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**OUR NEXT LEADERSHIP SERIES
EVENT IS IN FALL 2026**

WINTER 2026 LEADERSHIP SERIES

SOLVING WICKED PROBLEMS

with the world, for the world



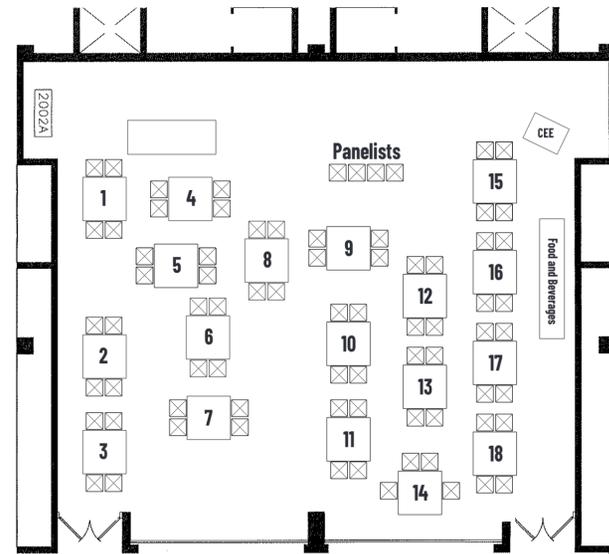
Matthew Denomme

Insights Leader, Freelance
BES '96, MA '98

Matthew is a seasoned research and insights leader with nearly 30 years of experience helping organizations navigate complex strategic and brand decisions. He began his career as the first junior hire at Northstar Research Partners, contributing to its evolution from a Toronto start-up into a global consultancy. He later led the Toronto office of Northstar — and subsequently HarrisX — as Managing Director for more than eight years, guiding clients and teams through the 2022 merger under Stagwell. Matthew brings both strategic perspective and hands-on expertise to quantitative and qualitative research across transportation, beverage alcohol, financial services, automotive, retail, CPG, telecommunications, hospitality, and arts and culture. His expertise spans brand health and equity tracking, brand positioning, segmentation, advertising and communications testing, innovation and new product development, pricing research, and public policy. He also advises several luxury brands in the beverage alcohol, automotive, and hospitality sectors. A highly experienced moderator, Matthew is sought after across North America for his ability to generate rich insights through thoughtful, engaging conversations. He holds a BES and MA in Geography from the University of Waterloo. After nearly three decades at Northstar and HarrisX, Matthew is now co-founder and CEO at Flesh & Bone, a strategic research consultancy focused on human first insights, bringing clarity, context, wisdom, and seasoned insight to help brands make smarter, more empathy-grounded decisions.

Floor Plan (ALUMNI MENTOR TABLES)

- 1. Hossam Elkady
- 2. Dave Fox
- 3. Brian Prudham
- 4. Mitch Voss
- 5. Mara Mckay
- 6. Eric Kingston
- 7. Matthew Rodrigues
- 8. Laura Galbraith
- 9. Adam Benninger
- 10. Laura Maxwell
- 11. Bianca Rocha (Dan Murphy)
- 12. Shikha Jagwani
- 13. David Barr
- 14. Alex Phillips
- 15. Janine Oosterveld
- 16. Maria Legault
- 17. Matthew Heather
- 18. Matthew Denomme



Panelist



Laura Galbraith

Director Community Impact, Vidyard
BES '08

Laura Galbraith is the Director of Community Impact at Vidyard; she is responsible for building and

implementing Vidyard's social impact and employee engagement programming. As part of her role, Laura works to introduce giving back through volunteering as a way of life and business at Vidyard;. Laura was born and raised in Waterloo and has spent her career working in tech in a variety of capacities and roles.

Before joining Vidyard;, Laura worked at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Educational Outreach, working with students, teachers and the general public which helped spark her interest in student STEM/STEAM outreach programming.

Laura graduated from the University of Waterloo, Faculty of Environment and decided that there was no better place to live and work than in this region. Laura volunteers her time with many local organizations and is one of the founding organizers behind Plugin, a local nonprofit helping to connect the community to charitable organizations to help increase awareness and local volunteerism.

