

green grads



Jason Giroud



(photo by Jason Staudenmayer)
Kara and Michele Pagel



Michael Flynn



Terri Buthusiem and Jessica Franzini

Doing what comes naturally



Graduates tell why they took a **'green'** career path



Danielle Donkersloot



(photo by Cristina Frank)
Stephanie Adams

Putting Down Roots

Jessica Franzini, Class of December 2008, BA in environmental studies, a minor in political science with a concentration in sustainability and environmental policy

I began working with a non-profit organization called the New Jersey Tree Foundation (NJTF) in February 2009, training to become program director of its Urban Airshed Reforestation Program (UARP) in Camden. I took over as director in July 2009 and have loved the job ever since.

The UARP supplies free trees and horticultural information to Camden residents, schools, churches and non-profit organizations. The purpose of the UARP is two-fold: to combat air and water pollution in the city while empowering residents to create positive changes in their neighborhoods.

When I graduated from Stockton, I knew I wanted a job in the non-profit field. I wanted something both socially and environmentally-based, where I could work to improve the integrity of our natural resources while directly enhancing the quality of life for people in need.

The education and hands-on experience I gained at Stockton placed me above many competitors for jobs in the environmental field. I had a resume filled with relevant experience including numerous leadership roles.

Jessica Franzini

Legal Eagle

Jenna Kennett, Class of 2008, BS in environmental studies, double minor in political science and public health, with a concentration in sustainability and environmental policy

I am a second year environmental law student at Vermont Law School.

I think I was already on the “green” path before going to Stockton. However, I think Stockton really helped me decide I want to practice law.

While at Stockton, I participated in a program with Greenpeace, a semester of advanced training for student activists in Washington, D.C. Because of the program, I decided to practice environmental law. *Jenna Kennett*

Public Policy

Jennifer McGinn, Class of 2009, BS in environmental studies

I’m a first year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law with a concentration in environmental and natural resources law.

I hope to shape policies for a greener, sustainable future. I believe that to get people to do the right thing, sometimes you need both “a carrot and a stick.” You can do that through policy, regulation and law.

I was able to work on a number of projects while at Stockton, including performing building energy audits

and community carbon inventories, planting rain gardens, providing educational outreach, and not least of all, completing an exhaustive inventory of Stockton’s carbon emissions with recommendations for achieving carbon neutrality.

Stockton provided me with the necessary academic skills to succeed in law school, and professors who challenged and inspired me to reach higher. *Jennifer McGinn*

Give Me Land, Lots of Land

Jason Simmons, Class of 2008, BS in environmental science

Currently I’m a candidate for a Master of City and Regional Planning degree with a focus on environmental and physical planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Urban Planning and Policy at Rutgers University.

In addition to my academic career, I am employed at the Land Conservancy of New Jersey where I work on open space and farmland preservation plans and acquisition.

I also work part time with the New Jersey Forest Service’s cool cities initiative that focuses on reforesting New Jersey’s urban areas.

At Stockton, I received not only a great education, but a sense of civic duty and passion for community involvement.

Jason Simmons

Greenpeace Organizer

Nicole Hooley, Class of 2009, BA in philosophy and religion, a minor in political science, with a concentration in sustainability and environmental policy

I am the frontline campaign coordinator for Greenpeace NYC.

I moved to Brooklyn after graduation to start my career as an environmental activist. I immediately sought out Greenpeace, an organization dedicated to non-violent environmental activism. Whether it’s organizing events with a team of other activists or making phone calls to our nation’s representatives, I feel fully engaged trying to motivate people to take the steps necessary to create a sustainable future.

My education instilled a strong responsibility in me for the well-being of our planet, and I credit my time at Stockton for my career and life of activism. My professors inspired me to “do” rather than sit back. *Nicole Hooley*

Go West, Young Man

Tim Paez, Class of 2008, BS in environmental studies, a minor in political science, with a concentration in sustainability and environmental policy

I currently work in the field of environmental regulation enforcement and management, specifically of urban wastewaters in San Francisco.

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There is a growing need for effective environmental regulations to safeguard our natural resources. I get paid to find and stop polluters every day.

The first extracurricular lecture I attended at Stockton featured a waste management expert working to develop solutions to urban waste in underserved communities in southern Africa. I really think such experiences were possible because of some key factors at Stockton; small class sizes; the opportunities for independent research/projects and internships and the wide range of student services and organizations.

However, the most important Stockton experience that got me on a “green path” was learning from conscientious professors who see students as the next generation of movers, shakers, leaders, critical thinkers and problem solvers for a sustainable world. *Tim Paez*

Water Tells a Story

Danielle Donkersloot, Class of 1998, BA in environmental studies

I have been working for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the past 10 years.

I work in the Division of Water Monitoring and Assessment. One of my main tasks is running the volunteer water monitoring program. I train volunteers, students and residents on how to collect water quality data and how to get that data to “tell the story” of that waterbody.

I also assure that the data being collected by the volunteer community is being used at the state level for a variety of regulatory purposes. I do believe I am helping to make New Jersey a cleaner, greener state. Stockton provided me with a well-rounded education and helped me to develop my problem-solving skills. *Danielle Donkersloot*

Digs His Job

Jason Giroud, Class of 2004, BA in criminal justice (environmental crime track)

I work as an environmental field specialist for a private environmental consulting and engineering firm in the Princeton area.

