

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Holiday Message from the Chair



The holiday break gives us the opportunity to celebrate the season and the people we cherish most. It also allows us to reflect on our accomplishments, events of the past year, and plans for the future. With the longest strike in our institution's history behind us, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all faculty, staff, and

most of all, our students, for making the transition to the new academic year as seamless as possible. Getting a good handle on the strike induced disruption and the attended vocabulary regarding grades (i.e., provisional grades, assessed grades, deferred grades) has not been easy for anyone. However, with support and goodwill, we have passed through this trying period. Our staff members have become consummate *factotum*—and we thank all of them for their dedication and hard work during this time.

As Professor Steven Tufts, our Undergraduate Program Director, noted in the inaugural issue of *The Stream*, we continue to be highly ranked internationally among geography programs. We are not merely surviving as a Department, but we are thriving. For example: our faculty members continue to be highly productive, with several trailblazing publications and prestigious external grants to our credit; the quality of our students remains outstanding, judging from their success in both internal and external awards; we remain involved in larger community (GESSY, for one, continues to serve the North York community with donations from their rooftop garden to local NGOs); and our York University Geography Alumni Network (YUGAN) continues to provide financial and motivational support to the department. Clearly, we have many things to celebrate as a program, just as we have a lot to build upon in the coming years. In the meantime, I encourage you all—in the spirit of the holiday season—to reach out and offer a helping hand to those around you who might be struggling, perhaps because they are away from their own families, as international students, or because of other life circumstances. I wish you all a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year, full of promise, vitality, and good health.

Professor Joseph Mensah, Chair of the Department of Geography

John Warkentin Bursary

Professor John Warkentin is among the best-known and most widely respected geographers in Canada. This award, named in his honour, is sponsored by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies.

This bursary is awarded annually to an undergraduate student who meets the following criteria:

- ❖ A high grade point average in their first two years of study in Geography and participation in undergraduate program activities
- ❖ Ontario resident
- ❖ Canadian citizen/permanent resident
- ❖ Demonstrable financial need

Deadline for application is January 1, 2019.



Contact Us:
Department of Geography
Ross N430
416-736-5107
Email: lapsgeog@yorku.ca

Twitter

Facebook

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



Featured Professor, Kean Birch

Prof Kean Birch transferred from the Department of Social Science to the Department of Geography in 2017. His research focuses on technoscientific capitalism – how knowledge and creativity are emerging as key assets and drivers of the economy. Prof Birch recently received funding for this research from a 5-year SSHRC Insight Grant. In the last few years, he has authored several books including *Neoliberal Bio-economies? The Co-construction of Markets and Natures* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), *A Research Agenda for Neoliberalism* (Edward Elgar, 2017), *Business and Society: A Critical Introduction* (with others, Zed Books, 2017), *Innovation, Regional Development and the Life Sciences: Beyond Clusters* (Routledge, 2016), and *We Have Never Been Neoliberal: A Manifesto for a Doomed Youth* (Zero Books, 2015). He has also edited *The Handbook of Neoliberalism* (with Simon Springer & Julie MacLeavy, Routledge, 2016). We are excited to have him in our department where he can share his expertise about our changing economy in the classroom.

Travelogue

On the Road to PEI
with Professor Patricia Wood

Our travelogue series is an informal presentation by community members of their recent travels.



Date: January 23rd, 2019
Time: 9:30AM – 10:30AM
Location: GRC
Refreshments will be served.

York University Winter Career Fair

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Second Student Centre

Meet employers who are looking to hire York students for a variety of opportunities, including part-time, summer, internship, and full-time positions after graduation.

Geography Alum Oliver Rendace (BA 97, MA 00) will represent Service Canada at the fair. Stop by and say hi!

