

# strategic leadership towards **sustainability**

master's class  
2006-07

Blekinge Tekniska Högskola  
Blekinge Institute of Technology  
Karlskrona, Sweden



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# expectations

A dedicated and respectful learning community that embraces and supports cultural and linguistic differences and challenges...To have a better grasp on group processes...We are not afraid to confront each other ... A mutual respect for individual backgrounds but also aspirations and objectives ... To be challenged ... To be supported ... A challenging rigorous and supportive learning experience ... Consensus decision-making and commitment to group process ... We feel loved and accepted as one community ... International network ... We speak up when we are not heard ... We trust each other ... Fun! Have a great experience ... To emerge prepared and invigorated with clear purpose within the sustainability field ... To have a hell of a good time ... A stringent as well as flexible and innovative learning environment ... New concepts and opportunities for professional life ... To learn how to practically implement the processes of sustainability ... To be visionary and skilled leaders to provide unlimited possibilities in a sustainable scope ... To be able to apply all the things I have learned in my country ... To receive word-class, holistic education from leaders and colleagues in the sustainability field ... To confidently share the tools necessary to encourage others and myself to implement sustainability ... To be challenged academically and grow personally ... To be intellectually, personally, emotionally challenged ... I am expecting an academic intellectual challenge which will be rich and surprising combined with creativity ... Learn about The Natural Step Framework ... I want to have tangible tools to take away and use ... Hope to get a broader knowledge of sustainability ... Rigorous academics ... Get tools and experience to work towards sustainability ... A respectful learning community where everyone is free to learn for themselves and for others and is free to make mistakes, change their opinion and evolve as a person ... Study useful knowledge in the 10 months that is practical when coming back ... To understand the practical applications of The Natural Step ... To get knowledge I can utilize in my future profession ...



## **Mireille Albert**

### **Canada**

Mireille is from Eastern Canada and has most recently lived in Montreal. She has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, a Master's degree in Civil environmental engineering and four years of experience as a field technician working with potable and waste water treatment technologies for small and large scale municipal, agricultural and industrial clients. She has also participated in research and development projects and gained experience with project and departmental management within the business context. Prior to this, she also worked within science education initiatives and participated in intercultural exchange programs in Canada, France and West Africa. While her work background is primarily technical, her larger interests lie in group dynamics, organization and decision making within business and community contexts. She therefore looks forward to participating in initiatives which bring together sustainability, business and community efforts in order to promote regional sustainable development.



## **Paul-Martin Aronsson**

### **Sweden**

Paul-Martin is in his fourth year of the Mechanical Engineering programme at BTH, which represents a new orientation for him, since he focused on Social Studies in high school and subsequently took courses towards Cisco certification. He chose to take part in the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability course to fully integrate sustainability in his engineering career. He further intends to keep up to date on the latest developments in this arena through participation in the online and local communities related to sustainability in engineering. Paul would describe himself as easy-going, hard working and to some extent very rationalistic.



## **Antoine Belaieff**

### **Switzerland and Canada**

After obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Management from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, Antoine worked as a management consultant, implementing Enterprise Resource Planning software in large corporations. Antoine then completed his Master's degree in Urban Planning at the University of Toronto. As a professional planner and associate in a planning consultancy, he has focused on university campus master plans, revitalization and development plans as well as urban design guidelines, combining a solid understanding of policy with a thorough appreciation of the physical realm. Antoine's interests lie in improving governance and the fiscal framework to effect sustainability at the local and regional level, looking at the interfaces between land use, transportation, waste management, energy and social needs. Antoine is fluently bilingual in French and English, functional in German, Italian and Spanish, and is currently learning Swedish.

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## **Tomas Aulberg**

### **Sweden**

Tomas is originally from Lund, but was raised in Karlskrona. He is currently in his fourth year in the Mechanical Civil Engineering programme at BTH with emphasis on sustainable product development. As part of his programme, He is following the courses offered within the "Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability" Master's programme. Prior to his studies at BTH, he worked in several different fields, including as a salesman for six years, as a factory worker for one year and as a product coordinator for three years. After graduating, his objective is to work as a product designer/developer with a strong rooting in sustainability.



