

Caretaker Spotlight



This month's Caretaker Spotlight introduces you to Kevin Irwin, Senior Project Manager with DPM within LBRE. Kevin was born and raised in Southern California in several cities throughout Orange County, he currently lives in Mountain View, CA. He went to college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and obtained his BS in Architectural Engineering (structural) with a minor in Construction Management. He also obtained a Masters in Sustainable Design & Construction from Stanford.

Kevin is celebrating his 8th year at Stanford with the same group but now he is a Senior PM. Will Howekamp reached out to Kevin about an open position (they went to grad school together) and it happened to be perfect timing as he was starting to look for a new job. Coming back to Stanford sounded like a fun new career path and he is glad he chooses to pursue it! Kevin loves the career path he has chosen, his only regret is not beginning his career at Stanford earlier, though he does think his time working for a General Contractor was critical in helping him learn the industry and prepped him well for his current role.

A typical day for Kevin really depends on the day! He does most of his work from his home office and generally visits his project sites several times a week for progress walkthroughs, scoping walks on new projects, etc. Another thing that makes this job interesting is that every day is a bit different. One of Kevin's favorite things about working at Stanford is the variety of projects. He has been able to work on everything from playground upgrades to a cyclotron research lab to ground-up office buildings and every project has different challenges and problems to solve.



Kevin has worked on a lot of projects with the School of Medicine, with many buildings being occupied. Since most of those projects have been lab-heavy, the construction process often requires utility shutdowns, logistical shutdowns (for large equipment delivery, crane picks, etc.) so a lot of his work with Building Managers is related to coordinating shutdowns with end users, PIs, operations folks, etc. This all must happen to make sure they can time it so that the work has the least impact on building occupants. Kevin also tries to involve Building Managers in new facilities in the design process as early as possible to make sure they are taking into account their concerns and learning from their past experience or challenges with previous/current facilities. A favorite story, for several years he has managed implementation

of Stanford's Wildfire Management Program (WFMP). His favorite project within the WFMP was organizing controlled pile burns at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (JRBP). They coordinated with JRBP staff, several vegetation management companies, a CA certified Burn Boss, the Woodside Fire Protection District and Cal Fire, and local tribes to safely cut, consolidate, cure and ultimately burn many acres of dense vegetation along the border between JRBP and the Westridge neighborhood in Portola Valley. Ultimately, he was even able to personally light a burn pile with a drip-torch.

Outside of Stanford he enjoys spending time with his family and friends but one of his passions is golf. He also loves to travel to new places with his family. Kevin and his wife meet in grad school at Stanford and actually got married in MemChu. They have two kids, Olive who is 7 years old and August who is 4 years old. Don't forget their loving 8 year old pup Luna who they think is a lab/belgian mal mix.

Kevin'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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