

inside

- 1 Responding to Changing Needs
- 2 Caring for the Future
- 3 Philanthropist's Corner
- 3 New Student-Alumni Unit
- 4 Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders
- 5 Research Stars
- 6 Class of 2005
- 7 Celebrating Academic Excellence
- 8 Happenings at Atkinson
- 10 Alumni Profiles
- 12 Class Notes



Dean Rhonda Lenton

Responding to changing needs

Ensuring that Atkinson continues to respond to the needs of its students, graduates and community is the foundation upon which Atkinson's five year Academic Plan (2003-08) was developed. It continues to act as an impetus for many of the recent changes and initiatives undertaken by the Faculty. In addition to the new degree programs and certificates developed over the last two years, the Faculty has grown in terms of both students and staff, we have expanded our experiential education initiative, increased support for research, and established a new Student-Alumni Relations Unit.

Most recently, and in response to a growing need for financial planners, our School of Administrative Studies has added a finance stream to the menu of professional specializations offered by the School. Atkinson's School of Nursing has introduced a variety of new and exciting options, including a second entry Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) for students with previous university education who wish to switch into Nursing and a Master's of Science in Nursing (MScN) that can be completed on-line on a full-time or part-time basis. Responding to the demand for BScN prepared nurses while at the same time recognizing the challenges faced by nurses who immigrate to Canada wishing to continue practicing as nurses, Atkinson has also established a dedicated BScN for internationally educated nurses (IEN). This unique program builds on the strengths that these internationally educated nurses bring while preparing them for the specifics of practice in Ontario. Over the coming months, we also plan to launch new programs in Public Policy and Management, Public Administration and Justice, Emergency Management, and Culture and Expression in response to increasing professional opportunities in these fields and student demand. Through all of these new programs, Atkinson is committed to meeting the changing and evolving needs of many professions by developing innovative, flexible and responsive programs for students.

In addition to increasing Atkinson's menu of programs, we are also diversifying the manner in which students learn. Through our new experiential education initiative that includes co-operative internships, field placements, practicum opportunities and service learning, students are gaining hands-on experience to complement their in-class studies. This bridging of classroom learning with concrete experience on campus and in the community enriches the educational experience and affords students opportunities to prepare for their chosen careers while fostering a sense of civic responsibility and good citizenship. The creation of the new Atkinson Student-Alumni Relations Unit will continue to enhance our ability to respond effectively to the needs of the our students and the broader community.

In short, over the past two years Atkinson has become involved in a host of initiatives that both respond to the changing needs of our students and alumni, as well as the evolving needs of society. While our academic plan is an important planning tool, the goals that we have set out over the coming years cannot be accomplished without the energy and

(continued on page 2)

ATKINSON'S SCHOOL OF NURSING – CARING FOR THE FUTURE

BY KRISTEN LOWITT
4th year FES student

In a new building with innovative programs and increased student services, Atkinson's School of Nursing has a lot of things to talk about these days. The School relocated last fall from the Atkinson Building to the newly refurbished Health, Nursing, and Environmental Studies (HNES) building (formerly the Administrative Studies building) in order to accommodate considerable growth in terms of students, faculty members and new programs. Now, in their new space, the School has been able to further enhance its student services, programs and facilities.

Like most professions, nursing is constantly increasing its use of technology and information sciences. In order to equip students with the latest tools and knowledge, the School has dramatically increased its laboratory and clinical education space. In the HNES building specifically, Atkinson Nursing students have access to a drop-in computer lab with twenty-five work stations and an audio visual training space and a lab with resources to complement the skills program in the School. Soon, there will also be a lab with special software for students with disabilities. These are in addition to another 110 workstations in the nearby TEL building. The School also has its own library containing texts, videos, and DVD's, as well as other resources, and has plans to expand its resource centre each year.

In addition to the new technology and skills labs available to Nursing students, the School

is also expanding its programming at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Atkinson's new online Masters of Science in Nursing (MScN) and a BScN program for internationally educated nurses are expanding the options for practicing and aspiring health care professionals. In fact, Mary Ferguson-Pare (Chief Nursing Officer of the University Health Network in Toronto) recently described the new MScN program as *"an outstanding contribution to the healthcare system"*. Similarly, the new program launched in March for internationally educated nurses (BScN IEN) is designed to build on the strengths that these nurses bring while preparing them for the specifics of practice in Ontario. As School of Nursing Director Lesley Beagrie notes, *"these programs represent the School's innovative approach to learning that both respond to the needs of the nursing profession as well as support Atkinson's mandate of flexible learning"*.

