

MSLS 2008/09

# BIOGRAPHIES

Master's Programme in Strategic  
Leadership towards Sustainability



International **Master's Programme**

## OVERVIEW

Students in the MSLS programme reflect the diversity of the world and as such they follow many different career paths after graduation. By combining undergraduate studies and prior work experience with a Master's degree in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability, graduates have a truly unique set of skills and training that make them invaluable to employers in any context.

With a solid understanding of sustainability, MSLS graduates are well positioned to return to their former employers to lead organisational change efforts related to sustainability or bring sustainability thinking back to their former roles.

The science-based understanding of sustainability and the framework for strategic planning for sustainability taught within the MSLS programme are also a strong foundation for MSLS graduates to work as sustainability practitioners in any organisation in academia, business, government or the non-profit sectors.

For more information: [www.bth.se/msls](http://www.bth.se/msls)

*"The question of reaching sustainability is not about if we will have enough energy, enough food, or other tangible resources - those we have. The question is: will there be enough leaders in time?"*

Dr. Göran Broman and Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt, programme founders

## Adele Peters USA



Adele Peters has worked with sustainability issues in both non-profit organizations and business. In 2003, she helped fashion retailer American Apparel Inc. develop a plan to transition its clothing to organic cotton which included the launch of a new line of 100% organic cotton clothing, now available in over 200 stores worldwide. Her interest in product design also led her to work with a design firm in San Francisco conducting research in the sustainability of new products. She worked with the Coalition for Clean Air, an advocacy organization, on programs to improve air quality across the state of California, and also performed legal research on environmental issues for organizations in Oregon and California. She studied journalism at the University of Iowa and also attended Lewis and Clark Law School. Fascinated by the power of multidisciplinary collaboration and innovation to solve social and environmental problems, she hopes to bridge multiple fields in her work. In her free time, she likes to travel, read, and play violin and piano.

Ali Al-Dahir was born in Babylon, Iraq. The continually difficult political situation of his homeland and resulting human suffering touched him deeply, further bringing into focus his thinking about the human condition - not just in his own country, but worldwide. An academic background in sociology helped Ali to cope better and a bit faster with the dramatic situation in which he had seen change becoming inevitable. Throughout his 24 years of exile, Ali worked in various vocational sectors including industry, commerce, media and international humanitarian organizations. However, despite the experience he was gaining, Ali felt he was barely tackling any of his political and social objectives. His current goal is to build sufficient capacity to align his personal vision of change with international perspectives and to use that to help his people implement positive changes in their own lives and communities.

## Ali Al-Dahir Iraq



## Adrian Mohareb Canada



Adrian Mohareb grew up near Kingston, Ontario in Canada. He has a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University at Kingston and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Ottawa, Ontario with a focus on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste. He has worked on biomass energy resources and utilization in Ghana, and as a consultant to the Canadian International Development Agency on renewable energy and sustainable development. Adrian also worked with the Canadian government in a range of capacities including managing the measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reduction projects at Technology Early Action Measures, a Canadian federal government funding agency. Adrian most recently worked for the International Environment Policy Division at Natural Resources Canada, where he was a member of the Canadian government delegation to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In addition to his professional experiences, Adrian's passion for development and technology led him to collaborate with two colleagues to found a professional chapter of Engineers Without Borders (Canada). In his spare time, Adrian enjoys soccer and ultimate frisbee.

## Alice-Marie Archer France/UK

A French citizen with lifelong residence in the UK, Alice-Marie graduated from the University of Bristol with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Geoscience and a speciality in Water Resource Engineering. Upon graduation she undertook training as an assistant scientist with URS, an Engineering Consultancy in Bristol, UK. Leaving URS to concentrate on exploring social aspects of sustainability, Alice-Marie volunteered with both Bristol's Eco-home and the Schumacher Society where she became familiar with community and small-and-medium enterprise (SME) approaches to sustainability. An avid entrepreneur, she started her own *eco-patisserie* and *chocolaterie*, which she closed (with much heartache) when offered a position with the Schumacher Institute where she continues to work as project manager and as Assistant Coordinator on the European Commission-funded project "CONVERGE." A friendly face in Bristol's sustainability scene, Alice-Marie blogs on Ecojam, Bristol's green scene website. While no longer running her own business, she attains her passion for cooking and also enjoys making and playing electronic music in her free time.



## Annita Seckinger USA



For the last few years, Annita has been living in New Delhi, India working as an educator and consultant at Swechha. Swechha is an Indian non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to educating the youth of India to help create a healthier environment, particularly around issues of water and waste. During this time she was also a volunteer at Ashaniwas, an all-girl orphanage. In her former life, Annita was co-owner and office manager of Custom Travel and Vacations based in the United States. Later she became the International Program Director for Choice USA in Washington, D.C., where she helped design a program around women's health and reproductive rights issues. More recently she worked as an Environmental Scientist for the Water Quality Program at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science & Policy with a concentration in Soils and Water. In addition, she obtained a minor in Environmental Ethics as well as a Certificate on Wetland Delineation.

