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m'sls 2008

strategic leadership towards sustainability

master's class of 2007–08

Blekinge Tekniska Högskola
Blekinge Institute of Technology
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Karlskrona, Sweden

Gulderen Alimli ·

Gulderen is from Ankara, Turkey. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Engineering from Middle East Technical University in Ankara. While completing her degree, Gulderen participated in the nature club, management club, and the young entrepreneurs club. She also enjoys sports especially basketball, tennis and horseback riding. After university, Gulderen experienced the business world as part of a consulting team in an international company. She is now interested in combining sustainability and engineering with her teamwork, leadership and organizational skills towards a career in environmental management and environmental policy. She speaks English and Turkish proficiently and is functional in German. Gulderen has a desire to contribute to the world as a decision maker in an international organization, with government or the private sector.

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André Benaim ·

André Benaim was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His daily contact with poverty and suffering touched him deeply. His experience working in social work reinforced his desire to help increase awareness and equity among people. His natural curiosity for issues surrounding justice, human feelings and the meaning of life led him to study philosophy and law. He has also studied integral theory and psychology, specifically psychosynthesis. These are fields that he aims to explore further. During his years at university he helped create The Academy of Sciences, Arts and Philosophy where he promoted theoretical lectures and art exhibits. In many situations, his strong empathetic and diplomatic skills enable him to understand different points of view and facilitate dialogue. André interned in two law offices and at the Willis Harman House, an organization representing various international organizations including The Natural Step – Brazil. His current objective is to improve, organize and learn new skills; hoping to build an effective path to work towards global sustainability at the social or organizational level.

Brazil : andbwhh@yahoo.com.br

Andria Benner ·

Andria is from San Francisco, California. She has a Master's of Science degree in Environmental Management, after completing a Bachelor's degree in Art History and then studying business administration. Her environmental career started with recycling bottles and cans for a non-profit company and teaching ecology to fourth graders. It eventually led her to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Washington D.C. Headquarters where she worked as a budget analyst developing congressional budgets for EPA's water program and later as a program analyst on a policy team developing the federal Superfund law. After returning to California to manage several hazardous waste cleanup-projects for EPA, she took a hiatus to draft Hawaii's Superfund law and develop a State plan to protect endangered species from pesticides. Her recent projects are based in Arizona, including a 'sustainable' one where a wetlands treatment system is cleaning up groundwater contamination caused by explosives manufacturing wastes. Studying now in Sweden has reawakened an interest in international policy issues, as well as working with local governments to develop their own sustainability programs. She also plans to use photography and film, two life-long interests, to convey the importance of sustainability, the key issue facing all of us in the future.

United States : afb401@gmail.com

Nick Blandford ·

Nick is from the west coast of Canada, where he acquired a Bachelor's in Economics and Psychology from the University of Victoria. For the past two years Nick has been employed with Schneider Electric, a world leader in electrical distribution and control. He was involved with the sales, marketing and business development aspects of their energy management products and systems. Nick is also involved with Surf Aid International, a non-profit humanitarian aid organization that focuses on improving the health of people living in isolated regions around the world through a sustainable community-based approach. His passion for being active and the outdoors, combined with his interest in energy efficiencies, translates into a strong proactive approach for a sustainable future.

Canada : nick_blandford@hotmail.com

Alaya Boisvert ·

Alaya Boisvert was born by the sea in British Columbia, Canada. She is a graduate of McGill University, where she received a first class honours degree in International Development Studies and Environmental Studies. Prior to her arrival in Sweden, Alaya was employed in the Marine Conservation Program at the David Suzuki Foundation. She has worked in both corporate and non-profit sectors with such organizations as Lighthouse Sustainable Building Centre, Tree World Inc., Vancouver Coastal Health and Community Futures Development Corporation. Her range of experiences include marketing, communications, public relations, curriculum development, event planning, community economic development and human rights advocacy. Alaya currently serves as co-chair for the MSLS Student Council and is a yoga instructor on campus. A passionate leader with joie de vivre, Alaya intends to employ her strong management and communication skills in corporate and community sustainable development upon graduation.

Canada : alaya.boisvert@gmail.com

Isabel Cabeza-Erikson ·

Isabel is from Vancouver, British Columbia and holds a Commerce degree from Royal Roads University. Her most recent work experience in accounting and finance allowed her to realize true desire to make a difference in her community. She looks forward to learning and growing with the amazing people in this year's Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability programme. Isabel is open to finding her niche over the next nine months and would like to work in Europe or South America after graduation.

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Sarah Cheevers ·

Sarah Cheevers was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. She graduated with distinction from the University of Victoria with a double major in Geography and Environmental Studies. She has worked at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government on a variety of planning, policy, inventory and communications projects. She enjoyed writing First Nations water rights reports for the Ministry of Environment as well as working on strategic land use plans and being the public communications contact for Vancouver Island Resource Targets Report. She received her Bachelor's of Education from the University of British Columbia and has been teaching high school for the last two years. Sarah is a singer/songwriter and has just released her third independent album. She has an adventurous spirit and has traveled extensively. Sarah hopes to combine her skills as a facilitator, educator and artist to promote a sustainable future.

Canada : sacheevers@yahoo.com

Chen Chen ·

Chen was born in Maanshan, China. She graduated from NanJing Forestry University in Accounting. Her background is in financial analysis and marketing. During her studies at university she developed a keen interest in nature and the environmental hazards faced by nature. This new dimension coupled with the enormous industrial development in China has influenced Chen to focus on sustainability for the betterment of the environment. Environmental issues are global so Chen is polishing her abilities in a cosmopolitan learning environment. She is honored to be a part of the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability class of 2008, and looks forward to developing her leadership skills and knowledge of sustainability.

China : cchcce@hotmail.com

Amber Collins ·

Amber was raised and educated in the Midwestern United States. While obtaining her Bachelor's in Environmental Studies from Northland College, Amber was actively engaged in a number of school and community organizations. The most notable of these engagements was an internship with the Oregon Natural Step Network in Portland, Oregon. Amber was well received due, in large part, to her enthusiasm and eager approach to even the most mundane of tasks. During her final year at Northland, Amber served as the first student liaison on the school's 'Green Team', a cross-section of Northland's community encompassing faculty, staff, maintenance, administration and student voices working to implement the Natural Step framework on campus. Active in the region's Alliance for Sustainability, Amber became the vice-chairwoman of the organization and was able to educate community members on regional sustainability issues. Always ready for a new challenge, Amber is looking to cultivate her leadership skills and knowledge in order to better foster the sustainability movement.

