

## Alumni Video- Lindsay Davis

So hi my name is Lindsey Davis and I am from Hanover Ontario. I graduated in 2014 from the Environmental Geoscience and Geomatics program at Guelph. So I'm currently working as a geomorphologist at Geomorphix. We're located in Campbellville Ontario which is very close to Milton.

So I started working there back when I graduated in 2014 and a typical day for me looks like doing a lot of river and channel designs using Autocad on the computer. One of the things I really enjoy about my job is that not only do I get to design rivers on the computer but I also get to be outside and I'm able to watch them constructed and I see it be completed in real life.

So when I was an undergrad I um had envisioned myself going into more of the Conservation Authority and that type of job within the environmental field um then while I was completing my undergrad um I kind of discovered that there was environmental consulting and channel restoration I had never really known that this type of job existed. I was given an opportunity when I graduated to go work as a summer student as a consultant and I ended up really enjoying it so I decided to change my career path. Essentially after I graduated not envisioned what I was going to be doing definitely when I entered first year.

So yes my experience and my degree at the university of Guelph definitely helped me find my career I had never known going into first year that channel restoration and consulting existed um I was kind of going on a different route of being within the Conservation Authority and doing work that way as of being able to complete my undergrad research program and courses within the geoscience and geomatics program I was able to find out that there's all these career opportunities that exist out there that I had no idea.

So my aha moment in undergrad happened in second year I was taking a geography elective course at the time because I had originally gone into engineering program and I really enjoyed it and i was starting to look into other geography electives that i could take within my engineering program and that's kind of when i decided i couldn't take enough of them and started looking into the geoscience and geomatics program and then changed my mind and switched into that program which i really enjoyed and i am glad that i did it

So if i could give my first year self advice um I would probably say to join clubs find something that you're interested in just be involved um even intramurals like I didn't join any intramurals till I think my third or fourth year and I had some really great memories sometimes playing on those teams.

I would say don't be afraid to change your mind even last minute I was offered an opportunity to complete a master's program that I uh turned down a couple of times and then went back and thought on it some more and then was like no you know what actually I would really like to do this project so then I ended up taking that opportunity and I had a really great time completing it.

## Video Transcripts – Josie Meilhausen

Hey everyone I'm Josie Meilhausen I'm from Lions Head Ontario I graduated from the University of Guelph in 2017 and when I first came to U of G I started with an environmental science degree and after taking a few classes I decided to switch over to the BA Honors Geography program in the Department of Geography and I ended up graduating with a major in geography a minor in GIS and Geomatics and a certificate in Environmental Conservation

So now I'm an environmental scientist at GEO Morphix which is an environmental consulting firm based out of Milton Ontario and there's also another office in Ottawa Ontario and we're an environmental consulting firm that specializes in fluvial geomorphology.

When I was an undergrad I always heard the word consulting as kind of a buzz word for a career opportunity once I graduated with my major in geography but I wasn't totally sure what consulting meant so prior to coming to the University of Guelph I worked for Parks Canada in the resource conservation sector at Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park and I learned so many things at that job lots of field skills data analysis and data collection but I just wanted something more fast-paced and I was actually introduced to the consulting world in third year when I started talking to one of my professors that I really enjoyed learning from and it's such a fast-paced environment and you really apply all of the skills you learn not only at the in the Geography Department but at university as a whole and it's become a perfect fit for me.

I would say to take advantage of all the resources that are available to you in first or second year of university when you're just going off to university you're trying to navigate this new world you have new classes much larger class sizes new professors you're making new friends you're living on your own for the first time and there's so many resources available to you to help make this time a little easier and as you go through university another piece of advice I would be to reach out to the professors that you enjoy learning from and the professors who are teaching the classes that you're most interested in.

One of my favorite moments from university and my undergrad career was when classes transitioned from being more theory and lecture based to really getting the hands-on experience that you get in those upper-year courses so for me I took a lot of physical geography courses and those upper-year classes meant more lab work so getting out in the field learning how to collect and interpret data and then applying those findings for larger research projects.

I definitely wouldn't have found my current career without my degree or experience from the University of Guelph and the Geography Department specifically so currently I work for a firm that specializes in fluvial geomorphology and I use many of the concepts that I learned in my physical geography courses on a daily basis and I also use other skills that I learned while at the University of Guelph such as writing skills critical thinking data analysis and interpretation and especially time management and I use those skills in my everyday life.

## Video Transcript – Marc Quintaniero

My name is Marc Quintaniero. I graduated from Guelph in 2015 where I received my Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Governance. I'm currently employed as a policy analyst, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and what my particular office does is looks at the overarching national policy issues uh that are facing Canadian fisheries today so um things like uh climate change and how that is impacting sustainable fisheries and the communities that depend on them.

What I do uh in a normal day is a policy analyst sort of provides advice that shapes future policy changes and you can kind of split that into short-term uh projects and long-term projects. Short-term projects where you're providing advice to senior management to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on a question that may have come in people asking why certain things are are that way and why can't they be this way, so providing that sort of uh feedback and then the long-term uh projects where we're looking at what does the fishery of you know tomorrow look like in the face of climate change, in the face of a changing economy, how can we make sure that our policies, the regulations that guide everything, are flexible enough to adapt and ensure that both our fisheries are healthy and the communities that depend on them are just as healthy.

