - OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment begins at 8:00am AKST on Tuesday, March 31st and will end at 5:00 pm AKST on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Late forms are not accepted.

### TOUCHCARE (LIVE AND ON-DEMAND).

Sign up for one of TouchCare's Open Enrollment Training Sessions

Tuesday, 3/24 at 12pm | Open Enrollment 101

Tuesday, 3/31 at 12pm | Open Enrollment 101

Tuesday, 4/7 at 12 pm | Consumerism in health care

Tuesday, 4/14 at 12pm | Open Enrollment 101

Tuesday, 4/21 at 12pm | Understanding Your Health Savings Options: HSAs & FSAs  
(Open Enrollment closes this day!)

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Save the Date -

Administrative Services Summer Picnic

Summer Picnic, Friday, June 12 from 12p-1:30p on the Wood Center Patio (ballroom reserved for overflow and weather). More info to follow. Thanks!!



# UAF Benefits

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

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



## UAF JOBS

### Current Recruitments

<a href="#">532181 - Light Duty Mechanic</a>	<a href="#">532033 - Summer Grounds Crew - Temp</a>	<a href="#">531979 - Vehicle Custodian &amp; Inspection Assistant - Temp</a>
<a href="#">532190 - Warehouse/Property Coordinator Assistant - Temp</a>	<a href="#">532106 - CT2 Electrician</a>	

### 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](mailto: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!*