

121 Winters College

4700 Keele Street
 Toronto, ON
 M3J 1P3
 416-650-8199

wcmaster@yorku.ca

WINTERS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER




A message from Marie Rickard

- In This Issue:**
- Message from: WCAC & WCC pg. 2
 - Profile: Bianca DiPietro pg. 3
 - Profile: Victoria Murdoch & Pascal Alhani pg. 4
 - Profile: Ania Ziemirska & Lindsey Ostrosser pg. 5
 - Profile: Gigi Inara, Serena Ragogna & Jane McLachlan Pg. 6
 - Homecoming Pg. 7
 - Lost & Found, Alumni Pub Night & Contact Us Pg. 8

INTERIM MASTER:
 John Mayberry
WCAC: Niko Markakis
WCC: Taneisha McAdam
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
 Christina DiFranco





My Dear Alumni,

It is hard to believe that another term has gone so quickly, but summer is here at last.

The College now has some new Fellows who you might be interested in - Allison Leyton Brown (of the Tisch School of the Arts), Roger Scannurra (extraordinary Flamenco artist and one of our own Music Faculty) and James Ellis of the History Channel. We are very lucky to have them join our expanding team.

Allison's music theatre workshop was a standout, (this is her second for us) as was my interview and Q&A with James regarding his career at the History Channel. And Roger (and his beautiful wife and daughter) filled the Winters Dining Hall with the drama and passion of flamenco at this year's Holiday concert. I was thrilled to see so many of you there to celebrate the end of term with us, and to reconnect with Winters Fellows and other old friends.

As Alumni you are automatically invited to all of our events, so please make a habit of checking our [website](#) and joining us whenever you can! We also encourage you to consider using the college for alumni events. We have a brand new Junior Common Room that is now a truly thriving multi-purpose space and ideal for concerts, presentations, workshops and just plain lounging. Not long ago some of our Film alum hosted an evening of screenings in the JCR.

I also want to let you know that I am on sabbatical effective July 1st 2014. I have a number of writing projects that I'm anxious to get back to, and a number of trips planned - several to New York and one to Spain.

Though I can't wait to embark on this journey, I will miss my daily contact with the college, but of course, there is always the traveller's friend – Facebook!

I'm pleased to announce that long time Winters Fellow, John Mayberry, will be stepping into the Master's role, and I know I speak for all of us in wishing him the best of luck in his term.

Please stay in touch with us, and have a wonderful Summer.





▶▶▶ Message from WCAC: Niko Markakis

Hi Winters Alum,

I would like to introduce myself to all new alum and those whom I have not had the pleasure to meet. I am Nikolaos Markakis and I am your Winters Alumni Chapter President. We have had some changes to our board this year that I would like to share with you. Staying with us is Mahssa Chavoshi (Vice-President), Caitlin Hartley (Secretary), and Lindsey Ostrosser (Programme Coordinator), Marie Rickard will be staying with us as our Past President. New to our board is Phillip Rego (Communications Director), Interim Master (John Mayberry), Taneisha McAdam (WCC President), and Tom Gianfrancesco (WCC VP Public Relations).



We have some exciting ways for you to reignite and feed your Winters flame. We hope to see you all at our summer Reunion pub night on **Thursday, August 21st, 2014 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Paupers Pub** for some nice summer drinks and friendly faces. This will be an opportunity for us to help initiate the 2014 alumni into the Winters alumni community. There will also be door prizes. If you can't join us in August, then we hope to see you at Homecoming for a drink and gathering on **Saturday, September 20th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm** in the **Absinthe Pub and Coffee Shop (013 Winters College)**. Please do not hesitate to contact me (markakisniko@gmail.com) if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat.

That's all for now, until next time,

Nikolaos Markakis

▶▶▶ Message from WCC: Taneisha McAdam



Hello and welcome to another exciting year from Winters College Council!

Student leadership and engagement are thriving in our college and we are looking forward to what this year has to offer. As always we have our major events to look forward to: the Montreal Trip and the end of year Formal Gala. We are also excited to be working on offering new alternative events for students such as Power Fests and Art Battles. We the council have a special interest this year in finding ways to leave lasting impressions not only in our college communities but ones inside and outside the university.

