

# Hosting Geneseo Interns

## Benefits for All

### Who is Stell Environmental Enterprises, Inc.?

Stell Environmental Enterprises, Inc. (SEE) is a woman-owned 8(a) Certified Small Disadvantaged Business providing environmental services nationwide, including restoration, compliance, NEPA, cultural and natural resources support, and planning. SEE is dedicated to improving the quality of life for current and future generations by providing expertise and knowledge to advance a healthy sustainable planet.

***"I challenge other alumni to initiate a similar program at their company. We all received help along our educational and professional journey. Helping the next generation of Geologists is our responsibility. Have you done your part?"***

***—Mary Jane Stell, class of '85***



Intern Christa Stell assisting a driller in the installation of groundwater monitoring well.

SUNY Geneseo Geology Department Alumna, Mary Jane Stell '85, chose a unique way to give back to her alma mater. For the last two summers, a paid summer internship has been made available exclusively to a Geneseo Geology student at her company, Stell Environmental Enterprises, Inc. (SEE). Interns at SEE have been given a taste of working as a geologist in the environmental field. "I believe the student, Geology Department, University, and company all benefit from this relationship."

### Benefits for the Intern

Internships have allowed students to apply classroom knowledge as well as gain valuable skills and experience unique to the workplace. This particular opportunity offers interns summer employment in a field which fits their career path; a job which allows a student to glimpse into the professional world. Former SEE intern Bethany Malenick '12 recalls, "My internship allowed me to gain insight into an actual career that could be obtained with my degree in geology. This experience was something that could not have been taught in a classroom. My knowledge of geology grew significantly through job and project experience in the consulting field. It was rewarding to put some of my knowledge into practice and at the same time cultivate and grow it with the help of numerous professionals that I was privileged to work alongside. I learned to look at geology in a different, and perhaps more practical light. In addition, I was able to learn about the business world. I came home with a number of valuable skills that included fieldwork and office work. The responsibility that I received at my internship improved my confidence and eased my fears of not being prepared to join the working world once my degree was complete. I learned how to be a coworker and be a valuable part of an office environment."

Students often hold summer employment; Bethany Malenick was used to holding only local seasonal jobs to make additional money. A paid summer internship has helped students earn money while gaining experience in a relevant field. The financial benefit has helped students excel in other areas of their education. Former SEE intern Christa Stell '13 used the money from her internship to pay for her Geology Department sponsored trip to Puerto Rico, which will be occurring in January 2013.

After Bethany Malenick finished her undergraduate study at Geneseo, she applied and was accepted into graduate school to continue her study. She claims, "Although I cannot speak for the graduate school committees, I think that having this internship, or any internship on your resume, speaks volumes about the applicant. I think that my internship showed that I was ambitious and eager to learn new things. My internship also proved that I had a dedication and commitment to work and was not afraid to move out of my comfort zone, both in trying a new experience and in the willingness to leave my home for the summer. I think all these things are crucial to becoming a valuable graduate student. In my case, I think my internship experience played a large role in my acceptance into numerous graduate school programs and also in gaining assistantships at these schools."

Though Christa Stell is finishing her undergraduate degree at Geneseo, she is anticipating a graduate school program; “This internship has made me better prepared for grad school and future jobs. Going into my internship I had no idea what I would want to study in grad school or what type of work I wanted to do post schooling. Now I have a much clearer idea of what I want to do once I graduate in the spring. I look forward to earning a graduate degree in Geology, focusing in either hydrogeology or petrology.”

Networking for undergraduate students can mean many benefits after graduation—acceptance into graduate school, locating an opening in a company, obtaining employment in a company, or seeking assistance from former co-workers. Bethany Malenick realizes the real possibilities of networking; “Through my internship, I was able to form valuable relationships and gain knowledge from professionals in all backgrounds. These relationships are extremely valuable for my future as I look to my former co-workers for help and advice. Increasing your network is important for any student and an internship is a great way to do just that.” These types of internships allow for students to network early in their career, giving them a competitive advantage over peers who did not complete internships.

### Benefits for the Geology Department

Mary Jane Stell believes that student internships will benefit the Geology Department by increasing the number of students applying for admission. “The possibility of a student being selected for a paid internship will provide a differentiator for the Geology Department to attract the best and brightest students. The success of students like Bethany and Christa can reflect well on the department and can assist in attracting and developing a higher caliber of student. This could positively influence enrollment, professional geologist alumni working in the profession, and alumni loyalty encouraging future donations to the Geology Department and the University as a whole.”

Ms. Stell hopes that other alumni will follow this path to give back to the Geology Department and SUNY Geneseo. “I would like to see the Geology Department and the University award college credit for the time spent in the internship program. This would provide the students with an additional benefit, again making SUNY Geneseo and its Geology Department stand out among its peers.”

### Benefits for the University

When schools open up paid summer internships, potential students notice. With the rising costs of tuition nationwide, more students are seeking the opportunity to gain experience in their field while earning extra money which could be used toward offsetting the costs of a college education. These advertised internships can attract high caliber potential students to Geneseo over its’ competitors.

After students like Bethany and Christa complete a professional internship, they become more highly qualified in their field and can become quality Geneseo ambassadors in graduate schools and in the workplace. Successful alumni that attribute their success in part to SUNY Geneseo will likely remain long term supporters of the University.

### Benefits for the Hosting Company

Companies hosting Geneseo students can also expect to benefit from this program. Hosting interns can be a way to hire quality and relatively inexpensive short-term employees who can bring in new perspectives, fresh ideas, and specialized strengths. Mary Jane Stell looks at an internship program as a way to vet, train and develop potential future permanent employees; “It is an excellent way to identify how a potential employee will develop professionally and fit in with the company. This reduces the risk of hiring someone that will not work out.” She also believes that even if a student does not work for SEE after graduation, the company has helped develop a future professional who can benefit the field and could one day become a colleague or collaborator.



Intern Christa Stell examining a soil boring to complete a lithographic log.



Intern Bethany Malenick working with a SEE Wetland Specialist to identify and delineate wetlands.

### Involvement

Internships will continue to be an important facet of summers at SEE; students wishing to apply for a position as a summer intern should contact Stephen Bell: [sbell@stellee.com](mailto:sbell@stellee.com).

Companies interested in setting up Geneseo students for internships should contact Mary Jane Stell: [mjstell@stellee.com](mailto:mjstell@stellee.com).