



SPRING EDITION

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Boozhoo! Tansi! Hello! Bonjour!

It's hard to believe that winter term is over and we are already in spring! In March, MDP was pleased to host the first Global MDP lecture together with the Elizabeth Laird Lecture Series on campus. We hosted a special screening of the documentary *Aftermath: The Second Flood* and welcomed Dr. Simron Singh, MDP Director at UWaterloo to present on his insightful and challenging work on what it means to provide good help in the context of international disaster relief. He was joined by Mr. Garth Thoms, Canadian Red Cross, who spoke to the relevance of this topic in the context of disaster relief provided to First Nations peoples in Manitoba.

We are also delighted to invite you to view, [A Sharing of Cultures](#), MDP's new video on the importance of place-based, experiential learning as evidenced in the MDP. You can view the short video on our website. Many thanks to our students who so eloquently shared their stories, to Chris Sabel and Greg Chase for their incredible videography work and to the UWinnipeg ELN Fund for making it possible. All the best for spring and summer!

Miigwetch! Ekosi! Merci! Thank you!

Claire Reid, Director MDP

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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

MDP students learn consultancy skills first hand



This year as part of a new final year course, Full Circle: Capstone in Indigenous Development, second year MDP students engaged directly with two community partners on a Case Challenge. A case challenge is a strategic crossroads facing a partner for which the students serve as consultants. In teams, students worked on two respective projects: 1.) Neechi Commons on the feasibility of hosting a farmer's market and; 2.) City of Winnipeg Indigenous Relations Division on realizing the City's goal of implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

2017 WUSC /CECI International Forum



The sixth annual International Forum was held in Montreal from January 20 to 21, 2017. The International Forum is a unique initiative of WUSC – World University Service of Canada – and CECI – the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation.

MDP student, Nana Asaam attended this event where she engaged in meaningful discussions on some of the most pressing issues, challenges and solutions in international development. The conference themes focused on people, profit and planet. In addition, Nana gained a wealth of knowledge from a range of development specialists that the forum brought together.

2017 Rising UP Conference



Two MDP students- Kara Passey and Cassandra Szabo- participated at the 2017 Rising Up Conference at the UManitoba, March 17-18.

Cassandra Szabo (pictured) presented her research paper: "Surveying Undergraduate Students' Perceptions on the Indigenous Course Requirement" and Kara Passey spoke on "Arts Based Research as Knowledge Gathering".

3MT Competition



Congratulations to MDP student Aliraza Alidina for winning UWinnipeg's Graduate Studies 3MT competition. Ali will now head to USask for the Regionals!

PLACE-BASED LEARNING: FIELD PLACEMENTS 2017

MDP would like to wish the students all the best as they depart on their 2017 field placements. This year's hosts include:

Canadian partners: The Winnipeg Boldness Project; International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre, Nisichawayishk Cree Nation, MB; Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (AbTeC), Montreal; and Social Innovation Division, Employment and Social Development Canada, Quebec.

International partners: Te Whanau O Waipareira (New Zealand); University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA; Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), USA; and through WUSC - Farmers' Groups Network in Manyara Region (MVIWATA), Tanzania.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

MDP's Outstanding International Student



On November 17th, 2017 at the Ninth Annual International Education Reception, Gabriela Jimenez, a 2nd year MDP student from Venezuela, was awarded first place in Manitoba Council for International Education (MCIE)'s post-secondary school category.

Congratulations, Gabriela, on your well-deserved recognition!

Two MDP students are Emerging Leaders' Fellows



MDP would like to congratulate students, Aliraza Alidina (Class of 2017) and Naomi Gichungu (Class of 2015) both recipients of the Emerging Leaders' Fellowship (ELF). They are working on separate projects focusing on Indigenous-newcomer relations.

Aliraza will join the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPCW) where he will research and create a report on various initiatives that are in place in the settlement sector, Indigenous organizations, and other relevant platforms that encourage dialogue, understanding, and awareness between Indigenous and newcomer communities. This work builds on his 2016 MDP Field Placement with SPCW.