With Orientation week fast approaching we are working diligently to prepare for the arrival of our new constituents. As the front line responsible for the first year experience and transition we are dedicated to providing each student with the tools to be successful in a welcoming community environment.

We look forward to upcoming events that our alumni will be present at such as Homecoming and pub socials. The Winters community, including students, fellows and alumni, have amazing involvement and support that continues to be an ideal model.

Welcome again to the new year. See You All at The Ab!!

Taneisha McAdam

Alum Profile: Bianca DiPietro ◀ ◀ ◀



York University sent me off into the world with exceptional expertise in design, thanks to not only an Honors Bachelor Degree in Design, but also a Master of Design in the same discipline. I landed my first job (and what I thought was my dream job) at a small publishing company in Mississauga that produced well-known magazine brands all over the world. Being a marathon runner and fitness junkie myself, settling into well-known brands such as 'Clean Eating' magazine, 'Oxygen' magazine and 'Muscle Mag' wasn't all that difficult. It was a job I will most likely never forget because I was able to meet many inspiring people as well as be the creative genius behind an inspiring brand. After outgrowing my junior position and craving a more senior role, I moved onto bigger and better things at the Yellow Pages. I became Art Director & Creative Lead for a division of the Yellow Pages called Wall2Wall Media. Similar to my last job, I was responsible for a series of publications and other creative marketing materials for the company. While serving the print world of graphic design very well, it slowly dawned on me how important and inevitable the web world would be in my career. The industry was changing so fast and I felt if I didn't jump on board, it would come back to bite me later. I have the design skills, provided to me by York U, but now I needed to learn the technical skills that would open so many more doors for me. Only a few months into my Art Director role, I decided to take a part-time web course in TO at an independent school called HackerYou. This school works in conjunction with a great organization in TO called Ladies Learning Code. After mastering HTML5 and CSS, I have now become a member at Ladies Learning Code, mentoring at many events and helping spread the word about increasing the amount of women working in technology (an industry that up until recently, has been heavily male dominated). Not only am I improving my own skills in technology, but I am helping others do so in the process. After only working one year at Wall2Wall Media, I was able to secure a Web Designer/Developer position in my hometown of Hamilton Ontario at a small and intimate agency called SoftFocus Inc. Here I work with a team of six, but focus on the web design and development side of our projects. I build sites from creative briefs and send out email campaigns. When I'm not immersed in lines of code & PHP, I am also helping out with various marketing materials and branding assignments for large companies. It's nice to come up for air sometimes and return to a print project. For me, this job is a great balance of my skills. I once was a teacher and expert in my field and I still am, but when it comes to technology and coding, there is always something to learn. Being able to merge my passion for design and extreme interest and determination in coding - I am now in my ideal and most fruitful position. I never leave the office without learning something, and it's not just something, it's usually A LOT of things.

All while these career paths were changing and involving, I have also been involved in the RGD as a full Provisional member, volunteering my time doing promo materials for my hometown Roller Derby league (Hammer City Roller Girls), running my own freelance business and finally contract teaching in the evenings at Sheridan College. Needless to say, I am quite the workaholic for a 26 year old. BUT, I still find the time to run many obstacle races and marathons throughout the year. I've successfully completed many half marathons, the Tough Mudder (TWICE!) and the Around the Bay race (TWICE TOO!).

The journey no-doubt started at YorkU, since that is where I was influenced by many inspiring professors and students who shared a similar passion of mine. I was given my roots into the design industry and also experienced my first of many meltdowns (necessary for growth, I must add). YorkU provided an atmosphere where I could challenge my own thoughts. Something that I greatly appreciate about YorkU is the amazing professors, some of which I still keep in touch with today. They weren't just teachers for 3 months, but mentors that I can still to this day shoot an email and have a coffee with. You don't always find that sort of passion and dedication everywhere you go. It's unique, inspiring and refreshing.

Thank you YorkU for starting my journey in the Design industry and preparing me to be the successful person I am today!

Bianca DiPietro - www.designedbybianca.com

Current Position: Web Designer at SoftFocus Inc., located in Hamilton Ontario.

