

# DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

## Geography Graduate Studies

We are almost through another academic year, and many of us are looking forward to spring weather and the end of classes. For many undergraduates, the focus is on exams, summer work, and for some, post-graduation and 'what comes next'. For professors, we turn to spend more time on research and writing.

For the graduate program, March is a special month. Our students present their research proposals in our colloquium. It is always wonderful to hear the inspirational projects being pursued by our talented students. These presentations show us how our graduate program provides the opportunity for students to pursue projects that really inspire them.

Graduate degrees contribute to lifelong learning among students who already have a Bachelors degree but want to continue their education, in a way that goes beyond classroom-based courses to do field-based research. A Master of arts or science degree in geography can provide a boost to your careers, as many employers increasingly value the sort of training provided by a graduate program. On our program website we list some of the current jobs of our alumni. This list reveals that our Masters graduates pursue incredibly diverse and rewarding careers that usually build on their graduate work. Some examples include work in refugee and immigrant service agencies around the world; government jobs in conservation, labour and other areas; NGO work including peace-building in Asia; environmental consultancies; an ecotourism manager in Asia; and even a city councillor in Montreal. Some of Masters alumni also go on to do PhD degrees, and our PhD graduate are successful in both academic and non-academic careers.

If you have a passion is for research and for going to the field, then a Masters degree program in Geography at York may be for you. We emphasize training through practice, which means working through a full research program including proposals, fieldwork, data analysis, and writing. And we have a very collegial program with lots of opportunity to spend time with your fellow students outside of the classroom in social events, colloquiums and so on. Because our first year undergraduate courses are growing as more and more students find that geography courses are an excellent way to learn about our rapidly changing world, we have Teaching Assistant positions to help fund graduate students, both Masters and PhDs.



**Professor Peter Vandergeest, Graduate Program Director**

As the winter finally comes to an end, I wish you all an excellent summer, with some relaxation and vacation (and of course work for most of you). For those of you graduating, please do come to our alumni events and meetings, or drop in sometimes for our coffee mornings and colloquia on Fridays if you have a chance, as you consider 'what's next' and the possibility of a graduate degree.

## *What's Next?*

### *Career and Life as York Geography Alumni*

This gathering social is a chance for graduating students to meet alumni and discuss career development. You will also be introduced to the York University Geography Alumni Network (YUGAN).

Where: GRC Ross S403

When: Wednesday April 3rd, 3pm-5pm

Who: Geography majors and minors who will convocate in 2019.

*Refreshments will be served.*

*Please come as you will soon be alumni!*

*Please RSVP to [lapsgeog@yorku.ca](mailto:lapsgeog@yorku.ca)*



Contact Us:

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## Featured Staff, The Undergraduate Secretariat



**Anne Ralph**  
Undergraduate Program  
Assistant

Always ready to help students, Anne has been at York for 16 years and with the Department of Geography since 2009. She is just as dedicated to students as she is

to Pearl Jam, her favorite band which she has traveled to countless cities to see live. Also, a diehard Raptors fan, Anne is convinced they will reach the finals this year.



**Le Vong**  
Undergraduate Program  
Secretary

Le has been at York since 2012. She loves her job and the “genuine spirit of cooperation and shared goals focused on helping students at York on a day-to-day basis.” A self-

declared foodie, Le always appreciates good food and loves to go around the city trying new dishes.

***We thank Anne and Le for all their work with faculty and students!***

## ANNUAL GESS@Y END OF YEAR DINNER!

The Geography and Environmental Science Society at York (GESS@Y) invite students, staff, recent graduate alumni, and faculty to their annual end of year dinner.

The dinner will be held in Ross N306 on Thursday, March 28, 2019. Tickets for the event can be purchased in the Geographic Resource Centre (Ross S403) for the following prices:

Students \$5

Alumni \$10

Faculty and Staff \$20

Please join us to celebrate the end of a great year!