

Alumni Panels – TCNJ Physicists Paths to Jobs

Guest Panelists:

April 6:

Bill Donovan (2008) - Engineering manager for Thorlabs' Advanced Photonics Division. In this role Bill oversees a team of engineers and manufacturing processes related to fiber and free-space optical components and sub-assemblies. Bill started at Thorlabs over 12 years ago as an optical design engineer, where he designed custom optics and optical systems to meet customers application needs and many of the optics you will find in the [Thorlabs catalog](#) today. Thorlabs is a leading designer and manufacturer of photonics equipment for research, manufacturing, and biomedical applications. Founded in 1989, Thorlabs is headquartered in Newton, New Jersey with over 1800 employees at manufacturing and sales offices in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, Japan, China, and Brazil. As a vertically integrated company we design, develop, and manufacture our product portfolio of over 20,000 items.

Nicholas Freschi (2016) – Associate and energy markets consultant at Gabel Associates, which is an energy, environment and utility consulting firm. I work with a lot of different organizations, from non-profits to Wall Street, Silicon Valley and even the US military, to help them understand the economics of energy. My day-to-day varies from going to the New Jersey Statehouse to advocate for a new utility policy to building machine learning models to forecast revenues for giant battery storage projects. After winning Mayo Business Plan Competition my senior year at TCNJ, I tried starting a couple of companies, worked for an early-stage energy startup, and lived in Taiwan while writing about nuclear energy issues before settling on my current job.

Jason Malatesta (2002) - leads Partnerships & Licensing at Dow Jones & Company. Jason manages a team responsible for creating meaningful partnerships to power the commercial services and products of hundreds of Dow Jones partners such as Bloomberg, ProQuest, & Lexis Nexis. Jason's team also brings in content and data to power Dow Jones products and services. Dow Jones is a global provider of news and business information for nearly 140 years, producing leading publications and products including the Wall Street Journal, America's largest newspaper by paid circulation; Factiva, Dow Jones Newswires, Barron's, MarketWatch, Mansion Global, Financial News, and Dow Jones Risk & Compliance. Received an MBA from Rutgers University, Camden in 2007.

Shannon Springstead (2020) - Project Coordinator at John Springstead Construction, LLC. We build custom residential homes in the Bergen County area. I am specifically in charge of estimating materials for potential jobs, ordering material for current jobs, and daily office administration.

Joseph Stassi (2020) - Physical Scientist at Signature Science, LLC. I am involved in working with CT scan strategies for transportation security. In other words, understanding transportation scanning systems that are based on computed tomography and how they could be improved. In

addition, I develop simulants for lab experiments and scanning in order to mitigate the risk of lab work itself.

Jared Talbot (2008) Senior Project Manager at Edmund Optics. Works in the Engineering department. In his role Jared oversees the internal development projects for catalog and custom optical assemblies (imaging lenses, laser beam expanders, microscope objectives, etc.). Jared started at Edmund Optics over 8 years ago and has had the pleasure of working with customers in a variety of application spaces including autonomous vehicles, life sciences, defense, and semiconductor. Edmund Optics® (EO) has been a leading global manufacturer and supplier of optics, imaging, and photonics technology that has served a variety of markets including Life Sciences, Biomedical, Industrial Inspection, Semiconductor, R&D, and Defense since 1942. The company employs over 1,000 employees in more than nine countries across the globe and continues to expand. Completed an M. S. in Optical Sciences (University of Arizona).

April 23:

Geena Elghossain (2019) – Systems Engineer at Lockheed Martin. I do systems level analysis on the Aegis Combat System at Lockheed Martin. Aegis is the defense systems on Destroyers and Cruisers for the United States Navy. Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 110,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. Currently in an M.S. in Applied Mathematics program at John Hopkins University.

Kyle Gilroy (2011) - Applications Engineer at Applications Engineer at Vision Research - Phantom High-Speed Imaging. We design, engineer and manufacture phantom high-speed cameras for scientific imaging. I consult on imaging projects, develop imaging applications, analyze high speed images, train users, travel the world, have some fun. Received a Ph. D. in Engineering from Temple University in 2015.

Noelle Gothardt (2011) – Senior Insider Threat Analyst at Nike. After graduating from TCNJ I subsequently worked as a Manufacturing Engineer at Thorlabs, a Business Analyst at various companies, a High School Physics Teacher, and an FBI Special Agent. I currently work in Insider Threat Nike trying to stop people from stealing show foam formulas.

Michelle Reno (2000) - Assistant vice president for operations for the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, a Department of Energy National Laboratory. In this role I provide oversight and governance of the Lab on behalf of Princeton University and manage the contract between the University and DOE. I graduated with a degree in Physics and a minor in Fine Arts. I went on to get a Masters in Applied Physics from the University of Michigan, where I researched Magnetospheric dynamics and lead small teams of students in arctic field work. Later I managed science and mission operations on NASA missions of discovery such as IBEX, New Horizons, and Juno, first at Southwest Research Institute and then under my own company Austin Mission Consulting.

Julian Starr (2012) - Corporate Strategy Manager at [Procore](#), an industry-leading construction management platform. Our Corporate Strategy team is responsible for assessing long-term opportunities, developing growth strategies for Procore, and driving alignment across the business as we execute on our strategy. Before Procore, I was the Director of Operations for SiteCompli, a small SaaS company that helped NYC building owners manage their properties. I received my Masters degree in Physics from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2014.