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THE ALLEN GROUP, LLC



TAG CONNECTION

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



DEAR TAG TEAM AND COLLEAGUES,

As we celebrate The Allen Group's (TAG's) 35th anniversary, I'd like to take a moment to honor my mother, LaVerda O. Allen, and her perseverance in founding a small, African-American and woman-owned firm in 1989 whose quality of services continues to rival those of larger companies.

As a new firm, The Allen Group provided business support services in the early 1990s by helping other small and disadvantaged business enterprises win project and construction management (PM/CM) work. In doing so, we realized that The Allen Group had the necessary capabilities and expertise to offer our own PM/CM services.

35 years later, TAG has completed more than 60 complex infrastructure projects and continues to expand its offerings. We recently started work on two new projects at the San Francisco International Airport, and we are excited to be a part of Bechtel's project team for VTA's \$12B+ BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension.

Summer is almost here, and our 2024 internship program is already underway. As always, I would like to thank our partners and clients for working closely with us to provide students with valuable, hands-on project experience.

The Allen Group prides itself on helping talent from underrepresented communities excel in the design and construction industry. We are pleased to continue honoring my mother's background in education by supporting students in STEM to develop their expertise and succeed.

Learn more about this year's summer interns on pages 2 - 4. If you see any of our interns, be sure to introduce yourself and help them feel welcome.

Thank you for all that you do, and let's stay connected.



Schatzie Allen Jefferson



LaVerda O. Allen at the San Francisco International Airport

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT TAG

Schatzie Allen Jefferson, President, The Allen Group

Juneteenth



Photo from: <https://www.sopbc.org/news/juneteenth-why-is-it-important/>

Juneteenth holds special significance in American history and at The Allen Group, an African-American owned firm. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of slavery. This occurred two months after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered. Although President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, its enforcement was delayed in many places until after the Civil War concluded. Juneteenth marks the definitive end of slavery in 1865, four years after the start of the Civil War in 1861.

In recent years, Juneteenth gained increasing national recognition when U.S. President Biden signed legislation recognizing June 19 as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. This acknowledgment highlights the importance of reflecting on our history, celebrating progress, and recognizing the ongoing work towards equality.

This Juneteenth, we encourage you to celebrate the resilience, strength, and perseverance of African American communities. It's a day to honor freedom, acknowledge past struggles, and recommit to creating a more just and equitable society for all.

Consider observing this holiday by participating in Juneteenth events, engaging with educational resources, and supporting local Black-owned businesses.

For Black-owned businesses to support in San Francisco, please peruse the [San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce's list](#).

I hope you take advantage of this additional time off to spend with your loved ones. This is a reminder to celebrate our hard-fought freedom and to never take it for granted.

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPI) is observed in the United States during the month of May and recognizes these communities and their significant contributions, achievements, and influence on U.S. history.

From advocating for civil rights to making significant contributions in various fields like art, science, business, and politics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have played a vital role in shaping American society.

We are proud of the contributions that TAG employees make to the continuing story of the AANHPI community.

During May, I also had the privilege of learning more about Chinese culture by attending the beautiful wedding of TAG employee, Lingrui Xu, and former TAG intern, Hongji Lin.

Journey to China: A Stunning Wedding

Attending Lingrui and Hongji's beautiful wedding in Xiangyang enriched my understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and traditions. It was an honor to be included.

Lingrui and Hongji are both former summer interns with The Allen Group, with Lingrui working for TAG full time as an Office Engineer since April 2023.

Lingrui's mother meticulously planned the wedding. A traditional Chinese wedding is a vibrant and culturally significant event, steeped in ancient customs and rituals that symbolize love, unity, and prosperity.

It often begins with the betrothal ceremony, where the groom's family presents gifts to the bride's family as a sign of respect and commitment.

An elaborate wedding ceremony follows, which often includes rituals such as the exchanging of vows, the tea ceremony, and the tying of the traditional red wedding knots. Lively music, colorful decorations, and delicious feasts often accompany the festivities, making it a joyous celebration for the couple and their families.



