An Interview with Matthew Chambers (MScSM '22)

"The MScSM program gave me the tools to be a successful and innovative professional that understands the important relationship between morals and passion when choosing a career path."

-Matthew Chambers

What is the most essential skill you learned from MSCSM program and use it in work?

I learned attention to detail through the assignments. For example, the Law and Policy course gave a field-level perspective about reports and policy briefs. Also, I learnt to deliver high quality output under pressure, which we experience in the program during the first term. Next, understanding that disagreements can lead to innovative ideas to solve problems. This is important from a sustainability perspective, since healthy debates and disagreements will lead to the best sustainability solutions. All these experiences provided by the program will translate in field, after you graduate.

What are the job duties of your current role?

I deal with different commercial real estate portfolios. Coordinating with our web developers, I helped develop our smart buildings platform, to ensure that our stakeholders can efficiently upload their deliverables into the platform. I recently co-authored a 5G guide with my colleagues and working on a blockchain guide as well, currently. Coincidentally, this directly connects to my final research paper from the MScSM program, where I investigated the value of smart contracts and what that means for sustainability goals and Canada's commercial real estate industry.

How do you decide which sector you want to work in?

My best advice on this is to follow your passion. The MScSM program is designed in the first year to give you a base level knowledge of sustainability. At this point, I gave myself an opportunity to see what naturally interests me. In the program, my focus was decarbonizing commercial real estate. I knew that this was a valid barrier to Canada's climate goals, which meant it was going to be around for a very long time. That's why I chose it.

What is the most prominent problem that you face in your industry?

Decarbonisation of commercial real-estate in alignment with the Paris Agreement, is the biggest sustainability challenge in this industry. Any other sustainability issue is superseded by this issue.

What are your suggestions to the class of 2024 and beyond?

Follow your passion and collaborate with classmates, alumni and industry professionals that you get exposed to, through this wonderful program.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I recently got accepted to do my PhD in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering from the University of Toronto. I will be pursuing this degree part-time while working at BOMA Canada. My research focus will be connected to healthcare asset particularly in ICU units in hospital. I will be working on developing a smart, healthy and resilient health care system. In the next 5 years, I hope to complete my PhD. The guidance I received from MScSM program, opened many opportunities for me including this PhD.

What is one sustainability trend that you foresee soon?

I would consider global water shortages as a sustainability trend which impact areas with high water vulnerability. I think water desalinization will be a sustainability trend. This is to make salt water into water that is usable for us on a day-to-day basis.

What is your most memorable experience in the MSCSM program?

The most memorable experience was the moment when I was granted the Alectra Sustainability Award in my first year. I was truly appreciative of that and glad to be recognized by my program and the administrators of the MScSM program. It meant a lot to me and motivated me to get through the program with confidence.

How would you describe the entire MScSM program, your experience, and your journey in the past two or three years in one single sentence?

The MScSM program gave me the tools to be a successful and innovative professional that understands the important relationship between morals and passion when choosing a career path.

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