

People Spotlight:

Claire Breeden

Each edition we like to feature an employee and share a little bit about them. Check out this edition's people spotlight: Claire Breeden, a geospatial analyst at our Tampa office.

I suppose I have Al Karlin to thank as I write these paragraphs about my journey to Dewberry. As a geography minor, the completion of a GIS course is required for graduation. I signed up, mid-pandemic, unassuming of its impact on my desired career as an urban planner. In the course, I was able to explore the technical, practical, and artistic aspects of ArcGIS, realizing its tremendous impacts on nearly every field of study. Dr. Karlin (I still have a hard time calling him Al) encouraged me to apply for an internship with Dewberry and after a semester of having fun learning how to make maps, I decided to go for it.

After about four months as an intern, upon graduating from the University of Tampa, I applied for a full-time position. In the last six months I've enjoyed navigating through the Mississippi River creating breaklines, piecing together historical images of Florida, drawing bridge profiles in Louisiana, and most recently, viewing the Salton Sea from 7000 ft above sea level. I am one of the lucky few who now have



View of the cockpit in the Cessna 208 Caravan

an office in a Cessna 208 Caravan operating our new topographic sensor. I tried to spend every moment in the plane soaking up the beautiful Southern California view on our first trip to Palm Springs.

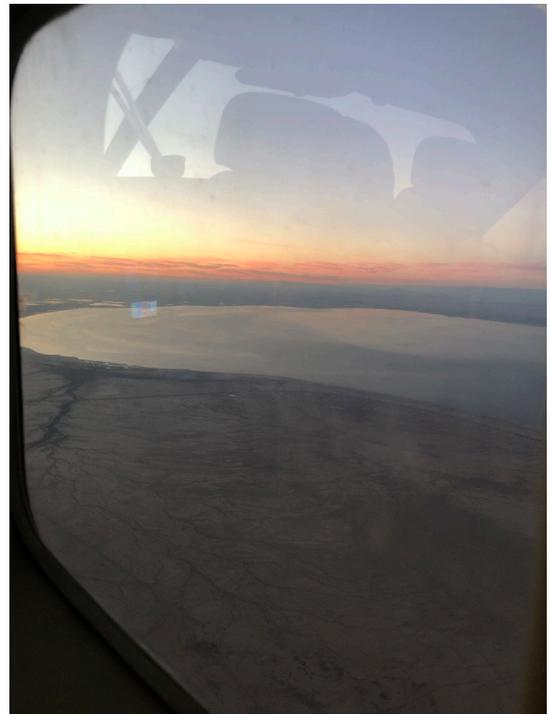
Between lifts in the California desert, I spent my time hiking in Joshua Tree and working on graduate school applications. I still intend to pursue an urban planning master's, but also aim to complete either a dual-degree or certification in GIS, thanks to my time working for Dewberry. I'm interested in the exchanges among



Claire Breeden hiking in Joshua Tree, CA

people and the built environment, how our intentional and unintentional behavior shapes the urban landscape, and how space impacts our mood, relationships, and outcomes; the field of urban planning uniquely combines disciplines of interest to me: politics, design, data, justice, and community building. My time working for Dewberry has illuminated the possibilities of combined studies in GIS and planning.

When I am not working, you can find me cycling around Tampa, probably on my way to a coffee shop. I enjoy making wearable art, trying out new recipes, traveling, and taking care of my two cats, Lentil and Habib. I am excited to see where my career takes me and I am extremely thankful for all that I have learned thus far.



View from the plane over the Californian desert