

The Trunk & Branches



Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability

International Master's Programme
at the Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH),
Karlskrona, Sweden

Summer 2010

News for the StratLeade Network

Newsletter 10

Art of Hosting breathes collaborative life into innovative educational programs

By *Brendan Seale*

The complexity of our global sustainability challenges demands a highly collaborative approach and a shared concept of success to guide our actions. To come together figuratively around these challenges, we must come together literally to discuss what we collectively want for our future and motivate each other. Recognizing this need, young leaders from across northern Europe gathered in Karlskrona, Sweden from February 18th to 21st to develop their hosting and facilitation skills through The Art of Hosting.

The Art of Hosting (AoH) is a group facilitation practice to host and harvest conversations that matter most in the world today. It employs techniques known as Circle, World Café, Open Space, Appreciative Inquiry and other methods to foster discussion and create common ground for collaboration. All

(Continued on page 6)



Inside this issue:

Message from the Programme Team	2
Alumni Profiles	4
Sustainability Distance Courses	8
Curbside Conversations	9
Net Impact Win	13
StratLeade Update	14

Sustainable Living Film Festival—Karlskrona

Over 150 engaged individuals, 18 films, and 6 musical performances in 3 days!! At the beginning of May, the MSLS 2010 class hosted the first Sustainable Living Film Festival in Karlskrona. Films covering meaningful subjects such as climate change, food, mining, and corruption were carefully selected to engage community members in thought, discussion, and action to help move society towards sustainability. The festival kicked off on a positive note with the screening of Carbon Nation, a new documentary film about climate change solutions. It is an optimistic and witty discovery of

(Continued on page 3)

Message from the Programme Team

It's summertime in Karlskrona and most of the team are out and about in different parts of the world. As we get ready for the incoming 2010-2011 MSLS class (and the 2010-2012 MSPI class – this is the new 2-year programme on Sustainable Product-Service System Innovation), we find that it has been far too long since our last update to the network. There's just been so much going on that we haven't been able to document it all.

The MSLS class of 2010 was amazing, with 67 students from 25 countries. These guys were the kings and queens of organizing events, some of which you'll see featured in this newsletter. When they weren't organizing events (or working on their thesis projects), they were out attending conferences, networking, and winning various awards. It was a fantastic year with non-stop activity. Class of 2010, we wish all of you the absolute best in your next adventures!

The staff, when not chasing after all the events and activities arranged by the students, have been busy with our own smorgasbord of projects beyond our 'normal' work – this year we took on several projects (maybe a few too many), including a textbook re-write, 3 separate distance courses offered a total of 5 times throughout the year, campus sessions and courses for other BTH programmes, a strategic project to help BTH maintain students after tuition fees are applied, hosting and meeting various schools and companies interested in our work, etc., etc. One additional (unforeseen) project was the attainment of funding to run a 2 week summer school for young academics and teachers from Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Without really knowing how to target this audience, we ended up with over 250 applications for 25 spaces. The course is going on as we speak, with one week at a local eco-'resort' and one week in Karlskrona. Fun stuff!

All of this adventure has been taking place from temporary workspaces around BTH, as the giant new campus building was being constructed and the older buildings were gutted and renovated to make new, more efficient spaces. The class of 2010 had the lucky task of moving the Learning Lab not just once, but twice, and the staff managed to maintain sanity (most of the time) in a 60-person open plan office building up the hill from campus. But... alas, all is now good as the new campus buildings are open and they look absolutely amazing, complete with a green roof and a fancy award for good building design. You should come for a visit, or at least take a look at <http://www.bth.se/huvudcampus> for more information (there is a live webcam link there too).

The research team has been continuing their great work and have secured more funding for projects. Tobias Larsson has recently joined us from Luleå, and has already been a strong addition to our group. With both Henrik Ny and Sophie

Hallstedt as full Ph.D.s, and growing networks with others schools, we are making strong progress in the research field. The Real Change programme (see realchange.nu) is gaining strong momentum, with new partners and funders lining up around the globe.

