

*We are
all mosquitoes.*

MISLS 2013

Masters in Strategic Leadership toward Sustainability

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If you are confronted by a furious rhinoceros that is ready to charge, the worst thing you can do is pretend you are also a rhinoceros. It would be a lot better if you would act like a mosquito. The one thing that can defeat a rhinoceros is a mosquito cloud. A mosquito cloud has two great attributes:

- 1. The mosquitos all stick together, and;*
- 2. The mosquito cloud has no leader that would allow the rhino to behead and kill the cloud.*

In the end, the cloud will drive the rhino crazy until it collapses into a ditch and likely, without killing a single mosquito ▲

”

Manfred Max-Neef



Rifat **Abdel Elal** ▲

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Rifat Abed Elal was born in Gaza City, Palestine and he now lives in Stockholm, Sweden. He is a recent graduate of the Civil Engineering Department at the Islamic University of Gaza. His vision is to leave a remarkable footprint in the world by improving and solving global issues, especially in the Arab world. For this reason, he has joined the MSLS Programme which will be the key to achieving his dream through learning more about strategic leadership in order to lead future generations towards sustainability. He loves life and nature, and he aims to spread peace, love and mercy all over the world. He derives brilliant inspiration from his mum, as she is his great leader and influences every second of his life. He believes that through having a clear vision, ambition and hard work, miracles can happen ▲

Joe **Alsford** ▲

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When growing up in the UK Joe always enjoyed the great outdoors. Active in many sports including tennis, kayaking and swimming he developed a bit of a competitive streak! With a love of thinking deeply about issues, whether it is sustainability or the nature of being human, Joe earned himself a degree in Philosophy from UEA Norwich. Post study, Joe joined forces with the family construction business involved in landscaping and civil engineering projects around the UK. Whilst enjoying the practical element and the challenge of working on high profile and unusually political sites, the work never satisfied the yearning to be engaged with the deeper issues effecting society. After spending a year learning and volunteering on land based education projects in Thailand and the UK Joe became increasingly aware of a societal disconnection from nature and how this undermines our ability to act sustainably. Looking to develop understanding and improve leadership skills, Joe applied to the MSLS programme with the hope of implementing positive change in the future, particularly in the field of education ▲

Jean-Paul **Baron-Bonarjee** ▲

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Jean-Paul comes from an Indo-French background and grew up in Jersey, France and finally Zimbabwe. In Africa, he spent his formative years in a very peaceful environment, in close contact with nature and animals which awakened in him a sense of freedom, wonder and imagination. Later, he went on to study Electronic Engineering at the University of Cape Town, but soon became disillusioned by this field as more questions than answers arose. He simultaneously came to realize the flaws within modern society and the disconnectedness created by reductionist and materialistic culture and its legacy of inequity in Southern Africa. Since then, he has searched for the answers to these questions and for a more holistic, rewarding, and simple way of life. He was a teacher of English, and other subjects, in South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East, always imparting an alternative view of the world, travelling widely, volunteering in different organizations and communities, learning from other cultures as well as growing on an individual level. He was drawn to the MSLS programme as he hopes to one day become an agent of even greater change in the world to bring deeper awareness, sustainability, simplicity, equality and peace ▲

Nicola Bechtel ▲

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Nicola grew up in a small village near Trier. In 2008 she started her traineeship and in 2011 received a recognized qualification in Wholesaling and Export Sales. In order to gain and be able to combine theoretical and practical knowledge, she decided to study part-time in addition to her traineeship. In 2008 she also started her studies and recently graduated from University of Applied Sciences (FOM) Luxembourg with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Within her studies, special focus was laid on strategic management topics. After her traineeship she worked for one year at HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt in Luxembourg. During this time she realized that this cannot be everything. Therefore, she started looking for a completely new challenge and found the MSLS program. Although she has so far no experience with sustainability, she strongly believes that this topic affects all aspects of our lives and she wants to gain the skills necessary to create a sustainable environment. In her spare time, Nicola enjoys playing tennis, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family ▲

Lucia Jane Beltrame ▲

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Since a very young age, Lucia used to say she wanted to 'save the world'; even though she didn't quite know what from or how. She spent a great deal of her childhood and adolescence pondering over this question. Over the years she founded a Community Based Organisation in Kenya, worked at the World Food Programme in Rome and as an environmental auditor at her university. As a curious polymath she studied classics, music, languages, psychology, sociology and finally graduated from the University of Exeter in Management with Leadership. But she was not satisfied that this would be enough in her mission to change the world, so as soon as she finished she enrolled into the MSLS programme. She is excited to discover what the future has in store for her ▲