As graduates of Atkinson's program can attest to, the School of Nursing offers a unique approach to nursing education that goes well beyond the traditional model of health care. Today, with an expanded School, more students, unique and innovative programming and better student resources, the School of Nursing is poised to become a leader in Canada. If you are a graduate of the School of Nursing and would like to get involved or reconnected, contact alumni@atkinson.yorku.ca or call 416.736.5220.

RESPONDING TO CHANGING NEEDS *(continued from page front cover)*

commitment of the entire Atkinson community. As graduates, you are an important part of that community and so I invite you to get involved in your *alma mater*.

Throughout this edition of Encore you will find ways to stay connected including mentoring a current student, getting involved in the new Student-Alumni Relations Unit, volunteering for the new Encore editorial board, or coming back to class as a guest speaker. I encourage you to become an active member of the Atkinson community and help shape the future of your Faculty.



Nursing lab



PHILANTHROPIST'S CORNER

BY KAREN GORDON

"I always think it's a great thing to get students and donors together. It's important to continue the strength of Atkinson. It's just a wonderful thing to do."

Moira Bendehan

*Daughter of Harry Crowe –
Harry S. Crowe Essay Prize*

"The level of dedication I see among Atkinson students is excellent. This is the case primarily because many of these students have to balance work and life. I thank donors for recognizing academic achievement and for helping Atkinson students overcome their financial barriers."

Daraius Bharucha

*4th year BA, Religious Studies Student
Recipient of the
Harry S. Crowe Essay Prize*

Atkinson recently celebrated academic excellence at our 2004/5 Student Awards Event and added something new: donors or their families whose generosity created student scholarships and the Atkinson student recipients of those awards were brought together at an appreciation luncheon prior to the formal event ceremony. Naturally, there was a great buzz in the room. Patrons and award recipients got to know each other and share their stories; next of kin of deceased supporters got a glimpse of what inspired their mothers and fathers to contribute to Atkinson's students; and, current donors to Atkinson bursaries got a chance to meet grateful student recipients for the first time. If you are interested in creating a buzz of your own through a gift to Atkinson, please contact me at 416.650.8203 or kareng@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca.



Karen Gordon



New Student-Alumni Relations Unit

Supporting initiatives that help to enhance the student and alumni experience has always been a priority at Atkinson. So, the establishment of a new Unit dedicated to student and alumni relations was a natural step for the Faculty to undertake. The concept of a dedicated student-alumni unit began last year when members of the Dean's Office and Master's Office moved together in a newly renovated office space on the first floor of the Atkinson building. The physical move proved to be the catalyst to examine ways to deliver student and alumni services in an integrated way.

Over the past few months a working group has been busy developing the vision of the new Unit as well as a mission statement that will guide its programming. Last month, Atkinson students, graduates, faculty and staff as well as representatives from key University offices (such as career services and alumni affairs) met to identify specific priority programs and services that the new Unit will undertake. Many ideas and suggestions were identified including: support in the area of student leadership, expansion of the student-alumni mentorship program, and the development of an annual alumni speaker series.

While planning is ongoing, we invite you to get involved. Call 416.736.5220 or email cumana@yorku.ca.



Mentoring the leaders of tomorrow



Thanks to the effort of many Atkinson alumni, the second year of the Student-Alumni Mentorship Program was a wonderful success. Growing from its first year in 2003-2004, this year one hundred and thirty students and alumni participated!

The program featured some exciting new additions this year, including the launch of a mentorship e-newsletter designed to provide mentoring resources and share some of the participants' stories. An electronic check-in also allowed us to keep in closer touch with the participants and resulted in some valuable feedback that will help us to improve the program.

Atkinson graduate and member of the Mentorship Advisory Committee, Pam Asare-Quansah, thoroughly enjoyed her time in the program: *"It was a beneficial experience for me as I increased my capacity to appreciate differences and embrace diversity, made a meaningful connection to the York community, and gained a valuable friendship."* Student participant Mingdi Yan marvels at the benefits she has gained from the Mentorship program. *"My mentor inspires me as he is very active, positive, knowledgeable, and successful in the field that I hope to enter. He provided me with practical advice about my career plan and helped me in obtaining an internship position. As a result of my mentor's guidance, I feel more confident because he makes me believe in myself."*

Looking forward to the upcoming academic year, the goal is to double the number of Atkinson alumni who are involved so that every student who requests a mentor can be matched.

