

Leighton Compass

Issue 2 . August 2022



Drawn to Leighton's 60+ year legacy and expertise, Leighton's new Chief Executive Officer, Sudhir Damle is looking forward to maximizing the potential of Leighton and our people and leading us to a whole new level in our industry.

(Continued on Page 3)

Leading with Passion

With more than 32 years of success in the A/E/C industry and a passion for helping companies and people meet their full potential...get to know our new CEO!

Thanks again, **DAVID LUDWIG**...



For coming up with a name worthy of our newsletter. **Leighton Compass** has a great ring to it!

And a special shout out to Ines and Djan for coming up with our 2nd & 3rd place entries!



Employee Spotlight

An Interview with James "Jay" Burnham // Sr. Project Geologist @ Leighton's Victorville Office



What made you want to lead the Victorville office?

I believe the Greater High Desert area (Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Adelanto, Barstow, and surrounding communities) has considerable potential for continued growth and development. In addition, we have several employees who reside in the High Desert. Opening and managing a Victorville office was an exciting and logical step to establish a local presence in this fast-growing market.

What exciting things are there to do in the surrounding area?

As a geologist and explorer at heart, I have always been into camping, hiking, and rock-hounding. The Mojave Desert provides near limitless potential for those hobbies. In addition, there are several resort communities, golf courses, museums, landmarks, and an expanding nightlife.

Continued on Page 3

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARDED TO . . .

Although we may have missed a couple of months in there (sorry, March and April), we celebrate our Employees of the Month for January, February, May and June! Congratulations and thank you so much for all you do !

january



JAY BURNHAM

Always working with an attitude of excellent service in every setting he faces, Jay has helped to strategically grow our presence in San Bernardino County, the largest county in the nation. He led the search and selection of our new Victorville office last year and personally oversaw every detail of setup, move-in, and launch. We could go on with his many other amazing accomplishments.

may



FRANK SHANNON

Frank has spent significant time in the Bridgeport area of California and has endured extreme weather conditions including some very snowy days. Frank is extremely dedicated to his work, and his time and effort does not go unnoticed. We appreciate his devotion to always achieving a job well done Frank, your efforts are exemplary and greatly appreciated.

february



ANTHONY GUEVARA

Tony has been working very hard helping the Temecula office to a great degree, driving long distances, and staying many days in hotels away from home. In February alone, Tony logged 195 billable hours. For context, February has 20 workdays which equates to 160 hours. We appreciate his willingness to go above and beyond to support our efforts and serve our clients.

june



KATHLEEN LHAMON

Since joining Leighton, Kathleen has jumped in at full speed and tackled the broad spectrum of HR items that arise each day. Kathleen's depth of knowledge, diligent efforts and hard work help ensure our compliance with regulations and sound practices when addressing the varied needs of our valued employees. She supports the HR challenges we all face in our roles and beyond.

NEW EMPLOYEES

We are happy to announce that our team is growing! Please give a warm welcome to all of our new hires in 2022 to date! We are so happy you are here!

● JAN

- Adib Attiyah
- Sr. Staff Engineer | Rancho Cucamonga

● FEB

- Karina Duran
- Staff Engineer | Irvine

● MAR

- Sudhir Damle
- President & CEO | Irvine
- Donald McGuire
- Sr. Special Inspector | Irvine
- Daniel Hernandez
- Engineering Soil Technician I | Temecula
- Ronald Reed
- Engineering Soil Technician I | Temecula
- Kathleen Lhamon
- HR Generalist | Irvine

● APR

- James Foote
- Engineering Soil Technician II | San Diego

● MAY

- Michael Priestaf
- Sr. Staff Geologist | Irvine
- Thomas Switzer
- Engineering Soil Technician II | Santa Clarita
- Cristina Perez
- Marketing Director | Irvine

● MAY (con't)

- Arturo Sotomayor, Jr.
- Staff Geologist | Irvine

● JUN

- William Kubran
- Project Geologist | Santa Clarita
- Dana Focardi
- Staff Engineer | San Diego
- Beck Mihm
- Administrative Assistant | Santa Clarita
- Alec Billmeier
- Staff Geologist | Irvine
- Theresa Duncan
- Staff Geologist | Irvine
- Christian Ross
- Engineering Soil Technician II | Temecula
- Zachary Shumaker
- Sr. Engineering Technician | Irvine
- James Wiseman
- Staff Geologist | Irvine
- JUL
- Jackson Foltz
- Engineering Soil Technician I | Temecula
- Nikhila Srirangpatna
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO) | Irvine

Highlight Story // Meet Sudhir Damle (con't)



Sudhir leads with passion. In fact, a past colleague once stated that Sudhir's middle name should be "Passion." Sudhir credits his career success to this very passion and embracing and driving change.

He believes that a strong and successful leader is 30% natural ability and 70% how you apply yourself. Sudhir also believes in the power of listening—to your peers, to your mentors, and to yourself. He believes it is crucial to always have a vision for the future and he challenges his staff to always set goals for themselves—"Remain open-minded but stay true to yourself and your instincts."

Sudhir is thrilled to begin his time here at Leighton and lights up with ideas and goals for the future of our company. While he understands that accepting new leadership may come with uncertainty, he reminds us to embrace change to allow for success. "While this will surely be a team effort," Sudhir remarked, "I look forward to leading our talented team to the next level of success."

What kind of work can we expect in Victorville?

As the High Desert booms, we expect a healthy mix of residential, DSA, industrial, and transportation projects. The existing infrastructure will need to be updated in many areas to support the growth. We are also excited at the prospect of working on the Brightline West project, a planned 260-mile high speed rail project linking Las Vegas to Victorville, and ultimately Ranch Cucamonga.