This past year, we were fortunate again to have been graced with the help of Dr. Regina Rowland who spent about 6 weeks with us around final thesis submission and presentation time. We hope to have her back again this coming year. We are also excited to have Dr. Edith Callaghan 'sitting in' here in Karlskrona, while she enjoys her sabbatical from Acadia University. Edith will be helping out with various projects, both education- and research-related.

As the interest grows (within BTH, within Sweden, and globally) around the MSLS programme and what really makes it 'tick', we've been spending some time reflecting on the pedagogical approaches and design elements that are used here – many still in place from the early days of MSLS conception. We've started writing different papers and will be presenting our materials at various conferences this coming year. Many of the alumni have recently responded to an in-depth survey (thank you!) to aid in this research, the results of which will soon be available on our website. A lot of this interest is due to the talented, articulate, and ambitious alumni that are now roaming the globe – affectionately known in some circles as the 'MSLS Mafia'. Thank you, alumni, for demonstrating such great leadership around the world. Keep up the great work! (Oh, and watch for news coming about an enhanced alumni platform which will hopefully facilitate our collaboration and storing of resources more easily!)

In other news, despite the obvious preparations to welcome the incoming students, we are already looking ahead to the 2011 intake, as all indications are that this is where tuition fees will come in, likely in the range of 70-80k SEK per year. What this means is that we are looking at any and all avenues to help maintain the diversity of the MSLS and MSPI students, via scholarship, sponsorships, internships, etc. So, if you have any ideas, or happen to be neighbors with any philanthropic megastars like Bill Gates, please let us know. This past year we did manage to allocate our first 2 StratLeade scholarships to incoming MSLS students – check the back page for more info on this exciting step for our network.

Well, until next time - we wish you all the best in your sustainability endeavors!

The Sustainability Group at BTH.

(Brendan, Cecilia, Cesar, Heleen, Henrik, Göran, Kalle, Marco, Merlina, Pia, Sophie, Tamara, Tobias, Tony, Treva, and Zaida)

Sustainable Living Film Festival—Karlskrona



Support from local sponsors (Michano, a local business and property owner; Reaktor, a Swedish film resource center; Naturskyddsföreningen, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation; Ätbar Catering; and Villgott Wine Bar) and many **volunteers made this year's event possible** by covering all expenses, free entrance, and appreciative donations for each of the directors. In future years, this could be a vehicle for community engagement and fundraising for future MSLS classes. A legacy document is available to give guidance, local contact information, lessons learned, and success principles for future MSLS classes to organize annual Sustainable Living Festivals and a more generic version is also available for anyone interested in organizing such an event in their own community.

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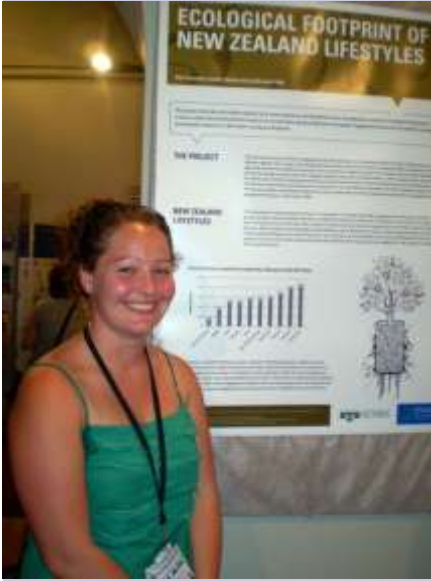
what people are already doing, what nations could be doing and what the world needs to do to minimize the effects of climate change by moving to a low carbon economy. This was followed by a heartfelt opening ceremony sponsored by BTH which included a moving performance from Peter Elmberg, a Swedish singer/songwriter, dedicated to spreading peaceful, uplifting messages about human potential.

Some other highlights during the festival were musical and dance performances from local artists, local speakers on topics such as permaculture and supply chain responsibility, and a public engagement forum about food security.

For a complete list of the films screened visit the official blog karlskronafilmfest.wordpress.com/ and if you have any questions please contact Pinar Oncel at pinarpinar@gmail.com or Tuna Ozcuhadar at tunaozcuhadar@gmail.com.