For as little as one hour a month, mentorship provides you with a meaningful way to stay connected to your alma mater, at the same time as helping current Atkinson students accomplish their goals, explore careers options, and connect with supportive Alumni. We hope you will become a mentor this fall!

UPCOMING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS

IF YOU AREN'T ALREADY INVOLVED, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS.

SESSIONS WILL BE HELD FROM 6-7 PM IN THE ATKINSON BUILDING ON JUNE 28TH, JULY 6TH, AND AUGUST 4TH.

HEAR MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM FROM PAST MENTORS AND MENTEES WHO WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES.

REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING SESSION BY VISITING www.atkinson.yorku.ca/Alumni/mentor/infoSession.htm OR BY CALLING 416.736.5220

RESEARCH STARS

Over the past two years, Atkinson has supported the expansion of the research taking place at the Faculty, and this effort has paid off! For example, since last year the number of grants funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has tripled. As noted by Steven Hermans (Faculty Research Officer), "since January 2005, Atkinson has seen more than one million dollars in new research funding announcements". The projects summarized below are just a sample of the innovative projects on-going at Atkinson. Visit <http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/Research/> to see a full listing of funded research projects.

You-Ta Chuang (School of Administrative Studies) received a SSHRC Standard Research Grant for his project entitled, *A Behavioural Learning Model of Knowledge Creation*. The primary goal of the project is to develop a behavioral learning model of knowledge creation drawing from theories of organizational learning and multi-market competition.

Jennifer Steele (Department of Psychology) has received a SSHRC Grant for her research, *Racial Stereotyping in Children: a Social Cognitive Approach*, which examines how minority and non-minority children make use of racial knowledge when forming impressions of others, and the relationship between children's explicit and implicit racial beliefs. By keeping parents, teachers, and other educators informed of the findings, this research will lay the foundation for identifying ways to counteract the obstacles that stereotyping and prejudice impose.

David McNab (School of Arts and Letters), has received a SSHRC Aboriginal Research Grant for a three-year project, *The Borders of Knowledge: An Analytical Study of the Intersection of Community-based Oral History and the Written Records Regarding the Life and Writings of William A. Elias (1856-1929)*. Community partners in this project include the Shawanaga First Nation and Walpole Island Heritage Centre.

Geoffrey Reaume (School of Health Policy and Management) was awarded a SSHRC Research Development Initiatives grant for his project *Canadian Disability History Archives Study Project* which proposes to establish a network of academics and disability activists who will work together to locate, catalogue, preserve and distribute information about the existence of primary source material on disability history in all five regions of Canada.

Diane Duff (School of Nursing) has successfully applied for a *Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)* grant to develop and evaluate Tele-homecare models – such as two-way video, voice and peripheral devices to measure and monitor the vital signs and health symptoms of the homebound and chronically ill – in order to determine what kinds of health services provide the best practices and outcomes for Canadians. For more on this project visit <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=4228>.



Selection of new publications by Atkinson professors.



Meet some of the 'Class of 2005'

EVERY JUNE, HUNDREDS OF ATKINSON STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SUCCESSES AS NEW GRADUATES. INDEED, CONVOCATION IS A WONDERFUL TIME ON CAMPUS AS MANY STUDENTS LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES. WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A FEW OF THESE OUTSTANDING SOON-TO-BE ATKINSON ALUMNI.



Daraius Bharucha

Daraius Bharucha (Bachelor of Arts, Social Sciences) always had the dream to study. Then, one day it occurred to him that he could follow his dream; so, after consulting with his wife and two children, Bharucha switched jobs from district sales manager at an industrial supplies corporation to a more flexible sales position, and signed up for evening courses in Religious Studies at Atkinson. Now 42, Bharucha recently won four Atkinson academic awards including a prestigious *Millennium Scholarship* that recognizes academic excellence, creative leadership and active citizenship in upper year students. Looking to the future, Bharucha has been accepted to York's Bachelor of Education program this September.



