



FAST Times

FEBRUARY 2025



Dear Colleagues,

As we move into February, FAST continues to champion the importance of continuous professional learning for all our faculty, staff and students. In a world where technological advancements and industry shifts occur at an unprecedented pace, staying ahead means continually updating and expanding our knowledge and skills.

I continually reflect on how professional development plays a vital role in empowering our community to remain at the forefront of innovation, research, and applied sciences. Whether through workshops, certifications, or collaborative learning experiences, we are committed to providing opportunities that enrich both personal growth and professional success.

On February 12, North Campus will host “Humber’s Degree and Graduate Certificate Fair” encouraging students to power up their credentials. Whether they are interested in a diploma-to-degree pathway, a certificate, diploma, or graduate certificate, we invite students to learn more about their pathway options at Humber.

In this issue, we spotlight our commitment to advancing women in STEM and will be hosting an International Women’s Day luncheon and panel discussion on March 7 that will be attended by industry leaders to inspire more than 75 high school students.

The following pages also include updates from the Humber Arboretum and Barrett CTI and a special feature story on how one of our graduates is bringing his woodworking skills to Canada’s House of Commons!

Let’s continue to support each other on this journey of lifelong learning and discovery!

Warm regards,
Dave Smiderle, Ph.D.
Associate Dean



ADRIAN PRESOT BRINGS WOODWORKING SKILLS TO CANADA'S HOUSE OF COMMONS

Adrian Presot started working with wood in his garage during the COVID-19 pandemic when he was stuck at home. He had no plans or aspirations to find a career in the field – it was just something he enjoyed doing that helped fill the time.

Fast-forward to today and Presot, who graduated from our Industrial Woodworking Technician program, is employed as a Cabinetmaker Apprentice with the House of Commons Canada in Ottawa!

Read the Humber Today feature story [here!](#)



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HOME SWEET HUMBER

CELEBRATING AND SHOWCASING LIFE AT NORTH CAMPUS AND CARRIER DRIVE!

ENGINEERING CO-OP CAREER FAIR



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

Please submit to Jennifer Buchalter: jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca



