

eN C O R E

ATKINSON

FACULTY OF LIBERAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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Dean Rhonda Lenton

The Importance of Community

Since becoming the Dean of the Atkinson Faculty, I've had the pleasure of meeting many interesting and committed alumni who have shared with me their fond memories of studying at Atkinson. Quite a few came to Atkinson as mature students – balancing the multiple demands of work, family and studies – while others came directly out of high school. Despite the incredible diversity of backgrounds and experiences, I have come to realize that our alumni share one exceptional quality: a commitment to the Atkinson community.

During this past year members of the Atkinson alumni community have been involved in several key initiatives including the new and highly successful student-alumni mentorship program and the Atkinson Faculty Alumni Association (AFAA). Alumni volunteers have also been involved in several key activities including the student award night, March Break, and other student events.

This edition of *Encore* highlights several concrete and significant ways that you can stay connected to your *alma mater*. On May 15th, I urge you to attend the annual general meeting of the Atkinson Alumni Association where you can reconnect with former classmates, vote for the AFAA executive, and help shape your alumni programming. I will be hosting a lunch during the event, and hope to see you there.

If connecting with current students is an idea that excites you, I invite you to attend an upcoming information session about the student-alumni mentorship program. We have several sessions planned throughout the spring, so come out and hear how you can share your experience and knowledge with a deserving Atkinson student.

As an Atkinson graduate, you are a critical member of an exciting and vibrant community of educators, students and alumni. I hope that Atkinson will continue to benefit through your valuable contributions to your *alma mater*.



CELEBRATING AND MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

BY TANZA OLYFVELDT

Last fall, readers of *Encore* were invited to nominate two Atkinson alumni for the new Atkinson Alumni Award of Distinction and Rising Star Award. These two awards were established in 2003 to recognize the outstanding contributions made by Atkinson alumni to their communities and professions. Thanks to the many alumni who sent in nominations; it was wonderful to hear about the interesting things that many Atkinson alumni have done since graduating. We are pleased to present to you the winners of the 2003 Atkinson Faculty Alumni Awards.



Jennifer Corriero

Many people dream of making a difference in the world. **Jennifer Corriero** (BA, 2003) has shown a determination to transform that hope into reality. A recent graduate of the Atkinson Faculty, Corriero is the first recipient of the *Atkinson's Rising Star Alumni award*.

As co-founder of the non-profit organization, *Taking IT Global (TIG)*, Corriero exemplifies both academic and professional excellence while standing as a shining example of a leader in the community. Along with fellow student Michael Furdyk, Corriero created *TIG* with the aim of helping youth around the world participate in local and global projects. Central to *TIG's* operation is its 30,000-page website which offers information on socially and environmentally responsible groups, scholarships and events. Particularly attractive to young people from around the world is the site's offer as a place where they may express themselves creatively through stories, photos, poetry and philosophy.

The heights to which this young 23-year old executive director has reached have been recognized by numerous international organizations. She has been acclaimed as one of Canada's future leaders by TIME magazine while being equally lauded by the World Economic Forum which named her as a Global Leader for Tomorrow.

When not traveling around the world, Corriero is kept busy pursuing a master's in environmental studies at York, along with her other voluntary endeavors. Keep your eye on this Rising Star!

The Atkinson community is proud of its diverse ethnic, cultural and academic student body. As an Atkinson alumnus, **Leonard Lombardi** (BA, 1983) has extended this multicultural university experience into a way of life.

As President of CHIN Radio/TV International, Lombardi has demonstrated outstanding professional leadership by using radio and television to celebrate the ethnic diversity of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Through diverse programming which celebrates our community, Lombardi has contributed to a greater understanding of and appreciation for our diverse city.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Lombardi has made valuable and recognized contributions to a number of community causes and events, such as the Hospital for Sick Children, the Columbus Centre, Toronto Exhibition Place, to name a few. As a volunteer, Lombardi has freely shared his expertise and experience with many GTA charities, and most recently joined Atkinson's new Dean's Advisory Board.

