

# International Women's Day

## ***FAST Times***

**MARCH 2025**

Dear Colleagues,

As we step into March, we're excited to welcome the gradual return of longer days and brighter evenings. With each passing day, the sunlight stretches a little longer, signaling the arrival of spring just around the corner. As the season brings fresh energy, new beginnings, and the promise of warmer days ahead, the Humber FAST community welcomes the next generation of STEM leaders with several exciting events.

To showcase how Humber Polytechnic "Champions Women in STEM", we hosted an International Women's Day luncheon that featured a diverse and extraordinary panel of fearless women who shared their authentic stories and inspired more than 70 female high school students to accelerate action and consider Humber in their academic journey.

Next, the sounds of engines whirring will fill our hallways as more than 400 high school students attend the FIRST Robotics Competition this month where they will flex their engineering, coding and design skills and put their homemade robots to the test in a series of specially designed challenges.

We have many more compelling stories that I look forward to you discovering on the following pages, including celebrating two faculty members who earned their Professional Engineering designation!

Together, we are helping high school students make informed choices as they decide on their post-secondary destination. I encourage FAST faculty, staff and students to attend the upcoming FIRST Robotics Competition where you will be inspired by the next generation of STEM leaders!



Warm regards,  
Shaun Ghafari, Ph.D., P.Eng  
Dean, Engineering



### CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN STEM

International Women's Day spotlights the incredible strength, resilience, and achievements of women everywhere: from the trailblazers who've shaped history to the everyday heroes making a difference in our lives.

In our effort to support National Engineering Month and showcase how Humber Polytechnic "Champions Women in STEM", FAST hosted a luncheon that featured a diverse and extraordinary panel of fearless women who shared their authentic stories and demonstrated how there is strength in our differences to accelerate action and bring innovation, productivity, and pride to a more elastic workforce.

Industry experts, Humber Polytechnic executives, faculty, and staff engaged with our engineering students and more than 70 female high school students who were inspired with new perspectives to help them engineer her dream career.

Our community includes extraordinary women in skilled trades, science, technology, and engineering who are bold, strong, and transformative. It's essential that we not only recognize their accomplishments but also work to ensure a more inclusive, supportive environment for them to thrive. They are breaking barriers, challenging norms, and paving the way for future generations.

Let's continue to uplift and empower each other, break barriers, and create a world where every woman can thrive!





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## HOME SWEET HUMBER

CELEBRATING AND SHOWCASING LIFE AT NORTH CAMPUS AND CARRIER DRIVE!

### HEALTHY BREAKS



### THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HUB OPEN HOUSE





## THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HUB OPEN HOUSE (CONT'D)



## TECHBRIDGE



Share your life on campus images in the next FAST Times issue!

Please submit to Jennifer Buchalter: [jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca](mailto:jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca)



## IN THE FAST LANE

### FAST PROFESSORS EARN P.ENG. DESIGNATION

Congratulations to Nilufar Poshtiban and Kristian Medri who have successfully earned their Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) designation!

This is a significant achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence in the field of engineering.

As newly recognized professional engineers, Nilufar and Kristian have demonstrated their expertise and met the rigorous standards required to practice engineering at the highest level in Canada.

Their new designation is a testament to their skills, knowledge, and contributions to the field!



*Nilufar Poshtiban*



*Kristian Medri*

### FAST PROFESSOR EARNS NRCAN ENERGYSTAR AWARD

Congratulations to Phil Fung who is the recipient of the NRCan EnergyStar Licensed Professional of the Year Award.

This award recognizes an energy professional for their management of EnergyStar high-rise residential building certifications, impact on the industry, commitment to energy efficiency and green home construction, and excellence in customer service!





## DIVE INTO FIRST ROBOTICS

Sounds of metal clanging, power tools buzzing and engines whirring will once again fill the Athletic Centre at Humber's North Campus from March 17-19 as 400+ high school students take part in the FIRST Robotics Competition to showcase their brilliance in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)!