## Antonios Balaskas Greece



Antonios was born in Osdina Thesprotia's Greece. He received his University degree in Physical Education and Sport Science at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His studies began in the former Yugoslavia, Zagreb and Sarajevo, but the war was making his studies more and more difficult, so it was necessary for him to go to his homeland, Greece, in order to complete them. After graduating, he returned to the Balkans to work with humanitarian organizations dedicated to helping people - friends and neighbors from years before. Since then, Antonios has been deeply involved with humanitarian issues and has spent the past decade of his professional life working on aid-directed projects located, primarily, in post-war zones such the Balkans and Middle East. Upon graduating from the MSLS programme, Antonios would like to apply what he's learned back home in Greece, further blending sustainability practices with his passion for humanitarian work.

## Muhammad Ashfaq 'Ash' Abbasi Pakistan



For the last four years, Ashfaq has been working with the development sector primarily on projects related to capacity building of local government and political parties, as well as the formation of a district children's forum to advocate for the rights of children in their districts. He completed a Master's degree in International Relations from Hazara University Abbottabad. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Law from Peshawar University Peshawar. Following his studies, he worked as an English and social science teacher in a school in Abbottabad and volunteered with National University of Science and Technology Rawalpindi Pakistan. In 1999, he helped form a non-governmental organisation (NGO) called SKIYAN geared toward supporting orphans by helping them continue their studies at middle school through the purchase of necessary school supplies. Ashfaq comes from a larger family (seven siblings) and greatly enjoys literature, history and meeting people as well as hiking, playing games including soccer. He believes that balance of power is needed to get rid of chaos in the world.

Bilal lives in the beautiful city of Abbottabad, also know as "city of pines," in the north of Pakistan. Bilal holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology, Management Sciences and Computer Sciences and a Master's degree in Management Sciences. Both degrees are from COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad. While studying for his Master's degree, he began teaching management sciences at the same university. During his teaching, Bilal realized the reality that we humans are consuming the world's natural resources at a very fast pace which will, in turn, exhaust them very soon and worse, that this scarcity will cause problems for future generations. This thought led him to learn more about sustainable development, a concept Bilal believes is not possible without good and strong leadership. A combination of all these factors led him to join the MSLS programme to gain the necessary knowledge and tools to take back home with him to Pakistan. In this way, Bilal hopes to create awareness about sustainability amongst his fellow people, as well as the Pakistani government, to become a more sustainable society and country.

## Bilal Bin Saeed Pakistan



## Carina Knecht Sweden/USA



Carina is a Swedish citizen by birth and US citizen by marriage. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a special interest in institutions. Carina is an entrepreneur who currently works as a real estate investor. She also has an interest in women's and family issues. Thanks to her transcontinental family ties, she has participated and led organizations in local communities on several continents and has headed up volunteer youth and women's organizations at both local and district levels. She is looking forward to making a difference in the lives of youth and of families by incorporating sustainability as a framework in her endeavours both career-wise and in her personal and volunteer activities.

Carlo Iacovino is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Clean Ocean Foundation, a non-profit organisation created to preserve Australia's marine environment for future generations. Carlo holds a Bachelor of Media degree from Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. Following completion of his degree in 2000, Carlo worked as a designer and communications specialist at a range of institutions including Monash University, the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Region Biosphere Reserve, Hawthorn Community House and the Australian Population Institute. Volunteer work for the Surf Rider Foundation led Carlo to a role as Communications Manager at the Clean Ocean Foundation in 2003. Advocacy, awareness and education were the focus of his work during this period of time. In 2006, Carlo was appointed head of the Clean Ocean Foundation by its committee and continues to work on ocean pollution issues such as water quality, treatment, recycling, monitoring programs, desalination, epidemiological health studies and coastal management.

## Carlo Iacovino Australia



## Caroline M. Nolan Canada



Based in Toronto, Canada, Caroline has run her own consulting company supporting blue-chip clients – primarily in the financial services sector – to develop and implement innovative media, marketing and communications strategies since 2000. More recently, she has pursued her ever-growing interest in sustainability through consulting to Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC), a Toronto-based non-profit association for the fast-growing green roof and wall industry in North America ([www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org)) and is also currently the editor of that organization's quarterly magazine, the *Living Architecture Monitor*. Prior to starting her own venture, Caroline earned her a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree (Journalism) from Ryerson University in Toronto before joining one of Canada's largest media companies. A seasoned journalist and editor, she has launched several new editorial products and won upwards of a dozen media awards over the past 12 years. A budding children's book author, Caroline also loves to create wonderful meals with friends, hunt for wild mushrooms "up north" and tend to her urban rooftop garden.

