



# Alaska Designs

Volume 33, No. 11, November 2010

The Official Newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council

## UAF Designs Program in Response to Industry Needs

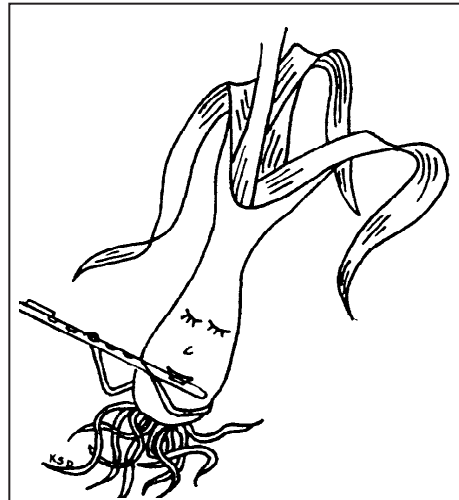
*By Dr. Robert Perkins, PE, Professor of Civil Engineering, UAF*

The Alaska engineering workforce is experiencing a shortage that is likely to grow more severe. Most private employers do not report a lack of new engineers, but rather a critical shortage of engineers with 5 to 10 years experience, engineers who can, "take a project and run with it," with a minimum of supervision. State agencies, faced with a Tier 1 workforce nearing retirement, lack middle-mangers, those with 10 to 20 years experience, who can design and deliver multiple complex projects. This shortage impacts on-the-job training of new engineers by forcing them into management roles for which they have little training and by robbing them of the mentoring that had been provided by the retiring engineers.

Having our universities train the newer engineers in management and technical skills needed to advance is a logical solution. The ASCE has asked ABET to include outcomes such as project, construction and asset management, an understanding of business and public policy and administration fundamentals, and so on. But, as a practical matter, there is barely enough time to cover existing course requirements during standard four-year degree programs.

Recent proposals to increase the postgraduate education required for licensure, such as the ASCE's BS plus 30 and the NCEES model engineering rules, have met opposition. In order to understand the needs of Alaska industry, UAF College of Engineering and Mines sponsored a roundtable conference with construc-

*The author of this caption would benefit from the Graduate Certificate course on clear communication.*



*A piping leek was found near the dispenser island.*

tion industry leaders in May 2008 and with more general engineering managers in May 2010. These conferences and several focus meetings with engineers in Southeast confirmed the education needs articulated by the ASCE and NCEES and identified specific skills needed by Alaska industry. Most organizations represented at the meetings were willing to support and encourage engineers and other professionals in the project team to obtain these skills.

In response to the articulated needs, UAF College of Engineering and Mines has established a new degree program, the Graduate Certificate in Construction Management, coordinated by Dr. Robert Perkins, PE, Professor of Civil Engineering. The program was designed to increase the benefit to the employee/

student and their employer, while decreasing the time and resource cost. The students benefit from increased competency which leads to increased promotional opportunities. The senior managers benefit from having incipient managers with more skills, enabling more efficient transfer of management knowledge.

Offering courses at times and locations convenient for the students minimizes work-life disruption, besides reducing time wasted looking for parking. Courses are scheduled for the late fall and early spring, to avoid the construction season. Courses are focused on narrow topics that fit into one-credit modules and that pertain to the students' work.

Employers participate by funding the tuition and providing some time off work. Student/employees have assignments and other homework. We have experimented with models that meet one day a week, twice a week for three weeks, once a

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## Help Wanted

### Design Oriented Architect

Jensen Yorba Lott Inc., of Juneau, at 75 years, is the oldest architectural firm in continuous practice in Alaska. We consider the gulf coast of Alaska our market area. We are a service oriented firm with a practice that includes: school, university and healthcare work, waterfront development, transportation projects, and a wide range of term agreement work for a variety of governmental entities. We have made a conscious decision to stay small, and currently include a production staff of 11 persons, including 4 architects, 2 ASID Interior Designers, a construction manager, two drafters and a marketing/office manager. We have a stable and consistent workload of projects under design as well as in construction. Average tenure of current employees is over 10 years. We are looking for an experienced design oriented architect interested in a position as project architect potentially leading to partnership buy-in. Experience required includes record as strong project architect and designer well rounded in all aspects of practice. Familiarity and some experience with Revit is desired. Alaska registration or eligibility for Alaska registration required. Qualified persons interested in being considered for this position may send a letter of inquiry with references to: Tony Yorba, email: [tony@jensenyorbalott.com](mailto:tony@jensenyorbalott.com). Include a web link to graphics and other examples of applicant's work product.

