

A Season of Reflection

At Leighton, we provide creative and reliable solutions in service of our clients, and, ultimately, the local communities where we all live, work, and play.

This year, the Leighton team went beyond our "job" as a consultant, and provided our services, free of charge, to make a small, but important impact in our local communities.

[Read More on Page 3](#)



Employee Spotlight

An Interview with Lynne Rees // Administrative Office Manager - Irvine Office



After 23 years of dedication to the Leighton team managing all administrative functions in the Irvine office, Lynne Rees is slowly transitioning to a lighter work week which will ultimately lead to her well-deserved retirement. Whether or not you have had the pleasure of working with Lynne directly, you have no doubt felt the impact of all that she does. The Irvine office and Leighton would not and will not be the same with out her. For now, we celebrate Lynne, her hard work, support, and kindness by getting to know her a little bit better!

Do you have kids? Tell us about them!

I have 7 wonderful children and 2 amazing granddaughters—one is 25 and one is 18 months so quite an age gap! I also have 1 grand dog—he's 17 now (pictured on Page 4).

Tell us about your pups?

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.

(Continued on Page 4)

STAFF SHOUTOUTS!

SAN DIEGO: CARLOS AGUIANO

Carlos does fantastic work on challenging projects requiring persistence with permitting and significantly difficult multi-agency efforts, including a geotechnical investigation at Palomar Airport which required coordination with the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and FAA. He performed that effort flawlessly. His coordination skills have been put to the test in projects including performing **field work in downtown San Diego during Comic Con while** observing COVID-19 safety requirements (can you imagine?). If you have tough project, Carlos has it covered!

IRVINE: YVONNE NGUYEN

Recently, an SCE representative took the time to send an email describing an interaction with Yvonne Nguyen during a visit to the SCE Mesa SONGS project location site. Yvonne was overseeing trenching activities in areas where crucial AT&T fiber optic lines are present. Though she did not know who the SCE representative was, as soon as he walked onto the site, she **immediately approached him with the Health and Safety Plan and gave a safety briefing**. When he returned to the site with representatives from EPA, Cal EPA DTSC, and the Navy, Yvonne was again quick to provide the same safety information. The representative was impressed with her dedication and thanked Yvonne and the Leighton team for quality work and attention to safety. Wonderful job, Yvonne!!

SANTA CLARITA: MARIUS VILKAS, PG

Marius Vilkas came to us in mid-July 2019 with a limited geotechnical background and has since made himself indispensable. He dedicated himself to understanding and performing the environmental aspects of our work and has become a **true cross-trained professional** as a result. His learning has been exponential, and he has quickly become a valued and much-appreciated team member. This was also reflected in his recently earning his license as a Professional Geologist! Great work, Marius!

SANTA CLARITA: JOSE TAPIA

Jose has done a great job managing the Ontario tunnel fieldwork for our work at the Ontario Airport (ONT). He effectively coordinates with the different agencies (like the cities of Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga, ONT, and Caltrans) to get the borings completed in a safe manner, all while keeping everyone happy. **He can even be caught scrubbing markings off the asphalt!**

TEMECULA: DEBBIE MEGGERS

Debbie's long time efforts of scanning and archiving old Leighton documents that date back to the 1980's has have paid off! Recently, with no real expectation, a client asked if we had any documentation from an old Leighton project titled, "Preliminary Soils Investigation of TT 20185" from the late 80's. Within minutes, Debbie was able to pull up the exact document the client needed. The **client was "extremely grateful and SHOCKED"** that she was able to find such an old project. Great work, Debbie!

NEW HIRES

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

Jessica Berry
Sr. Proposal Writer/
MKTG Specialist | Irvine

Karen Diaz
Project Administrator | Irvine

Shawn Rice
Executive Assistant | Irvine

Todd Schmitz
Sr. Project Geologist | San Diego

Megan Hernandez
Marketing Coordinator | Irvine

Kelly Nguyen
Accounting Clerk | Irvine

Nicholas Peterson
Driver/Lab Tech I | Irvine

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Ines Cadavid-Parr *promoted to* Corporate Safety Director

Jason Hertzberg *promoted to* Managing Director (RC)

Bob Stroh *promoted to* Managing Director (SD)

Vika Malu *promoted to* Sr. Project Accountant

Ron Reed *promoted to* Materials Division President

Michael Priestaf *promoted to* Project Geologist

George Ruiz *promoted to* Operations Manager

Tracy Roberts *promoted to* Senior Staff Geologist

Louis Parrella *promoted to* Laboratory Tech III

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In our industry, letters mean something! Congratulations to our newly registered professionals for adding a few letters to their names!



