

CAREER TRACKS



DEVON GILLILAND

After graduating from The College of the Environment in 2010 with a BA in Planning, Devon was offered a planning position with The RJ Group. For the past 5 years she has been a project manager for various real estate development projects. Her first project, Chelsea Lofts, was a successful start in infill development in downtown Bellingham. The RJ Group is the first development team to construct a housing project using the City of Bellingham's Infill Toolkit. In addition, The RJ Group contributes to regional planning in the greater Bellingham area, and is successfully providing a variety of housing forms in local markets.



ELLEN COLE

Ellen Cole graduated from The College of the Environment in 2013 with a B.A. degree in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and a minor in Environmental Education. She is now the Coordinator of Built Green of King and Snohomish Counties, a green home certification program of the Master Builders Association. In 2014, Built Green certified 58% of new homes in Seattle. Every year, all Built Green projects combined save 156 million gallons of water and avert over 20 million pounds of CO2 emissions. Ellen is proud to be helping transform the region into a sustainable place to live.



JESSICA CONQUEST

After graduation, Jessica was hired by HDR as an environmental planner at their Anchorage, Alaska office. During her three-year tenure, Jessica worked on a wide variety of environmental and transportation planning projects, including the Juneau Access, Gravina Access, and Sterling Highway MP 45-60 projects. In 2015, Jessica returned to Seattle to join as an associate planner at Environmental Science Associates (ESA), where she works on transportation, energy, water resources, and public school projects. Jessica assists communities as they seek to balance growth with sustainable environmental, economic, and social practices.



MATT REIDER

I graduated from Western with a Planning degree in 2012. I landed my first planning position with Pacific County as Assistant Planner. My time there was invaluable as I was issuing permits, overseeing SEPA compliance, and working on code enforcement. I am currently working for Whatcom County as a Planner in the Code Compliance Division. I enforce, regulate and develop regulations with a goal of protection of the natural and built environment. While my career goals has evolved and morphed, the one thing that hasn't changed is that I like working with communities, something that was fostered early on at The College of the Environment.



KAYLEIGH KARLOVITS

After graduating from The College of the Environment with a BA in Planning in 2011, I went on to receive a MS in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa. During my time at the University of Iowa I also served as an AmeriCorps member with the City of Davenport working on community development. I then spent a year and a half as the Rock Island Field Office Coordinator for the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy to build community partnerships in an effort to bring STEM enrichment opportunities to underserved youth. I now work as a Program Analyst for the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver.



REID HAEFER

After graduating from The College of the Environment's planning program I explored several professional opportunities around the country. I secured a sustainability internship in Washington D.C., followed by another internship with a renewable energy non-profit in Colorado, before returning to the Pacific Northwest to work in a law office in Seattle. Not long after, I returned to complete a masters in urban planning. I currently work for a metropolitan planning organization, the Puget Sound Regional Council, where I do regional transportation planning and policy.



KRISTINE (dos Remedios) EDENS, AICP

Kristine has leveraged her planning background into a career focused on public engagement and strategic communications in major infrastructure projects in the Pacific Northwest. After graduating from The College of the Environment's Planning and Environmental Policy program, Kristine completed her Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Portland State University. Kristine now works at EnviroIssues, a public involvement, communications and facilitation firm based in Seattle, supporting clients on projects through the planning, design and construction phases, including land use, transportation, infrastructure, and growth and concurrency policy.



CASSANDRA SHOENMAKERS

Since obtaining her B.A. in Environmental Planning and Policy in 2007, Cassandra has worked in the private and public sectors, first as an Environmental Planner for Whatcom County for four years before moving to HDR, Inc. in Bellevue as a Regulatory Permit Specialist. Cassandra currently works for KPFF Consulting Engineers as a Planner/Assistant Project Manager for transportation projects and is pursuing a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington.



DAVID BURGESSER

Ever since joining Huxley's planning program, I've had a keen interest in transportation and mobility issues. I completed UW's Master of Urban Planning program where I focused on transportation and urban design. In my current job with the Seattle Department of Transportation, I've been able to discover the intersection of transportation and placemaking. Working with local communities, this position has allowed me to develop new programs for the City that help to activate public spaces and increase the livability of Seattle's neighborhoods.



