

# The Level



## Ryan Sand, UAS Emergency Management Planner:

After working at UAS for nearly nine months as the Emergency Management Planner, I have to say the Facilities Services team has demonstrated that they are anything but conventional. They have demonstrated this characteristic through great teamwork and resourcefulness during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. I am writing this article to express my sincere appreciation and to share with you what wonderful work they have done, and continue to do.



As early as January 2020, the department acted quickly by communicating the dangers of COVID-19 emerging across the globe. This key emergency management principle began by monitoring and working closely with our state and national public health partners. UAS Facilities Services also demonstrated their willingness to take what they learned and apply it to new protective and disinfection services that brought about increases in safety for everyone at the UAS.

UAS Facilities Services continued to develop [CDC Pandemic Responses](#) and applied them specifically to our campus grounds, employees, visitors, and residents. Response protocols called for immediate actions such as, safety walkthroughs and placements of informational signs throughout campus. These procedures also led to expanded campus-wide mitigation plans and a campus continuity of operations plan designed to meet the growing needs of each department, services, and units. Each plan included adaptive safety practices for classrooms, work areas, and housing; established appropriate communication channels for wellness checks and assessments; and, developed laboratory and technology classroom safety protocols that allowed for in-person learning to continue.



By putting these measures into action, Facilities Services verified their own best-practices and began to test their responses. Once they were confident with the results, they began training and conducting drills based from these affirmative experiences. This led to the development of the custodial ‘Strike Team’ that can respond expeditiously to a variety of COVID-19 contamination situations on campus. The team regularly practices using PPE and experiments using a variety of approved cleaning and disinfection protective items. This process also led to the team installing a variety of safety devices and purchasing protective products that were proven in the ‘real-world.’ From these actions, Facilities Services brought the campus humanity shields, class/lab shields, safe-use/environment friendly hand-sanitizers & sprays, a variety of effective masks/gloves, and even extra trash bins/syringe containers throughout the campus.

Each of these critical steps allowed Facilities Services to design and engineer classrooms and work areas with safely distanced seating and room capacities. They also added moving and marking furniture so everyone on campus could visibly discern safety spacing, even along long hallways and stairwells. By completing all of these complex tasks, Facilities Services met the fall semester enrollment goals and objectives requested by UAS leadership and the Registrar’s Office. It was certainly a team effort.

Facilities Services continued this fall semester by supplying students with even more mask varieties and sanitizing wipes at various distribution points that were readily available for all to access. For the faculty members, Facilities Services contacted all the in-person professors and developed practical ways to keep faculty and students safe. These measures included installing the widely-popular classroom shields so the instructor could speak clearly and effectively; almost as easily as it was prior to the pandemic. The same applications allowed for in-person students to deliver their classroom speeches and demonstrations as required by their curriculum.



Facilities personnel continued their teamwork by informing IT about faculty requests for additional visual and audio equipment that would help them teach their students when they may otherwise be unable to attend due to health concerns or other personal matters. These same resilient measures included installing larger monitors for expanded physical distancing and better viewing capability in class.

**For Our Safety**  
**Stay Home if Sick**

- Wear a mask
- Sanitize your area before use
- 6 feet physical distance
- Wash your hands

uas.alaska.edu/pub/covidstatus  
 UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST

Facilities Services recently joined in the effort to develop safety training videos and provide informational handouts to our employees and students. They also continue to assist with mask testing and recently conducted their own flammability testing to show that the purchased lab shields are safe to use. They also continue to keep us all safe indoors by increasing the outside air flow to our air handlers across campus.

In relation to the public safety initiatives that go hand-in-hand with COVID-19 health initiatives, Facilities Services personnel has added patrols and security footage monitoring for heightened responses to trespassers and other risks that may occur on campus. Taking this safety initiative even further, the grounds crew implemented Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) initiatives by planting trees and bushes along areas where trespassers enter and/or illegal camping takes place. Final initiatives include continually communicating safety procedures to our visitors and vendors to ensure everyone follows all of our COVID-19 campus safety guidelines.

Once again Facilities Services personnel, I cannot thank you enough for all you do. Keep up the fantastic work and know that each of you are the reason why UAS remains open during this unprecedented time in history.