Kalie Ducini, PG | Irvine

Eric Holliday, PG, CEG | Irvine

Brent Adam, PG, CEG | Temecula

Marius Vilkas, PG | Santa Clarita

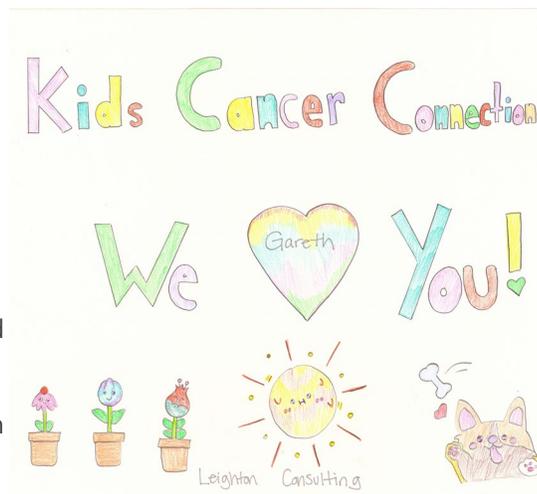
Highlight Story // A Season of Reflection

The holidays are upon us! In a season that's often full of shopping, cooking, entertaining, and general hustle and bustle, Leighton recognizes the importance of taking time for gratitude, reflection, and giving back.

Kids Cancer Connection | Woodland Hills, CA

The Kids Cancer Connection (KCC) is a non-profit that provides psychosocial services to children with cancer and their families, including meal and grocery deliveries, peer counseling, and patient advocacy. KCC strives to create community, increase public awareness of childhood cancer, and build family support systems for those affected. They also create spirit-raising field trips to theme parks and opportunities for art therapy and in-hospital entertainment.

With so many programs and such a need in the community, their homebase in Woodland Hills, Los Angeles needed to expand. The planned expansion consisted of the addition of a 232-square-foot living room space at the Kid's Cancer Connection Center. **Leighton's own Joe Roe performed a geotechnical/geologic investigation for the project site** in support of the important work this non-profit provides.



Lowrey Residence, Homes for Wounded Warriors | Rancho Cucamonga, CA

For American veterans wounded in service to our country, recovering from their injuries is often just the beginning of the challenges they face when they return home. Many contend with a variety of complications from finding new ways to make a living to just getting around in spaces not adequately outfitted for their affected mobility. Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors (JAH4WW) is an organization that works to get catastrophically injured military vets into homes that are built or remodeled with their respective accessibility needs and injuries in mind.

The former NFL star and his foundation have built more than 20 homes since its founding in 2009. The first JAH4WW home in California was built in 2021 in Rancho Cucamonga for former Green Beret Sergeant Joe Lowrey. The Purple Heart recipient sustained a gunshot wound to the head while serving his third term in Afghanistan. After a month in a coma, Joe began his rehab journey and was thankfully able to return to his wife and four children in California. In tribute to his sacrifice and service, the JAH4WW foundation custom-built his family's new home, **a 2,700-square-foot, ADA-accessible, 6-bedroom house, mortgage-free.**



Leighton is grateful to have had the opportunity to provide pro-bono geotechnical engineering services for such an important project and, in particular, one supporting our local veteran community. Our services included geotechnical design recommendations, and geotechnical observation and testing services during rough grading for the building pad.





9/11 Memorial Project | Fontana, CA

The City of Fontana is in the process of building a 9/11 Memorial honoring the memories of those who lost their lives. The memorial will be located within a roundabout at the intersection of Wheeler Avenue and Seville Avenue and will repurpose an existing water feature. It will also incorporate an 18' long beam from the World Trade Center debris as a visual focal point.

Leighton provided pro-bono geotechnical exploration services to evaluate the subsurface conditions of the site to identify potential geologic and seismic hazards that may affect the project. We are honored to have been able to contribute to this new Fontana landmark and touching memorial.

