

Welcome to the NIC School!
Meet your amazing POD Leaders...



Jennifer Lamy:

I am in the Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP) concentration with a focus on food systems. I am mostly interested in agricultural innovation as it applies to food security and international sustainable development, but have also enjoyed studying domestic food policy and the world of food distribution, safety, and waste. My MP focuses on the impacts of drought-related crop failures on nutritional outcomes in Tanzania.

This summer I am a data analysis intern for the Monitoring and Evaluation team at USAID's Bureau for Food Security. I'm working on a few projects, including developing new guidelines for target-setting procedures. I'm also enjoying exploring DC, attending events on sustainable development, and rowing on the Potomac.

I graduated from Wellesley College in 2013, where I studied economics and environmental studies and rowed on the varsity crew team. I studied abroad in Kenya and Tanzania with the School for Field Studies' program in Wildlife Management Studies, which sparked my interest in the complicated world of nutrition, international development, and the environment. After graduating from college, I spent a year working in Boston and then a year helping out on farms in Tuscany. I am a vegan and a coffee addict, and I love talking about the outdoors, endurance sports, areal dance, Disney Channel Original Movies, and (you guessed it) all things food.





Eric Russman:

Hello there! My name is Eric Russman. I'm from Charlotte, NC and a 2nd year MEM in the Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health (EEH) concentration. After finishing my undergraduate degree at Duke in 2012, I worked as an environmental consultant for a geotechnical and environmental engineering firm in Charlotte. My current academic interests lie in water quality issues, toxicology, risk assessment, contamination remediation, geology, and hydrology. During the summer, I worked with the Southern Environmental Law Center through the Stanback Internship Program to address coal ash issues in Tennessee and also started work on my master's project, which will investigate the association between coal ash ponds and hexavalent chromium levels in surface and groundwater. Outside of class, I enjoy basketball watching, basketball playing, going to Durham Bulls games, exploring Durham's restaurants and bars, cooking, eating, intramural sports, and attending FOREM activities. Being a being a North Carolinian and former Duke undergrad, I am very familiar with all that Durham has to offer and I'm well versed in the "life of hacks" of attending Duke and living in Durham. I am also a Co-Head Usher for the Graduate Student section at Duke Basketball games. So, if you have questions about Duke Basketball or Duke in general, don't hesitate to ask!

Elena Clemencon-Charles:

Hi first years!

My name is Elena Clemencon-Charles and I am a second year Energy and the Environment student. I'm originally from California which is also where I got my undergraduate degree in history and math. In my free time I like to do yoga, watch copious amounts of Netflix (preferably with friends) and occasionally dabble in some light swordplay as well. Feel free to reach out and say hi anytime.





Meredith Frenchmeyer:

Hi! My name is Meredith Frenchmeyer, and I am a second year Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health MEM. I love all things toxicology and environmental Chemistry and I am planning on working in environmental consulting after this year. When I'm not at the Nic school I love watching the Durham Bulls, drinking coffee and reading on my porch, and exploring downtown Durham. Looking forward to meeting everyone!

Sarah DeLand:

My name is Sarah DeLand and I am looking forward to welcoming you to the Nic School! I am a CEM student and I am earning the geospatial analysis certificate. Growing up in Washington State, I always had a love for anything related to the oceans. To pursue this passion, I earned my Bachelor's of Science in marine biology at Western Washington University. While there, I spent a summer in Beaufort, North Carolina, working in NOAA's Protected Species Branch on sea turtle research. During that summer internship, I fell (even more) in love with sea turtles and their conservation, and wanted to help protect them. For my master's project, I am assessing the number and severity of injuries observed on female leatherbacks nesting on the beaches of the Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge in St. Croix. I spent this past summer there doing night surveys for these females and took photos of the injuries observed. I am interested in the conservation of species and their habitats, particularly of sea turtles, and in using geospatial tools to promote sustainable use of coastal environments. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, baking, hiking, and kayaking. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you, and am here to help in any way that I can!





Emily Hall:

My name is Emily Hall and I am a second year Coastal Environmental Management candidate. Being from Long Island, NY I have always loved the coast and enjoyed being on the beach as much as possible. For my undergraduate degree, I went to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY and majored in Conservation Biology. My current interests at the Nicholas School are in coastal and marine spatial planning, coastal tourism and development, and coastline agriculture. This summer I am interning at the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (part of the Stanback Internship Program) as a Land Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture Intern. In my spare time, I really enjoy being outdoors, cooking and trying new restaurants, and playing volleyball.

