

# School of Public Policy and Administration

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER


April 2019 - Volume 7, Issue 9

### Our SPPA Student Profiles are back for Spring 2019!

This week we are pleased to present **Alyssa Offenheim,**

**4th year Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Specialized Honours (Management Stream) Student with a Certificate in Intermediate French Proficiency and Director of Internal Affairs for the Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA)**

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My name is Alyssa Offenheim, and I am currently in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) program, specializing in Management and concurrently completing a certificate in Intermediate French Proficiency. My journey to this program began in high school, where I had ambitions to serve the public as a Crown attorney. At the time, this was the only career path that I understood to match my passion for law, equity, and human rights, and I believed that the BPA program would be the best program to prepare me for law school. Little did I know that the courses I would take in my first and second year in the BPA would change my perspective on everything – from where I wanted to go, who I wanted to be, and the type of change that I wanted to make. By the end of the first half of my undergrad - during which I took courses in economics, politics, law, and governance – I realized that the best fit for me would be a career in the public service.

My experience at York has been eye-opening and perfectly suited to my appetite for learning about absolutely everything. The BPA program is such a great fit for students who want to engage in theoretical learning from a variety of disciplines because of the mixture of courses offered and the opportunity to focus in on certain policy areas. Moreover, the program has offered invaluable experiential learning experiences such as AP/PPAS 4310/20 3.0 Program Evaluation I and II, wherein students deliver program evaluations to real-life clients. During my fourth year, I had the chance to work with a team on a real-life research project evaluating the TTC's Public Art Program, providing me with experience securing ethical review,

developing research methodologies, and managing a project. I also had the opportunity to complete a practicum at the Modernization Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General through the AP/PPAS 4995 6.0 Practicum in Public Administration course, where I applied my classroom project management skills to the workplace. These experiences, alongside the support and motivation of professors, solidified my interest in furthering my knowledge of the field, leading me to sign on to the first full-time offering of the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program at York University starting in Fall 2019.

If I could offer advice to first year students, it would be to take advantage of the free credit space in your schedule to expose yourself to the subjects you are passionate about so that you know where you want to make a difference when you graduate. I would also suggest joining the Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) as early as possible, as this network of peers will stimulate your time at York with networking events and career panels. Your experience in this program is entirely what you make it, and fortunately, there are a hundred different ways to make it your own.

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**YUSPPAAN ANNOUNCEMENT - JOIN AND VOLUNTEER WITH US AS ACTION TEAM MEMBERS**



**Action Team Members** work under the supervision/direction of the corresponding board member (we have a total of 9 board members, with various portfolios (see below), carry out the development and implementation of each of the activities.

Report directly to the Board at meetings when necessary.

BPA/Certificate/MPPAL representation on each team

Allow great involvement by new alumni who want to contribute and need 1:1 time with senior alumni.

Action Team members receive recognition for work.

**VARIOUS PORTFOLIOS TO JOIN**

- EVENTS
- MARKETING
- COMMUNICATIONS
- NETWORKING & OUTREACH STRATEGIES
- FINANCE
- BUSINESS SYSTEMS / CONSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

**\*POSITIONS OPEN TO ALL ALUMNI OF SPPA\***

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## York University marks Refugee Rights Day, April 4th

**York University will host a celebration of Refugee Rights Day in Canada on Thursday, April 4.** The event will also acknowledge the efforts of York-based refugee sponsors and students engaged in refugee issues through as well as York's long-standing [World University Service Canada \(WUSC\) local committees](#) and the University's [Syria Response and Refugee Initiative \(SRRI\)](#), which is a Syrian refugee resettlement and education project (2015-19) hosted by the [Centre for Refugee Studies](#). (SRRI is concluding this month).

The day holds special significance for the two York undergraduate student panellists who have been heavily engaged in refugee support and human rights advocacy. "Refugee Rights Day is an extremely important event to me because, I am a newcomer to Canada who arrived two years ago and I know how difficult it could be for refugees to integrate into a new country, adapt to a new culture and to have their rights and opinions respected," says Dommar. "This day is also very special as it allows me to reflect on all my experiences and [my contributions](#) to the (SRRI) project."