Cécile achieved a state diploma of Doctor in Veterinary Medicine in France. During her studies, she was involved in toxicology. Firstly, at the French National Animal Poison Control where she answered emergency phone calls and provided clinical information for the diagnosis and treatment of poisoned animals. Then, during her specialisation year, she studied pharmacovigilance and toxicovigilance. Although Cécile could have worked in the pharmaceutical industry launching new veterinary drugs in European markets, she preferred to become a veterinary surgeon. She is now fully experienced with surgery and internal medicine for pets, farm animals and horses. She has further specialized herself in homeopathy and osteopathy. An around-the-world trip with her husband provided her extraordinary opportunities to meet others. She was especially inspired by a lecture by His Holiness the Dalai Lama who said: "Everyone has to do his best at his own level." All of these experiences lead her to apply to the MSLS programme. Cécile would now like to implement sustainability into veterinary surgeries, the pharmaceutical industry or pharmacovigilance institutions.

## Cécile Herve-Bazin France



## Chen Peng China



Chen comes to the MSLS programme in Karlskrona, Sweden on an exchange program from Nanjing Forestry University where she specializes in botany. Presently, her post-graduate research is focused on the application of moss in the environment - an exciting new field in both botany and environmental science. The study of sustainable development, she hopes, will offer her a macroscopic view toward environment and ecology. She also has an undergraduate degree from Nanjing Forestry University with a major in urban planning and geographic information systems (GIS). Chen's thesis was an exploration of mapping forests with a method of spatial analysis based on a particular type of GIS system. In her free time, she enjoys painting with watercolours and being outdoors in nature.

Born in New York State, David Adema came to Sweden from Sorsogon City in the Philippines where he worked with the US Peace Corps. While in the Philippines, he was consultant to two local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that help assist fishermen and street families achieve self-sufficiency through their own small businesses. Before joining the US Peace Corps, David worked with New Horizon Technologies, a research services firm contracted by the US government sponsored National Center for Appropriate Technology in Missoula, Montana. There, he provided marketing and business planning consulting services to grant recipients of the US Department of Energy's Inventions and Innovations program. This program is designed to help alternative energy inventors bring their products to market. He attended the University of Montana, graduating in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration focused on Accounting. Upon graduation from the MSLS programme, he would like to help large corporations become more sustainable enterprises capable of remaining competitive in this market of increasing costs.

## David Adema USA



## Eduardo Lima Brazil



After receiving a Bachelors degree in Social Communication, Eduardo worked in the communications/advertisement field for eight years. In 2003, he left the so-called "ad world" to pursue a post-graduate degree in social projects management. At the same time, he worked with a consulting firm that designed and implemented projects for companies in need of compliance with Brazilian environmental legislation. During one project, he led a group of 40 professionals from multiple industry sectors in the execution of an environmental program for a hydroelectric power plant. In 2005, this project was recognized by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and Cemig, the plant's owner, was named a worldwide leader of the utilities sector. While working with the Alliance to Save Energy, Eduardo helped launch a Brazilian non-governmental organisation (NGO) focused on bringing energy efficiency to water utilities across Brazil. In 2007, he returned to the same environmental consulting firm as its commercial director.

Hanzhu Deng was born in the Gansu province located in the northwestern part of China. She received an undergraduate degree in Accounting at Lanzhou Commercial College in 2007. In that same year, she enrolled in Nanjing Forestry University to start a Master's degree in Population, Resources and Environmental Economics where a burning curiosity and genuine interest in this field led her to focus her studies on the poverty-stricken population of China. Part of her studies involved analyses of resource distribution on which she published an article later selected to serve as a model for forestry cooperative organizations. Hanzhu enjoys learning about different cultures and improving her English skills with the help of new friends. With her knowledge gained from her studies, including the MSLS programme, Hanzhu intends to implement agricultural and social sustainability in her home country of China.

## Hanzhu Deng China



## Henry Mgbemena Nigeria/Sweden



Henry grew up in Nigeria but now lives in Sweden. He graduated from the University of Nigeria Nsukka with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy. He obtained a diploma in management from University of Lagos - Nigeria. His personal and professional experience working as a pharmacist in Nigeria, Sweden and United Kingdom convinced him of the need for a holistic approach to health, taking into account all aspects of human needs and his environment. This insight ignited his love and passion for learning and his choice of a second career in Professional Coaching for sustainable personal and organizational health and development. Henry will integrate the principles, strategies and tools learnt from the MSLS programme into his Pharmacy career, in Coaching and in Facilitation, for the creation of fulfilling lives in a sustainable world.

Hye-Jeong holds a Bachelors and Masters of Geography from Kyung Hee University in Seoul, with a concentration in economic geography and regional development. After graduating, she worked at a public research institution where her main mission was researching industrial cluster and regional innovation and applying these to the local government policies. From 2005-2006, she took part in an interesting project on integrating regional innovation systems between local government, local companies and the University. Since this opportunity she has been interested in Corporate Social Responsibility for a sustainable society. She wants to learn about the role of business in sustainable societal development through this program and wants to be able to contribute in a business environment after going back to Korea. Hye-Jong has spent half year learning about black and white photography before coming to Sweden. One of her dreams is to have a darkroom and one day have an exhibition of her own work.

