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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