



## STUDENT PROFILES – XMNR Class of 2014

*Each January, a new cohort of professionals begins the 18-month Executive Master of Natural Resources (XMNR) program where they engage in interdisciplinary research and service learning projects to develop innovative strategies for leadership in global sustainability. The XMNR Class of 2014 includes students with extensive experience in business, government and civil society.*

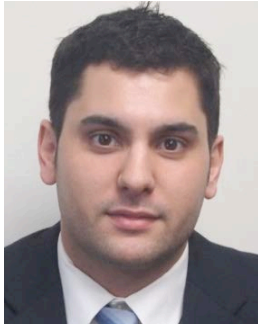


**Dolores Schroeder** has extensive experience as an in-house attorney and business professional working for publicly traded companies in the U.S., Latin America and Europe with an emphasis on commercial real estate and transactional work. She led legal, retail leasing and lease administration initiatives for the development and subsequent disposition of a pan-European commercial real estate portfolio located in Spain, Germany, Italy, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. Dolores served as Regional Counsel for the Latin and South American subsidiaries of a global real estate services firm, providing general counsel to regional and in-country executive management. She has broad experience in the structure, negotiation, documentation and execution of a wide variety of complex deals involving all areas of commercial real estate, commercial contracts, procurement and commercial transactions. Dolores advises the business leaders on risks inherent in the scope of services and client contracts, rates their level of importance to the business and identifies ways to align those risks with the client as a function of business operations and fee structure. Dolores received a B.A. from Saint Mary's College, and a M.S.W. and J.D. from Loyola University of Chicago. Dolores is a LEED AP with a passion for sustainability initiatives and green/sustainable commercial buildings. She is a member of the Advocacy Committee of the U.S. Green Building Council's Chicago Chapter and the Jump Start Chicago Task Force, a multi-disciplinary group of commercial property professionals reviewing innovative financing initiatives designed to support the upgrade and improvement of energy efficiency of commercial buildings in Chicago.



**John Peters** grew up in Virginia and received a B.S. in Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia Tech in 2004. In 2005, he served as the Stewardship Intern with the Pacific Forest Trust, located in San Francisco, and was responsible for monitoring conservation easement properties and managing fee-simple lands. John began working for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) in 2006 as a Stewardship Specialist, working out of Warrenton. Since 2007, he has been working for VOF in Richmond and is responsible for stewarding easement properties in the Richmond and Tidewater regions.

*Invent the Future*



**Kiel Stone** serves as the Chief of Staff to John C. Cook of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Overseeing the daily operations of the Office, Kiel also acts as the Supervisor's primary advisor and ensures the office competently and effectively meets the needs of the residents of the Braddock District. Previously, he served as a Legislative Aide to the Supervisor where he dealt primarily with County issues pertaining to budget, transportation and revitalization. Kiel has worked on a number of state and local political campaigns in capacities ranging from volunteer to senior advisor; and also spent time in Senator Arlen Specter's office.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Kiel received an undergraduate degree in Economics from George Mason University, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the campus newspaper. He currently resides in Vienna.



**Colleen O'Brien** is the Founder of Stand for Tomorrow, an organization focused on inspiring and educating the next generation of leaders and empowering them with the information to take up the charge of protecting the environment and being conduits for change. Ms. O'Brien has over ten years of leadership and education experience including: classroom practitioner, national education leadership, program management, and entrepreneurship. Colleen spent the five years prior to founding Stand for Tomorrow, traveling the country and working with some of the most cutting edge and innovative schools and districts in the nation. Inspired by the

student's aptitude and desire to learn, lead, and discover she also noticed a need for teacher resources that could support educators in their effort to create educated and informed leaders of tomorrow. Stand for Tomorrow aims to provide the knowledge that allows students to take what they know and build upon it to become the informed and proactive leaders and responsible citizens of tomorrow and reach their potential. Stand for Tomorrow was founded to provide teachers with resources aligned with state standards that teach social stewardship, environmental consciousness, sustainability, and leadership skills. Colleen's international experience includes Australia, Tasmania, Jamaica, Chile, Easter Island, Tahiti, Pitcairn Island and the South Pacific Ocean. Mrs. O'Brien spent five weeks on a research expedition investigating the impact of plastic pollution on the South Pacific Ocean. The trip activities included five weeks sailing on the open sea, analyzing plastic, and obtaining water samples to evaluate toxicity levels. She had also built public education program for environmental awareness in the surf town of Byron Bay Australia to protect their waterways and oceans from the growing impact that tourism was having on their coastal community. Colleen's passion to arm today's youth with knowledge and passion for protecting the environment is the foundation on which Stand for Tomorrow is built. Ms. O'Brien lives in Washington, D.C., is completing her yoga instructor certification and is an avid runner, traveler, and scuba diver.