Joan Giberson

Joan Giberson (Bachelor of Health Studies) came to Atkinson in 2001 with a dream of pursuing a career in the field of Health Informatics. She has worked hard to make her academic goals come true and since 2002 has been on Atkinson's *Sessional Academic Achievement List*. Giberson wanted to take an active role and frequently participates in the School of Health Policy and Management Student's Association meetings. After graduating this summer, she plans to work in the health informatics field in either the public or private sector, ideally in a hospital setting or with a health care consulting firm.



Andrew Sutherland

Sandra Rouleau (Bachelor of Arts, Psychology) began her studies at Atkinson in 1996 while also working full time. Rouleau has received several continuing student scholarships, and recently won the 2004/2005 *Major Program Scholarship in Psychology*. She believes that she has received a first class education at Atkinson and is looking forward to applying for graduate studies this upcoming fall. Rouleau is also currently looking at various volunteering opportunities where she can utilize her knowledge and expertise to make a positive difference.

Andrew Sutherland (Bachelor of Administrative Studies, Accounting) came to Atkinson from Nova Scotia in 2001 on a full four-year Presidential Scholarship. With a 97.3 high school grade point average, Sutherland was destined for success. In addition to maintaining top academic marks (summa cum laude) and contributing two chapters to business texts currently used in the School of Administrative Studies, Sutherland has also run a successful part-time business to pay for his studies and employ other students. He has also been Captain of the York University Men's Varsity Track Team, and was just named the 2005 Most Valuable Player of the Men's Varsity Cross Country Team. After graduation this summer, Sutherland plans to pursue an MBA in the U.S., and is currently being courted by several American ivy-league schools.



Hsin-Yi Yang

Hsin-Yi Yang (Bachelor of Social Work) looked at various Social Work programs before deciding to come to Atkinson. She chose Atkinson because it recognized her previous education and the flexibility of the program. Yang has maintained top grades while also finding the time to work and volunteer. This past year, she completed her practicum at the Correctional Institute in Brampton and enjoyed it so much that she may pursue a career in the correctional system, along with plans to begin graduate studies in Social Work this September.

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

BY ANDREW SUTHERLAND
4th year BAS student

February 13th marked the annual student awards' celebration of the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies. Award recipients and their families were united with donors and university faculty in a unique format that ignited an energy surrounding student achievement and diversity at Atkinson.

"A lot of the students here today lead complicated lives," said Lorna R. Marsden, president and vice-chancellor of York University. "They have families and they work full time and it makes their achievements all the more impressive."

With students pursuing independent research, running volunteer organizations, and being

involved in student life at York, it is crucial for them to be able to fund their education without having sacrifice extra-curricular involvement. Donors were impressed not only by the academic successes of their benefactors, but the students' impact on the campus and local communities.

Mature student and multiple award winner Daraius Bharucha works full time, volunteers at a local church, and raises a family. As he so eloquently put it, "many of these students have to balance work and student life, but if you have a passion for what you are doing, you can't help but do well". Visit <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=4245> for the full story and pictures.



York President and Vice-Chancellor Lorna R. Marsden, award donor Moira Bendeham, and award recipient Daraius Barucha.



Celebrating Academic Success event



Celebrating Academic Success event

ENCORE NEEDS YOU

ATKINSON IS LOOKING FOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS
TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ENCORE.

IF YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS A MONTH
TO SPARE AND WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN
WRITING, EDITING OR PHOTOGRAPHY,
CONTACT US AT 416.736.5220 TO FIND OUT MORE...

FACULTY NEWS:



Celebrating Research and Scholarship



Ayla Rodney-Simarda



From left, Atkinson Accounting Club team members Marzena Brzyszc and Michael Bot with Ramin Rezaeinia, club president, and Maziar Babazadeh, club vice-president, information technology



Nathaniel Dett Chorale

Celebrating **research and scholarly** achievements is a priority at Atkinson and has now become an annual event. On February 2nd, Atkinson professors were honoured for recent research funding grants, publications and related scholarly activities. Atkinson Dean Rhonda Lenton applauded the impressive volume and variety of research activity at Atkinson, represented by the more than 40 books and 125 articles published by Atkinson faculty that were on display. For the full article visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=4012>.

York University's Idol Contest which like its television namesake is decided by audience poll, crowned **Ayla Rodney-Simarda**, first-year student in Atkinson's Creative Arts and Cultural Expression Program, at the January 26th contest. As well as claiming the top prize, Rodney-Simarda also represented York in the provincial finals at the University of Western Ontario. Go to <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=3974> for more details.