United States : acollins01@gmail.com

Augusto Cuginotti ·

Augusto has been working as a management and leadership trainer and consultant for the past six years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and has worked on leadership development focusing on systemic analysis of processes for both private and governmental organizations. Augusto co-founded the Spirit in Business initiative in Brazil and is a member of international networks related to conscious leadership and leadership development. He was also part of a national network for exploring community-based education and developed an annual leadership retreat programme for young leaders. He is hoping to learn how to integrate a sustainability framework into his work from his current studies in Sustainability. Augusto has been an aikido practitioner for some years now, and can communicate in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

Brazil : acuginotti@gmail.com

Anastasia Dewangga ·

Anastasia was born in Canada and grew up in Jakarta, Indonesia. She has been residing in Vancouver, Canada for the last ten years where she completed both her Commerce degree specializing in Entrepreneurship at Royal Roads University, and her Marketing Management Diploma from British Columbia Institute of Technology. She is infatuated with the marketing field and hopes to integrate this into the sustainability framework. Through the Blekinge Institute, Anastasia hopes to expand her sustainability knowledge through lifestyle habits and gain realization of the awareness necessary to do so. Her work experience has involved e-commerce and telecommunications in policy building and sales. She has a passion for the film industry and has been involved in a variety of production responsibilities. Anastasia is fluent in Indonesian and is a world traveler.

Canada : anastasiadew@yahoo.com

Maura Dilley ·

Maura Dilley is a sustainability advocate who uses a keen interest in social sciences, politics, art and design to inform her whole systems approach to progressive change. Maura graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor's in International Relations and Environmental Science. She is fluent in Spanish and functional in French. She was most recently employed as a sustainability educator at the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, in New York City. In addition to professionally advocating for sustainability, Maura has also worked as an interior designer pursuing the integration of nature into the built environment. Whether in design or in action, Maura takes pride in being an effective and creative communicator. She is fascinated by the centrifugal power of purpose to foster meaningful engagement and organic leadership in organizations. Upon completion of her Master's Degree in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability, not only does Maura hope to face-off with the most pressing challenges of our times but also to midwife emerging thought on sustainability and to collaborate on the creation of a desirable future.

United States : mauradilley@gmail.com

Molly Doyle ·

Molly Doyle has been involved in sustainability and social change research for the past few years, most recently with the Natural Capital Institute (NCI), a think tank based in California. At NCI she managed an international team of researchers and helped launch WiserEarth.org, a sustainability networking project emerging from Paul Hawken's latest book *Blessed Unrest*. She has worked in low-income environmental housing with a nonprofit organization in Montreal, waste reduction in the government sector, and inventory management in various green business initiatives. With a Bachelor's in International Development and Environmental Studies from McGill University and fluency in several languages, Molly has developed a strong passion for organizational change on a global scale. She looks forward to future work in sustainability consulting and entrepreneurship.

United States : doyle.molly@gmail.com

Sophie Dunkerley ·

For the last four years, Sophie has worked as a professional lobbyist in Brussels. She is a dual British-French national but London is her home town. She holds a Master's degree in European Politics and Public Administration from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Prior to that, Sophie gained a first class degree at the London School of Economics and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris. In her role as manager in one of the largest public affairs consultancy in Brussels, Sophie led a number of policy campaigns on behalf of companies mainly in the food and energy sectors. Her expert capacity for strategic thinking and ability to clearly articulate complex issues largely account for her success. Other contributing assets include her team spirit and the instinctive attention that she pays to others. Sensitive to the social and environmental challenges facing the world, Sophie is driven by the desire to positively contribute. She hopes to be able to apply the new knowledge and leadership skills from her Master's degree in combination with her past experiences to help companies change their practices, work with policy-makers and communicate with their customers, in a meaningful way.

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Kimberly Edwards ·

Kimberly earned an Honours Bachelor's degree of Kinesiology and Business at McMaster University, Canada. Her involvement with the school's athletic department led her to a volunteer internship with Commonwealth Games Canada. After a period of training and traveling in Namibia, Kimberly spent nine months in Trinidad and Tobago, and across the Caribbean, working on a project called Kicking AIDS Out. Using sport as a tool for HIV/AIDS prevention and education, it was here that she gained invaluable experience in teamwork, communication and cultural understanding. Her work in the health and fitness field in capacities such as snowboard instructor, sports camp director and kinesiologist, have served her passion for health. Now, in the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability programme, Kimberly is serving her passion for sustainability and the environment. With a perpetual drive to serve her local and global community, Kimberly plans to bring a strategic sustainability perspective back to either the field of health and fitness, or international development.

Canada : edwardskimberly@hotmail.com

Liane Fredericks ·

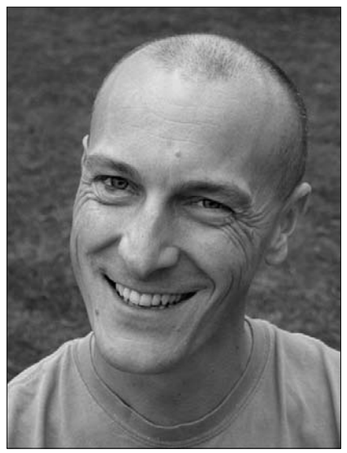
Liane was brought up in Bristol and received a Bachelor's in Business from Kingston University. In 2005 she used her business skills to manage a not-for-profit community dance project in East London. She then went on to become the customer service manager for a software company where she trained and consulted local education authorities around the United Kingdom and gained greater insight into the school meals sector. She has enjoyed engaging in a variety of work experiences in the UK, France and Spain. These included volunteering for community youth projects such as The Roundhouse, crewing on classic yachts and assisting with an International Music Education project between the UK and The Gambia. Most recently she extended her knowledge and passion for environmental issues by working with the London School of Economics building their recycling infrastructure and assessing waste management practices. Liane sees the sustainability challenge as an opportunity to better utilise humanity's creativity and encourage healthier human interactions in all areas of society. After completing this degree she plans to become a facilitator in developing sustainable communities and education.