Anita Berner ▲

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Anita is a kindergarten teacher who received her bachelor's degree in Educational Studies and History in order to better understand human beings, their development and their history. In fact, it is from practical experiences that she has learned the most in life. She was working mainly on social projects both in her home country and in Latin America. In Austria, she was dealing with multifaceted themes such as intercultural kindergarten and assisting refugees; in Mexico she volunteered in a school, and in Brazil she worked with homeless people, and coordinated an NGO in a slum. Through these experiences Anita understood more clearly the importance of finding a personal sustainable way of living, as well as leading enterprises and organisations. She believes that education is one of the most important traditions of human development and is therefore very glad to join the MSLS in order to learn more about sustainability and to share these values with others. Anita has a lot of energy, confidence, and enthusiasm to actualize her dreams, and to inspire others to do the same ▲

Kjersti Helgeland **Bohlin** ▲

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Born and raised in a rural village outside Oslo, Kjersti developed a close connection to nature early in her life, hiking in the forests all year around. Her interest first sent her to university to study Biology. Interesting yes, but so theoretical; she broadened her horizon over the coming years with different studies such as Montessori pedagogies, organic agriculture, environmental history, and teacher education. A winding path work-wise as well led her to the City of Oslo, where she has worked as a senior adviser on Environmental Management and different environmental issues for the last seven years. From her experiences in the public sector she recognised the need for a more strategic approach to the sustainability challenges. She strongly believes in the main-streaming of sustainability into common management culture. For Kjersti, personal development and leadership are integral to this, and so MSLS was tailor made for her ▲

Roman **Bojko** ▲

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Roman's vision is to drive sustainable development of society by showing effective and sustainable ways of satisfying our needs and growing ambitions. He was born in Slovakia but ended up in Prague studying finance and economics. During his first year, as a student of University of Economics, Roman joined AIESEC, the world's largest student-run organization. Working in AIESEC while studying at the University taught him lessons about leadership, planning, change management and team work as well. Working in a multicultural environment challenged his worldview and understanding of future global needs. Even more intensive was his experience of establishing a new branch of AIESEC at Universities in Mongolia where he became more resilient, goal and solution oriented, but also more open to different cultures and opinions. Throughout the past two years he has focused on supporting social innovations, collaboration and effectiveness of businesses at Hub Prague and Because Consulting. Roman enjoys reading, AIKIDO and team sports such as football or volleyball ▲

Maaïke **Boumans** ▲

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Maaïke grew up as “the Benjamin” in a family of four, on the outskirts of Amsterdam, blessed with plenty of opportunities to explore the world. She conducted fieldwork in a Palestinian refugee camp in Bethlehem for her BA-thesis and graduated as a Cultural Anthropologist and Development Sociologist from the University of Amsterdam (UvA). She took an extra year and a half to create her own curriculum in which she included a minor in Development Economics (not really her thing) and a 14-month honours program called Art&Research: a collaboration between the UvA and the Gerrit Rietveld Academie exploring artistic research, which ended with an exhibition and the publication of a book. She is a third generation graduate from the Learning Lab, a think tank for social change. Interested in building bridges, education, hosting meaningful conversations and shifting paradigms, she co-organized the first Healthcare Leadership Summer School just before arriving in Karlskrona. A soul traveler through rhythm and words, she loves a deep dive. Maaïke enjoys baking cakes and cookies, dreams, the word “Ubuntu”, travelling the world by bike, and exploring her mind through the practice of Mindfulness ▲

Eric Bragg ▲

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Eric Bragg was raised in Darien, Connecticut, part of the New York Metropolitan Area. While studying for his bachelor's degree in Political Science and History at Washington University in St. Louis, he spent six months living in Santiago, Chile, where he studied Latin American Politics at the Catholic University of Chile. Following his college graduation, he interned in the Washington D.C. office of California Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and worked on the Connecticut gubernatorial campaign of Ned Lamont. After rapidly growing tired of the culture of politics, Eric went to work for Rustic Pathways, leading American and international teenagers on a variety of service projects in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, including projects in community development, reforestation, marine conservation and sustainable agriculture. He has also lead two community service trips to Colombia, coordinating with Shakira's Pies Descalzos Foundation. At BTH, Eric hopes to explore how the world's largest corporations can work strategically to prevent deforestation through employing sustainable agricultural practices. While not working, he has spent time traveling in Central America and Southern Africa ▲

Niklas Bruce ▲

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Niklas was born and raised in the small university town of Lund in the very south of Sweden. Having organized voluntary initiatives at the Red Cross Youth Division Sweden, Niklas has acquired hands-on experience of leadership in a non-profit context. Currently being a trainee at the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Natursskyddsföreningen) he has set out to deepen his ability to communicate the need for structural environmental change. Niklas possesses extensive knowledge of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) which he gained when doing an internship at the Sweden-based multi-national company Trelleborg AB. Through MSLS, Niklas wants to transform his passion for sustainability into action. He holds a bachelor in Environmental Science from Lund University, with a major in Environmental Industrial Economics. His sustainability approach is largely informed by the importance of social change, believing that the sustainability challenge ahead of us to a great extent takes place in our minds. If you were to ask Niklas' friends to describe him, the answers would probably involve traits such as "considerate" and "social" with "an occasional tendency of talking too much" ▲