*Ryan Sand*  
 Emergency Management Planner  
 UAS Facilities Director.

## Japonski Island Updates

I realize fall is upon us as I come inside from a rainy Friday morning in Sitka. This past week (Sep 6-12) or so gave us our long missed summer weather. The Sitka Campus is a buzz of activity through muffled masked faces these days. Our in-person presence is generally limited to CNA and UA Nursing classes, dual enrollment Welding and Construction classes, and a daily Mt Edgcumbe High School (MEHS) class presence. Some Faculty and Staff are on site from time to time in addition to regular building occupancy by the Facilities gang and our Campus Director. To ensure everyone using the building is kept as safe as possible, the Campus is utilizing a daily access log, interactive shared calendars, and the electronic door log in the event of a positive COVID-19 case. We have assembled some COVID preparation stations with PPE at entrances and signage throughout the building.



This summer we were fortunate to bring Sean DeMello onboard as our Maintenance Mechanic. Sean's addition doubles our Sitka Facilities crew! Sean comes to us as a long time Sitkan with an incredibly diverse background. In addition to being a Journeyman Plumber of over 20 years, Sean is pretty knowledgeable in gardening and grounds work. Our planters received a long overdue dose of scrutiny and plans are in place for next summer's hopeful harvest of edible items. Beyond the great attitude and ability to fix just about anything, Sean has a lot of experience with Boilers and HVAC systems. When you see him be sure to say 'Hi'.



This summer has seen our doors and entry system come into a new age. About three years ago, we started a plan to replace a few exterior doors that were literally falling out of the walls. Some of our ADA openers had long since failed and the Ballfield door had experienced its share of wind driven damage. Access to the Kiln shed involved a padlock and no emergency exit. We now have some new exterior entry doors and openers in addition to a new electronic access system on four entry doors. The new Millennium system adds a significant level of safety and security as they can be remotely locked and unlocked for emergencies and for daily scheduled access. The system has a battery backup that should last for up to 24 hours if we lose power. The kiln shed now has real doors versus chain-link gates that are also emergency exits. The new doors on the North side of the Campus are fiberglass versus steel and should offer a much longer life span due to our climate.

As our days are getting shorter be sure to check your headlamp and flashlight batteries, windshield wipers and car lights. I'd recommend checking your rain gear, but after our wet summer you've probably already done that one. Stay well and we hope to see you soon.

*Greg George*  
Operations Supervisor  
UAS Sitka Campus

## Sneeze Guards and Shields

COVID 19 has certainly changed the way we are doing business at our UA campuses. Many of our UAS classes have gone completely online, while roughly 30% are being taught in-person. Following CDC guidelines, and mandates from State government, Facilities Services has worked to help ensure in-person classes can continue to be done with a high degree of safety.

With the spread of COVID 19 a major concern, we have been installing a number of protective barriers. The simplest ones are free-standing sneeze guards that we have placed at some of the service counters. They are designed to provide a barrier between the customer and the person serving them, and have a built-in pass through space at the bottom. We also procured some locally built custom sneeze guards for the library. They are located at Reference and Circulation desks, and are some of the nicer ones I have seen in town thus far.



To address student and faculty concerns in the classrooms, we have installed hanging shields to give the professors barriers to work behind. Due to our workload, we needed to have a contractor come in to install most of them. Many of these shields are simply 4' X 8' sheets of Plexiglas hung from the ceiling, and range from a single sheet to three sheets connected end-to-end.

The Anderson labs also posed a bit of a unique challenge, as there was a desire to be able to hold full-sized classes in 309 and 314. To address that, we have had a contractor installing Akon brand flexible shielding that offers lateral and longitudinal barriers. That has reduced the need to maintain 6' spacing at the workstations in those labs, and has maintained student access to the sinks, gas, and air.

Addressing the needs of our campus community during this pandemic has definitely been a challenge. While we have seen a change in how Facilities Services contributes to the UAS mission, we're still working hard to keep our campus in top shape, and a great place to learn and work.

