As a ‘green’ professional, new career and industry options are materializing rapidly. Many career options exist today that didn’t even a year or two ago.”

How can students benefit from learning to network at a networking night?

When I was an Emory student, I didn’t realize networking nights were important enough to seek out. In fact, this event didn’t even exist when I first started at Emory in 2006. Now, Green Networking Night is an event that attracts dozens of green professionals and more than 150 students. It’s a great place to learn more about the industry, to practice networking, and to forge lasting relationships.

Even if you’re not even sure you want a career path in sustainability or environmentalism, there is no risk in coming to explore. Networking is one of the most valuable skills you’ll learn to help launch your professional career, no matter what industry or field you eventually pursue.

Networking can be a nerve-wracking experience for some, especially those who’ve never done it before. Being nervous is ok. But remember, professionals who attend networking events are there for a reason - they are excited to meet young people who are interested in the same things. They enjoy hearing about your interests and hope to provide you with some guidance or advice based on their own experiences.

Take the time to review the bios of some of the professionals who are coming. If one or two spark your interest, seek them out and get to know them. Most professionals would be glad to keep in touch with you after the event and can be a great resource for you going forward.

What do you personally enjoy about speaking to students at Green Networking Night?

I get great pleasure from learning about the different career paths students are interested in. I absolutely love when students follow up with me afterwards and we’re able to keep in touch. Being a mentor to someone, I love hearing more about their career aspirations and offering my help and guidance; after all, I still remember the feeling of wondering where my career was going and how I would parlay my interests into my professional life! At every Green Networking Night I’ve attended as a professional, I have learned about at least one new career path or facet of the industry I’ve never even heard of – so it’s an educational experience for me, too.