

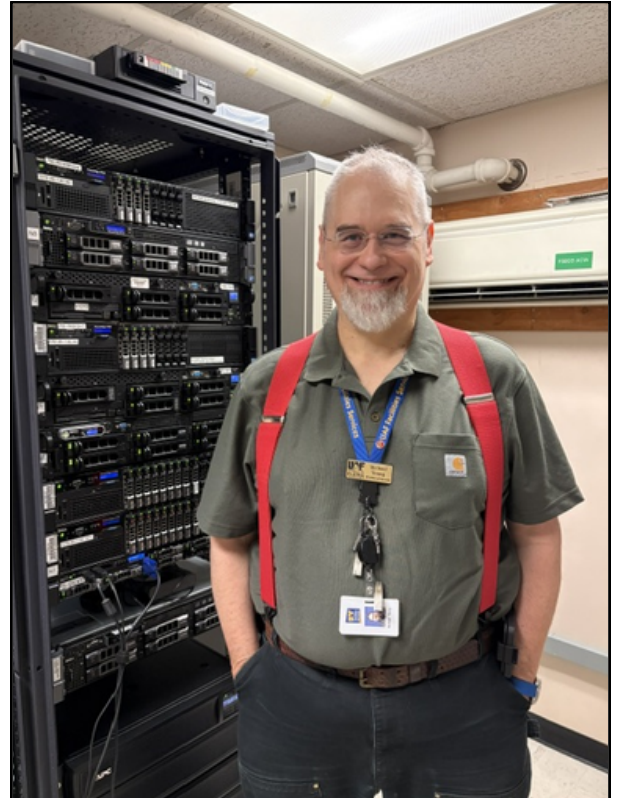


Facilities Forum

October 2026

Congratulations to **Michael Young, FS IT**, our October Facilities Services Employee of the Month! Michael is a trusted and valued resource across our organization. His technical expertise, patience, and willingness to help make a difference every day. He takes the time to understand what people need, finds practical solutions, and does it all with a positive attitude. Much of what he does may happen behind the scenes, but we all benefit from his work.

Michael, we are lucky to have you on our team. Thank you for always being willing to jump in, for making things a little easier for the rest of us, and for being such a great person to work with. Congratulations on this very well-deserved recognition! Know someone who deserves recognition? Nominate them [here!](#)



Michael Young, October 2026 Employee of the Month.
photo by K. Mallette

From Kellie Fritze, AVCF

October is here, and somehow our very short fall is already disappearing. After another busy summer of projects, construction, maintenance, and everything else that gets packed into the few months without snow, I hope everyone gets a chance to slow down a little as we settle into winter. Or at least slow down by Facilities standards.

I also encourage everyone who can to attend UAF Convocation on October 13 at 1pm. This will be our first Convocation with our new Chancellor and a chance to hear directly from him about his priorities and vision for UAF. Facilities touches nearly everything that happens on this campus, and I hope we have a good showing.

Thank you for another incredibly busy summer and for everything you do to keep this place running. Take some time to recharge when you can, enjoy the last little bit of fall, and take care of yourselves and each other. Winter is coming whether we are ready for it or not! -- Kellie

Kudos!

I am the Assistant Swim Coach at UAF. I just wanted to say thank you for helping put new tape on the blocks. It is greatly appreciated. – L.I.

We received a call to report E1472 as "phenomenal driving" - very safe, proper speed, yielding properly, and using blinkers. He wished to acknowledge and thank the driver. – J

Brent Sears painted several rooms in our offices this last couple weeks. Gosh, he did a nice job! Very professional finish work, careful and meticulous. It all looks great! Glad to know you have pros like that on your team, Facilities Services. – Anon

