

# IGNITE CHANGE. GO GREEN.

## Alumni Spotlight:

John Chaimanis '00, Finance

Co-Founder and Managing Director of Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure

In this interview series we bring you inside the world of Villanova alumni and explore how their work relates to creating a sustainable future. In this issue we hear from John Chaimanis, the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure.

### What did you study while attending Villanova?

I graduated with a degree in Finance from the School of Business, after spending the better part of 3 years perusing liberal arts with a focus in psychology and an ultimate concentration in communications. After Villanova, I earned an MBA from Babson College.

### In your own words, how would you define sustainability?

Borrowing words from a body politic - Sustainability means "[meeting] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Source: United Nations General Assembly (1987)

### Why is sustainability important to you?

I believe that life only perpetuates, in any form, if one generation provides for the next. Good businesses have the same attributes – they only perpetuate if they plan for the future. So, for strictly practical reasons, living and acting in manners in which one can ensure the availability of resources for continued business opportunity, it makes sense. That said, I am sure my experiences in nature as a child and my faith are also drivers in how I perceive purposeful living.

### How have you supported or been involved in sustainability efforts throughout your career or personal life?

In one form or another, my career has always been focused on sustainability. In 2013, I started a company called Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure (KSI) that I still run today. KSI is a private equity asset management firm focused on making investments into facilities and projects that provide basic human needs, like electricity or water, through sustainable means. The business focuses on financially attractive returns that are not correlated to public markets. Prior to my current venture, my work was in social sustainability, where I was a co-founder of a charter school serving a population of students in need of educational resources that the current system wasn't supplying.



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## **What are your favorite weekend/evening leisure activities or hobbies?**

I have three children aged 3 and under, and doing things with them is my favorite way to spend time. I also love to ski and enjoy restoring my circa 1890 home. For kicks, this past summer I started keeping some backyard chickens.

## **What clubs or groups were you a member of during your time at Villanova?**

I played Rugby all four years and I was on the Campus Ministry Retreat Council. I also participated in a number of habitat for humanity trips.

## **What is your favorite memory as a Villanova student?**

There are too many to pick one. The crazy good times, challenging classes, etc. But hands down one of the coolest things looking back was how going to Mass was a packed house event.

## **What do you feel has been the most exciting development in the sustainability field over the last year?**

The most exciting development in sustainability is the fact that it is becoming mainstream. Many people, particularly in investing, used to see sustainability as a thing that was cute to do, but not necessarily a prudent business choice. More and more, people are starting to realize that it is actually really good business to act sustainably. It essentially means building better relationships with stakeholders, making smarter use of resources, better mitigation of risks – and that all translates into a stronger bottom line.

If you would like to connect with John, you may do so via email at [jchaimanis@kendallinvestments.com](mailto:jchaimanis@kendallinvestments.com)



**VILLANOVA**  
UNIVERSITY  
Sustainability

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# THE NEW VILLANOVA INTEGRATED ACADEMICS (VIA) CERTIFICATE IN “BUILDING WHAT MATTERS”

## Interview with Shawn Howton

Faculty Director of the DiLella Center and Lead Author of the Building What Matters Villanova Integrated Academics (VIA) Certificate

### What is Villanova Integrated Academics (VIA), and why was it created?

VIA is a cross-college program across topics that lend themselves to a multidisciplinary approach. The Building What Matters VIA program focuses on how the built environment influences communities and the quality of life of the people living within those communities. It also focuses on sustainable development and the many stakeholders affected as we rethink our built environment for the future. The goal is for students to gain a broad understanding of the issues and challenges impacting the creation of a built environment that provides a positive impact on all stakeholders, and take that breadth of knowledge into their traditional majors such as business, engineering, environmental science, design, architecture, urban planning, historical urban studies, and countless others. We also hope the programs help students become better citizens and understand how their choices impact the quality of life for society at large. The Freshman/Sophomore experience will lead to the potential for a cross-college minor in the student's junior and senior year.

### Give us your elevator pitch of the Building What Matters Certificate to students?

We all live, work, and play within our built environment every day. Understanding how our choices, and those of many stakeholders, affect our quality of life and that of our fellow citizens is invaluable in leading an impactful life.