I like the fact that my “desk” changes from day to day and from project to project. One day, I could be working on a busy construction site performing excavation oversight of contaminated soil and the next day I could be installing monitoring wells on a quiet farm in rural New Jersey.

I’ve lived all of my life in New Jersey. It’s a good feeling when you can look back on a job and think how you are in some way helping to keep the place you grew up in clean for generations to come.

I’ve been an outdoorsy kid all my life, but it was at Stockton that I realized how special the environment really is and that protecting our natural resources and utilizing them in an efficient manner is extremely important. *Jason Giroud*

Crystal Clear Goals

Jennifer Coffey, Class of 1998, BS in communication studies

I am the policy director for the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. I work with 26 municipalities in central New Jersey to adopt stronger local ordinances that protect clean water and the environment. I am also a registered environmental lobbyist, and work with the NJ Legislature and NJ Department of Environmental Protection to adopt new laws and regulations that protect and restore New Jersey’s streams and habitats.

I know that New Jersey’s water is cleaner because of stormwater and wastewater regulations that the state has adopted. This is more than a job for me.

Stockton provides opportunities for students to get involved and make a difference. I was editor-in-chief of the *Argo* (student newspaper) while at Stockton, and that taught me how to research public information, organize and mobilize people to achieve a common goal. Those are skills that have served me tremendously well in my career. *Jennifer Coffey*

‘Seal’-ed with a Kiss

Michele Pagel, Class of 1997, BS in marine biology

I am the curator of Birds and Mammals at Adventure Aquarium, where I oversee and participate in the care and training of the entire mammal and bird collection at the aquarium. I set training and enrichment goals for the animals, conduct observations for social and reproductive behavior, organize our breeding program and coordinate all veterinary care.

I enjoy my job because every day is different when you work with animals. We get to do and experience many things behind the scenes that are exciting and not many people get to see.

My experiences at Stockton, especially at the Nacote Creek Field Station, helped me start my career with all the fieldwork and research opportunities it provided. I have always felt like Great Bay is my home and I can honestly say some of my happiest memories are of the times I spent at Stockton out in the field on the boat.

The catalyst for me was taking part in the NJ Seal Study where I fell in love with the wild seal colony and honed my animal observation and research skills.

I can still picture the day that it all “clicked” for me. We were out on the boat on a foggy winter morning, the water

was as flat as glass and everything was silent. As the island came into view a light snow started to fall and I could hear the seals snorting, reaching their necks up to touch the falling snowflakes with their noses. That moment was what sent me on my career path. *Michele Pagel*

Garden State and Beyond

Jon Wagar, Class of 1994, BS in biology

I work for two non-profit conservation organizations; Conservation Resources, Inc., (CRI) and Schiff Natural Lands Trust, both based in New Jersey.

As vice president of Conservation Programs at CRI, I provide financial and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, local governments and private individuals doing land conservation projects. At Schiff Natural Lands Trust, I am director of Land Acquisition and Stewardship and am in charge of all aspects of land management on our 695-acre property.

Shortly after graduating Stockton, I joined the Peace Corps and served for three years in Guatemala where I worked with subsistence farmers. I also spent six months as an instructor at an extension campus of the Guatemalan National University.

The biology, environmental, and ecology courses I had at Stockton, as well as the experience I had working on applied ecological research, formed a solid foundation for my Peace Corps training. In fact, I found I was much better prepared for my assignment than most of my Peace Corps colleagues.

After Peace Corps, I attended Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. It was at Yale that I realized the quality of the teaching and instruction I received at Stockton was truly world-class. *Jon Wagar*

'Sea'-ing is Believing

Michael Flynn, Class of 2008, BS in biology, a minor in marine science and writing. Currently enrolled in the masters in environmental science program at Stockton College.

I am working for Stockton College's Coastal Research Center as a swimmer and field technician. We survey for the purpose of monitoring shoreline conditions along New Jersey's coast.

Our work helps in making effective and efficient use of local and state resources by identifying specific beaches with the greatest need of maintenance or nourishment. It also assists coastal zone managers with developing procedures and measures to reduce beach erosion, and assists coastal communities with developing storm hazard mitigation and preparedness policies and plans. *Michael Flynn*

Fine-feathered Friends

Stephanie Adams, Class of 2003, BS in environmental science

I am currently working for the Conservation Department of the New Jersey Audubon.

My colleagues and I do on-the-ground habitat restoration for birds and other wildlife with both private and public landowners by working with numerous partner organizations, including state and federal agencies and other non-profit organizations.

I was already on the "green" track when I came to Stockton; the strength of the environmental sciences program and the stress on field experience was one of the things that drew me to the college. In fact, some classes that I took at Stockton were more informative and useful to me than graduate-level courses I have taken at other universities.

NJ Audubon is always looking for quality volunteers. If any students are interested in working with us, gaining some job experience and developing contacts in this field, they can contact me. *StephanieAdams@njaudubon.org*

Roadmap for the Future

Randall Solomon, Class of 1993, BS in biology

I'm executive director of the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University. My main project is the Sustainable Jersey Certification program.

We are giving cities and towns throughout New Jersey a roadmap for how to address critical issues that are shaping all of our collective futures, and helping increase their capacity to make progress. Why do I do it? I want my kids to have good lives, and our current trajectory is not sustainable. We need to change course, so I do what I can.

Stockton as a community charged me up with a passion for making a difference, and provided the confidence to go and try. *Randy Solomon*



Danielle Donkersloot "Class of 1998"