

## **Chris Moore ('09) lives in Sweden**

*Chris Moore was born in Bridgeton, NJ. He grew up in Vineland, NJ. His father was an accountant for the Millville housing authority, retired. His mother is a teacher at Bridgeton High School. Both graduated from Rowan when it was Glassboro State College. His brother went to school for culinary arts and now runs his own business doing real estate photography.*



*Chris graduated from Rowan's Civil and Environmental Engineering department in 2009. His first job was in stormwater management design for Irving Design Group in Haddon Heights, NJ, a landscaping architect company. This included a good deal of field work. After about a year he switched to sustainability consulting, first for Ecolibrium Group in Philadelphia then for the Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC). He helped businesses reduce emissions and save energy. At the same time, Chris completed a Master's in Sustainable Design at Boston Architectural College, finishing in 2013. It was a hybrid degree. Most courses were online, but each semester included an intensive five-day experience on campus in Boston, MA. Chris planned to stay at DVGBC, but Professor Everett let him know about a job as Energy Manager at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (NJDMAVA), in Lawrenceville, NJ. He started there in 2013 and stayed for four years. He was responsible for implementing energy efficiency projects at NJDMAVA facilities across New Jersey. During the same time, Chris was also an adjunct professor at Rowan for the "Sustainable Technology for the Built Environment" and "Sustainable Buildings" courses.*

*At NJDMAVA Chris often worked with Professors Everett and Riddell, who conducted building energy audits as part of Rowan Engineering Clinic<sup>1</sup> classes. The Audit clinics started the process that led to the 2018 creation of the Sustainable Facilities Center<sup>2</sup> at Rowan University in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department.*

*In 2017, Chris became the Energy Specialist for IKEA US, working out of Conshohocken, PA. He led the energy management efforts for all 50+ IKEA stores in the United States, implementing efficiency projects that included stormwater management, LED lighting, solar energy arrays, and HVAC controls. Chris was instrumental in obtaining a \$3.4 million grant from the Philadelphia Water Department to implement sustainable stormwater management strategies at the Philadelphia, PA store that also saved \$80,000 per year in stormwater fees. He implemented a new utility bill payment process that avoided \$80,000 per year in late fees. Projects to install LED lights in stores saved money on electric bills and often received rebates.*

*After two years, Chris became Facility Management Leader for Energy, Water and Emissions Management for 600+ IKEA stores, warehouses, shopping centers, and offices worldwide (representing thirty countries) and leads nine IKEA energy specialists that each work with a cluster of countries. Chris is a Certified Energy Manager<sup>3</sup> (Association of Energy Engineers) and LEED Green Associate<sup>4</sup> (USGBC).*

*Chris, along with his wife and three children, moved to Sweden in 2019 for his current role. Though his kids are now fluent in Swedish, the language at IKEA HQ is mostly English, and Chris is still working on his Swedish. The family likes Sweden very much. His son was only 2 months old when they moved so he is more Swedish than American at this point. They just obtained permanent residence status and plan to apply for joint citizenship soon. They live in Malmö city and haven't had (or needed) a car the entire time. They have a cargo bike for transporting the kids around and doing errands and the train and bus system is superb. Unfortunately, six months into the job, Covid hit. That delayed some things, such as the adults continuing language classes to become fluent. Since the pandemic ended, they have been traveling around Europe, to cities like London, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Copenhagen.*

*[Editor's note: Professor Everett also likes Sweden very much, having lived there for two months in 1991 and six in 2006. He also owns a cargo bike, though his was made in the US. No discussion of Sweden is complete without mentioning Fika, the coffee break that all Swedes take at home or work. Fika is a chance to slow down and socialize. If you want to know more about FIKA, talk to Chris or Jess!]*

I started college in the New Jersey Stars<sup>5</sup> program, at Cumberland County College (CCC) which merged with Rowan in 2019 and its now the Rowan College of South Jersey. I wanted to be an architect, but CCC only had engineering. I was good at math, so I decided that was close enough. I'm glad I did as I find my strengths are more in problem solving. After completing my associate degree, I transferred to Rowan because it was ranked high in Engineering, and I was attracted to the Engineering Clinic. I wanted to work on real projects in school. The location was also ideal, and I was able to commute from Vineland. I met my (now) wife in high school, but she also went to Rowan. I worked part-time all four years of college (full time in summer) installing security and fire alarms.

I chose Civil & Environmental Engineering because I felt it was a natural fit for my interests and skills. When I was younger Legos were my favorite toy and I enjoyed all of the SimCity games. I liked building and designing things. I also felt strongly about protecting our environment and sustainability.

The Clinic classes were very important for me. I did all of my junior and senior Engineering Clinics with professors Riddell and Everett. My Junior year I worked on farm energy audits and wind studies. I learned from the professors and senior students. As a Senior, I took a leadership role and helped the Juniors learn how to complete energy audits for NJDMAVA and the Atlantic County Utility Authority.

Engineering Clinic, especially the energy audit for NJDMAVA, gave me the knowledge and connections that helped me get the NJDMAVA job, which in turn led to the position at IKEA. I'm proud that as the Energy Manager at NJDMAVA I helped continue to strengthen the Rowan-NJDMAVA connection and win awards. I really enjoy my current job with IKEA because I get to work with professionals from all around the world and have a large positive impact by helping reduce the environmental impact of the world's largest furniture retailer. In addition, living overseas has expanded my view of the world and helped me grow as a person. We enjoy living in Sweden and I'm glad I've gotten this opportunity for myself and my family.

My time at Rowan was good for so many reasons. I don't think I would be where I am today without the things I learned and the connections I made at Rowan. I would choose Rowan again.

*Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-3-1*

1. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering's place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.

2. The Sustainable Facilities Center at Rowan University helps clients sustainably manage more than 2.5 million square feet of building area annually. The center has three full time staff, four graduate students, engineering faculty affiliates from three departments, and from ~15 to 24 undergraduates assisting at any given time through Engineering Clinics or as paid summer interns.

3. "A Certified Energy Manager is an individual who optimizes the energy performance of a facility, building, or industrial plant." The Association of Energy Engineers is "a network of over 17,000 members and 32,000 certified individuals, in over 105 countries."

4. "LEED Green Associates are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and implement green building practices in your workplace and community." The US Green Building Council works "to transform how buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated to create thriving, healthy, equitable, and resilient places that advance human and environmental wellbeing."

5. "The NJ STARS award covers the cost of tuition, less any State and/or Federal grants and scholarships, for up to five semesters...New Jersey residents, who rank in the top 15.0% of their class at the end of either junior or senior year of high school are potentially eligible for the NJ STARS Program."