**Lise Blackburn** is looking forward to getting the most out of the XMNR program, bringing her background as a civil/environmental engineer and community volunteer to the 2014 cohort. After receiving her BS in Engineering at Swarthmore College, Lise has participated in and managed a wide range of projects for both small and large consulting companies in the Mid-Atlantic region. She is a registered professional engineer in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Her work has involved residential and commercial land development, storm water management, landfill design and leachate modeling, potable water treatment and distribution, groundwater remediation permitting, construction and operations, and environmental compliance. Most recently, Lise managed pre-mining studies of existing structures and modeled the effects of long wall mining on significant structures identified as needing mitigation actions to reduce predicted structural damages. Lise has also worked as a leader and volunteer in local schools and community organizations over the last 15 years and is serving as a member of the Marshall Township, PA planning board. She just completed working as a costume chairperson for the Wexford Acting Studio, supplying over 300 costumes for two musical shows. Currently working with the Allegheny Land Trust, Lise is designing enhanced visitor parking facilities for several of their most visited properties.



**Emily Talley** spent fifteen years in the corporate, nonprofit, and higher education sectors, with a focus on designing, supporting and scaling community based programs, before opting to pursue a second graduate degree and serve as an independent consultant. As Senior Director of Capital One's Community Affairs division from 2005-2012, Ms. Talley led the development of the company's financial education programs, corporate volunteerism, community brand, and outreach to military veterans. Prior to joining Capital One, Ms. Talley directed Gonzaga University's development efforts in support of Native American outreach, ethics, leadership, and community service programs. Ms. Talley also spent five years with America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth, a national nonprofit founded by Colin Powell and focused on positive youth development. Programs created and led by Ms. Talley have received awards and recognition from the Points of Light Institute, the Taproot Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Board Source, Junior Achievement USA, and the Washington Business Journal. Ms. Talley is a strong believer in civic engagement, having served as a board member for multiple nonprofit organizations, a founding member of the Taproot Foundation's pro bono leadership council, a member of the Spokane, WA task force on race relations, and a mentor, tutor, and pro bono consultant. Ms. Talley received a B.A. in English from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Communications and Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University. She lives in Arlington with her husband Ben, one-year-old son Emery, and dog Riley.



**Sally Parker** received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from University of Illinois. She began her career in California focusing on reducing demand for water in landscape design. She now works to help federal and local government projects, from headquarters to city parks, reach sustainability and safety goals. The projects span all regions of the continental United States and embassies in select foreign countries. Projects in each region pose a host of site-specific constraints and challenges that require thoughtfully research to address each issue and design a successful landscape. Prior to her career in landscape architecture, Sally served as a Korean linguist in the United States Marine Corps. She lived and worked throughout the Pacific Rim. She developed a strong appreciation for the unique characteristics that distinguish each corner of the globe while recognizing and respecting the threads, which tie all communities together.



**Whitney Hank** currently works in the Chief Conservation Office at The Nature Conservancy. She supports the Chief Conservation Officer as well as the Conservation Strategies team. She organizes bi-annual workshops that focus on developing the Conservancy's key global strategies and conservation focus areas. Prior to working at TNC, she worked for the Truman National Security Project on their clean energy campaign, Operation Free. She recruited and engaged military veterans to advocate for clean energy and action on climate change from a national security standpoint. She organized rallies and press events in key states across the country as well as at the White House and on Capital Hill. In 2009, Whitney received a Bachelors degree from the University of Georgia in International Affairs. During her senior year, she spent a semester interning for the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. In 2007, she lived in Lyon, France for four months on a study abroad program for both French and International Law.