## UAF Responds to Industry Needs

### *Continued from Page 1*

week for six weeks, and are considering other models – the key is student convenience and learning, not “that’s the way we’ve always done it.” We’ve leveraged our instruction by using real time video conferencing that enables the students and instructor to see each other. To ensure the relevancy of the courses, we meet with the employers of the students and work on the course content.

The degree offered is the “graduate certificate,” which requires 15 credits. Thus a student can get a sheepskin in half the time a master’s degree requires and the credits used in the certificate can later be used toward a master degree. The courses are grouped in three main rubrics and the students take courses cafeteria style, although they must take a minimum from each rubric. For the construction management graduate certificate there are three rubrics: human relations and communications, construction project management, construction technical subjects. A second degree is currently being considered in pre-construction management, for which the first two rubrics, and many of the courses, would be similar and the third rubric would have courses, usually

introductory, about right-of-way, permitting, environmental, planning, and similar. Although the pre-construction management degree is not approved, courses can be offered that are valuable for engineers and others involved in pre-construction, and would likely count toward the degree.

Almost 100 students have taken at least one course from the UAF program. Three courses are being offered this fall and six will be offered this winter/spring. For more information on the program or the courses offered contact Keith Whitaker ([kwhitaker@alaska.edu](mailto:kwhitaker@alaska.edu)) or Bob Perkins ([raperkins@alaska.edu](mailto:raperkins@alaska.edu)).

The Catalog of Graduate Certificate is available at [http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog\\_10-11/programs/constmgmt\\_grad.html](http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_10-11/programs/constmgmt_grad.html). ❖

## ACSM Provides Links to New Reports from FEMA

The American Congress on Surveying & Mapping (ACSM) reports that a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) PowerPoint presentation on the Status of Flood Map Modernization, Risk MAP datasets and products, Risk MAP conversions, and NFIP Reform is available at the following link (pdf file, 5MB): <http://www.floodmaps.net/eftp/download.php> and enter the following filename: 697409057\_Mapping\_Coalition\_October\_2010\_Meeting\_Risk\_MAP\_NFIP\_Reform.pdf.

The “Risk MAP FY10 Report to Congress,” “Risk MAP Digital Elevation Plan,” and “FY10 Flood Mapping Progress Report and Production Plan” are available at: [http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtm)

Further information regarding FEMA’s NFIP Reform efforts is available at: [http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/nfip\\_reform.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/nfip_reform.shtm) ❖

## USKH Selected Among Best

October 2010 – USKH Inc. (USKH) is pleased to announce that ZweigWhite and Stagnito Media selected USKH as the 13<sup>th</sup> best Multidiscipline Architecture and Engineering (A&E) Services firm to work for in the country.

Firms were selected based on their commitment to provide a positive work environment and challenging and interesting work opportunities for their employees.

Rankings were made based

on the results of a comprehensive survey of workplace practices and an independent survey of employees.

USKH is an employee-owned, solution-oriented full service design firm offering fully integrated architectural, engineering, environmental, planning, and land surveying services to clients throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest since 1972. Our mission is creating sustainable solutions to improve quality of life for communities. ❖

WFPS Donation Helps Inform Public about Surveying**New Stone Monuments Dedicated at Four Corners**

*Courtesy of Richard Heieren, PLS, ASPLS  
By John B. Guyton, PLS, WSPS Colorado Delegate*

Thanks in part to a generous donation of \$2,500 from the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS), a new set of stone monuments were included in a \$1 million redesign of the Four Corners National Monument plaza, which was dedicated on September 17, 2010. The Four Corners Monument marks the boundary corner common to Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

A series of four stones, one located in each state surrounding the monument, tells a story of the surveying history of the region for that state. NSPS Governor Warren D. Ward (Colorado) lent his energy and enthusiasm to organizing and mobilizing the project.



The stone work was designed and commissioned by artist Christian Muller, who also designed the stone monument and plaque for the 40<sup>th</sup> Parallel Exhibit in Boulder (see the May, 2008 issue of *Side Shots* at [www.plsc.net](http://www.plsc.net)).



The new Four Corners National Monument is a well-visited tourist attraction. The four stones represent an excellent venue to inform the public about the surveying history of this unique location.

