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WINTERS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



A message from The Master

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Kleanthi Markakis



Dear Winters Alumni

I just walked across campus in my short sleeves in late January. That was a first for me. I guess I'm wondering when I will start my first winter at Winters.

On behalf of all the Colleges, I am on a York-wide committee that is charged with enhancing the student experience, especially with regards to campus layout and use of outdoor spaces. This committee has been specifically asked to recommend how the core of the campus should look and feel once the subway construction is (finally) over. We already know that the Harry Arthurs Common will be made

much more pedestrian friendly, and have no vehicular traffic. The two things that were brought up at our first meeting were that the college quadrangles should be better utilized and cared for; and that there should be no open parking lots in the core. From these comments, I will work to get back the Winters lawn that has been a temporary parking lot for a decade or more, and to enhance both the Winters and Vanier quads. For example, I have this idea of making the shared Masters' dining rooms into a more frequently used space, with easy access to the patio outside its windows.

In other news, I have hosted dinners with all the departmental students' associations, and many good ideas for the Master's Office to support and enhance activities through these associations have been discussed. Towards the end of the term, I will host the current and future Presidents of all the associations and of the WCC so that next fall there will already been some cooperative plans in place.

Internally, the JCR has been made into a really busy spot, and the Clubs Room as a quiet place to study during the day (with thanks to Jeff Collins for these ideas). I am also looking at replacing the furniture in the SCR, which is shabby indeed. On another front, the Ab Management Board is starting to talk with the Ab Manager about some changes, especially in light of the increased competition on campus from the Underground, and the arrival of Shopsy's in York Lanes.

And, lastly, there is the fund raising effort that we are involved in with the School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design to bring a refugee family over from Syria. Please email syriampd@yorku.ca for more information or to join the team.

In closing, my very best wishes to you all, and that you are well.

Regards,

Peter McKinnon

school of the
 arts, media,
 performance
 & design



▶▶▶ Message from WCAN: Niko Markakis

Hello fellow Winters Alumni,

My name is Nikolaos Markakis and I am the current Winters College Alumni Network President. I would like to start off by thanking all those who have been able to come out to our events. Without you, we would be nothing. To those who haven't have not been able to come out yet, don't worry, we have some exciting things coming your way. As of right now we do not have any planned events but keep your eyes open for our next Alumni Pub Night!

Some more exciting news is that we now have a Facebook group and a LinkedIn page. So if you want to keep in touch through social media you can find us below:

LinkedIn: Winters College Alumni Network (York University)

Facebook: York University Winters College Alumni Network

If there is anything you need or want to share with your Alumni Network, please do not hesitate to email me at markakisniko@gmail.com.

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday and have a prosperous new year.

Nikolaos Markakis



▶▶▶ Message from WCC: Taneisha McAdam



Hello Winters College!

The fall term is nearing its end and it's finally your time to relax and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Go ahead, you deserve it! Winters College Council is excited to say that they've had a successful term and is so grateful for all the experiences that were shared with the Winters Community. This term we organized many energy high such as Acoustic Night and Karaoke Night, as well as smaller, intimate events like EWAG Word Night. We've also hosted our popular Themed Pub Nights such as Tight n Bright, Halloween and Canadian Tuxedo that included many creative costumes, games, popcorn, and prizes!

After completing such an exciting term, WCC will do their best as a team by continuing to provide students opportunities and events that will promote more involvement, great memories and of course, friendships! As leaders of the community, we strive to represent the voice of the students, be their guide as they journey through university, and offer one-of-a-kind experiences as often as possible. Next term, WCC is thrilled to say that we'll be hosting our two biggest events: Winters vs. Montreal trip and WCC & CASA Formal

We hope that the events we offered this term promoted and represented the unique range of Winters constituents and that you are more excited to partake in the events in the upcoming term. Winters College is filled with creativity, inclusivity, excitement, and positivity. This is without a doubt because of the involvement of the Winters community like the Master, Alumni, WCC, and of course you. So from Winters College Council, thank YOU for your support and love for Winters College.

Hope to see you at the Ab!