"As a Student Refugee Program Coordinator at [WUSC Keele Committee](#), it is important for the community to provide safe space for refugee youth on campus, as it makes the refugee youth feel safe and welcomed," says Ashfaque. "Working with the [Refugees Welcome Here! Campaign](#), it clearly sends the message that we are supporting refugees and working strongly alongside them," she adds. "The campaign advocates for welcoming communities through fighting fiction with facts and publicly advocating for fairness for refugees."

**"We commemorate Refugee Rights Day in Canada each year to reflect on the significance and importance of 'everyone's' most fundamental human rights as found in Section 7 of our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person,"** says **McLaughlin College Head and Professor James Simeon**, who will deliver welcoming and opening remarks along with Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Interim Dean JJ McMurtry. "This meant 'everyone' who is on Canadian soil, that is, all persons were protected by the Charter, including, refugees," adds Simeon.

"Given the asylum seekers currently walking across the US-Canada border to make a claim (not at ports of entry), the importance of the Singh decision and its protections 35 years on is key," adds Centre for Refugee Studies Director Jennifer Hyndman.

"Though there remains a tremendous amount still to be done in a world where the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates there are a record 68.5 million people displaced globally, and there are few spots for resettlement, it's an honour and it is important to mark the contributions our sponsor groups have made, as well as the [Keele and Glendon WUSC committees](#) whose work will continue," says Carlaw. "It's especially important to thank and recognize the many student groups and leaders who are positively leading the way and will be doing so for years to come.

**"York's event is also part of a series of events organized by the Toronto Refugee Rights Month Planning Committee, a group organizing and highlighting [a month-long series of events](#). At the coalition's request, [the City of Toronto has agreed to recognize April as Refugee Rights Month](#).**

To view the full Y-File article, [click here](#).

## York University Tops New University Global Impact Ranking

On April 3, Times Higher Education (THE) revealed the list of global leaders in the results of their new Impact rankings. Based on the [United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) developed in 2016, the [THE Impact ranking](#) highlights how the higher education sector is contributing to international efforts to build a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable world. [York University has placed an impressive 26th in the world and fifth in Canada.](#)

[THE University Impact Rankings](#) are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' SDGs. THE evaluated more than 450 universities from 77 countries in the inaugural Impact ranking. "Universities have never been more important as catalysts for positive change. We live in a world filled with incredible innovation, but also one facing serious and complex challenges. We need globally educated citizens able to work across traditional boundaries to build their own success and the success of their communities. We are very pleased to be recognized by the THE Impact ranking as a world leader in building the multi-sector partnerships and pioneering the new educational approaches that will help meet some of society's most urgent demands – like confronting climate change and building more inclusive and equitable communities," **said York University President and Vice-Chancellor Rhonda L. Lenton.** These rankings reflect York's significant contributions in producing the leaders of tomorrow, advancing fundamental and applied research, and the knowledge transfer for lasting impact on creating inclusive, sustainable and prosperous communities.

### York University's 2019 [THE Impact rankings](#):

- Global ranking: York University ranked No. 26 in the world.
- THE Impact ranking by the United Nations' SDG goal:
- York ranked No. 25 in the world for UN SDG goal 10, "Reduced Inequality."
- York ranked No. 12 in the world for UN SDG goal 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities."
- York ranked No. 22 in the world for UN SDG goal 12, "Consumption and Production."
- York ranked No. 14 in the world for UN SDG goal 13, "Climate Action."
- York ranked No. 19 in the world for UN SDG goal 17, "Partnerships for the goals."

**York University's global reach includes more than 300 university, industry and NGO partners in over 70 countries.** These partnerships provide York students, faculty, staff and alumni with opportunities to contribute solutions to global challenges. This year marks York's 60th anniversary and 60 years of making an impact. The University is a diverse and inclusive community of engaged and innovative students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners who are dedicated to making a positive impact. **To view the full Y-File article, [click here.](#)**

## Career Centre News - April 2019

**The Career Centre is pleased to provide you with our calendar of activities for the month of April 2019.** You may refer to our [online calendar](#). **We have a number of workshops and webinars taking place this month to support students in their job search.**

Whether it's for full-time, part-time or summer experiences, these workshops will provide students with the tools to effectively recognize and articulate their skills and experiences and succeed on the job!