Justine Huetteman:

Hi y'all! My name is Justine Huetteman, and I'm a 2nd year MEM student in the Environmental Economics & Policy concentration. I'm interested in air quality management and climate change, and my goal is to work for the federal government creating and analyzing air policy. This summer, I'm interning at EPA in Washington, DC in the Office of Air and Radiation. Specifically, I'm working with the group that oversees nationwide emissions trading programs and emissions data collection. I graduated from George Washington University with a degree in Political Science in the spring of 2015. In my free time, I (shamelessly) watch a lot of Netflix, but I also enjoy reading and hanging out with friends. I grew up in Atlanta, GA, but DC has been my home for the last 5 years. I'm really looking forward to meeting y'all and helping you get acclimated to the Nic School!





Nathan Walker:

Nathan Walker is in the Ecosystem Science and Conservation concentration, and is pursuing a certificate in Geospatial Analysis. His academic interests include wildlife conservation, GIS, habitat and connectivity modeling, landscape ecology, and conservation planning. He is currently the Secretary to the Nicholas School Student Council, President of the Student Association for Geospatial Analysis, and an Event Planner for the Duke Conservation Society. Many of you may know him as the person who sent out your mentor assignments, a process that – reflecting the fact that he’s been at the Nicholas School for a year now – involved Access databases, mail merges, and R code.

Breanna Crowell:

My name is Breanna Crowell. I grew up north of Atlanta, graduated from the University of Georgia, and am now concentrating in Water Resource Management here at the Nicholas School! I worked in the Duke Wetland Center lab last year and am interested in water quality management, environmental health, watershed planning, and stream and wetland restoration. I also enjoy environmental education and outreach, so I'm hoping my future job will include that too. I took a year off in between undergrad and grad school and spent the time working in environmental education on Jekyll Island, GA, as well as at Disney's Animal Kingdom, which were both awesome experiences! For the summer, I've been interning with a non-profit called Sound Rivers that's located in Washington, NC. The organization formed from a merger between the Neuse and Pamlico-Tar River Foundations and is involved in advocacy work surrounding the conservation and protection of those two rivers which drain about 25% of North Carolina (including a good part of the Raleigh-Durham area). In my free time, I like watching sports, hiking, playing tennis, reading, and watching HGTV with my roommate Katie in our mostly undecorated apartment. I also dream about the day that Georgia football will finally win the national championship again...hopefully at some point during my lifetime.

Looking forward to meeting all of you!





Diego Calderon-Arrieta:

Hey everyone! My name is Diego Calderon-Arrieta. I'm a first-generation Peruvian-American student at this school, pursuing the Ecosystem Science & Conservation track. I have been developing skills in ArcGIS and now seeking to learn more about climate change world summits in this upcoming year. My interests include video games, swing dance, Latin dance, reading, hiking, and board games (Settlers of Catan!). Outside of the Nic School, I always attend Duke Swing's beginner lessons & social dance events at the Wilson Gym. I also go to Duke Sabrosura's lessons & social events every week, as well as go to Cuban Revolution's Thursday night salsa nights. I am also a 2nd-year representative for master's students in the Graduate & Professional Student Council (GSPC), the pan-grad/prof school student council organization, and I am on the Diversity Committee, working to improve diversity & inclusion efforts both at the Nic School and at the other 8 schools. I am currently-considering pursuing a Ph. D. education in climate justice, which is all about giving voice and representation to the disenfranchised communities of the world who are already forced to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

Katie Myers:

My name is Katie Myers and I am in the Ecosystem Science and Conservation (ESC) concentration, although I somehow seem to slip into a lot of Environmental Economics and Politics (EEP) courses. I chose ESC specifically for its emphasis on conservation—I spent my childhood frequenting State and National Parks, so natural spaces are very near and dear to me. More recently, I've been thinking about how I can bring my NicSchool know-how back to my home state of Texas. Since 97% of our land is privately owned, I've been looking a lot at the tools that conservationists can use when working with private landowners to encourage stewardship of natural resources and ecological systems. This summer, I went back to my hometown of Austin to work for a nonprofit that connects with landowners in the Hill Country region on a number of natural resource issues, most prominently watershed management. I hope to fold this experience into my Master's Project on private lands conservation.