The WFPS donation fit the mission of education and public awareness of the surveying profession to a very diverse and large potential audience for many years into the future.

For more information on the monument, see <http://navajonationparks.org/htm/fourcorners.htm>. ❖



The monthly newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council does not necessarily express the opinions of the Council, the member societies, or their members.

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## Achieving Greatness: The Value of Association

By Don Yaeger

Association leaders and corporate executives have long recognized that great lessons – lessons in leadership, team building, handling adversity, and managing success – can be learned from their peers in the world of sports.

This explains why some of the most sought after public speakers at corporate events are sports greats – Miami Heat President Pat Riley, Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyewski, former Pittsburgh Steeler running back Rock Bleier and former LSU basketball coach Dale Brown are among the most popular speakers on the circuit. The lessons they teach and exhibit in their world translate perfectly into yours.

In my 20-plus years as a writer for *Sports Illustrated* and author of more than a dozen books, I have been blessed to spend hours interviewing great winners like Riley, Krzyewski, basketball legend Michael Jordan and Hall of Fame running back Walter Payton.

Some of the best lessons I have learned, however, have come at the foot of the greatest winner of them all, the late John Wooden, former UCLA basketball coach and winner of unprecedented 10 NCAA championships. Wooden also was an oft-tapped corporate consultant on the subject of leadership.

Before Wooden's passing, I often traveled to Los Angeles to talk with him about Greatness and the traits of those who have achieved it. One characteristic he was passionate about was that the truly "great" understand that value of association. They know they can only become great if they surround themselves with others who are headed in that direction.

Just a couple of years ago, the then 97-year-old Wooden, his mind sharp as any 30-year-old I had met,

got a twinkle in his eyes when told me he had a story to share, one I would enjoy sharing with others.

"Many people, when they ask me about coaching great players, always ask me about my two most famous centers, Lew Alcindor (who became Kareem Abdul-Jabaar) and Bill Walton," the coach said, "But one of the greatest I have ever coached is a player many wouldn't suspect. It was Swen Nater."

I think Coach enjoyed the look of surprise on my face. I remembered Nater, but just barely. What I remembered was that he was cut from his high school basketball team as because, even at 6-foot-11, he was too clumsy to offer the team any value. He didn't give up, though, and several years later made a community college team. He became talented enough that several four-year colleges offered him scholarships.

At the time, UCLA and Wooden were in the middle of one of the most spectacular runs in all of sports,

winning seven of eight national championships. Alcindor had graduated, but Wooden had a new center, Walton, who he thought might be even better.

Nater's community college coach asked Wooden to consider his player. "I was told he could, at the very least, be a great practice opponent for Walton," Wooden recalled. "So I spoke with Swen. I was honest. I told him he could go to a small school and play all the minutes he wanted, or he could come to UCLA, where he likely would never start a game, but where he could play against the best center in the country every day. That's the best I could offer him."

Nater didn't flinch. He accepted the opportunity and, as Wooden had promised, he didn't start a single game at UCLA.

"Swen understood that to become the best he needed to associate

*Continued on Page 5*

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### UAF Helps Connect Students, Careers

## Employers Can Post Jobs, Internships at No Cost

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Career Services maintains an easy to use website that allows an employer to post a job position or internship, [UAF Career Connect](#). The UAF College of Engineering and Mines Advisory Committee members suggest checking out the site because your organization may be unaware of this service and could benefit from it.

Whether you are looking for part time help, a summer intern or a permanent employee, the website can connect you with eager and qualified applicants. The site will work for very small employers, medium size and large employers and we welcome all. There is no cost to the employer to post on the UAF site. The employer registration infor-

mation can be completed in minutes, and you have the option to post a job at the same time. When your posting is activated an email will be automatically generated to students who have matching job criteria.

Mark your calendars for [UAF Career Expo](#), March 2, 2011. A special section will be set aside for engineering related employers, and publicity will be sent to engineering students.

We at Career Services Department are ready to answer any questions or provide any assistance you or members may have or need. You may contact the office or Alice Palen, Employer Relations Coordinator, at 907 474-7596 or at [careerservices@uaf.edu](mailto:careerservices@uaf.edu). Visit us on the web at <http://www.uaf.edu/career/>. ❖

## Achieving Greatness: The Value of Association

*Continued from Page 4*

himself with the best he could find,” Wooden said. “There was no better than Bill Walton.”

Or John Wooden.