April 2: [You've got Skills & Self-Reflection](#) workshop @ 10 am

April 4: [Resumé and Cover Letter Writing](#) workshop @ 10am

April 9: [Job Search & Networking Strategies](#) workshop at 1:30pm

April 10: [Interview Preparation](#) workshop @ 1pm

April 16: [How to Effectively Use LinkedIn](#) webinar @ 10am

April 18: [Resumé and Cover Letter Writing](#) workshop @ 2pm

April 24: [Ways to Make Money While Studying](#) webinar @ 10am

April 26: [On the Job Success](#) webinar @10am

**We will also be offering the following workshops to help students clarify their career goals,** explore their interests, skills, accomplishments, desires and career curiosities, and gain insight into their personalities so that they can make effective career decisions:

April 9: [What can I do with my degree?](#) workshop @ 10am

April 17: [Who am I?](#) workshop @ 9am

April 25: [Suit Yourself: Personality and Career Choice](#) workshop @ 1:30pm

**Students are encouraged to register for these activities through [Experience York.](#)**



## Textbooks for Change

Are your textbooks currently collecting dust?

[Small actions can create a big impact. It starts with your donation.](#)

**The simple act of donating your used post-secondary textbooks creates a positive impact for students around the world.**

**Which textbooks can be donated:** University and college textbooks published in the last 15 years and study guides, course packs, foreign language textbooks and other material that assists in the studying process.

**Providing Access to Educational Material:** As a student at Western University, founder Chris Janssen, noticed that many of his peers had stacks of old textbooks sitting in their dorm rooms. They loved donating this old material to help other students. While lecturing in East Africa, Chris found a very different scenario. Smart and ambitious students were sharing photocopied, out-of-date material. In East Africa, there is a rapidly increasing student population (there are over 450,000 university students in Kenya!) but university budgets continue to be unpredictable. On top of this, students continue to face internet access and connectivity issues. We partner with under-resourced universities to donate textbooks to their libraries. We've partnered with 7 universities in East Africa who are looking to better their campus community. By donating to libraries, we've provided over 220,000 students in East Africa with access to high-quality textbooks and journals. A donation of 25,000 textbooks has a value of \$500,000 USD, providing major cost-savings for universities.

**Textbooks for Change has the following drop boxes at York University.**  
**[Make a difference. Make a textbook donation today.](#)**

**Keele Campus:** Bronfman Business Library, Scott Library, Steacie Science and Engineering Library, Life Sciences Building, Bethune College and Atkinson Bldg.

**Glendon Campus:** Glendon Campus Student's Union (GCSU) Office, Hilliard Residence and Lunik Co-Op.

For more information, please [click here](#).

For questions, contact [info@textbooksforchange.ca](mailto:info@textbooksforchange.ca)

## Worldviews 2019: An Unconventional Convention

This June, join participants from around the globe for the **2019 Worldviews on Media and Higher Education Conference** at the University of Toronto.

Register for [Worldviews 2019: Democracy at risk? Reflecting on the future of higher education and media in a 'post-truth' world.](#)

**Taking place from June 12 to 14, 2019** the three-day conference will focus on democracy and the changing power relations of higher education and the media in the global north and south – specifically examining the concept of expertise in a "post-truth" world and the types of voices amplified by emerging technologies.

[Watch the conference teaser video and learn more.](#)

The conference will bring together a diverse group of academics, students, higher education leaders, communications professionals, and journalists with a wide range of experiences, insights, and opinions.

Through a series of keynote talks, panel discussions, interviews, and interactive exhibits, conference participants will focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the democratization of higher education and the media, engage in an ongoing and lively exchange of ideas, and explore innovative possibilities for partnerships.

**Learn more about the conference sessions and speakers** by visiting the [Worldviews website](#) or downloading the [conference application](#) for your phone and using the code **wv2019**.

Join and share on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**[Register today to qualify for a special early discount rate.](#)**

## [Senior Consultant, Knowledge Management - The 519](#)

In addition to other tasks, you will be responsible for providing policy analysis, formulation, and advice to the Executive Director, department heads and management team at both strategic and operational levels and conducting research into assigned areas ensuring that research takes into account development within the fields, organizational policies and practices, legislation and initiatives by other levels of government.

