



FAST Times

APRIL 2025

Dear Colleagues,

While Spring is eagerly trying to break through the crust of winter, our students are making breakthroughs in their capstone projects, final assignments and international competitions!

Three mechatronics students travelled to Sarasota, Florida where they were recognized as Rising Innovators at RoboBoat 2025, a prestigious international competition that challenges students to design and build autonomous robotic boats capable of navigating complex courses.

This month, we will once again host the AWS DeepRacer competition but this time Team Humber will be competing against other post-secondary institutions to speed to victory!

Then next month, FAST students will showcase their skills and craft at Skills Ontario where Humber has consistently excelled winning numerous medals and gaining valuable experience and recognition for their skills.

We have many more compelling stories that I look forward to you discovering on the following pages, including moments captured at the annual Scholarship Celebration, FIRST Robotics, a Career Fair, a special visit from a Kenyan delegation, and the healthy arrival of a new FAST family member!

Challenging our students to break through their limits is essential for their growth and success. By pushing them to embrace new challenges, we not only help them discover their full potential but also empower them to develop resilience, critical thinking, and a lifelong love for learning.



Warm regards,
Francis Syms, P.Eng
Associate Dean

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ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

The Humber Polytechnic community came together to celebrate the achievements of our student scholarship recipients and recognize our generous donors for their commitment to empowering the next generation.

Our team connected with donors including the Sura family who created the Adam Sura Arborist Apprentice Level 1 Scholarship in memory of Humber Alumni Adam Sura; and recipients of the Schulich Builders: Scholarship for Skilled Trades, the Canarector Foundation Skilled Trades Development, and the Olive M. Hull Women's Leadership Scholarship.

These donors have paved the way for student success, transforming lives & creating endless opportunities. Thank you to all our generous donors and congratulations to all student recipients!



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MECHATRONICS STUDENTS MAKE WAVES AT ROBOBOAT

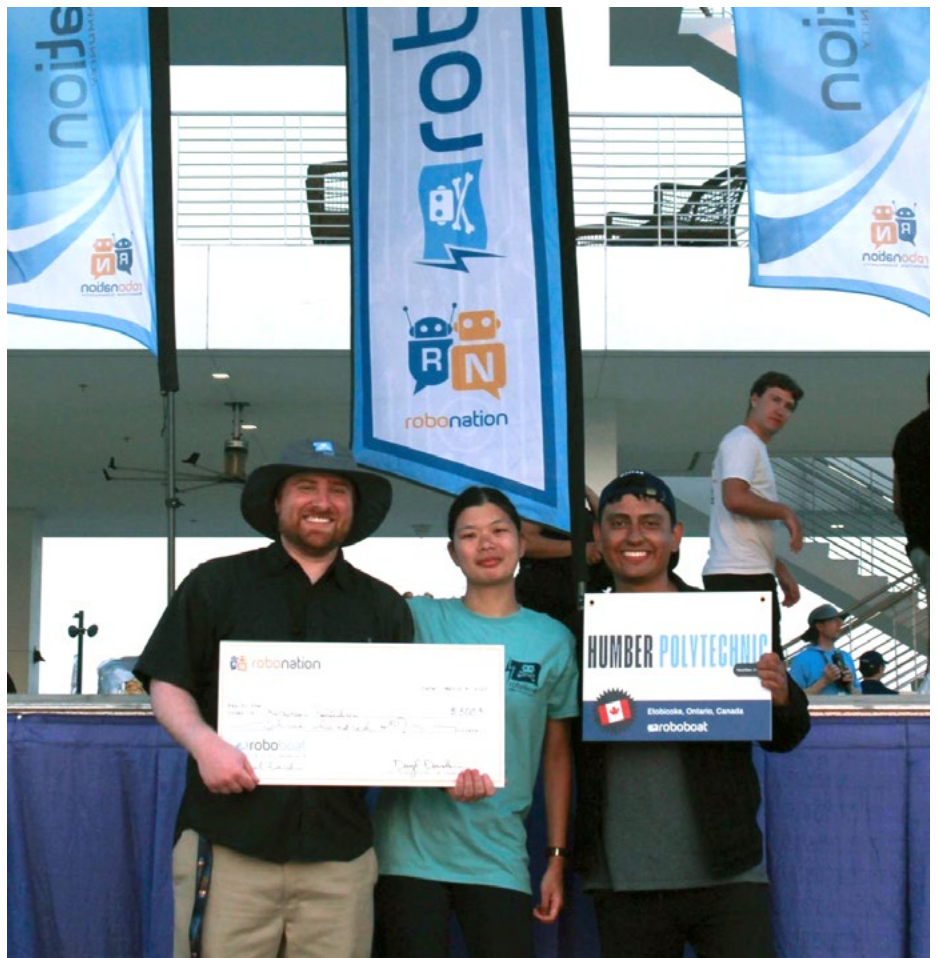
Oh buoy! The Humber Mechatronics Engineering Club has been recognized as Rising Innovators at RoboBoat 2025!