The Atkinson Alumni Award of Distinction is reserved for an alumnus who has demonstrated extraordinary career leadership and community contributions. Leonard Lombardi very much embodies these characteristics. Thus, we are proud to present him with the **2003 Alumni Award of Distinction**.

DO YOU KNOW AN ATKINSON ALUMNUS WHO DESERVES TO BE RECOGNIZED?

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED FOR THE 2004 ALUMNI AWARD OF DISTINCTION AND THE RISING STAR AWARD. VISIT www.atkinson.yorku.ca/Alumni TO COMPLETE AN ON-LINE NOMINATION FORM.

EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

Congratulations to Professor **Claudio Duran** of the School of Social Sciences for winning the 2003 Atkinson Alumni Teaching Award! Before coming to Atkinson – where he has taught since 1976 – Duran was the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Education at the Universidad de Santiago in his native Chile. As a philosopher, Professor Duran has taught in several areas including Atkinson’s social science, philosophy, communications and modes of reasoning programs. During the presentation of his award, Duran noted that *“Atkinson students have profoundly contributed to my development as a teacher; I owe them my life as a teacher.”*

The School of Social Sciences is pleased to announce that Atkinson Sociology professor **Livy Visano** is the recipient of the 2003 Faculty of Graduate Studies Teaching Award. Professor Visano is well-known for his commitment to teaching, research and service in a variety of specializations including law, culture, and inequality with a focus on critical criminology, legal studies, cultural studies, youth and ethnographies. He is currently coordinating the Sociology program at Atkinson. As noted by Atkinson’s Dean Lenton, *“it is wonderful that the University has seen fit to bestow this honour upon him.”*



York President and Vice-Chancellor Lorna R. Marsden with Professor Claudio Duran

THE POWER OF THE JUDICIARY EXAMINED

BY COLEMAN ROMALIS

On the evening of Thursday, February 26th Supreme Court Justice Ian Binnie addressed a rapt audience on a topic in the forefront of Canadian public discussion: “Have the Judges Pushed the Charter Beyond Its Intended Limits?” Almost daily, media and political comment have been asking whether the judiciary has arrogated to itself powers which more properly belong to elected political bodies, and Justice Binnie provided a searching background to the impact of the Canadian Charter on the political process. It was clear from the question and answer period, which ranged over matters as diverse as the “notwithstanding clause” and the docket for Native Land Claims issues, as well as from private conversations during the reception following Justice Binnie’s lecture, that the audience was tremendously impressed by how thoughtful, clear, and impressive the presentation had been.

For the past 16 years, the Kitty Lundy Memorial Fund, with support from the Atkinson Dean’s Office, has sponsored a wide-ranging series of lectures and events that enrich academic and cultural life on the York Campus. All events are free and open to the public, and alumni are especially encouraged to attend.



Dean Rhonda Lenton, Justice Ian Binnie, York President Lorna R. Marsden, and Professor Coleman Romalis at the event reception.



Karen Gordon



PHILANTHROPIST'S CORNER

BY KAREN GORDON

Atkinson's Annual Fund Appeal

Question: What do you get when you combine an internationally famous author (nine books of poetry and prose, nine books of translations and nearly 200 articles) with the experience of teaching 25,000 Atkinson students?

Answer: The most delicious Annual Fund letter we've ever seen. Barry Callaghan, professor emeritus, managed to capture all that makes Atkinson special, and with language and phrasing that has been appreciated at Atkinson for the last 25 years.

Barry's words apparently resonated with you too. The number of donations to Atkinson increased by 100%, and the dollars raised increased by 46%. This show of support means so much to Atkinson students, faculty and staff. Thank you from all of us.

Interested in participating in the Annual Fund? Please contact Sally Principio-Yong at 416.650.8169 or sallyp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ALL ALUMNI ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE ATKINSON FACULTY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON:

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH 10:30 AM - 2PM
YORK UNIVERSITY KEELE CAMPUS

(lunch to be hosted by the Atkinson Dean)

Elections will take place for the positions of President,
1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer,
as well as numerous Council positions.