Caroline Colldahl ▲

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Caroline recently graduated from Durham University in the UK with a bachelor's in Business. When conducting a critical analysis of UK supermarkets' environmental practices in relation to consumer expectations for her dissertation, the importance of engaging organisations in the transition towards sustainability became obvious to her. She wishes to possess the ability to not only clearly explain the correlations between sustainable development and financial performance but also to help organisations with this acute and necessary business strategy. She believes that we are moving towards an unsustainable future and therefore wants to contribute to a positive, long-term impact on society by creating a tangible difference. In her free time Caroline finds balance by enjoying several outdoor activities such as running, diving and travelling, but also being kept in the kitchen by her two favourite passions, cooking and baking. Her favourite community engagement activity so far was when she, as a member of the charity FoodCycle, could impact her surroundings through preparing three-course meals in unused church kitchens for the homeless, from locally collected surplus produce. She hopes that the MSLS programme will provide her with the opportunity to progress and develop in the direction of her ambitions ▲

Marko Curuvija ▲

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Marko Curuvija is a recent graduate of the Political Science program at Concordia University in Montreal. As a youth he found himself perpetually harboring feelings of apathy towards his schooling. The content and teaching processes of the modern day schooling system, he found, often failed to meet the need for engagement, and self-learning within these processes. Time spent travelling and volunteering in Central America, as well as on various lengthy canoe trips, served as a basis for reflection on who he was and what he wanted his role to be in the world. He is intrigued by the possibility of a transformative change in the education system that could potentially address these issues of youth apathy while providing students with a foundational knowledge of the sustainability challenge before us today. Basketball, drawing and gypsy jazz guitar are some of the passions in his life. He wants to use the MSLS year to build upon shared experiences with his wide base of peers, improve his public speaking skills and to continue the life-long pursuit of personal growth through thoughts and actions ▲

Elaine Daly ▲

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Elaine has joined MSLS to explore concepts and approaches for inspiring long-lasting impact and change within organisations. She started out her studies in mechanical & manufacturing engineering. She then progressed into studying accountancy and finance, where she specialized in working in the field of business process analysis and financial modelling. She worked as a consultant for a number of years with KPMG. She then set up her own therapeutic practice as a transformation consultant working with both individuals and groups to facilitate changes within their emotional, physical and spiritual lives. She has studied a number of behavioural change and wellness modalities and integrates all of these into her practice. Elaine grew up in Wicklow, Ireland sandwiched between the Dublin Mountains and the sea which fuelled her passion for nature and the freedom of open spaces. She has travelled extensively which has brought her to Africa a number of times working as a consultant with local communities and organizations. She loves to write poetry and prose, and is happiest curled up under a tree or beside the sea with a pen and notebook ▲

Clarissa de Oliveira Arend ▲

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As a young girl, Clarissa dreamed of traveling to other countries, getting to know different cultures and different lifestyles. As a teenager, she focused her studies on foreign languages. Her first experience abroad was travelling to Chile with her school when she was 16. Through this trip she learned that being open to and embracing another culture allows you to learn more about yourself. And that was exciting! Some years later, while living in Germany, she realized that her relationship with nature had changed: she had developed more concern and respect, and being outdoors was much more appreciated. It was so clear that this was the path to take, and she consequently decided to pursue studies in Environmental Management. As a student, Clarissa worked on a research project in waste prevention and cleaner production with industries from mechanical and construction fields. Her professional experience includes environmental consultancy, waste management and recycling and industrial symbiosis. Besides traveling, Clarissa also enjoys cooking, watching movies and doing yoga ▲

Thibaut Driffort ▲

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Born and raised in France, Thibaut graduated high school in 2008 and decided to attend preparatory classes specialized in economics and law in order to prepare the national competitive entrance exams to “Grandes Ecoles”. After two intensive years, he finally chose to join the Telecom Business School, which gave him the opportunity to get a MS in Specialised ICTs. During his first year of the program, he heard about the MSLS at BTH and managed to come in Karlskrona to join it. Really interested in green ICTs, he thinks about working in this field after the MSLS. Thibaut has always worked to finance his studies, in particular as a salesman in a big tool store where he was trying hard to sell only eco-labeled products by explaining the issues related to their production. He also did an internship in business engineering and another in consulting engineering. He dislikes playing cards and chess, but perhaps paradoxically really wants to become an active player in the serious-game called “Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability” ▲

Xiaojing Fei ▲

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With an ecology background, Fei Xiaojing has been involved in environmental protection movements in China and worked part time or as an intern for many large NGOs since she was a university student. After she graduated in 2009, she worked in the independent think tank Institute for Environment and Development (IED) on a climate change related education program and policy advocacy. She then worked with an NGO and on projects around climate change capacity building, and tracking climate change policy on both a national and an international level. As a representative of Chinese NGOs in Climate Action Network International South Capacity Building Programme, Fei went to COP15 in Copenhagen and COP16 in Cancun as an observer. In October 2010, during the UNFCCC Climate Talk in Tianjin, Fei acted as joint coordinator and organized the joint actions of nearly 60 Chinese NGOs. Fei likes travelling and has visited most of the provinces in China and several countries including Antarctica ▲