Alumni Spotlight



Ella Lawton '08 (New Zealand)

Two years down the track from my MSLS experience and I am able point at it as a major **'leverage point' in my journey to where I am now. That 'ah-hah' moment when I got my first glimpse through the eyes of a systems thinker, and the amazing MSLS friends who have allowed me to gain self-belief as a change agent. And after a particularly epic journey home, sharing with TNS partner organisations, Burning Men in desserts and presenting my team's thesis research at international conferences, I landed back in Aotearoa New Zealand to commence meaningful work with the [Otago Polytechnic Centre for Sustainable Practice](#). [Otago Polytechnic](#) is recognised internationally for its ambition to implement sustainable practice throughout the institution and to integrate Education for Sustainability across all learning areas and is supported by a partnership with [The Natural Step Aotearoa New Zealand](#). Using the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD) as a backbone for all our work, the Centre for Sustainable Practice manages a range of programmes from Biodiesel Consortiums to Business for Change forums. Within the following few months the Centre will launch the first New Zealand qualifications in sustainable practice.**

In partnership with Victoria University and Manukau City Council, the Centre won a bid for a \$350,000 three year research grant. The [Footprinting Urban Form and Behaviour in New Zealand](#) project will measure the environmental impacts of current New Zealand lifestyles and facilitate engagement processes to assist in moving communities closer to a 'fair share' ecological footprint. **The FSSD will be used as the project's strategic planning and communication tool. The outcome will be a set of footprinting tools for use by communities and their local government agencies to help guide future development decisions. I have been extremely fortunate to be offered not only the position of Project Manager for Otago Polytechnic but also granted a PhD position within the project. Without the learning I gained from my amazing MSLS colleagues I do not think I would have been offered these opportunities. MSLS was the leverage that gave me the understanding, confidence and vision to lead this project. Kia Ora.**



Kyle White '06 (Canada)

Shortly after returning home, I began working for the City of Calgary, in the **Environmental Sustainability group of all places. Three years later and I've settled into a position that is immensely enjoying and satisfying. My days consist of trying to find solutions to lessen the environmental impact of the operation of over 4000 vehicles from fire trucks, to snow plows and everything in between.**

Electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, clean diesel, natural gas, hydrogen, these are some of the decisions we face on a daily basis as we try to plot a path towards sustainability at the municipal level. Given the financial investment that these vehicles represent, and **the fact that I'm still dealing with hundreds of vehicles bought in the reign of 8 tracks and ABBA** you get a sense of how far into the future one must look. Who could have predicted in 1979, how technology and society would evolve, and how can we possibly predict which technology will lead us furthest to success over the next 30 years?

Currently we are investigating options along the whole spectrum of solutions ranging from piloting a new type of hybrid garbage truck that does not require electric batteries (operating on biodiesel of course), to identifying opportunities for using smaller vehicles, and piloting evolving biofuel and electric vehicle options. Of course not all solutions are technological and, developing a campaign to change attitudes around vehicle idling is an example of the type of short term solutions we are trying.

While we are all well too aware of the daunting and sometimes crippling task ahead of us in ushering in the society we need, knowing that there are hundreds of other professionals also focusing on their chosen pieces of the puzzle provides a huge inspiration to get on with my part.

I'm also pleased to announce that strategic thinking has also permeated my personal life and this July my fiancée Kristie and I will be tying the knot and preparing for the next phase of life.

Hej då

Kyle

Alumni Spotlight ...continued



Derm Hikisch '08 (Canada)

What the heck have I been up doing since 2008? Well, a lot of Europe, a small piece of Africa, and **not so much Canada, which I haven't missed too badly, aside from the occasions where I read an epic Whistler snow report.** Like many, my time after graduating was a major state of flux and **withdrawal. It's hard to replace the magic of so many amazing people together in one place;** university life is the best. Change comes and rather than try replacing a monumental year in the bubble, you learn to enjoy life in new ways while holding onto the roots which helped you grow. I spent a little time after K-town travelling, leaving my fellow networks thesis wizards (MD & SW) in Geneva and taking the train to Istanbul with someone special (who could this have been?).