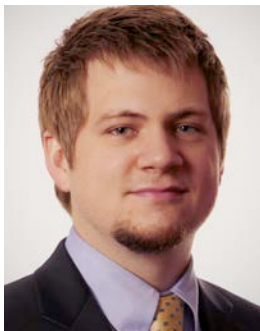


**Stephen Parente** is a Senior Engineer for the Quality Labs at Merck & Company, at West Point, Pennsylvania. His responsibilities include lab and equipment upkeep and installation, lab renovation, safety and environmental investigations, inspection preparation, project management, problem resolution and customer service to the lab operation teams. One of the many projects Stephen has been involved in at Merck & Company was a freezer building installation for stability samples, walk-in cold vault qualifications and biosafety cabinet installs. Stephen has been employed at Merck & Company for approximately 12 years, prior to that he worked at TEVA pharmaceuticals conducting air monitoring, raw material testing and tablet manufacturing. Stephen attended Lycoming College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1998. He has traveled to Australia, Austria, Germany, England, Jamaica, and the Czech Republic. Stephen resides near Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with his wife Sarah and son Ignatius. He has a daughter Zia who lives in Texas.





**Judith Smith** is currently working as a Lead Software/Systems Engineer for the MITRE Corporation. Judy has an extensive background in project management, software engineering, and systems analysis and has held titles and performed in roles such as Chief Technologist, Chief Business Architect, and Director of Information Technology Management. Judy spent her early adult years serving in the US Navy as a Hospital Corpsman, and participated in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Judy earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science (Magna Cum Laude) from Park University, and an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) from the George Washington University. An early participant in the internet technical community, Judy has served as an appointed member on the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) architectural committee, and has been published as a contributing author to "Professional Java XML". She holds ongoing certifications as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP). Judy is an avid reader, hiker, and amateur photographer. She lives in Ashburn, Virginia with her three children (Sara, Tim, and Jenny) and her husband Steve.



**Adam Efirm** is an Environmental Scientist at Atkins, a multinational engineering, design, planning, project management and consulting services company headquartered in the United Kingdom. As a part of the environmental group in Raleigh, North Carolina, Adam supports projects ranging from natural resource inventories and development of mitigation plans to stormwater management and GIS product design. Most recently, Adam is assisting with the development and implementation of a large-scale compensatory mitigation plan for a private energy client that proposes to restore over 100,000 linear feet of degraded stream channel and preserve over 75 acres of wetlands. His professional expertise includes wildlife biology, wetland ecology, stream assessments and GIS analysis. Adam received his undergraduate degree in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science from Campbell University in 2006. Prior to joining Atkins, he worked as a wildlife technician for various projects in Mississippi and North Carolina. Outside of his professional career, Adam is a lifelong musician and an avid outdoor enthusiast. He currently lives in Cary, North Carolina with his wife Lauren.



**Cheryl Ansell** graduated from Old Dominion University in the summer of 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and a minor in Political Science. Cheryl also holds a degree in accounting and computer science and has worked for 15 years providing services for public accounting firms and private companies. Most recently, Cheryl provided cost accounting services for a property development company, which specializes in urban redevelopment projects. Cheryl decided to change career paths and pursue an education in geography with an emphasis on environmental issues and political policies. As part of her undergraduate degree program, Cheryl chose to study abroad for a semester and

completed a program in Tropical Marine Biology in Costa Rica. Her great love of the topography of Virginia, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay, inspired a desire to be proactive in finding solutions that address human problems while protecting diverse ecosystems. Cheryl hopes to work with governments, businesses, schools, and communities in restoring, reclaiming, and protecting the natural environment through collaborative programs. Cheryl enjoys canoeing, hiking, and volunteering with environmental river and bay restoration programs.



**Aurora Swanson** is currently a Budget Analyst at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) focusing on water resources, housing finance and the restructuring of the mortgage market in light of recent economic failures. Prior to her work with CBO, Aurora worked as a statistical modeler at CitiFinancial International and a Director of Analytics at Freddie Mac. Aurora grew up in small town in Wyoming with an economy reliant—almost exclusively—on its abundance of coal. Her father worked at the same coal mine for 32 years and during college summers Aurora drove a 240 ton coal truck to help pay her tuition. Through these experiences Aurora became interested in the sustainability challenges driven by society’s need for energy, natural resources, economic stability, and our desire to live in a healthy and beautiful environment. She hopes to develop a career identifying and designing solutions to these interrelated and difficult problems. Aurora received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Economics from universities in the University of Texas system. Her hobbies include swimming, running and reading. She lives in Reston, Virginia with two small terriers named Shelly and Stubby and an old black cat named Mr. Moon.