Julius Babila Fofuleng ▲

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The MSLS programme satisfies Babila's desire to build on his experiences to create strategies for sustainable development in developing economies. In addition to his respect for all life, Babila loves football and group work, paying attention to every detail. Babila finds it baffling why many African countries, having enormous amount of natural wealth, are still under-developed and rely heavily on foreign aid. With a BA in History and Political Science, Babila has a long-term ambition to become a front runner in African politics and leadership. Babila hopes that the MSLS programme will serve as a preparatory platform for his political career and help him to focus and drive the African continent towards sustainable development. His favourite quote is, “Do unto others as you want them to do to you” ▲

Sonya Frey ▲

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Sonya lived in various parts of Europe before moving to a small Rocky Mountain town in western Canada. Inspired by the power of activism in achieving sustainability goals within her small community, she moved to Victoria, BC, to study Environmental Psychology at the University of Victoria. In her final year of study, she completed a thesis examining how moral reasoning ties into pro-environmental attitudes. Upon graduation, Sonya has worked as a research assistant, further studying how psychological barriers prevent people from engaging in pro-environmental behaviors. She has also co-authored publications on moral development, and worked as a School Behavior Interventionist for children with various developmental disorders. In the past year, she has worked as part of a longitudinal project examining the health risks and protective factors of young adults. Sonya's motivation for joining the MSLS program stems from her desire to understand human behavior, specifically, how different factors motivate people to engage in more sustainable practices ▲

Johanne Gallagher ▲

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Johanne is a Master Practitioner in Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) and a trainer and specialist in the application of Law of Attraction (LOA) for both the business and the private sector. Johanne intends to combine tools for deliberate manifestation within the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD) to stretch and develop the creativity of leaders so that they think outside the box and create quantum change and new potentials through their leadership. An Irish citizen, Johanne has an education in Applied Chemistry with 14 years professional team and project related experience from numerous international biopharmaceutical companies in USA, Ireland and Norway. In addition, she has recently completed a certification in Project Management in Oslo (PRINCE2 Foundation) before starting at BTH. She is very curious about the science of quantum physics, the rise of consciousness and use of positive psychology and techniques in deliberate co-creation. On the creative side, she loves to write poetry, dance tango, play the Irish badhran (drum) and sing ▲

Davida Ginter ▲

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Balancing between writing and inspiring, nature and people, the personal and the collective – Davida has been trying for the past few years to discover for herself what SUSTAINABILITY is and how she wants to live and act according to its principles. During this process, she moved from one of the largest and most populated cities in Israel to a natural and colorful kibbutz located in the north of the country; started some social-environmental initiatives in the local community; and is still working hard at raising her own two children to become caring citizens, but especially happy people. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology & Anthropology, and has worked as a writer and editor for one of the daily newspapers in Israel. She likes to challenge the obvious, to write about everything on every possible piece of paper, and is greatly fond of good company, as well as good food, and especially enjoys the valuable combination of both ▲

Helena Gustafsson ▲

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Helena was born and raised in Uppsala, in the middle of Sweden, but has lived in Karlskrona for the last 15 years. Since childhood she has had a strong connection to nature and enjoys outdoor activities. After several years working within the telecommunication sector she decided to change paths. Helena studied Nature Science at Linneus University in Kalmar and holds a BSc in Environmental Science. Helena sees the MSLS programme as a great opportunity to gain further knowledge in sustainable development. She is committed to contributing to a sustainable society to the best of her ability: to ensure that her own children and future generations can benefit from clean air and clean oceans. In her free time she can be found enjoying the outdoors, running, skiing and sailing ▲

Paul Horton ▲

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Paul is an experienced sustainability professional with over 20 years working with the public, private, and non-profit sectors, including: co-founding and managing the non-profit organization Climate Solutions; serving as the first Corporate Sustainability Director for the engineering firm David Evans & Associates, Inc; teaching sustainable business and carbon management at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA and for the International Society of Sustainability Professionals; co-founding the new North American Sustainable Transportation Council; and, providing strategic sustainability solutions to a variety of public and private sector clients through his consulting firm Paul Horton Consulting Group, LLC. Paul is passionate about communicating complicated issues in ways that are accessible and actionable. He has extensive technical and policy expertise in sustainable economic development, carbon management, green building, transportation, and land use. Paul is an Associate of the US Natural Step Network and a LEED Accredited Professional. He also holds a Certificate in Sustainable Business from the Bainbridge Graduate Institute ▲

Ulrike Kaspar ▲

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Ulrike believes that humanity has the ability to create a better world and joined the MSLS programme to learn how to unlock this potential. Deeply fascinated by the beauty of human ingenuity and creativity, she undertook her undergraduate studies in culture, international relations, business administration and languages. Her master's degree in Global Political Economy made her become increasingly concerned about the social and environmental implications of economic reductionism. Upon graduation, Ulrike felt ready to change the business world and started working with an international consulting company. Although she enjoyed her experiences, she quickly felt that a more people-centered approach was needed to make businesses truly accountable. She therefore joined a consultancy firm for organisational development to contribute to more participatory and cooperative corporate environments. Ulrike hopes to complement her existing knowledge with a science-based approach to sustainability. She is curious to learn how she can inspire others to contribute to a better world ▲

