

(For bios of current Alumni Association Executive members go to <https://ukings.ca/alumni/our-alumni/alumni-association/executive/>)

## NEW

### **Sheima Benembarek, MFA'20**

Sheima Benembarek is a Moroccan Canadian freelance writer and publishing professional. Currently, she works as an events manager for The Walrus. Previously, she was in business development and brand communications at Corporate Knights and an editor at Broadview. She has a Concordia University bachelor's in literature and creative writing, a graduate diploma in book, magazine and electronic publishing from Centennial College, and a University of King's College MFA in creative nonfiction. Her writing has appeared in print and online publications including the Literary Review of Canada, Maisonneuve, Corporate Knights, The Walrus, Torontoist, Broadview, and This. She was named one of the five RBC Taylor Prize Emerging Writers in 2020. At the moment, she is working on a nonfiction book project titled *Halal Sex: The Intimate Lives of North American Muslim Women*, slated for publication by Penguin Canada in Spring 2023.

### **Victoria Foley, BJ(Hons) '05**

Victoria Foley resides in Biddeford, Maine and brings more than a decade of experience in event planning and execution, including management of volunteers and teams, to the table. She is currently the Director of Marketing & Communications for the New England Cancer Specialists. She has had experience in government, having served as an elected state representative for the State of Maine, serving on the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee as well as the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission from 2018-2020 and was also a city councilor for Biddeford, Maine from 2017-2018. She has served on a number of volunteer boards in multiple capacities, including YMCA of Northern York County and Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Southern Maine, and is currently completing a certificate in Professional Fundraising.

### **Jenn Thornhill Verma, BJ(Hons)'02, MFA'19**

Jenn Thornhill Verma is a Newfoundlander living in Ottawa, where she has spent over 15 years as a non-profit executive working in health and social care. Jenn published her first book in 2019 examining the sociocultural impacts of the east coast cod fishery collapse. Her book inspired her first short-film, recounting the true story of a fifth-generation fisherman who pivots to boat-building after the cod fishery closes. Jenn is a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and member of the Canadian Association of Journalists and The Writers' Union of Canada. When she's not wrangling her three small children, Jenn also paints landscapes.

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Joining the Finance Committee (understudy role for Treasurer in 2023)

### **Matthew Irwin, BA'05**

Matthew David Irwin is the Managing Director - Client Service & Operations at Duro Capital (Singapore) Advisors, a Singapore-based, India public equity focused hedge fund manager. Prior to joining Duro Capital in April 2019, Matthew held the positions of Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer at Ewing Morris & Co. Investment Partners, a Toronto-based multi-strategy, public equity focused hedge fund manager from 2011 to 2018. Matthew served in similar capacities at Optimize Asset Management, a Toronto-based global equity long/short hedge fund from 2009 to 2011. Matthew graduated with his Masters of Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business at Western University in 2008 and prior to this completed his undergraduate studies from the University of King's College, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.