## Mohamed Bibri

### Morocco

Mohamed worked in Casablanca as the head of the computer/network department at a public organization and as telecom business engineer for a multinational company. Before coming to Sweden, he worked as an IT/telecom and business consultant. In addition to this, Mohamed was an outsourced and freelance consultant in professional technology development, talent advocacy, and human resource management working in Morocco, Emirates and the UK. He coordinated small and medium enterprise corporate ventures. Mohamed has a BSc in information technology management, telecom networks and a certificate in business management. He has undertaken professional development in different areas (business development, strategic marketing, mobile and satellite communication). Mohamed has participated in group research programs, international IT architect projects, telecommunication solutions deployment, as well as ISM. Mohamed is planning to undertake a PhD program in sustainable technology development or telecommunications. Additionally, he has interests in nanotechnology and biotechnology from a sustainability perspective.



## Michal Bitterman

### Israel

After graduating from high school, Michal served in the Israeli Air Force as an operation officer, commanding and coordinating the staff of a jet squadron operation room. Following her compulsory military service, she travelled in South America and worked in Spain. She then earned a Bachelor's Degree in Law and a Minor in Cognitive Science at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem prior to completing an internship at the fiscal department of the Ministry of Law. Michal is a board-certified lawyer with additional private practice experience. Michal's interest in environmental issues started early and intensified throughout her numerous trips. Her love of nature and exposure to environmental issues as well as her realization of the current situation in her country is materialized in her wish to gain knowledge and experience in that field, use sustainability as a bridge to peace in her region and integrate sustainability into modern architecture.



## **Cari Bivona**

### **United States**

Prior to arriving in Sweden, Cari worked as the “Green Designer” at Spirit Interior Design, was a member of the Truckee Green Building Committee, and Sierra Green Building Association. She organized the inaugural Critical Mass bike ride in Truckee, California and was a founding member of Truckee Biofuels. Cari is a certified Permaculture Designer and has worked for Eugene Tsui, author of Evolutionary Architecture and Vital Systems, a natural building company. Cari has taught sustainable living at the high school level. She hopes to design a permaculture eco-village in Pavones, Costa Rica with an emphasis on courses in strategic sustainable development and earth-consciousness paradigm shifting. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Middlebury College and completed masters level coursework at the San Francisco Institute of Architecture in ecological design.



## **Heidi Blankenship**

### **United States**

Heidi Blankenship graduated with a Business Administration and Marketing degree from California State University - Sonoma, and then spent three years working in Boston, MA with the Fund for Public Interest Research. There she trained student leaders to run campaigns and hold their elected officials accountable on environmental and consumer protection issues. Leading up to the 2004 election she ran the Community Voters Project, where five offices in three states registered over 70,000 new voters in disenfranchised communities. Since then she has worked in Wisconsin for a women’s business center, teaching aspiring and innovative entrepreneurs to bring their business ideas to reality. The MSLS program at Blekinge IT offers an opportunity to meld the community organizing/activist aspect of her background with business leadership. Upon completing the MSLS program Heidi will return to Wisconsin to join the many sustainability leaders in the area bringing about systemic social change.



## **Sarah Brooks**

### **Canada**

Sarah Brooks was born and raised in the Southern Gulf Islands of the West Coast of Canada. For the last eight years, Sarah has been working in the field of natural building, constructing and teaching others to build structures from locally abundant, minimally processed and rapidly renewable materials. She has worked with women and men from over fifteen countries throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. Sarah is experienced in curriculum design, group facilitation and leadership, organisational coordination and group strategising and mobilisation. She has a strong interest in the linkages between sustainability, human dignity and environmental justice as well as the tools and technology transfer that can strengthen local networks dedicated to sustainability. Her academic background is in geography and human ecology.



## **Ann Cassidy**

### **United States**

Ann holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Management from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana. She has worked in Germany, Thailand and New Zealand. Her professional experience in sales and marketing in information technology led her to San Francisco California, which has been her home for the last decade. Her vision to develop sustainable business practices led her to shift her professional concentration. She recently assisted a Californian vineyard in their sustainability certification audit. Ann intends to focus on applying sustainability to best practices in the private sector, and to help organizations measure their sustainable performance and engage stakeholders to build more productive partnerships. She looks forward to leading organizations in integrating economic and business development to help strategic business planning towards sustainability.



## **Chen Jie**

**China**

Chen Jie (Jane) comes from Kunming City in Yunnan, Southern China. She is integrating her current studies in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability at BTH with her ongoing major in Artistic Design at Kunming University of Science and Technology. Chen Jie is very interested in combining these areas of study, for example in the growing field of green design. She believes that life is a process of continuous learning and is interested in biology, history and astronomy. She is enjoying studying with a talented and diverse group of people at BTH. In addition to learning, Chen Jie enjoys travelling, reading, watching movies and meeting new friends from diverse backgrounds and cultures.