Get involved with the Atkinson Faculty Alumni Association
and reconnect with former classmates, make new friends,
and get involved with your *alma mater!*

VISIT <http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/~alumni/>
FOR DETAILS, ELECTION NOMINATION FORMS,
AND TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE.

SPECIAL ALUMNI AWARD

Every year the Atkinson Faculty Alumni Association presents the Barry Tenhouse Alumni Award to an individual who has made a special contribution to the life of the Faculty. The Association is pleased to announce that the 2003 award has been given to **Hyacinth Owen** (BSc 1992 & BA 2003) in recognition of many years of service and commitment to the Faculty. In addition to serving as a long standing alumni volunteer, Owen has actively promoted and supported student financial aid opportunities: in fact, Owen even donated her \$500 prize award to a needy student. Congratulations on this deserved recognition!



Hyacinth Owen

ATKINSON RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

FOR A FULL OVERVIEW OF THE EXCITING RESEARCH TAKING PLACE AT ATKINSON VISIT <http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/Research/>. BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF SOME RECENT PROJECTS:

Professor **Barbara Cameron** of the **School of Social Sciences** is a collaborator in a recently announced five-year, \$1,000,000 Community-University Research Alliance project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. As the project coordinator of the Political Accountability Stream of the Social Rights Accountability Project, Cameron will be researching the implications for social rights of the emergence over the past decade of a new regime of federalism in Canada characterized by a web of intergovernmental agreements. Specifically, she will examine agreements that provide for the creation of new institutions and procedures to govern a significantly enlarged space of executive federalism. In this research, Cameron will be working closely with the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada among others.



Barbara Cameron

Professor **Michael Herren**, who teaches Classical Studies and the Humanities in **Atkinson's School of Arts and Letters**, was recently awarded the 2003 Konrad Adenauer Research Award. The award is given annually to a highly qualified Canadian scholar whose research work in the humanities or in the social sciences has earned international recognition and who is among the group of leading scholars in his or her respective area of specialization. Through this award, Professor Herren is invited to carry out a research project of his choice in Germany, in cooperation with German colleagues specializing in the same areas, for a period of up to one year. For more information about this prestigious award and Professor Herren's work, visit <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=2195>.



Michael Herren

A movement to establish a worldwide monitoring system to track discrimination toward people with disabilities is being co-directed by **Marcia Rioux**, director of Atkinson's **School of Health Policy and Management** and director of the University's new graduate program in critical disabilities. With funding from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), the group has completed a preliminary report, which concludes that the rights of people with disabilities are neither adequately monitored nor enforced. To read more about this project or the School, visit www.atkinson.yorku.ca/SHPM/.



Marcia Rioux

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MENTORING



Thanks to the support of many Atkinson alumni, the first year of the new Student-Alumni Mentorship Program has been a great success. Established last fall, the program provides alumni with a concrete and meaningful way to stay connected by helping current Atkinson students *explore* career options, *connect* with experienced and supportive alumni, and get closer to *accomplishing* their goals.

By all accounts, Atkinson's new Mentorship program has definitely fulfilled its goals. Jennifer Li, a Bachelor of Administrative Studies student specializing in Accounting, recalls her initial expectations when hearing about the program last fall. She notes, "*from the get-go, I hoped to gain knowledge about the business administration field such as how to get a job and how the industry works.*" What she actually received from her mentor surpassed her expectations. Li adds "*I gained a new friend who treated me like an equal, not like a teacher and student.*" Through her mentor, Li has learned about the functioning of the Canadian government, how to touch up her resume and, most importantly, about the social aspect of business.

