

**Stephanie Lengemann Overview:****Education**

Stetson, Bachelor of Science Physics, 2011

UF, Master of Science, Electrical Engineering, 2013

**Professional Experience**

Saft America, Senior Program Manager and Team Lead, 2017 – present

Verigo, Director of Operations, 2014 – 2016

UF Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, 2011 – 2013

Links on Projects and Saft:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7221668550908739584/>

<https://totalenergies.com/news/news/roads-carbon-neutral-season-4-episode-3-danish-fields-charging-batteries-texas-sun>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/saft\\_weenergizetheworld-activity-7295050515388788736-PLl0?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop&rcm=ACoAABjqWz0B4ckbOmiBK7cObDF6hvP9nU6JnOA](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/saft_weenergizetheworld-activity-7295050515388788736-PLl0?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABjqWz0B4ckbOmiBK7cObDF6hvP9nU6JnOA)

**Open Letter:**

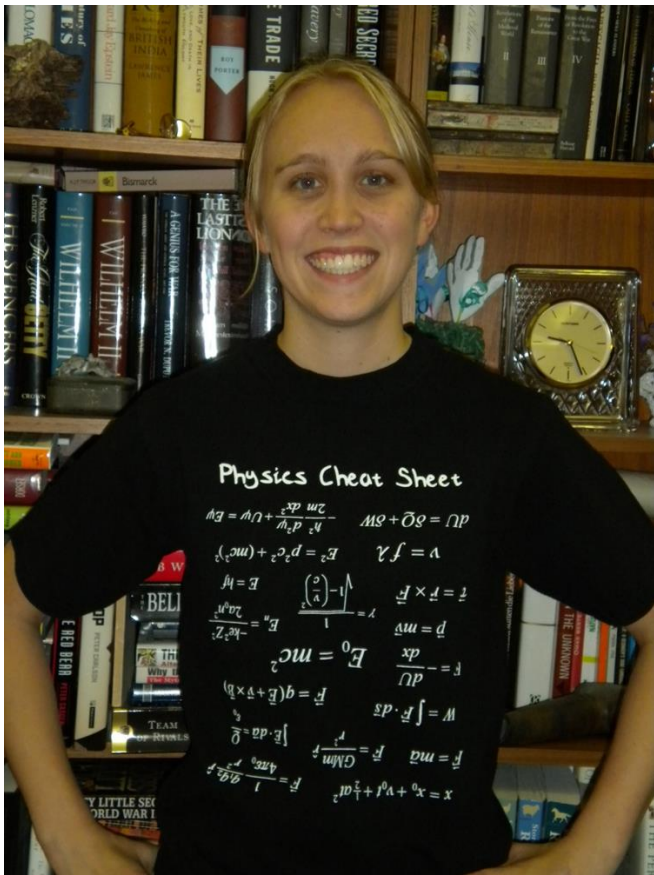
I am currently a Senior Program Manager and Team Lead for the America's Region in the Energy Storage Systems (ESS) Division at Saft. Saft is a 100-year-old battery manufacturer based in France and owned by TotalEnergies. We design and build batteries with various applications from space to railway to Formula 1 racing to ESS. My division deploys li-ion battery systems for large scale renewable integration, grid management / support functions, data centers, and microgrids.

What does a Program/Project Manager do? "Herding Cats" comes to mind. More formally, I am accountable for the execution of our projects (scope, schedule, quality, budget, safety). I get to keep engineers in line too.

Studying Physics at Stetson laid the foundation for me to execute these large projects.

Proximity and size made Stetson attractive to me. I grew up in a small town about 35 minutes away. My family's business gave me a mild inclination to study business, so I started as a business major. After a year, I wanted something more. My affinity for math suggested engineering, which Stetson did not offer. Stetson's various counseling resources led me to the Physics Department.

The Physics Department's small size made my class a tight-knit group. It was easy to get to know everyone. We studied together, hung out, helped each other, and were even roommates. We were an eclectic group, from different backgrounds and with different plans for how we would use our physics degrees, including medical physics, medicine, finance, patent law, civil and electrical engineering, and teaching. All the professors were great as well. Everyone was approachable, helpful, fun, and willing to put in time to support their students. I can remember the star-gazing parties at Dr. Glander's house, and Dr. Riggs slinging leftover liquid nitrogen down the hallway after we had made liquid nitrogen ice cream.



2011 – Wearing my favorite Stetson Physics T-shirt

While at Stetson, I continued to keep my foot in other fields. I minored in mathematics and took some business courses (accounting and family enterprise). I was not 100% sure about applying for jobs with only a physics degree, so I elected to go to graduate school. I chose the University of Florida and was awarded a PhD fellowship in the Electrical Engineering Department.

I joined the Interdisciplinary Microsystems Group (IMG). IMG had professors and students with various, “interdisciplinary,” degrees, including many engineering disciplines, physics, material science, and mathematics. Their focus was on Microelectromechanical Systems (MEMS). These are devices combining electrical and mechanical components and fabricated with similar process technologies as semiconductor devices. This was a great fit for someone with a physics background. At UF, I also took some elective courses in entrepreneurship and industrial engineering.



2013 – Graduation from UF

After about 1.5 years in the PhD program, I realized that I was not ready to stay in school for 4+ more years. I graduated with my Master of Science degree and took on a new challenge. I became Director of Operations in a Gainesville startup company. We developed Bluetooth temperature data loggers for the “cold chain”. This was the start of my transition from physics and engineering into projects. I was involved in everything companywide; the financials, design, quality assurance, manufacturing, and business development.

After about 2 years in the startup world, I left and moved to Jacksonville for personal reasons. It was through acquaintances in an adult kickball league that I was connected to Saft. I joined Saft as an associate program manager in 2017 and have been there for 8 years. My ESS projects cover 10 countries, 5 continents, about 1.7 GWh of installed energy, and span various applications; wind, solar, hydro, microgrid, and grid support. I would say I owe my success as a PM to my willingness to work hard, ability to adapt, technical background, and the problem-solving skills I essentially spent 6 years developing during college.



I had the honor of collaborating with TotalEnergies on two large BESS projects in Texas



Batteries being installed at a 225 MWh BESS project site in Texas



I'll end with some final words and advice about life after Stetson:

- Physics gave me the foundation that led to other disciplines. My physics and engineering degrees were basically years of training to be a "problem solver". Having strong skills in math, logic, problem solving, and a technical foundation can serve you well in any discipline.
- Seek input from others but always remember to trust your instincts and your own mind. Don't judge your success by comparing to others.
- Don't be afraid if you don't have a clear, straight path to a career after Stetson. Mine certainly went in various directions before I landed where I am today. Sometimes things work out in ways you don't expect.
- If I could do anything different, I would probably have tried to enter graduate school with more purpose or with clearer goals. I would have also sought more work or internship experience to better narrow down my career interests.
- If you elect to go to graduate school, prioritize your interests and do what you can to get into a good group with a good advisor. It's easier to succeed if you are doing something you love and surrounded by good people
- Don't be afraid to have a personal life and a career. At the end of the day, you leave work and should be able to enjoy life with people you love. I wound up where I am because I moved to a city for personal reasons and started looking for a job. And now I am married with 3 beautiful sons that I love more than anything in the world.



In August 2024, my husband and I welcomed our 3<sup>rd</sup> boy



This picture describes my life perfectly these days