



## Get to know University Councillor Letitia Golubitsky, MSc'06

I have so many great memories as a graduate student at Queen's, it is hard to choose the most memorable. I am reminiscing with joy the first time I arrived in Kingston. It was a very cold winter day (January 2003) when I have arrived in Kingston from Toronto Pearson Airport. My roommate was waiting for me at the bus station across the Douglas library. We used the time on the bus to get to know each other. She told me that she speaks Farsi, she is from Iran and that she is a graduate student at Queen's. When we finally arrived at my new home in Canada, she surprised me with what she called a traditional Iranian home-made salad. I told her: "Are you sure it is an Iranian salad? This is a traditional Romanian salad we eat back home for holidays". As a graduate student at Queen's, I was fortunate to make many meaningful friendships with friends from different cultures and different backgrounds with whom I share more than just the passion for a great home-made meal, but also the passion for continuous learning, for pushing ourselves beyond our limits, for taking risks and for enduring.

I have worked for the past decade as a professional in the banking industry at three top Canadian

advice came from my mentor at Queen's who said this to me: "Don't beat yourself up, be gracious with yourself when life takes a new turn. Embrace change!"

The second time it happened after I graduated from my doctoral studies. I turned down a postdoctoral fellowship and accepted instead a scholarship in Financial Mathematics. For the second time I found myself "lost". The best advice came again from my mentor who said to me: "Learn to push yourself outside of your comfort zone. We all change career at some point. Accept change. Change is constant".

There are many "first successes" in my career in capital markets risk management and in academia that I am proud of. I was one of the very first female model developers across three Canadian banks specialized in modelling commodities. I was one of the very few female model validators in trading market risk in Model Risk.

I am proud of my first research paper published in the Communications in Algebra journal.

I love taking fitness group classes in hot yoga, Zumba and cardio. I enjoy swimming and downhill skiing. I love reading books in English, French, Italian and Romanian.

In my free time I love planning my next vacations. I enjoy cooking and listening to jazz music, electronic music, pop rock and classical music.

My graduate studies at Queen's University from 2003 to 2006 were a life changing experience and as an alumna I would like to give back to the Queen's community. I would love to be a source of inspiration for the young students and to be able to participate in the decision-making process of their studies at the university.

I am the Chair of the Canadian AI 2022 conference leading the industry track. AI is pushing the innovation boundaries across all disciplines, and industry has been investing heavily in various AI technologies. There is a high demand for graduates with an AI background from industry and research labs. First, as a Queen's Councillor I would like to be a university ambassador who