Do you have any pets? If so, what are their names? What are they like?

Hera the Husky and Barry the Goldendoodle are my two pups. Hera is bright, independent, and stubborn. Barry is mild, cuddly, and constantly attached at the heel or lap.

If you weren't in your current career, what job would you have?

Prior to getting into the geotechnical field, I considered becoming a park ranger. Something about that career still appeals to me, so I'm pretty sure that's where I would be.

If you could travel anywhere, where would it be?

I've always wanted to travel to Scotland to hike the James Hutton trail, where Hutton originally observed principles he would use to establish Geology as a modern science. Then, of course, detour to some of the local Scotch distilleries.

What is your favorite activity to do on the weekends?

Nearly every weekend I can be found hiking the hills and mountains that surround my hometown (Yucaipa). I also enjoy amusement parks and quite often visit Disneyland and Six flags.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

My favorite thing about this job is seeing the growth and development of both the people I work with and supervise, and the projects they support. I also really enjoy developing client partnerships and strive to grow the business.

What led you to work in this field?

I happened on this field by chance. When selecting a college major, getting credit for being outside, camping, hiking, and studying the earth, greatly appealed to me. Initially, I had designs on working in the petroleum or mining industries, but was very quickly hired into the geotechnical industry after graduating.

con't from **Employee Spotlight**, page 3

Share the best piece of advice you have ever been given.

It's simple, but can have a profound effect: Don't stress over or dwell on things in which you have no control.

When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time?

Reading (or listening to audiobooks).



LIFE @ LEIGHTON



▲ Leighton participated in the 43rd Annual OCWA Golf Tournament @ Strawberry Farms Golf Club on June 6th. Two of our very own, Jeff Hull and Jeff Pfluger represented Leighton on the course, while Kyleigh Dingfelder (Marketing) worked the booth. We even got a shoutout in the OCWA Newsletter!



▲ Molly Rochford (pictured), along with our client, Christine Cho from McDonalds, her husband from DEB Construction and their daughter, Chloe, enjoyed a tour of our lab for Take your child to work day.

After the lab tour, while Dina and Christine participated in a meeting for our projects in Anaheim and Menifee, the girls met with Jasmine, Michelle and Yvonne for a mentoring session. They talked about how to get into college, how to pick the right career path, how to find your first job and more.

It was a great day!



▲ In February, the geotechnical team (i.e. Team Geo), including Brynn, Meredith, Yvonne, Michelle, and Jasmine, attended the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) and the Women in Transportation Seminar's Orange County (WTS-OC) Chapter's Girls' Engineering Day Event (GED). The event invited young junior high professionals to learn more about five transportation fields: structures, environmental, geotechnical, highway, and survey.

Jasmine started each session with a 10 minute college presenter talk. Meredith presented a slideshow on the importance of geotechnical engineering, foundations, and geotechnical hazards, with a focus on liquefaction. Following Meredith's presentation, our team received great interest and questions regarding college and an engineering career from the girls.

The Leighton team did an excellent job at getting the kids excited about Girls Engineering Day and the great career opportunities!



▲ We are proud to share a recent achievement for Djan Chandra, PE, GE. He was recently awarded the CalGeo Project Award for the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement.

The Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project consisted of the design and construction of a cable-stayed, six-lane bridge, retaining walls for abutments and ramp connectors, and a pedestrian/bicycle path which spans the Back Channel in the Port of Long Beach. The bridge replacement, designed to ease traffic congestion and improve navigational safety, is jointly procured by the Port of Long Beach and Caltrans.

● EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

At Leighton, we value and invest in our people. We recognize the hard work of all our staff and hope to provide you with new opportunities and help you reach your career goals. Congratulations to the following team members promoted in 2022!

Ines Cadavid-Parr, CSP *promoted to* Associate

Meredith Church, PG *promoted to* Principal Geologist

Christian Delgadillo, PE, GE *promoted to* Associate Engineer

Kalie Duccini, PG *promoted to* Project Geologist

Manuel Garcia *promoted to* Senior Technician

Bob Hennessey, PE *promoted to* Associate Engineer

Greg Ludwig *promoted to* Field Operations Manager

Roderick Marcia, PE *promoted to* Principal Engineer

Michael Murrey *promoted to* Staff Geologist

Steve Okubo, PG, CEG *promoted to* Associate Geologist

Frank Shannon *promoted to* Senior Technician

Jay Burnham, PG *promoted to* Senior Project Geologist & Office Supervisor of Victorville

New Managing Directors

Kristen Williams
promoted to Senior Principal
& Managing Director of Irvine

Simon Saïd
promoted to Senior Principal Engineer
& Managing Director of Temecula/Palm Desert

Mike Jensen
promoted to Principal Geologist
& Managing Director of San Diego



MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Directors! Leighton appreciates your ongoing leadership and dedication to our employees.



Sudhir Damle
Chairman of the Board



Djan Chandra
Board Member



Kris Lutton
Secretary of the Board



Robert Riha
Board Member



Dina Rochford
Board Member

THANKS FOR READING!!

We want this newsletter to represent Leighton, so we are asking for your help! We are looking for:

- Project Highlights
- New Contracts
- Employee Spotlights
- Personal Achievements - New baby? Cool pet? Just married? Climb a mountain? Master a soufflé? We want to hear about it!
- Industry Events and/or Client Interactions (Golf events, conferences, seminars, awards, etc.)
- Office Volunteerism / Community Involvement

Please send your submissions to Cristina Perez (cperez@leightongroup.com) for inclusion in our next newsletter!