## Hye-Jeong Kang Korea



## Hyuma Frankowski Hong Kong/Canada



Hyuma was born in Hong Kong where he developed his love of the ocean and getting dirty outdoors. Growing up in such a densely populated, multicultural territory with pockets of extreme natural beauty greatly influenced his worldview from an early age, and it is this perspective that informs his practice to this day. His passion for art, design and science led him to a degree in industrial design from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in British Columbia. Prior to attending BTH, Hyuma was employed as the lead industrial designer at an international water-park developer based in Vancouver, where his primary responsibilities included product development and researching sustainable technologies, practices and partnerships applicable to the water-park industry. Hyuma intends to continue to contribute to propelling humanity inexorably towards universal sustainability by fostering relationships between those with knowledge and those who can translate knowledge into action.

Jayne completed her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Western Australia with a mix of subjects including Psychology, Chemistry, Human Biology, Human Movement and Music. The theme underlying Jayne's variety of interests and studies is her desire to understand health. She is interested in exploring what physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health actually is – as well as the conditions which support and nurture a human being to self-actualise. It is this interest in health and personal growth that underlies Jayne's interest in sustainability and her desire to understand the conditions necessary to create a sustainable society and world. Jayne also taught English as a second language to students at universities for many years and loves the exploration of language, culture and humanity that the classroom allows. A singer/songwriter, she recently released a full-length album (*Just As It Should*) produced using 100% recycled paper and vegetable based inks. It is also available on iTunes for digital distribution, further reducing its ecological footprint.

## Jayne Bryant Australia



## Jenny Lind Sweden



Jenny was born and raised just outside Karlskrona, Sweden. She has an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from Sierra College, California, USA and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science - International Relations from Kalmar University in Sweden. In the past, Jenny has worked as an *au pair* in the United States and been an active member of the Red Cross, Sweden, where she worked with refugee integration. Jenny enjoys art and music and has always had a passion for the environment and loves all outdoor activities. After studying sustainable development during a semester at Queen's University located in Belfast in Northern Ireland, she decided to be a part of the "engine" working to improve our environment. By attending BTH, Jenny is looking forward to expand her leadership skills and find ways to help society move towards sustainability.

Joel graduated with high distinction from the Industrial Design program at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. There he directed his efforts towards a focus on sustainability and service/system design. During his studies, Joel worked for Honda of Canada Manufacturing (HCM), where he led a project to redevelop the waste and recycling system in one of Honda's manufacturing departments. For his major design thesis, Joel initiated and led a project to explore sustainable commuting alternatives for HCM employees. A key success was high involvement of Honda employees in the design process. Complementing this background, Joel has also volunteered in politics for many years. He hopes to continue driving innovative projects by bringing together multidisciplinary teams, creating strong networks, sharing information and by communicating ideas through engaging mediums such as graphics, video and web. Joel is interested in applying systems-level sustainability concepts to our everyday activities: projects which focus on people. He is specifically interested in themes involving mobility, planning and tourism.

## Joel Mulligan Canada



## Josefin Nyström Sweden



Josefin was born and raised in Norrköping, Sweden. Her involvement in the Scouts organization since childhood helped shaped her interest in nature and the understanding of working together in groups. Through the Scouts she has gained leadership skills and international experience, from going to a World Jamboree in Thailand to speaking in front of the Swedish King. Josefin has a Bachelor of Environmental Science from Linköpings University and studied one semester at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. She has worked with a municipal government to inform the public about composting and developed a report on progress toward meeting the Swedish Environmental Goals. Josefin's previous experience shaped her interest in using a sustainability framework as a tool to solve the big issues the world is facing today. She joined the MSLS programme to broaden her skills and knowledge to work towards sustainability.

After being born and raised in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, Kate McKeown obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Portland in Oregon. Upon graduation, Kate pursued a professional career focusing primarily within the traffic and transportation sector throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Kate's professional experience also expands to municipality, site and residential development. Specifically, she has worked on projects consisting of roadway lighting design, vegetated stormwater swales, wetland mitigation and drainage grading. Recently, Kate has opened her eyes to the significance of sustainability not only within civil engineering but as a topic that should be addressed at an international level. Kate aspires to return to the United States with the appropriate tools to mend the neglected unsustainable issues dispersed among the Northwest Region. On a personal level, she enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including kayaking, cross-country skiing and backpacking in and around the Pacific Coast area.

## Kate McKeown USA



## Kate Murray Canada



Kate Murray has fond memories of time spent exploring and learning from the Rocky Mountains close to Calgary where she was born. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Chemistry. In her current position as Public Program Coordinator for the municipality of Calgary, Alberta, Kate develops and implements community-based social marketing programs that aim to encourage residential water conservation. This role allows her to explore her passion for community engagement and she believes that direct interactions with residents' builds capacity in the community and fosters an evolution of personal and social norms. Other work and volunteer roles provided Kate with experience in environmental education, grant review and the facilitation and mentoring of grassroots environmental stewardship projects. Kate believes that change is possible! The environmental problems we face are international in nature and she hopes to learn from her classmates how the solutions are global in scope.