*Adam Zenger  
Facilities Services  
M&O Manager*



Repairing Air Source Heat Pump



Replacing Air Filters



Replacing HVAC Motor



## Don't Forget to Prepare for "Regular" Emergencies

With all the COVID-19 precautions we are pre-occupied by, it is easy to forget about "regular" illnesses and emergencies that normally would be at the forefront. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) likes to say "Make a Plan, Build a Kit". These plans and kits can be readily modified to account for COVID-19 precautions. Here are some useful examples:

**Roadside Emergency Kit:** Are you prepared to replace that flat tire in all weather and lighting conditions? Do you have something to kneel on? Does your kit have a cell phone charging cable? I wonder if a first aid kit could possibly come in handy. A basic roadside emergency kit can make the difference between a minor inconvenience and a major ordeal. Consider including extra masks for yourself and others.



**Go-Bag:** Many kinds of emergencies can cause you to have to evacuate. In some cases, you may have a day or two to prepare while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation. Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely. During an evacuation, when seconds count, a well-prepared go-bag can provide needed personal items during an extended crisis. Consider adding masks, soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to your go-bag.



**Fire Safety Plan** – House fires are always traumatic but would be devastating if there was loss of life. Developing and practicing an escape plan for all family members and roommates can save lives. Things can be replaced, people can't. Consider storing your go bag in a fire safe location.

**Personal Earthquake Plan** – Earthquakes can happen without warning and can result in injuries and damage to property and roads. Earthquakes can cause fires, tsunamis, landslides or avalanches. What should you do when the shaking begins? Drop, Cover and Hold. What should you check in your home after the shaking stops? Building damage including electrical wiring, fuel tanks and water and fuel lines. Apply COVID-19 precautions if you must report to a shelter or if neighbors or friends stay with you.



Examine your "regular emergency" preparedness measures in light of also needing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for all hazard emergency planning including COVID-19.

**Dan Garcia**  
Health and Safety Manager

### Facilities Services Welcomes a New Administrative Manager

Please help me welcome Karen Leitsch to UAS. Karen has two decades of experience working as administrative manager and human resources manager at Sonoma State University. She will be coming to a department with fewer staff and smaller budget than she is used to. However, is looking forward to living in a rain forest and with our small diverse team at Facilities Services. Karen will be working part time starting in October and then fulltime after moving to Alaska, hopefully before the snow flies. Jeri Cary has gone back to the Library and we will miss her and how well she kept the invoices, purchasing and approvals flowing here at Facility Services.

*Nathan Leigh  
UAS Facilities Services Director*



We would like to give a big Thank You to those who have donated CDC recommended cloth face coverings for some UAS Students, Staff & Faculty.

*We still have a dozen cloth face coverings available. Please e-mail us at [uas.facilities@alaska.edu](mailto:uas.facilities@alaska.edu) if you would like one.*

### Is it Flame Retardant?

In response to science lab professors requesting flammability information on the issued humanity shield and classroom shields, Adam Zenger and Ryan Sand decided to not ask the manufacturer for test data from a nationally recognized institution. Instead, they ran outside with BBQ lighter and torch in hand to obtain their own “test data” not recognized by anyone. Here is what they did.



#### Round One-Humanity Shield Testing

**Test #1 Humanity Shield (Non-pressurized flame):** This test exposed the shroud (chin shield) portion of the humanity mask to a direct flame from a grill lighter. The shield did not catch fire following approximately 30 seconds of testing and the material instead only appeared to melt back slowly.



[Humanityshield1.flammability.mov](#)

**Test #2 Humanity Shield (Pressurized flame):** This secondary testing exposed the humanity shield shroud to a butane torch for approximately 16 seconds. The observed damage resulted in melting in a much faster rate, but once again did not catch fire.



[humanityshield2.flammability.mov](#)

**Round-Two Classroom/Lab PVC (20 Mil) Shield Testing**

**Test #3 Class/Lab Shield with Directed Head-On Flame:** The first classroom/lab shield test exposed the shield to direct flame from a pressurized butane torch directly in front of the material. The PVC material first began to melt and then charred. Once the torch was turned off, the flame quickly ceased with a small amount of smoke released. The material remained hot to the touch for about one minute in the outside air (Temp: 58 degrees).