Gaining a broad understanding of the issues affecting the built environment will also make students more attractive candidates for the great jobs of the future as the world is interdisciplinary by nature. Learning alongside

your classmates from other colleges and getting their perspective creates students that are better problem solvers with more creative solutions to the problems facing the world going forward. Diversity of thought and training will allow students to enter their jobs with a terrific skillset and become the innovative, flexible problem solvers today's employers crave.



# THE NEW VILLANOVA INTEGRATED ACADEMICS (VIA) CERTIFICATE IN “BUILDING WHAT MATTERS”

## Interview with Shawn Howton, Continued

### What excites you the most about the new Building What Matters Certificate?

I have believed, since long before I received my PhD in 1997, that a great education has to involve multiple disciplines, whether within a college or across colleges. Being named the founding Faculty Director of the DiLella Center for Real Estate in 2007 let me begin to put some of these beliefs to work. This VIA program is the natural next step in that evolution and I could not be more excited.

I have met amazing professors across campus with diverse backgrounds, and we are all working together to create something that is for the benefit of our students. Executing this

type of program is very rare in higher education, and I give great credit to my team and the College and University leadership in making this happen. Father Peter, Provost Maggitti, and Vice Provost Randy Weinstein have emphasized cross-college programs, and that support from the top is invaluable.



### The Building What Matters Team:

Whitney Martinko – History/CLAS

Margaret Grubiak – Architectural History/Humanities

Wen Mao – Economics/CLAS/VSB

Peleg Kremer – Geography and Environmental Science/CLAS

Tony Ziccardi – DiLella Center Fellow/VSB

Charlie Davidson – DiLella Center/VSB

Jessica Taylor – DiLella Center Director

# Flower Sale



## Flowers Grown in Campus Research Garden

All money raised during this student-run sale will be used to further improve, grow, and maintain the garden.

Tulip and Daffodil Bouquets Available  
Pre-sales open NOW through March

Flower pick-up expected around Easter  
[Villanova.edu/sustainability](http://Villanova.edu/sustainability)

"In order to change the world, we need to change the stories we tell about it" -



Garrett Blad

RESCHEDULED

Thursday, April 5  
from 6:00-7:00 pm  
Driscoll 134

re-framing  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE

how we change  
the story to build  
power and win



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## EVENTS

Sunday, March 4

### **The Fight to Save Snow**

*A documentary viewing of Saving Snow on the economic impact of warming winters.*

Free Event

4:00-6:00pm | Haverford College, Sharpless Auditorium

Wednesday, March 14

### **GreenCon 2018**

*Join 200+ green building professionals & advocates from across Central PA at GreenCon 2018 the USGBC Central Pennsylvania's premier, annual green building conference & expo.*

Register Online

8:00am-6:00pm | Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA

Tuesday, March 20

### **Plant-Based Protein Sampling**

*Try out some plant based protein alternatives.*

11:00am-2:00pm | Connelly Center

Thursday, April 12

### **PERC Annual Conference, "Defending Our Future"**

*Feature Rear Admiral Dave Titley, founding director of the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk, as the keynote speaker. Conference panels and speakers will provide valuable takeaways about sustainability practices and results on campuses across the commonwealth.*

Register Online

8:00am- 4:30am | Penn State University, the HUB-Robeson Center

June 25-26

### **Sustainability Curriculum Consortium's Faculty Conference**

*Including workshops and panels on Sustainability Curriculum Consortium's three themes: pedagogy, content, and leadership.*

Register Online

Monday & Tuesday | Penn State Center in Pittsburgh

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## OPPORTUNITIES

### Princeton Environmental Ideathon, "Cities of the Future"

*Students from across the East Coast, will work together to cultivate creative solutions to some of today's biggest environmental issues. Undergraduate and masters level students are invited to apply.*

Apply Online

April 13-15 | Princeton University

### Society of Women Environmental Professionals Scholarship

*Two graduate scholarships, valued at \$3,000 per scholarship, for outstanding women studying for and pursuing environmental careers.*

Apply Online

Applications due by April 30



STAND OUT AS A GLOBAL CITIZEN & LAND YOUR

## DREAM INTERNSHIP

IN 3 EASY STEPS

BOOST YOUR RESUME IN JUST 10 DAYS

### EXPLORE THE GREEN PROGRAM

Short-term, experiential education for our world's most pressing issues in sustainable development

- Cusco, Peru
- Fukushima, Japan
- Reykjavik, Iceland
- O'ahu, Hawai'i

DID YOU KNOW?