Where is your favorite place to travel?

New Zealand—so many beautiful places!

What is your favorite activity to do on the weekends?

Hiking and walking on trails, reading, and gardening on my patio

What is your favorite thing about your job?

Working with such great people, of course, but I actually like Word Processing and formatting reports and putting them together as a nice looking final product.

What have you loved about working at Leighton?

The people are the BEST! Everyone I work with is great and I feel part of a team—my work family. The admins here in Irvine and the other offices are awesome—everyone is willing to step up and pitch in when extra help is needed.

What would be the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?

Build a house in a beautiful place surrounded by trees and flowers and share with my family!

What is something most people don't know about you?

I lived outside the US for a number of years.

Explain the first job you ever had.

Working in my dad's convenience store! As a retired Army officer he was a tough task master. Ha! I learned to do a thorough job of everything!

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

To change all the hate and discord and war we are living with to peace and harmony.

If you could quickly and easily learn any new skill, what would it be?

Driving an RV or large van in order to do road trips all over the US. I really don't like driving so it would definitely be a new skill!

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Meal prep and cooking!

con't from **Employee Spotlight: Lynne Rees**



Life @ Leighton

Check out what we're doing when we're not behind our desks!



▲ Robert Hennessey (SC) said "I Do" to his lovely wife, Whitney on the Northern Coast of California this summer. The wedding looks absolutely gorgeous!

▶ Jason Hertzberg (RC) & his wife, Melinda became grandparents. Welcome, Calvin!



▶ In October, Rene Abello celebrated the wedding of his son and now daughter-in-law. Pictured is Rene with his family on a beautiful Boracay beach in the Philippines.



▲ Dressed for success! The Irvine office embraced holiday spirit of another kind back in October.



▶ We're seeing double! Tom Benson (RC) welcomes his adorable twin grandkids, Elaina and Fiona!



▶ Dina Rochford (IR) received a certificate from Harvard Business School Online for the finance certification program entitled: "Leading with Finance." Who knew she had mad business development AND finance skills?!

Leighton in the Wild

From conferences and mentorships to "wine nights" and Galas. Check out how our team is representing Leighton in the wild!



➤ Meredith Church and our client, Camilo Rocha of Transystems making good use of the photobooth at the WTS-OC Annual Gala, hosted at the Nixon Library.



⬆️ Leighton hosted our annual Focus on the Future event. Leighton staff and clients enjoyed wine tasting and even celebrated the birthday of our very own Djan Chandra!



➤ Cristina Perez and Dina Rochford attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Orange County Museum of Art (a Leighton Project). They just HAD to take a mirror selfie in this cool installation!



⬆️ WTS (Women in Transportation Seminar) has a Mentorship program that matches young transportation professionals with experienced members in the industry and gives them the opportunity to connect and share experiences. We are proud to have members on both sides of the program. *Mentees: Michelle Manzano & Yvonne Nguyen | Mentors: Meredith Church & Dina Rochford.*

● The Sky is the Limit!

Your Leadership team regularly performs market analyses and strategic planning exercises to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our markets and the industry. In one such review, we identified airports as a market with potential in which we were under-performing. We created a directive to target the Southern California airport market around the beginning of 2022 - and that effort paid off! Through strategic teaming efforts we have recently been selected for projects at 3 different regional airports: LAX, SNA and ONT.

- Airfield & Terminal Modernization Project (LAX) | *Materials Testing during Construction (HDR)*
- John Wayne Airport (SNA) | *Geotechnical Services during Civil Design (AECOM)*
- Ontario Airport (ONT/OIAA) | *Environmental Oversight during Construction (KDG)*

Mc Leighton's Loving It!! Mc

As you all know, Leighton is currently providing geotechnical services for new McDonald's locations across Southern California. Thank you to all who participated in the McDonald's Challenge! Participants were rewarded with a \$25 McDonald's giftcard!



Participants include:

Meredith Church, Shadi Motamedi, Tracy Roberts, Dulce Hernandez, Cristina Dy, Sean Colorado, Dina Rochford, Rhonda MacComber, Brent Adams, Kathleen Lhamon, Dianna Jorgensen, and Sudhir Damle



Notable Projects

A peek at just a few of the unique and impactful projects Leighton is working on right now.

