

# Leighton Compass

Issue 1 . February 2022

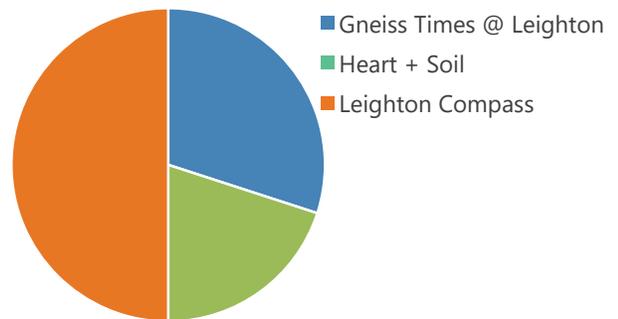


Did you know? Leighton is the geotechnical engineer of record for the Great Park Ice facility; where the Men's Olympic Gold Medalist trains. So yes, we are Gold Medalists.

## Newsletter Name!

Congratulations to **David Ludwig**, Senior Engineering Technician from the Santa Clarita office, for our new newsletter name! The compass represents the company's direction, and a moniker for what's ahead.

With 70 employees voting the results were a clear choice!



## Employee Spotlight

Brynn McCulloch and Mark Withrow, Irvine Office

An Engineer and a Geologist walk into an office, and fall in love. Have you heard this one before? Let's skip to the good part.

- **Do you have any pets?** Two girl kitties Jordie (4yo), Roo (2yo) and a goldfish Arthur (9yo). **What are they like?** Jordie is a skeptic, you can love her only on her terms and she loves bossing Roo around. She's probably the softest cat on earth. Roo is a bright shiny snowflake, the best cuddler/sleeper, and has the cutest meows.



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## A note from Terry Brennan, President of Leighton Group:

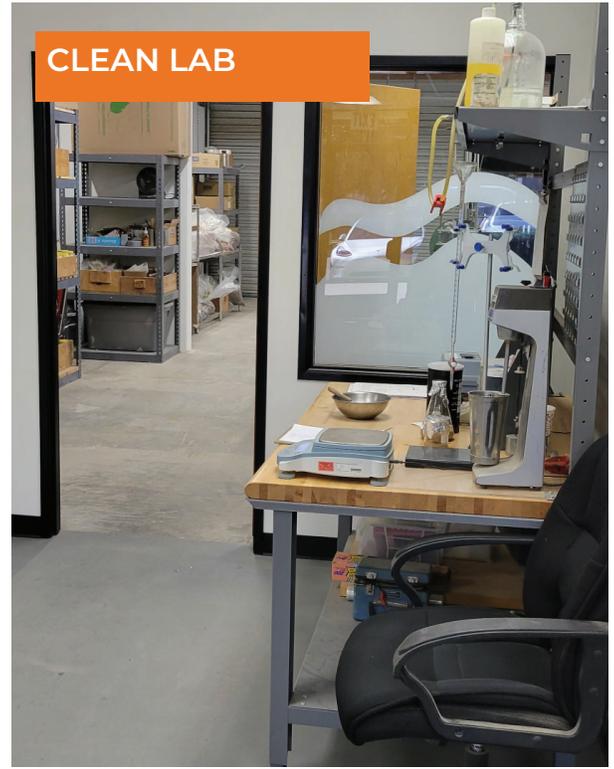
I'm delighted to present Leighton's debut issue of the our employee newsletter!

This newsletter is an important branch that stems from our rebranding that we launched in July 2021. It reflects a newly invigorated spirit and culture that can now be captured and shared with all employees. The work that we do for our clients is important, but just as important is the work you do every day rooted in innovative and collaborative teamwork.

## SUPERPAVE



## CLEAN LAB



## SOIL AND AGGREGATE



## SAN DIEGO LAB EXPANDS TO MEET GROWING DEMAND

During the summer months of 2021, the San Diego office expanded its lab area to add 1,850 square feet of additional space.

The expanded facility has allowed the lab space to be organized into efficient, separate work areas for soils and aggregate, Portland cement concrete, asphalt concrete, and clean lab/team area/office space.

Our San Diego team is loving the new layout, including more organized sample receiving and roll up door vehicle access.

As Leighton's certified Superpave laboratory, Laboratory Technician Louis Parrella's pride and joy is the well-planned and vented asphalt concrete testing area where he's already completed three production startups in 2022 for the SBCTA I-10 and Ave 66 Grade Separation projects.

## CONCRETE



# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARDED TO . . .