I didn't really have a set path in my undergrad um but I knew that I liked to write I wanted to make a difference I wanted to be working in something that was current and not the same for 35 years straight until you retire and so after having a few conversations uh with some of my profs I realized that uh working as a policy analyst gave me the opportunity to put my critical thinking skills to use, put my writing skills to use in an area where you could you can actually make a difference that you can see the effects of long term and especially one that you could jump from department to department from team to team and work on different things if you're tired of sustainability you start moving into you know social policy if you don't like one policy you you read up on a different policy and that flexibility and that ability to make a difference. I know that sounds contrived um but to just do your best on something you're passionate and if your passion changes you can change with it.

Without a doubt um my Environmental Governance degree was multi-disciplinary so Geography, Poli-sci Economics and the skills that I developed to view problems through multiple lenses and identify potential potential solutions is the exact kind of critical thinking skills that most government departments are looking for um I went and yeah I got a master's degree in Energy Policy um but policy is policy and I was able to sprinkle in the geography and the politics and the economics that I learned at Guelph into that master's degree and then was able to hand this to hiring departments everywhere and say look what I've done look what I can do here.

My favorite memory uh at Guelph is all the time that I spent at the climbing gym which back then was a little dingy dusty dusty basement that was full of friends and rope and chalk and meant so much to me and was the reason that I survived four years of papers and exams and just stress, so I know the climbing gym has changed since then but go and create new memories there okay that's for you guys to decide what to do with it, we napped there on occasion.

Uh my advice is grade 11 and 12 is tough enough and directing your entire life at age 16, 17, and 18 is absolutely bonkers um so take your time if you can be kind to yourself if you can go back for an extra semester to high school and then work do it um yeah if I didn't take time uh to think about it in a no pressure setting I would not have found Guelph's Environmental Governance program.

## Alumni Video – Matthew Vetta

Hi my name is Matthew Vetta, I'm from Toronto, Ontario and I completed my undergraduate degree in geography from the University of Guelph Bachelor of Arts in 2012 and I also minored in mathematics and GIS from the University of Guelph.

I currently work at Credit Valley Conservation as a fluvial geomorphology technician which I know is a little bit of a mouthful. uh So I look at uh assessing the water courses that are within our jurisdiction and the Credit River watershed is quite large we span all the way from Mississauga where uh where the Credit mouths with the Lake Ontario all the way up to Orangeville and have our headwaters at Island Lake. At my job I do a lot of different positions we look at natural channel design, geomorphic assessments, environmental modeling, some construction work, stream assessments, look at erosion control, and sediment control, and kind of work on some different sediment budgets so it's really a wide range of jobs that we're looking at, we work in very urban environments so some channels of ours are completely concrete all the way up to rural farm settings. So really a good mix of both the urban environment and the rural environment at our position.

uh So looking back at it in undergrad did I think that I was going to be a fluvial geomorphology technician and honestly I didn't think so I didn't even realize what a fluvial geomorphology technician was or did. Personally I thought I was maybe going to go towards the field of teaching and that's kind of where I had my double minor in math and then my major in geography and I thought those would be sort of the road I was going into but then sort of as I was continuing on with geography and as we kind of went into more third and fourth year courses I started to realize that I did like the field of geography and sort of more job opportunities that I was able to see in that field I thought would be a little bit more interesting and so sort of towards the end of my undergrad career I thought okay let's maybe look towards more of an environmental job than necessarily working as a teacher.

If I had had any past advice for myself coming into university I would tell myself to definitely not be so shy and want to make sure I get involved as much as possible I find that that was something that I maybe didn't take advantage of in my first couple years at the university you know I did want to major in geography and so I would recommend you know being involved in different programs or different activities that you know, Geography Society or even just getting to know your profs and talking to them after class unless you're rushing off to another class which i know sometimes that was a problem but otherwise between you know lectures and labs it's always good to sort of get yourself familiarized with your professors as well as TA's they're all very friendly.

So some of my favorite memories uh during undergrad program at University of Guelph i would say kind of culminate under my fourth year's experience. It was a ton of fun I got to take part in the field course where we got to travel out to a Alberta met a lot of great people and a lot of cool friends that i still keep in touch with today and it also was just the time where really realized that maybe I wanted to sort of focus more on the environmental field and less so sort of teach and that kind of was what pushed me towards continuing my education beyond my undergraduate years

Do I feel that my degree was useful for my experience currently where I'm working, and I would most certainly say yes. I know in undergrad it sort of feels like you're taking very general courses in your first couple of years and it really is building that base that you need in order to sort of continue your education and especially sort of myself focusing more in the geomorph world and a little bit more in the

sciences it definitely was important to build that base and then sort of you start to take some more of those specialized courses in third and fourth year which I found really helped my education and there are times where I'll reference some of the textbooks that I, that I was using in third and fourth year so I'd recommend don't throw those away also.