Lingrui Xu and Hongji Lin

MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS!

María Teresa



Originally from Lima, Perú, María Teresa just finished her first year as a master's student in Stanford's Sustainable Design & Construction Program thanks to a full scholarship awarded by the Peruvian government.

María seeks to better serve local communities through design and construction and is eager to

further The Allen Group's aims of giving back. She already has experience working on a variety of projects, including construction of the venue for the 2019 Pan American Games held in Perú, where she primarily led fieldwork and learned about construction and project management.

When not working or studying, she enjoys cooking Peruvian food – her favorites dishes are: “Arroz con Pollo” (rice with chicken), “Tallarines Rojos” (meat pasta), and “Cau-Cau” (stew) – spending time with close friends, going to the gym, and taking short excursions. Most recently, she visited Los

Angeles. She also enjoys going to parks, lakes, or just seeing new places like the Persian Market, which is close to the Stanford campus.

María will be working on the International Terminal Building Phase 2 Project with Project Manager Rick Thall at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). María is excited to join The Allen Group for the summer and to grow personally and professionally.

Victor



Victor is a rising senior at San Jose State University studying civil engineering. He chose civil engineering to empower himself to change the world around him. Victor immigrated to the United States from Lagos, Nigeria three and a half years ago. He picked California – and Silicon Valley specifically – as

his place of study so he could live in the heart of tech and innovation.

Victor loves to build various products, including apps and robots. Victor has also worked on projects including bridges and hydraulic structures. In his free time, Victor enjoys playing soccer, which he has played since he was 10 years old. His favorite team is Manchester United!

Victor is supporting TAG Project Manager Justin Montgomery on the Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Redevelopment Program at SFO. Victor is looking forward to learning new things during his internship with The Allen Group this summer.

Yueer

Yueer Cai recently finished her second year as a master's student at Stanford University where she specializes in Sustainable Design & Construction. She is passionate about



traveling, exploring, and trying new things, which has led her to engage in a variety of activities at Stanford, such as golf, dance (the waltz, bachata, swing, and hip-hop), and singing.

Yueer is from Hangzhou, China—a picturesque city with a beautiful lake at its center. Hangzhou is also where Alibaba (China's "Amazon") was founded. Yueer enjoys photography and capturing beautiful moments. She is excited for her upcoming internship and eager to meet everyone!

Jose



Jose Alan Perez is a graduating senior at Stanford studying civil engineering with a focus in structural engineering.

He enjoys watching and playing soccer in his free time, which he has been playing since he was five years old. He currently plays on

Stanford's Men's Club Soccer team!

Jose is a Bay Area native. He loves spending time running at Mission Peak and finding new places to eat. He really enjoys seafood and finding a good Mexican restaurant.

Jose will be working on the SFO West Field Parking Garage Project with TAG Senior Project Manager Peter Ross. Jose is excited about his intern experience and looking forward to meeting everyone!

Colby

Colby Baumbach is a returning intern with The Allen Group and a graduating senior at Oregon State University studying mechanical engineering.

Colby is a California native from Napa. He loves being outdoors rock climbing, golfing – which he played all four years in high school – and going for hikes in sunny weather. One of his favorite spots is Stinson Beach and a nearby hike that offers a view of the Golden Gate Bridge.



The highlight of Colby's academic year was his capstone project. He and his team developed projective augmented reality for construction applications. If anyone is interested, Colby would love to discuss it further!

Colby is considering graduate school in the future but wants to focus on his career first. He is currently studying for his FE exam to become an Engineer-in-Training, which he plans to

take this summer, with the long-term goal of becoming a Professional Engineer.

Last summer, Colby worked with TAG Resident Engineer Vanessa Young on the BART 34.5 kV Project. This summer, he will be working with TAG Project Managers Sagar Shah and Felix Ajayi on BART's Fare Gate Enhancement Project. Colby is looking forward to a second summer with The Allen Group and the experiences and challenges ahead!

Sonia



Sonia Davis is another returning summer intern with The Allen Group!

