School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Faculty of Environment
University of Waterloo
Introduction

This report covers the period from January to December 2019. The School has enjoyed ongoing success, with several highlights:

- SEED and the Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness (RESH) at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding, laying the foundation for productive student and faculty exchanges and research partnerships.
- Since its launch in May 2018, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada has gained a strong profile as a network of sustainable development research and education in Canada. The SDSN Canada has an active partnership with the Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSI), and planning is underway to host Canada’s national Together Conference in 2020. SEED continues to host the SDSN Canada, providing technical and managerial support for the Waterloo hub and the national network.
- The School partnered with the Academy for Sustainable Innovation (ASI), which is a game-changing new initiative to train and certify a generation of professionals to lead Canada’s transition to a low-carbon economy. Aimed at industry professionals and students, SEED is planning to host a one-week ASI Transitions Masterclass in 2020, which explores the concept and implications of ‘transition’ to a low carbon, socially equitable economy.
- Our students and faculty continue to work closely with a range of stakeholders, locally, nationally and internationally, ensuring SEED’s continued visibility in research, teaching and professional service (see Achievements and Impacts).
- The PhD in Sustainability Management accepted its second cohort of 16 students in September, confirming that the program is responding to a significant demand for interdisciplinary studies focused on sustainability at the doctoral level.

SEED Enrollment Trends

At the aggregate level, the School’s enrolments continue at a steady state, with a total of approximately 903 (compared to 908 last year). After two years in operation, the Ph.D. in Sustainability Management currently has 44 students enrolled. The program continues to attract strong interest as it enters its third year (next intake in Fall 2020). Likewise, the MES in Sustainability Management remains strong, with 67 students enrolled. SEED’s three professional programs continue to train domestic and international students in International Development Practice, Economic Development and Innovation, and Environment and Business.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EB</td>
<td>EB 2+2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>554 (116 1st years)</td>
<td>78</td>
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*Denotes IAP numbers from Fall Term, which typically have the most representative headcount for reporting purposes.

Faculty

In 2019, SEED had 22 faculty members (including one professor who is 0.5 FTE and cross-appointed to Geography). We welcome Drs. Cameron McCordic and Jeffery Wilson as new tenure-track Assistant Professors. Cameron specializes in sustainable urban development in Canada and internationally, and Jeff is a specialist in behaviour and sustainable development. Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger
started a new four-year term with the School on 1 January 2019. After a decade of outstanding service to the International Development Program, Grainne Ryder retired from St. Paul’s University College. In turn, we welcome Dr. John Abraham to the position of Lecturer, International Work Placement Manager INDEV and Masters of Development Practice (also at St. Paul’s University College).

**Staff**

We welcome Tracey Beirness to SEED, who has assumed the role of Graduate Administrator for the MDP and ENBUS programs. We also say goodbye to Teresa Wilson and thank her for her years of dedicated service to the MEB. Teresa has now joined GEM on a full-time basis. Alicia Schmitt left her position with SEED as our Administrative Assistant and we wish her all the very best for her future endeavours. We are pleased to report that Jon Beale’s term was extended as the Manager of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada.

At the end of 2019, the School’s administration team comprised of Marion Brown (Administrative Manager), Karen Robertson (U/Grad Admin-INDEV), Cheri Oestreich (U/Grad Admin-ENBUS), Tracey Beirness (Grad Admin-MEB, MDP), Dragana Kostic (Grad Admin–MEDI, SUSM), John Abraham (Lecturer and INDEV and MDP Field Placement Manager-St. Paul’s), Jon Beale (Manager, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada), and Sharon Jones (Program Administrator for the Economic Development Program).

**Faculty Administrative Roles**

The following faculty members hold administrative appointments within the School and the Faculty: SEED Director, Bruce Frayne; Associate Director Undergraduate Studies, Mike Wood; Associate Directors Graduate Studies, Prateep Nayak and Steven Young; Associate Dean Graduate Studies, Simron Singh; Associate Dean Research, Amelia Clarke; and Associate Dean, Strategic Initiatives, Paul Parker.

**Program Updates**

SEED houses two undergraduate programs (International Development, and Environment and Business); three professional graduate programs (Master of Development Practice, Master of Economic Development and Innovation, and Master of Environment and Business); and two graduate research programs in Sustainability Management (MES and PhD). The PhD in Sustainability Management accepted its second cohort of students in September 2019, and is establishing itself as a leader in this unique and emerging field.

**Undergraduate Programs**

**Environment and Business Program**

Now in its 18th year, the Environment and Business Honours co-op program currently has more than 550 students, including 78 students from Nanjing University of Finance and Economics (NUFE) who complete the final two years of their degree at UW through our 2+2 program. The highlight of the program for many students is the eight-month capstone project that they complete in their final year. Students work in teams with ‘real-world’ clients on a specific sustainability issue related to the organization.
International Development Program

The INDEV Program continues to place students on eight-month field placements with World University Service of Canada partner organizations in the Global South as part of their Practice Specialization. Students also continue to opt to undertake their thesis research under the INDEV Research Specialization. The Program continues to successfully host the International Development Speakers Series, providing weekly guest lectures in the Winter Term that are open to students, the broader university community and the public. Since 2012 the program has successfully placed some 220 INDEV students with organizations abroad.