When his three years at UCLA were complete, Nater had been part of a team that won a record-breaking 88 straight games and had played for three more national championships – all as Walton’s backup.

Nater then made history when he became the first player selected in the first round of the professional basketball draft without ever starting a college game. He played 12 years professionally and now is a senior executive in the corporate offices of COSTCO. His career “is absolutely and directly the result of having made the decision to associate myself with folks who were the very best,” Nater told me. “I learned that you are who you associate yourself with.”

Coach Wooden was succinct: “Mark these words...You will never out-perform your inner circle. If you want to achieve more, the first thing you should do is improve your inner circle.”

At its core, that is exactly why associations hold annual events. Those conventions are a member’s opportunity to improve his or her inner circle, to learn and associate with the very best.

Like Swen Nater, I hope that each of you have identified those in your profession from whom you could learn, those who share your passion for greatness. Then, while attending your state or national conferences, introduce yourself, spend time asking and learning what it is they do that makes them successful. These lessons are often transferable.

Then take the lessons home with you. Make your aspirations known to your staff and your membership because they want to associ-

ate themselves with greatness, too. You’ll be amazed by what you can achieve when you surround yourselves with those headed in the same direction.

At each of these steps you’ll understand why John Wooden agreed that the value of association is one of the most significant traits of greatness.

*Editor’s Note: Don Yaeger is a nationally acclaimed speaker, New York Times best-selling author and longtime associate editor of Sports Illustrated who speaks on the subject of Greatness, taking lessons from the world of sports and translating them to business and professional audiences. See [www.donyaeger.com](http://www.donyaeger.com). ❖*

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### Combine Continuing Education & the Value of Association

#### **ASMC Agenda Offers Diverse Opportunities**

Survey and mapping professionals will be treated to a diverse selection of short courses, technical sessions and workshops at the 2011 Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference (ASMC) in February. Highlights include the GIS Jam and professional competition.

The agenda includes sessions for students and entry-level professionals as well as for senior practitioners wanting to maintain a current education, and provides all an opportunity to reap the benefits of association.

The 2011 ASMC, *Meridians and Parallels*, will be at the Hilton Anchorage Hotel February 21 – 25, 2011. Exhibitors and sponsors are signing up, the agenda is being finalized and registration for participants will open soon at [www.aksmc.org](http://www.aksmc.org).

Ken Ayers, PLS, chairman of the 2011 conference, confirmed that Bob Abby, Director of the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will provide the keynote address at Noon Tuesday, February 22.

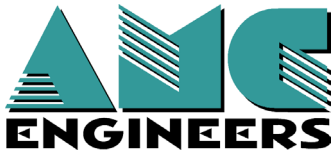
In addition, senior BLM officers will be guest instructors for a full day of instruction regarding the *Manual of Surveying Instructions*, 2009 edition, released early this year. Guest instructors will be Don Buhler, National Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Michael Schoder, Alaska Chief Cadastral Surveyor, and Bob Dahl, Chief Editor of the Manual.

The ASMC is hosted by The Alaska Section of the American Congress on Surveying & Mapping (ACSM), Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS), Alaska Region of the American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ASPRS), and Alaska Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) in association with the Alaska Arc Users Group (AAUG) and UAA Geomatics Student Association (GSA). ❖

#### **APDC Member Societies**

- Alaska Society of Professional Engineers (ASPE)
- Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS)
- American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Alaska Section (ACSM)
- American Institute of Architects Alaska Chapter (AIA)
- American Society of Civil Engineers Alaska Section (ASCE)
- American Society of Landscape Architects Alaska Chapter (ASLA)
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Alaska (ACEC)
- Professional Engineers in Private Practice Alaska Chapter (PEPP)
- American Society of Interior Designers Alaska Chapter (ASID)
- Structural Engineers Association of Alaska (SEAAK)

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Contact the editor to join: [sterlingtouch@gci.net](mailto:sterlingtouch@gci.net) or [info@apdc-ak.org](mailto:info@apdc-ak.org).

*Links to APDC Sustaining Members' web sites are available in the on-line directory at <http://www.apdc-ak.org>.*

## Alaska Professional Design Council Calendar

### Monday, November 1, 2010

ASPE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (1st Mon)

### Thursday, November 4, 2010

ASPE Anchorage Directors, 7 a.m., McDonald's, 800 W Northern Lights Blvd. (1st Thurs).

APDC, Noon, BBFM Engineers, 510 L St. Suite 200 (Peterson Tower), Anchorage (1st Thurs).

