



HUMBER

Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology



FAST *Times*

MARCH 2024



Dear Colleagues,

As the lengthening hours of daylight welcome spring with renewed energy, the Humber FAST community is welcoming the next generation of STEM leaders in several exciting events this month!

FAST is a proud partner of National Engineering Month and will be hosting “Humber College Champions Women in STEM” on Friday, March 8 to mark International Women’s Day. More than 50 female high school students will join our community for an empowering afternoon and learn from a panel of fearless women.

Then, the sounds of engines whirring will fill our hallways as more than 400 high school students attend the FIRST

Robotics Competition 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 the inaugural Festool Top Graduate Award recipients who are the top students graduating from our Industrial Woodworking programs.

As we enjoy this unseasonably warmer weather and welcome spring on March 19, I hope you will take the time to enjoy a walk through the Humber Arboretum and North Campus to experience the budding blooms including the Siemens Smartflower solar panel blooms!

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

**WE ARE
FUTURE FOCUSED**

FAST Times

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MARCH IS NATIONAL ENGINEERING MONTH

Humber FAST is proud to return as the lead partner of National Engineering Month – Canada’s largest celebration of engineering excellence!

Dive into a month of premium engineering content featuring panel discussions, skill-building workshops, and networking opportunities. These free, in-person and online events are led by the engineering community and designed to inspire engineering professionals, students, educators and industry.

Humber College Champions Women in STEM Luncheon and Panel Discussion

Friday, March 8 at Noon

Barrett CTI Polytainers Atrium

The Humber College FAST community, together with invited female high school students, will come together for an empowering afternoon and learn from a panel of fearless women. These engineering professionals will share their authentic stories and how there is strength in our differences to bring innovation, productivity, and pride to a more elastic workforce.

Visit the [NEM website](#) for a full listing of events.

Join us at the
**Humber College
Champions
Women in STEM
Luncheon**
**Friday, March 8
Noon - 2:00PM**

**national
ENGINEERING
MONTH**

Lead Partner
HUMBER
Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology

**International Women's Day
Luncheon & Panel Discussion**

Humber College North Campus
Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation, Polytainers Atrium
205 Humber College Blvd

Maryam Rezaie, Technical Manager & National Estimating, Salit Steel

Professor Maria Jacome, PhD, Civil Engineering Technology

Firoozeh Khalily, Vice President, National Field Operations, Rogers Communications

Elizabeth Pietrantonio, Retired, Associate Dean, Electrical & Computer Engineering Technology

Gaya Anandakumar, P.Eng., PMP Electrical Engineer, Infrastructure, HATCH

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FIRST ROBOTICS RETURNS TO HUMBER

Sounds of metal clanging, power tools buzzing and engines whirring will once again fill the Athletic Centre at Humber College's North Campus from March 18-20 as 400+ high school students take part in the FIRST Robotics Competition.

Be a part of the action as students compete with their specially designed robots to conquer challenging tasks, all under the theme of CRESCENDO, celebrating the fusion of STEM skills with the arts.

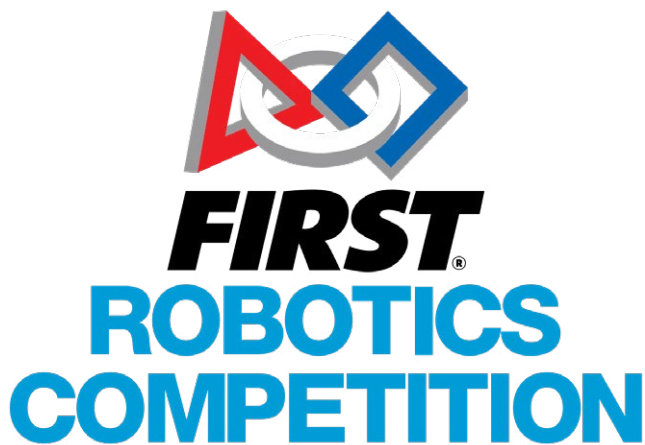
These events are hosted across nine district competitions in Ontario by FIRST Robotics Canada and their partners, and they mark the season's pinnacle. Teams compete across multiple district events to earn points and secure their spot at the highly anticipated Provincial Championship.

From there, the journey continues for the chance to represent their region at the prestigious. FIRST World Championship Event in Houston, Texas.

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



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FAST HOSTS MAGNA DAY

On February 15, FAST hosted Magna Day!

This event was an opportunity for students and soon-to-be-graduates to learn about current or upcoming opportunities, as well as network with representatives from this industry leader and valued partner.

Students were invited from techniques, technician, technology, and engineering degree programs in the manufacturing and IT clusters. Hosted by Co-op & Work Placement Services and in partnership with Magna, the following Magna divisions were in attendance: Massiv Automated Systems, Magna Mechatronics Mirrors & Lighting, Mytox Manufacturing (Division of Magna Exteriors), and Magna Structures Heart Lake, Magna's new EV structures assembly division in Brampton.





HOME SWEET HUMBER

CELEBRATING AND SHOWCASING LIFE AT NORTH CAMPUS AND CARRIER DRIVE!