## **Carl Russell Crone**

**United States**

Russ has won several essay competitions; one on rural electric cooperatives and another on a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He won a trip to the Middle East and became the first U.S. student to meet Yassir Arafat. He also met Queen Noor of Jordan and Foreign Minister Khaddam of Syria. Russ studied French at La Sorbonne and worked with U.S. Senator Charles Grassley in Washington, D.C. He hosted a radio talk show at Central College where he gained his BA in Political Science and French. Russ helped establish a labor union at an airline and served as its first president. He also served on the board of directors for the world's largest flight attendant union. As a recruiter, Russ orchestrated the largest offer package for a CEO in the history of biotechnology (\$20+M). It is Russ' intention to teach university level politics with emphasis on public policies promoting sustainability.



## **Shannon Fitzgerald**

### **United States**

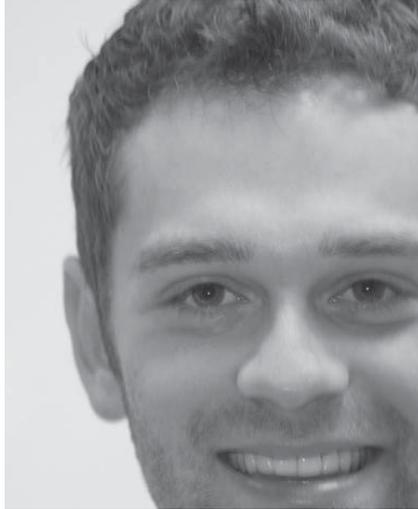
Shannon has worked with the Washington State Parks Department on an Environmental Impact Assessment, and wrote a comparative analysis of fossil fuels and renewable resources. She is interested in learning how to improve our natural environment and finding ways to move toward a renewable and sustainable economy. Shannon received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Economics from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.



## **Dan Hendry**

### **Canada**

Daniel James Hendry is from a small town in Ontario, Canada. He graduated from Seneca College with a diploma in International Business. He then earned his Bachelor of Commerce from Royal Roads University in British Columbia, Canada. After graduation, Dan moved to South Korea to work as a language coach and to immerse himself into a situation in which he could put his formal education into practice. Following the completion of the Master's Program, his plans are to return to South Korea to work and continue to study the Korean language. Dan's long term plans are deeply infused with sustainability. Initially, he wants to implement and practice sustainable concepts in Korea. Upon his return to Canada, he hopes to work with his brothers who are both educated in environmental fields. Dan has many interests, including; travelling, scuba diving, reading and meeting people.



## **Michael Henson**

### **United States**

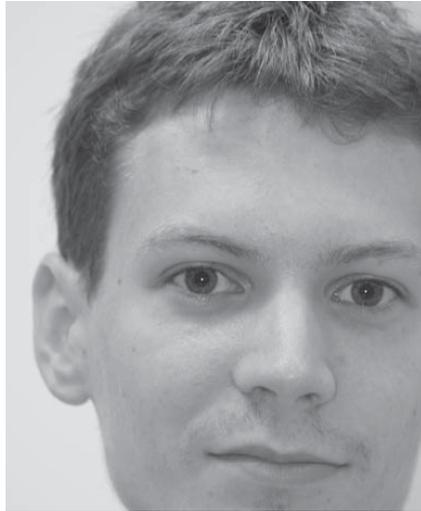
Michael Henson recently completed one and a half years of volunteer service at Holden Village, an isolated retreat center and intentional community in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. There, he assisted in the monitoring and maintenance of an off-the-grid hydroelectric power plant, water filtration plant, sewer system, and wood/diesel fired boilers. He also developed skills in consensus decision making and group facilitation. Prior to Holden Village, Michael earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies from Pacific Lutheran University. He was highly involved in the Campus Sustainability Committee, working with faculty, staff, administrators, and fellow students to integrate campus efforts towards sustainability. He also has experience in diversity and multiculturalism, particularly within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. Upon returning to the USA, Michael aspires to utilize his leadership skills and knowledge of The Natural Step Framework as a Campus Sustainability Coordinator.