This year's challenge, **REEFSCAPE<sup>SM</sup>**, presented by Haas, will call upon **FIRST Robotics Competition** teams to use their engineering skills to protect and enhance one of Earth's most diverse habitats. Teams will dive deep to tackle unique tasks inspired by real-world ocean challenges, making waves

in their mission to build a better world and foster healthy oceans.

Organized by the Humber Community Outreach and Workforce Development team, this is an excellent opportunity to engage with more than 400 high school students and help them make informed choices as they decide on their post-secondary destination.

We encourage FAST faculty, staff and students to attend and actively participate in this exciting competition!

Visit this [link](#) for more information.







## FAST CLUB NEWS

### HUMBER CODING CLUB

Are you passionate about coding? Do you want to build exciting projects, solve challenges, and connect with other tech enthusiasts? The Humber Coding Club is here, and we want you to be a part of it.

What is the Humber Coding Club?

It is a student-driven club where we code, create, and collaborate. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced coder, this is your space to:

- Work on real-world projects such as apps, websites, artificial intelligence, and game development

- Compete in hackathons and coding challenges
- Network with industry professionals and mentors
- Connect with like-minded students and grow your skills together

This is your club, so bring your ideas, creativity, and passion for coding. Let us build, innovate, and make an impact together.

If you are interested in joining, contact Mehrnaz Zhian at [mehrnaz.zhian@humber.ca](mailto:mehrnaz.zhian@humber.ca) for more details.





## BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

### HUMBER MECHATRONICS SKILLS QUALIFYING COMPETITION SHOWCASES OUTSTANDING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

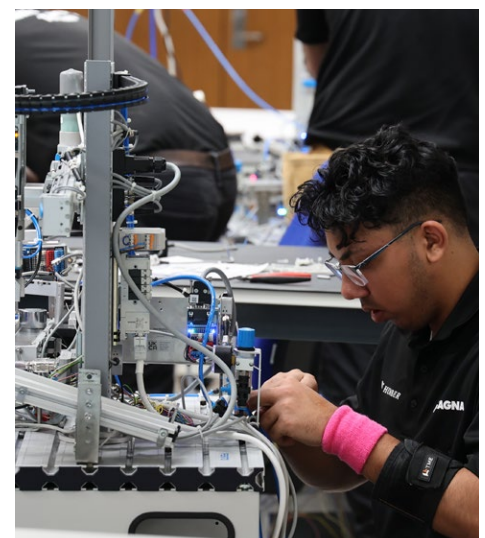
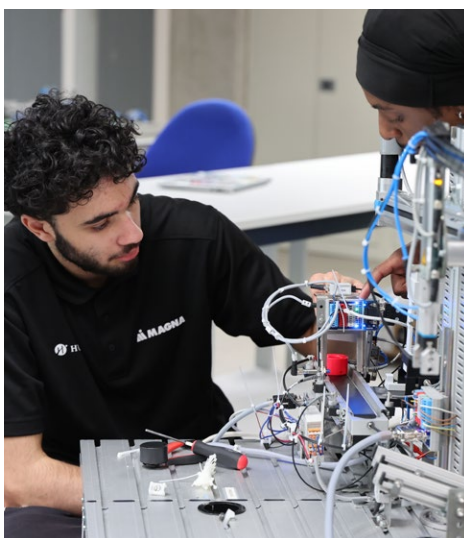
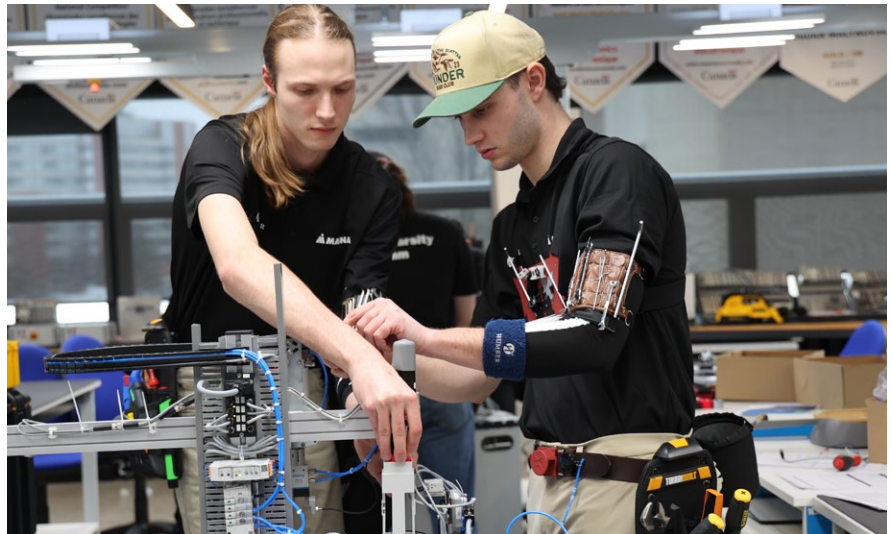
On February 28<sup>th</sup>, The Barrett CTI hosted Humber's Mechatronics Skills Qualifying Competition, in which students demonstrated exceptional talent, commitment, and expertise.

