

IGNITE CHANGE. GO GREEN.

Alumni Spotlight:

Kristen Meo '10, Environmental Science major with a minor in Philosophy Raw Materials Administration Group Leader for The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.

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 Kristen Meo, a raw materials administrator for Estée Lauder.

What did you study while attending Villanova?

As an undergraduate at Villanova, I majored in Environmental Science and minored in Philosophy. After graduating, I went to NYU for my master's degree in Environmental Conservation Education.

In your own words, how would you define sustainability?

Sustainability is recognizing the interconnectivity of all things. It's thinking beyond the next 12 months and framing decisions in the context of the next 10, 100, or 1,000 years.

Why is sustainability important to you?

I have always been an animal and wildlife lover. I started in this field because I wanted to help protect the natural world. The more I learned about sustainability, the more I thought, "This just makes sense!", not just for stereotypical tree-huggers, but for everyone—including big companies. That sentiment led me into the field of Corporate Sustainability/Responsibility.

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

For the first three years of my career, I worked at a boutique sustainability consultancy. We worked with large corporations like FedEx, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, and International Paper to help them devise and communicate their sustainability strategies.

Presently, I work in Research and Development at The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. (which owns MAC, Bobbi Brown, Clinique, and La Mer, to name a few!). My department works with our raw material suppliers to ensure that ingredients used in cosmetic formulas are safe and compliant with global regulations. I help to support the company's objective to source ingredients responsibly and sustainably, with respect for local communities and the environment.



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

In the summer, I love to go to the beach, ride my bike, and dine alfresco at restaurants across Long Island. I spend most winters in my kitchen learning how to cook and dreaming of warmer, sunnier places!

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

While at Villanova, I served as co-president of Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed service fraternity. I also went on two amazing, life-changing service break trips to Puebla, Mexico and Rancho Mastatal, Costa Rica. Both trips had a focus on environmental issues!

What is your favorite memory from your time as a Villanova student?

There are too many amazing memories to choose from! One of my favorite memories at Villanova occurred after I graduated, on the steps of Saint Thomas of Villanova Church on a beautiful spring day when my now-husband (Nova '09 grad) proposed to me!

If you would like to connect with Kristen you may do so via email kmarzocca@gmail.com