Professional Graduate Programs

Master of Development Practice Program

The Master of Development Practice (MDP), a 16-month professional course-based program, is part of the Global Association of MDP Programs that currently has 37 programs in 25 countries. Experiential learning and field placements are an integral component of the MDP program with an ever-growing network of partners available at grass-roots organizations to international institutions. Since 2013, more than 100 MDP student have been placed with partner organizations overseas.

Students attended and presented at the 7th Annual International Conference for Sustainable Development (ICSD), September 2019, New York. To date, the papers presented by MDP students at this conference total approximately 55, which have been published in peer review outlets.

In February 2019, MDP students spent a week in Jamaica learning about food systems and food security in the context of Island states.

Master of Environment and Business Program

The MEB program continues to offer a high-quality online professional course-based master’s degree that can be completed part-time in three years or full-time in one year. The majority are already sustainability professionals when they enter the program. The majority of MEB students are Ontario and Canada based, although the online focus of the program suggests that there may be significant opportunities to expand the cohort to students living abroad. As with previous years, the 2019 capstone projects involved a wide variety of clients from the private, public and non-profit sectors.

Master of Development and Innovation

MEDI is a three-term program with a strong focus on experiential learning and using the Kitchener-Waterloo region as a living laboratory to understand the innovation ecosystem and the underlying economic development processes that support it. Over the Fall term, students visited a range of organizations in the local area (for example, Communitech Hub, the Working Centre, Lutherwood, the Mississaugas of the New Credit) and use Kitchener as a learning environment related to a range of economic development and innovation activities. As part of their course work, students worked with local community partners to find solutions to economic development challenges faced by those partners. Each year, the students get exposure to the opportunities and challenges faced by smaller communities through the field trip known as the Rural Innovation Roadshow in Oxford County.
Economic Development Certification Program

The Economic Development Program’s certification courses continued to be offered, with more than 300 participants taking courses and seminars across Canada. The courses are offered online and in person, with 90% of participants rating the course experience as either excellent or very good.

Research Graduate Programs

Master of Sustainability Management Program

The Masters in Environmental Studies in Sustainability Management continues to attract strong students that gain an applied research education while supporting the School’s research. Student experiences have included research placements with municipalities and companies, as well as providing opportunities for overseas and local field research. The program is supported with scholarships from the University of Waterloo’s Water Institute, SSHRC graduate awards, Mitacs, and with funds provided under professor research grants. Students in the program have published in the popular press, crafted policy papers, delivered conference papers, and some have authored in peer reviewed journals. A number of graduates are continuing studies in Ph.D. programs.

Ph.D. in Sustainability Management

The School welcomed the second cohort of students to the new and innovative doctoral program (established in 2018). There remains very strong interest in the program, which indicates the strong demand for a doctoral program in this newly emerging field, which trains students for the professional and academic markets in sustainability management.

Research Activities

• Faculty at SEED have been very active on the research front. SEED faculty have continued to successfully attract research funding ($1,292,117 in 2019) from major granting agencies, government agencies and private funders, including foundations, NGOs and industry. In addition to our collective and strong record of outputs, SEED’s Assistant Professors have published one book, four book chapters and 10 journal articles, as well as contributing to industry and making research presentations.

Achievements and Impact

While it is not possible to summarize all of the outstanding impacts made by our students, staff and faculty over the past year, below is a small selection of highlights as an indication of the local, national and international reach of our School.

Students

• Sisir Kanta Pradhan - SUSM doctoral candidate received the prestigious IDRC Doctoral Research Award in 2019
• Sean Campbell - SUSM PhD student has been leading the creation of the Union Sustainable Development Cooperative (also core to his PhD research) and secured a grant from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to partner with WISIR to further develop the concept as a scalable model for enabling community investment in affordable housing in Canada.
• MDP students attended and presented at the 7th Annual International Conference for Sustainable Development (ICSD), September 2019, New York

Staff

• Cheri Oestreich – for student and course support on the School’s Jamaica field course

Faculty

• Heather Hall - awarded an Early Researcher Award from the Ontario government
• Marie-Claire Cordonier-Seggar – awarded the Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorship at the University of Cambridge and gave the 2020 Climate Change Lecture to a full house/live-stream of over 2,000 people at Trinity College, University of Cambridge (February)
• Neil Craik - presented the findings of the Experts Group on Liability for Environmental Harm from Activities in the Area, of which he was co-lead, to the Legal and Technical Committee of the International Seabed Authority
• Prateep Nayak – led the 3rd field school on environmental change and governance in Chilika Lagoon, Bay of Bengal, Odisha, India (August)
• Sean Geobey - funding from Employment and Skills Development Canada to launch a Legacy Leadership Lab (L3), which is looking at small- and medium-sized enterprise conversions into social purpose organizations
• Bruce Frayne – Associate Director of the Hungry Cities Partnership working to effect change with universities, government, civil society and the private sector in China, India, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Cameroon, Namibia and Kenya
• Jon Beale – managing SDSN Canada and bringing on board 38 post-secondary institutions as members (with Dean Andrey, SDSN Chair and Julie Wright of WGI).

Prof. Bruce Frayne, Director
May 6, 2019