



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Robert Stachowiak**

Project Manager



**Q. How did you become employed at ATL?**

**A.** Jordan Stachowiak (my wife) and Andy Amell (Jordan's Boss) informed me of an opening for a PM position for Canton Drilling. After some discussion and reflection, I ended up applying and a few days later ended up getting a phone call to set an interview.

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

**A.** I would say my mentors are the whole drilling division. Aaron Woods helped me to get accustomed to ATL workflows, proposal, contract drilling and would answer my numerous questions (I'm sure he enjoyed). Adam Schneider and Brian Barns guided me on the engineering side of things from Geotechnical Reports, Geotech proposal and gearing/implementing my thinking process towards a more engineering base. They also helped me connect the information obtained from the field investigations and using engineering methods to create a report based on the soil/problems found.

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

**A.** I obtained my bachelors in Geology from SUNY Potsdam and masters in Geology from University of Buffalo (UB), this gave me the educational foundation that I needed to start my career path. Prior to my ATL experience, I was with another geotechnical firm, from which I learned the skills needed to advance in the geotechnical field. I was the geologist behind a drill rig for four years, learning the classification methods of soils/rock, types of drilling methods, basic knowledge of NYS surface/bedrock geology, how to problem solve/fix drill rigs, and Patience. I would not say I am an expert by far, there is always room for improvement and additional learning. The saying I learned from my professors "The greatest geologists are the ones that see the most rocks.". I have applied this to the geotechnical world by; any opportunity to learn a new skill, testing method (physical/Geophysical), laboratory analysis, construction materials testing, etc. The more I can expose myself to, the more equipped I am to become a well-rounded professional.

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

**A.** I do feel as though I am making the right decisions to progress forward personally and for ATL. I was a little hesitant to jump ship from a place of comfortability, but within the first week of working at ATL the hesitation faded to enjoyment. The support network that ATL has in-place, any question/concern I could usually find an answer and/or guidance.

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

**A.** I think the one project that was memorable for me was working on the Onondaga Lake project this past summer. This was the first time I ever did any form of water-based investigations. I started off on the Nitrate barge, which was interesting, but was more oversight than actual work. Then later in the summer, I was transitioned to the more hands-on investigation of the lakebed. Here I learned the various methods of testing methods and monitoring methods (Gravity coring, VibraCoring, and Pieper installation) to help clean up the lake. This was also where I found out I do not like gravity coring (haha sorry Tim).

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

**A.** My most memorable experience so far, would have to be the company meeting in Ogdensburg, NY. I got to meet a lot of other employees from other divisions/other offices. The overall experience had a very family like feel, even though it was about business, I never felt out of place.

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

**A.** The path that I am looking forward to the most is the continued improvement to my skillsets and the added challenge of project management.

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

**A.** The areas I am looking to expand my knowledge and/or experience in is my understanding of foundation design, water-based drilling methods, Geophysical seismic testing (GPR, CPT, REMI, and Downhole/ Crosshole testing) and continued project management experience.

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

**A.** Patience and motivation will be rewarded. Don't get caught up in this world we live in of instant gratification, often you must take the bumps, bruises, the learning curve of the industry, before being rewarded. There are a lot of opportunities within ATL, if you're motivated and patient the opportunities will present themselves.

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

**A.** Outside of ATL, you can usually find Jordan and myself enjoying a local brewery, a new movie or camping somewhere in New York. We just bought a house in 2020, so now I have the enjoyment of the little projects around the house that come with being a homeowner. If we were not in New York, probably find us in Myrtle Beach, SC, my parents just moved there last year or in Texas where my sister just bought property to build upon. Come football season, I am rooting for my Buffalo Bills, either from the couch or at the stadium, keep the tables away from me. One hobby/new passion I have is smoking various meats. It is relaxing, especially in the early hours of the morning, when it's just you, the smoker, and the quietness of the world. Usually, every weekend I have something going whether it be a brisket, pork shoulder, ribs, turkey, wings, etc., usually ends with family and/or friends over to enjoy the finished product.

