

The Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) proudly presents its new **Masters in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability.**

Achieving sustainability is a complex challenge that will require leaders who can integrate an understanding of science, economics and social sciences with the skills to effectively facilitate change. Our Masters Program participants bring a structured, whole-systems approach to the goal of sustainable development. Students learn how to apply scientific principles, social awareness and a strategic framework to planning and decision-making with a strong focus on the process of learning, building teamwork, co-creating and dialogue.

The program has been developed in partnership with the international sustainability organisation, The Natural Step. Students learn strategic leadership skills from a lecturing team of internationally recognised experts in sustainability, business, organisational behavior, community economic development, ecology, government policy and human rights.

The Class of 2004/05

There are 41 students in this first year of the program, representing 16 different countries: Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, France, Gambia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, the United States, and Zambia. Collectively, the class speaks 20 different languages, including the language of mathematics. Each Masters candidate was chosen for their unique skills, perspectives and leadership qualities. As a whole, the class brings together a tremendous breadth and depth of cultural understanding and professional experience. Students have worked in various business, governmental, and non-profit sectors including agriculture, aerospace, international affairs, financial services, forestry, community planning, health & wellness, telecommunications, transportation, tourism, and many more. Within these fields, students have experience in business strategy, design, project management, city planning, communications, engineering, environmental consulting, and community economic development. In the following pages you can learn more about some of the unique leaders in this program. This information can also be downloaded from the webpage: www.bth.se/dialog.

Request for Project Partners

The Class of 2004/05 is currently seeking businesses, municipalities and institutions who would like to benefit from applied research in sustainability. Thesis projects will last 4.5 months, starting in January of 2005. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a project partner, please contact David Waldron, Program Manager, at david.waldron@bth.se.





Kerly Acosta, Canada

Kerly, a mechanical engineer, has pursued opportunities to learn and work in the area of alternative energy generation in both academic and professional capacities. Kerly's professional experience includes analyzing and installing energy systems and alternative fuels, such as fuel cells and liquid propane, for automotive and residential applications. As well, she has conducted inventory studies of emissions and guideline developments related to greenhouse emission management and net metering in Canada.



Collins Amanze, Gambia

Collins graduated from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, with a degree in Education and Geography. Collins has been involved in the education field working as a Geography and Environmental Studies teacher in Gambia for four years and at the same time as a resource personnel for an NGO also in Gambia. Collins is interested in acquiring deeper skills in sustainable development through the TNS framework to help formulate strategies that would usher in a more sustainable sub-Saharan Africa.



Birte Berlemann, Germany

Birte is pursuing a dual graduate degree in Environmental Sciences and Business Administration at the University of Lüneburg, Germany. Her studies focus on environmental management and communication, with a special emphasis on corporate sustainability. Her previous experience includes employment in a veterinarian's clinic and an internship at The Stork Foundation. She came to BTH to improve her knowledge of strategic leadership to be able to approach corporate sustainability issues in a more systematic way.



Ayamba Bisong, Cameroon

Ayamba is a graduate from the University of Buea where she studied sociology, anthropology and law. She has worked on sustainable development projects, including social research on poverty alleviation in the hinterlands of West Africa. From her research as a development agent she was able to make recommendations for social development and economic integration. Ayamba is currently responsible for conceiving an action plan promoting environmental and social development within sustainability parameters. She is fluent in English and French.



Josephine Brennan, South Africa

Josephine is an experienced management consultant with multi-sector exposure to the global business environment. Josephine holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology and Philosophy from the University of South Africa and a Masters in Business administration from London Business School. Her focus is on sustainability as an industry shaper and source of competitive advantage for the 21st century.



Kevin Cameron, United States

Kevin, originally from Michigan, has worked as a web-developer in Tokyo, Japan for the past six years. He has specialized in helping multinational companies create an effective web-presence in the Japanese market. Kevin's research focuses on how to utilize Information Technology to improve processes for sustainable development, as well as using the web to raise awareness of The Natural Step, and the need for sustainable development to the general public. Kevin is fluent in English and Japanese.



Ronan Joseph Chester, Canada

Ronan obtained a Bachelors degree in Economics and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria. Ronan was project manager and custom kitchen and bath designer for J & L Design Group and SieMatic America. His research builds on ecological economics and political ecology, exploring macroeconomic implications for policy making in a sustainable society.



