Name: Julian Goresko

Years at Penn: 11 (counting my years as a student)
Years at FRES: 7

Job title (and brief description of job duties):

I serve as the Sustainability Outreach Manager for FRES. My role is to interface with both students and staff to help promote a culture of sustainability on Penn’s campus and develop programs that educate and foster change to improve the University’s environmental footprint.

Have you taken any classes, received a degree, or attended any lectures at Penn? If so, please describe... I received my Masters of Environmental Studies degree and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Administration from the Fels Institute of Government while working at FRES.

What is your proudest achievement, personal or while working at Penn?

I am extremely proud of the work I’ve been involved with to help establish Penn’s first team of sustainability professionals helping to improve the University’s environmental practices as part of President Gutmann’s Climate Action Plan. When I started working for Penn in 2009, there was one full-time employee and some efforts happening to conserve resources across campus, but there wasn’t a cohesive plan or office in place. Since that time, our team has grown to four full-time employees, and I’ve been able to play a role in developing university-wide goals, programs, and stakeholder relationships that will have a lasting impact on the institution for years to come.
Favorite place on campus to eat/drink? ...to shop? ...to sit quietly? ...to gather with friends/coworkers?

I have a handful of favorite locations around campus. Van Pelt library reminds me of my academic work as an undergrad and is a place I always enjoy visiting. Being surrounded by books and students reminds me of the importance of learning new things and Penn’s foremost purpose as an academic institution. Penn Park has also quickly become one of my favorite destinations, and I frequently walk through the park on my way to meetings to spend some time in nature, see the city skyline, or to visit the new fruit orchard and apiary. For lunch, you can usually find me getting a burrito at MexiPhilly on Spruce St.

What characteristic or trait do you most value in your colleagues?

Openness to change is something I strongly value when working with colleagues. Since sustainability is a change-based field, it requires partners that are open to new ways of doing things. I often find that my ability to affect change in my role is directly tied to the mindset of the individuals that I work with each week. Rather than focusing on barriers, keeping an open mind to new possibilities is what often leads to innovative partnerships that supports the Penn’s environmental goals.