United Kingdom : lianefredericks@gmail.com

Roman Garstea ·

Roman is the first student from Moldova to take the course on Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability at Blekinge Institute. He comes from a small and beautiful town located in the most picturesque part of his country. Roman's parents own a small farm, so he had the privilege of experiencing hands-on living, caring for farm animals and the vegetable garden. Surprisingly his professional experience has been connected to information and communication technologies. Roman has been a consultant and trainer on several international projects. He decided to shift his professional focus and launch into coaching in both the private and public sector. His aim is to apply sustainability best practices to business and public policy-making.

Moldova :



Simon Goldsmith ·

Simon has pursued degrees at the Wye College, University of London, Rural Resources and Environmental Policy (Masters of Science) Staffordshire University, as well as obtained a Geography Bachelor's (Honors). Simon has had the opportunity of working in a range of organizations and in each has contributed to improving sustainability. These positions include working for a multinational oil and gas company, an environmental campaigning non-government organization (NGO), and environmental consultancies. Simon's last position was director of the London Environment Centre, a leading environmental consultancy delivering creative and successful environmental improvements to businesses and organizations in London. He has gained a wealth of experience from these roles which enabled him to become a key consultee and environmental expert representative on a number of governmental and non-governmental boards which has promoted sustainability within the London region, nationally and internationally. His positive and creative attitude is highly valued with those he works with and his aim is to help other organizations understand and become part of the sustainability solution.

United Kingdom : simontgoldsmith@gmail.com

Patricia Guimaraes ·

Patricia is a resident of Sao Paulo, the largest city in the beautiful country of Brazil. She has degrees in Business Administration and Architecture/Urban Planning. Patricia is passionate about sustainable development and began her career 15 years ago working as a landscape planner for the Sao Paulo State Environment Department. Here she worked on a project for macro-zoning the northern coast of Sao Paulo State. In addition, she designed a model for self-sustainable settlement for coastal areas of Sao Paulo State. Since 1994 she has run a company providing architectural design services and environmental consultancy. She decided to attend the Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability at Blekinge to attain the skill set necessary to work on large-scale environmental projects and sustainable business management. She is passionate about sustainable design products and green buildings and her interests include arts, human behaviour, archeology and outdoor life.

Brazil : gpat@uol.com.br

Cristhian Gutiérrez ·

Cristhian is from Mexico City and holds a Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering with a minor in Systems Engineering from the Technology Institute of Monterrey. After his studies, he acquired experience in the field of supply chain management working for two large multinational companies: Unilever and Emerson. During his four years there he had the opportunity to develop and implement several improvement projects through the whole supply chain. Cristhian has decided to pursue a degree in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability because he is aware of the imminent need for Latin American culture to change its vision to a more sustainable one. He plans to implement and practice sustainable concepts in Mexico in the private sector, and to help organizations measure their sustainable performance. In addition he enjoys playing football soccer, swimming, traveling, reading, and meeting new friends.

Mexico : cristophercdk@hotmail.com

Natalie Haltrich ·

Natalie has been working for the past five years in the tourism industry as a lead sea kayak guide on the West Coast of British Columbia, Canada, and is a certified Level Three guide with the Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of British Columbia. She ventured from her roots in Montreal, Quebec to Squamish, British Columbia where she completed a diploma in Advanced Wilderness Leadership from Capilano College. Prior to her move across Canada, Nat graduated with distinction from McGill University with a Bachelor's of Science double majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies. She is also well trained in risk management, and considers her volunteer work with both orca whales and orangutans to be among her most rewarding life experiences. Nat's passion and affinity for both marine waters and mountain tops is evident to those around her, many having told her that her enthusiasm is contagious. She is currently taking strides in the right direction to work in the field of environmental sustainability, compelled by a desire to enjoy the better things in life. She welcomes all on her journey.

Canada : nathaltrich@yahoo.com

Xiaoxuan He ·

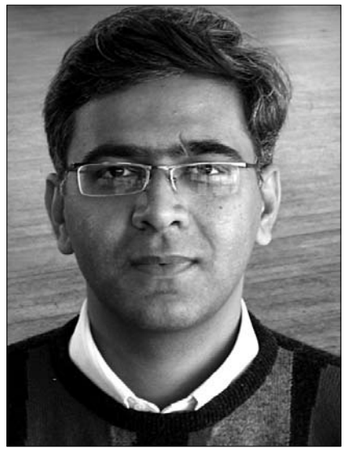
Xiaoxuan is from Yunnan province of China. In June 2006, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Kunming University of Science and Technology. Xiaoxuan loves music and arts; she learned some painting skills by herself during university. Her creative skills led her to work in a mobile phone game company as an art designer after graduation. She loves a challenge and learning new things. She wishes to be able to apply the new knowledge and leadership skills from the Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability in combination with her past experiences to help Chinese organizations move towards sustainability.

China : chiosoos@yahoo.com.cn

Dermot Hikisch ·

Dermot is a native of Northern British Columbia; however, the majority of the past eight years have been spent in Vancouver, Canada. While there, he obtained a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance from the University of British Columbia. During summer breaks, he had the chance to fight forest fires throughout the wild lands of North America. Over eight fire seasons, Dermot progressed through the fire ranks to running crews, fires, and air divisions. In 2004, with a business degree and personal experience running his own distribution company, he took a position as an operations and sales manager for Red Bull Energy Drink's launch into Canada. Most recently, Dermot has gained work experience in the health industry working in the pharmaceutical division of corporate giant, Procter & Gamble. Under P&G's supportive environment, he became a Sustainability Ambassador and led a number of sustainability initiatives within the company. He hopes to spend his near future anywhere in the world helping companies and communities reach a sustainable position. While work is definitely in his future, his off time will be spent climbing up mountains or skiing down them.

