

Caretaker Spotlight



This month's Caretaker Spotlight introduces you to Tim Cain, Architectural Trades Manager within LBRE. Tim was born at Stanford hospital, moved from Midtown Palo Alto to Ladera in 1964. He is currently living in Palo Alto, CA. He went to Cal Berkeley with a Spanish/Economics focus.

Tim has been at Stanford since 2023 in this same position. Tim's daughter Gracie has been an LBRE Civil Project Manager for 5 years and she had something to do with Tim wanting to work at Stanford. Tim truly enjoys working with the Tree Crew to use dead Stanford trees to mill it into lumber at the old Bonair site and use it on campus. He hopes that they can use

some of the more exotic wood in furniture projects designed and built in the carpentry shop. If Tim could choose a different path he would of gone to trade school which he believes would of given him more focus from the start. He really likes hands-on projects, yet he has spent a lot of his career in Mortgage Banking, which is abstract. Now he is finally close to the actual craftsmanship he appreciates being in the built environment. He doesn't get to do any of it, but at least he gets to watch them in their craft. He feels like Architectural Trades is where he should have started out originally.

A typical day for Tim starts with him riding his bicycle to work with a 6am start time. He will check email when he gets in until the 7:45am work order management meeting and then he tries to get up from his desk to see some customers and check on some projects between the usual assorted meetings and commitments. He is usually home by 4pm to walk his dog Hank. An interesting story was when his director wrote a Form 1 request to replace a broken or missing sections of the Dish Walk Trail's post and rail fence. He got to walk the trail, document the sections that need replacing and cost justify milling our own wood for the lumber. A Stanford student intern helped document the carbon footprint relative to traditional lumberyard sourced redwood, and he documented the savings. He says they will be milling local tree trunks at



our old Bonair site, and the ground crew will help stand the wood back up as new fence posts along the trail. He loves everything about this story. Building Managers are the reason A



rchitectural Trades exists! They are our customers, our friends, and often our most expert resources. Our Carpentry, Glass, Lock and Sign shops get their work orders and fix what is broken, change what needs improving, and build what needs building (within reason). BGM work requests become their work orders, which is how all the fun gets started.

Outside of Stanford he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Tim says at his age he feels vintage, in fact he feels like a Grandpa named Spike. His two bicycles are from the early 80's, he has a car from the 60's and his house was built in 1936. He likes mechanical, dependable things and all the fun tools that help him keep them going. When something breaks, he tries to restore it rather than modernize it, (within reason). He loves bluetooth, wifi, iphones, smart TV's, EV's and anything else that doesn't further warm the planet. Skiing and soccer were a hug part of his life until about age 50, now they are what he will teach his grandkids one day. He has been married to his wife Margie since 1988. They had their daughter Sophie in 1991, daughter Gracie in 1993 and their daughter Mia in 1997. Now Gracie has Cecelia and Sophie is expecting a son in December. Hank is their rescued mutt that they love. Hank is their third and final family, the prior two were apparently not so great.

Tim's work here will be valued for years to come. Thank you for your service to Stanford and helping build this institution's legacy. If you see Tim out and about make sure to say hello!



- Author, Raina Michel
Zone C Facilities Specialist
rainamichel@stanford.edu