Kristin Murphy:

Hi everyone! My name is Kristin Murphy and I'm a second year MEM with an EEP concentration, focusing on the policies surrounding public lands and national parks. This summer I had a Stanback Internship at the National Parks Conservation Association in DC, currently I'm involved in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Next Generation Advisory Council, and previously I've worked for the National Park Service in Canyonlands National Park. At Duke I'm a Cameron Crazy, on the leadership board for Nicholas School Naturalists (AKA NicNats, you all should join and go on outdoor adventures with me!), and the Orientation Event Coordinator for the Nicholas School Student Council which means you'll be seeing a lot of me Orientation week! I graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2014, where I studied abroad in New Zealand and learned more than I ever wanted to know about Lord of the Rings (jk I wanted to know it all). I originally hail from the suburbs of Chicago, and my interests include eating deep dish pizza, taking my camera with me on long hikes, knitting, and rooting for Chicago sports fan (especially the Cubbies) and Fighting Illini basketball.

I can't wait to meet you all and I'm happy to answer any questions that you have!

Spenser Cote:

Greetings, my name is Spenser Cote! I am an EEH whose primary focus involves water quality and related issues, especially with concern to energy production. Originally from South Carolina, feel free to stop me at any time with any questions/concerns and I promise they will be well-received. In my free time you can find me exploring the greater triangle area, at the breweries/bars, playing some form of sports, or just reading! I'm looking forward to being your POD leader and helping with anything you need to get settled in!





Janesha Hassaram:

Hello, first years; welcome to Duke! I am Janesha, and am thrilled to be your Pod leader during orientation week! I was born in India and moved to Raleigh, North Carolina when I was about 2 years old and have been here most of my life. So you can say Carolina Pride runs through my veins. I double majored in Economics and Environmental Studies at UNCG, where I did my undergrad. I wanted to expand my knowledge and still focus on environmental economics while building up my network, so I chose Duke to continue my education and gain additional skills one year after I graduated. I am in the EEP concentration, hoping to gain the GIS certificate upon graduation. I am extremely passionate about energy efficiency, environmental economics, statistics and data analysis, energy markets, and the water-energy nexus. I am also the Communications and Outreach board member of the Nicholas School Energy Club. I work part-time as a Kohl's associate as well. Some of my favorite activities outside the Nic school include hiking, lifting, roller skating, cooking, reading, watching movies, and drawing. I enjoy classic rock, metal, country, and Bollywood music. But...the most important hobby for me is FOOTBALL! You'll soon learn that I'm the biggest Carolina Panther fan that exists. I'm also a pretty big basketball fan. With that said, you just might see me in the computer labs setting up my fantasy. I am very excited to meet each and every one of you! Please feel free to ask me any kinds of questions you have before, during and after orientation week about anything. Safe travels to Durham!

Emily Mills:

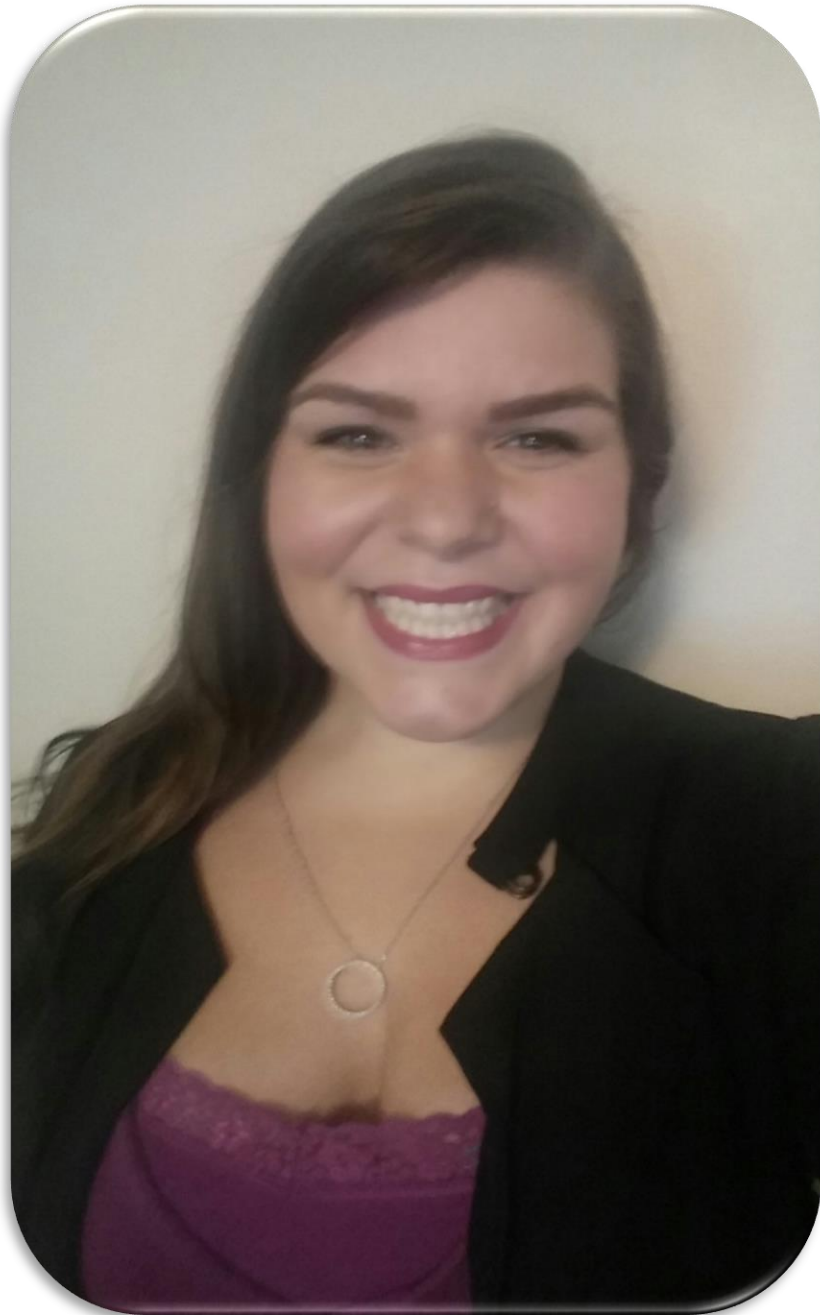
Hey there incoming MEM's—

My name is Emily Mills and I am a second year MEM in the Ecosystem Science and Conservation concentration. I am also pursuing the Geospatial Analysis certificate. I'm originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and went to THE Ohio State University for undergrad—Go Bucks! I am interested in using and sharing geospatial tools to inform conservation strategies for charismatic megafauna. One of the reasons I chose Duke is my interest in international conservation and there are so many great opportunities to work with professors doing international work at the Nicholas School. During my first year, I got involved through an assistantship with John Poulsen's tropical ecology lab doing data management for carbon plots and wildlife transects. As I write this, I am in Gabon doing fieldwork for my Master's project, which focuses on modeling habitat and analyzing movements of forest elephants in Wonga Wongue Presidential Reserve.

At the Nicholas School, I am involved in intramural sports, Duke Conservation Society and FOREM, the Nicholas School social group. I also led the Environmental Internship Fund this past year, which is run by first years to fundraise for MEM students' summer internships. When I am not in the computer lab doing GIS, I love exploring Durham's local food and brewery scenes. I also like birding, hiking, traveling and cooking. My favorite Disney movie is the Lion King, my secret talent is setting record winning times in Minesweeper, and I love Chipotle. If you have any questions about anything, really ANYTHING, please don't hesitate to reach out. Be patient for a response as I have intermittent Internet access ☺ I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the fall!

Contact: emily.c.mills@duke.edu





Lili Pita:

Hey, I'm Lili a second-year EEP focusing on corporate sustainability and supply chain. This past summer I had the opportunity to intern at Spectrum Brands in Madison, Wisconsin - it was a great opportunity for me to get real-world experience and I learned a ton. I love being involved at the Nic School - I'm currently Co-President of the newly founded Nicholas School Net Impact Chapter, Co-President of the Black and Latino Club, and Communications Officer for the Nic School Student Council. While not busy with work or extracurricular activities, I love exploring the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area. There is always so much to do – breweries, concerts, great hiking trails, festivals, restaurants galore. While I'm originally from Miami, Florida, I have been in the Raleigh-Durham area for a while, so if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask!

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful POD leaders for their willingness to help new students as they become acclimated to life at the Nic School and in Durham!