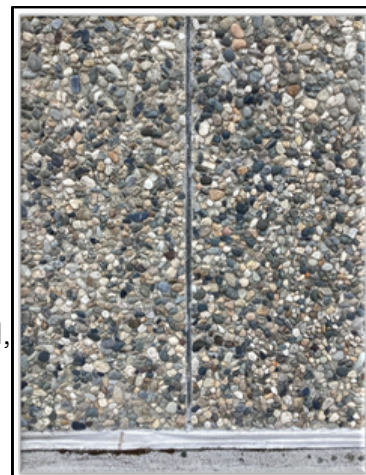
Shop Highlights

Thanks to **Coleman Baxter, Contract Manager at the Division of Design & Construction**, for providing the following article on roof inspections

ROOF INSPECTION AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

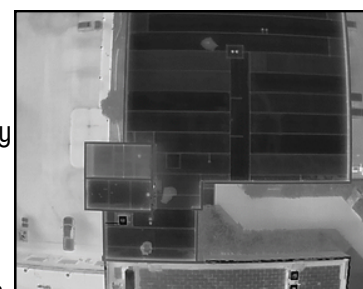
Over the past summer, we hired a preventive maintenance contractor to inspect a portion of the UAF main campus roofs. As part of the inspections, the contractor used drones, infrared cameras, and core cuts to investigate roof conditions and identify areas of concern. They also completed numerous minor repairs, including patching penetrations and addressing flashing and membrane deficiencies. Since this was our first year working with a dedicated preventive maintenance contractor, we started with one-third of the main campus, focusing on some of our more challenging and problem-prone roofs.

The contractor actually got an early start last October with the Arctic Health Research Building (AHRB). At AHRB, it sometimes seems the question is no longer if the roof is going to leak, but rather where it will leak next. During their inspection, the contractor identified a problem with the control joints in the building's exposed-aggregate precast concrete panels. Water was able to enter at these joints and travel down the face of the building, eventually making its way into first-floor rooms 105B and 105C. The joints have since been resealed, with additional waterproofing added at the base of the joints to help prevent water from entering the building. The contractor also identified and repaired several other roof penetrations and deficiencies that have contributed to some of the more elusive leaks we have dealt with in the past.



CAHRB Control Joint, taken by Coleman Baxter

While we may not be able to stop every leak that comes our way, the preventive maintenance program has allowed us to get ahead of many of the common sources of roof leaks. The use of drone and infrared camera has been particularly helpful in identifying areas that are difficult to see during a typical visual inspection. The infrared images can show areas of moisture within the roof insulation that may not be visible from the surface. In the photo to the right, the lighter areas indicate suspected moisture within the roof system. The contractor was able to investigate these areas, identify a roof penetration, and install a patch to prevent additional moisture from entering the roof assembly.



Suspected moisture within the roof system, taken by Coleman Baxter

Additionally, the preventive maintenance contract also helped identify a significant issue at Fine Arts Music Hall. During the winter, a thermal break was identified on the roof by James Mitchell Sr., prompting a temporary repair help prevent further water intrusion. When the building continued to experience leaking near a roof drain after the temporary fix, the preventative maintenance contractor took a look at the roof. Unsuccessfully finding the issue on the top side of the roof and couldn't find any issues with the plumbing they performed a core cut to investigate whether the roof was compromised. The core revealed our worst fear with moisture on the concrete deck, confirming that the roof system had been compromised. While this will require a larger, long-term repair, the investigation gave us the information needed to better understand the problem and work with the contractor on a permanent solution.

While we probably cannot promise that these roofs will never have another roof leak, this preventive maintenance program has given us a much better chance at stopping the next leak. From drones and infrared cameras to core cuts and good old-fashioned roof patches, we now have better tools to understand what is happening above our heads. We may still have a few roofs that like to keep us guessing especially when winter and breakup season arrive but the goal is to stay one step ahead of them. In the end, a small repair on the roof is a lot easier to deal with than a bucket on the floor, a wet ceiling tile, and a phone call to Corri about another roof leak.