KALIN MAGRUDER

I graduated with a degree in Planning with a minor in Sustainable Design in 2009. Upon graduating, I accepted a job with Shiels Obletz Johnsen (SOJ) a development firm based in Seattle and Portland and worked on projects including the King Street Station and the Waterfront Redevelopment. I then worked with Schuchart, a Seattle General Contractor. While at Schuchart I pursued a Certificate in Construction Management from UW in 2015. I am concurrently employed as a project engineer with Sellen Construction emphasizing green building and sustainable building practices.



KIERSTEN SAHLBERG

After graduating from Huxley's Planning Program in 2013, I started an internship with The RJ Group, where I secured a full time position as Planning Coordinator. My position has evolved from organizing meetings with consultants, completing and submitting land use applications, to managing project schedules, and coordinating responsibilities between team members to ensure that we meet our project deadlines. My focus is now in the sales of our products, including securing Purchase and Sale Agreements, coordinating insurance, and organizing the closing process. I am pursuing my Real Estate Broker's license.



SALINA LYONS, AICP

Salina is the Principal Planner for the City of Covington. She has over 14 years planning and administration experience. Salina holds a degree in Planning from Huxley College. She is a recipient of the Barbara Grace Award for Excellence in Planning and a graduate of the Urban Land Institutes Northwest Center for Sustainable Leadership. She served on the APA Puget Sound Section Board as King County Representative and President. Her essay "There's No Place Like Home" was published in Planning the Pacific Northwest, APA Planners Press, 2015.



KARISSA SMITH

I graduated in 2015 with degrees in Urban Planning, Geology and a minor in Disaster Reduction and Emergency Planning. Shortly after graduation, I was hired at the City of Renton to be the Emergency Services Outreach Coordinator. I am teaching preparedness classes, writing emergency plans, organizing trainings and exercises, and developing partnerships between the City and community groups for disaster assistance. I love that I've gotten an opportunity to apply what I learned at Huxley.



CARRIE VELDMAN

After graduating from Huxley's Planning program, Carrie went to work as a project manager with The RJ Group, working to change the negative connotation associated with developers towards solution makers for smart growth. Carrie is responsible for managing the life cycle of a project, which begins with feasibility studies, financing and planning. She coordinates the design team to ensure the vision for the project is carried out through all stakeholders of the project. Prior to working in development, Carrie worked for the Zervas Group Architects and Dawson Construction.



JENNY GODWIN

Since graduating in 2014 from Huxley with a BA in Urban Planning, Jenny has worked with CoHousing Solutions in Nevada City, CA. Her work involves promoting cohousing nationally. One of her most significant projects thus far has been leading the outreach and implementation for a new training called the 500 Communities Program, a year-long course intended to give burgeoning professionals the skills needed to launch the next 500 built cohousing communities in the U.S. She's an active contributor to the work of the Cohousing Association of the U.S., serving as Media & Blogging Coordinator for the National Conference.



PATRICK HOPPER

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Planning from Huxley in 2011. Since graduating, I have worked for the City of Bellingham Parks Department, the Washington Conservation Corps, Google Maps, the Seattle Seahawks and now as Associate Planner for the Quinalt Indian Nation, working on the Taholah Village Relocation Master Plan Project. The project involves the relocation of the lower village of Taholah beyond the tsunami inundation zone. My degree from Huxley provided me with the knowledge to not only compete in the job market, but to excel in my current position.



HAYLIE MILLER

While working on my Planning degree at Huxley College, I was employed at Eldred & Associates, a local land use consulting firm, as an Office Assistant/Assistant Planner. After I graduated in 2011 I joined SCS Engineers, an environmental consulting firm specializing in solid waste landfills, working as a Project Coordinator for nearly two years. I now work for the City of Ferndale as an Assistant Planner, responsible for current planning, current permitting, planning & environmental permit inquiries, site plan reviews, Shoreline Management, SEPA reviews, and code enforcement for the City.



ROBBY ECKROTH

Five months after graduating from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development, I accepted a position as the Assistant Planner of the Grant County Planning Department responsible for reviewing building permits for code compliance and to evaluate whether land use permits are required for proposed developments. I also review land use applications, shoreline permit applications, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) applications, boundary line adjustments, and short plat applications.