Canada : dermco@gmail.com



Naveed Imran ·

Naveed's previous education is related to Business Administration (Master's of Business Administration). In 2004, he joined the Government Based Organization National Data Base and Registration Authority (NADRA) in Pakistan. His greatest professional achievement has been working as assistant project manager on a NADRA project, with the collaboration of the World Bank, to help relieve the effects of the worst earthquake to ever hit Pakistan in October 2005. His team worked continuously for three months 16 hours a day for seven days a week including national/religious festivals. After completing the NADRA project, he was granted a merit certificate by the head of the department and his efforts were recognized and appreciated at a national level. Inspired by the satisfaction he felt by serving humanity, he obtained study-leave from his organization and came to Sweden to join the Master's programme in Strategic Leadership towards the Sustainability in order to put his efforts into developing a sustainable culture. He sees this as a vital issue for the survival of this beautiful world.

Pakistan : naveed_imran@hotmail.com

Mohammed Ismaeil Basheer Ireg ·

Mohemmed was born and raised in Sudan. He acquired a Bachelor's in Agricultural Engineering and then went on to pursue a higher diploma in Management at the University of Khartoum. He started his work with an agricultural research center in Sudan then worked as assistant in the government programme for deforestation assessment in Western Sudan. He then decided to change his line of work from managing resources to being a volunteer for a local NGO working on relief and rehabilitation for war victims in Darfur. Presented with the opportunity to make change in even more areas, Mohemmed began working for Practical Action — a British NGO. Through Practical Action, he was able to begin working on sustainable development in war-torn Darfur, drought areas in eastern Sudan and within urbanization programmes in Zimbabwe. Through these experiences he has gained knowledge in dealing with local communities, community mobilization, enacting a participatory approach in planning with communities and designing community development projects. He is now engaged in the sustainability programme at Blekinge Institute to strengthen his leadership skills and sustainability knowledge.

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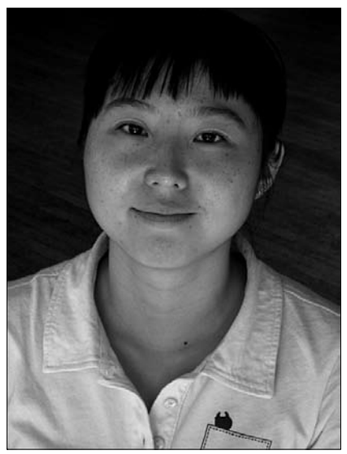

Duan Jingjing ·

Duan Jingjing is from Spring City, Kunming in southwest China. Duan graduated from the Kunming University of Science & Technology with a Bachelor's in Management, majoring in Business Administration. Upon completion of her degree, Duan went on to work as a business assistant for an industrial company. As part of her work she has been able to travel extensively throughout China where she has noticed the imbalances created by development and how closely environmental issues are connected to development. Due to an increased awareness of these issues, Duan has turned her studies towards sustainability. She strives to be a good resource manager and to contribute to improving our environment in the future. She believes that doing the right thing can move us forward.

China : viola.duan@yahoo.com.cn

Anna Johansson ·

Anna has studied Economics, English and Environmental Studies at Blekinge University of Technology and now is pursuing her Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability. She also works in the Swedish government defense as an environmental coordinator. As part of her position Anna is able to educate her peers in environmental matters, perform risk analysis and much more. She takes pride in her work, particularly when she can teach others about how the ecosystem works and what we need to do to reach a sustainable future. The workshops she holds with other employees focus on examples of how to get there. Her goal is to be happy, make other people happy and to inspire others to work for a sustainable future one way or another.

Sweden : annajonasson@tele2.se

Ben Kneppers ·

Ben Kneppers holds a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. He has significant experience with research and development of hospital respirators with Respironics Inc. in California and Ireland, and has also worked in government defense with Lockheed Martin in Massachusetts. Following his passion for travel and education, Ben spent a summer as a Facilitating Opportunities for Refugee Growth and Empowerment (FORGE) Ambassador. He worked at the Meheba Refugee Settlement in Zambia in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), where he successfully established an HIV/AIDS awareness programme and developed human and solar power generator systems. Recently, he completed a United States National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) sponsored Capstone Project to develop a measurement system for satellite payload adapters. He is currently working towards a career in the field of renewable energy and sustainable development.

United States : benkneppers@gmail.com

Ella Lawton ·

Ella's upbringing on a small farm in South Auckland, Aotearoa was a foundation for her passion for the environment and appreciation of natural systems. Ella graduated from Otago University with a Bachelor's of Law and a Bachelor's of Science in Ecology. She has undertaken additional tertiary study in International Law in Finland, a postgraduate certificate in Antarctic studies and an 18 month programme in personal leadership development. Most recently Ella was working for a small non-for-profit as the assistant project leader of 'Project 2058'. The project's aim is similar to Ella's own professional vision to promote integrated long-term thinking, leadership and capacity-building so that New Zealand can effectively explore and manage risks and opportunities. In addition, Ella has had a varied career from administering pest management in partnership with regional municipalities to working winter seasons as a ski instructor. Ella is a member of the MSLS thesis group undertaking collaborative research with a New Zealand housing developer looking at the potential to effect voluntary positive behavioural change through the urban design and development process.

New Zealand : elawton66@gmail.com

Lu Lei ·

Lu Lei gained a Bachelor's in Economics in his home town at NanJing Forestry University where he specialised in the Management of Agriculture and Forestry. The degree covered subjects from finance and marketing to environmental resource management. His thesis focused on analysing China's current countryside infrastructure and investigating the most effective methods of investment. He based his research in the province of JiangSu exploring the subject with local communities and organisations. Prior to the Master's in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability, Lu Lei accepted a three-month position in a company as a stockbroker. Here he developed his enthusiasm for the risky and dynamic world of the financial markets by trading stocks and investing funds for clients. Lu Lei sees the Master's programme as a practical framework for analysing real problems as well as the chance to become fluent in English. In the future, he would like to continue working in the timber products trade. At the same time he looks forward to devoting himself to the development of sustainable forestry practices.

China : luleil2@eyou.com

Alexandra Lichtenberg ·

Alexandra Lichtenberg obtained a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urban Design in 1980. She later got an MBA in Marketing and worked for ten years in this area, mostly with industrial marketing. In 2001 she obtained an MBA in Corporate Finance and worked in the insurance area and also in strategic planning implementing the Balanced Scorecard tool. In 2006 she obtained a Master's of Science in Sustainable Architecture from the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro presenting the first dissertation at this University to address an integrated design approach in high performance building design – The Ecohouse Urca Project. She researched her own house's remodeling project, which turned it into the first monitored sustainable house in use in Brazil. This project was awarded a Special Prize from the Brazilian National Energy Efficiency Agency in 2002/2003, and another Special Prize form Brazil's local chapter of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in 2007. She currently operates (remotely) her own Green Building Architectural Office in Rio de Janeiro, while studying at the MSLS programme in Sweden. She decided to take this programme to broaden her area of impact in the sustainability arena, as well as to improve on her leadership and culture change capabilities.