## AUGUST



### CATHERINE CHEON

Catherine has been working diligently keeping us in compliance with all the ever-changing COVID-19 requirements. These requirements have come from the CDC, California Department of Public Health, The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), the California Governor's Office, counties, cities, and local agencies, to name just a few.

## SEPTEMBER



### BOB HENNESSEY

As the only engineer in the Santa Clarita office for nine months of 2021 Bob was subject to and conquered all the engineering demands. Despite the intense pressure, his calm demeanor and valued opinions shone through, and things always got done. Bob's work is geographically diverse, from Santa Paula, Santa Barbara, Simi Valley, Lemoore, and Thousand Oaks.

## OCTOBER



### MICHAEL JENQUIN

Michael is our MTIS Dispatcher. He has improved our dispatch system to facilitate inspection requests, capture practical information and communicate to special inspectors. During the high-volume of October, this clearly reduced confusion and delay. He is always proactive with scheduling dispatches, reaches out to clients and provides a 2-week look-ahead schedules for upcoming inspections

## NEW EMPLOYEES

This quarter's question of our newest employees: **What do you like most about your job so far?**

### ● OCT

#### ● Ramiro Magallanes, EIT

Staff Engineer | Santa Clarita

The best thing about my job right now is the people I work with. I'm very lucky to be part of a team that is very knowledgeable. I like that I get to come in to work every day and know that I can have a positive impact to the team.

### ● NOV

#### ● Maria Mila De La Roca

Accounting Clerk | Irvine

This has been a great opportunity and challenge for me after being a housewife for six years, but it brings me back to my memories of 13 years of work in the accounting field in Venezuela. I will continue to work hard and I hope to achieve as much success as the other members of the team.

#### ● Krista Payne

Office Administrator | San Diego

I like the people I work with very much. They're a smart, dynamic, and interesting team. I enjoy learning

from them, while also very much enjoying each of their individual personalities.

#### ● Shadi Motamedi

Administrative Assistant, Materials | Irvine

What I like about Leighton the most is the respect among all the employees as well as their friendliness. This makes me feel like I'm part of a big and professional family.

### ● DEC

#### ● Travis Broguiere

Senior Engineering Soils Technician | Temecula

It would have to be how great the people within the company are. I know it's cliché, but everyone has been so welcoming, kind, and helpful. It has made my transition such an enjoyable time.

#### ● Damian Montes

Engineering Soil Technician I / Field Geologist | Rancho Cucamonga

Other than being outside all day, what I like most about my job so far is seeing how much a jobsite develops in such little time.

# PROFESSIONAL MENTOR

## Exceeding the Client's Expectations: A 101 on keeping your clients happy

As the old verse goes, "Make new friends, but keep the old..." Here at Leighton, our team is diligently working with clients every day and making and keeping friends. While establishing new connections is important for company growth, it is critical to keep our current clients as well. So, what is the secret to keeping the client happy? We interviewed *Dina Rochford, Vice President of Business Development + Marketing* to share a few strategies.



One rule for keeping clients satisfied is staying on top of deadlines. Steps to follow are to "make realistic scheduling goals for yourself and stick to them. Write down your deadlines, figure out the milestones that are needed to achieve the deadlines. If you find yourself off-track, be realistic with yourself. Call your supervisor or colleagues for help. When all else fails, proactively reach out to the client and explain the situation and negotiate an extension that you can both work with. And, do this prior to missing the deadline," Dina suggests. Meeting your clients' deadlines is imperative to their assessment of Leighton, and whether they choose to work with us again in the future. So having a strong relationship with the client provides dramatic benefits when it comes to situations like these.

Being proactive rather than reactive is a key factor in being successful in all areas of your life. Specifically, if you can get ahead of a foreseeable task problem, you will save yourself time and energy. "Think ahead," Dina says. "Can you anticipate pitfalls that might occur on the project (or even non-project related task) you are working on? If so, pick up the phone and let your client know."