## [Economist/Senior Economist - Bank of Canada](#)

You will be part of the Canadian Economic Analysis Department, which provides high-quality economic analysis, projections and research to support the Bank's monetary policy function. A major activity of the division consists of conducting a quarterly industry survey and publishing the results in the Business Outlook Survey. In addition to data it obtains from public sources and the Business Outlook Survey, the Division collects data on economic conditions from associations, provincial/territorial governments and a network of industry contacts. The Division also contributes to the Bank's communications strategy by engaging with various audiences about the Bank and monetary policy.

## [Policy and Research Analyst - Vaughn Chamber of Commerce and Newmarket Chamber of Commerce](#)

The Policy and Research Analyst is a support position shared between the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, reporting directly to both Chambers through the Manager of Government Relations and Policy. This individual will play a significant role in coordinating the Chambers' public policy research and development initiatives to further the interests of members.

## [Senior Program Officer - Grand Challenges Canada](#)

Grand Challenges Canada is seeking a Senior Program Officer (SPO) to play a critical role in building, launching, and ensuring sustainability of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative. I3 is an Indigenous innovation platform, with the goal of enabling Indigenous innovators and communities to identify and solve their own challenges, transform lives and drive inclusive growth and health outcomes.

## [Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator - KAIROS](#)

The Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator is responsible for KAIROS research, policy, education and program initiatives related to Indigenous rights. Reporting to the Program Manager, the Coordinator will work with Indigenous peoples to see the realization of rights, and the advancement of reconciliation.

## [Financial Policy Advisor - York Region](#)

As the Financial Policy Advisor, your responsibilities include: developing and providing comprehensive and well researched policy advice to Senior Management and operating Departments for Regional controllership processes; developing comprehensive research and providing input to the Region's budget formulation with respect to controllership and accounting policy; and playing an active role in the Region's treasury policies, with respect to controllership and accounting policy.

## [Ontario Public Affairs Manager - LifeLabs](#)

Reporting to the Director of Government Relations and working closely with the Director of Corporate Communications, the Ontario Public Affairs Manager will be accountable to develop and support a public affairs and stakeholder relations program that advances LifeLabs' strategic objectives and reputation with government and other stakeholders.

## [City Manager - The Corporation of the City of Burlington](#)

*You've dreamt about this challenge! You have the experience, skills, energy and positive attitude needed to help the City of Burlington be an even better place to live, work and play.*

You know you have what it takes to lead a dynamic team in a robust city, teaming with culture and industrious growth. Keep reading to discover just how amazing Burlington is and what this opportunity could mean for you and your career growth. Reporting to the Mayor and City Council, you will provide strategic vision, leadership and guidance on the general management of the corporation as well as participate in the overall direction of the municipality. In this key leadership role, you will lead by example our approximately 1,400 employees, and operate with a shared sense of passion and commitment, enabling efficient operations that simplify the day-to-day lives of the people of the community you serve.

## [GenUrb: Recruiting Guyanese Transcriber](#)

**We are looking to hire a Guyanese student to help us transcribe interviews for our project.** We would like this student to start as soon as possible, with the potential to work until July 2019. We would like the student to work **10-15 hours per week** (additional hours can be discussed) at the City Institute, York University. The rate of pay for this position is **\$15/hour**.

The *Urbanization, gender and the global south: a transformative knowledge network* (GenUrb) project is a SSHRC funded six-year comparative research project with 35 feminist urban academics and activists based in 7 cities in the global south (Cairo, Cochabamba, Georgetown, Ibadan, Mumbai, Ramallah, and Shanghai) under the academic direction of Professor Linda Peake, Director of the City Institute at York University. The aim of the program is to investigate the gendered implications of urbanization to advance understanding of how the relationship between poverty and inequality in these seven cities is reconstituting gender relations and gendered rights to the city.

**Qualifications** - The ideal student must be familiar with Guyana and speak Guyanese Creole.

You may be pursuing a BA or Graduate degree, have experience in an academic environment, and familiarity with feminist issues of the urban would be a bonus. You should have excellent research and writing skills, be proficient with MS Word (and other computer software programs), able to work independently, be detail oriented, have great time management skills, and able to maintain confidentiality.

**Application Procedure** – If this position is of interest to you, please contact Leeann Bennett, Grant Manager, GenUrb, at [leeann3@yorku.ca](mailto:leeann3@yorku.ca) (with your cover letter and resume).



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