Following that, I settled in with the Irish, working on true cost accounting, a water & business report for Ethical Corporation, another for the UNPRI, scoring for Climate Counts, and a partnership with the RealEyes Sustainability guys, incorporating SSD into Dublin municipality for six months. The best thing about all this work has been the chance to work with MSLS classmates on almost every project. **For me, this is and will always be a key measure of success. I think I've managed to collaborate with over 20 bubblers, and I still feel ashamed for underutilizing the wealth of talent contained within us all. Now another 15 months on, I'm a research manager with ENDS Carbon in Edinburgh, Scotland. The city is inspiring, the work is satisfying, and the weather isn't so hot;** two out of three, not bad.

If corporate carbon performance rings bells for you, then think of me. Some projects I'm most proud of include Brand Emissions, co-chairing the UK Green Business Awards, and working with ER, SG, and others to build a carbon-risk index for one of the big index providers, I externality down, a couple more to go! Outside carbon, I'm still thinking whole-systems sustainability, whether independently, with fellow MSLS'ers, or in CSR, I'm not yet certain. San Francisco, the ecological handprint, sustainability ratings, and non-career oriented personal sustainability are high on my mind. Oh yah, I've discovered that I like to make cufflinks too. Have a peak at my embarrassingly infrequently updated blogs: The Walking Generalist, and Vandalinks; or just drop me an email [dermco\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dermco[at]gmail.com).



Mary Ostafi '09 (USA)

It has been a year now since I graduated from the MSLS programme and returned home. It was bitter sweet leaving Karlskrona and all the talented friends and faculty I had the opportunity to **work with at BTH...but my heart and mind were mended when I was finally reunited with my husband in Madison, Wisconsin.**

After a remarkable year in Sweden, I had high hopes and career aspirations upon returning home, but re-entering the building industry during an economic downturn was not an easy proposition. After months of tireless searching and optimistic thinking, the perfect alignment of past experience and newly acquired knowledge finally presented itself. Much like leaving for Sweden to broaden my perspective, I had to leave my comfort circle of Madison to find an exciting career opportunity.

As of January I have been working with HOK (www.hok.com) as a Sustainable Design Strategist. HOK is a global architecture and planning firm headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri which focuses

on sustainable solutions for the built environment. With over 1800 employees linked across a network of 23 offices on three Continents, HOK has an enormous responsibility to influence sustainable development. One forward thinking conduit is **HOK's exclusive alliance with the Biomimicry Guild, a unique approach to development linking the built and natural environments.** I hope to broaden this collaboration with a robust framework so that sustainability reaches across all disciplines and offices.

As part of HOK's emerging mutli-disciplinary Sustainability Consulting Group, I have been exposed to some amazing people and projects. One project that I have high hopes for is the recent formation of a Regional Higher Education Consortium – bringing together various institutions from around the St Louis area to collaborate and create a more sustainable future. In the upcoming weeks I am hosting a World Café for the charter members of this consortium to help define the vision, align it with a mission, and ultimately build support and enthusiasm around the FSSD moving forward.

I have no doubt in my mind that my learning at BTH, and my thesis experience collaborating with the Dublin City Council Planning Department in Ireland equipped me with the knowledge and leadership skills to get me where I am today. It has been an exhilarating and fascinating year of discovery and growth!

Art of Hosting workshop (continued)



Above, and Right: Photos taken during the Art of Hosting events, held in Karlskrona Feb. 2010.

participants learn about these methodologies but are also encouraged to put them into practice by hosting sessions during the four-day training. Harvesting, or documenting the conversations, is emphasized as critical to capture the essence of what happened and encourage action to follow.

Asking powerful questions during group gatherings draws out meaningful conversation. What time is it in the world right now? What has this got to do with us being here? What really motivates us? What do we need to design and practice our work in the world? What is emerging? How do we want to grow? How could we work together? These are not questions that can be answered with one word or one sentence, but they are questions that create meaning between people.

AoH Karlskrona focused the conversation on collaboration, youth leadership, sustainability, social innovation and entrepreneurship, and was led by a team of highly experienced facilitators

including Toke Paludan Møller, a founder of AoH, and Tenneson Woolf of the Berkana Institute. The training included students in the **Master's programme in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability (MSLS)** at the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Team Academy, KaosPilots, the Youth Initiative Program, AIESEC Sweden, Limina, Future@School, Global Ecovillage Network, Ashoka Youth, the Hub London, and the Society for Organizational Learning.