Learn more at 407etr.com/careers





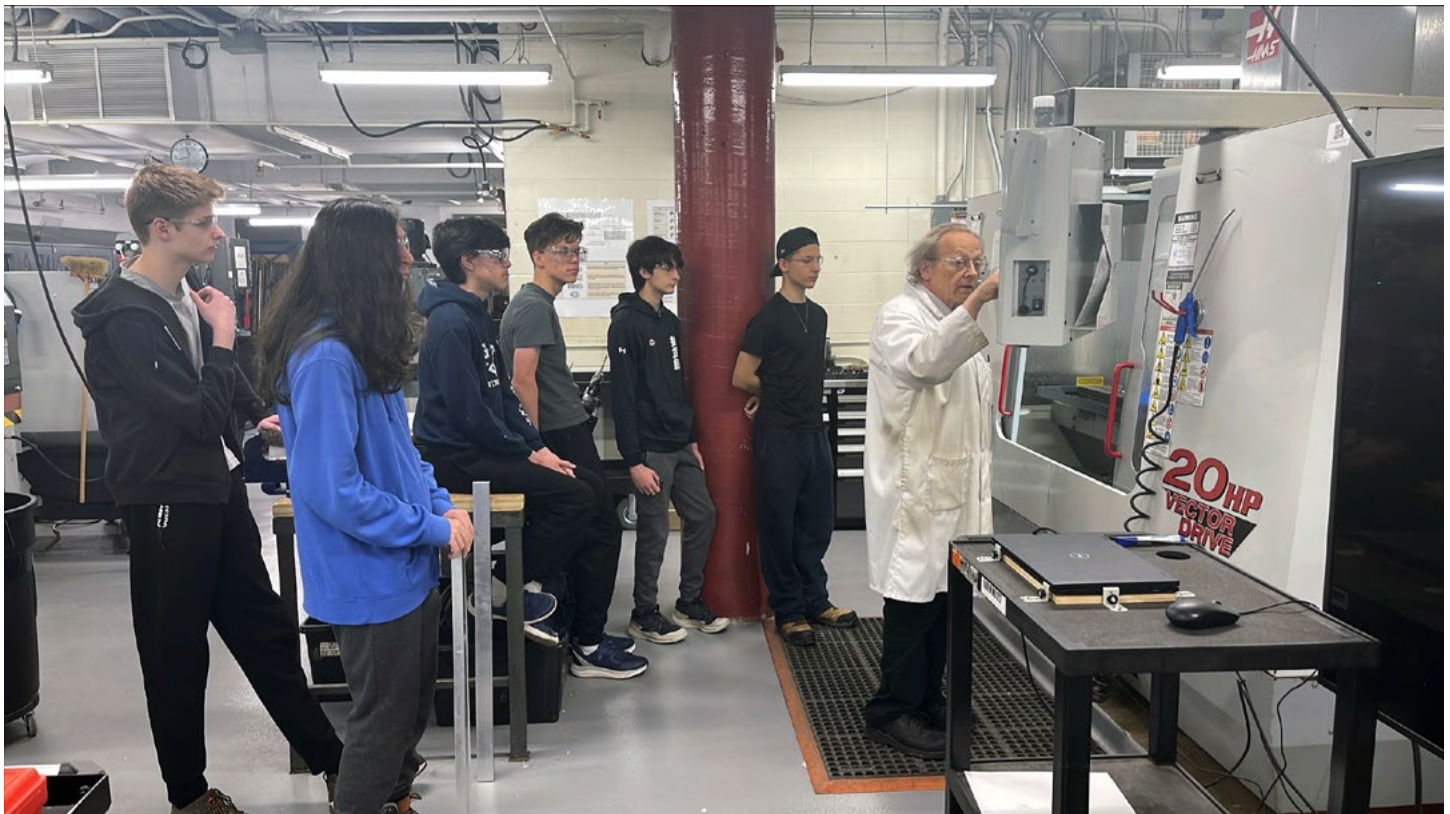
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAIN FOR FIRST ROBOTICS

High school students and their tech teacher, Andrew Saskin, visited FAST labs to learn some new skills and make parts for their First Robotics competition robot!

The students were introduced to CAD by Ian Cameron, a student from the Bachelor of Engineering program, who explained concepts of part solid modeling and how to mate parts to make a cohesive CAD model.

The team then went to room NB127 and were able to watch as some of their robot parts were machined on CNC equipment under the expert guidance of FAST lab technologist, Bruce McKinnon.

The team were also given instruction and practice on manufacturing parts using power hand tools with help and instruction provided by Mechanical Engineering technology student, Brett Jacobs, and Declan Tindall, a Mechanical Techniques-Millwright student.





IN THE FAST LANE

FAST COLLEAGUES PUBLISH PAPERS

Congratulations to Dr. Maryam Davoudpour and her participating students whose submission has been accepted for presentation at the Industry Track of the IEEE International Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications (PerCom) in Washington, DC this March 2025!

Their work has been recognized for its significant contribution to the field and its relevance to the industry. The team will share insights and advancing discussions on the latest developments in pervasive computing.

We also applaud Debashish Roy and Haidar Jabba for publishing the following papers:

[Comparative Study on different Machine Learning Approaches for Categorizing Bangla Documents](#)

By Debashish Roy

[AI-Integrated Cyber Security Risk Management Framework for IT Projects](#)

By Haidar Jabbar



NEWS TRAVELS FAST

EMPOWERING CANADIAN SMALL BUSINESSES: INSIGHTS ON AI, CYBERSECURITY, AND IOT WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS

The Canadian SME Small Business Podcast recently interviewed associate deans, Dr. Dave Smiderle and Francis Syms to discuss how Canadian small businesses can unlock growth opportunities through digital transformation, cybersecurity, and the Internet of Things (IoT). Francis and Dave shared their insights and expertise to help SMEs navigate the challenges and opportunities of today's digital economy.