Seismic Stability Analysis for Wood Ranch Dam and Dikes | Calleguas Municipal Water District | Thousand Oaks, CA

Leighton was selected to provide seismic stability analysis for Wood Ranch Dam and six associated dikes, which were constructed in 1965 to impound Lake Bard in Thousand Oaks. The work was required because only one of the dikes had been ever assessed – back in 1997! – and the seismic requirements of the California Building Code and the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) have become more conservative since that time.



The DSOD has classified the Wood Ranch Dam as having an extremely high downstream hazard risk should the dam fail because residents are located downstream. Though deformation of the dam and dikes was predicted, computed deformations were within the tolerances of DSOD requirements for dam safety based on the results of our work. Mitigation recommendations were not required for this facility, although additional recommendations for exploration to more accurately quantify material properties of the embankment soils were recommended given that some parameters had to be estimated, albeit conservatively.



San Gorgonio Flowline No. 1 | Southern California Edison | San Gorgonio Mountain, CA

This project, located on the southern flanks of Mount San Gorgonio within the San Bernardino Mountains, includes the repair of three facilities: the South Fork Sandbox, Black Wheel Creek Spanning Pipeline, and San Gorgonio Lower Flowline No. 1. The initial stages of the project are just wrapping up for the winter, but the project has already taken a significant amount of work from our Rancho Cucamonga team! On top of performing soil inspections, our team also oversees inspection crews of concrete and welding inspectors onsite, acting as the main point of contact for the SCE site representative.

In addition to 15-hour days, the San Gorgonia Flowline team also had to spend long, arduous hours on site, hiking through the mountains surrounding the work site. Work conditions are unique with helicopters flying equipment and concrete to the site, working adjacent to cliff sides, and driving up and down the mountain – all with bas or non-existent cell reception!

This fall has seen our busiest geotechnical exploration field activity in a long time, but, due to our on-site team's dedication (and our office team helping pick up the slack!), we managed to complete all the fieldwork and stay on top of the reporting aspects.

90
Days of Soil Inspections



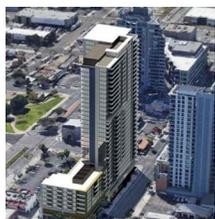
15
Hour days!

Days On-Site

Damien - **84** days
Jen - **41** days
Shane - **32** days

San Diego Sampler

Leighton's San Diego Office is work on a few new projects that deserve a spotlight!



- Performance Based Seismic Design (PBD) project for Pinnacle International – a 32-story high rise above 5 levels of below grade parking in downtown SD | \$80k



- A new geotechnical investigation for Hazard Center residential/commercial Redevelopment in Mission Valley | \$67k
- A new apartment complex project for Wakeland, the Santa Fe Apartments | \$41k
- Fault Study in Old Town SD in the Rose Canyon Fault Zone | \$75k

Our HQ and Irvine Lab are Moving!!

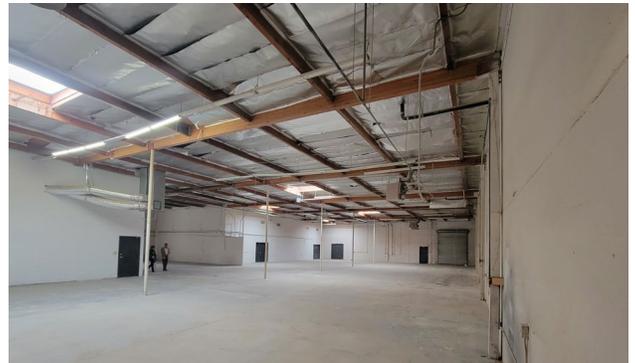
From vintage documents, to dirty office chairs, and random file cabinets that have not been opened in decades, the Irvine office has been hard at work doing some winter cleaning in preparation for their upcoming move (Shout out to Toss Boss and ProShred)! Although we will be splitting up our office and our lab, they will just be located a couple of miles away and still in Irvine. Check out our new spaces! We will be sure to send some new pictures and details once we're all moved in!

New Headquarters

2600 Michaelson Drive, Suite 400, Irvine, CA 92612

New Lab Space

16691 Millikan Avenue, Irvine, CA 92606



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!