ANTHONY VENDETTI

After graduating from Huxley, Anthony spent three years in AmeriCorps working in multiple capacities including wilderness firefighting, emergency planning, and small business resilience. Upon completion of his third year, Anthony moved to New Orleans where he obtained his M.S. in Disaster Resilience Leadership from Tulane University. Anthony is now based in Seattle, WA where he works as an emergency management consultant for Integrated Solutions Consulting.



BRIAN LEE

After graduating from the Urban Planning program, Brian spent two years as a transportation planner at Toole Design Group, specializing in bicycle and pedestrian planning and design. Brian is now based in New York where he works as a project coordinator in the pedestrian wayfinding unit of the New York City Department of Transportation. He is interested in multiple transportation subject areas including bike share, transportation funding policy, and transit-oriented development.



MEREDETH PENNY

Meredith is the current president of the Northwest Section of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association. She works as a senior planner for Island County in Washington State, and is responsible for long range planning.



DANIELLE GROSS

Since graduating with a Bachelor's of Arts in Planning in 2010, I have started my career as a Staff Analyst at Boeing. In this capacity, I am responsible for supporting an executive manager and several first-line managers in the development of interiors. I examine processes to find more effective ways of working, develop satisfaction surveys, organize and facilitate meetings, and assist in the administrative functioning of the team.



KEVIN SLIGER

Kevin works as a Transit Planner for Ben Franklin Transit, which serves the Tri-Cities area in eastern Washington. As a member of the Planning & Service Development department, to improve the reliability and convenience of public transportation in our service area. Since starting at BFT, an emphasis has been put on building stronger relationships with the jurisdictions BFT serves and shifting the area's development paradigms towards planning practices that are conducive to public transportation efficiency.



NICK SUND

Nick is a member of the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program, where he coordinates community visioning and strategic planning processes for the City of Scappoose, Oregon, as well as developing a new parks and recreation master plan. Previously, he provided hazard mitigation planning and directed a disaster response training program in Clatsop County, Oregon. When he was fresh out of Huxley, he conducted research and community outreach at the City of Bellingham for the Downtown Bellingham Plan. Somewhere in the mix, he spent a few good seasons as a wilderness guide. So when he's not geeking about cities, he spends time far from them... ideally on a river!



SARAH (OISHI) LAVELLE

After Sarah graduated from Huxley she worked as an independent GIS contractor, joined AmeriCorps to work with the City of Everett Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and then supported FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division as a contractor in their Region X office. After working with FEMA, she returned to Everett OEM and is now the Emergency Planning and Operations Coordinator. Sarah manages and maintains the City's Emergency Operations Center and engages the City departments and their external partners in planning for disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.



LAURA HIGASHI-POYNTER

During my last two years at Huxley, I completed internships with Maul Foster & Alongi and Sustainable Connections. My first position was as a Land Use Planner position at Mackenzie, an engineering firm based out of Portland and Seattle. I then accepted a position with CH2M as an Environmental Planner. I work on transportation and soils cleanup projects throughout the country, and on visibility analysis models to help convey the potential visual impacts that a project could have, as well as creating a transit evaluation model to assess which transit stops would be selected for future upgrades. Loving every second of it.



ALYSSA BETTINGER

After graduating in 2013 with a degree in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development, I spent three months backpacking in Asia, where I learned about the culture and observed the planning in highly populated cities like Tokyo, Taipei, and Bangkok, to name a few. For the last year and a half, I have been working as a contractor at Google Maps, where I make fixes to the map based on user feedback. It's very interesting to work on such a high profile map, used by people all over the world. I now live in Seattle, and have seen firsthand many of the challenges the city faces with rapid population growth. Having a degree in Urban Planning from Huxley College has opened opportunities to make a difference.



KERI SHEPERD

I have worked as a tribal transportation planner since I graduated in 2007. I have worked with 3 different tribal nations. I am the secretary for the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO), board member for Washington Indian Transportation Policy Committee (WITPAC), tribal liaison and board member for Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC). I have set up tribal transit programs, worked as emergency manager, and assisted in real-estate transactions and lease negotiations. I oversee various construction projects and manage federal PL93-638 programs. I have written several master planning documents and processed FEMA disaster claims for Whatcom and Clallam counties.



