



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Christian Freeman

Project Engineer



Q. How did you become employed at ATL?

A. While attending Clarkson University, I had a teacher named Spencer Thew and stopped in his office one day to see if he had any job advice for someone in my position. He of course brought up ATL, explaining the wide variety of work the company performs, and recommended that it would be a great place for me to apply. Right after that conversation I checked out the website and submitted a resume.

Q. Who were your mentors at ATL when you started out?

A. Dan Owens played a major role in my development when I first started working with ATL. He always seemed to have well thought answer to any question I would throw at him. Tracy Fisher was a very helpful resource with anything in the office. I learned a lot (and still do) from Mark Wilbur and Brian Barnes regarding Geotechnical work in the field. Last but not least, some of the experienced field staff when I first started, such as Cody Laxton, Matt Merkle, and others, were awesome to work with and helped learn the ropes early on.

Q. What technical skills did you acquire that helped make you an expert in your position?

A. Experience and gaining a better understanding of construction processes. The countless hours in the field on a wide variety of projects really helped build my knowledge and technical skills regarding CMET. After reviewing the plans and specifications for the large number of projects that we see at ATL on a yearly basis, things start to come together and it's made several aspects of my job easier, such as reviewing reports, performing inspections, and anticipating project schedules.

Q. Did you make decisions that helped you move forward in your ATL career?

A. I've just tried to be the best employee I can whether it's internally or representing ATL on the job site. Internally, I strive to be someone that technicians/interns are comfortable with approaching with any questions they may have, and someone that management can rely on to help make sure day-to-day operations are running smoothly especially when times are busy. As far as being on the job site, I aim to be well-prepared and be a clear communicator with all parties involved, which certainly helps make a good impression on the client. Staying consistent with these items has helped move my ATL career forward.

Q. What project that you worked on is the most memorable, and why?

A. There's been plenty, but the most memorable project that comes to mind is the Amazon warehouse fulfillment center in Clay. The project was already underway, but it was the first site I went to as an ATL employee in May 2020. The sheer size of the job and seeing the amount of material and manpower that goes into something like that was eye-opening. Once we switched over to Metafield, I became ATL's PM for the job, and 700+ reports later our services were finally completed in September 2022.

Q. Do you have a memorable experience at ATL you would like to share?

A. One of the more memorable experiences so far was the 3-day training seminar for Dynamic Pile Testing in Cleveland, Ohio. Brian Barnes, Dan Gizzi, Drew Sperbeck and I drove down together and spent about 8 hours per day learning all about the theories and methods applied and processed by the Pile Driving Analyzer (PDA-8G), which is the tool we use for measuring and determining the effects of impacts on a deep foundation element such as a driven pile. We were the only attendees from New York; the majority of the group were guys from Alaska where they were going back to do offshore work. Between the traveling, the training seminar, and the fact that I didn't have to spend a single dollar of my own money for the duration of the 3 days, it was certainly a memorable experience.

Q. What do you like the most about the path your ATL career has taken?

A. I get to travel all over the state for Dynamic Pile Testing (DPT), which has recently included some remote locations in the Adirondack's. There's a relatively small number of contractors who perform the pile driving that I provide DPT

for, so I actually work with a lot of the same guys across the state. One of the crews I've worked with in Dundee (15 minutes northwest of Watkins Glen), and I also worked with them near Saranac, which those locations are about 300 miles apart.

Q. What area of knowledge or experience are you looking to expand?

A. DPT. As previously mentioned, the training seminar I attended in Ohio was in April of this year. Since then, I've performed this service over a dozen times and have gained a solid understanding of the testing. However, considering the amount of information being analyzed, you could seemingly learn something new every day about DPT. Even some of the experts at the firm that developed the method and technology say they are still learning how to use it to its full potential.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add that would help others at ATL to get to the next level?

A. Put in effort, take pride in your work, be efficient, and others will notice. It's too easy to get distracted these days with how quick news from anywhere in the world spreads, and the fact that everyone has a movie theater and all their buddies available in their pocket at any given moment. If you are motivated, focused, and willing to put the work in, others will notice and the opportunities should present themselves.

Q. What do you like to do outside of ATL?

A. My passion is undoubtedly hunting. My favorite quarry to pursue include upland/waterfowl birds and big bucks. I got a hunting dog in May this year (German Wirehaired Pointer) and train her every day for pointing, retrieving, and tracking. Most of my free time is spent doing something hunting related, but when it's not I enjoy spending time with friends and family. I have 3 older brothers (27-30yrs old) and between moving out of state, or getting married and having kids, we certainly enjoy what little time we have when we can get together. I'm also a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan, as I'm sure everyone else at ATL is as well.