Carrier Drive hosts Nick Anastas, Ontario President, Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada (AWMAC) who presented a \$1,000 bursary!

Students enrolling in classes for the Industrial Woodworking program for the summer term can apply for this bursary!



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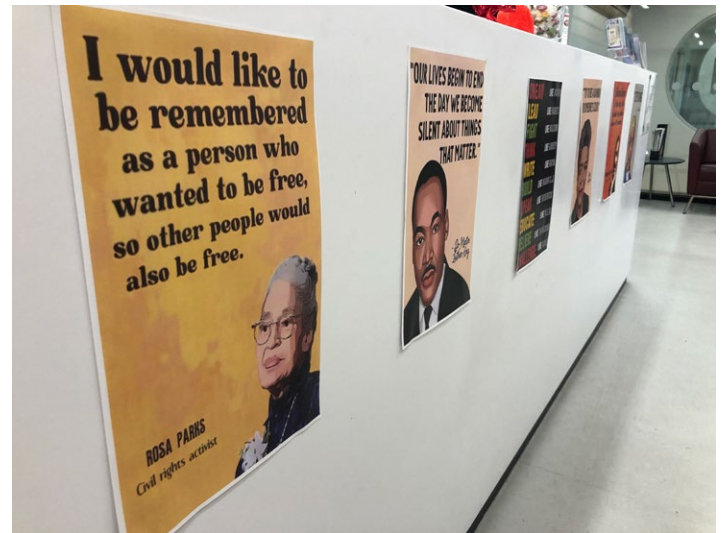


“Capstone for Start-ups” was an engaging information session where industry experts & fellow entrepreneurs learned how they could collaborate with a team of four IT students over the course of four months on their company’s IT project and see potential future employees in action.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Share your life on campus images in the next FAST Times issue! Please submit to: jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca



INDUSTRIAL WOODWORKING GRADUATES NAIL AWARDS

Congratulations to our inaugural Festool Top Graduate Award recipients who are the top students graduating from our Industrial Woodworking programs.

Isabel Garriga is the top graduate from our Industrial Woodworking program and Alexey Borodin is our top graduate from our Cabinetmaking program.

Built better to build better, Festool's precision craftsmanship and attention to detail have helped make it one of the most highly regarded tool companies in the world. Thank you Festool Canada for providing Isabel and Alexey with a wide selection of professional cordless tools to help them launch their careers.



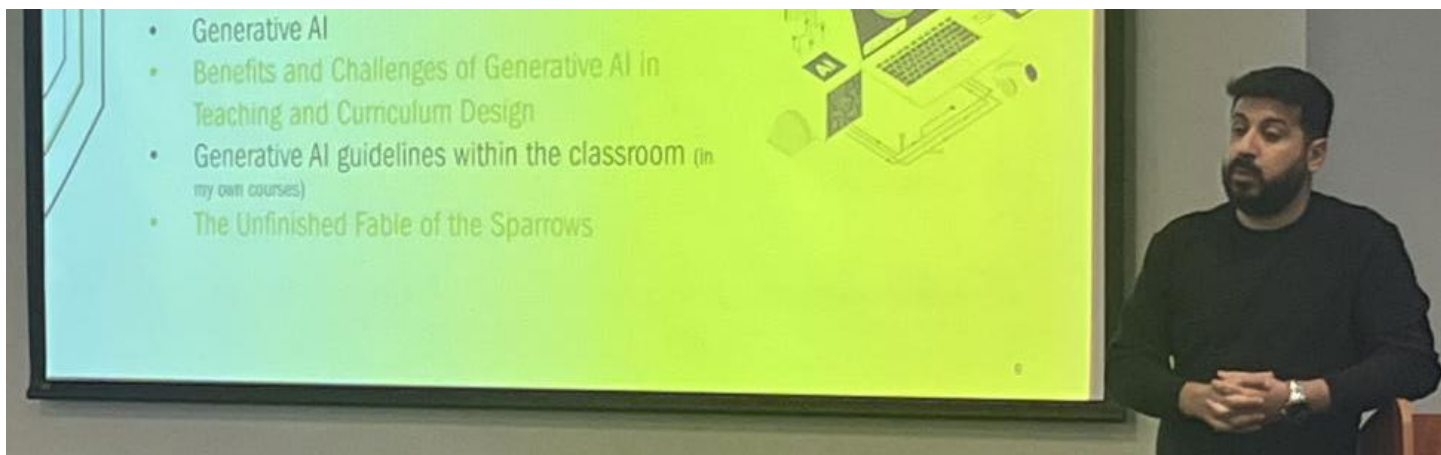


FAST IN THE NEWS

HUMBER'S INTERFACULTY COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY IN AI PRESENTATION

The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences invited FAST Professor Ibrahim Tamim to talk about the technology and its impact.

Read the complete feature story in [Humber Today](#)



FAST ASSOCIATE DEAN SAYS IT TAKES ONE MINUTE FOR CAR THIEVES TO GET INTO YOUR VEHICLE USING THIS COMMON TACTIC

Our FAST Associate Dean, Francis Syms spoke with Now Toronto to warn residents about car thieves who steal vehicles through headlights amid a surge in vehicle thefts across the country.