Currently Khuloud lives in Washington, DC; her journey started in Palestine, a place where the political conflict along with other circumstances equipped her to consider herself as a citizen of the world. Her path took her away from her motherland to a world that is threatened every day - not just with war and conflict, but with short-sighted practices and policies as well. She holds Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees in Computer Science, and is a PhD candidate in Information Technology (IT) at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She has also worked as an IT expert in several sectors in the US and Canada and, in 2004, became the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for CHF International, a US-based international development NGO. It was through CHF that she gained her real exposure to sustainability and able to combine two of her greatest passions: IT and a passion for helping people. Khuloud is a firm believer in people's collective action, and with the right tools obtained through the MSLS programme she feels she can stand up to our challenges and effect change that will go beyond herself, family, friends, and community.

## Khuloud Odeh USA/Palestine/Canada



## Lu Dai China



Lu was born and grew up near Shanghai. She received her Bachelor of Applied Linguistics from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. From 2002-2005 she was assigned to worker on numerous international expositions in Guangzhou including the Chinese Export Commodity Fair, and the International Famous Furniture Exhibition, among others. Upon completing her undergraduate degree, she was recruited by Huaiyin Teacher's College as a teaching assistant while simultaneously serving as a student councillor. For over two years, she has been managing over 200 students. Lu has learned many useful management skills in her line of work, including ensuring the smooth operation of student life and activities. This both promoted her sense of responsibility and managerial expertise and has been a source of satisfaction and great pleasure as well. In her spare time, Lu likes walking, travelling and movies.

Marcos likes to trek in nature as a way to balance his busy life in São Paulo. He holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Biology and Business Administration. He speaks Portuguese, English, German and French. While studying biology, he conducted research in ethology (the study of animal behavior) and worked in the University of São Paulo's human genetic lab studying Duchenne muscular dystrophy. As an engineer, Marcos leads projects on waste reduction and process-efficiency at the Alcan Flexible Packaging plant in Brazil, as well as participating in best-practice teams in both Americas. His goal is to merge his knowledge and experience to implement strategic change in organizations and communities in order to achieve sustainability.

## Marcos Hubert Kimmich Conradt Brazil



## Mary Ostafi USA



Mary Ostafi is an Architect, Interior Designer, and LEED® Accredited Professional from Madison, Wisconsin, where she practices sustainable design and integrated building solutions. She received a Bachelor of Fine Art's degree in Interior Architecture from Northern Illinois University, and studied abroad in Spain to pursue a minor in Spanish. Mary is fully aware of the building industry's impact on the environment and has dedicated her professional career to innovative design methods in order to constitute change in this sector by transforming the ways buildings are designed, planned and constructed. Upon completing the MSLS programme, Mary hopes to join the many sustainability leaders in transforming the United States and global building sectors to becoming a central part of the solution. Aside from professional interests Mary can be found traveling the world, exploring new cities by bicycle and practicing yoga.

Masood Khan was born in Abbottabad, Pakistan. He obtained both his Legal Law Bachelor's (LLB) and Master's degrees in Political Science from the University of Peshawar. After graduating, he worked for three years as a Project Coordinator in the development sector for a Sungi, a national non-governmental organization (NGO) that works for the rights of deprived and marginalized communities in Pakistan. In addition, he also worked with the National Democratic Institute of International Development, an organization working in various districts of Pakistan strengthening capacity building of political parties at the grassroots level. Masood is a big fan of cricket, chess, music, traveling and exploring different cultures. Seeking a new challenge, Masood decided to join the MSLS programme with the aim of bringing new ideas and philosophies related to the field of environmental sustainability back home. His personal goal is to contribute to the process of empowerment and evaluation of individuals and communities while creating a sustainable future for all.

## Masood Khan Pakistan



## Matt Milam USA



Matt was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK) where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Economics. While at UTK, he organized numerous environmental events including \*Power Shift 2008,\* the largest ever gathering of young people designed to raise awareness of climate change. While working for Proffitt & Goodson Inc., a wealth management firm, Matt learned business management and helped the organization to become more sustainable by developing a comprehensive recycling program for the office which had a positive impact in changing his co-worker's attitudes towards sustainability. He is very interested in applying the sustainability principles to organizations and working on ways to make the role of doing business more profitable and yet better for the world. He is also interested in working with developing nations to facilitate the process of sustainable growth. The MSLS programme is providing him with the tools and skills he needs to make the world a better place.

Mélina has a heartfelt interest for the collective challenge of co-creating Ecocities. She has been an Advisor Project Manager in a Canadian municipality (Longueuil, Quebec) since 2002. This entails the running of a pilot project to define management tools for sustainable development of the greenbelt in the Montreal metropolitan area. Having completed a Master's degree in Geography and more recently, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Municipal and Metropolitan Administration (2006), Mélina still feels challenged by the need to adjust her "mental maps" to be able to lead the restoration of the urban metabolism. Her long-term professional goal is to enable local communities to be better places to live in, while learning more about the resilience of non-linear, social-ecological systems in municipal governance. In her spare time, Mélina enjoys acrylic paintings, hiking, reading science magazines, writing poetry, learning and sharing ideas, and, above all, cultivating "laziness" in nature, which for her, is a great source of inspiration.

