School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Faculty of Environment
University of Waterloo
Introduction

This report covers the period from January to December 2017. The School has enjoyed ongoing success, with several highlights:

- Both undergraduate and graduate programs in Environment and Business and International Development underwent external reviews, together with the Masters in Economic Development and Innovation and the Masters in Sustainability Management. The programs all received strong support from the reviewers and SEED was recognized as a leader in sustainability education and research.
- SEED faculty played a central role in hosting Professor Jeffery Sachs as the TD Walter Bean Visiting Professor in March.
- On behalf of the Faculty of Environment, SEED faculty and the Dean led the University’s response to the request from the Global Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to host SDSN Canada (the Canadian network’s launch takes place in May 2018).
- Our students and faculty continue to work closely with a range of stakeholders, locally, nationally and internationally.

SEED Enrollment Trends

After several years of growth, the School’s enrolments have now stabilized at approximately 920. With the addition of our Ph.D. in Sustainability Management that will begin in Fall 2018, enrolments will rise accordingly, with an expected steady state of approximately 1,000 students per annum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year*</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EB</td>
<td>EB 2+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>515 (123 1st years)</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>527 (108 1st years)</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>526 (107 1st years)</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>553 (134 1st years)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>542 (99 1st years)</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>537 (120 1st years)</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>565 (116 1st years)</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes IAP numbers from Fall Term, which typically have the most representative headcount for reporting purposes.
Faculty

SEED currently has 18 faculty members (two of whom are 0.5 FTE and cross-appointed to Geography). We thank Neil Craik for 6.5 years of excellent leadership of SEED and welcomed Bruce Frayne to the position of School Director in July 2017. We congratulate Larry Swatuk on his promotion to Full Professor in 2017.

Staff

We welcomed Claudette DeMaere to SEED’s administration team to replace Janine Dietrich who took up a secondment at the Stratford campus in September. Claudette leads the administration and advising for our MEDI and SUSM graduate programs. We thank Joanne Adair and Nina Ripley for their excellent service to SEED, who have taken up posts elsewhere on campus.

At the end of 2017, the School’s administration team comprised of Marion Brown (Administrative Manager), Karen Robertson (U/Grad - INDEV and Grad Advisor - MDP), Cheri Oestreich (U/Grad Advisor - ENBUS), Teresa Wilson (Grad Advisor- MEB/MCC (Geog.), Claudette DeMaere (Grad Advisor – MEDI, SUSM), Grainne Ryder (Indev and MDP Field Placement Coordinator - St. Paul's), Director, Sharon Jones (Program Administrator for the Economic Development Program).

Faculty Administrative Roles

The following faculty members perform major administrative roles within the School, Faculty and University: SEED Director, Neil Craik until 30 June, followed by Bruce Frayne from 1 July; ENBUS Program Director - Jenn Lynes; Indev Program Director - Prateep Nayak; MDP Program Director – Larry Swatuk; Associate Dean of Graduate Studies - Simron Singh; MEB Program Director - Amelia Clarke; SUSM Program Director and Grad Officer - Steve Young until 31 August, followed by Olaf Weber from 1 September; MEDI Program Director - Tara Vinodrai; Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives - Paul Parker.

Program Updates

SEED houses six distinct academic programs and one professional training program. The major program activities that occurred in 2017 include cyclical reviews of each of our six programs, including hosting two site visits. The School has received approval to launch its Ph.D. program in Sustainability Management in 2018, which will provide a unique research training degree in this emerging field.

Master of Sustainability Management Program

Though a fairly new program in the faculty, the Masters in Environmental Studies in Sustainability Management attracts strong students that gain an applied research education while supporting the School’s research. Student experiences have included work research placements with municipalities or companies (through MITACS), and
overseas and local field research. The program is supported with scholarships from the University of Waterloo’s Water Institute, SSHRC graduate awards, and with funds provided under professor research grants. Students in the program have published in 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.