"Certainly the schools who have come together for this event are amongst the most innovative in the world," said Peter Senge, founding chair of the Society for Organizational Learning at MIT, in a live webcast with participants. Margaret Wheatley of the Berkana Institute also spoke via webcast, describing collaboration as crucial to making progress toward sustainability.

On the final day of the training, students collaborated with each other in short intervals

Art of Hosting workshop (continued)

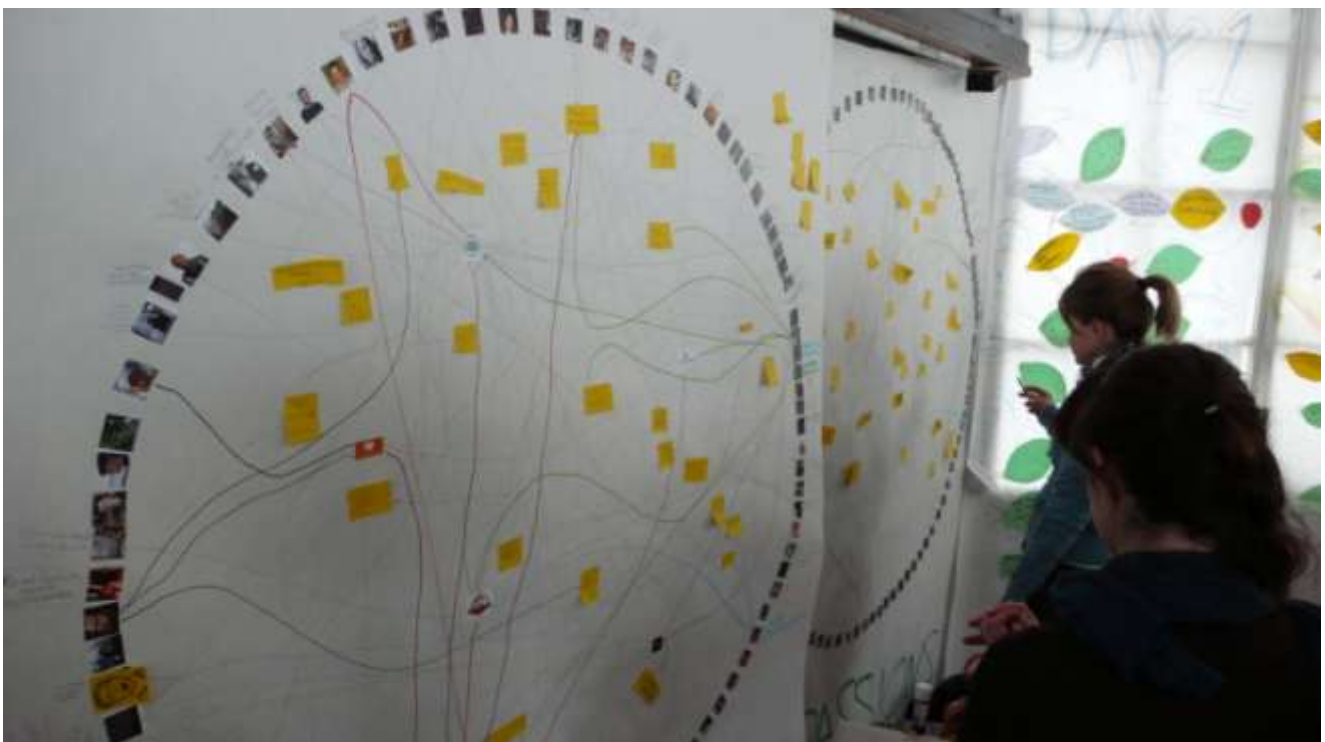
to give birth to a number of projects including a forum for change agents at COP16 in Mexico, an educational week for social innovators in Denmark, community development work in Shanghai, funding applications, education reform strategies, graphic facilitation training, and collaboration platforms between educational programs.



Program, have now partnered to share resources and expertise and collaborate on projects whenever possible.