## **Tommy Karlsson**

### **Sweden**

Tommy Karlsson was born in 1983. His youth started in a small town in the middle of Sweden, but sadly his parents got divorced so Tommy's life journey continued in the countryside. The beautiful forests and its surroundings triggered a passion for wilderness and untouched landscapes. Quickly, Tommy started to gain interest in mathematics and physics, and he thus chose the path of education. After some hard years of studies, Tommy decided to join the army for his military training. Tommy had always felt a passion for leading groups, so even there he followed his innermost desire of being a strategic leader. Now Tommy's story continues with the next step of becoming an even better strategic leader, with sustainability in mind.



## **Viktor Kulhavý**

### **Czech Republic**

Viktor has a professional and educational background in Economics. He holds a Master's degree in Financial Management from Masaryk University, Brno. Now he is heading for his Ph. D. in Management with a specialization in sustainable solutions in the sphere of business. He worked as an assistant in the Department of Corporate Economy at Masaryk University. He has also participated in Human Resources training courses. After he returns to the Czech Republic from Sweden, he would like to develop educational courses for managers from regional companies and students from his home university. His interests vary from studying psychology, photography, and smart solutions "from people for people" such as Linux and FreeMind project, to memberships in the Czech Red Cross and Scout Movement.



## **Jonas Lagneryd**

### **Sweden**

Jonas has been implementing proactive sustainable regional development initiatives for eleven years in the county of Värmland. Between 1995 and 2001 he was the manager of Environmental Action Värmland, Sweden's first regional sustainability initiative. It involved fostering dialogue and knowledge building, publishing magazines and web sites, and initiating pilot projects with the aim of creating role models within all sectors including sustainable agriculture, energy, architecture, business and tourism. Since 2001 he has acted as regional advisor for sustainable development at Region Värmland, the regional organization through which the county's sixteen municipalities and the county council cooperate to strengthen the region. He envisions applying the knowledge he now acquires to both business and public decision and planning processes. In his leisure time Jonas passionately enjoys tennis and world music.



## **Delphine Le Page**

**France**

Delphine developed her scientific skills in physics and chemistry while studying in Brittany. There, she passionately worked as a kayak instructor for a diverse public including disabled children. After three months in Canada working in a chemistry lab in oceanography, she decided to shift her education towards a more environmental friendly approach. She moved to the U.K. where she graduated in Environmental Sciences from the University of Plymouth, focusing on waste management in tropical islands. Sustainability became the aim of Delphine's studies and aspirations while she earned an Ecological Engineering Master's degree in Corsica. In the summer of 2006, advised by The Natural Step France, she developed a project in the food industry. After her experience in Sweden, Delphine wishes to continue travelling while developing sustainable projects to engage individuals and their communities.



## **Liu Na**

**China**

Liu Na comes from Kunming city, (Yunnan province) in China and graduated from Kunming University of Science & Technology with a Bachelor of Management, majoring in marketing. During her studies, she acquired experience in the field of marketing, working for a large multinational appliance company. Witnessing growing pollution around her, she became aware of the importance of sustainability for China and the rest of the world. Upon her return, she would like to contribute to the implementation of sustainability initiatives, building on growing awareness in her city and country. She is especially interested in fostering attitudinal change.



## Estela Luck

### Panamá

Estela has decided to pursue a degree in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability because she recognizes the imminent need for the Latin American culture to join the wave of sustainable development as soon as possible. Estela is enthusiastic about the MSTLS programme and the way it will persuade business to commit towards a sustainable society while redefining their visions, goals, and strategies. Estela completed an Associate Degree with a minor in Economics at the Florida State University and a Bachelor of Science in Professional Management at Nova Southeastern University in the United States. She also completed a Postgraduate degree in Business Logistics in the Interamerican University of Panama.



## Alexandre Magnin

### France

After graduating from the Ecole Spéciale des Travaux Publics in Paris, Alexandre worked as a civil engineer specialising in the design and sales of bridge-technologies. In 2000, he founded ViralGames, a firm focussed on viral marketing and custom Internet games for some of France's largest corporations. During the following six years, Alexandre co-developed and managed this company, developing complementary skills in management, creativity, administration and finance. Alexandre is passionately fond of travelling, culture, art, music and games, and is generally interested in the capacity of human beings to communicate and solve problems together. In this context, he views sustainability as a new challenge for him. Alexandre is functional in English and has basic notions of Spanish.