Yan Liu, an Information Technology student who aspires to run her own business in the future, has been similarly influenced. Although her mentorship relationship has only just started, she and her mentor, Anna Segal, have already established a great friendship. Lui is greatly impressed, noting that, "*the first meeting with Anna was extraordinary. She is a nice person with a lot of experience and I can see this is the first step of a fruitful friendship.*"

Both of these student mentees marvel at the insights that the mentorship program has offered them. While Lui looks forward to the networking and other opportunities awaiting her, Li is excited at the changes she has already

made thanks to her new-found knowledge. "*I have already picked courses for next year that will help me to achieve my C.A. prerequisites, and earn my BAS degree. If it weren't for my mentor, I wouldn't have even considered looking at the C.A. list of courses!*"

Getting involved in the Mentorship program has also been a wonderful experience for mentors. Alumnus and volunteer mentor Susan Atkinson remembers the first meeting with her student mentee last fall. Atkinson, who was a mature student and grandmother when she attended York, lives in the southwest area of Toronto. Her student mentee is 20-years old and a business student who lives in the northeast area. Atkinson jokes, "*we agreed that we did have one thing in common – we lived in the same city.*"

At the onset, this mentor intended to share her experiences as an Atkinson student and help others realize that being a student is a difficult but obtainable goal. She has gained much more; an enriching friendship, an opportunity to stay connected with her *alma mater* and, a rewarding experience both socially and academically.

"*This first year has been very exciting*", notes program organizer Carole Umana, adding that, "*while the vast majority of the initial matches were based on common professional interests, some students benefited from mentors not directly involved in their professions.*"

Looking forward to this coming fall and year two of the program, our goal is to double the number of volunteer mentors so that we can match all students who request a mentor.



Images of Atkinson alumni mentors meeting their student mentees at the Mentorship Program launch last October.

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

GET INVOLVED THIS FALL!

This fall consider giving one hour per month to a deserving Atkinson students.
Plan to attend an upcoming information session on

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2004 6-7PM OR
TUESDAY, JUNE 15TH 6-7 PM
(HARRY LEITH ROOM 004 ATKINSON BUILDING)

to meet current Atkinson mentors and students,
and learn more about the program.

SEATING IS LIMITED SO REGISTER TODAY
BY CALLING 416.736.5220 OR ON-LINE AT
<http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/Alumni/mentor/infoSession.htm>

FEEDBACK FROM ALUMNI MENTORS AND STUDENTS

"I feel more a part of our Atkinson community now that I have a mentor friend whom I can contact for suggestion and encouragement."

"My mentor has put me in touch with a career counselor friend of his, who has in turn helped me with interview skills, as well as how to effectively set up my resume. It has been great to have someone that has gone through the same as me, with more experience, to confer with on job related issues."

"My student mentee got the opportunity to discuss his goals and objectives and we have worked out a plan to achieve them. He finds the mentorship program really valuable: he can discuss and resolve difficulties and get experienced advice."

"My mentor has addressed my main goals and answered many questions pertaining to my field of study. He has helped me understand the current workforce and environment so that I may set future goals based upon knowledge of developing trends. I have a much more complete understanding of how to put my skills to use and the options that are open to me. Thanks!"



ALUMNI PROFILES

BY TANZA OLYFVELDT

Polished, Refined and Always Surprising: David Peck

Imagine being able to capture people's attention by making things disappear. Combine that talent with a knack for poetry writing and a skill at working with electricity while managing and building business relationships. Add to the mix a philosophical mind and you would undoubtedly be a very unique individual.

Amazingly, David Peck has all of these qualities. With twelve years working as an electrician in construction, and six years in sales and relationship management at a large Toronto electrical firm, Peck has amassed experiences that range from working with clients such as RBC Financial Group and Bell Canada to working as a professional sleight of hand magician.

With such a busy schedule, Peck found Atkinson to be the perfect place to complete his Honours BA in Philosophy. The location, mature program and great reputation made Atkinson a top choice. He hardly regretted this decision and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to grow academically while retaining the freedom to pursue what he loved. Atkinson proved to be an open structured environment with a smart, warm, accessible and very friendly faculty.

Now living in Oakville with his wife, Elizabeth, Peck is completing his Master of Arts in Philosophy at the University of Guelph. He plans to continue on to a PhD with the goal, he jokingly says, of *"teaching and writing articles that no one reads."* In his spare time, he continues to express his creative mind as both a poet and a freelance writer while still pursuing his talents as a magician. Most recently, Peck has volunteered on the Advisory Committee of the new student-alumni mentorship program.

