



Career Profile: Casey Schuyler

Company: DayStar Technologies

By Jennifer Lynch

On the cutting edge of science and the solar industry, a 19-year-old works to improve the function and utilization of a solar cell. Through trial and error, Casey Schuyler, a research validation technician at DayStar Technologies in Halfmoon, NY, strives to reach perfection.

Between working 30 hours a week at DayStar, and spending at least 54 hours at school, Schuyler has little time otherwise. But compared to his friends who work as waiters or bus boys, the feeling of being a step ahead is worth the time.

When he does get a break from work and school, you can find him skiing, surfing, or playing baseball.

Schuyler is currently attending Hudson Valley Community College, hoping to graduate with a degree in solar manufacturing in spring 2008.



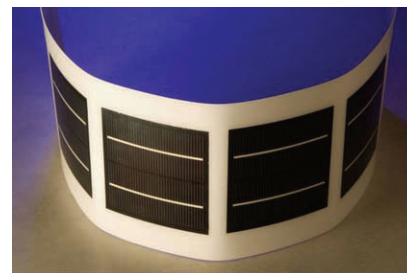
Photovoltaic Installation in Germany

Tell us about where you work, and give us a description about the product they manufacture.

I work for DayStar Technologies. DayStar is a newly started manufacturer of CIGS solar cells. We make a thin film solar cell that does not contain any silicon unlike most of the industry.

What kind of work do you do?

I am a research validation technician. Essentially I am posed with the problem of either validating or disproving various hypotheses through a series of tests. My results help determine the answers to some important questions that arise in research and development.



DayStar Technologies Solar Cells

Career Profile: Casey Schuyler

Company: DayStar Technologies

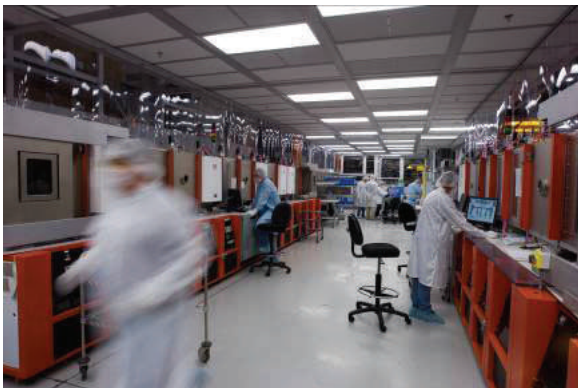
Does your job require ongoing training and certifications?

The industry is fairly new in terms of curriculum for schools. The whole business has only been around for a little over three decades, which makes updated textbooks hard to come by. I am currently enrolled at Hudson Valley Community College in their Semi Conductor Manufacturing Technology Program. This Associates degree will train me specifically for the solar industry, and give me a better understanding about the overall process of solar manufacturing.

“It's a win, win situation, you get power, and Mother Nature gets a break.”

How did you end up working for a renewable energy company?

My father has worked in the industry ever since I can remember. I used to install systems with him in very remote places. He always taught me the importance of renewable energy and its overall effect on the world we live in. It wasn't until I began working full time that I discovered that solar was my passion, and is what I want to do as a profession.



DayStar Technologies Factory Lab

Where do you see yourself in the RE industry in the future?

Hopefully at the top, but more importantly, I would just like to make a positive impression among the industry. There are so many energy problems that can be solved by solar. It has an amazing potential,

but until companies, people and the government embrace renewable energy, there will not be changes. People need to be informed of the benefits that can be obtained by using renewable energy.

Where do you see yourself in the RE industry in the future?

Hopefully at the top, but more importantly, I would just like to make a positive impression among the industry. There are so many energy problems that can be solved by solar. It has an amazing potential, but until companies, people and the government embrace renewable energy, there will not be changes. People need to be informed of the benefits that can be obtained by using renewable energy.

Career Profile: Casey Schuyler

Company: DayStar Technologies

What are your thoughts on global warming and the solutions renewable energy can provide to mitigate CO2 growth?

BUY SOLAR! No bi-products. Clean, fun, renewable energy. Who doesn't like that? It's a win-win situation, you get power, and Mother Nature gets a break.

Do you have a mentor or teacher that has been particularly influential in your career development?

Anyone who embraces the idea of renewable energy is influential in his or her own way. The idea of renewable energy makes sense to a lot of people for a lot of different reasons. The main focus however, is that it is beneficial. I think anyone who takes the time to understand and appreciate renewable energy is an influential person in one way or another.



Casey working at DayStar Technologies

“The money is in the science, and if you can realize that, then you're already halfway there.”

What is your advice to young people currently in high school and college interested in working in the renewable energy industry?

Solar is the future. With the world dependency on petroleum products ever increasing, we see the need for another alternative option. That option has been around but under utilized. Solar has the potential to completely change the world's energy markets. Now we have billionaire oil tycoons, but soon a wave of billionaire solar tycoons will emerge. The money is in the science, and if you can realize that, then you are already halfway there.



Jennifer Lynch is a student at Syracuse University, in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. With a major in public relations and minor in finance, she hopes to become involved in investor relations. On campus, she is involved in DanceWorks and Greek life, and is currently the Director of Public Relations for the Delta Gamma women's Fraternity.