

ALUMNI Spotlight

Olivia Fuller '10

What was your college and career path?

I attended University at Albany (SUNY) with the intention of becoming a journalist. I've always loved writing, and I thought that would be the most practical way for me to be a writer. But towards the end of my freshman year, it became clear to me that I needed to go in a different direction. I was just learning about the broader study of Communications and the specializations of Public Relations and Marketing, so I switched my major and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications in 2014. For the past seven years I have been the New York Communications Manager at American Farmland Trust. Working in communications allows me to use my creative talents to share information and inspire action that serves my organization's mission to protect farmland, keep farmers on the land, and promote sound farming practices.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Honestly, the biggest accomplishment has been finding a

job where I'm happy and feel like my daily work contributes to something I care about - the future of farming. More specific accomplishments have been being invited to speak publicly about my experience as a next generation farmer to an audience of state legislators and other professionals and joining the Board of Directors for my local land trust, Agricultural Stewardship Association.

What do you like to do outside of work/school?

In addition to my job with American Farmland Trust, I'm also working to grow our family's farm business. Being able to work remotely most days has allowed me to spend more time farming and being outside with our livestock. I enjoy spending time in our woods, hiking and foraging for mushrooms and edible plants in late spring through fall, and putting out sap lines and preparing for the maple season in winter and early spring. In the future, my hope is to share more of our farm with



the community with on-farm events and a small farm store to purchase products from our farm and other local farmers and artisans.

What activities/sports did you participate in while at Fort Ann Central School?

I participated in Key Club, Honor Society, Soccer, and Academic Bowl.

What is your fondest memory of your time at Fort Ann Central School?

My fondest memories of FACS were with my best friends spending free periods and lunch in the Music and Art rooms. Also, the infamous Mr. Fisher randomly visiting our classrooms and lunch tables. He was the best - and he was my dad's high school band teacher!

Advice from Olivia

"Be open to change and trying out different types of work. You might have a decent idea of what you'd like to do after high school, but once you're out in the world there are so many more pathways than you could have realized - don't think of there being just one right way to go. I was always passionate about farming, but I never thought I'd be able to find a job where I could combine that with my love of writing. Lean into your interests, there might be opportunities you haven't imagined, or that are waiting for you to create them!"