Read the complete feature story in [Now Toronto](#)



(Courtesy: Canva)



BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

MARCH MADNESS: CELEBRATING SKILLS AND INDUSTRY INTEGRATION AT BARRETT CTI'S ACECONNEX EVENT!

Last month's Skills Mechatronics Competition left us buzzing with excitement! The dedication and talent showcased by competitors were truly remarkable. We extend huge congratulations to all participants – your efforts truly made it an unforgettable event. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes out to everyone who contributed to the Schunk workshop; your insights were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

But hold onto your hats because the excitement doesn't end there! Make sure to mark March 27th on your calendar because something extraordinary is happening at Barrett CTI. We're thrilled to host "BRIDGING THE GAP: Uniting Skills & Industry in Mold Making and Plastics Processing" presented by AceConnex.

This event promises to be a game-changer, bringing together the best minds in the field to explore the intersection of skills and industry. Join us for an engaging day filled with insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and a chance to deepen your understanding of mold making and plastics processing.

It's an event designed to inspire and empower, and we can't wait to see you there!





FAST LEARNERS

WIL STUDENT SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT



Name:

Rupinder Randhawa

Program of study:

**Electromechanical Engineering
Technology Co-op**

Work Placement:

Polytainers Inc.

WHERE DID YOU COMPLETE YOUR CO-OP?

I completed my co-op at Polytainers Inc., located in Toronto, Ontario.

WHAT WAS YOUR TITLE DURING YOUR CO-OP EXPERIENCE?

During my 4-month co-op experience, I held the position of Automation Technician.

WHAT SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS DID YOU MAKE DURING YOUR CO-OP, AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN THAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

During my co-op at Polytainers Inc., I made significant contributions by excelling in troubleshooting and maintaining in-mold labeling (IML) robots. One area where I particularly excelled was swiftly swapping out and adjusting magazines, pneumatics, and dummy molds, as well as ensuring precise alignment of the robot. These tasks significantly decreased downtime and increased overall productivity. This ability to swiftly address issues directly translated into smoother operations and optimize efficiency within the production process. Through this experience, I learned firsthand the critical importance of quick problem-solving, adaptability, and the continuous pursuit of improvement in industrial automation. I continue to apply and refine these skills in my career.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A FELLOW STUDENT CONSIDERING A CO-OP OPPORTUNITY?

When diving into co-op opportunities, don't be afraid to break out of your comfort zone. Trying new things helps you level up personally and professionally and unlocks exciting career possibilities. Keep pushing forward, stay open to whatever comes your way, and remember that persistence pays off big time. Plus, don't forget to network! Building connections can open doors you never knew existed.



WHAT INSIGHTS WOULD YOU SHARE WITH FEMALE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY?

To aspiring female students interested in pursuing a career in engineering technology, I offer these insights: Embrace your passion and curiosity as they will be the driving forces behind your journey. Seek out mentors who can offer guidance and support along the way, and don't hesitate to network to expand your opportunities. As a passionate female in engineering technology, I've gained invaluable insights along my journey. Embracing my enthusiasm for innovation and problem-solving has been crucial, as has seeking mentorship and fostering confidence in my abilities. If I could share one piece of advice with fellow female students, it would be to never shy away from putting yourself out there and expressing your ideas boldly. Your unique perspective and contributions play a vital role in propelling innovation and progress within the field.





IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that the Humber College community mourns the loss of Vanessa Vilic-Evangelista who passed away on Friday, February 23 in her 47th year.

Vanessa began her Humber career as a Technologist supporting the Interior Decorating and Interior Design programs, and later as Professor and Program Coordinator of the Interior Decorating diploma program. She has made many contributions to Humber's Design programs and played an instrumental role in the creation of the Humber Design Centre, including its recent renovation. It was under Vanessa's leadership that the Interior Decorating diploma program grew to become one of the most highly subscribed Design programs at Humber, with very strong industry ties and reputation.

Vanessa touched so many with her passion for family, friendship, creativity in learning, and design; she approached everything she did with extreme passion, and those of us who had the pleasure to know her have witnessed this first-hand. She balanced family, work, advanced studies, and rich friendships in a way that no one ever felt she was too busy to make time for them.

It was Vanessa's wish that we all honour her spirit for life and happiness by remembering her as she was, and we intend to do just that by holding a Celebration of Life at Humber, in the spring. Details will be shared when they are available.





UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8

Humber College Champions Women in STEM Luncheon and Panel Discussion, Noon - 2PM
Barrett CTI Polytainers Atrium

March 13

Transformation Committee Meeting, 10AM
Room N226

March 15

FAST Annual Career Fair, 11AM - 3PM
Barrett CTI Polytainers Atrium

March 18-20

FIRST Robotics Competition,
Humber College Gymnasium

March 27


BRIDGING THE GAP: Uniting Skills & Industry in
Mold Making and Plastics Processing, Barrett CTI

March 29

Good Friday, Campus is Closed

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

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