## **Merlina Missimer**

### **Germany**

Merlina is originally from Germany, but has most recently lived in the United States. There, she acquired a B.A. in International Environmental Studies with an exploration in Applied Mathematics from Franklin & Marshall College. She then worked as the College's first Campus Sustainability Intern designing programs to raise awareness about sustainability on college campuses. Merlina has gained experience with group processes and decision making through working as a Residential Programs Assistant and a Conference and Events Manager, as well as volunteering with non-profit groups such as Friends of the Earth and Amnesty International. Although she has a passion for non-profit work and higher education, she is open to engaging herself in new opportunities. In this program, she hopes to expand her leadership skills and acquire a strategic framework for working towards solutions to the issues she cares about deeply.



## **Monique Monteverde**

### **United States**

After graduating from Middlebury College with a BA in Environmental Studies, Monique moved to the west coast of the U.S. to study Ecological Design and Green Architecture. She began her work in experiential education, spending several years instructing environmental science, teaching outdoor skills, and facilitating community outreach programs in wetland restoration and watershed education. Most recently she served as director for an educational organization with a mission to creatively promote sustainable living through community education, urban agriculture, and ecological design. Her experience has inspired her to further explore sustainability and systems thinking. Monique is interested in the process of empowering individuals and communities to create a sustainable future and in methods to incorporate strategic sustainability into formal education and community development.



## **Anne Morgan**

### **United States**

Anne's interest in sustainability stems from her vision of all corporations functioning responsibly and with compassion. Upon completion of the MSLS program she plans to pursue this vision by applying sustainable development principles to the business sector. Anne earned her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the College of William and Mary in 2002. She spent the last four years working for several nonprofit environmental organizations, including the Environmental Working Group and Waterkeeper Alliance, focusing on issues such as farm policy, toxics and water quality. She was responsible for writing and managing foundation grants to grow and strengthen the environmental movement. Additionally, Anne contributed to other operations and communications efforts and volunteered for the Positive Futures Network.

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## **Gloria Moy**

### **United States**

Gloria Moy is a quality manager at a major enterprise medical software company based in Madison, Wisconsin. She did her Master's research on Speech Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison following a Bachelor's of Science in Communicative Disorders and Education. Her interests include green home remodelling, alternative fuel vehicles and natural resource conservation. Her goals are to learn effective methods for motivating and educating citizens towards a more sustainable society and to apply The Natural Step Framework to define and implement sustainable practices in corporate environments.



## **Stephen Muzzy**

### **United States**

Stephen Muzzy is from the northeastern United States. He holds a Bachelors of Arts in Marketing communications from Western New England College, and a Master's of Science in Environmental Education from Antioch University New England. His introduction into sustainability came at the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education, a non-profit organization based out of New York City. There he became familiar with the topics of systems dynamics, organizational learning, and ecological economics. His main project at The Cloud Institute was to research quality of life indicators as an alternative to GDP. Steve has also worked for the Center for Environmental Education, researching and developing profiles of schools working towards sustainability for their website. Steve plans to return to the United States and apply the Natural Step framework to help schools and institutions of learning make successful, strategic steps toward a more sustainable future.



## **Dan O'Halloran**

### **Australia**

Dan O'Halloran has completed undergraduate degrees in Commerce and Environmental Engineering prior to gaining experience within the water industry in Melbourne, Australia (2001-2006). In this role, Dan undertook long term infrastructure planning and designed water, sewage and wastewater recycling infrastructure. It was also in this time that Dan was introduced to the Natural Step framework. Inspired by the strategic methodology towards sustainability described within the framework, Dan has undertaken the Master's course to strengthen the capacity of sustainability leaders in the water industry in Australia. Through his studies in Commerce and experience in the finance industry, Dan also has an interest in the present and future recognition and valuation of sustainable products and practices within the market place. More broadly, Dan's study in this field is motivated by inter-generational equity and the responsibility of each generation to better enable the next to meet their needs.



## **Pan Bing Bing**

### **China**

Pan Bingbing comes from Guangzhou in Southern China. After obtaining a B.A degree from the South Central University of Political Science and Law, she accepted a position at Tibet University, teaching Tibet tourism for 4 years. While teaching, she co-edited a tourism and linguistic guidebook of Tibet in English, Chinese and Tibetan. In addition, her work as a tour guide helped grow her awareness of environmental concerns related to tourism. Bingbing is hoping that the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability programme will help her contribute to the development of sustainable tourism initiatives through research and advocacy.