**Aaron Lipscomb** has been working as a Title Examiner with Bon Air Title Insurance Agency Inc. since receiving his undergraduate degree. His young career in the title business has included extensive searching and evaluation of primary documents; grave attention to detail oriented work; historically based analytical skill; and clear and concise reporting of researched information. Aaron was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hampden-Sydney College in History and Religion. His concentrations include Eastern European History and Christian Theology. During his time at Hampden-Sydney College he held numerous leadership positions such as President of both the Outsiders Club and the Architectural Society. He served as a Peer Advisor and Senior Campaign Leadership Team Captain as well as an Honor Court Appeals Committee Representative. Throughout his time as an undergraduate student Aaron sought to merge his intense passion for learning and the environment to formulate a career. In attending Virginia Tech's Executive Master of Natural Resources program in Leadership for Sustainability Aaron seeks to arm himself with the tools necessary for a professional career which would enable him to make what he hopes to be a monumental shift in natural resource theory and innovation. When Aaron is not working he enjoys spending his time hiking, fly fishing, and kayaking in the Virginia National Forests with his fiancé.



**Vestal Tutterow** is a Technical Consultant at Project Performance Corporation (PPC), an energy, environmental, and IT consulting firm located in McLean, VA. Vestal has thirty years of experience in building and industrial energy systems analysis and program management. Vestal provides support to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Manufacturing Office through development and implementation of DOE industrial energy efficiency initiatives. Prior to PPC, Vestal worked at the nonprofit Alliance to Save Energy and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory supporting DOE's industrial partnership development activities and creating technical resources such as sourcebooks and tip sheets. Vestal is involved in energy efficiency standards development, participating in the U.S. Technical Advisory Group for ISO Project Committee 242, which developed ISO 50001 – Energy Management Systems – and is now developing supporting standards and documents. He is a member of the ANSI Industrial System Energy Assessment Standards Committee, and served as Chair of the Project Team that developed the ANSI Energy Assessment for Pumping Systems standard. Vestal's earlier professional experience includes energy consulting services in the areas of HVAC design, energy assessments, and energy modeling for commercial and institutional buildings. Vestal also led the Alliance to Save Energy's efforts to achieve a LEED-Silver designation for their new office space in 2008. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science from Duke University and a MS in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He is a registered Professional Engineer, a Certified Energy Manager, and a Certified Practitioner for Energy Management Systems.



**Punita Koustubhan** is the Manager of Aquatic Systems and Services in the Research Animal Resource Center, which serves both Weill Cornell Medical College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Punita received her Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Marine Science from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. She has over 10 years of experience managing Zebrafish and Anuran facilities at Tufts University and received an Advanced Certification in Laboratory Animal Science from the Forsyth Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Punita has in-depth experience designing aquatic systems and managing aquaculture facilities in an academic research setting. Recently, she designed and supervised the construction of a new 700 gallon fully automated *Xenopus laevis* flow through system for a Developmental Biology lab at Tufts and is an author on various publications one of which is a book chapter covering the maintenance and management of *Xenopus laevis* recirculating facilities. Punita also has extensive experience in ecology and marine science, having served as an intern at the Wetlands Institute in New Jersey as well as at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Florida where she helped implement wildlife survey and rehabilitation programs. Punita hopes to join her environmental background with her aquaculture and research experience in order to create greener aquaculture and water systems on a city-wide scale.



**Jim French** grew up in New England with extended periods in Bangladesh, Japan, Thailand, and Malaysia. Starting in 1974, Jim served in Bangkok as a communication specialist with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and later with Winrock International in Indonesia. Over a period of 20 years he developed expertise in rural development, extension education, training, and watershed management. In Thailand he organized training for extension workers to help them respond more effectively to their publics. He also supported small farmer development in Indonesia, rubber smallholder development in Thailand, upland agriculture programs in Indonesia, Bhutan, and Nepal, and community forestry initiatives in India, Myanmar, and China. With an undergraduate degree in Southeast Asian studies, Jim speaks fluent Thai and Indonesian. To augment his field experience, Jim completed a master's degree in educational communication at the East-West Center in Hawaii, a doctorate in adult education at NC State, and post-doctoral study in organizational development at Marymount University. In 1996 Jim returned to the United States to get emergency medical treatment for his son. This was quite a transition. Based on his experience in instructional design, Jim got a job with the Postal Service as a training development specialist and then in 2008 jumped at the opportunity to be a founding member of the Office of Sustainability where he now leads employee engagement initiatives. All of this draws on Jim's roots in extension education and the need to listen to and bring value to the communities that we serve.