Paulina de Gonzague, Canada

In 1996, Paulina redirected her corporate management savvy into founding World Wide Wellness Consulting Group. Inspired by her Native American Indian roots, this bilingual (English/French) consulting/coaching practice approaches capacity-building within indigenous communities from a holistic perspective. A graduate of Carleton University, Paulina studied sociology, anthropology and ecology, and is currently deepening her knowledge and expertise in social sustainability, specifically water for health. Paulina's Masters Thesis explores water restoration and the synergy between The Natural Step™ framework and Traditional Knowledge (TK).



Paulo Bento Maffei de Souza, Brazil

Paulo holds degrees in civil engineering and business administration and has taken courses in agricultural studies. He speaks Portuguese, English and French and has worked as a civil engineer and business administrator in the construction and real estate industries. Paulo also has exposure to wealth management through financial and capital markets, to family inventory administration and to storage tank monitoring. His motivating professional ethic is sustainability, grounded in social, economic and environmental improvement.



Ron Durgin, United States

Ron holds a Bachelors degree in Photographic Engineering and Technology from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota. He has spent the past 17 years working in the photographic industry, most recently with Fuji Hunt Photographic Chemicals as a Field Technical Representative in Los Angeles, California. Ron plans to lead the imaging industry towards a sustainable future by combining The Natural Step with his extensive field experience in chemical management, customer training, and product development.



Emma Eriksson, Sweden

Emma holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Engineering from University College Kalmar, Sweden. She has worked with several Swedish companies on environmental issues. Two significant projects include environmental management based on the ISO 14001 tool as well as an analysis of waste treatment options. Her academic interests focus on sustainability, especially environmental management and sustainable product development.



Karl A. Fulson, Canada

Karl holds a Bachelors degree in Tourism Management, a major in Adventure Tourism, from the University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, Canada and a diploma as an Outdoor Recreation Technician. His research interests and passions are to help guide and challenge developing communities to sustainably preserve their culture, economy and environment.



Susan Garrett, United States

Susan is a graduate of the Permaculture Drylands Institute and has seven years of experience in sustainability through her business, Ecocentric Design. She has designed integrated landscape-home systems, taught permaculture at the S.I. Polytechnic Institute and consulted with the Sustainability Trust. Susan also holds a Bachelors degree in English. She has a strong ability to understand the needs of diverse people through her cross-cultural teaching experiences in the U.S. and Japan, and four years of training in Compassionate Communication.



Scott Grierson, Australia

Scott holds a Bachelors degree in English and Cultural Studies from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Early in his professional career Scott worked in the film, television and multi-media industry before moving into management consulting in an international marketing capacity. He is focused on understanding how the message of sustainability can be meaningfully interpreted and applied to businesses and communities, with a specific interest in marine resources and renewable energy.



Lisa Howe, United States

Lisa has 23 years experience in the construction industry – from her work as a mason to her role as the Director of Preservation for a 100-person architecture and planning firm in Boston. She holds a Bachelors degree in Historic Preservation. Her interest in sustainability is inspired by a desire to combine sustainable architectural issues, historic preservation and community development.



Archie Kasnet, United States

Archie holds an interdisciplinary Bachelors degree from Gettysburg College, where he developed a major including economics, environmental and Latin American studies. His final project focused on sustainability within the tourism industry in developing countries. Archie has experience in several start-up companies and the construction industry. He created a project plan to implement sustainable development initiatives for the 2007 America's Cup sailing regatta. He plans to incorporate sustainability principles into real estate development.



Yury Kazhura, Belarus

Yury holds a Diploma with Honors in linguistics from the Moscow Military Institute and Masters degree in humanities from the European Humanities University, Belarus. He is a foreign relations' professional with 11+ years experience in diplomacy and international politics. In 2003, he joined the Project of National Human Development Report, operated by the UN Development Programme. As the project manager, he built a team of national experts and scholars to prepare a comprehensive report on sustainable human development in Belarus.



Roya Khaleeli, Canada

Roya holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering and has three years of Project Engineering experience in the automotive industry. Her academic and professional backgrounds have provided her with a sharpened understanding of the substantial changes necessary to achieve sustainability for future generations. Roya is passionate about making sustainability a reality, and is equipping herself with the necessary leadership tools to achieve this.