While in Nome, Joe Fath and Connie Deats visited the Last Train to Nowhere. They are three trains that were abandoned on the road to Council and Safety when the gold rush in the area died out. *photo by Joe Fath*



A bit of Al magic, putting Todor Yakimov and the new Sherpa on the winter North Campus trails. *original photo by S. Boone-Grant and editing by A. McKirgan*



Brittany Van Eck and Amber McKirgan hamming it up in prep for Blue and Gold Auction - "Experience the world-class North Campus trails from a whole new perspective! Join Trails Technician, aka Groomer Extraordinaire, Todor Yakimov for an exclusive, private tour from the back of our brand-new Alpina Sherpa groomer." *photo by S. Boone-Grant*

Current Facilities Recruitments

(as of 9/25/2026, updating as needed)

Facilities Services Light Duty Mechanic

Physical Access Control Systems Assistant Manager

Facilities Services Sprinkler Technician

Facilities Services Pool Technician

Facilities Services Laborer

MSW4 Utilities Laborer

Vehicle Custodian & Inspection Assistant (Temp).

Temporary Full-Time Shuttle Bus Driver

Facilities Services Student Assistant - Property/Central Receiving

Facilities Services Student Assistant - Operations

Facilities Services Student Assistant - Maintenance Shops

Facilities Services - Temporary Service

Facilities Services - Temporary Trades

Electrician - CT2 or CT3

Carpenter



UAF JOBS

UAF Trivia (first person to give me the correct answer gets bragging rights next month!)

October Trivia

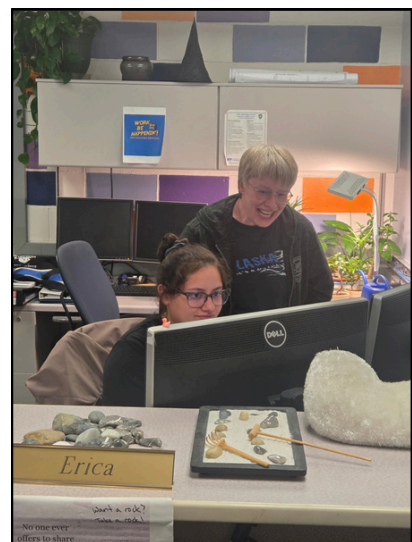
Which of these has NOT caused a UAF Facilities employee to get a phone call?

- A. A building that's too hot
- B. A building that's too cold
- C. A moose blocking access
- D. A mysterious smell
- E. None of the above

*Congrats to last month's winner (AGAIN!), **Avie Bruce**, Property Manager at Central Receiving/Property, who was the first to answer our September trivia question about the old student-built training mine that lies about 100 feet beneath the Bunnell statue in Cornerstone Plaza.*

Focus on: Customer Service: Making Chaos Look Organized

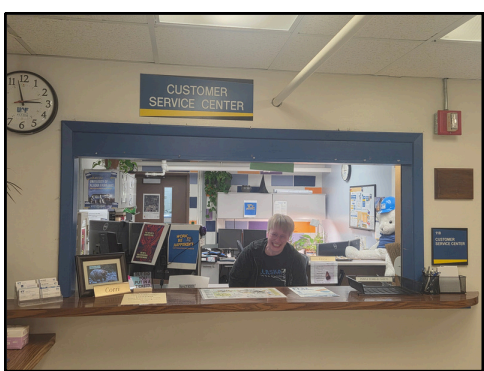
*A huge thank you to **Karrah Hearn**s, **Corri Conkle** and **Erica Cortez**, our Facilities Services Customer Service team. They are often the first people the campus community talks to when something is too hot, too cold, leaking, broken, locked, buried in snow, making a strange noise, or otherwise not behaving as a university building should. Every day, they manage an impressive volume of calls, emails and work requests, track down answers, coordinate with our shops and figure out where things need to go next. They do all of this with patience, professionalism and a sense of humor, even when the answer to "When will someone be here?" is more complicated than anyone would like. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but Facilities Services simply could not function without them. Karrah, Corri and Erica, thank you for keeping all of us organized and pointed in the right direction!*



Corri Conkle and Erica Cortez, photo by K. Fritze



Nook supporting our customer service crew, photo by K. Fritze



Where the magic happens. Hi Corri! photo by K. Fritze



Karrah Hearn, the fearless Customer Service leader! photo by E. Cortez