Watch the full podcast interview [here](#)

SMALL BUSINESS PODCAST

EMPOWERING CANADIAN SMES: INSIGHTS ON AI, CYBERSECURITY, AND IOT WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Dave Smiderle
PhD, Associate Dean Humber

Francis Syms
M.A.Sc., P.Eng., P.M.P., Associate Dean Humber College

Logos: UPS, Google, etc.



NEWS TRAVELS FAST CONT'D

THESE RESEARCHERS ARE POSITIONING CANADA AS A LEADER IN THE FUTURE OF DRONE TECHNOLOGY

The Globe & Mail featured collective researchers who are advancing drone technology in Canada to make the country more competitive on a global scale, in anticipation of expanding federal regulations and growing industry demand for a new generation of flying robotics.

Backed by \$5-million from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and provincial funders, researchers from seven postsecondary institutions are positioning Canada's drone industry at the forefront of the global market by developing unmanned aerial manipulators – a device they say combines the agility of a drone with the dexterity of robotic arms.

Titled Canadian Advanced Research Infrastructure for Aerial Robotic Manipulation (CANARI-ARM), the project will see each institution complete its own research related to five key themes: perception, control, human-robot interactions, communications and technology applications.

In addition to TMU, the project also involves researchers from Dalhousie University, Humber Polytechnic, Ontario Tech University, University of Ottawa, University of Regina and York University.

Subscribers can access the full feature story [here](#) that includes interviews from Dr. Shaun Ghafari, dean of engineering and Francis Syms, associate dean of Information & Communications Technology.



Fred Lum/Globe & Mail



MARCH IS NATIONAL ENGINEERING MONTH

We are proud to return as a Champion Partner of [National Engineering Month](#) – Canada’s largest celebration of engineering excellence during the month of March.

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.

March 8 is International Women’s Day (IWD). In our effort to showcase how Humber Polytechnic Champions Women in STEM, we are hosting an in-person luncheon and panel discussion on Friday, March 7.

Attended by high school students, Humber’s Women in Engineering Club and the FAST engineering community, this event will include fearless women who will share their authentic stories that align with this year’s IWD theme: Accelerate Action.



Online & in-person

March 1–31, 2025

Panelists

- Lija Ward, Supervisor, Distribution Optimization Engineering, Enbridge
- Renee Price, HSER Manager, Vale Base Metal
- Sharmin Kassam, Senior Designer, Construction Sciences Division, EllisDon
- Raji Subramanian, Program Coordinator, Electronics Engineering, Humber Polytechnic
- Moderator, Janice A. Wojcik, Manager, Work Integrated Learning & Industry Engagement Co-op & Work Placement Services Office, FAST

Opening Remarks

- Shaun Ghafari, PhD, P.Eng., Dean, Engineering

Closing Remarks

- Samara Ocansey, 3rd year, Bachelor of Engineering, Sustainable Building Engineering

For more information, visit the [NEM](#) website.