Ian Cameron, Emiliano Rodriguez Flores and Amelia Soon, students from the [Bachelor of Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering](#) program, participated in this prestigious international competition that challenges students to design and build autonomous robotic boats capable of navigating complex courses.

From March 3-9, 27 teams from 9 countries participated in the designing, building, and programming of autonomous boats capable of navigating a course at Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota, FL without human operation. Boats were required to execute various tasks, such as navigating waters, avoiding obstacles, identifying objects, shooting at targets, and more.

The team's dedication, technical skills and innovative approach earned them this well-deserved award, and we are proud that our students continue to push the boundaries of technology and showcase their talent on a global stage.

The team is looking forward to participating in RoboBoat 2026 and seeking new members (all fields of study welcome) and sponsors! Please contact mechatronicsclub@humber.ca for more info.





AWS DEEPRACER COMPETITION ZOOMS INTO HUMBER

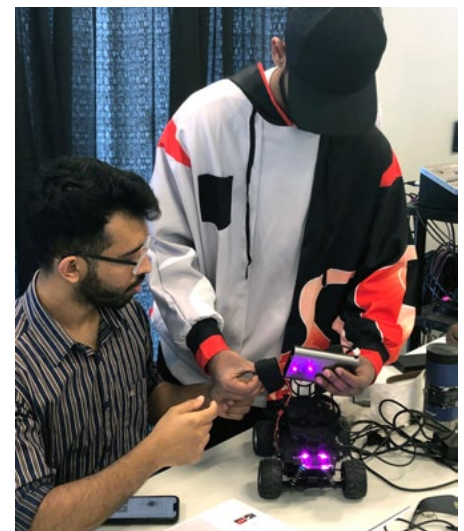
The annual AWS DeepRacer competition speeds into Humber on Wednesday, April 23 and this year's event will be bigger than ever!

This year, teams from George Brown College, Seneca Polytechnic, Conestoga College, and Cambrian College will join Team Humber Polytechnic to compete in the Humber Gymnasium.

The AWS DeepRacer competition is the world's fully autonomous racing league with a 1/18th scale race car driven by machine learning (ML) algorithm.

Humber's partnership with AWS (Amazon Web Services) provides a unique opportunity to integrate curriculum in a fun, learning environment for our students where they can apply their critical thinking & advanced machine learning skills.

Start your engines!





SKILLS ONTARIO 2025

Humber Polytechnic is getting ready for Skills Ontario at the Toronto Congress Centre for three full days of competitions and excitement from May 5-7!

Humber will be front and centre engaging with elementary and secondary students at the Career Exploration Showcase where our team will host several engaging activations to showcase our many skilled trades programs.

Simultaneously, more than 40 FAST students will participate in the Skills Ontario Competition!

Congratulations to each and every student who has worked so diligently throughout the past several months to train and qualify to represent Humber.

Since September, these students have dedicated themselves to mastering the intricacies of their craft. Week after week, they have shown up, often pushing through long hours of hard work, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Thank you to all our faculty advisors who have supported our students and will be on-site to represent Humber with great pride and distinction at Skills Ontario.

We are all behind you and we can't wait to cheer you on!