Angelica Grospe, Vice-President of Social/Cultural Affairs

Alum Profile: Camila Gargantini ◀ ◀ ◀



My name is Camila Gargantini and I graduated in 2008 with a BFA. Ever since, I have been pursuing a career in photography and education. I have worked managing a photography school for a well-known Retail Chain, Henry's, as well as developed an educational strategy for Canon Canada's brick and mortar location in Calgary.

Most recently I have taken photography as a full time job, and that has allowed me to pursue some of the personal projects I have been dreaming about. I have recently been in contact with many people from my years at York University and one of my colleagues has joined me on a project that I launched in January 2015 called The Birthday Book Project (www.thebirthdaybookproject.ca). The project aims to bring together Canadian Photographers to encourage collaboration, creativity and knowledge sharing with the objective to capture numerous portraits of people around the world.

I am extremely passionate about Arts and Culture and I believe more can be done to bring the photographic community together and provide support to students that are still wondering what path to take after university. My goal is to be able to provide that support by pursuing projects that encourage participation by individuals at every stage of the career.

Alum Profile: John Legere ◀ ◀ ◀

An honors graduate in Psychology/English from Winters College 1991. I went on to complete my B. Ed. Primary-Junior at York and graduated in 1992. I am in my 23rd year in public education, 21 with York Region District School Board as a secondary school teacher, Secondary School Vice-Principal and Elementary School Principal in 3 schools. I joined my current board, Simcoe County District School Board, in 2013 as Superintendent of Education with responsibility for 22 schools (3 Secondary; 19 Elementary), 12,000 students, and portfolio responsibilities of Safe and Accepting Schools, Expulsion and Suspension, and Equity and Inclusive Education. I have been married for 22 years to my wife Gabrielle, a teacher in York Catholic DSB, and have two children a son Patrick in first year University at Sir Wilfred Laurier in the BBA program, and a daughter Emma in Grade 11.



▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Vira Burmenko

Vira Burmenko immigrated to Toronto, Canada in 2003 from Kiev, Ukraine. She holds a BFA in Violin Performance and an MA in Music Composition from York University.

Vira is a passionate and talented performer, composer, collaborator, entertainer and educator, who is convinced of the healing power of sound, thought and language. Vira is professionally involved in various musical styles and genres, currently performing with *I-Strings Trio/Quartet*, made up of her colleagues from York University; *Gypsy Flame Show Band*; and *Baarbad Music*, a Persian Music Ensemble; and The VIP - an Improv Group, with percussion and a dancer.

She recently cultivated her new style of Unique Fusion of Sound and Movement, *Violin Dance*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXXf41B5ATs>, that combines violin playing and dance; with the performer moving both musically and calisthenically. Inspired by years of Thai Chi, Martial Arts, Gymnastics and Dance, The artist always believed that movement, energy, contrast and expression are unifying elements among all arts. In September 2014 Vira traveled to New York and performed her *Violin Dance* as one of the Featured Artist in a Coast2CoastFM Live Event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLc9QpPaqs&list=UUp1iMptK63_obDvssHG83Q

Vira is also an instructor in violin performance, piano and music theory. She composes and arranges music for herself, her colleagues and students. Vira is continuously and actively engaged in self-improvement, self-realization, in a life altering and channeling the healing energy of the sun, through the teachings of a newly discovered practice – *Ayat*. This teaching offers applied means of healing oneself to all human beings. Her book, *My Key to Immortality: Tuning Your Mind into the Life of Universal Love*, a discussion on the subject of healing, music and all art, and of how these practices work in the author's life, can be purchased here: www.mykeytoimmortality.com.

Vira believes all things in our universe are connected and interrelated, and that art is the universal expression of perfection. Our lives are a creative process and we are works of art, the creators and creations. We are all and each indeed perfect, divine beings, and realizing it, accessing the right places in our minds, is a key to everything. For active discussion and fresh articles visit author's blog at www.mykeytoimmortality.com/blog For more details about Vira's work and ongoing projects, please visit www.viraburmenko.com

Vira recently joined Tangomania, an ensemble of high class expert musicians from Russia, Ukraine and Argentina, for the Rock'n'Tango Project. Tangomania is going on tour, with the opening show taking place here in Tronto. Please see the poster attached for info, and join us for the Grand Tour Opening!