József “Joe” Kelemen ▲

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József grew up in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. He holds a bachelor's degree in Military Leadership and has been working for the Hungarian Defense Forces as an infantry officer for 7 years. During his military career he spent two years conducting training in the top schools and courses of the US military, and he is a graduate of the prestigious US Army Ranger School. He has experience in combat leadership and military intelligence. In 2010 he was deployed in Afghanistan as a member of a Provincial Reconstruction Team, where he was working as a Liaison-Officer responsible for Stability operations and district level project management. As a part of his job he was engaging local communities in initiating and leading infrastructure projects. In 2012 he moved to Sweden and applied for the MSLS program. Through the MSLS program he hopes to gain understanding of the strategic concepts of sustainability to be able to initiate and lead change in business. In his free time József enjoys challenging activities such as mountaineering, rock climbing and kayaking ▲

Adela Ketchie ▲

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Adela grew up on an apple orchard in the beautiful Wenatchee Valley of Washington State. She holds a BA from Gonzaga University in International Relations with a minor in Art, reflecting her deep love of diversity, culture, creativity and communication along with her keen concern for complex social, political, and environmental issues. These merging interests led her to work on education and community development projects in Guatemala and Kenya as well as deliver facilitation work in Northern Ireland, primarily with world renowned peace and reconciliation centre Corrymeela. After many candle-lit conversations around the dinner table considering practical solutions to humanity's most immense problems, Adela helped co-found and coordinate the 7th Generation Project in 2008 to foster awareness, capacity building, collaborative action and leadership on environmental and social sustainability. Through MSLS she hopes to strengthen skillsets and align her talents to be more strategic and impactful on a personal and societal level. Adela, usually called Ada, is also an active musician and singer-songwriter, yogini, running enthusiast, nature lover, and a dedicated friend ▲

Ann-Christin Kjellson ▲

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After studying International Business and Economics, Ann-Christin has worked both in the private and public sector. She has previous experience from the Swedish Board of Agriculture and since 2006 she has been working for the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. At present she works with the implementation of a quality and environment management system there. Before 2006 she worked seven busy years for a telecom operator with database analysis, CRM and campaigns. Ann-Christin enjoys running, swimming, biking and kayaking. She also enjoys spending time with her family and a lot of that time is spent watching her children play table tennis all over the country. Since she was a child she has had a deeply rooted interest in the environment, and is a partial owner of a small forest farm in Småland, which has been in the family for many generations. This, together with her other experiences, has given her a long-term perspective on sustainability issues and she is keen to gain more knowledge in this area ▲

Kyla **Krogseng** ▲

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The path Kyla has traveled has had many curves, always leading toward making the world a better place. She grew up in an eclectic community on an island in Washington State's Salish Sea and spent her childhood and young adult years wandering other coastlines, exploring mountains, and developing a profound respect for the natural world. As she grew, so did her love of travel. Kyla has called many cities and countries "home"---traveling throughout Mexico, Central America, Southeast Asia, Europe and most recently to Malawi. Her journeys have continuously inspired and humbled her and have nurtured within a deep desire to preserve and protect the beautiful places of the world, a compassion for her neighbors, and an aspiration to help those less privileged. Simultaneously, they ignited within her a sense of responsibility, and the desire to take actions to create a more sustainable society. Kyla graduated with honors from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a BA in Environmental Studies and is pursuing a master's degree in Rural Development and Natural Resource Management from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Her most sincere motivation for participating in the MSLS program is to leave the world a better place for her daughter, Ella ▲

Sebastian **Lobo** ▲

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Raised on the fringe of the Austrian Alps, close to the Swiss border, Sebastian's life has always been linked to nature. After working in a hospital for one year to complete his civil service, he moved to Vienna to study International Business at the WU Wien. During this time, he did an exchange semester in Madrid to further improve his language skills and live the cross-cultural experience that the Erasmus program provides. After graduating, he went on to study Musicology at the University of Vienna for one year; music being one of his greatest passions. During this time he also attended numerous seminars, discussion panels and researched thoroughly on sustainability, growing very fond of the subject and its impact in today's and tomorrow's socio-economic landscape. He then worked at the Sustainable Europe Research Institute for six months, where he was involved in several projects regarding resource management and quality of life. He realised there is much that must be accomplished and wants to devote his professional career to finding ways of implementing sustainable solutions for present and future generations ▲