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Tracy Lydiatt ·

Tracy Lydiatt is a graduate of The University of British Columbia with a Bachelor's of Science in Geology. She has worked in the mining industry; both in the field and corporate settings, making her comfortable in boots, jeans or high heels. Her mining experience includes working in Northern British Columbia, Nunavut, and most recently, for Viceroy Exploration on a project based in Argentina. Additionally she initiated an environmentally biased sustainability proposal for Dundee Precious Metals Back River project. She took time out to teach and travel in Mexico for one year where she acquired beginner Spanish, street smarts and the ability to talk in front of groups without trembling. Upon completion of the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability Master's degree, Tracy plans to return to Canada to continue working with the mining industry in addition to working on public awareness and community development involving strategic sustainable development. She also plans on learning how to grow the perfect tomato in her home garden.

Canada : tlydiatt@gmail.com

James McDonald ·

Jim is from Edmonton, Canada and attended the University of Alberta where he achieved Bachelor's degrees in Arts and Commerce. In addition, he completed two additional Bachelor's degrees in Computer Systems with specialties in Network Management and Information Systems. His prior career was as a computer systems analyst – business analyst. He also has experience in computer systems, insurance, business analysis and project management. He is currently working towards the completion of a Master's in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability. He looks forward to a future career as a multi-disciplinary business consultant applying sustainability principles.

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Rob Mallette ·

Rob is from Ontario where he attended Wilfrid Laurier University and Algoma University, achieving a Bachelor's in Philosophy and a Bachelor's in Community Economic and Social Development respectively. Although still actively studying philosophy in his spare time, Rob is a student of all things, with a special interest in economics and music. Having honed his natural leadership skills as a member of Wilfrid Laurier's Varsity Rugby Team, Rob felt confident enough to tackle the much different gambit of student government while attending Algoma University. In two short years he was able to obtain office as the President of the Student's Union. Using his influence, along with a tightly knit executive, the Union was able to achieve their highest level of prominence to date; spear-heading initiatives towards more sustainable practices on campus as well as integrating its membership into a national body of influence. Rob looks forward to interacting with all the other members of the MSLS team this year; understanding that from each person he has a lifetime of knowledge to gain.

Canada : bones_1532@hotmail.com

Eri Matsuura ·

Eri holds a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Chemistry from Tottori University in Japan. She has worked for several companies as a technical officer in water quality management and on environmental impact assessments for wildlife. She has been passionate about bird conservation for more than ten years and has volunteered for bird conservation research projects in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Israel and Australia. To learn more about environment management, Eri took a master's course in Natural Resource Management at the University of Queensland in Australia. She carried out her thesis research in agro-forestry systems while in the Philippines. Eri's experiences overseas raised her awareness about sustainability. She is hoping to work to improve the livelihoods in developing countries in a sustainable way. She has travelled in most Asian countries after visiting all the prefectures in Japan and is eager to travel to other parts of the world. She loves cooking and is keen to learn new recipes from different countries.

Japan : erithacus6@yahoo.com

Patricia Mesquita ·

Patricia holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences with emphasis in Anthropology from University of São Paulo. She has worked for four years in an NGO called Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) developing research on indigenous peoples in Brazil and the role of international NGOs in the promotion of sustainability within indigenous lands. She has participated in the elaboration of publications and websites relating to social and environmental issues, in particular to climate change and biodiversity. After acquiring experience in the non-governmental sector, Patricia started to deal with those issues from a business perspective. She has worked for an environmental consultancy (ERM-Environmental Resources Management) since 2005 developing communication and relationship strategies, stakeholder engagement for permitting process and community development, and corporate social responsibility strategies within mining, pulp and paper and oil industries. Patricia is interested in acquiring deeper skills in sustainable development to help organizations move towards sustainability.

Brazil : patricia.mesquita@gmail.com

Karen Miller ·

Karen grew up in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, where she spent her winters cross-country skiing and her summers exploring lakes and rivers by canoe. Her passion for the outdoors led her to pursue an Environmental Science Honors degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Her work experience includes coordinating a community groundwater-monitoring network in rural Alberta. This was part of a hydrological research project at the University of Calgary aimed at understanding sustainable groundwater use. The results enabled surrounding municipalities to work towards setting up similar monitoring programs, and Karen found it rewarding to see scientific research making the transition to policy initiatives and implementation. Karen looks forward to combining her analytical and research skills with her interests in empowerment and engagement. In particular, she looks forward to both facilitating and engaging in constructive dialogue to help individuals, communities and organizations create a more sustainable society. She is fluent in both English and French, and speaks survival Spanish and Swedish.

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Sérgio Monforte ·

Sérgio Monforte is from Brazil where he completed his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a postgraduate course in Tourism Enterprises at the Federal University of Brasília. He worked in a consulting company, called Business meets Social Development, which helps organizations to manage their corporate social responsibility practices and sustainability approach. Sergio managed projects addressing the corporate social responsibility challenge coordinated by the Brazilian National Industries Confederation. He also researched the attached costs in the production chain of FLO-certified (Fair Trade Labelling Organization) small fruit producers and processors. Sérgio plans to use the knowledge from the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability programme to assist him to contribute to the development of sustainable tourism initiatives.

Brazil : sergiomonforte@globo.com

Brendan Moore ·

Brendan recently graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a minor in Arabic Language and Literature. During his college career, he interned with his university's Office of Sustainability and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. He was also the president and founder of UF's first sustainability organization; Gators for a Sustainable Campus. In addition, he prepared marketing and sales strategies for Snood Inc. and helped write a professional business plan for Sustainable Cambodia, an innovative non-profit working in Southeast Asia. He hopes that his time at the Blekinge Institute of Technology will allow him to effectively implement strategic sustainability development in the business world. After completing the Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability, he hopes to work for a renewable energy provider or a 'green products' company.

