

Caretaker Spotlight



This month's Caretaker Spotlight introduces you to Morgan Sommer Project Engineer in the Department of Project Management (DPM) within LBRE. Morgan was born in Daly City and went to High School in San Francisco. He currently lives in Daly City, CA. However, he has lived in San Luis Obispo while he was attending Cal Poly. He received his BS in Agricultural Systems Management and complimented it with two minors: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

and Agricultural Business. While in college he worked at the Disability Resource Center and played for the ultimate frisbee team "SLOCORE" finishing 3rd in the nation in 2019. Morgan started his career here at Stanford as an intern in 2018 as a Geospatial Analyst Intern in Maps and Records where he helped the team start its Aerial Survey Drone Mapping Program.

Morgan graduated in September of 2021 from Cal Poly. He began working full time with Maps and Records where he developed his surveying experience, mapping skills and construction field support. By this time the drone program had been built up since he was an intern, and since he had returned to this position with his sUAS pilot's license he began overseeing surveying flights on campus. In June 2023, he started his current position as a Project Engineer in the Department of Project Management (DPM). Over the last 1.5 years he has been learning closely from the DPM Civil Infrastructure Team directed by Steve Bui.

A typical day for Morgan consists of meetings for collaboration, site walks to coordinate logistics with stakeholders/contractors, calls/emails to share project information, and an F45 workout class in the morning with his manager Steve and colleagues Rachel and Raina. Morgan is happy with his career path and wouldn't change a thing. Having an internship here previously helped make the decision to return even easier. He wanted to work somewhere in the Bay Area, and he wanted to pick a place that would have long term potential. The DPM group has many connections across campus and has a willingness to share and mentor newer Project Engineers such as Morgan. Each Project Manager brings their own expertise and methods of handling unique project challenges. Lastly, he





likes working for the University and DPM because as Project Managers they get to share the goals of aiding education and research within the context of their projects.

One of his favorite stories was in 2022, he went to the Autodesk University Conference in New Orleans with his coworkers Adolfo and Rob. They were able to demo a brand new handheld SLAM LIDAR tool, practice with different survey processing software and try local foods like fried oysters, cajun shrimp & jambalaya and they meet some interesting people as well. Moran enjoys working with people who have well rounded skills and life balance. Surrounding himself with people like this helps him find life balance outside of work too. He enjoys working on construction projects because there is usually a fast-paced cadence. He finds this promotes both doing and learning.

Morgan is currently working on a project called Electrical Reliability Improvements (ERI) which is focused on upgrading the safety, reliability and capacity of the high volt distribution system for the university. He keeps the Building Managers informed of project impacts specific to their building. Whether it is a site walk for field verification, traffic/parking impacts, or electrical shutdowns he works with the Building Managers to coordinate their ERI efforts. They also help him get building specific constraints to their project team or share a localized point of view of the area.

Outside of Stanford he enjoys spending time with his family and friends but you can always find him traveling and trying new foods. With his friends he likes to play basketball, build sandcastles at the beach or go backpacking. He also is part of an ultimate frisbee team for the last 3 years, Oakland Spiders. A professional ultimate frisbee team in the Ultimate Frisbee Association (UFA). He enjoys playing for this team because they work closely with Oakland and Bay Area organizations to create opportunities for kids to play, learn and have fun. This also helps motivate him to use Stanford's nice gyms and fields when he needs a break from his computer.

Morgan's work here will be valued for years to come. Thank you for your service to Stanford and helping build this institution's legacy.



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