Sonia is a San Francisco native and a graduating senior from the University of East London studying civil engineering. She will be returning to London in the fall to start her master's in civil engineering with a focus in transportation and geotechnical engineering. Ask her about the university's Emerging Geohazards Lab and her related research!

Sonia has always been fascinated with construction and the built environment. She watched the progress of the UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay built from the ground up (1999 – 2015) on her way to school.

Outside of school, Sonia has been practicing ballet since she was four years old. She also enjoys traveling. One of her favorite destinations is Madrid, Spain, which she first visited in 2019 and has returned to several times since while studying in England.

This summer, Sonia will be supporting the BART Market Street Entry Canopies Project working with TAG Resident Engineer Luis Paez, and Office Engineers James Mar and Lingrui Xu.

Trey

Trey Kelly is a recent graduate of Saint Ignatius Prep in San Francisco and will attend San Jose State University in the fall for Applied and Computational Math. He loves playing and watching sports (football, basketball, and soccer), and



listening to music, particularly hip-hop and RnB.

Trey is also supporting TAG Project Manager Justin Montgomery on the Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Redevelopment Program at SFO. Trey is looking forward to making new connections and learning about the processes required to keep an airport operating.

Leilah



Leilah Abrams just finished middle school and will be starting at Sacred Heart Prep in the fall. She is particularly interested in social justice issues, including better understanding how to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in different social and political spaces.

Leilah is an avid volleyball player, having played for the last six years, and often competes in tournaments monthly. She also enjoys creative writing, volunteering at San Francisco's SPCA animal shelter, and doing beach cleanups and other activities to care for the environment.

Though college is still a few years away, Leilah is interested in possibly attending Duke or Florida A&M where she hopes to continue playing volleyball. She would also like to one day pursue a career in the legal profession – like her mom! Leilah is supporting TAG Communications Specialist Yanela Alvarado in our San Francisco Office during the summer.



Sophie

Sophie Mehoulley is a rising junior at Oakland Tech. She will be assisting TAG's Chief of Staff Micaela Mazzini and TAG's CFO Maria Sirre in the Oakland Office by filing, auditing employee paperwork, and helping organize the office.

Sophie enjoys creative writing and serves on the student governing board as the Oakland Unified School District Health and Wellness Director. In the future, she is interested in attending college to learn more about business and becoming an entrepreneur.

TAG HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Micaela Mazzini, HR Director, The Allen Group

TAG Town Hall

Our next TAG Town Hall is scheduled for **July 26, 2024**, from noon to 12:30 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone online!

As a reminder, these important meetings serve to:

- Provide a setting to keep the entire team up to date on important information
- Reinforce TAG goals, culture, and values
- Provide an opportunity for everyone to share their perspectives, questions, comments, and feedback
- Promote teamwork and a sense of connection

Welcome to Our New TAG Colleagues!

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of The Allen Group family!

Their experience and expertise enrich our team and contribute to our shared success.



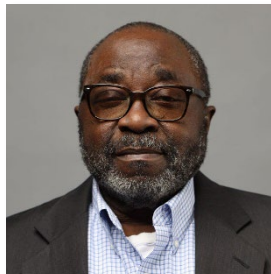
Aaron

**Senior Project/
Program Manager**



Tracy

**Senior
Inspector**



Felix

**Senior Project
Manager**

Happy Birthday to Our Employees!



February

Simon Yohannes
Yanela Alvarado

March

Justin Montgomery
Sharayu Bode
Tracy Steverson

April

Vanessa Young
Robert Owen
Aaron James

May

Olga Keselman
Robert James
Anjana Mohan

June

Micaela Mazzini
Harry Overstreet

Coming Soon

The Allen Group has a series of upcoming events to celebrate our achievements and foster camaraderie among staff and interns.

Additional information coming soon!

- Summer Intern Welcome Mixer – June 20th
- Pool Party – June 29th
- Town Hall – July 26th
- TAG 35th Anniversary Party – September 13th

Come Celebrate



35 years of excellence!

You are invited!

Join The Allen Group for its 35th anniversary at the **Oakland Museum** on **September 13, 2024**, for a special evening celebrating TAG's growth and achievements.