United States : bpmoore@gmail.com

Timothy Jack Nash ·

Tim is from London, Ontario and spent four years in Nova Scotia earning his Bachelor's of Economics from Dalhousie University. He has worked for various NGOs including volunteering for a short stint with the Concerned for Working Children in Bangalore, India and doing research and outreach for the Natural Capital Institute's WiserEarth.org project. Tim enjoys playing many games and sports, and has coached rugby at the high school and university levels. He loves to explore new regions and is always up for a new challenge! Having recently completed the Canadian Securities Course, Tim hopes to find work in the investment industry, promoting sustainable and responsible investing, and aspires to eventually become a money manager.

Canada : timothyjacknash@gmail.com

Jennifer Nichols ·

Jennifer is from Vancouver, Canada. After freelancing as an art director and graphic designer in Canada and the UK, she attended Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. There, she discovered that designers can reduce harm to the eco-system by guiding their designs through a less degrading life cycle and by cultivating a public voice. Her Bachelor's degree in Communication Design led to a lively contract with the City of Vancouver Sustainability Group where she got to practice telling sustainability stories online, in print and in person. Jennifer brought her creativity to community-based social marketing programs helping residents reduce energy use one day at a time. She also supported city planners by helping to communicate their vision for building neighbourhoods that are green, livable and affordable. At Blekinge, Jennifer is using her passion for storytelling to reframe sustainability as cultural narrative and has co-founded a writing club called The Dime. She is also part of an MSLS web team for the Tembea Youth Centre located in Kenya. She looks forward to facilitating dialogue that contributes to rich biodiversity, delicious local food networks and spirited homeplaces.

Canada : nicholscreative@mac.com

Timothy Nichols ·

Tim graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with a focus on finance. He spent the next three years managing the The Mountain Sun, a local pub and brewery and working on charity events which benefitted The Nature Conservancy. After leaving Boulder, he moved to Prague where he spent two years teaching English. While in Prague, Tim taught at the Czech Ministry of the Environment and eventually took on a six month internship. He speaks both Czech and Spanish at a functional level. To extend his interest in language and culture, Tim co-founded The Dime writing club. He enjoys traveling and living in other cultures as a way of continuing his education. He hopes to use the knowledge gained during his Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability to work more closely with various organizations who are working to become sustainable.

United States : tjn1978@gmail.com

Annie Nolan ·

Annie has obtained her Bachelor's of Science, a graduate diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, Certificate in Occupational Hygiene and a Master's in Management Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company. Annie has over extensive experience in Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) as a manager across a variety of industries including mining, heavy manufacturing, construction and management consultancies. Annie has been involved in the design and implementation of management systems such as ISO 14001, 9001 and OHSAS 18001 and the implementation of information technology systems to support these initiatives. A career goal has been to seamlessly integrate EHS, quality and more recently sustainability into the overall business strategy and operations. She has been responsible for facilitating organizational change from a culture of compliance to that which enhances the linkages between corporate responsibility and business objectives. Annie is undertaking the Master's degree in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability to facilitate company success based on a platform of sustainability. Annie enjoys anything outdoors in the sun, whether it be kayaking, horse riding, hiking, sailing, revegetation, or involvement in local environmental groups.

Australia : annieq@hotmail.com

Adebola Oluwatosin Odumade ·

Odumade Adebola Oluwatosin is from Nigeria where he completed his Bachelor's degree in Management and Accounting from Obafemi Awolowo University and also graduated from Cgmie Business Institute. He obtained his Master's of Science in Business Administration at the Blekinge Institute of Technology. Bola's work experience includes being an administration manager with Abvco trading company and Royal Delson Limited where he was involved in group processes, corporate strategy, project management and decision making. His skill set includes communication, knowledge of business software and creating good team spirit. He has presented projects on managing over-confidence and decision making. He plans to expand his leadership skills and acquire a strategic framework for working towards solutions to issues and use his knowledge to contribute to the development of business in a sustainable society.

Nigeria : bola3in1@yahoo.com

Chidi Ogbuagu ·

Chidi Ogbuagu is a dual citizen of Romania and Nigeria. He holds a Bachelor's of Environmental Studies degree in Architecture and a Master's of Environmental Design, all from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Chidi loves football and the arts and his professional interests lie in sustainable architecture and the application of sustainable development principles to the construction sector. He looks forward to participating in initiatives which bring together sustainability, systems thinking, the construction industry and community efforts in order to promote regional sustainable development particularly in the West African sub-region.

Nigeria : hollagrafix@yahoo.com

Neil Pegram ·

Neil is originally from Toronto, but he moved to the University of Victoria in 1995 where he completed his Bachelor's of Science in Biology and Psychology. He spent the early part of his career working in various research labs and most recently as a clinical research coordinator at the University of British Columbia. His research has primarily been focused on biopsychology and human interactions and he has been acknowledged for his work in publications ranging from medical trials to health psychology journals. More recently he shifted to the private sector where he has consulted in a range of industries including human resources, recruitment and public relations. Neil has a unique skill set that combines his science background with a set of real world business skills and a light-hearted demeanour. His current interests include the application of corporate social responsibility and sustainable business practices and how they effect organizational development and behavioural change. He hopes to make some great contacts and further develop his facilitation, leadership and strategic planning skills through the MSLS programme.

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Heleen Podsedkowska ·

Heleen is originally from the Netherlands where she took a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at the Prof. van Hall Institute in Groningen. After university, she emigrated to Sweden and has been working at both local, regional governmental organizations, as well as in the private sector. She has experience from Agenda 21 co-ordination, environmental education and information but also as a project leader for projects on gender equality. Heleen would like to work at a consultancy that works with developing leadership and sustainability in organizations. She aspires to utilize her leadership skills and knowledge of the Natural Step Framework. Heleen loves to sing alto in both a chamber choir as a female vocal ensemble. She is fluently bilingual in Swedish, Dutch and English.

Sweden : heleengranstedt@hotmail.com

Luke Raftis ·

Luke recently graduated from the Mechanical Engineering and Society programme at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. This programme is comprised of courses that study technology in a social and environmental context, in addition to a regular engineering degree. His interests are very broad and include green architecture, community economic development, and transport. He worked briefly in the manufacturing sector before coming to BTH. Luke aspires to help in the transition to sustainability through the use of his technical skills, and the skills he is learning in the MSLS programme.