**Sara Mascola** is an associate on the Nature Conservancy's Development by Design team, working to reduce the impacts of energy, mining and infrastructure projects by helping companies, governments, and communities make better decisions about whether, where and how development should occur by applying landscape level conservation planning with the mitigation hierarchy. Sara focuses on project implementation, capacity building/knowledge management, and research and analysis of opportunities and risks with an emphasis on policy implementation, financial lending standards, and corporate practices. Previously Sara served on the Conservancy's Corporate Practices team, managing internal projects, strategies, and risk assessment related to the Conservancy's efforts to improve business practices in select industries whose activities can have a significant impact on natural systems. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Sara spent over three years as a Peace Corps Environmental Management volunteer in Northern Peru where she worked with schools, government, business, and community groups to implement environmental projects, ultimately creating a nationally recognized Environmental Network. Before joining the Peace Corps, she worked as a field naturalist in Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh, India, where her "job" was to ride elephants, track wild tigers, and bird watch. Sara graduated summa cum laude from Clemson University with a degree in Political Science and specializations in women's studies and environment. She speaks fluent Spanish and basic Portuguese.





**Claudia Thompson-Deahl** is a graduate of West Virginia University. She began her professional career as a Firefighter for the Bureau of Land Management in Montana. After an internship with the Fairfax County Park Authority she worked for a short time with Fairfax County Extension Service. Claudia frequently worked summers as a camp Naturalist teaching kids about nature. She is a charter member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and a certified Arborist. From 1982 to the present time Claudia has worked as the Environmental Resource Manager for the Reston Association. In this position she is responsible for 1,300 acres of natural areas and focus on urban forestry, meadows, streams and removing invasive exotic plants. Claudia started a weed warrior program in Reston. Some of her accomplishments include: Recognized in the Congressional Record for environmental work, Received the Community Service Award from Reston Citizen Association, Recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for Environmental work, Employee of the year for the Reston Association 2008, Best of Reston Award in 2005, Friend of the Trees Award, Fairfax County Tree Commission, Friend of the Forest award-Schoolyard Habitat program, Certificate of Exceptional Merit from the national Wildlife Federation for implementing the Community Wildlife Habitat Program.



**Jeremy Orr** is an aspiring outdoor writer/author currently residing near Blacksburg, Virginia. Originally from Michigan's remote Upper Peninsula, at an early age he developed a fondness for the natural environment and became aware of its limited resources. In early 2003, Jeremy joined the United States Navy, where he became a naval aircrewman onboard the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance aircraft, the P-3C Orion. After six years of countless reconnaissance missions and endlessly travelling to several worldwide destinations, he returned to Michigan for a short period of time to complete a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. Upon receiving his degree, Jeremy accepted a position as a defense contractor with Northrop Grumman in the Washington, D.C. area, where he operated sensor equipment on an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. In the past, Jeremy has volunteered for numerous community activities, including feeding injured raptors, ensuring state park areas remained free of trash and debris, and devoting time to the Future Leaders of the World (FLOW) mentoring program. He enjoys writing, reading, hiking, biking, camping, and, above all, fly fishing for the elusive *Esox masquinongy* in Virginia's New River.



**Pam Nagurka** is in her 13th year as a science teacher for Arlington County Public Schools. Currently teaching sixth grade, she uses Earth Systems Science as a framework to teach energy, weather and atmosphere, astronomy and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay to her tween students. Her hope is that students leave her classroom with the understanding that, "Earth is a system of individual parts working together to create a complex whole." With this knowledge, she anticipates students will become longtime stewards of our environment. In addition to her teaching

responsibilities, Pam is a co-director of her school's science fair, sponsor of the Classic Movie Club and sits on Arlington County's Concussion Committee. The Committee sets guidelines for coaches and athletes in an effort to reduce the number of mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBIs) that occur during high school sanctioned sports. The committee also sets guidelines, in compliance with state law, regarding educational accommodations and return to play for any student who has suffered a mTBI regardless of where the injury occurred. Pam is the mother of three teenage boys and, when not at work, enjoys spending time with her family, gardening and bicycling.



