School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

Faculty of Environment
University of Waterloo
Introduction

This report covers the period from January to December 2018. The School has enjoyed ongoing success, with several highlights:

- As an outcome of the School’s external program reviews (2017-18), the Final Assessment Report for International Development (BES, Minor, option) and Development Practice (MDP) was approved at June Senate Undergraduate Council (SUC) and presented for information to Senate in September. Similarly, the Final Assessment Report Environment and Business (BES, MEB), Sustainability Management (MES), Economic Development and Innovation (MEDI) was approved in November by Senate Graduate Council (SGRC) and presented for information to Senate thereafter.
- Under the leadership of Dean Andrey, SEED faculty played a central role on the ad hoc advisory committee to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada. The Faculty of Environment leads this national network, which is hosted by the University of Waterloo and housed in the School. SEED played a lead role in organizing and hosting the national launch of SDSN Canada in May.
- Our students and faculty continue to work closely with a range of stakeholders, locally, nationally and internationally and the School’s profile is increasing as a result.
- Research funding remains impressive for a small School, totalling $1,264,553 for the calendar year 2018.
- The PhD in Sustainability Management accepted its first cohort of 28 students in September, suggesting that the program is responding to a significant demand for interdisciplinary studies focused on sustainability at the doctoral level.

SEED Enrollment Trends

After several years of growth, the School’s enrolments indicate a steady state, with a total of approximately 908. With the addition of our Ph.D. in Sustainability Management in Fall 2018, our School now offers a full suite of professional and research degrees. The School celebrated the graduation of 150 undergraduates and 70 graduates in 2018.

<table>
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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>575 (115 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 2018, SEED had 21 faculty members (including two Lectures and two of who are 0.5 FTE and cross-appointed to Geography). We welcome Dr. Dan Murry as our new Lecturer, who focuses on the Environment and Business program. We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Juan Moreno-Cruz to the position of Canadian Research Chair (T2) at SEED, who started in this position on July 2018. Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger will start a new four-year term with the School on 1 January 2019.
Staff

We welcome Dragana Kostic to SEED, who replaced Claudette DeMaere at the end of her secondment as the Graduate Administrator for SUSM and MEDI. Alicia Schmitt joined SEED as our Administrative Assistant and provides support to all of our programs.

Jon Beale joined SEED as the Manager of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada.

At the end of 2018, the School’s administration team comprised of Marion Brown (Administrative Manager), Karen Robertson (U/Grad Admin-INDEV and Grad Admin-MDP), Cheri Oestreich (U/Grad Admin-ENBUS), Teresa Wilson (Grad Admin-MEB/MCC (Geog.), Dragana Kostic (Grad Admin–MEDI, SUSM), Grainne Ryder (Lecturer and INDEV and MDP Field Placement Manager-St. Paul’s), Alicia Schmitt (Admin Assistant), 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 Director Graduate Studies, Tara Vinodra 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 accept its first students in September 2018, and is a leader in this unique and emerging field.

Undergraduate Programs

Environment and Business Program

Now in its 17th year, the Environment and Business Honours co-op program currently has close to 600 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 208 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 36 programs in 24 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, 93 MDP student have been placed with partner organizations overseas.

There are several highlights in this past year. All MDP students successfully completed their international field placements in countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Canada. 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/).

Nine students attended and presented at the 6th Annual International Conference for Sustainable Development (ICSD), September 2018, New York. To date, the papers presented by MDP students at this conference total approximately 50, which have been published in peer review outlets.

In February 2018, 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 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. 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 2018 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 287 participants taking 11 courses and seminars delivered in six communities. 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’s new and innovative doctoral program opened its doors to the first cohort of 28 students in September. This intense interest in the program 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 from major granting agencies, government agencies and private funders, such as foundations, NGOs and industry, totalling $1,264,553 in 2018. During this period, SEED researchers collectively published four books, 29 book chapters and 31 journal articles, as well as nine major reports to government and industry, and SEED faculty made over 50 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**

- James Schnarr - 4th-year EB student named the 2018 Co-Op Student of the Year for the Faculty in recognition by the University of Waterloo for his contribution to his employer, his community and the further development of experiential education
• Lance Black – Recipient of the Skills Awards for Indigenous Youth, awarded by the Forest Products Association of Canada and the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers strong academic standing, commitment to the revitalized forest products industry, and a demonstrated commitment to the Aboriginal community
• Tahnee Prior - PhD student (BSIA) and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholar for recently launching a non-profit organization called ‘Women of the Arctic’
• Mariana Sánchez - MDP student for co-creating student and faculty research and field school opportunities in Mexico (with Bruce Frayne and Simron Singh).
• Ashoke Mohanraj, Blaine Lyons, Korey Mckay, Basak Topcu, Sajida Sultana and Paula Przybylski – Graduate students participated in the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland
• Nine MDP students attended and presented at the 6th Annual International Conference for Sustainable Development (ICSD), September 2018, New York.

Staff

• Jon Beale – for the successful launch of SDSN Canada
• Dragana Kostic – for student and course support on the School’s India field course
• Karen Robertson – for student and course support on the School’s Jamaica field course

Faculty

• Olaf Weber - University Research Chair in Sustainable Finance in recognition for his global contributions to the field and practice of sustainable finance
• Juan Moreno Cruz – Canada Research Chair, Tier 2 in Energy Transitions
• Paul Parker - Economic Developers Council of Ontario President’s Award in recognition of his contribution to graduate studies and professional training
• Neil Craik – leader of the Legal Working Group on Environmental Liability from Activities in the Area (deep seabed), in partnership with the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Seabed Authority
• Heather Hall - Early Researcher Award by the Ontario Government
• Amelia Clarke - recommendation document for the Government of Canada’s signature youth program Canada Service Corps, led by Economic and Social Development Canada (ESDC); panelist on TVO The Agenda’s Generation SDG Closing Ceremony
• Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger - Chair for United Nations CBD CoP14 Biodiversity Law and Governance Initiative; Executive Secretary for United Nations FCCC CoP24 Climate Law and Governance Initiative
• Goretty Dias – invited panelist to the Future of Sustainable Protein-Challenges and Opportunities in Nourishing the World Sustainably conference in Ottawa
• Jennifer Lynes - TEDx talk “Taking environmental messaging to the next level,” and University position of Experiential Learning Lead
• Sean Geobey - Best Paper in Stream award at the 2018 International Social Innovation Research Conference for ‘Perceiving a Plague’ (co-received with Katherine McGowan from Mount Royal University)
• 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
• SEED faculty - leading the organization of the launch of SDSN Canada in May. 31 post-secondary institutions have joined as members, and Jon Beale and Bruce Frayne (with Dean Andrey and Julie Wright of WGSI) have represented SDSN Canada at the global level in several venues.
• Blair Feltmate – Head, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (ICCA), focused on de-risking Canada relative to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, being carried out in 20 locations in Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec
• Jason Thistlethwaite - as a national voice on flood management and climate change adaptation, though media, representation on cabinet working groups, and engagement with industry (ICCA/P4A)