Canada : lraftis@gmail.com

Julia Ribeiro ·

Julia Ribeiro holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography and since 2001, she has been working for a renowned Brazilian non-profit Institute, Instituto Ecoar para Cidadania, focused on education towards sustainability. Her previous experience ranges through rural development, agroecology and participative approaches enhancing community well-being. For the past three years (2004-2007), her professional life has taken her right into the heart of the main Brazilian oil company. She was assigned a role of responsibility in the process of culture shifting towards sustainability, within the Research Center (Cenpes/Petrobras) of this important and very large oil exploration and distribution company. This work has also involved the structuring of corporate social responsibility actions and procedures, leading to meaningful results. Her personal goal is to contribute to the process of empowerment and evolution of individuals and communities, to create a sustainable future.

Brazil : juliari@gmail.com

Erin Romanchuk ·

Erin has experienced life in both rural and urban Alberta. Her undergraduate degree is in Communication Studies with a minor in Sociology from the University of Calgary. Since the completion of her undergraduate degree Erin has worked for the Town of Cochrane, Alberta in the Municipal District of Rocky View. She began as a part-time community education assistant with the Environmental Services Division and quickly worked her way to become the environmental services coordinator. Erin has hands on experience with community based social marketing and programme development. She has also gained experience with policy development and public consultation. Erin has been a member of grass roots environmental groups and has a deep appreciation for community members who actively engage themselves in community initiatives in a constructive and productive capacity. Erin has many interests including; sustainable community development, organizational development, public engagement, resource management, renewable energy development and sustainable development in both the private and public sectors.

Canada : e_romanchuk@hotmail.com

Abderrahim Sallak ·

Abderrahim Sallak was born in a city called EL Jadida, in Morocco. After graduating from Mohamed V University in Rabat, he was granted a three years Korean government scholarship for an MBA program at Seoul National University, including a one year Korean language and culture study at the Kyung-Hee University. He then worked in the fields of sales as well as customer support management, and in project management in multinational companies in Casablanca and Rabat. Abderrahim is a big fun of football, music and plastic arts, although he's not an artist himself, but wishes to be in the future…impossible is nothing. Seeking new challenges, Abderrahim decided to join the MSLS 2008, with the aim of bringing back home new ideas and a brand new philosophy in the environmental and sustainability fields, and joining expertise with a bunch of childhood friends doing research and studies in the US, Canada and France.

Morocco : sallak1971@yahoo.com

Renate Sitch ·

Renate was fortunate to grow up within the natural beauty that surrounds Lake Superior in North Western Ontario. She studied Recreation and Tourism at Humber College in Toronto, Ontario. After gaining some work experience in this industry she moved to the west coast of Canada where she graduated from Royal Roads University (RRU) in Victoria, Canada, with a Bachelor's of Commerce in Entrepreneurial Management. While at RRU, she was responsible for developing a sustainable strategy curriculum within the current strategy course. While living and traveling in Taiwan for a year Renate experienced first hand the effects of high pollution levels and over population issues. Upon her return to Canada, she volunteered for urban community organizations in the Toronto area. Professionally, Renate found herself in a quickly growing company in the event management and promotions industry. Developing the business and her role at a fast pace, she was able to work with many big name clients while managing significant teams of staff and managers across the country. Honoured to have been accepted into the programme, Renate is eager to use her new sustainability skills upon returning to the corporate world.

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Geoff Stack ·

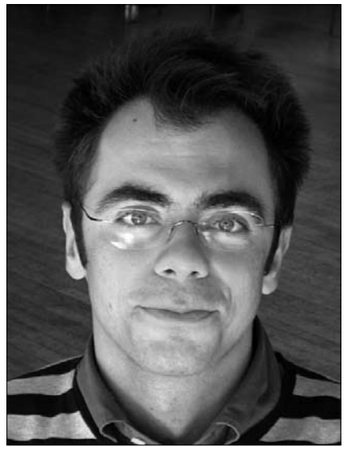
Geoff Stack has combined his experience in green design, education and ecology to develop ways to invite, integrate and inspire a move towards societal sustainability. With a Bachelor's of Landscape Architecture from the University of Maryland, Geoff has worked as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional with private design firms to develop plans for public open space, university campus and urban redevelopment projects. He introduced whole-systems perspectives to project collaborators and has been focused on how to actively integrate natural water, energy and nutrient cycles into human infrastructure systems. He has also enjoyed time as a naturalist working with an ecology education organization to inspire future sustainability efforts in New England. Geoff plans to return to the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States to invite many perspectives to the table as a sustainability coordinator or consultant.

United States : geoff.stack@gmail.com

Karen Stroebel ·

Karen was born in South Africa, but spent most of her life as a Canadian citizen living on the Canadian West Coast. While completing her Bachelor's of Science in Geography at the University of Victoria, she worked as the campus climate change outreach coordinator, taught a first year Human Geography lab, and volunteered as a docent for the Climate Change exhibit at the Royal British Columbia Museum. These experiences increased Karen's knowledge of sustainability related issues, as well as her facilitator and leadership skills. After graduation, Karen worked for a leading environmental consulting company, Jacques Whitford, as a Geographic Information Systems specialist and as a member of the Sustainability Team. Upon completion of the MSLS programme, Karen plans to return to the East Coast of Canada to focus her energies on the implementation of community-based social marketing as a tool to reach sustainability. Karen spent many summers as a lifeguard, and may just be able to save your life!

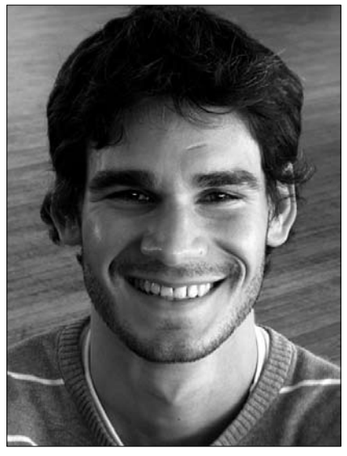
Canada : kstroebel@gmail.com



Marco Valente ·

Marco comes from southern Italy, near Salerno. He studied communication and social sciences before discovering sustainable development related issues through different work experiences. In Brussels, he studied European policies and financial opportunities. In Milan, he worked for an Italian foundation aimed at spreading the concepts and practices of sustainable development and also for an energy service company specializing in renewable energy sources and energy saving. He has always been concerned about environmental matters. He wishes to use journalism to raise the awareness of others in making conscious and responsible choices. Marco is a leader in sustainability; he is equipped to consult and inform NGOs, businesses and governments on their shift to a sustainable world. Marco loves all the arts, especially poetry and music. He is still wondering whether a man alone can change the world but he is sure that in this huge book we may all contribute a verse. As best as we can.