Laura is also on the Women in Communication and Technology Waterloo Region board of directors, an Alumni Chapter -Executive Committee Member for University of Waterloo, and a board member with United Way. In her spare time, Laura enjoys spending time with her 12 year old daughter, Binny- exploring, mountain biking, rock climbing, or doing science experiments together.

Suggested Discussion Questions

- What aspects of a candidate do you think make them stand out most?
- What skills do you hope applicants demonstrate when applying to jobs?
- How did you successfully market your environment degree?
- What are some tips to networking in university?
- How do you get over feeling nervous when meeting new people?
- How can you establish deeper connections at networking events?
- How do you keep track of people you've met at a networking event?
- What's the best way to follow up with someone you met at a networking event?
- What are some networking challenges and how do you overcome them?
- What are some your best networking strategies?
- How has networking had an impact on your career?
- How did you apply your academic skills to your career field?
- How do you market an environment degree?
- Any advice/tips to successfully getting a co-op job?

Panelist



Bianca Rocha

Purpose Integration Specialist -
Climate at Libro Credit Union

BES '15, MCC '22

Bianca Rocha is relatively new to the cooperative sector, having joined Libro

in November 2022. Her role at Libro is focused on understanding Libro's areas of impact and to develop a climate change strategy for the credit union. She has her Bachelor of Environmental Studied in Environment & Business and her Masters of Climate Change from the University of Waterloo. She is passionate about a just climate transition, what that looks like practically and the role that the financial sector can play in the fight against climate change. Prior to embarking into the cooperative system, she worked as an environmental planner for the provincial government. In her free time you can find her enjoying nature, reading or creating something.



Dave Fox

Co-founder, Quantify Environmental Ltd

BES'09

I work where sustainability meets reality

Dave Fox is an environmental scientist and Industrial IoT specialist who works at the intersection of sustainability, technology, and real world problem solving in Canadian manufacturing.

He is the co-founder of Quantify Environmental Ltd., where he helps industrial facilities reduce energy and water use by installing smart sensors, translating data into clear insights, and leading practical efficiency projects that deliver fast, measurable results.

Alongside his industry work, Dave is a part time lecturer in the Department of Applied Sciences and Technology at Humber College, where he teaches Sustainable Resource Management and focuses on connecting classroom concepts to real decisions made in the field.

Dave holds a Master of Science in Arctic Geomorphology from McGill University and a Bachelor of Environment in Earth Sciences from University of Waterloo. His work has been recognized nationally through the Clean50 for Clean Capitalism and Emerging Leadership.



Brian Prudham

Co-founder/Principal, Momentum Developments
BES'99

Brian Prudham is a proud Waterloo native and University of Waterloo honours graduate whose career reflects a deep commitment to the economic evolution of his hometown. In 2007, he co-founded Momentum Developments, a firm that has significantly reshaped the Kitchener-Waterloo skyline through strategic urban intensification and high-density, transit-oriented projects. Beyond real estate, Brian has built a multidisciplinary entrepreneurial portfolio that fuels regional growth. His ventures have delivered thousands of units of infill housing through vertically integrated construction and strengthened the city's social infrastructure through landmark hospitality destinations. Known for navigating complex regulatory environments, he excels at unlocking the potential of underutilized urban lands, supporting regional transit investments, and meeting the growing demand for modern, sustainable housing. By bridging traditional industries with high-growth sectors, Brian ensures local development aligns with long-term provincial intensification priorities. Widely recognized as a visionary leader, Brian is also deeply committed to cultivating the next generation of talent. As a generous alumnus and mentor, he earned back to back nominations for the University of Waterloo Alumni Award in 2017 and 2018. Whether leading major capital projects or engaging emerging leaders, Brian remains focused on ensuring Kitchener-Waterloo continues to thrive as a premier global center for innovation and industry.



Alex Phillips

Director, Government Relations and Public Policy, CIBC
BES '03 MES '13

Alex Phillips is a seasoned professional in corporate affairs, government relations, and sustainability, with two decades of diverse experience, including senior political roles. She is purpose-driven, excelling in government relations through tailored advocacy and effective management of regulatory and reputational risks. Her expertise lies in energy and environmental policy, where she focuses on policy development, interpretation and influence. A proven leader, Alex has a strong track record of mentoring and managing high-performing teams. She is a consensus builder who fosters collaboration and maintains lasting, productive relationships. She holds two degrees from the University of Waterloo: a Bachelor of Environmental Studies with a minor in Women's Studies, as well as a Master of Environment and Business.