**Pamela Koretz** is an experienced Real Estate agent with Century 21, serving in the industry for the last ten years. She received an award as a “Million Dollar Producer” in her second year as an agent, with “Multi-Million Dollar Producer” following shortly thereafter, garnering experience in new developments and subdivisions. Pam formerly served as a Branch Executive for a top producing Carlson GMAC Real Estate office after having been in the industry for two years. She participated in the service of under privileged children through her position on the Community Service Committee of the Realtor Association of the Pioneer Valley. She also

completed coursework through the Green Resource Council, a division of the National Association of REALTORS. Pam maintains memberships in her local, state and national Realtor Associations. Prior to working in the field of real estate, Pam spent twenty years working in the insurance industry managing workers' compensation claims departments. In 1985, Pam graduated from Holyoke Community College with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. Pam attended American International College completing coursework in Finance. She most recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bay Path College with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies. Her hobbies are visiting museums of art, traveling, and cycling – having participated in multi-state rides.



**Iris Picat** was born and raised in Paris, France. Her love and appreciation of the outdoors stemmed from exploring the vast lands in the United States, while visiting her mother's homeland every summer break. One of the key moments was when she spent some time in the Grand Tetons at a science school working on a variety of nature projects. She moved to the USA to attend Boston University in 2006, and obtained a B.S. in Journalism, with a minor in Anthropology. When she graduated she had written for two science magazines: American Archaeology, based out of Albuquerque NM, and COSMOS, based out of Sydney, Australia. Iris wanted to become more

involved in educating the public about their public lands so she applied for a position working for the Bureau of Land Management in St George, UT, and has been with that office for a little over two years. Iris participates in a variety of things including graphic design for interpretive panels and brochures, writing for the website, video, youth outreach, processing special recreation permits and special projects such as sandblasting for graffiti removal or mapping a dinosaur track site. Working so closely with resource specialists who devote their time to protect our

public lands has made her take a second look at the intricacies involved in doing so, and made her want to further immerse herself in this field.



**Cathy Silverstein** has over 20 years experience in international economic development, organizational development, management consulting and strategic planning in over 25 countries worldwide. She is currently a Technical Director at Management Systems International, a Washington DC-based consulting firm, providing technical advice, training and facilitation for strategic planning, performance-based management systems, and global economic growth programs. Before that, she founded and built a management consulting and international development firm over 13 years with clients including USAID, District of Columbia, Florida Power & Light, other private firms and non-profits. Her other professional pursuits have included commercial banking, refugee resettlement and vocal performance. Ms. Silverstein holds a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University with a specialization in Banking and Finance. She is an accredited Certified Strategic and former Adjunct Lecturer at American University on "Strategic Planning for International Development." As Chair and Co-Founder of a neighborhood organization in Montgomery County, Maryland, she spearheaded a five-year effort to preserve a local property as Legacy Open Space. The property was recently acquired by the County and added to Rock Creek Park. She has been nominated for the Silver Spring, Maryland 2013 IMPACT Civic Momentum Award for her efforts to preserve this important natural resource. In her little spare time she travels, dances salsa, plays jazz piano and continues to improve her Spanish.



**Dave Wagner** is a Management Assistant for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System, Division of Visitor Services and Communication in Arlington, Virginia. His responsibilities include the management of employee travel and payroll, vendor and contractor payments, website updates, and the national events calendar. Beyond his assigned duties, Dave has worked in a visitor services capacity at wildlife festivals located on National Wildlife Refuges and has written articles for the publication *Refuge Update*. Dave received his bachelor's degree in Environmental Science & Management from the University of California, Davis. After completing his undergraduate studies, Dave joined the Peace Corps and served in rural, mountainous Panama as an Environmental Conservation Specialist for two years, gaining written and oral fluency in Spanish. His projects included the construction of high efficiency stoves for both homes and community centers and the implementation of a new, hands-on Environmental Education curriculum at the local school. Dave also taught various levels of English and Computer Education. He has lived in Washington, D.C. for a year since moving from his hometown of San Diego, California.