AoH Karlskrona grew from a chance meeting at COP15 in December between Kati Thompson, Benjamin Degenhart, and Liher Pillado of MSLS, KaosPilots and Team Academy respectively. After leaving Copenhagen, this core team immediately begun coordinating the event, bringing it to fruition in less than two months. Their programs, along with the Youth Initiative

To get a taste of the harvest from Art of Hosting Karlskrona, visit the [Facebook page](#) or search [#AoHKarlskrona](#) on Twitter.



Sustainability Distance Courses

By Marco Valente

Faraway, so close.

Here at the BTH approximately sixty people come every year for a unique one year long experience to deepen the understanding of the framework. For most, it means flying into Sweden from a long distance. All the alumni know that **this is an experience that you can't replace with anything else**. At the same time, we know that we want to talk about strategic sustainable development to the largest possible number of people to give them a good grasp of our shared framework. In this way ever more sustainability practitioners can work with the same overarching mental model and make the most of this for a transition towards a sustainable society. But how to multiply this potential impact to those who **can't commit for a year-long course?** Or for those **who can't travel to Sweden due to work, other studies or commitments going on?**

Scott Grierson and many others joined efforts to **turn this module of learning into a Master's level distance course**. First edition of the distance course **“Introduction to Strategic Sustainable Development” started during the fall 2008, and saw 41 students from 17 different countries**. This course is now at its fifth edition and has trained nearly 150 students on the basics of the FSSD. Along with this course, two other Bachelor-level courses are available to broaden the learning opportunities- **“Introduction to Sustainability with Social Sciences Applications”, and “Introduction to Sustainable Engineering”**.

The courses consist of video lectures available online for streaming, readings and assignments available on a shared web platform, and live seminars (aka ‘webinars’) where the instructors debrief the reading, take Q&As, and there is a chance to deepen the understanding on the learning through conversations and examples.



Recently all three courses were running simultaneously: that means that there were roughly 85 students learning about applications of the FSSD in 23 different countries and with a variety of expertise, profiles, and networks.

A fun experience with the distance courses is definitely to run the **webinars and get the hello's** from people all across the world with different times, climates, lives, all together in the same room around a

shared understanding and passion for this work!

Thanks to a great effort in putting together resources and lectures, an intro course was born to teach the basics of strategic sustainable development through an online platform. Stemming from the well-consolidated period one of the MSLS master's programme, Fiona Wright,

To get an overview of the distance learning offered by the BTH sustainability team, visit <http://bit.ly/8wJwclU>

Curbside Conversations: A sustainability exchange shooting for increased inspiration, awareness, and action through conversation.

The founders—Jen Katan, Crystal Grover, and Steph Peterka— met in Sweden as graduate students of MSLS. As a result of knowledge gained and relationships formed, Curbside Conversations was born, which is slated to begin in July 2010. The aim is to stimulate dialogue within communities around sustainability, inspiring ideas and provoking action to move towards a sustainable society.

For Curbside, sustainability is the largest collaborative opportunity of our generation and it presents endless creative potential for new ideas, networks, solutions, services and relationships.

We want to make more space to spark generative conversation that continuously expands, focusing on human exchange. How? By putting

ourselves in places where people talk, on the curb.

To ignite the experiment, Curbside Conversations will launch the Sustainability \$1 & Sustainability £1 initiative in July at local farmer's markets in Chicago, London, and Los Angeles, à la Architecture 5 Cents (architecture5cents.com).

Alongside market 'chat'- booths and an online platform, some fellow conversationalists will be launching a floating endeavour: Curb to Curb – City to City. Sweeping the curbs from Sweden to Turkey this summer, the team will tour various cities in Europe, harvesting fruitful dialogue from a variety of audiences.

Visit our site and stay tuned!
curbsideconversations.org



Artwork by Kara Stonehouse ('10)

Student Reflection on Studies at MSLS

By Olaf Postel

I have a business background and have been working in sales for two years, before I came here to Karlskrona in order to learn more about sustainability. Throughout my studies I intended to focus on what it is like to integrate sustainability into business. The STM project was a good opportunity to do exactly that and apply the knowledge we gained about sustainability in the first period of the program to a real organization.