Shikha Jagwani

Senior Urban Designer and Landscape Intern, SGL Planning & Design Inc

BES '16

Shikha Jagwani is a Senior Urban Designer and Landscape Intern at SGL Planning & Design Inc., where she helps shape sustainable, people-focused communities across Ontario. A proud University of Waterloo Planning alum, Shikha built her career at the intersection of urban design, landscape architecture and planning, with municipal experience at both the City of Toronto and the City of Brampton, as well as her ongoing experience at SGL. She holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Toronto’s Daniels Faculty and brings a strong passion for city-building, ecological design and thoughtful public spaces. At SGL, she contributes to secondary plans, urban design briefs, master plans, and landscape design projects, supporting communities through mapping and visualization work. Shikha is an Associate Member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, and is an active alumni volunteer and committee member with the University of Waterloo planning Alumni of Toronto (UWPAT). She looks forward to continuing to support and inspire future Waterloo students interested in planning, design, and building healthier, more connected cities.



Maria Legault

Operational Impact Strategist,
Nutrition for Learning
BES '11, MES '13

Maria is a dedicated advocate for environmental sustainability, community engagement, and effective public policy. She is currently an Operational Impact Strategist at Nutrition for Learning in Waterloo Region, where she supports programs that strengthen food security and improve outcomes for children and families across the community. Previously, Maria worked as a Project Manager at Design de Plume, a creative design agency, where she led complex projects that supported inclusive and purpose-driven communications. Her experience in project management, communications, and public outreach continues to shape her ability to drive meaningful change in Ontario. Since joining the Green Party of Ontario in 2022, Maria has been actively involved in campaigns to connect with voters, promote environmental policies, and engage communities in discussions about the province’s future. Her volunteer work with organizations like CycleWR has strengthened her skills in public engagement, listening to community concerns, and clearly communicating complex ideas. Maria holds two degrees from the University of Waterloo’s Faculty of Environment, reinforcing her deep commitment to addressing critical environmental and social challenges. Whether through her professional work, volunteer initiatives, or community teaching, she is dedicated to building a more equitable and environmentally responsible Ontario.



David Bar

Partner, Desmos Capital Partners
BES '14

David Bar is a Partner at Desmos Capital Partners, a boutique investment banking firm that provides strategic advisory and capital markets services to growth-stage companies, institutions, and governments worldwide. With more than a decade of experience in investment banking, equity research, and financial analysis, he brings a disciplined, relationship-driven approach to every mandate. Before joining Desmos, David spent over five years at Integral Wealth Securities, advancing from Associate to Vice President of Investment Banking. He advised regarding capital raises, mergers and acquisitions, and cross-border transactions for public and private companies across diverse sectors. He also served as a Registered Representative with Integral Wealth Securities LLC in the United States, supporting U.S. capital markets activity and international transactions. David began his career in equity research and public-sector finance, completing roles at Gravitas Financial and within the Ontario Public Service. He holds an MBA in Finance from McMaster University and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Co-op) from the University of Waterloo. Outside of work, David is an active community volunteer and former competitive athlete, with experience coaching youth soccer and high school football. His integrity, leadership, and commitment to community guide both his professional and personal pursuits.



Janine Oosterveld

Manager, Customer Experience & Project Management, City of Waterloo
BES '97

Janine Oosterveld is a proud University of Waterloo alumna, holding a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Urban and Regional Planning and a Master of Climate Change. She is the Manager of Customer Experience & Project Management in the City of Kitchener’s Planning and Housing Policy Division, where she leads initiatives that advance affordable housing, climate policy, and digital transformation. With more than two decades of experience in municipal and private-sector planning in Canada and the United States, Janine has held senior roles with the Cities of Kitchener and Cambridge, and as a planning consultant. Her work has guided major site development approvals, long-range planning initiatives, and improvements to development review processes, all rooted in a commitment to community-centred city-building. A former chair of the City of London’s Urban Design Peer Review Panel, Janine is widely recognized for her leadership in urban transformation, infill development strategies, and the modernization of planning systems to better serve residents and applicants. She brings a strong passion for inclusive engagement and for creating healthy, resilient, and well-designed communities.