**4:5**

Four in five GREEN Alumni say that employers have asked about their GREEN experience during a job interview



# iHandshake

## Monthly Sustainability Jobs Highlights

### Internships

White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

#### **CEQ 2018 Summer Internship**

*CEQ oversees implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and assists in the development of national environmental policies. CEQ interns are typically given a wide range of assignments including conducting research, managing incoming inquiries, attending meetings, and tracking Federal agency projects and actions involving environmental and infrastructure issues, as well as administrative duties as needed.*

Unpaid, Seasonal, Full-Time Internship

US Environmental Protection Agency

#### **Intern**

*Interns should expect to perform research and analysis on environmental regulatory policy, write memorandums and correspondence on topics pertaining to the work of the EPA, facilitate communication between stakeholders and the EPA for the purposes of research and meeting preparation, and assist in day-to-day operations of the Office of Policy.*

Unpaid, Seasonal, Full-Time Internship

The Environmental Health Strategy Center

#### **Environmental Health Internship**

*Interns will work on local and national campaigns to protect communities from chemicals linked with cancer, asthma, and other health problems. This is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience working in a fast-paced, multi-disciplinary, science-based policy organization, and build your skills in community organizing, environmental health policy, and campaign advocacy.*

Unpaid, Seasonal, Part-Time Internship



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## Monthly Sustainability Jobs Highlights

### Internships

#### Special Horticultural Projects Internship

##### **Friends of the National Arboretum, Washington Youth Garden**

*Intern will work alongside the Garden Manager and Garden Coordinator during the 2018 growing season, including making infrastructure improvements to the grounds. Projects will include solarizing the perennial border and transforming it into a native meadow, replanting parts of the butterfly garden, expanding the natural play area, and creating other kid focused garden features.*

Paid, Seasonal, Part-Time Internship

#### Fairmount Park Conservancy

##### **Ecosystem Management Intern**

*Help save Philadelphia's ash trees by treating them against the Emerald Ash Borer.*

Paid, Seasonal, Full-Time Internship

#### National Student Leadership Conference

##### **Team Advisor - Environmental Science & Sustainability**

*Team Advisors help support the National Student Leadership Conference, which brings together students from across the world to share, discuss, and debate issues that affect them.*

Paid, Seasonal, Full-Time Internship

#### American Rivers

##### **Government Relations Intern**

*The Government Relations intern will be responsible for a variety of projects relating to public lands and agricultural policy. Foremost among the intern's responsibilities will be providing memorandum on Congressional hearings, federal rule making, and assorted conservation-related topics*

Unpaid, Seasonal, Part-Time Internship



# handshake

## Monthly Sustainability Jobs Highlights

### Full-Time Jobs

Community Energy Inc.

#### **Solar Analyst**

*Community Energy is currently seeking a new team member to support early stage solar power project development. This individual will be part of a team that reviews GIS data to evaluate potential land targets for solar power projects.*

Paid, Full-Time Job

Ceres

#### **Manager, Investor Engagement, Water**

*This Manager will work on a small team to encourage investors to be more water aware and to more actively integrate the consideration of water into investment and portfolio management processes. The Manager will also support improving internal team systems, be responsible for internal reporting to other Ceres departments, and tracking internal key performance indicators on advocacy goals.*

Paid, Full-Time Job

The Public Interest Network

#### **Climate Defender Organizer**

*Climate Defender Organizers are responsible for recruiting, developing and mobilizing powerful teams of concerned citizens to become climate volunteers in critical communities across the state.*

Paid, Full-Time Job

New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

#### **Invasive Species Strike Team Supervisor**

*Strike teams primarily perform manual invasive plant removals, as well as surveys, education, and other activities as assigned on State Park lands.*

Paid, Seasonal, Full-Time Job



# handshake

## Monthly Sustainability Jobs Highlights

### Full-Time Jobs

Maine Conservation Corps

#### **Environmental Steward**

*An AmeriCorps Environmental Steward position dedicated to accomplishing outdoor recreation and conservation projects for the public, promoting and managing volunteer opportunities, providing conservation education, building self-esteem and leadership, strengthening the future employability of members.*

Paid, Seasonal, Full-Time Job

HP Inc.

#### **Product Stewardship Air Quality Emissions Lead with HP**

*Emissions lead will ensure current products meet world-wide Air Quality regulation, as well as work with Product Stewards and R&D throughout the Product Development Process to ensure new products meet regulation.*

Paid, Full-Time Job