Be confident in yourself, speak clearly, professionally, and kindly. If you do so, it's likely that they'll be pleased to speak with you again." Be confident, be realistic, and continue making Leighton proud!

con't from **Employee Spotlight**, page 1

- **What is your favorite activity to do on the weekends?** We both like hiking, being outdoors. Also trying new places to eat; we love good food and wine!
- **What is your favorite thing about your job?** The people. A job is a job, but the people you work with are what keeps you coming back each day.
- **What would be the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Brynn: buy a ranch in Montana. Mark: go on a long vacation (to Montana, LOL).
- **What is something most people don't know about you?** Mark is a twin. Brynn can drive a bus.
- **Explain the first job you ever had.** Brynn worked at TacoTime/TCBY at the mall in high school, great times! I lived off bean burritos and ice cream, doesn't get better than that! Mark was a counselor at a YMCA summer camp and afterschool program, helping kids with homework and coaching them in sports.
- **If you could have one superpower, what would it be?** Brynn: stop time (so I can catch up on reports, jk!). Mark: have x-ray vision.
- **If you could quickly and easily learn any new skill, what would it be?** Mark would learn a new language. Brynn would learn to garden (kind of hard with zero outdoor space at home, lol!) (*Maybe she should win the lottery!*)
- **What chore do you absolutely hate doing?** Mark says washing the comforter cover. Brynn says cleaning the cat box.



# LIFE @ LEIGHTON



▲ The Irvine office came together for lunch to honor Debbie Delaney. She retired December 23rd after 19 years with Leighton as Terry Brennan's assistant. Debbie managed the corporation documents, building maintenance, supported human resources, planned Irvine office holiday parties, catering for meetings, and employee holiday cards. Left to right: Gail Thomas, Jean Renaud, Andrea Grisgby, Debbie and Terry Brennan



▲ The annual 'Leighton Group + Irvine Lab Holiday Potluck' returned with Rene Abello planning the feast, and bringing a Lechon. Yes, a full roasted pig.

In May, Brent Adam (Temecula) welcomed a new baby girl, Weslyn Adam. ▶



◀ Sabrina Gonzalez (Irvine), welcomed a new baby, Lyla. She was born on July 21.



Kristen Williams (Irvine) passed the FINRA Series 7 exam. Kristen's intent in taking this exam was to not only understand how our clients structure deals by way of debt and equity, but to also assist developers in finding and raising investment capital for real estate deals.



▲ Anthony Borges (Irvine) got engaged at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. He and his fiancée are both geologists who met at CSULB.

## UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

	Name	Total Yrs	Date
1 - 4 YEARS	David Ludwig	4	Jan 15
	Duane Lorenz	1	Jan 26
	Kirk Daste	1	Feb 2
	Justin Bowman	1	Feb 5
	Jorge Paredes Contreras	1	Feb 5
	Damian Anaya	1	Feb 11
	Gregory Prout	1	Feb 11
	Shane Casey	4	Feb 12
	Catherine Cheon	3	Feb 18
	Manuel Garcia	3	Feb 27
	Neil Carey	2	Mar 9
	Brent Adam	1	Mar 15
	Beata Lacki	1	Mar 22
	Andrew Gomez	4	Mar 22
5 - 9 YEARS	Eduardo Dominguez-Beltran	3	Mar 25
	Edward Che	8	Jan 6
	KimAnh Welch	6	Jan 11
	Aston James	9	Jan 11
	Adam Cockrill	7	Feb 16
	Gwendolyn Tellegen	2	Feb 24
	Frank Mina	8	Feb 25
	Roy Butz	7	Feb 26
	Kristopher Perez	8	Mar 3
	Bryan Voss	8	Mar 17
	Alberto Lopez	8	Mar 19
	Stacy Weimer	7	Mar 30
	Eric Holliday	8	Mar 30
	10 - 19 YEARS	John Haertle	17
Gail Thomas		19	Feb 24
Mark Withrow		15	Mar 5
Brandon Thomas		19	Mar 17
Thomas Benson		18	Mar 22
Bashir Saiid		14	Mar 26
20 - 30 YEARS	Terrance Brennan	28	Jan 5
	Andrea Grigsby	26	Jan 8
	George Ruiz	21	Jan 15
	Gareth Mills	26	Jan 29
	Sean Colorado	23	Feb 8
	Jason Hertzberg	24	Feb 16
	Mike Jensen	24	Mar 23
30+ YEARS	Djan Chandra	33	Jan 9
	Joseph Dean	34	Feb 22
	Steven Felter	34	Mar 24

## EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following team members promoted during the last quarter of 2021!

### December:

**Isaac Martinez** was hired six months ago to assist in Accounts Payable and has been promoted to Project Accountant. He will graduate from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor's degree in accounting this year.

Andrea Grigsby expressed, "Isaac has been a fantastic addition to our team. He is a very quick learner and has been a huge help in these crazy, busy times. He is great to work with and is always willing to help with a smile on his face."