### Friday, November 5, 2010

PEPP, 11:45, BP Energy Center, Anchorage (1st Fri).

### Tuesday, November 9, 2010

ACEC Board, 4:00 p.m., CRW Engineering, Anchorage (2nd Tues).

AIA Northern, 12 Noon, Lunch venue varies. Please check the AIA Alaska website, [www.aiaalaska.com](http://www.aiaalaska.com), or contact Chris Lease at 451-7736 (2nd Tues).

### Wednesday, November 10, 2010

ASCE Juneau Branch and ASPE Juneau Chapter jointly hold membership meetings at Noon at the AEL&P 2nd Floor Conference Room (2nd Wed).

ASLA Alaska Board, 12:10 p.m. in the URS 3rd floor conference room (2nd Wed).

### Thursday, November 11, 2010

ASPE Anchorage, Noon, BP Energy Center (2nd Thurs).

### Tuesday, November 16, 2010

ASCE Anchorage, Noon, Moose's Lodge on Arctic Blvd. (3rd Tues).

ASPLS Anchorage, Noon, Sourdough Mining Co., (3rd Tues).

### Wednesday, November 17, 2010

ASCE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark (3rd Wed).

ASCE Mat-Su Branch, Noon at the Mat-Su College (Mile 2 Trunk Road) in Room FSM 206 (3rd Wed).

### Monday, November 22, 2010

Deadline for the December issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday).

### Tuesday, November 23, 2010

ASPLS Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (4th Tues).

### Wednesday, November 24, 2010

ASPLS Valley, 12 Noon, Windbreak, Wasilla (last Wed).



### Thursday, December 2, 2010

ASPE Anchorage Directors, 7 a.m., McDonald's, 800 W Northern Lights Blvd. (1st Thurs).

APDC, Noon, BBFM Engineers, 510 L St. Suite 200 (Peterson Tower), Anchorage (1st Thurs).

### Friday, December 3, 2010

PEPP, 11:45, BP Energy Center, Anchorage (1st Fri)

### Monday, December 6, 2010

ASPE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (1st Mon).

### Wednesday, December 8, 2010

ASCE Juneau Branch and ASPE Juneau Chapter jointly hold membership meetings at Noon at the AEL&P 2nd Floor Conference Room (2nd Wed).

ASLA Alaska Board, 12:10 p.m. in the URS 3rd floor conference room (2nd Wed).

### Thursday, December 9, 2010

ASPE Anchorage, Noon, BP Energy Center (2nd Thurs).

### Tuesday, December 14, 2010

ACEC Board, 4:00 p.m., CRW Engineering, Anchorage (2nd Tues).

AIA Northern, 12 Noon, Lunch venue varies. Please check the AIA Alaska website, [www.aiaalaska.com](http://www.aiaalaska.com), or contact Chris Lease at 451-7736 (2nd Tues).

### Wednesday, December 15, 2010

ASCE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark (3rd Wed).

ASCE Mat-Su Branch, Noon at the Mat-Su College (Mile 2 Trunk Road) in Room FSM 206 (3rd Wed).

### Monday, December 20

Deadline for the January issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday).

### Tuesday, December 21, 2010

ASCE Anchorage, Noon, Moose's Lodge on Arctic Blvd. (3rd Tues).

ASPLS Anchorage, Noon, Sourdough Mining Co., (3rd Tues).

### Tuesday, December 28, 2010

ASPLS Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (4th Tues).

### Wednesday, December 29, 2010

ASPLS Valley, 12 Noon, Windbreak, Wasilla (last Wed).

*Send calendar notices/updates by the 20th of each month to Vicky Sterling, [sterlingtouch@gci.net](mailto:sterlingtouch@gci.net), fax 345-1028, or call 644-9940.*



### When and Where

Always check locally to confirm meeting times and locations. Some organizations suspend or reschedule meetings in summer months. The newsletter publication calendar generally does not allow time to include holiday and last-minute schedule changes.



## Alaska Designs Welcomes Articles

Alaska Designs welcomes articles and letters on subjects of interest to design professionals. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month's issue. Items may be edited for length or content and will be published as space is available.

Submit items to the editor, Vicky Sterling, at Sterling Touch, 11921 Nebesna Drive, Anchorage AK 99507, Phone 644-9940, Fax 345-1028, or email [sterlingtouch@gci.net](mailto:sterlingtouch@gci.net).