



Monthly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

February 2026



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS



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The Winter Carnival is back! ❄️🎉

Get ready for an unforgettable Alaskan experience

What's more Alaskan than SNOW? This legendary event is your chance to break free from the winter monotony and dive into a thrilling lineup of activities that will have you embracing the cold in the most exhilarating ways. From heart-pounding ice climbing to the rush of dog mushing and everything in between, there's something for everyone this February!

Born as a beloved tradition in Fairbanks, the Winter Carnival has deep roots in the community. Initially sparked by the local "Polar Bear" hockey team, it quickly became a time for students and locals alike to come together, celebrate the winter season, and get active outdoors. Back in 1927, students built the very first toboggan slide, marking the start of what would become an iconic winter celebration. Over the years, the event has only grown, with thrilling ski races, ice hockey showdowns, and more!

Now, it's time to celebrate nearly 100 years of this frosty tradition. Don't miss out on your chance to be part of history and make some frosty memories of your own!

[WINTER CARNIVAL SCHEDULE](#)

Employee of the Month - Karrah Hearn

By Kellie Fritze

Please join me in congratulating Karrah Hearn as our February Employee of the Month!

Karrah is one of those people who makes Facilities Services work in ways that are not always visible, but absolutely essential. She is often the first point of contact, the steady presence when things are busy or uncertain, and the person others turn to for clarity, questions, and solutions. Her impact reaches far beyond the Customer Service counter, and this recognition reflects how much she means to our organization and the University community.

Reasons for Nomination

Achievements and Accomplishments:

For as long as I can remember, Karrah Hearn has been a constant and trusted presence at the Facilities Customer Service counter. She has experienced every phase of our operation - from the early days of AIM to major emergencies, countless projects, and an endless volume of work requests. Throughout it all, Karrah has remained the person we rely on in times of need. She and her team are the ones who resolve issues, restore order, and create the foundation that allows all of us to be successful in our roles.

Positive Attitude and Behavior:

Every day, Karrah comes to work with a genuine commitment to making Facilities Services and the University a better place. Few individuals can demonstrate the level of work ethic, dedication, and true love for this University that Karrah consistently shows. Her positivity and focus set an example for everyone around her.

Teamwork and Collaboration:

Karrah, and through her leadership, her team set the standard for teamwork and collaboration. Her impact is evident daily, and her contributions are felt by everyone who works in and relies on this organization. Her ability to bring people together and support shared success is unmatched.

Leadership and Initiative:

There is not a person in this building who does not know Karrah or who has not turned to her for assistance. She leads by example, taking initiative and stepping up to challenges head-on. Karrah and her team manage thousands of work requests, each one built, tracked, and monitored through their efforts. They also take on projects, administrative changes, and ongoing adjustments to the AIM system - work that would overwhelm many - yet they do so with professionalism and commitment.

Customer Service and Satisfaction:

Karrah is a tireless advocate for our customers and is consistently there to support all of us. Her leadership of the Building Captain Program alone speaks volumes about the positive impact she has made and continues to make every day.

Additional Comments

Karrah exemplifies an outstanding work-life balance while remaining fully committed to supporting Facilities Services and the University. As a single mother providing for her three daughters, she is an inspiration both personally and professionally. She represents the very best of Facilities Services and consistently sends the right message to our customers and University user groups.

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

UAF Events

FEB 7 YUKON QUEST ALASKA DOG SLED RACE

FEB 12-14 WINTER CARNIVAL

FEB 16-MAR 31ST ICE ALASKA 12 PM-10 PM

UAF NEWS AND EVENTS

SUPPORT UAF SPORTS





"January 2026 from Jocelyn H

Whoever shoveled the stairs down to my parking lot did a bomb job. Not a ridge in sight!

October 2025 from Larry Anderson:

Just a shout out to Jeremy in the vehicle shop!!! We discovered we had 4 bad tires just 2 days before a trip to HAARP for maintenance. Jeremy and the vehicle shop crew pre-tripped it, changed out the tires, and made the whole trip safer as a result. There was plenty of snow over the summit and most of the way to Gulkana.

