



FALL EDITION

VOLUME 5 2017

Aaniin! Tansi! Hello!

MDP would like to introduce you to our new Acting Director, Dr. Jaime Cidro. Dr. Cidro is replacing Claire Reid, who is on a one year leave.



It's hard to believe that fall term is over and we are already starting the winter semester! Stepping into Claire's shoes has been made much easier with the help of the two amazing MDP staff, Tamara and Jennifer. This year we are focusing our efforts on nurturing our existing relationships and partners. This starts with our orientation and our week in Fisher River Cree Nation. This community continues to host our students and really demonstrate the hospitality that Indigenous people in Canada are known for. Every fall we also get to witness the fruits of these relationships through the Field Placement Symposium. Our partners and other campus relatives are always so amazed at the work of our students in putting their skills into action.

This summer, the MDP Program and our long standing partner First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM) will be offering a summer Institute focusing on First Nations research ethics and knowledge translation. We are excited that graduate students will be able to take this course alongside practitioners in the community. FNHSSM has hosted our students not only in field placements but also in employment opportunities. This organization continues to have a special relationship with the UW. As a researcher, FNHSSM continues to invest time and effort in me as a researcher, and I am so grateful for the important role they play in the lives of our students and the MDP program.

Miigwetch! Thank you!

Dr. Jaime Cidro, Acting Director MDP

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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

MDP Students travel to Northern Co-ops



This past spring two MDP students Esther Awotwe and Stephen Penner (now graduates) were senior research assistants on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), MITACS and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) funded project entitled "Co-operatives in Rural and Remote Communities in Canada's North. For this knowledge synthesis project, conducted under the guidance of Dr. Simon Berge, Assistant Professor and Business Chair of Co-op Enterprises at UWinnipeg, Esther and Stephen traveled to three Arctic communities in the spring to gather stories around the importance of co-operatives in the life in of each community.

MDP Orientation in Fisher River Cree Nation



In August our new cohort of students was welcomed into the Cree community of Fisher River for the MDP orientation where they learned about Indigenous culture first hand. The incoming students are from Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, Ghana and Nigeria.

MDP students participate at ICSD



The 5th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) was held on September 18-19th at Columbia University, New York City. Three UWinnipeg MDP students attended and presented at the ICSD: Cassandra Szabo, Ari Phanlouvang and Amanda Appasamy (left-right)

This year's theme was The World in 2050: Looking Ahead for Sustainable Development. Presentations aimed at identifying and sharing practical, evidence-based solutions that can support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local and national levels. Congratulations to the UWinnipeg MDP students for their excellent work!

Ontario Makers and Mentors Innovation Conference 2017



Recent MDP graduate Jasmin Winter was invited to share her research during the Ontario Makers and Mentors Innovation Conference in Ottawa, on the unceded territories of the Algonquin nation.

Very generally speaking, the term “makerspaces” refers to a place where people can go to create by gaining access to skill sharing, mentorship, and tools. This often entails technologies like 3D printers, laser cutters, and electronics equipment, but one of the driving forces of the OMMIC was to engage in more dialogue about what can define a makerspace. Makerspaces are gaining traction in both entrepreneurial and community development settings, including school and libraries that want to promote hands-on learning. The theme of this year's meeting was “Diversity and Innovation.”

Well done, Jasmin!

MDP FIELD PLACEMENT SYMPOSIUM 2017



On Friday, September 08, 2017, Mr. David Adkins, Senior VP and Portfolio Manager of Institutional Client Services at Foyston, Gordon & Payne attended the 2017 MDP Field Placement Symposium at The University of Winnipeg.

Ten MDP students presented on diverse field placement experiences including language revitalization in New Zealand, Indigenous digital technologies, suicide prevention in Alaska and Indigenous douglas in Manitoba. To read more about their placements check out their blog posts [here](#).

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

MDP scholarship winners for 2017-2018

The Master's in Development Practice Program would like to congratulate 6 MDP students for winning 4 different competitive and prestigious scholarships:

Research Manitoba Graduate Scholarship in the Social Sciences and Humanities
(Ari Phanlouvang)

Manitoba Graduate Scholarship (Cassandra Szabo)

University of Winnipeg Graduate Studies Scholarship (Erika Vas and Amanda Appasamy)

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship (Temobi Amamkwe and Elijah Osei-Yeboah)

2017 FALL GRADUATES



Congratulations to all of the 2015 cohort! (Pictured: Stephen Penner, Sarah Wood, Jasmin Winter, Gabriella Jimenez and Nana Araba Asaam)

MDP COLLABORATING ON CAMPUS

MDP Director, Claire Reid and Vandana Shiva



Together with the Department of Religion and Culture and the CLASS Institute, the MDP co-offered a spring institute entitled The University and the Public Good.