We agreed in our group of three to look for a local company in the manufacturing industry as our client. This would enable us to have regular contact to the company and experience more often direct feedback on our work and on the topic. A phone call and some help from BTH later, we were standing in front of the Environmental Manager of that company presenting the funnel, the FSSD and the ABCD analysis. She was particularly impressed by the way sustainability can be defined with only four simple and clear principles and thereby strongly reduce complexity. In order to conduct a baseline analysis and to come up with creative measures we were given the opportunity to interview people from different departments in the headquarters as well as in their affiliates all over the world. I was amazed how open people were towards sustainability and also how much

they already knew intuitively about the topic. I **can remember one person saying that “nature is the metabolism of the world” and that we should not overload it.** I found this a very fitting metaphor. On the other hand this showed that sustainability is still often narrowed down to its environmental aspects in peoples´ minds. Another attitude that was very common and **present during the interviews was: “business first”.** We tried to pay more attention to this call when we presented our findings to a group of employees at the end of our project and showed how each measure not only was a strategic move towards sustainability, but at the same time directly added value to their business. The feedback we received after that presentation was **“I have never seen it like this” or “I thought striving for sustainability would only cause additional costs”.** As a reward we were given the chance to do our thesis with the company.

To put it in a nutshell, I especially learnt that it is very important to meet people and companies where they are in order to open them up to such an important topic and to get a foot in the door. Do not overload them with apocalyptic messages, but show them how sustainability can stepwise add value to their companies.

Thanks to my teammates, it was a great project.

Social Media Coverage—MSLS gets into some fun

By Marco Valente

Here is a story. There is a growing network of #MSLS alumni and FSSD practitioners. There is **an #MSLS alum (Rebecca Petzel, '09) with** enthusiasm about social media and a top notch understanding of how they work. There are these new social media like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn that are expanding in the last years

and can help us in connecting each other, staying in touch with our practitioners and finding new sustainability mates. These three elements collided on November 2009, when Rebecca and a core team worked in outlining a common marketing strategy for the social media. These social media are used for sharing upcoming

(Continued on page 11)

Social Media (continued from previous)

masters and distance courses, for being reachable by a large network of people who might be happy to know about what we do. The Facebook fan page counts more than 400 fans. The most used network is our twitter account called @SustainBTH. Our **“identity” is that of the #sustainability team at the #BTH**, and we are very glad to share stories from our #MSLS alumni network, our current class, valuable info that we find from our partners. As of today we have some 914 followers on twitter. Amongst our followers we have many alumni, and some interesting names (see if you can spot any of them): Alan Greenspan, the campaign TentenUK, Corporate Knights, the WorldWatch Institute, 350.org, Friends of the Earth, WiserEarth, the Huffington Post, Fabian Pattberg, the David Suzuki Foundation and many others!

We are learning by doing, but few lessons to keep in mind when we are out in the social media arena have already arisen:

- Be genuine, be yourself: reputation is valued a lot in social media (as anywhere else)
- Be personal: thank people for following you! Be human!
- Social media are about sharing not selling. It is not about promoting yourself, is about sharing ideas.

We are looking forward to your tweets and posts **on other social media as well. Let's get in touch.**

On Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SustainBTH>

On Facebook: <http://bit.ly/BTHFanPage>

On LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/ddluiS>

The screenshot shows the Twitter profile for SustainBTH. The header includes the Twitter logo and a sign-in prompt. Below is a promotional banner for BTH Sustainability. The profile section shows the name 'SustainBTH', location 'Karlskrona, SVE', and a bio describing sustainability master's programmes. Statistics show 736 following, 914 followers, and 88 tweets. The main content area displays a tweet from @thenaturalstep about a course in Canada, and several retweets from other users.

PS: why some words were #tagged in this way? #Tags are used to highlight hot #topics, and make them easier to search. On our twitter account we tag #MSLS for activities related to our masters programme, other tags such as #350ppm #cop16 and #climate for activism for climate mitigation, etc.

Looking forward to your tweets!