**Test #4 Class/Lab Shield with Vertical Flame:** The second classroom/lab shield test exposed the shield to direct flame from a pressurized butane torch directly underneath the vertical material. The PVC material first began to melt the end of the PVC and then charred the area in an upside down "V" pattern. Once the torch was turned off, the flame quickly ceased with a small amount of smoke released. The material also remained hot to the touch for about one minute in the outside air (Temp: 58 degrees).



Overall, the tests were well received by lab faculty and staff who ultimately deemed the Facilities Services supplied safety products as “more than acceptable” in the lab areas with minimum flammability concerns. This testing also evidenced the vital safety partnership between Facilities and Faculty staff, and the students who they so diligently serve.

*Ryan Sand  
Emergency Management Planner*

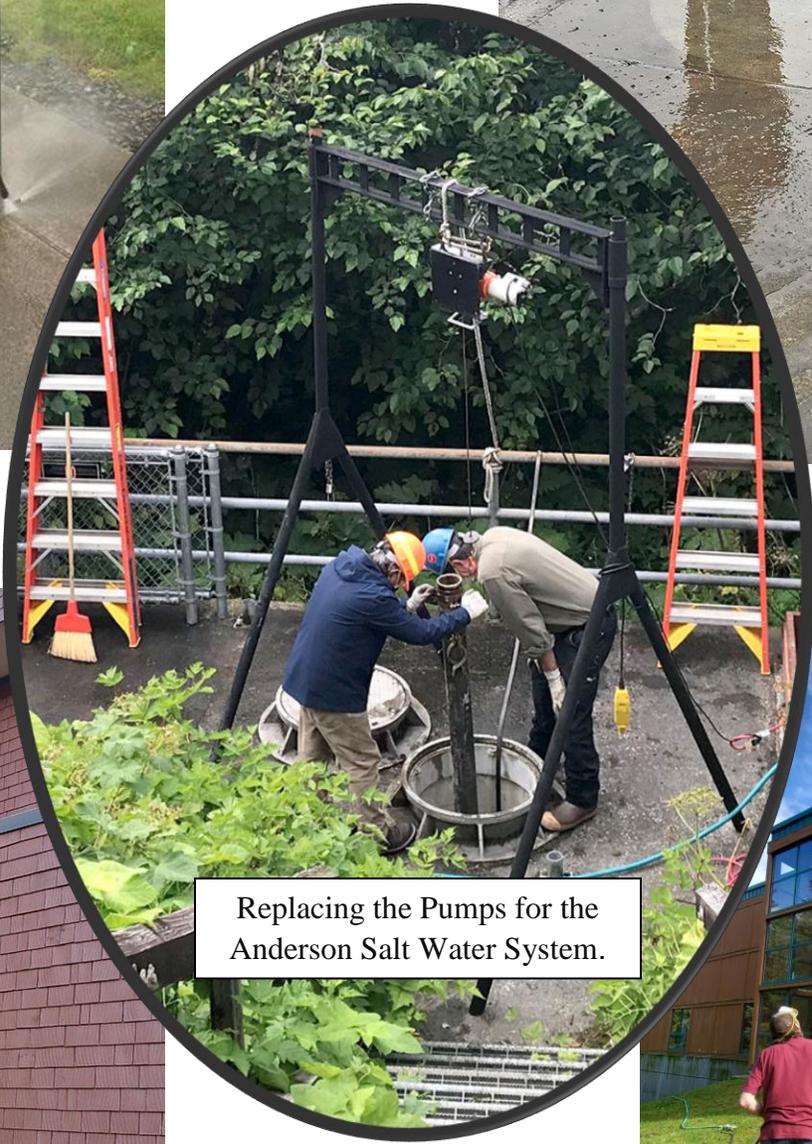
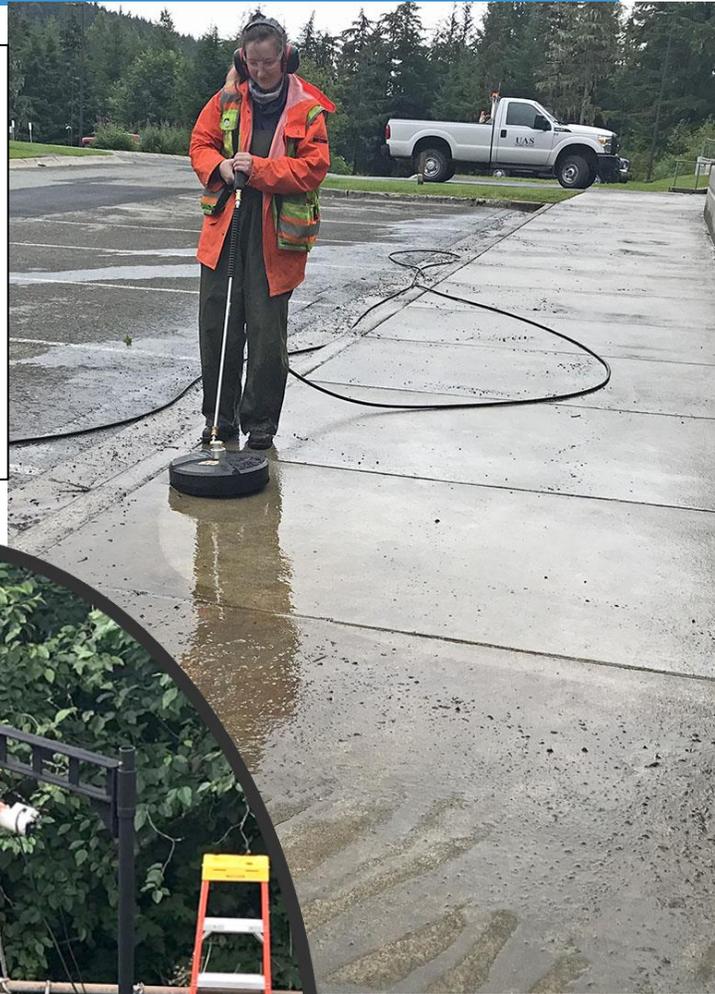