Members of **Atkinson Accounting Club** took on the best of the big business schools and finished in the money at a competition held January 15th in Toronto by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. The team of Atkinson Accounting students competed against 24 teams from 17 Ontario universities in a branding campaign case study. The Atkinson team tied fourth and placing ahead of multiple contenders from York's Schulich School of Business and the University of Toronto, as well as teams from Western, Laurier and Windsor. Visit <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=3933> for the full story.

In commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day, Atkinson organized a special concert on January 17th. Made possible by the Kitty Lundy Memorial Fund, the free concert featured the **Nathaniel Dett Chorale** performing a selection of Afrocentric music. In addition to York community members, several local elementary schools brought their students to the special event. Read more about the event at <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=3866>.

ALL ATKINSON ALUMNI ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** OF THE ATKINSON FACULTY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH 10:30AM – 2PM IN THE HARRY LEITH ROOM (004 ATKINSON BUILDING). COME OUT AND RECONNECT WITH FORMER CLASSMATES, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND GET INVOLVED IN YOUR ALMA MATER. VISIT <http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/~alumni/> FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

HAPPENINGS AT ATKINSON

Atkinson alumni came back to campus as part of this year's **March Break event**. Each year, York hosts a day of events and activities to show off the campus and its programs to prospective students. This year, Atkinson alumni participated in a panel discussion called *Following Your Passion* during which they talked about how their education helped them reach their professional and life goals. If you are interested in participating in similar events, call 416.736.5727.

On January 27th, the Atkinson Faculty Alumni Association (AFAA) hosted its '**Annual Teaching Award Celebration**' to honour **Professor John Unrau**. The intimate arrangement of the venue augmented Professor Unrau's presentation, which consisted of poems written by him in addition to some of his favourite poems written by other authors. The AFAA will soon be hosting events to celebrate the achievements of Professor Claudio and Professor Gail Vanstone, both of whom are also recent Teaching Award recipients.

This past March, Atkinson tax students participated in **tax clinics** to assist some of the most vulnerable members of our society to prepare their personal tax returns. The Institute for Chartered Accountants of Ontario sponsors this annual competition to see which university volunteers the most time to their tax clinics. Atkinson Associate Dean Joanne Magee, a chartered accountant and professor in the School of Administrative Studies, is happy to be involved in the students' endeavours by assisting in their training and supervision. As she says, "we should use our skills to help others, and this is a wonderful mentoring opportunity for our students as well as promoting Atkinson's experiential education initiative".

More than one hundred students, alumni, faculty and staff, and special guests packed the Harry Crowe room on March 1st to hear a stimulating talk by **Dr. Margaret MacMillan**, Provost of Trinity College at the University of Toronto. In her presentation entitled, *Does History Have Lessons for the Present?*, Dr. MacMillan analyzed the connections

between the Paris Peace talks of 1919 and the contemporary issues of ethnic nationalism, wars affecting the Kurds, Iraq, Bosnia and Afghanistan, and the lessons of history. Dr. MacMillan's lecture was part of Atkinson's annual *Distinguished Lecture Series*.

This spring, Atkinson's School of Nursing hosted the first '**Women's Health Photo Exhibit**'. Drawing on the power of aesthetic ways of knowing, students explored women's health through photographic representations of issues facing women. Through the use of black and white photography, Atkinson's nursing students were able to illuminate many of the juxtapositions in women's lives by thinking metaphorically and thus achieving scholarship in a non-written way. 'Two Stumps', for example, represents the destruction and loss of self experienced by women and their children living with domestic violence.

After many years of service as dedicated educators and researchers, the following Atkinson professors will be retiring this summer: **Claudio Duran**, **Stephen Longstaff**, and **George Martell** (School of Social Sciences); and, **Ray W. Ellenwood** and **Deborah Heller** (School of Arts and Letters).

The Atkinson Faculty Alumni Association **2004 Teaching Award** has been given to **Professor Gail Vanstone** of the School of Arts and Letters. Professor Vanstone was selected by Atkinson students and alumni.

Students in Atkinson's new **Internationally Educated Nurses Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN, IEN)** recently had the chance to thank Minister Mary Anne Chambers for her Ministry's financial support of the program at the recent RAO annual general meeting luncheon. Atkinson's School of Nursing bused 32 of the IEN students to the event which was a great professional development opportunity. The IEN is a special project funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and aims to support the transition of internationally educated nurses into the Canadian labour market.