October 2025 from Cheryl Hopcroft:

I just wanted to extend my thank you to the labor crew for their help moving the equipment from 2 rooms in UPark to other locations on campus. This was a huge task, however everything was handled with care, yet still being efficient.

The labor crew is always willing to help us with the variety of tasks that we throw at them and they are considerate to our needs and wishes

September 2025:

Thanks so much for all your help in providing shuttle service for our history conference! Violet and Matthew were both wonderful drivers - very welcoming, professional, and timely. We all felt very well taken care of, and all of the riders were so appreciative of the transportation. I appreciate all the efforts of you and your team in helping us to make our conference a huge success!!

August 2025 from Karen Perdue:

I just want to say I was over the moon happy, like I drew the lottery happy with Deanna and Kyle's help today at the Passport office. Professional, flexible, and so knowledgeable. I realize, having gone through this very stressful situation with a lost passport, how important this is to people like students and faculty. Right now, the world is kinda a hostile place to move around internationally. UAF having a passport acceptance facility gives a solid and caring alternative to the only other place -the downtown post office. I'm totally sure I would not have gotten the more than one hour attention I received today at the downtown post office.

Because of this help, I believe I'm going to be able to get on the plane and see my son overseas with a passport.

In our student-focused world, we need to bring these services on campus available to stakeholders and provide a valuable service to the community. I understand we might also be able to get some more postal services back.

Thanks for putting me together with these great people

August 2025 from Breanne Harbison:

I just wanted to take a minute and send some major kudos to Amber and the crew. As you may know, I started up at Res Life last week which was of course frantically and excitedly prepping for move in day.

I've had two different situations where I needed to reach out to Amber to ask for an urgent response- the first was to remove a large furniture set and workbench from different areas so we could outfit them as needed, and the second to give us a temporary dumpster so families moving their students into Wickersham had a convenient place to dump their boxes and packaging on a very hectic day.

Both of these requests were answered with zero hesitation and were carried out very quickly. I super appreciate the collaboration between our two departments allowing us to provide a little extra help to our incoming students and their families.

July 2025 from Patricia Hurtt:

I just wanted to thank the staff that came and staked up the delphiniums at the Virology Lab last week in the pouring rain! The flowers looks so beautiful now, and I've overheard others complimenting their work

July 2025 from Deb Corso:

Hello to Maintenance, Grounds, and Housing peeps!

I am writing to give a big shout out to one of your awesome groundskeepers who does the yard work/landscaping behind Cutler this summer.

I believe this person is "Austin," and I have seen him riding on the mower pretty regularly and saw him working this morning. I asked if he could please weed-whack the yard adjacent to Rainey Cabin because it was very overgrown and getting quite buggy. I had recently discussed this with Teddi from Res Life/Housing because I am unable to caretake the garden beds this summer.

Austin was so very professional, courteous, confident, and ON POINT about this matter, and I was beyond grateful to see it when I returned after work that I had to write and be sure that you folks know what a class act you have with this MVP! I don't see this caliber of work ethic in seasonal workers very often and felt compelled to say something.

Also, I am forever grateful to everyone in the facilities department who are so kind and helpful around the issues that come up on the regular with this very old cabin. Yer all awesome!

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



<u>Customer Service Coordinator</u> 531957	<u>HVAC Technician (MSW4-CT1) -</u> 531479	<u>HVAC Technician (CT2/CT3) -</u> 531527
<u>Maintenance Service Worker -</u> <u>FS Operations Laborer</u> 531933	<u>Sprinkler Technician -</u> 531582	<u>Temporary Grounds Maintenance</u> - 531611
<u>Temporary Part-time Shuttle -</u> 531239	<u>Temporary Full-Time Shuttle Bus</u> <u>Driver</u> 531927	<u>Mail Clerk</u> 531828
<u>Facilities Services Student</u> <u>Assistant Shuttle Bus Driver</u> 531062		

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!