Thanks to our Custodial Team for relocating most of the chairs and tables so we can Social Distance



This Summer we had 69 days of rain.

Giving us lots of time to power wash much of campus.



Replacing the Pumps for the Anderson Salt Water System.



This Summer gave us 23 non-rain days. Not much time to wash all the windows.



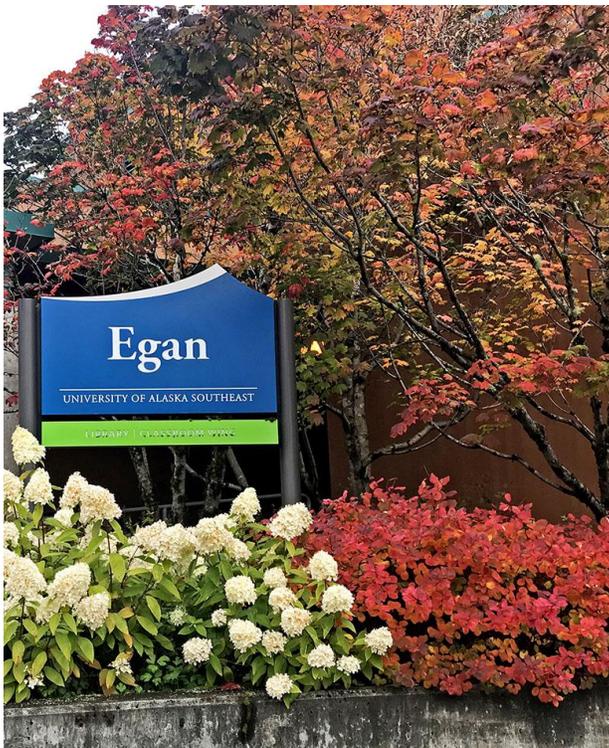
## Landscape Tour of Campus September 2020

This time of year the campus glows with color, the wild world is moving along its natural pathway, and our embellishments are doing their jobs admirably. Let us take a virtual walk and look at some of the nicer landscape effects.

The beginnings of fall color are showing and none more beautiful than the “Quickfire” Hydrangeas. These sturdy beauties begin flowering mid-August and will still be showing color when the leaves drop in October. We have bush forms at the Pump House by the trail to the dorms, and also ones that have been trained as little trees in front of Pugh Hall and at the Welcome to UAS bed by the Hendrickson parking lot



“Quickfire” Hydrangea at Welcome Bed and Pugh Hall



Keep your eyes on these Hydrangea flowers because they are about to transform themselves from pale green through bright pink to dark red. The color change is determined by nighttime temperatures so we are poised to experience a very dramatic one.