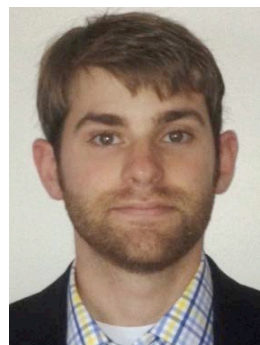
**Jada Breegle** is Chief of the Transition Division for Defense Information Systems Agency, Enterprise Services Division. She assumed this position in December 2010. Her primary responsibilities include the implementation of internal systems and change management. Prior to assuming this role, Jada was the Customer Management Executive for DISA programs. She supported DISA program offices from initial contact, through proposal development, pricing, and project implementation. Jada started her Federal career in the DISA intern program in 1996 and has held multiple positions within the Agency. She has served as Chief of the Strategy Division, Strategic Planning and Information Directorate and Chief of

Defense Enterprise Computing Center Europe. Jada holds a Bachelor of Arts from Marymount University and a Master of Public Administration from Bowie State University. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband Marty.



**Matthew Norwood** is a Staff Industrial Hygienist for Sandler Occupational Medicine Associates (SOMA), an industrial hygiene and occupational health consulting company based out of Gaithersburg, MD. He regularly travels to sites throughout the U.S. and works on site with various clients, including aggregates facilities, industrial operations and indoor air quality projects. He also works in office on toxicology research, preparing technical reports, calibrating and maintaining sampling equipment and assisting IH experts prepare for legal cases. Matt received an undergraduate degree in Biology & Environmental Science at the College of William and Mary. Matt enjoys

working with professionals bringing a wide range of personal experiences and practical knowledge to tackle the complex environmental issues we face.



**Spencer Cooper** is currently working in Alexandria, VA for a company called Alfred Benesch & Company, a midsize engineering firm. Responsibilities include starting and growing a Washington D.C. Metro Area Office. Additionally, responsible for leading and developing a sustainability program throughout the 450+ person organization. Recent work experience includes three years of supporting the Bureau of Indian Affairs (IA) in implementing a compliance-focused Environmental Management System (EMS) throughout the organization, as required by E.O. 13514 and 13423. Spencer's unique experiences include: Intern at the Department of the Interior – Office of Environmental Policy and

Compliance (OEPC); Intern with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and Blue Frontier Campaign in Washington, DC; Global Engagement Learning Community Peer Advisor at the University of Georgia; Participant in the UGA "Alternative Spring Break" program in Port St. Joe, Florida, studying environmental issues and collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in various projects; Appointed director of "Gye Nyame Scholarship Fund," which raises money to support the education of Ghanaian children; Selected participant in the Tunisia-Service-Learning Program on full scholarship to study educational reformation options within



Carthage, Tunisia; Traveled with the Ghana-Service-Learning Program for two summers to study soil erosion and malaria issues in Akyem Oda, Ghana; Volunteer with Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS) in Trang, Thailand to teach English to elementary age children; Volunteer with “Habitat for Humanity” to construct homes in Siguatepeque, Honduras; and, Volunteer at a local orphanage in Alajuela, Costa Rica.



**Heeral Bhalala** was the Coordinator for the Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative (SBC) and a Waste-to Wealth Program Associate of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR). She joined ILSR in 2007 as a program intern to conduct research on bioplastics. She was a researcher on ILSR’s report, Stop Trashing the Climate, and reviewed the link between waste issues and global warming. Starting July 2008, she began working for ILSR full-time after earning her BS degree in Biology from James Madison University in Virginia. Heeral has participated in the Better Composting School to expand her expertise and ILSR’s capacity to provide composting technical assistance and, in 2010, became a licensed compost operator in

the state of Maryland. As the Coordinator of the Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative, Heeral has helped with writing and implementing the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Specifications for Compostable Biobased Food Service Ware (“BioSpecs”), which is a 'reach standard' to rank these products according to sustainability criteria they meet throughout their lifecycle: during feedstock production, manufacturing, and end-of-life. She continuously documents the lessons learned from composting biobased products and is a member of the DC-local Organics Task Force, which works on diversion possibilities for organics in the DC Metropolitan area.