Annika **Malewski** ▲

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Having been inspired by her father, Annika developed a dedication to protecting the environment for future generations already several years before graduating from school. During the bachelor's programme Geoecology at the Braunschweig Technical University in Germany, she learned how to analyze natural systems and their interactions with the surroundings. Volunteering on an organic farm in Sweden, she developed a strong interest in agriculture and, as a result, focused on land use competition in sustainability assessment in her thesis. At the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, she did an internship concentrating on energy efficiency and life cycle assessment. Taking part in the MSLS programme, she specifically wants explore the social aspects of sustainability. Annika is resolute that everyone can accelerate change and enjoys inspiring others to do so. If she could, she would like to engage in the fields of sustainable agriculture, education, green building, and animal protection simultaneously ▲

Silvia Martín ▲

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Silvia is interested in taking care of those details that make this world a unique place. She studied Architecture in Madrid where she grew up. Interested in Bioclimatic Architecture and Sustainable Environment, she participated in different workshops of urban structure and lifestyles and she worked with some organisations involved in traditional construction, self-building and restoration in France where she also stayed for a year with an academic exchange grant. Given the current situation in Spain and increasing social protests in her city, she started to participate in collaborative activities in relation with participatory citizens, social innovation, networks inside cities and public space and auto-sufficient societies. She became more interested in promoting people's participation and engagement, and decided to start a new adventure in Sweden. Silvia aims to use the MSLS programme as a platform to build her multidisciplinary profile and enrich the way she will face the challenges of the next steps. Silvia enjoys music, nature, photography, travel, sports and spending time with friends and family ▲

Rumy Narayan ▲

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Rumy grew up all over India; she has a degree in English Literature and read Economics and Political Science as subsidiary subjects. She has been a financial journalist reporting for India's largest business newspaper, an information analyst with a consumer products and services consulting firm, a researcher and consultant with the Confederation of Indian Industries, Walmart and Tetra Pak. Her interest in sustainability was piqued when as a journalist she read 'No Logo', a book by the Canadian activist Naomi Klein, while preparing for an interview with the author. The MSLS Programme is an excellent opportunity for her to explore, discover and learn about sustainability issues and concepts related to consumption. She intends to use the tools and skills that the programme imparts to delve deeper into the realm of consumption and how this basic human activity can be repurposed for the greater good of the planet and society. She loves reading, does studio pottery, delves deep into food cultures and is now trying to learn how to play squash ▲

Meret Nehe ▲

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Originally from a small town in the North of Germany, Meret graduated in the Netherlands with a BA in Leisure Management from Stenden University Leeuwarden. Although Meret has always enjoyed studying and working in the leisure industry, she became increasingly dissatisfied with the mainly economical orientation of leisure businesses. She therefore delved deeper into the topic of sustainable development and wrote her bachelor thesis about sustainable corporate management in the leisure field. After having graduated, she worked in project and event management with two NGOs in Hamburg, the German Association of Environmental Management and Viva con Agua de Sankt Pauli. Through managing a self-developed small-scale textile business, she has also been exposed actively to questions of sustainable business processes in practice. Meret is passionate about practical approaches towards sustainability, (social) entrepreneurship, societal rethinking, edutainment as well as out-of-the-box thinking. Her dream is to become a change-maker in the leisure industry and to turn leisure platforms like events, concerts and museums into breeding grounds for a change towards sustainability ▲

Oscar Kask Ogenblad ▲

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Before earning his bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Oscar worked at numerous jobs in Sweden and Norway, ranging from a "desk job" to entertaining people as a "mascot". While travelling in South-east Asia he realized that our way of living in the Western world is not sustainable and he came to the conclusion that the Western world has all the luxuries but no time for one another. When introduced to the vast amount of knowledge at university he got more concerned with the world's current unsustainable path and more eager to do something about it. Therefore, he took on the task, as the chief editor on a student paper, where he tried to influence people to care more about the flaws of the world. Later on he searched for a higher education in sustainability to enable a meaningful working career. Because of the MSLS programme he is now living in his original hometown of Karlskrona with his girlfriend. He aims to work side by side with companies and municipalities to change them from inside, towards sustainability ▲

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A world without wildlife is inconceivable to Peter, who developed his passion for nature, and especially fauna, at a very early age. Born in Sweden, Peter grew up in Australia where his passion led him to complete a BSc in Zoology/Ecology. After graduating he spent 20 years working with invasive species management and the recovery of threatened fauna. Having experienced the highs and lows of working in this field, Peter became more concerned with the question of sustainability, both in terms of conservation management within the current paradigm and societal/industrial development in general. Peter has also been driven by a quest to reconcile his exploration of personal growth and spiritual awareness with his professional interests. A change of life course found him joining the MSLS program to explore new possibilities. His emerging interests include bioregionalism and community resilience, and he is a keen participant in outdoor recreation ▲

