

# 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](mailto:kmarzocca@gmail.com)