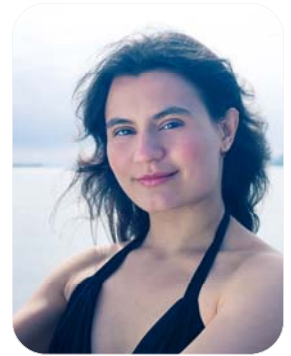
Vira is also being regularly employed by local charity organizations and professional services companies: Vescio Funerals, Emunah Women Toronto, The Knights of Columbus, The ICHR (Human Rights for Mid-East).



She also appeared in numerous music videos and TV shows as a featured Special Skill Performer. The details of these projects are yet to be disclosed as the dates of their premiere into the world approach.

This busy and exciting Holiday Season Vira features her Violin Dance and Popular Holiday Themes arranged by Vira I-Strings Duet/Trio at local parties and dinner events: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0pvw9K8H5Y&list=UUp1iMptK63_obDvssHG83Q

Also one of Vira's original compositions will be premiered on the Coast to Coast AM Radio with Tom Danheiser, producer, Hosted by George Noory. Stay tuned for updates of the broadcast.



Alum Profile: Karen Shopsowitz ◀ ◀ ◀

Right now, I'm in the midst of an indiegogo campaign for my new documentary, called "The Other Side of the Hero". This film, which I'm working on with actor Enrico Colantoni (Flashpoint, Remedy, Veronica Mars, Person of Interest) and Vince Savoia of the Tema Conter Memorial Trust, takes a look at the real life world of firefighters, paramedics, police, and 911 communications officers. We're exploring the action and camaraderie as well as the other side of the hero: depression, PTSD, and suicide.

Here's a link to the indiegogo campaign, which tells more about our film. <http://igg.me/p/1015771/x/76521>

You'll see that we are close to our goal, but this is actually a long-term fundraising project, in that once we reach our first goal, we'll continue raising to fund the film.

Here's a link to our press release announcing our campaign: <http://prez.ly/5Oh>

As for my life in general, since graduating from York University, I've been working steadily as a producer/director/editor and occasional cameraperson on several one-off documentaries and series, as well as music videos and fiction. Most recently, I made a one-hour documentary in association with TVO, called GrandParenting, which takes a look at grandparents who have taken an unexpected return to full-time parenting. Prior to that, I made "One Summer at Camp Winston", a one hour doc produced in association with *documentary*, about a camp for children with complex neurological disorders.

For more information on me, here's my website: moviewitz.com



▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Olivia Gudaniec

I completed my double major in English and Theatre Studies in the spring of 2011. Immediately after my graduation, I obtained a job working behind the scenes on a feature film. Even though my desire is to be in front of the camera, I was eager to gain as much experience as possible. For the past couple of years, I have been lucky enough to proclaim that I have been successfully employed in the film and television industry. Working steadily incorporating both of my degrees into my everyday lifestyle is a true blessing.



What I initially thought was just a job to ‘gain experience’ has ironically evolved. Moreover, I am recognized on set and considered for a number of jobs that constantly surprise me. I never envisioned that my little chance to help out after university would turn into a steady and fruitful income, which has now allowed me to both audition and have a comfortable lifestyle. In the meantime, I have been making the most of my opportunities by starting and starring in a YouTube series called: “Jobs in Showbiz Hosted by Olivia”. It is a personal project that informs newcomers about the various job positions available on set. I interview professionals in the film and television industry to try and give beginners to the business an idea of how those individuals began their journey. After all, there is no one way to advance in the arts and at the very least I would like to spark some ideas so my viewers can be inspired.

Overall, I have been having a fantastic time on set surrounded by the best of the best, and I am constantly challenging myself to do innovative things. Just last year I was granted an amazing opportunity to write for Solis Magazine based out of NYC, which was recently named the number one independent magazine. The magazine prides itself in having six major entertainment firms on one single platform. Safe to say that I have found my groove and the key has been to keep myself actively involved in the arts. This makes me happy and I am constantly networking, which is vital as an artist.