Naomi's research with Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) will focus on creating opportunities for newcomer adults to learn about Indigenous peoples of Canada and to unlearn any dehumanizing stereotypes they might have come across. She will explore a commonality of spiritual and cultural systems among newcomers and indigenous peoples of Canada and help support relationship-building between newcomer adults and Indigenous people through community gatherings.

2017 UW SPRING POW WOW MDP Graduates



Congratulations to MDP's 2017 First Nations graduates at the UW 2017 Spring Pow wow

(Left-right) Sarah Wood, Paige Sillaby and Vanessa Tait

Faculty Spotlight- Dr. Mark Ruml



What motivated you to become an affiliated faculty member to the MDP program?

I have been a faculty member at UWinnipeg since 1995 and first became involved in the MDP program in 2013 after Tobasonakwut Kinew passed away half way through teaching the core MDP course that he founded: Indigenous Thought and Worldview: Sustainable Understandings. The Acting Director at the time, Jerry Buckland, asked me if I would step in to teach the second half. I told him, "I have a better idea, why don't we see if Dan Thomas is available to teach it." Dan's language skills, profound knowledge of Anishinaabe thought and worldview, Midewiwin training, and abilities as a teacher made him a perfect person to continue the intention of the course and the work that Tobasonakwut began. The MDP program asked that Dan and I team teach it and we have been doing so ever since. Dan and I always acknowledge Tobasonakwut as a friend and gifted teacher and inform our students that this course is part of his legacy.

How does your work on Indigenous ways of knowing and being intersect with development, as taught in MDP?

I feel that it is extremely important that anyone working in Indigenous development gain a familiarity with Indigenous thought and worldview. It is important for MDP students to learn about Indigenous history, the cultural and linguistic diversity, cultural values, ceremonies, and protocols in order to be good development practitioners in Indigenous communities. Moreover, Indigenous ways of knowing requires that the whole individual be engaged in the learning process: mind, body, spirit, and emotions. Our students are asked to reflect upon their own "positionality" and to reflect upon how the material that they are learning in class informs their understanding of MDP core concepts.

In Indigenous thought, we are all given natural gifts. We are to use these gifts not for our own selfish ends but to help others; our family, our community, our people, the natural world (including the animals and the environment). In this respect, I think that development practitioners are consistent with Indigenous values. The students that I have met over the years seem genuine in their motivation to use their natural gifts and training to help others.

Based on your life, study and experiences what does Indigenous development" mean to you?

Indigenous development involves using one's natural gifts and training to work with and for Indigenous people and communities to develop capacities and initiatives defined by Indigenous people and communities in a respectful way consistent with Indigenous values and protocols.

Alumni Spotlight- Tatenda Bwawa - MDP Alum 2013



Since graduating with the first cohort of the MDP program in 2013, Tatenda has been working with the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (Nanaandawewigamig). According to Tatenda, the theoretical and practical elements of her MDP training, along with the emphasis on experiential learning, enabled her to make the transition to the workplace and to function effectively within a culturally competent work environment. FNHSSM focuses on the multi-faceted jurisdictional issues that First Nations and Indigenous peoples in Canada face in a larger context. Tatenda is currently the First Nations Panorama Project Coordinator where she provides technical expertise and supervision on planning and implementation of Panorama in First Nations communities in Manitoba. Panorama is a bilingual, comprehensive and web-based integrated public health information system custom built for use by Canadian public health practitioners for managing communicable disease cases, contacts and outbreaks, immunization and vaccine inventory management.

In addition to her course work, the MDP field placements helped prepare Tatenda for such a role. Tatenda completed her placements with Fisher River Cree Nation and with the Makushi people in Guyana respectively. According to Tatenda, both placements gave her immense breadth of cross-continent exposure in stakeholder engagement, multi-tasked project management skills, policy analysis, communication, program evaluation, and government to government negotiations as well as relationship building.

MDP: INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

For more information about the program please contact us at: +1 (204) 258.2998

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Email: mdp@uwinnipeg.ca

Web: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/mdp/index.html>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UWinnipegMDP>