After graduating from the College in May 2014 with a double major in economics and philosophy I did not know where I was going or what sort of “career” I was destined for. Unlike many other students who are much more proactive and organized, I had no job prospects. Through a fortuitous turn of events I landed a job as a research assistant at David Gardiner & Associates, a small environmental consultancy firm in Washington, D.C.

My many summers and semesters at the Office of Sustainability not only allowed me to gain valuable experience in the field of sustainability and environmental policy, but also provided me with broader work and life experiences. A passionate sense of curiosity, an attention to detail, and a focus on process-orientated development has served me well at my current position. A better understanding of the sometimes-slow process through which institutional change occurs has been an insightful lesson into the way that it often happens in the wider world. My time at the Office also taught me the force and power of a passionate group of students who come together, organize, discuss problems and solutions, and work with stakeholders to enact truly meaningful change.

The best pieces of advice that I can offer students is to know your strengths, work to fix your weaknesses, and never stop learning, reading, and being curious about the world. Finally, I would suggest that future graduates work to make their lives as engaging, interesting, and fun as when they were in college.