Peck's website, www.dpeck.com, describes his work as *Polished, Refined and Always Surprising*. His personality certainly demonstrates all of these traits!

Pursuing a Dream to Africa: Mourato Silva

Alberto Mourato Silva (BA, 1992) is a prime example of how Atkinson helps students reach their goals. Arriving in Canada in 1983 from his beloved Mozambique, Silva found York's Atkinson to be the perfect place to achieve his dreams.

With both a career and family, Silva could not attend university as a full-time student. Thus, Atkinson was the perfect solution. It could have been very difficult to manage his numerous obligations. However, he recalls, *"my enthusiasm, the enriching knowledge, interesting people and the entire academic and intellectual environment, made it all worthwhile."*

Pursuing his passion for Sociology, he took courses throughout the year and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of being a student again. With Mozambique forever lurking in his mind, Silva was able to steer his course choice towards subjects that covered international development with particular emphasis on Africa.

The years spent at Atkinson obtaining his BA and, later Master's of Arts degree in Sociology (1993), provided Silva with benefits well beyond academic knowledge, including a position as associate researcher at York's Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS).

Now working for the Canadian International Development Agency's Program Support Unit at its Maputo office in Mozambique, Silva marvels at his experiences. *"When I started at Atkinson, I had no idea that twenty years later, I would be benefiting tremendously from my Sociology training,"* he notes. Today, literally thousands of miles from the campus, he reminisces on his time spent in Canada and happily says, *"I am a proud York alumnus and whenever I visit Toronto and the York campus and see its incredible growth, I feel so proud!"*

Fellow classmates can reach Alberto Mourato Silva at alberto@cida-psu.com.



David Peck

ATKINSON RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

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The following Atkinson researchers were recently awarded Discovery Grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Professor **Stephen Chen** of the **School of Analytic Studies and Information Technology** research project, entitled *Seeking Commonality in Heuristic Search*, explores the role of commonality preservation in heuristic search techniques. Heuristic search techniques are systematic methods to explore a large set of possible solutions that best achieve an objective. Think, for example, of the problem of arranging the seating of guests at a wedding reception; there are many possible solutions, but it's difficult to find one that the couple can agree on. Exploring the role of commonality preservation in heuristic search techniques – i.e., how a search technique keeps the solution components that are common to “good” solutions – may lead to new ideas on how to improve all of them.

Professor **Xiangji (Jimmy) Huang** of the **School of Analytic Studies and Information Technology** project, *Personalizing Web Search Using Data Mining Techniques*, explores ways of making web searches more responsive to the individual needs of each user or group of users. The long-term objective of Professor Huang's research is to overcome the limitations of existing information retrieval methods and formally develop a new probabilistic retrieval framework that integrates the search context of a query and the user's information needs. In the short-term, the research will focus on developing a user interest model that outputs the information needs of a user or a group of users.

Professor **Mustafa Karakul** of **Atkinson's School of Administrative Studies** research project entitled, *E-Commerce Revenue Management: Realistic and Practical Models for Multiple Products*, aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of e-commerce operations by integrating different features of multiple product revenue management (e.g., pricing, production, inventory, product substitutability and complementarity) and investigates the effects of these improvements on the profitability of the supply chain. His research is a continuation of his previous work done on the integration of pricing, production and sales decisions of a single product.



Stephen Chen



CLASS NOTES

2003

Lucie Robillard (BAS) is working as a collection manager with Royal LePage in Toronto.

2002

Jill Andrew (BA, Liberal Studies/Sociology) is in the process of writing a book entitled *Phat Girls In Search of a Pretty World* in which she explores issues of size discrimination in employment, as well as the medical and fashion industries. Former classmates can contact her at phatgirlsauthor@hotmail.com.

Zubair Shamsi (BAS, Accounting) is currently working as a Senior Accountant at ReserveAmerica in Toronto. Shamsi continues to stay connected with Atkinson, and recently participated in a panel session of alumni as part of York's March Break 2004 activities.