**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 33 programs in 24 countries (see [http://mdpglobal.org/global-mdp-program/](http://mdpglobal.org/global-mdp-program/)). 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.

There are several highlights in this past year. All MDP students successfully completed their international field placements in countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. A link to the interactive map of past placements across the Global MDP network is here: [http://mdpglobal.org/global-mdp-program/field-training-overview/past-mdp-field-practicum-sites/](http://mdpglobal.org/global-mdp-program/field-training-overview/past-mdp-field-practicum-sites/).

Several students attended and presented at the 5th Annual International Conference for Sustainable Development (ICSD), September 18-19, 2017, New York. To date, the papers presented by MDP students at this conference total approximately 40, which have been published in peer review outlets.

In February 2017, MDP students spent five days in Jamaica learning about food systems and food security [https://www.instagram.com/p/BRBYDqrjTgf/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BRBYDqrjTgf/)

**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. In 2017, we had 29 new students enter, for a total of approximately 70 MEB students. The average age remains around 35 years old, with the vast majority of the students remaining in full-time work positions while completing the degree. The majority are already sustainability professionals when they enter the program, including two students who work for First Nation communities. The MEB students are located all over the world (Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, etc.), though the majority live somewhere in Canada. The program now has more than 100 alumni and in 2017 launched a new alumni webinar series and a new mentor program (matching alumni with current students). As with previous years, the 2017 capstone projects involved a wide variety of clients from the private, public and non-profit sectors.
Environment and Business Program

Now in its 16th year, the Environment and Business Honours co-op program currently has over 600 students, including 60+ 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 has 31 students who are completing their eight-month field placements with World University Service of Canada partner organizations in Peru, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Tanzania as part of their Practice Specialization. A further six students are undertaking 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.

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 the Communitech Hub, the Working Centre, Lutherwood, the Mississaugas of the New Credit, and toured downtown Kitchener to learn about 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.


In March 2017, the students went on a Rural Innovation Roadshow in Oxford County to learn about the opportunities and challenges faced by smaller communities https://uwaterloo.ca/school-environment-enterprise-development/news/development-and-innovation-graduate-students-see

Economic Development Certification Program

In 2017, the Economic Development Program’s certification courses (Year 1 and Year 2) were offered in Waterloo, Kenora, Edmonton and Thunder Bay. Seminars were offered in Toronto (Investment Readiness for Communities and Regions), Kitchener (Fostering Local Innovation: What Economic Developers Need to Know About Incubators), Niagara Falls (Delicious Development: Economic Opportunities in Value Added Agriculture) and
Waterloo (Planning 101). We offered webinars on ‘Optimizing Your EcDev Website’, ‘Entrepreneurship 101’ and a Writing Webinar.

The courses and seminars had a total of 350 participants.

**Ph.D. Sustainability Management**

As part of the SEED strategic plan goal, this year SEED faculty began work to bring a Ph.D. program to the School. The program will admit students in September 2018.

**Research Activities**

In 2017, SEED researchers collectively published four books, seven book chapters and 17 journal articles, as well as four major reports to government and industry and SEED faculty made over 29 research presentations. SEED faculty continued to successfully attract research funding from major granting agencies, government agencies and private funders, such as foundations, NGOs and industry.

**Partners and Outreach**

The ENBUS 402 student capstone course students engaged with 25 projects, and within those projects worked with many companies and organizations locally, across Ontario, and across North America.

SEED engaged with a number of key program partners including, Walker Industries, Regional of Waterloo, Leons, Live Planet, Hillside Festival, Sustainable Waterloo Region, Synthesis Agri-food Network, as well as numerous industry and government partners that support our students through project partnerships, internships, and co-op positions.

---

1 Please note that these outputs are for Assistant Professors in 2017. All Faculty outputs will be reported in 2018 to accommodate the two-year evaluation cycle for tenured Faculty.