We have several types of Hydrangeas beginning to flower on the campus, under the sign at the Egan classroom wing is one named “Sweet Summer”, which will turn clear white.

Sweet Summer Hydrangea at Egan Classroom Wing

In a newly planted area in front of the Soboleff Building we have hundreds of Rugosa Roses, all bordered by a new dwarf Hydrangea called “Little Lime” which will get about three feet tall and bloom the rest of the fall.



Another dramatic color change are the big “Miss Kim” dwarf Korean Lilacs. Changing from the Violet blooms in the spring to the Fall Burgundy.



Looking at the Anderson Building we see the ruddy hints of the fall in the foliage of the Thimbleberries we planted along the edges of the fuel enclosures. This will intensify in the next few weeks until they are bright red.



*Thimbleberries at Anderson Building*

As long as we're here at Anderson Building, take a look at the seed clusters on the Douglas Maples. They're really large for Maples, most Maples have seeds as two joined seeds with their wings so they can whirl away on the breeze. These clusters make a soft swishing sound as the breeze passes by.



*Douglas Maples showing their massive seed clusters*



While we're at Anderson we always take time to have a short rest and look out from our picnic view spot.

One of the things we're proud of on the campus is our program of utilizing the native material as much as we can. The access road to the Joint Use Facility is a good example. We manage the resurgent Alder growth as a dense hedge, minimizing the amount of time we have to spend maintaining this zone. It's a vigorous annual task, trimming the hedge, but it is a lot less time than it would require to keep it trimmed and weed eaten if it were roadside grass



*This is our intrepid landscape crew on the job*



*Trimmed, tidied and ready for another season*

We also trim and manage this European Cranberry hedge at the Joint Use Facility.



*This is the Before Trimming ,*

*And this is the After Trimming.*

Behind Pugh Hall is another unusual treatment, we are training another Hydrangea, this one is a vine, and it's climbing up the sheer rock face.

There's always something fascinating Landscaping to see on the Auke Lake Campus of the University of Alaska Southeast.

If you have any questions, or would like to participate with us in Campus Landscape Maintenance, send us an email to [facilities@alaska.edu](mailto:facilities@alaska.edu) and let know.

*David Lendrum*

*UAS Landscape Superintendent*

Email: [dwlendrum@alaska.edu](mailto:dwlendrum@alaska.edu)



*Climbing Hydrangea behind Pugh Hall*

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**FP&C Project Updates**

**Auke Bay Integrated Science Building (Formerly Auke Bay Station)**

This project has been postponed due to considerable and prolonged uncertainties resulting from Covid19.  
 – Ke Mell

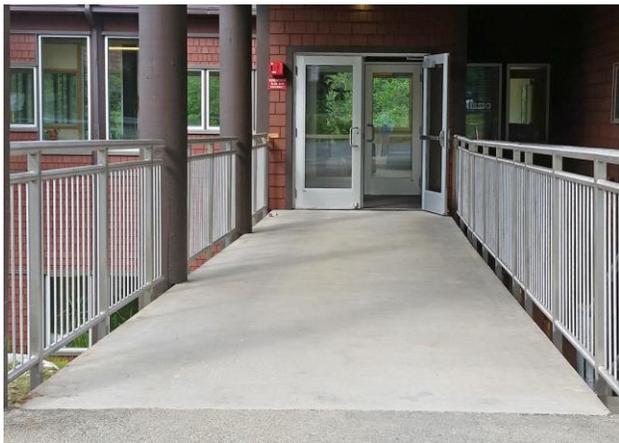


**TEC Stairway Lighting Replacement**

This project was completed this summer. – Ke Mell

**TEC Overhead Door Replacement**

The overhead door closest to Gastineau Channel was replaced over the summer. As funding allows, Facilities will replace the other nine overhead doors in the building. – Ke Mell



**Auke Lake Guardrails**

The last edition of the Level mentioned that the summer of 2020 would see the second phase of guardrail replacement. Phase 2 has been deferred until funding allows. – Ke Mell