## Mélina Planchenault Canada/France



## Natalie Safra USA



Natalie is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area in California, United States, and has long felt a deep concern for – and fascination with – the interconnectedness of our world. This influenced Natalie to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of California in Santa Cruz. Traveling to various regions globally furthered her awareness of the conflicts between societies and the natural world. She has devoted her energy locally by focusing her career, internship and volunteer choices on community social services and has obtained extensive skills in managing, coaching, organizing and facilitating both individuals and teams. It was while working in many diverse social fields that Natalie realized sustainability must be part of the solution for many of the struggles encountered by humankind. Upon completion of the MSLS programme, Natalie would like to work with various organizations by leading them to become socially and environmentally responsible. Natalie's interests include discovering new parts of the world, running, practicing yoga, scuba diving ... and maybe, even, another try at skydiving!

Nicholas is from Gresham, Wisconsin. His father, James Bisley, is the president of the solid surface fabrication company Bisley Fabrication Inc., his mother, Deanna Bisley, is Dean of Auxiliary Sites for the College of the Menominee Nation and his sister, Kate Bisley, is aspiring to take control of Bisley Fabrication. Nick graduated from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Conservation in 2008. Previous to graduation, he spent a semester in Belize, Central America and completed an internship in the Yunnan Province of southwestern China. He has an interest in exploring and working with the many interconnections that exist between human cultures and their environments. Some of his previous working experiences include: pizza delivery, tree shearing, grounds-keeping, countertop fabrication, energy conservation intern and water quality intern. He has a sincere desire to work with developing countries to integrate sustainable practices at the community level.

## Nicholas Bisely USA



## Nils Klinkenberg USA



Nils grew up near Boston in the northeastern United States. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rochester in New York State where he studied Mechanical Engineering, French and Interdisciplinary Sustainability issues. After half a year of travel in Europe and Africa, he returned to Rochester, where he worked as: a student organizer, the co-ordinator of a regional sustainability conference, the finance manager of an environment-themed housing cooperative and a bio-medical engineering research assistant. He also continued to consult on sustainability efforts at his *alma mater*, as well as a participating member of a task force on sustainable institutional purchasing. Nils is enthusiastic about science and in awe at the majesty of the cosmos. He is fascinated at the power of stories and storytelling to break down barriers and open communication. After the MSLS programme, Nils looks forward to working with corporations to realign business strategy towards engaging the sustainability challenge and to continuing his work in youth mentorship and leadership development.

For as long as Olivier can remember, he wanted to become an engineer - but what kind? He graduated from the ESTP (Ecole Speciale des Travaux Publics) in Paris, France, having chosen civil engineering. He acquired significant experience during his six years working on the building of sewage and drinking water treatment plants while learning proactive processes within the VEOLIA group. While conducting his work, he was struck by the side effects of the building process and how harmful these were to the surrounding environment creating huge amounts of waste. He wanted to find a better way of doing things. By chance, he heard about The Natural Step approach toward sustainability. He found the methodology so smart and clear that he immediately applied for the program in Karlskrona, Sweden. Today, his aim is to spread the effective use of the sustainability principles as widely as possible, especially within leading companies around the world. Personally, Olivier enjoys travelling, learning new languages and running.

## Olivier Herve-Bazin France



## Polin Kumar Saha Bangladesh



Polin completed his Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees in Environmental Science at Dhaka University in Bangladesh. His academic background and experiences are in the field of Integrated Environmental Sciences and he has a strong interest in challenging issues in this field. As a prime initiator, he has started to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) at his own organization in Bangladesh. When he was young he was challenged intellectually, and his dream was to have a unique life, move to different regions of the world and develop his career in his field. He believes that the MSLS program encompasses all of these hopes. He looks forward to the fellowship the program offers, meeting new friends and colleagues and cooperating with others. He believes that "nothing is possible without confidence" and looks forward to the MSLS program helping him to gain the confidence he needs to be an effective sustainability leader.

Rebecca graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Environmental Studies. Throughout her studies she took every possible chance to explore the concepts of sustainable business, working with organizations such as Net Impact and Sustain Dane, a Madison, WI-based non-profit created by individuals who were inspired by Torbjorn Lahti, the father of the Swedish eco-municipality movement. After graduation she moved west to work with the Mono Lake Committee, a place-based environmental non-governmental organization (NGO). While working on behalf of Mono Lake she inadvertently fell in love with the surrounding mountains, and decided to move to Jackson, Wyoming to explore her new passion for all things mountains. Somewhere in between all the skiing, biking and hiking she found time to work with a local grocery store integrating sustainability principles into their business plan and operations. The store became the first business in Wyoming to work with the Natural Step and their success inspired Rebecca to leave the mountains behind and venture to beautiful Karlskrona in hopes of developing more tools for integrating strategic sustainability into different business models.