Zenoby Orsten-Butler ▲

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Zenoby grew up in Spain, in a British and American family and with strong Asian influences. She has since lived in the US, UK, China, and India; while Japan, Italy and Tunisia, among others, have also played prominently in her life. This cultural and geographic richness has nurtured her exuberance for life, inspired by the beauty, wonder, and diversity of the world, both in nature and in humanity within it. Zenoby has often been involved in start-up organizations, and in design, development and early implementation phases of projects. Her diverse work in various sectors and industries – from teaching to international exchange programs, to communication projects – has focused on facilitating positive human development, learning & enrichment, and interpersonal and community relationships, especially in the cross-cultural arena. Participating in the MSLS is a natural step in her quest for ongoing personal development, meaningful engagement, and the creation of a healthy social and environmental ecology. Zenoby holds a BA in Cultural & Language Studies, with East Asian, French & Francophone Studies concentrations, from St. Mary's College of Maryland (US); and an MA in Anthropology, with a focus on Intercultural, Migration & Diaspora, South Asian, and Near & Middle East Studies, from SOAS (London, UK) ▲

Ana Rodriguez Vazquez ▲

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Ana is a curious and passionate person and is interested in inter-disciplinary thinking. She is originally from Galicia, northern Spain, where she grew up surrounded by nature. Although her interests are vast and varied, she chose to pursue a degree in Industrial Design Engineering, in Spain and Italy. She also holds an International master's degree in Innovation Management and Business Development, which was complimented by an internship in China. Ana believes that redesigning society towards sustainability starts by redesigning oneself. She volunteered in Cameroon with the NGO Engineering without Borders, and has worked as an innovation manager and design project manager in different fields. After this array of experiences, she decided that she wanted to be a part of the change, and enrolled in the very unique MSLS program, as an opportunity to bring together different disciplines and perspectives to solve global issues. Ana feels very close to Mother Earth and her main inspiration for working in sustainability is her deep love for the earth's creatures. After the MSLS program, Ana hopes to build a global network of intercultural consultants that will work to facilitate organizational change towards sustainability, protecting and respecting all creatures and their habitats ▲

Zachary Rootes ▲

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Raised in rural England, Zachary has appreciated the beauty of his natural surroundings from an early age and has spent much of his life with a camera in hand. This led to a diverse background of sciences and arts in his school days, ultimately leading to his studying of a master's in Structural Engineering and Architecture; a degree which combined the hard science of structure and the open creativity of an arts course. During his final year, he also explored his interest in sustainability with his masters dissertation, an analysis of the feasibility of the UK government's eco-towns program. This juxtaposition of interests has only intensified in his post-university days, manifesting in work as a research assistant on a social science project related to the civil unrest in 2010 following the formation of the United Kingdom's coalition government, and a position with a pioneering start-up sustainability consultancy in east London working primarily with community groups and schools. His academic interest had originally been in integrating sustainability into the fabric of the structured environment, but his experiences have broadened his focus to include that of behavioural change and the importance of strong leadership in the sustainability challenge that currently faces us all ▲

Varuzhan Sahakyan ▲

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Varuzhan grew up in a family of two artists. He spent most of his childhood among the beautiful landscapes of Armenia, running between his mother's fabric handicraft workshop and his father's sculpture studio. Later on, life took him to a cross disciplinary journey through the social sciences in quest of understanding people in the context of society, thus undertaking different programs in social work, sociology and philosophy in Germany, Armenia and USA. Along this journey it became apparent to Varuzhan that his passion for empowerment, dialog, co-creation and admiration for nature resonated strongly within the field of sustainability and systems thinking where perpetual growth that pulls the strings of abundance, ignorance and destruction would be replaced by unlimited development of humans within the biosphere by introducing systems boundaries and principles. Varuzhan is fascinated about how much freedom and space the principles of sustainability introduce to the paradigm of sustainability. And he wishes to combine his public speaking, creative and analytical skills to represent and spread this mental model - and inspire businesses, organizations, communities and individuals to see the challenges and the opportunities of a sustainable society in a new light ▲

Christiane Schwaller ▲

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Her gap year as a volunteer at the Institute of the Environment, Munich convinced Christiane that the sustainable way is the only one to go. During her studies in Agricultural Marketing and Management she worked in the marketing department at a wholesale trade company for organic food as well as on a research project focused on sustainable farming. Furthermore, she gained agricultural experience by working on several farms. To enhance a change in society, she also started to engage in the “Common Welfare Economy” framework. After completing her studies with an additional certificate in Management of Renewable Energy, she worked in public relations at the Ifo Institute for Economic Research. That summer she lived in the Bavarian Mountains at 1500 metres without electricity, managing the dairy production on an alm and hosting passing hikers. In her spare time she loves making music with her music group, being involved in the Traditional Costumes Association, outdoor sports, travelling, sewing and cooking. Her aim is to bring sustainability to people and companies in order to protect our world for future generations ▲

Laurent “Lencho” Serrure ▲

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Lencho was born in the heart of the old iron and coal industrial region of Belgium but his home is in the hills and nature of the Flemish and Walloon region of Belgium. He completed a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and a master in International Relations. His main interest in food sovereignty brought him to Senegal where he did research on global food crises with a focus on the local situation. Later he went to Guatemala, where he worked for CEIBA /Friends of the Earth in relation to mining, agriculture and deforestation. In Belgium he worked primarily with movements doing facilitation and sensitization work on issues such as North-South inequalities, consumption patterns, and human rights. Nowadays his focus has shifted towards “Transition Towns”, and he hopes to stimulate this evolution at different levels in different cities. By attending MSLS, Lencho is committed to being a lifelong learner, to activate learning, responsibility and understanding; his mission is to unfold the potential within himself and others ▲