John Unrau



Margaret MacMillan



Two Stumps, Betty Mitchell



Associate Dean Michie presents award plaque to Professor Vanstone

ALUMNI PROFILES

BY KRISTEN LOWITT

A natural fit

JOHN BRAY



Pat Coletta

For **John Bray** (1972, English), life doesn't get much better. While I spoke to him in February the cold reaches of Canada, he was in shorts and a golf shirt enjoying Florida's sunny ocean view.

Bray has worked hard to get to where he is today – and I'm not just referring to his Florida vacation. Originally a teacher for 13 years in addition to serving as an independent consultant for publishers which included work in Africa and Mozambique, Bray decided that it was time to continue his studies at Atkinson.

Bray says Atkinson was a *"natural fit,"* allowing him to complete his degree during the evenings and summers. Out of school for many years before coming to Atkinson, Bray admits to being stunned when he got an A in his first English class! Encouraged by this success, he expanded his English program by taking a minor in Humanities. After graduating from Atkinson in 1972, he continued to study and earned a Master's of Education from the University of Toronto in 1987.

Looking back upon his time at Atkinson, he recalls the diverse student population and the interesting people with the incredible stories they brought to class. As he says, being an Atkinson student was a *"fascinating experience."* Today, Bray is the CEO and manager of his own educational resources publishing company which, he notes, gives him great satisfaction as he brings new books to fruition and publication. Former classmates can get in touch with Bray at **705.721.9058**.

Following a dream

PAT COLETTA

Pat Coletta (2000, Computer Science) always wanted to go back to school, but didn't know how to make it a reality... until she discovered Atkinson's flexible classes for mature students.

Coletta's journey with higher education began when she was laid off from her full-time sales position in 1992. Determined to avoid such financial insecurity in the future, she decided to return to school and learn about the computer industry. Discouraged at first because she hadn't completed the required high school math credits to be admitted in various computer science programs, she was thrilled when she learned about Atkinson's mature student status. Excited by this opportunity, Coletta moved to a less expensive apartment with her husband to reduce expenses, enrolled in a pre-university course and, as she says, *"never looked back."* Today, Coletta is the Global Services Asset Coordinator for IBM, a position that she has held for the past five years.

Looking back on her Atkinson days, Coletta recalls the incredible support that she received from the Atkinson community during her time here and through various challenges, including an encounter with cancer. *"I always felt I had full support"* she says fondly. In fact, she still keeps in touch with some of her former study group classmates.

In addition to her fulfilling and exciting career with IBM, Coletta volunteers for children's programs at a local library, and has been on the Board of Directors of Ovarian Cancer Canada. What's her advice to students today? Follow your heart and don't let go of your dreams, and remember that *"each new challenge presents an opportunity for growth. It's not easy... but well worth it"*. Former classmates can get in touch with Coletta at **prcoletta@direcway.com**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PROFILED IN AN UPCOMING EDITION OF ENCORE, CONTACT US AT encore@atkinson.yorku.ca OR BY CALLING 416.736.5727 OR 416.736.5220. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

Life in the fast lane

CHERLY MARR

She has lived in Los Angeles, gone to school in Buffalo, and worked with the Academy of Television in Hollywood, but **Cherly Marr** (2000, Liberal Studies) returned to York to give back to the community that offered her so much.

Marr came to Atkinson in 1998 after having completed an Associated Degree in TV/Film production at the Los Angeles City College. While in LA, Marr worked for ABC television as well as various film production companies. Wanting to further her studies, she chose Atkinson because of the “friendly environment”, adding that “there was a feeling of being valued as a person... it is that sense that is unique to Atkinson.”

After graduating from Atkinson, Marr completed a Master’s of Arts in ‘Humanities in Media and Culture’ at the University of Buffalo, but came back to work at York citing that her “experience at Atkinson was so wonderful that it brought me back here.”

Does she intend to return to a career in tv/film in the future? Marr acknowledges that she considers working on contracts for the entertainment industry in the public relations field, but for now, she is happy working at York where “she feels at home and can give back to the community”. Looking to the future, Marr is now thinking about pursuing a PhD at York, or maybe a degree in law. Former classmates can get in touch with Marr at cmarr@yorku.ca

Working for change

AMBER KELLEN

With a strong desire to work with people and affect positive change, **Amber Kellen** was the perfect candidate to receive a Bachelor in Social Work in 1999. First graduating with a

BA from York in psychology, social work was a practical way for her to put her psychology training into practice and address some of the issues with which she was already involved.