Karen Hung (BAS, Accounting) graduated with a specialization in accounting, and is employed as a Staff Accountant/Analyst at KPMG in Toronto. Hung was recently featured in an article entitled *'The Changing Face of Accounting'* found in the 2003-04 *Career Insider-Accounting* magazine.

2001

Omer Naqi (BAS, General Management) recently commented on the value of his Atkinson education, noting that, "I was an intern at Merrill Lynch in Toronto, even before I graduated. A couple of weeks after graduation, I got a job as a Project Analyst with a Dutch Bank: ABN AMRO and am currently working for their Latin America Group based in Miami." Naqi is currently attending the University of Miami as a part-time student in the Executive MBA (International Business) program.

Janet Thorning (BA, Political Science) attributes her success to Atkinson. After enrolling in her first bridging course that introduced her to the "wonderful world of writing", she went on to complete her BA. Since graduating, Thorning's work has been published in *Write Away Magazine* and *Collective Insanity*. Thorning adds, "thank you to Atkinson to professors Barbara Cameron and Michael Michie for always keeping me on my writing toes."

1997

Kenneth Boulter (BAS, Accounting) has dedicated the past 16 years to enhancing the capacity of developing nations' organizational and service capacity. His work has taken him to Tanzania, Botswana, Nigeria, Lae, Lilongwe, Jakarta, and Pakistan over the past few years.

Martina Shaw (BAS) came to Atkinson after having completed a law degree at Osgoode (LLB'88). She currently owns and operates a standard bred racing facility in Stayner, Ontario.

Patricia Smith (BA, History) moved to England in 1998 where she taught at the primary level for four years. She has since relocated to the State of Virginia, where she continues to teach elementary students. She writes, "having travelled in Europe, one thing I can say for sure is that having a degree from York University was worth all the expense. I wouldn't trade my time at York for any other institution in Canada or the world."

1995

Peter Babiak (BA, English) is currently a PhD candidate at York. Reflecting on his Atkinson days, Babiak notes "my success as a graduate student was greatly facilitated by several undergraduate faculty members at Atkinson, who recognized my abilities and encouraged me to pursue further academic and personal goals."



1991

Michael H. Burdo (BSW) is working in Ottawa as a youth and family counselor.

1989

Noreen Stuckless (BA, Psychology) earned her PhD in 1997 and is currently serving as the undergraduate program director of Psychology in the Faculty of Arts at York. Stuckless also volunteers on the Atkinson Faculty Alumni Association and chairs the Alumni Teaching Award Committee.

1988

Joanne L. Shaw (BA, Psychology) is employed as a financial advisor with CanFin Financial Group in Mississauga, Ontario.

1982

Eugenie Pearson (BA, Sociology) is currently completing her PhD at York. Pearson is currently the Director of Education for The Whymee Foundation in Toronto, and is an active alumni volunteer.

Marcel Urbanc (BAS, Accounting) is currently working as a chartered accountant in Toronto.

TO BE INCLUDED IN CLASS NOTES SIMPLY SEND YOUR NAME, PROGRAM AND YEAR OF GRADUATION, ALONG WITH YOUR MESSAGE TO alumni@atkinson.yorku.ca. BE SURE TO INDICATE IF YOU WANT FORMER CLASSMATES TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU THROUGH YOUR EMAIL.



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CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Last fall, Atkinson welcomed 25 new tenure stream and 11 full-time contractual faculty members to the team. This represents the largest hiring of faculty members at any one time in Atkinson's history, and responds to increasing student demand for our programs. Over the past five years, the number of Atkinson students has almost doubled and will continue to grow. *"Atkinson's commitment to cutting edge research and teaching has been strengthened through these new positions which will directly benefit our students"*, noted Dean Lenton at a recent reception to welcome these new professors to Atkinson. To learn more about Atkinson professors and their areas of research visit www.atkinson.yorku.ca/Research.

upcoming EVENTS at Atkinson

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

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