This innovative course included 12 top-notch speakers brought in from across Canada and the world. Topics included how the university can and is engaged in debates about how to have a positive and sustainable impact on topics like public health, indigenization of the academy, security and privacy, refugee resettlement, climate change etc. Vandana Shiva spoke, in particular, about organic farming and seed sovereignty.

Faculty Spotlight- Ryan Bullock



How did you hear about the MDP program, and what motivated you to become an affiliated with the program?

I learned of the MDP program very soon after I joined the UW in 2013. My colleagues in Environmental Studies and Sciences, Geography, and Anthropology told me about the program. They remarked on their involvement with MDP teaching and student supervision and so I reviewed the curriculum. I recognized immediate links with my own interests and attended the MDP student practicum presentations to learn more. I was very impressed with the student presentations and began working with Claire and Tamara to design placements tied into my own community-based research.

How does your work in research and working with (in) Indigenous communities complement each other, as taught in MDP?

One of my main motivations (I thought) for going back to school at age 27 was to simply get a job in natural resource management. I had been a carpenter before that and really enjoyed back country recreation. I found myself hiking, fishing, and camping on lands that I absolutely loved and respected, but I knew almost nothing about the ecological and social processes that produced the landscape. When I began to scratch the surface of land issues in the Northeast Lake Superior Region—the place that inspired me to continue learning and to pursue a research career—I quickly realized that land, communities, and economies were very closely linked. The answers to all the questions I had were to be found in understanding the complex relationships connecting people and land.

An additional and notable point is that at the time I attended Algoma University, located in the former Shingwauk Residential School building in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, which is in the Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory and traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg. I probably didn't fully appreciate it at the time, but looking back this certainly helped to emphasize Indigenous culture and issues at a formative time in my geographical training. In turn, these influences positively shaped my education and my research career. Working to better understand Indigenous roles and rights in land stewardship and development had to be part of my research. Much more than necessity, the many friends I have gained and lessons I have learned along the way are sincerely a gift of this opportunity. So my current research and involvement with MDP is no accident.

In my opinion and experience the MDP program strives to do just this. It offers another pathway for me as a UW faculty member to continue doing community-based natural resource management research with and for community partners who I view as knowledge leaders and full collaborators. In particular, the program creates opportunities to connect communities with students and faculty research. In doing so, research and teaching are improved, and communities and local organizations gain people for a block of time that have a genuine interest in advancing development initiatives. The MDP program has helped to improve relationships with our community partners, train students, and support research at UW. Our MDP students are dedicated, capable people who help to support our research for a time and then go on to productive careers that serve communities.

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

I'd really prefer to leave the responsibility of defining “Indigenous development” to Indigenous peoples. But based on what I have presented above, it could mean working together towards improving relationships between people and land, guided by a commitment to important things like equity, mutual respect, open-mindedness, spiritual fulfillment, self-reliance, autonomy, honesty, sharing, and learning. It means ensuring that Indigenous peoples have all (and indeed more) of the kinds of opportunities, supports, responsibilities, benefits, privileges, and credit that I have received through this work—I guess that's what it means to me!

Alumni Spotlight- Alison Everitt



I graduated from the MDP program in 2014 and have been working with the Canadian Red Cross since December 2014. I originally started working as a Community Coordinator with the Manitoba Recovery Program that provides services and supports for long-term evacuees of the 2010, 2011 and 2014 Manitoba floods. In April 2015, I began working with the Manitoba Disaster Management Program where I am currently in the role of Capacity Building Officer, Level 3 and Surge Capacity.

During my time at the Red Cross, I have responded to numerous disaster events affecting Manitoba First Nations such as the Long Plain First Nation Tornado response, the Chemawawin Cree Nation Forest Fire response, the 2017 Manitoba Floods response, and the 2017 Manitoba Fires response that saw nearly 7,000 people evacuated from four northern, remote First Nations.

The MDP program helped me to prepare for this role by providing a holistic understanding of the complex and unique contexts of First Nation communities across Canada.

I've also used a lot of the skills that I acquired during the MDP program in my job – particularly during the busy times of disaster response; multi-tasking and learning how to prioritize during evacuations is very important! The MDP gave me the confidence and ability to work in the role that I am in now and I am so grateful for the learnings and relationships that I gained from being a part of the program.

MDP: INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

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

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