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Stavros Brown

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Stephen Lay, interviewer

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Stephen Lay said there will be a lot of construction noises at the University of Alaska Fairbanks this summer. It is traditionally the construction season in all of Alaska. This summer it will be exceptionally busy on campus. There are plans for everything from a major addition to minor repairs and painting the dormitories. Stavros Brown, director of facilities, will directly oversee many of these projects. Brown said there are really two types of construction plans going on. The major projects are under the Facilities Planning Construction Office. He said they will be doing upgrade projects with their own physical plant forces. Some of the major projects are additions to the Duckering Building and renovation of the old museum. Grounds crews from the physical plant will be concentrating on a number of rehabilitations or upgrading facilities. Reworking the older facilities is necessary for a number of reasons. Brown said a lot of these things are upgrades of existing facilities which were put in for the most part before we had restraints that we have today such as OSHA restraints. The elevators are a good example. Lay said in other instances the work to lower current operating costs. In the past buildings were built with the lowest first cost in mind. Many of the buildings were built when energy costs were much lower than they are now. The lowest first cost building almost invariably results in high operating costs. They are trying to upgrade those facilities to bring operating costs more in line where they think they should be. Lay said among the efforts are a number of landscaping projects. Constitution Park is scheduled to be completed. The physical plant is building a camping facility near the West Ridge. Some paving is also planned. They are planning on increasing the parking. The area near the rural lab school across Tanana Drive from the lower commons will be upgraded allowing more parking spaces for vehicles. A great deal of the upgrades comes from funding from funds appropriated by the legislature. It will only be the second time they have had this kind of discretionary money to spend. The funding ends up as seed money in a situation like they have because the money used for upgrades will generate savings which can go into the next stage of efficiency investment. It becomes almost self-sustaining.