## **Katie Pease**

### **United States**

Katie started her professional career at Quincy Natural Foods, a cooperative where she explored varying aspects of management as well as a framework for group decision making while acting as a member of the Board of Directors. During this time she became a certified Permaculture Designer and engaged in an extensive education in Herbal Medicine. Subsequently, she satisfied her lifelong dream of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, a walk that led her to return to education at New College of California where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Humanities in a program called Culture, Ecology and Sustainable Community with an emphasis on Ecological Design. Coupling her current education and a Masters in Strategic Leadership Toward Sustainability with previous life experience, she hopes to incorporate and share her knowledge through the fields of education, sustainable land design, management, and sustainable community development.



## **Jack Rosebro**

### **United States**

Jack Rosebro is the founder of Perfect Sky, a company that helps public and private-sector transportation industry clients explore the adoption of innovative, low-emission technologies, including hybrid, electric, and hydrogen fuel-cell powertrains. Clients include the City of New York, City of Toronto, and City of San Francisco. He is also a writer and technical advisor to Green Car Congress, a leading news source on sustainable mobility. Jack is interested in accelerating the adoption of science-based principles of sustainability at community, corporate, and individual levels. He graduated from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He is based in Santa Barbara, California.



## **Lawrence Silcox**

### **Canada**

Lawrence Silcox is an Industrial Designer from Vancouver, BC, where his practice concentrates on sustainable systems, green design and product life cycle assessment. He received his bachelor's of design degree from the Emily Carr Institute. Prior to ECI, from 1998-2001 Lawrence worked at developing hydrogen fuel cell technology at Ballard Power Systems pursuing his interest in sustainable transportation. Lawrence is often found involved in his community and recently completed his own event, 10:1 Climbing to Find a Cure, in which he raised over \$4,000 for cancer awareness and research. Lawrence comes to the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability program as a curious, enthusiastic and focused problem solver. A svelte oxygenarian bikeboy with a vision for a new paradigm of human mobility. Lawrence is an optimist. He challenges the status quo. He believes in a sustainable future. [www.lawrencesilcox.com](http://www.lawrencesilcox.com)



## Sean Spender

Canada

Sean's participation in the program embodies his desire for a lifestyle that reflects his values and his vision for an ecologically and socially sustainable society. He is formally trained as a plant biologist, with research interests in the symbiotic relationship between plants and fungi. He has extensive field research experience in the plant sciences and was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Mycorrhiza*. After university he spent 3 years as a professional Canadian football player in the Canadian Football League, twice on Grey Cup championship teams. Sean is originally from Guelph, Ontario, Canada, but has spent significant time in Edmonton and Montreal in Canada, as well as Sweden, Hawaii and Japan. He has just returned from teaching English in Japan and enters the program in Karlskrona as the recipient of the Canadian Institute of Nordic Studies scholarship. He is seeking to explore both sustainable agriculture and green building and materials.



## Suzhou Yanni

China

Yanni Shizhou is from Kunming Yunnan, a beautiful city in China. After obtaining a Bachelor's degree of Management from Yunnan University she worked for two years in a China/UK AIDS prevention and care project. To gain more knowledge and broaden her vision, she came to the Blekinge Institute of Technology in 2004 where she earned a Master's of Science in Business Administration. With passion and great interest in sustainability, she now is taking the MSLS to develop a deeper understanding of sustainability. Yanni wants to contribute to the sustainable development of China by applying problem-solving methods and the 5-level framework for sustainability.



## **Tony Thompson**

### **United States**

Tony graduated with honors from Cornell College with a degree in Computer Science. In the years since, he has worked with Habitat for Humanity – an international NGO that works to provide housing in partnership with low-income families – in a variety of roles including capacity building, leadership development, researching, writing and facilitating discussion of case studies, as well as resource development through expanded retail operations. A native of rural Iowa, he served as a director on the board of the Iowa Environmental Council prior to joining the MSLS program. His interests are vast and varied, and he particularly enjoys taking a look at the “big picture” from a variety of perspectives. Tony is looking forward to a lifetime filled with opportunity to guide the world toward a sustainable future.



## **Axel Thott**

### **Sweden**

Axel Thott is a 25 year old man who was born and raised just outside a small town called Svedala in southern Sweden. He lived there until the age of 13 when he moved to a boarding school in Värmland. After six years of study at that school, he graduated from the Swedish high school and went of to do his mandatory military service in the Swedish navy in Karlskrona. After one year of service, he was dismissed and started to study at Lund University, failing to realize that he needed a break from school. After just a couple of months, the harsh reality struck him like a sledgehammer and he dropped out of school to find himself. After a year of that, he started at BTH at the mechanical engineers program, where he still finds himself enjoying the school, the surroundings and his friends.