Graduated from: M.Des (Master of Design) in 2011 and B.Des (Bachelor of Design) in 2009 - both at York University.

▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Victoria Murdoch

Since graduating from the Creative Ensemble Theatre program in 2004, Victoria has worked steadily as an actress, voice talent and will be returning for her fifth season as Emcee of the *Celebrity Experts Stage* at the Canadian National Exhibition in August. In the past year, Victoria celebrated theatre debuts in LA and NYC in addition to winning Honorable Mention - Best Actress at the Queens World Film Festival. She is the creator and star of the critically acclaimed one-woman dramedy *Dairy-Free Love; the play that leaves you wanting seconds* and is currently touring her new show - awarded 1st Runner Up in the 2014 Hamilton Fringe New Play Contest - *Bootlegger's Wife; the woman behind Canada's most notorious rumrunner*. Get in touch and see what else she's up to at www.victoriamurdoch.com & on twitter [@VictoriaMurdoch](https://twitter.com/VictoriaMurdoch).



▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Pascal Alhani



Pascal has a BFA, specialized Honours, in Visual Arts with a focus on photography. She has been featured in international publications and media. She's recently completed a 2.5 year term with a major retailer, managing the styling department on brand imaging and trend research for all WA and MW national and private contemporary brands.

Pascal has several years of freelance fashion styling and consulting experience, working with North America's largest advertising studio and alongside the top photographers and art directors in the country. Pascal has recently been approached to art direct some retail fashion projects as well, which is a natural fit. Coupled with her fashion and advertising background, she has a strong understanding of your fashion, commercial and branding needs. Below are photos of some of her latest work. For more photos of her work please visit her website at www.pascalahani.com



Alum Profile: Ania Ziemirska ◀ ◀ ◀



Ania Ziemirska (class of 2004) has traveled many paths over the last decade only to realize the world is full of possibilities. After graduating with a BA Honours in FACS and Psychology, Ania's final internship at a gallery became a part time job which sparked interest in completing a post graduate diploma in Arts Administration and Cultural Management at Humber College. The program led her through more internships, few admin jobs and the challenges of helping an art show get off the ground. Ania continues to work part time in the arts as a bookkeeper for the Songwriters Association of Canada, an organization she's moved through for the last 7 years. In 2007 Ania reconnected with her love of music, the original plan when she started at York, and released an independent album titled "I Was The Girl" in 2010. Shortly after Ania found new passion in Yoga and in 2012 became a certified Yoga teacher. Currently Ania teaches yoga with an upcoming weekend retreat in July, freelances as a bookkeeper and is about to embark on a teenage dream of working with youth at a campHer experience at York, both from a curriculum stand point and an extra

curricular one (Ania was on Winters Student Council, the president of FACSSA and an Orientation Leader) has no doubt helped her navigate through the many changes over the past decade and she's excited to see what's next.

For music visit aniamusic.com and for yoga visit lovenenergyyoga.wordpress.com

Alum Profile: Lindsey Ostrosser ◀ ◀ ◀

What I've Been Up To Since Graduation:

I graduated from the Fine Art and Cultural Studies program in 2012. Although I have a love for the Fine Arts, my passion has been rapidly extended to Student Affairs and Services. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work for the Faculty of Fine Arts in Winters College as the Events Organizer to carry out that passion. Through Student Affairs at York I was actually able to meet my current partner, David. I want to mention him specifically because he and I have launched a relationship website known as

[Relationship Zen](http://RelationshipZen.com).



What is Relationship Zen?:

Relationship Zen is about finding happiness in the daily chaos of intimate relationships. It's about clearing away the miscommunication, emotional baggage, and negativity to create a new kind of partnership with our significant other. One built on the principles of "Zen": happiness, simplicity, and self-fulfilment.



Why Relationship Zen?:

David and I like to share our own stories to remind everyone that we are all in this together and that we are all humans who struggle in our own ways. We are like anybody else except that we're sharing our experience about our relationship online. The website is not meant to replace professional couple's counselling, although the posts can be therapeutic. We honestly just want to explore, challenge ourselves, keep aligned with our

relationship mission, and have a way of communicating to one another in an interesting capacity.