WELCOME NEM 2025
CHAMPION PARTNER



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POLYTECHNIC

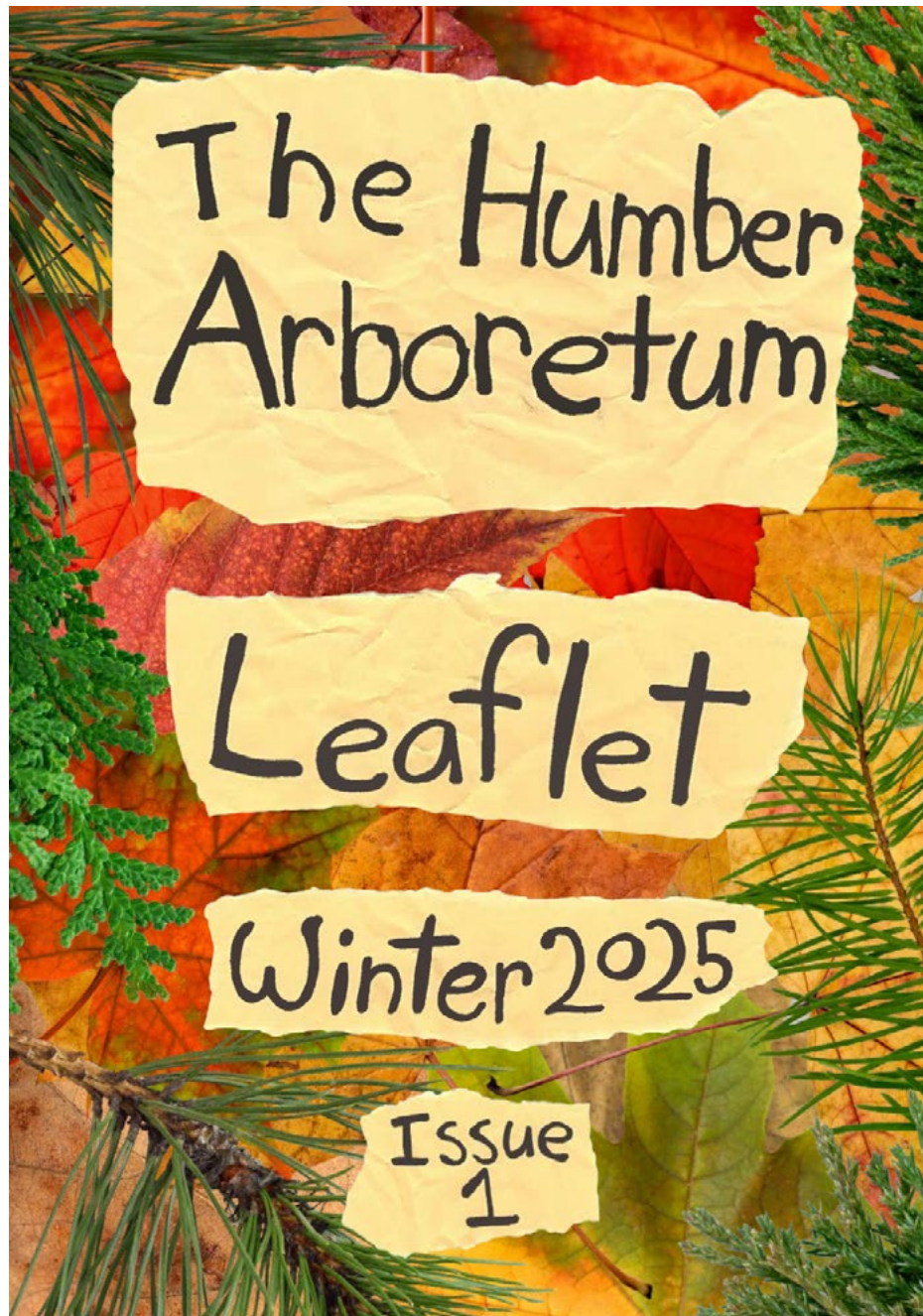
[NEMONTARIO.CA](#)

[#NEM2025](#)



HUMBER ARBORETUM

The Humber Arboretum team is excited to launch their inaugural Humber Arboretum Leaflet!
Follow this link for their first issue: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/bc6136cbe8.html>





BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

AI IN EDUCATION FORUM

The Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation welcomed the AI in Education Forum, bringing together educators and technologists from Canadian and international institutions to showcase the importance of innovative AI solutions when shaping the future of education.



SPLINT DEXTERITY PROJECT

The Splint Dexterity Project is a collaboration between the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation, the Center for Innovation in Health & Wellness (CIHW), healthcare professionals, faculty, and students.

Through advanced 3D scanning and printing, customized hand braces were designed for individuals with Lupus to improve dexterity, comfort, and quality of life while showcasing the important role technology plays in addressing healthcare challenges.

We hope this initiative continues to positively impact more people in the near future.



FAST MILESTONES – FEBRUARY

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

1 YEAR

Nickolas de Boer
Anxhelo (Angelo) Mecollari

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 12 – Humber’s Degree and Graduate Certificate Fair, North Campus from 12 – 3PM

FEBRUARY 14 – Skills Ontario Recruitment, Barrett CTI Atrium from 11AM - 2PM

FEBRUARY 17 – Family Day, Campus is Closed

MARCH 3-9 – Winter Reading Week, Campus is Open

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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