Kellen chose to study at Atkinson because she was already a York graduate and was attracted by the anti-oppression focus of the program. As she was working at the time, Atkinson offered her the flexibility necessary to complete her studies.

Today, she is the Public Education and Advocacy Worker for the John Howard Society of Toronto, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals currently, previously or at risk of becoming in conflict with the law. She has worked there full-time since 1999 where she is primarily involved in researching, developing and delivering public education workshops about the connection between incarceration and homelessness to professionals in the social work sector and university and college students.

Kellen says she practices what she learned from Atkinson every day, and cites the Faculty for providing her with the deep theoretical base deep which “assisted me in developing my own personal philosophies that guide my social justice work each day.” Kellen was selected by the Dean to be valedictorian and had the highest grade point average in her graduating class of over 900 students.

While working at the John Howard Society of Toronto, she is also conducting research with the University of Toronto Centre for Urban and Community Studies with the support of the Society. After spending five years trying to acquire funding and a research partnership, she is now involved in exploratory research never done before in Canada about the connection between homelessness and the criminal justice system. In the future, Kellen would like to pursue a Master’s degree. Fellow classmates can get in touch with Kellen at akellen@johnhowardtor.on.ca



Cherly Marr



Amber Kellen

ENCORE

SPRING/SUMMER 2005
VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1

The Atkinson *encore* Alumni newsletter is published by the Office of the Dean

PUBLISHING DATES

Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter

DISTRIBUTION

The Atkinson *encore* is published bi-annually by the Office of the Dean. Copies are mailed to all Atkinson alumni, and distributed to Atkinson friends and associates, members of York's Board of Governors, and senior University administrators.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the *encore* are welcome and can be submitted as per below.

CONTACT

Telephone 416.736.5220

Fax 416.736.5750

Email alumni@atkinson.yorku.ca

Web www.atkinson.yorku.ca/alumni

Address Office of Dean,
Atkinson Faculty of Liberal
and Professional Studies
4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario
M3J 1P3

EDITOR

Carole Umana

cumana@yorku.ca

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Peter Babiak
Franz Bransch
Diana Cooper-Clark
Karen Gordon
Steven Hermans
Rhonda Lenton
Kristen Lowitt
Andrew Sutherland
Carole Umaña
Cheryl Van Daalen

upcoming EVENTS at Atkinson

For a complete list of events,
visit www.atkinson.yorku.ca

PLEASE NOTE ENCORE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT
BASED ON SPACE RESTRICTIONS AND/OR SUITABILITY,
OR TO REFUSE SUBMITTED MATERIAL FOR INCLUSION,
WITHOUT REASON.

Class Notes

2004

Sherri-Lyn Irwin (BScN) is currently working at Southlake Regional hospital as a Registered Nurse on the post partum and pediatric floors. She is hoping to explore teaching in the near future.

2003

Alice Fok (BAS, Accounting) is a Property Accountant with First Capital Brookfield.

2002

Franz Bransch (BAS, Marketing) is currently working at the Atkinson Office of the Dean as the Faculty Liaison Assistant. Franz has volunteered his time for various organizations and looks forward to volunteering as a mentor in Atkinson's Student Alumni Mentorship Program.

Hasan Zia (BAS) is a Business Analyst for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC).

Elsa Lee (BA, Political Science) presently works as a Network Specialist with Rogers Wireless.

1992

Elizabeth Pilgrim (BA, English) is a technical writer in the software industry.

1989

Stephen M. Rowan (BA, Political Science) is a Pastor at the Grace Bible Church in Apsley, Ontario.

1986

Joyce Agbaru (BA, Political Science) went on to obtain her PhD in Government and Diplomacy at Berne University in the U.S. in 2000. She is currently a teacher at the Toronto District School Board.

1982

Diane Stadnicki (BA, Liberal Studies) is the Assistant to the Master of Atkinson. Diane enjoys working at York, particularly with students, faculty, alumni and community partners and volunteers her time on various pan-university campaigns such as the United Way.

To be included in an upcoming Class Notes, send your details to encore@atkinson.yorku.ca or call 416.736.5220

Visit us at www.atkinson.yorku.ca/alumni