## Rebecca Petzel USA



## Hanzi Ren China



Ren gained a Bachelor of Economics degree in her hometown at Nanjing Forestry University where she specialized in International Economics and Trade. The degree covered subjects from economics, finance and marketing to management. Her thesis focused on analyzing the export competitiveness of Chinese wooden furniture. Prior to the Master's Programme in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability, Ren was offered acceptance into the Graduate School in Nanjing Forestry University, majoring in Forestry Economics and Management which made her pay more attention to environmental problems and sustainability. For Ren Hanzi, the MSLS programme is a practical framework for building a bridge between scientists and decision-makers in politics and business to solve complex problems as well as the chance to improve her English skills. In the future, she would like to continue working in the forestry products area while looking forward to moving it towards sustainability.

Rong's childhood memories with the ocean and various sports activities involving beaches and the trees turned her into an open-minded, risk taker – while her experience with extra-curricular activities in school made her a person of passion, confidence and strong-will. Her long-held aspiration for freedom and love of the environment led her to earn her Bachelor of Engineering degree in Architecture Environment and now, to seek her Master's degree at BTH. So here she is, in Sweden, pursuing her dream to be someone like the hero in Captain Planet, committing her enthusiasm and passion toward environmental protection and sustainability and, ultimately, to the creation of a better world as a whole. In her spare time, Rong enjoys yoga, sports such as basketball and football, music and travelling.

## Rong Fei China



## Sara Blekhorn Canada



Sara has over eight years experience in the field of sustainable development having worked cross-culturally with government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and large corporations. She has expertise in the field of project and team management, and her skills include facilitation, public engagement, coordination, event planning and social marketing. Most recently, she worked in Tanzania with The International Center for Sustainable Cities spearheading a microfinance project for the city of Dar es Salaam. Sara, who is fluent in English, Spanish and “survival Swahili,” grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada and since then, has spent time living and/or working in Cuba, Africa, Spain, Guatemala and Sweden. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development and Environmental Studies from the University of Dalhousie in Halifax, Nova Scotia and completed her honours thesis on the politics of water. An avid athlete, Sara has competitively played rugby, basketball and volleyball since the age of 12. Sara’s creativity and love for entertainment has drawn her to the art of *poi*. She figures that if you can dance with fire, you can do anything!

## Sarah Houseman Australia



Sarah comes to MSLS with two distinct career strands; the first is education and encompasses work in environmental education, community development for sustainability and teaching in both the secondary (high school) and tertiary (university) sectors. Her focus in this area now is as a facilitator for the ‘*Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream*’ Symposium as a community development tool for environmental sustainability and social justice.

Sarah’s second career strand is in small/medium sized enterprises, where Sarah has worked in marketing, export sales and executive management in the construction and mining industries in Australia. Exposure to existing frameworks for strategic thinking in relation to business expansion, risk assessment, acquisition assessment and implementation inspired Sarah to study more robust strategic frameworks and methodology.

Through the Master’s in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability, Sarah seeks to bring together her leadership and team development skills with her passion for societal transformation towards sustainability.

## Shehzad Ahmed Pakistan



Shehzad holds two Master of Science degrees from two Pakistani-based universities: the first in Chemistry from the University of the Punjab in Lahore and the second in Information Technology from PIMSAT located in Karachi. After completing his studies, Shehzad joined the garment industry where he worked as Chemist overseeing the entire wet-washing processing department of Stitchcraft Private Ltd. in Lahore. For the last two years, Shehzad has also worked as the Assistant Manager of the garment wet-washing processing operations of US Apparel & Textile Private Ltd. In this last role, he primarily oversaw the “washing” of denim garments, such as blue jeans, using various specified chemicals – a process of garment-making that triggered Shehzad to begin thinking about sustainability issues including protection of the environment and human health. He is confident that the skills and knowledge gained from the MSLS programme will improve his professional skills tremendously so he may succeed in his future profession in a more sustainable and holistic manner and enable him to meet challenges of pollution, environmental issues, poverty and inequality in his homeland.

## Susan McCormack Canada



Susan is from Canada’s beautiful capital city, Ottawa, Ontario. She holds an Ontario Graduate Certificate in International Project Management from The Business School at Humber College in Toronto, Canada as well as Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development, and Criminal Justice & Public Policy from the University of Guelph in Ontario. For the last decade, Susan has been studying, volunteering, living and working abroad in a multitude of countries including the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Trinidad & Tobago, the United States, Canada, Tanzania, Nicaragua, South Korea and now, Sweden, where she is eager to learn with her new international MSLS colleagues. Being a humanitarian, Susan puts her efforts towards the non-profit sector and working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). She would like to apply her knowledge gained through the MSLS programme toward helping frame, design and evaluate sustainable practices, programs and projects for NGOs in developing countries.