Following a series of rigorous criteria, students showcased their problem-solving skills and innovative thinking, reaffirming Humber's commitment to excellence in education.

The winning team will represent Humber in the upcoming Provincial Mechatronics Skills Competition in May.

We extend our congratulations to all participants for their outstanding performances and dedication.

Stay tuned for an official announcement of the winning team representing Humber.





# HEALTHY BREAKS @HUMBER



The Centre for Innovation in Health & Wellness provides 10-minute stretch and mindfulness breaks for classes and meetings, led by Humber students.

Benefits of including a healthy break in your classes or meetings include:

- ✓ Helping to Reduce Stress
- ✓ Increasing Engagement
- ✓ Providing an Opportunity to Recharge and Refocus

**Book a Healthy Break Today!**

✉ [Colleen.Sartell@humber.ca](mailto:Colleen.Sartell@humber.ca)

**Different timings and formats available on request**



### IN LOVING MEMORY: RAVINDERPAL SINGH (1965-2025)

*In Loving Memory*



**RAVINDERPAL SINGH**

**September 21st, 1965 – February 21st, 2025**

Ravinderpal Singh, a long-time and cherished member of the Humber community, was much more than a respected faculty member, program coordinator, and friend—he was an inspiring mentor whose guidance enriched the lives of countless students and colleagues.

For over two decades, Humber was his second home. Since 2008, he has taught and mentored thousands of students while founding the Information Technology Solutions program — a cornerstone that has nurtured many community leaders. His innovative work in developing capstone projects set a new standard at Humber, and his creation of the first bridging program in the Faculty of Media, Creative Arts, and Design (FMCAD), renowned for achieving 100 per cent employment in Ontario, underscored

his commitment not only to education but also to the successful transition of students into the workplace.

Ravinderpal's dedication went beyond the classroom. He was always willing to take the time to listen and collaborate with every team member, helping to uncover solutions to any challenge. His legacy is evident in the many former students who have returned as faculty and advisors, continuing his mission to build the next generation of tech leaders.

We have lost a remarkable educator and an inspiring leader. His impact on our community will be felt for years to come, and he will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.





## FAST MILESTONES – MARCH

Congratulations to the following FAST member who is celebrating a career milestone in March! We truly appreciate your contributions to the Humber FAST community and congratulate you on reaching this important milestone!

**1 YEAR**  
Wei-Hung Juan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 17 – 19, 2025

FIRST Robotics Competition  
Humber Polytechnic Gymnasium

### March 25, 2025

FAST Annual Career Fair,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Barrett CTI Polytainers Atrium

### March 27, 2025

Degree Recruitment Session  
Hosted by Dr. Shaun Ghafari  
7 p.m. at Room NX111



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

FAST Times recognizes and celebrates the achievements of our faculty and students. To share your successes with us, please submit stories and images to the Office of the Senior Dean, Julie Pasquin: [julie.pasquin@humber.ca](mailto:julie.pasquin@humber.ca)

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