**Allison Kaplan BSc Geological Sciences 2006**

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**Why Geology?**

I entered Rutgers as an Art Major in 2006. I realized I needed to take two science classes to fulfill the core curriculum requirements for an undergraduate degree. Since I loved Earth Science in High School, I signed up for and introductory Geology class.

Professor Wright taught Intro to Geology II at the time, which focused on the creation of the universe, our solar system and earth from the Big Bang through the present day. I was instantly fascinated by the theories of the universe and loved learning the origins of life on earth.

I approached Professor Wright one day after lecture to discuss the possibility of minoring in Geology and to see if he had any words of advice. He immediately encouraged me to go for the major instead of the minor and with some additional encouragement, I went for it.

**Plans for the future:**

I hope to gain additional project management experience and advance my career within my chosen career path.

**What I am doing now:**

I was not interesting in continuing on to graduate school and knew that employment would be the best next step for me. During my senior year, I reached out to several professors to begin making connections for potential employment after graduation. Prof. Ashley was able to connect me with a fellow graduate of the Rutgers Geology department who owned an environmental consulting firm in the area. I was hired by Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. in July 2006. Since then, I have moved up through the company from Staff Scientist to Project Manager.