Italy : valente.desk@gmail.com



Theo Van Brabant ·

Theo is a promising social entrepreneur from Montreal, Canada. He has his Bachelor's of Science in Business Management from the University of Sherbrooke. Theo also has several years of experience in post-production for film and television. He volunteers his skills to aid international NGO's addressing sustainable issues. His background in communication and management drives his passion for empowering organizations to meet their goals using strategic leadership. He seeks out international initiatives and is eager to be challenged by projects that lead society toward sustainability and beyond. Theo speaks both French and English fluently.

Canada : theo.vanb@gmail.com

Freek van der Pluijm ·

Freek van der Pluijm grew up in the Netherlands. There, he acquired a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration at Tilburg University. He spent a semester at HEC Montreal, Canada, to develop his knowledge on international business and management skills. He has been working as a volunteer for several NGO's and has most recently generated a lot of publicity for sustainability by taking the lead in the organization of a second hand clothing fashion show. In the long term, his aim is to become an expert in the implementation process of sustainability for companies and municipalities. Freek is open to opportunities in all kinds of fields, without geographical boundaries, and has a special interest in strategic sustainable development.

The Netherlands : freek.vanderpluijm@gmail.com

Shawn Westcott ·

Shawn Westcott, a Philadelphia native, is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, earning his Bachelor's in Political Science. A veteran of the US Marine Corps, he most recently served as director of external relations for a US healthcare company. As a political consultant and strategist for seven years in San Francisco and Pittsburgh, Shawn managed or consulted for dozens of local and national contests, including Al Gore's 2000 Presidential campaign. Other projects included the creation of a community strategic plan in Pittsburgh and environmental affairs consultation to a Pennsylvania State Senator. While in university, Shawn helped launch a national, student-led workforce development agency called National Student Partnerships; ten years later, he co-founded its Alumni Association and was elected its first President. Shawn has served on several boards of directors and advisory boards and was an original organizer of the Green Drinks networking sessions in Pittsburgh. He is the founder of the MSLS Consulting Club and is a member of Student Council. A visionary leader and social entrepreneur, Shawn plans to combine his passions for community development and sustainability as a strategic sustainable development consultant upon graduation. He later intends to follow a career in politics.

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André Ribeiro Winter ·

André holds a Bachelor's of Science in Business from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). Born and raised in Belo Horizonte, his professional career is marked by his work in consulting. Since his second year in university, André worked as a consultant in marketing and finance for small business. Later, he provided consultancy in logistics for the government and, most recently, in strategy management and IT for several companies in Brazil. He is also a fountain of trivial knowledge, which makes him skillful at connecting with people of all backgrounds. For many years, he has been a volunteer with CISV, an international NGO meant to build global friendship amongst children and youth, which granted him many friends from all over the world. André has always been passionate about strategy, curious about technology, and very concerned about environmental issues. Sustainability synthesizes his life aspirations. André's plan for after the programme is to run his own sustainability business – using renewable energy, of course

Brazil : ribeiro.winter@gmail.com

Li Xinze ·

Li Xinze was born in China and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry. She has a life-long passion for environmental protection. In NanJing, she was a member of the environmental protection NGO Green Stone. Working with the group, she published an article on the effects of the toxic gases produced by cars. Previous to her move to Sweden, Xinze worked in human resources. Though her work, she learned the importance of clarity and transparency in group endeavors. In the future, Xinze plans to return with vigor to her work in environmental protection in her home province of Jiangsu.

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Yan Ye ·

Yan Ye was born in Hunan province of China. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Kunming University of Science and Technology in Safety Engineering – a discipline which is related to people's working situations in many fields. She had different types of part-time jobs, such as working as an international trader for an internet products company and managing personnel for the Actor Company. Yan Ye also drafted the planning book for Hengyang Juxing Ethanol Fuel Company. Her capability for creative and systems thinking makes her an active contributor in working groups. She knows how to share different ideas while maintaining focus during group decision making processes. She likes challenges. Because of the unsustainable problems facing the world, Yan Ye wants to do something which is meaningful to society and for herself at the same time. She plans to bring her passion for sustainability and economics, combined with a background in engineering and leadership, to effectively manage change in companies.

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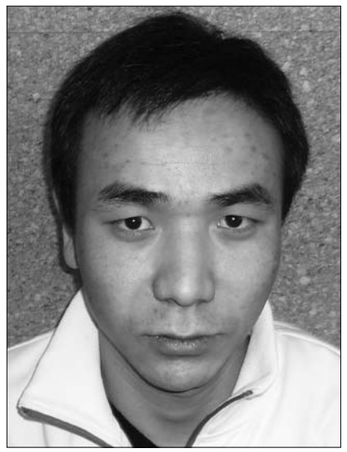

Weiqing Zhang ·

Weiqing Zhang comes from a beautiful city in the Southwest of China; many people know it as the Spring City because of its pleasant year-round climate and easy access to nature. It is the close interaction he had with nature at home that inspired Weiqing to study sustainability. Weiqing's undergraduate degree is in Marketing from Kunming University of Science and Technology. He is excited to join like-minded peers from around the globe at Blekinge Institute of Technology on the shores of the Baltic Sea and move together greater and equal happiness for all.

China : yanye1020@yahoo.com.cn

Weiguang Zhang ·

Weiguang has a Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering from Kunming University of Science and Technology and has begun work on his Master's in Mechanical Manufacturing and Automation at the same university. took a year's sabbatical from the programme to study Strategic Sustainability in Sweden. Back home, he is a member of the Student Union and the monitor for his class. Weiguang enjoys learning about different cultures and improving his English skills with the help of new friends. He hopes that with two Master's Degrees under his belt he will be able to implement industrial and social sustainability in his home country of China.

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