## Tiffany Finley USA



Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, Tiffany has dabbled in environmental education, non-profit organizational development and the green products sector. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management and Biology from Denison University (DU) in Granville, Ohio and spent a semester studying global climate change in the Australian rainforest. While at school, Tiffany founded the DU Green Team to empower students which influenced university management to implement campus-wide greening efforts including food purchasing and waste reduction. While at DU, she also coordinated the nearby low-income neighborhood's community garden and a rehabilitation gardening program for juvenile offenders. This opportunity provided her with invaluable experience in community organizing and leadership in challenging environments. After college, Tiffany managed product procurement and approval as well as supplier relations for an online, green-products company gaining valuable exposure to the ever-expanding sustainable products market. Most recently, she assisted in the coordination of logistics and speakers for the annual Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) Conference, a long-standing global Corporate Social Responsibility event. This experience illuminated the true efforts of companies worldwide to restructure their business plans around sustainability. After finishing her Master's degree at the MSLS programme, Tiffany hopes to work with consumer product companies toward the creation of sustainable services and consumption.

## Treva Wetherell USA



Treva was born and raised in Wisconsin, a centrally located US-state, but has also lived in Spain and England and, most recently, the southeastern United States. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a double major in Spanish and International Relations. Her interest in the world around her and belief in civic and social responsibility led her to work with Habitat for Humanity International – an international non-governmental organization (NGO) which builds housing in partnership with low-income families and raises awareness of housing issues in the United States and abroad. During her time there she worked in a variety of roles including the management of volunteers, advocacy, fundraising, program management, training and facilitation, and development of training resources. For Treva, the MSLS program offers an opportunity to merge the skills she learned through travels as well as her experiences as a leader in an NGO with her interest in sustainable organizational and business practices.

## Tyler Seed Canada



Tyler was born in a helicopter above Canada's Great Plains. He was raised on the Northern banks of the mighty Lake Superior in the small town of Red Rock. After graduating from Carleton University's College of the Humanities in Ottawa, Canada with a Bachelor of Humanities degree, he spent a year teaching English as a second language in Seoul, South Korea. His Interests include literature, philosophy, religions, music, comic books, nature and urban environments.

Valeria was born and lives in Sao Paulo, the largest city in Brazil. She studied Electronic Engineering and since that time, has been working in Industrial Automation for the chemical and petrochemical processing industries. For fourteen years she ran her own company, specializing in industrial electrical installation and automation design. In addition she also provided SAP® consulting for large corporations for a period of four years. During her twenty years of experience working in detailed design for big industries, her main concern was whether or not nature could afford all that injury. When the issue of "sustainability" came up, she had the vision that with this concept, the designs could be carried out in a more conscientious way. The MSLS programme seemed to be the tool she needed to improve, with the sustainability principles, not only her engineering work, but also an opportunity to bring this topic to the people within community as well. She believes most deeply that we can make the world better.

## Valeria De Fusco Pereira Brazil



## Valerie Yep USA



Born and raised in Sacramento, California, Valerie completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology with a minor in Communications from the University of California, Davis. Upon graduation, Valerie joined the National Park Service in San Francisco, California as a coordinator of habitat restoration and environmental education events; a role that combined her love for the environment with a passion for education. She also helped facilitate volunteer programs and has experience with mentoring students in ecological restoration projects. After working in San Francisco, she moved to San Diego, California to work for the Soil, Ecology and Restoration Group as a Project Manager. It was there she realized sustainability needs to play a larger role in habitat restoration. When not in class, you can often find her fretting over what to put in her next homemade bento box lunch or snapping amateur photographs with her new camera.

## Wang Ying China



Wang was born, studied and worked in Kunming (or “Spring City”) in the Yunnan Province. Located in the southwest of China, Yunnan province is well-known for its mild weather, colorful ethnic culture and rich natural scenic spots. Wang obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Language and Literature at Yunnan University. Wang also holds along a certificate for teaching Chinese as a second language. She has been working for Kunming University of Science and Technology (KUST) for many years as an International Exchange Coordinator focusing on developing international programs with other universities and recruiting international teachers for Chinese students. For several years, Wang has also taught international students Chinese as a second language while also offering English courses to Chinese students. In her spare time, she enjoys playing badminton and traveling.

## Zaida Barcena Mexico



Zaida was born in Mexico City and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of the Americas located in Puebla, two hours east of the city of her birth. Over the years, she worked in several companies trying to find her passion in life and when she finally found it – everything to do with protecting the environment – she began researching her options, learned about the MSLS programme at the Blekinge Institute of Technology and knew it would be the perfect fit. Upon completion of her Master’s degree at BTH, Zaida would like to return to Mexico and implement all the knowledge she has acquired during her stay in Sweden. Another major goal she has is to integrate sustainability into the business practices of her professional life. While conscious her country will not change overnight, Zaida is certain she will play an important role in lessening the negative environmental impacts upon her beloved Mexico with the knowledge she has learned in Sweden!