**Other Projects**

Several other project are in design; we'll keep you posted as they emerge. – Ke Mell

**Soboleff Ceramics Room Garage Door Replacement**

This project is replacing the overhead garage door in the Ceramics Lab with an oversized person door and adding several windows. All of the windows have been installed, and the exterior finish work is complete. The interior finish should be completed soon. The door is currently on order, and will be installed when it arrives. – Sam Kito II



**Mourant Building Kitchen Exhaust Fan Replacement**

This project will replace the original grill vent hood exhaust fan with a new, code compliant exhaust fan. Due to ongoing campus use of the kitchen, actual replacement of the unit will have to take place after spring semester, when the kitchen will be closed.  
 –Sam Kito III



Figure 3: HRU washdown section showing clean coil.

**Lighting Replacement Projects**

In an effort to decrease energy costs and improve student educational experiences, we are replacing lighting in the Egan Library Writing Center and the Novatney lobby area. The Writing Center is currently closed, which gives us the opportunity to replace the lighting. The Novatney lobby area lighting will most likely be able to be replaced during the Winter Break. – Sam Kito III



**Additional Campus Bike Racks**

Additional 4-place bike racks have been purchased, and will be installed near the upstairs entrance to the Egan Library (the entrance near Spike’s), and in the covered area between the Mourant and Novatney Buildings. – *Sam Kito III*



**Housing Concrete Sidewalk Repair**

In the last Level, this project was planned for construction this summer. However, due to many uncertainties under this pandemic, the project has been postponed. – *Sam Kito III*

**Fire Alarm System Investigation**

As our building systems get older, we need to review those systems to make sure they are working properly and to get recommendations on any changes or upgrades that are needed. We are currently reviewing the fire alarm systems in the Egan Library/Classroom, Recreation Center and Natural Sciences Buildings. – *Sam Kito III*

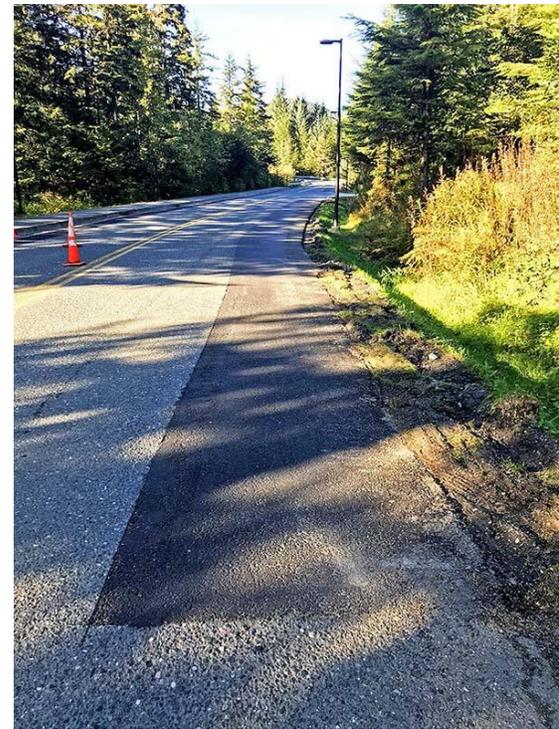
**Opening Views to Auke Lake**

This project was completed this summer and is one of 12 projects included in our UAS 2016 Auke Lake Shoreline Master Plan.

[http://www.uas.alaska.edu/facilities\\_services/docs/fpc/Auke\\_Lake\\_Shoreline\\_Master\\_Plan\\_R-2017-03-30.pdf](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/facilities_services/docs/fpc/Auke_Lake_Shoreline_Master_Plan_R-2017-03-30.pdf) -- *Nathan Leigh*

**Road Repairs**

This summer, several areas of aging pavement around the main Juneau campus were patched, included some of the pavement along Auke Lake Way. The pavement patching will extend the life of the entrance roadway, driveways and parking area so we can avoid fully re-paving areas on campus. – *Sam Kito III*



**Sitka Exterior Door Replacement**

We recently replaced the doors at four of the exterior entrances of the Sitka Campus building. This work is nearly complete, and the new doors are working well. – *Sam Kito III*