Renée Lazarowich, Canada

Renée was the Vice President of EcoEnergy Choices Ottawa, an environmental NGO. In this capacity she led a number of community initiatives including the promotion of low-energy light bulbs and the adoption of residential solar hot water systems. Renée holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Systems Design Engineering, and with five years software development experience has a patent pending for medical image classification software.



Amity Lumper, United States

Amity is a resource management consultant from Seattle, with expertise in solid waste analysis. By understanding the types, quantities and flows in a system, Amity advises her clients on how to eliminate waste. Her client base stretches from New York to Hawaii, and includes large businesses such as Starbucks Coffee Company and Sysco Foods.

Amity holds a Bachelors degree in chemistry from Seattle Pacific University.



Kristoffer Lundholm, Sweden

Kristoffer holds a Bachelors degree in Design from Gothenburg University. As a designer, his focus is to combine his knowledge and experience of the design process with ways of implementing strategic change in organizations. His main interest is to develop sustainable solutions, such as products and services that meet people's real needs.



Laura MacKay, Canada

Laura holds a Bachelors degree in Economics, and has worked with sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship in Atlantic Canada. Specific experience includes research on farm viability with Genuine Progress Index (GPI), policy on farmland biodiversity conservation, documentation of bioregional agricultural skills, startup and operations of cooperative business, and training programs for new entrepreneurs in sustainability. Laura believes that moving towards sustainability requires a balance of inspired leadership, public awareness, and creative development of practical tools and models for a successful future.



Gerald Abimwi Muchu, Cameroon

Gerald holds a Bachelors degree in geography and a minor in geology from the University of Buea, Cameroon. He works as a Field Extension Coordinator for the Community Based Extension Initiative Group (COBEX), an NGO responsible for promoting sustainable development through sound agro-forestry practices. He has designed and implemented several environmental control schemes in agricultural and community development in the Western Highland region of Cameroon. His research interest is in the strategic assessment and management of community development projects.



Siti Syaliza Mustapha, Malaysia

Siti has actively participated in conventions internationally on sustainable forest management, in her career as a Public and Corporate Affairs Officer at the Malaysian Timber Council. She was a member of the Malaysian delegation to the Council Sessions of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for three years. Siti holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Science, Malaysia and believes that sustainability in tropical forestry can be achieved with support and empathy from the international community.



David Nelson, United States

David is an organizational development specialist with 30 years of experience consulting with foundations, NGO's and private businesses. His specialties include environment, health and land issues, with an emphasis on how these issues interconnect. David also applies integrated sustainable business approaches, including The Natural Step, in his work with businesses.



Okaeben Smart Osagie, Nigeria

Smart holds a Bachelors degree in Public Administration from Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria. He works as a chess coach with the Delta State Sports Council in Nigeria. His work includes the discovery and development of potential chess talents at the grass roots level. Smart is focused on applying his understanding of strategic principles to the sustainability field as well as strengthening his leadership skills and knowledge of management systems. He intends to run for a political leadership position in Nigeria in the future. Smart is fluent in English and the Edo language.



Mike Purcell, Canada

Mike is a town planner with 20 years of consulting and municipal experience. Most recently he was the Director of Planning and Development for the fast growing Resort Municipality of Whistler on Canada's west coast. As such, he was responsible for guiding the development of Whistler's built environment while at the same time working to identify and deliver community services, facilities, and the protection of open space areas in response to Whistler's exceptional growth rate.



Alvaro Pureza, Brazil

Alvaro is a professional civil engineer working at a consulting company, Promon Engenharia in Sao Paulo. He holds a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Manchester University, England. Alvaro has accumulated diverse working experience in the last 20 years in the transportation, energy, mining and telecommunication fields. He plans to integrate sustainability principles into his engineering work when he returns to Brazil. He is fluent in Portuguese and English.



Mitchell Rhodes, Canada

Mitch is a Chartered Accountant with an Honours degree in Business Administration, and a Bachelors degree in Economics. Born and educated in Ontario, he spent five years in public accounting and ten years in the entertainment industry. Mitch became actively involved in sustainability and the environment when he moved to Whistler, where he sat on the executive board of Whistler Centre for Sustainability, AWARE (Whistler's environmental group), and other NGO's. Mitch has written and published a novel.



