

CARETAKER SPOTLIGHT, ERIKA OVERSTREET, EVENT COORDINATOR

In this month's Caretakers Spotlight introduces you to Erika Overstreet, Event Coordinator for Event Services. Erika started working at Stanford in March 2015. She wanted to move to the Bay Area from Davis where she held a similar position at UC Davis. It was natural for Erika to stay at UC Davis after she graduated from the university with a double major of Art Studio and Psychology but she was ready for a change.

A typical workday for Erika consists of answering phone calls or emails, checking new and last minute event changes, entering data, talking to guests, giving advice on how to enter requests, and re-directing lost souls either on the phone or walk-ins to the Bonair Siding ES office. Erika is one of four coordinators who are there to help with all of your event needs from



8AM-5PM, Monday through Friday. While most of her job requires her to be in the office, she likes to mix things up and shadow various events as time permits. Erika spoke about her experience at Frost Music Festival 2016. She was able to shadow and see the event take place from "load in to the end of the festival. [One] can slowly see the space transform, especially when you look back through all the pictures." She called herself the "documentarian" for events. Once the space transforms, you have a deeper respect for the space and all of the work that takes place to plan and produce these events.

When you ask someone what he or she truly loves about their job, you never know what kind of answer you might get. Erika was quick to say that she enjoys being able to think in a more creative style at ES. She explains that when you work with events, things can go wrong at the last minute, which is always an adrenaline rush, to say the least. The pressure and problem solving that takes place brings you out of your regular routine and comfort zone. She enjoys

thinking on her feet to get the issue solved. May and June are the busiest months for Events Services, although each month and Big Five events have their own challenges.



Erika is a single woman and loves to be motivated, with creativity a goal. Outside of work she volunteers at theatre productions, works on different film projects with friends, and creates art projects in her garage. Some other activities Erika also enjoys are ballroom dancing, movies, hiking, reading, biking, running and DND (Dungeons and Dragons).

Should you ever need a great quote for anything, Erika has plenty and is always happy to share. She wanted to leave you with a few quotes that stand out for her and hopes that you will enjoy them as well.

"Never half ass two things, whole ass one thing"

Ron Swanson

"If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."

Maya Angelou

"Spend your money on things money can buy and spend your time on things money can't buy."

Haruki Murakami