Hila Shapira ▲

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Hila was born and raised in a small town on the coastal plain of Israel. From the age of ten Hila was involved in the Israeli Scouts youth movement, an experience which has helped shape her social involvement, and love of nature. In aspiration to contribute to her society, Hila volunteered throughout her life in various social programs, mainly with youth. Amongst her volunteer work, Hila has served as a youth counselor for teenagers from Israel and abroad, and as a financial coach. Hila holds a BA in Psychology and Economics from Ben Gurion University and has previously worked in business development and as an economist in two international companies. Over the course of years, Hila found herself more and more engaged in protecting the environment and searching for the balance between nature and human needs. Through MSLS Hila wishes to acquire skills and knowledge that will help implement her ideas. Hila wishes to establish an environmental-social business in Israel that could help in Israel’s sustainability challenges ▲

Narayan **Silva** ▲

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Narayan grew up in Rio de Janeiro, and by exploring the layers of his own city and experiencing other cultures when living in different countries, he realized that there was a lot of work to be done in order to live a fulfilling life. Studying Industrial Design helped him to understand how creative ideas can have a huge impact in the world, and his true passion for self-knowledge has helped him to follow his heart. Living spontaneously has led him to experience diverse things, such as co-creating an integration project that is helping thousands of foreigners and children in Brazil; organizing and teaching courses on human values and meditation in slums and prisons; co-hosting the 1st TEDx event in Rio; assisting immigrants and doing volunteer work in organic farms in Austria; helping to build a temple in India, among other volunteer and work experiences. He also loves music, travelling, languages, massage, healing, being with people and enjoying life. At present, he is involved in the co-creation of a spiritual eco-village and the expansion of a yoga and holistic therapies center, and after having studied different approaches on how to work towards sustainability, he found himself at home at the MSLS ▲

Luis **Sousa Lara** ▲

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Born and raised in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, Luís is an adventurous traveler by nature. With a management background and endless energy, he has a passion for cultures and languages which make him a strong communicator and natural connector. Aside from the several leisure travels and experiences throughout his life, Luís has lived and worked for the past two years in different African countries, which brought him a whole new perspective, as he had the possibility to engage people's lifestyles due to the strong interaction with local communities in those countries. Determination, goodwill, and hope are just some of the characteristics that have always led him on the path to achieving all his goals. Driven by the desire of connecting worldwide, getting to know several cultures and ways of thinking, and associated with a strong will to make a difference on today's world, Luís joined the Masters in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability ▲

Judith **Stratmann** ▲

Germany

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Judith grew up in Kempen, a small city in North Rhine Westfalia, Germany. She obtained her undergraduate degree in International Business Administration in Germany and France. During this period she did not just get interested in working in an international environment but also realized that there was an important part missing in her studies: Not only the behavior among people in the world, but also the scarcity of resources and how the world population wastes them, made her aware of a change towards sustainability that is heavily needed. Hence she started studying Sustainability Economics and Management in Germany, however she felt that these studies were not enough to really change something in the world, so she finally found herself studying MSLS in Karlskrona. Here she feels at the right place at the right time with a wonderful community of people around her. Judith enjoys cooking, reading, jigsaw puzzles, sports, travelling and being together with her family and friends ▲

Ronja Völkel ▲

After completing her A-levels in Cologne and having stayed in the city all her life, Ronja moved to the Netherlands, at the age of 19, to study International Business. It was during her internship at a trade fair she realized a plain 9 to 5 office job was not what she was looking for in life and that she first started thinking about Sustainability (while working for the carbon expo). Continuing her studies in the south of Germany, Ronja became more and more aware of the shortsightedness of economics. Since this realization, she has tried to dedicate attention to the topic of sustainability within her studies, including an internship at a carbon credits trading company. It was during this internship that Ronja met an alumna of the 2011 class who told her about the program. Questioning herself how she could make a change in this narrow-minded economic system she made her way to Karlskrona hoping to find the answer to this question ▲

Laura Weiss Ferreiro ▲

Laura was born in La Coruña, a naturally beautiful region on the North-West coast of Spain. She became an architect because she feels that an architect is a humanist, knowledgeable of many arts, emotions, and feelings. Because buildings are much more than coordinates on a map and because she feels the need to contribute to the development and continuation of life, Laura began to search for ways to integrate her beliefs into her work. During her internship in the Netherlands she discovered her passion: She loves being an architect but needs a reason to design a building, there must be a necessity. Working with the aim of helping people in developing countries has become her dream. She would like to work with UNESCO and try to make a change. Hence, she enrolled MSLS in order to learn more about sustainability and to help turn these ideas into reality. Laura loves nature, music, photography and sports; particularly basketball. Her inspiration: "Be the change you want to see in the world and the emotion you want to experience" ▲



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