### November:

**Bashir Saiid**, who recently became a PE is now a Project Engineer, earning him the role of Project Manager. Bashir works out of our Temecula office but represents Leighton as working out of both the Temecula and Palm Desert offices.

Bob Riha and Simon Saiid shared, "Bashir is always a pleasure to have working on our projects – his growing technical knowledge, "can do" attitude, and ability to utilize all of our newest tools makes Bashir one of our go-to guys. Additionally, Bashir is very dependable and attentive to clients' needs. His quick response to is very appreciated by our clients."

**Jason Bulskov** moved up from Engineering Soil Technician II to Senior Engineering Technician. Jason has been with Leighton for 13 years working out of the Temecula office.

Avi Schwartz said, "Working on a job site with over 20 planning areas, Jason does a great job of tracking the workload and managing technicians that assist him. At times, he's pulled off this job site to cover various Caltrans projects during the day and night. Despite this, Jason is able to maintain his ability to complete his daily field reports and test data in great detail."

# CLIENT DEVELOPMENT . dig into these new projects

## Santa Clarita . Ines Cadavid-Parr

Client: **County of LA, DPW**

Project: **Sheriffs Stations Fueling Systems Maintenance Compliance**

Underground storage tanks at 15 sheriff stations throughout Los Angeles County have been out of compliance since 2014. Faced with notices of violation and red tagging of fuel tanks, LACoDPW turned to Leighton to help them get these tanks and fueling systems upgraded and in compliance with the California State Water Resources Control Board, Underground Storage Tank Program Statutes and Regulations, as well as local regulations.

## Rancho Cucamonga . Steve Okubo

Client: **Caprock Partners**

Project: **I-15 Logistics Center**

Visible on the NW side of the I-15, this logistics center will be developed and located within a 61.17-acre site. This proposed development includes a 1,171,788-square-foot industrial warehouse building with office spaces and loading docks as well as a WQMP infiltration basin, retaining walls, underground utilities, drainage, landscape and parking improvements onsite. Offsite, proposed improvements will include the widening of the adjacent Lytle Creek Road to the northwest of the proposed warehouse. Following our geotechnical report, Leighton will provide geotechnical observation and testing services during rough grading, onsite post grading construction, and offsite roadway improvements.

## Temecula . Bob Riha

Client: **Pulte Homes**

Project: **Cimarron Ridge Master-Planned Community**

Cimarron Ridge is a master-planned community that will develop 756 single-family homes nestled in the foothills of Menifee and located less than 2 miles from the I-215. The 240-gross-acre site was previously designed and

graded by the original developer; later Van Deale Homes purchased the graded site and leaned on Leighton to assist in a re-design and preparation of geotechnical reports for project approval. Leighton is now providing soils observation and testing for Pulte Homes for the regrading and all infrastructure associated with this site.

## San Diego: . Mike Jensen

Client: **City of Carlsbad**

Project: **Police and Fire Station Headquarters Renovation (Safety Center)**

The 54,575-square-foot Carlsbad Safety Center is home to the City's Police, Fire, and Public Works departments. This project will bring the building up to current codes with seismic retrofitting of the building's steel moment and steel braced frames as well as structural modifications to accommodate tenant improvements. To support this project, Leighton will be providing materials testing and special inspection for reinforced concrete, post-installed anchors, field welding and new foundation. Additionally, Leighton will perform soils observation and compaction testing during grading operations of the existing parking area improvements to achieve increased parking capacity.

## Irvine . Jeff Pflueger

Client: **Rexford Industrial Realty**

Project: **Proposed Warehouse Building, Santa Fe Springs**

This project will construct a new 197,970square-foot warehouse building that will consist of a 12-inch-thick structural mat slab supported by cast-in-drilled-hole (CIDH) reinforced concrete pile foundations. The piles are required to penetrate through the existing landfill with a minimum of 30-feet embedment into the native alluvium below. Leighton will be providing geotechnical field observation and testing during construction on an on-call basis.

## 2021 TOP FIVE CLIENTS

Leighton and Associates		Leighton Consulting	
Client	Bookings	Client	Bookings
Pulte	\$ 2,098,100	County of Los Angeles DPW	\$ 3,811,200
Richmond American Homes	\$ 1,378,200	HNTB	\$ 2,323,900
Woodside Homes	\$ 12,22,300	Southern California Edison	\$ 1,062,400
Lennar	\$ 1,159,100	Rexford	\$ 1,044,000
Wakeland	\$ 715,400	Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District	\$ 966,300