Want More Information?:

Relationship Zen website: relationshipzen.ca

Twitter: @ZenRelationship

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253404521440128/>

▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Gigi Inara

I graduated from York with a BFA in Music in 2008. It feels like centuries ago even though it's really only 6 years. Since then I've had a successful 10 year teaching career (started while in second year) working for music studios in Toronto and my own studio - Inara Studios. At the moment I'm on a break from teaching due to the conflicts between auditions, rehearsals and regular weekly lessons. The recent work that has eaten up my teaching time includes: being cast in an original Canadian musical, Behind Closed Doors, that will be performed at the Toronto Fringe Festival and the Hamilton Fringe Festivals in July, singing in Rob Teehan's thesis project for the Canadian Film Centre and future performances as Helena in a Midsummer Night's Dream with the Passionate Players (Convergence Theatre/Against the March). Over all, life is good.



▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Serena Ragogna



Serena Ragogna is Winters College alumna, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts specializing in Music. Upon graduating, Serena enrolled at Metalworks Institute of Sound and Music Production, and is weeks away from receiving a diploma in Music Business Management. Currently, Serena is doing some artist services and development work for the indie label, Daycare Records, and has been able to contribute and be a part of events such as Canadian Music Week and Scene Music Festival.

Through Serena's experiences at York University, she has been able to perform and work with other York alumni through Jazz quintets, Bossa Nova groups, Pop/Rock bands and various wedding gigs. Serena is currently working on an EP as a solo Pop artist, and will be featured on a few EDM/Dance tracks that will be released this summer.

To get in contact with Serena:
contact@serenaragogna.com
www.serenaragogna.com

▶▶▶ Alum Profile: Jane Ann McLachlan

My name is Jane McLachlan, and I'm on the Winter's College Master's List for -- '75, I believe. I remember my years at York with great pleasure. I'm still in touch with several friends I made there, and would love to hear from more. Since leaving York with a BA in English, I've done many things, from two terms in municipal politics to teaching at Conestoga College and writing two college textbooks on professional ethics, all while raising three wonderful daughters with my husband Ian. Then I took an early leave from the college to pursue writing full-time, and now have two published books: CONNECTIONS, a collection of short stories and WALLS OF WIND, a science fiction novel; as well as two books currently on offer with my agent in New York. You can contact me at <http://www.janeannmclachlan.com> or see my books at www.amazon.com/-/e/B00HO1IOWE





HOMECOMING

**You are cordially invited to
THE WINTERS ALUMNI GATHERING
September 20th, 2014 at the ABSINTHE PUB (4:30pm)
following the Homecoming Game!**

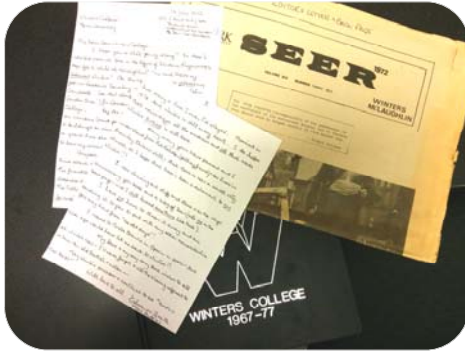
**RSVP your attendance (and guests) to:
wcmaster@yorku.ca**

**For more Info on York wide Homecoming Visit:
<http://advancement.yorku.ca/events-and-programs/homecoming/>**



LOST & FOUND

- **Kerry Sheahan Fraser** looking for long lost schoolmate by the name of **Amy May (now possibly Amy Livingston)**



- Thank you to **Eleanor Black** for sending these wonderful findings from the first 10 years of Winters College and the lovely letter written about her Winters College experience.

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

121 Winters College
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON
M3J 1P3
416-650-8199

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.

On **Thursday, August 21, 2014** join the Winters Alumni Association for "When... What?" at Paupers Pup (**539 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON**). It will be an evening of catching up, reminiscing and nostalgia! All Winters peeps are invited – oh, and bring your friends! For more information check out the When...What [Facebook](#) event or email wcmaster@yorku.ca.