If I could give one piece of advice to current York students, I would recommend getting involved – join something! It will make a world of difference in your university experience. If this does not appeal to you I would focus on getting more work experience outside of school in your area of aspiration. Thinking back, I was lucky enough to try out for York’s Cheerleading team. Truth be told I only went out to keep a friend company and ended up getting a spot as a flyer on the team. This was definitely a highlight for me and it just goes to show you that you never know where you will end up or what will find you at random moments in your life. I was able to keep fit and socialize all at the same time. I have even met some great people who I consider to be life long friends that were on my squad. By managing two majors and an extra curricular sport, I can definitely say that my time at York University was memorable and shaped me into the proactive and reliable person I am today.

Alum Profile: Peter Marrack ◀◀◀

After forfeiting an athletic scholarship to the States I returned home to Mississauga and enrolled in York University's Film Studies program. Actually, I applied for the Film Production program, but took second-best. I remember scoping lecture halls for the best seat (beside some girl), daydreaming, coffees in that building with the roll-away snack bar (Winter's College?), coffees at Tim Horton's, bagels at Great Canadian Bagel, weird movies in the library, musty stacks in the French philosophy section, and of course meeting some of the most amazing and influential friends who are still in my life!



Having to commute from my parents' in Mississauga, I would belt out Kid Cudi's first two albums, Kanye West's My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, some Eminem and T.I. and Lil Wayne--mainstream hip-hop. When film production proved too time-consuming (I'm impatient) I picked up a pen and pencil and wrote a story about a Weezy verse for the MAC magazine distributed around campus. I started to explore the deeper regions of the genre during breaks, crooning silently to Frank Ocean's Nostalgia Ultra before Comics class. Soon I reached out to magazines online. I landed a spot on the writing roster of a German-based hip-hop magazine called Yo! Raps, bragging about my first clip to a classmate Bradley Tingle. When I graduated I continued to pursue this music journalism route, extended my reach, played with the freelance business, returned to journo school in Halifax, built my rep, and founded my own magazine brand Cp (counterproduct.tumblr.com). After taking some time to travel and experiment, I'm now in Toronto playing some tennis, building Cp and writing for Green Label, a Mountain Dew venture and off-shoot of Complex Magazine in New York City. In my opinion it all started at York, more than anything by capitalizing on the free resources, making friends and simply daydreaming.



Interview with Joe



Interview with Roy Ayers



▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Martin B. Spray

When I first enrolled at York University in September of 1965 there were approximately 900 students. Winters College did not yet exist. I spent two idyllic years at Glendon College. Classes and seminars were small. Professors knew us all by our first names. Exams allowed for thoughtful writing. There were no multiple choice questions. York's strong commitment to the liberal arts rescued my mind and spirit from the burden of rote learning, characteristic of the public school system at that time. Years 3 and 4 were spent at Winters College, from which I graduated in 1969 with an Honours B.A in Psychology and Sociology. An M.A. Sc. and Ph. D. from the department of psychology at the University of Waterloo led to a career as a psychologist in Victoria, British Columbia. For 27 years I worked first as a program supervisor and eventually moved up to an executive director of an intensive residential program for people contending with alcohol and drug related issues. Since 2004 I have been in private practice part time. My wife, Mary Jane (ne Mahaffy), who graduated from Vanier College in 1970, and I have 3 adult children and 2.5 grandchildren.

CONTACT US

Hello Alumni,

Are you looking for an old schoolmate or professor that used to be a part of Winters? If you are, provide us with their name and we will help you find them. Contact us at: wcmaster@yorku.ca

OR

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You can keep up to date with us by following us on Instagram and/or Twitter:

@winterscollege

ALUMNI PUB NIGHT

When...What?

Remember when life was easy? Your life revolved around doing your own thing and hanging out with friends. Okay, we studied hard. But, we also made memories to last us a lifetime – through new experiences, through new people. We were having the time of our lives and some of us didn't even realize it. All because we wanted to! A simpler time filled with "ALL DRINK!!!"

Come relive those memories with us. Because we all know that Thursday nights just haven't been the same without Winters. When was your last "ALL DRINK!!!"? If it has been too long to remember, you should come on out.