PAM GRISWOLD

After graduation, Pam was hired by the King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) as an AmeriCorps Assistant. She spent the next 10 months building a strong portfolio of hands-on emergency management experience while living off of a modest monthly stipend. When her AmeriCorps term was up, she was hired as KCOEM's Training and Exercise Coordinator. During her time at the county, she worked with emergency management partners in local, county, state, tribal and federal governments to plan for a large-scale earthquake exercise occurring in June 2016. In the fall of 2015, she began working with the City of Bellevue Office of Emergency Management on training for their Emergency Operations Center. Pam finds joy in working with others to create more resilient communities and is excited about bringing her skills to the city level.



NICK BOND

Nick works as a planner with the City of Port Orchard, Washington. He is responsible for long term comprehensive planning and special project for his community and is an active member in the American Planning Association.



GRACE COFFEY

After graduating with a degree in Urban Planning from Western, Grace has worked as project coordinator for Dweller, Inc., that provides pre-fab accessory dwelling units in the Portland metro area. Using pre-fab efficiencies, Dweller provides turn-key live-in ready housing unit in five months. These units are more affordable than most ADUs. The company offers a ground-lease option for homeowners who can't access financing and finances units. Her work includes filing permits with the city, coordinating installation and inspections, assessing potential sites, and coordinating construction crews and subcontractors.



AIDAN SIMPSON

Aidan is pursuing his Master of Urban and Regional Planning at PSU. Based on his first quarter of classes, he writes, "the UPSD program set me up really well to succeed, and I regret not trying to waive my history and theory course -- I learned more from the Professor than I did in that class."



NICK SCHMECK

Nick, a 2019 graduate, was promoted to Planner for the City of Redmond's community development department. His primary role at Redmond includes project management of land use actions and entitlements.



SIERRA CARSON

Sierra graduated in 2018 and began working as a professional planner since early 2019. The past two years she has been working as a Planner for Otak, a planning, engineering, and architecture firm based in Portland. She works out of their Redmond, WA office on a wide variety of planning projects, including subarea plans, comprehensive plans, code amendments, TOD development, BRT and other transit projects, environmental and land use permitting, among other responsibilities. She passed the AICP test fall of 2020 as part of the pilot program and was using the 'AICP candidate' title since then. She will be applying for her full AICP membership this summer.



MCKENNA THOMPSON

McKenna works for the Skagit County Department of Planning and Development as a land use permit review planner. She graduated in 2019 from the UPSD program. She's engaged in rural area planning and assists applicants who have been displaced by flooding.



SIMRAN DHALIWAL

Simran is working as an Associate Land Use Consultant for Irwin Land Use Consulting, and the President and Owner of Casterra Consulting (a land use consulting business) both located in Bellingham, WA.



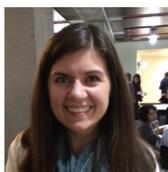
ANDREW GRAMINSKI

Andrew is working as a Planner for the City of Somerville's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, Planning, Preservation & Zoning division. His duties center on development review for projects going through the site plan approval process, and projects requiring special permits. He reviews Master Plan Special Permits for large-scale, phased developments which include high-rise buildings and civic spaces in one of the City's transformative districts. His work also includes neighborhood planning including outreach and plan development and serves as liaison to the City's Urban Design Commission.



KAYLA GRAYSON

After graduating from WWU, Kayla got her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver. While in Denver, she worked for Denver Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in the development of their emergency management outreach programs. She was hired as the Emergency Operations Officer for Bellevue College in 2014. Kayla currently does all of the emergency management work for Bellevue College, including planning, training, response, recovery, and mitigation. She is the first person to be in this position permanently. The development and implementation of emergency plans and training programs has been a large and rewarding task for her.



CASANDRA DURKIN

Upon graduating from our urban planning program, Casandra has worked at KTFE Engineers in Seattle, responsible for project environmental planning, permit review, and environmental analysis of urban development projects for clients throughout the region.



SADIE NAGLICH

Sadie graduated from WWU with a degree in UPSD in 2016. She worked for several months at Google Maps, before making her way to Thornton, Colorado, as a city planner in the current planning division. Starting as a Planning Technician and moving to Planner I. Her work involved reviewing development projects and approval of major projects. She received accolades for a presentation given to high school students on the importance of planning and presented the planning field to elementary school and middle school students. In 2021, Sadie returned to the Pacific Northwest and has been working in Vancouver, WA, in the private sector with AKS Engineering and Forestry, and currently with Hayward Uskoski & Associates as a Land Use Planner. Sadie received her AICP certification in November of 2020.