Princess of Funnel-land

By Pablo Villoch

She lives in Galgamarken, close to campus Gräsvik. During the Period 1, she attended the conversations on Organizational Learning with Göran Carstedt, and the discussion on Economics of Happiness with Mark Anielski at the old Learning Lab. She participated in the conference call with TNS Canada and some of the Open minded sessions and documentaries, as well. She really enjoyed the Salsa Workshop facilitated by Göran Broman, and actively participated in some of the harvesting sessions during the Art of Hosting workshop in February. She may be seen in the meeting rooms with her team, creatively and enthusiastically playing around the thesis meetings. Her name is Amanda, and she is, definitely, the youngest MSLSer of the 2010 class. She came to Karlskrona when she was 9 months old and she has almost spent half of her life within the MSLS community. *So cute* seems to be her middle name, as everyone who meets her in Karlskrona highlights her sunshine smile. She was the youngest climate activist when the students organized the 350 human graph in the main square of Karlskrona.



She walked her first steps during the Team Academy – SoL conference in Jyväskylä, Finland, last September. Her first words were in Swedish (*tack tack, hej då*), English (*hello, okay*) and Spanish, her true mother tongue. Her favorite movies are “*The lion king*”, “*The Jungle Book*” and “*Up!*”

She also loves the MSLS birthday parties. For her first birthday party, she wore a princess dress, so since then, she is also known as the Princess of Funnel-land. Although she is not aware of the ecological footprint of her diapers, her parents are concerned about how difficult it is to find sustainable diapers in Karlskrona. Her father is an

MSLS student from Spain and her mother is a social worker from Chile. They are planning to go **back to Chile, after the Master’s program, in order** to contribute to the reconstruction process after the huge earthquake that hit the country last February.

Her simple, smiling and bright presence truly reminds all of us our daily responsibility, inspiring us to build a more sustainable future for herself and further generations.

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MSLS students win an international award on paper and packaging recovery (hosted by Net Impact)

Congratulations to 5 of our recently graduated MSLS students! The team has won a prestigious international competition "International Paper, Staples, and Net Impact Case Competition", aimed at helping to increase paper and packaging recovery rates in the United States. The contest was hosted by the global business network Net Impact.

Andrea Altmann, Wyeth Larson, Matt Lobach, Steve Marshall, and Lea Thuot from MSLS programme at BTH won for their plan, which proposed solutions to increase the efficiency of delivery routes and communicate real-time recovery rates for the companies. Some of their innovative ideas included offering discounts to top recyclers and increasing transparency of reporting recovery information.

This team beat out many high ranked business schools in the USA, so we are extremely proud of their fine work!

For the students, the chance to work with the collaborating organizations was perhaps among the most rewarding element of the project. "The competition gave us the opportunity to work with two organizations that are interested in implementing sustainability initiatives into their businesses, as well as make some great connections with the Net Impact network," said Blekinge team member Lea Thuot. "It was a great way to practically apply the theories, frameworks, and methodologies of our Master's programme in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability."



From the left to the right: Lea Thuot, Matt Lobach, Spud Marhsall, Wyeth Larson and Andrea Altmann



MSLS alumni fundraising campaign aims to provide scholarships for students in need

With tuition fees being introduced in 2011 for students coming to BTH from outside the European Union, donations to support education for Strategic Sustainable Development have taken on even greater importance. A fundraising campaign will be held throughout September 2010 to solicit donations from alumni of the MSLS programme and distance education courses in order to establish a number of scholarships for future years.

The impending tuition fees of ~80,000 SEK, or roughly \$11,000 USD, represent a major obstacle for many potential students of the MSLS and MSPI programmes. In response, StratLeade is aiming to provide scholarships to accepted applicants who require financial assistance to complete their studies in Karlskrona, especially those from developing countries.

For the upcoming 2010-11 academic year, StratLeade has awarded two scholarships to assist incoming MSLS students with the costs of travelling to and living in Karlskrona (one recipient comes from Ghana and the other from Guatemala). This type of support will help to maintain the diversity of students in the programme, one of its major strengths and attractive features.

The alumni campaign will be conducted primarily through email, providing simple ways to donate online. Donors may also send checks/cheques (payable to StratLeade Sustainability Education, Inc.) through the mail to:

StratLeade Sustainability Education, Inc.
288 Essex Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
USA

Donations may be tax deductible for donors filing US tax returns.

Keep an eye out for our emails, and please give generously!