Renaud Richard, France

Renaud was an engineer, a ski instructor, and a project management consultant with a Masters degree in this specialty, when he participated in 2000 in an international human powered expedition from the North Pole to the South Pole. He has continued the expedition's mission in numerous ways, including presentations, facilitating workshops and working at the Earth Charter International Secretariat. He is permanently trying to open people's and organizations' eyes, to inspire them to act towards sustainability, and to assist them in this journey.



Arash Sangari, Sweden

Arash has studied mechanical engineering at the Blekinge Institute of Technology, and has a Bachelor's degree in Virtual Product Development and Design. His work experience includes teaching university level courses in 3D modeling as a CAD/CAM instructor. Arash is passionate about combining his knowledge of Virtual Reality with sustainable product development.



Ann Scheerer, United States

Ann holds Bachelors degrees in Physics (Kalamazoo College) and Mechanical Engineering (University of Michigan). She has obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration as well as a graduate certificate in Environmental Management from the University of Washington. Ann has worked in both private and public sector organizations, most recently in local government, planning and implementing environmental policy and programs. Ann was awarded the top award for a city-wide recycling program she developed for the City of Kirkland, Washington



Amy Seabrooke, Canada

Amy has been managing environmental stewardship and conservation projects for Wildlife Habitat Canada since 2001. She holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science from the University of Guelph. Her interests include citizen engagement in public policy, conflict resolution, facilitation, community-based resource management, and the role of the voluntary sector in working towards a sustainable society.



Benny Sindowe, Zambia

Benny holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from the University of Zambia. Benny is a Human Resources professional for the Zambian Electricity Company, with expertise in labour relations. Benny plans to incorporate The Natural Step framework into his organization, which has currently embarked on a restructuring exercise.



Tomomi Takada, Japan

Tomomi holds a Bachelors degree in Cross-Cultural Studies from Kobe University, and a Masters degree in Development Studies from Tokyo University. She is working for G-project, a company creating the first eco-village in Japan. Her present research interests are sustainable community development both in Japan and in developing countries.



Mandy Tew, United States

Mandy's work history covers a wide array of industries and institutions such as construction, agriculture, education, research, and municipal government. Her knowledge of the problems and opportunities in each of these fields has driven her to explore the systemic interdependency of these seemingly diverse entities. She intends to use her skills as a leader, her education in science, holding a Bachelors degree in Biology, and strategic planning using The Natural Step framework, to help foster dialogue, consensus, and active cooperation.



Carmen Turner, Canada

Carmen holds a Bachelors degree in Biology. She was the membership coordinator for Canadian Business for Social Responsibility, a non-profit membership association of Canadian businesses working to improve their social, environmental and financial performances. Carmen has expertise in tactical and practical approaches to implementing sustainability initiatives, with a focus on employee engagement and organizational change. She has experience in marketing and strategic planning, and has developed relationships at a national level within the Corporate Social Responsibility community.



Pavan Kumar Vummadi, India

Pavan holds a Bachelors degree of Technology in Mechanical Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University. His professional experience includes working as an engineer in an Indian Polyester Company. His present research interests include sustainable development of industries and organizations all over the world.



Jessica Webster, Canada

Jessica holds a Bachelors degree in Geography and Anthropology (with Honours) from Carleton University, a degree she funded by planting over 300,000 trees. Her research interests include globalization, agro-forestry, urban renewal and interactive web-based mapping for sustainable development decision making. She has held positions with Natural Resources Canada, the National Capital Commission and has been active in her community as a DJ, radio show host and art curator.



Jennifer Woofler, United States

Jennifer was employed by Calvert Group, an asset management firm engaged in socially responsible investment. She provided social and environmental analysis of the metals, mining, and electrical components industries, and led Calvert's initiatives on corporate disclosure through public policy, shareholder advocacy, and company dialogue. Her previous experience includes a staff position with the United States Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, where she focused on strategic human capital management. Jennifer holds a Bachelor and a Masters degree in Political Science.



Heather Worosz, Canada

Heather has over 14 years of international business experience, with expertise in strategic planning, marketing and web-based communications. Heather has consulted with non-profits, cooperatives, businesses and Fortune 1000 corporations, with over 9 years experience in the tourism industry. Heather has a Bachelors degree in International Relations, a Masters degree in Business Administration, and speaks English, French and Japanese. Heather's work focuses on helping organizations to embed sustainability principles into the core of their vision, strategies, operations and communications.