## Kirk Tyler

### Canada

Kirk Tyler is from Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory. He has a degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Environmental Planning from the University of Northern British Columbia. He worked for the City of Whitehorse, in such areas as waste management, greenhouse gases, sustainable transportation and planning. Kirk was in Rovaniemi Finland for several years, initially on an internship through the International Institute of Sustainable Development with the University of the Arctic. He subsequently completed specialized studies in International Project Management from Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences. Kirk finished his time in Finland at the University of Lapland's Arctic Centre in the Arctic Indigenous Office where he assisted writing a report on Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge in the Arctic for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat. He is interested in applying his broad expertise and strategic view of sustainability to communities, corporations and leading change towards sustainability.



## Norman Tyler

### Canada

Norman has a Bachelor degree in Economics from Simon Fraser University, is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), and Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM). He has achieved a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) with a specialization in knowledge management at Royal Roads University, complemented by an international component at Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Grenoble, France. Norman has also completed several Investment and Insurance certification courses. He is an accomplished manager with 15 years experience in the banking, wealth management and insurance industry. He was a founding board member and Vice-chair of a charitable foundation. Recently he worked as a Regional Manager for a Credit Union, cultivating skills in leadership, strategic planning, community development, corporate social responsibility and triple bottom line management. Norman is a management consultant planning to work with corporations and communities at a strategic level, developing and implementing sustainable practices.



## **Viviana Lopez Velasco**

### **Colombia**

Viviana has a bachelor degree in Marine Biology from Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Colombia. She completed an internship with EAWAG in Switzerland researching river restoration and biological, social and economic indicators. She worked as a volunteer with marine mammals (dolphins and whales) in Rio de Janeiro Brazil. There, she had the opportunity to develop environmental education tools for the community and children. Her goal is to gain interdisciplinary knowledge about environmental issues, improving leadership skills and educating people in sustainability. Viviana has a forthcoming children's book "Toninha, conhecer para proteger!" designed to educate youth about basic marine biology and the environment.

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## **Josely Nunes Villela**

### **Brazil**

Josely has obtained Bachelor's and Licenciatura degrees in Psychology from the Catholic University, a Specialization in Human Resources Development from the Getúlio Vargas' Foundation, and a Master's degree in Management Systems from the Fluminense Federal University (on hold while at BTH). She has over ten years of experience as a guest professor in higher education institutions in Brazil, teaching Personnel Management and Strategic Planning. She has also consulted in the areas of Management, Human Development and Planning – particularly on strategic solutions – advising businesses in the private and public sectors including Health, Communications, Transportation and Energy. Josely is interested in using The Natural Step framework to contribute to greater sustainability in communities, individual businesses and industries.



## **Fiona Wright**

### **Canada**

Fiona is deeply aware of the necessity of working effectively and strategically within teams and networks to accomplish meaningful results, and is extremely pleased to be training in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability. She holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Sciences with Distinction from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She has logistical experience with project implementation at the grassroots level, as well as experience working in positions of management, coordination, outreach and research. She is well travelled and has spent time living and working in different countries including Canada, the U.K., Fiji Islands, Australia, Guatemala, Belize and most recently in Sierra Leone. Fiona aspires to assist companies and governments move tangibly and strategically towards sustainable practices.



## **Nobuko Yokoyama**

### **Japan**

Nobuko has worked as a system engineer and information technology consultant for five years after graduating from Tsuda College with a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. In recent years, she specialised in website management consulting, assessing and evaluating websites, developing strategies to improve web management systems and planning website renewal strategies. Primary clients were pharmaceutical companies and independent administrative institutions. Simultaneously, her strong interest in social issues and nature led her to participate in seminars on environmental topics. Nobuko is interested in applying Information Technology to promote and effect sustainability.



# Zhang Yong Liang

China

Yong Liang obtained a postgraduate degree from NanJing Forestry University (China) after graduating from Anhui Agricultural University (China) with an Bachelor Degree of Management. He has a strong interest in sustainability issues and studied in the field of forestry sustainability for 2 years. His current interests are how to use the Natural Step Framework to promote sustainable forest management. After his studies at BTH, he hopes to use his newly acquired knowledge and experience on many forestry projects. His dream is to help create a sustainable world.

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