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ARPIL 2025



STUDENT COMPETITORS	FACULTY ADVISORS	PROGRAM
Lauren Donaghey Diego Mojica	Khaled Ibrahim	Automation and Control Automation and Control
Tomas Novinc Matthew Gonzalez Rodriguez Julia Klupfel	Drew Aaslepp	Cabinetmaking Cabinetmaking Cabinetmaking
Peter Chved Peter Mondel	Jarek Wawrow	Carpentry - Individual Carpentry - Individual
Vishwaben Gohil Annamalai Muthukumar Ashish Gurau	Imran Muhammad & Syed Tanveer	Cloud Computing Cloud Computing Cloud Computing
Seymur Fahradvov Tanjo Gosal	Bruce McKinnon & Simon Heathcote	CNC Machining CNC Machining
Jeet Patel (FAST) Hao Phong Le (FAST) Jesse Gaonach (FMCAD)	Mehrnaz Zhian (FAST) & Dina Sabie (FMCAD)	Coding Coding Coding
Matthew Fonseca Michael Pierik Yash Jani	Bruce McKinnon	Computer Aided Manufacturing Computer Aided Manufacturing Computer Aided Manufacturing
Prayag Bagha Aleksandr Moskalev Taiwo Womiloju	Ahmed el-Ani and Haidar Jabbar	Cybersecurity Cybersecurity Cybersecurity
Alec Flemming Adrian Marcilla	John Suriano	Electrical Installations Electrical Installations
Christian Gibski	Adam Lapple	Heating Systems Technician
Gabrielle Ringer Declan Tindall	Dean Ertel & Dave D'Allesandro	Industrial Mechanic Millwright Industrial Mechanic Millwright
Drishti Drishti Ruel Gabriel III Pajares	Benann Thiruthuvanathan/ Jeremy Brooks	IT Network Systems Administration IT Network Systems Administration
Taylor Chamberlain Monica Lam	Andrea Shotlander	Landscape Design Landscape Design
Yashkumar Thummar	Keiran O'Neil and Sherif Hanna	Mechanical CAD
Grant Maddock & Cole Hunter	Nickolas de Boer & Anthony Nyman	Mechatronics - Team of 2
Brett Jacobs	Simon Heathcote, Supported by Bruce McKinnon	Precision Machining
Dexter marius erick Javier	Bill Hanlon	Refrigeration
Rushawn Waite Lyra Placides Sofia Rego Dithusan Thilleeban	Rory McDowall & Dragos Paraschiv Supported by Hamid Mohammadi	Renewable Energies - Team of 2 Renewable Energies - Team of 2 Renewable Energies - Team of 2 Renewable Energies - Team of 2
Vatsal Dave	Shahdad Shariatmadari	Web Design and Development
Tavaris Lovelace	Mark Goodacre	Welding



2025 FAST EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2025 FAST Excellence Awards**.

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to teaching and learning and celebrate the achievements of faculty and staff who embody excellence in their work.

Nominations are welcome from the FAST community in the following award categories:

- [Faculty Excellence Award](#)
- [Support Staff Excellence Award](#)
- [Team Excellence Award](#) ***NEW category for 2025***

Please find attached important information on the categories, guidelines, and answers to frequently asked questions. To nominate a deserving individual or team, please complete the nomination form using the links or QR codes by **Thursday, April 17**.

Winners will be announced at the FAST Welcome Back Meeting in late August 2025 when they will be recognized for their outstanding achievements.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of your colleagues. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tina at Tina.Kotsiomit@humber.ca





HOME SWEET HUMBER

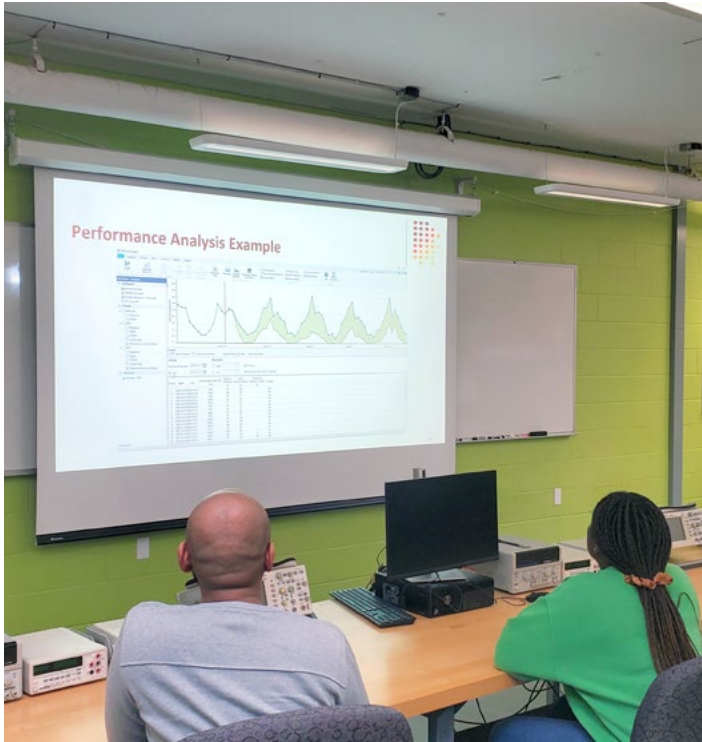
CELEBRATING AND SHOWCASING LIFE AT NORTH CAMPUS AND CARRIER DRIVE!

CAREER FAIR





RETScreen® EXPERT SOFTWARE SEMINAR



FIRST ROBOTICS 2025



GRANT & COLE SELECTED TO REPRESENT HUMBER MECHATRONICS AT SKILLS ONTARIO



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

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



IN THE FAST LANE

FAST STUDENT PRESENTS AT IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sonya Patel, a third year Electronics Engineering Technology student, presented a research paper on behalf of the research team, at the PerCom 2025 conference in Washington, DC!

Titled “**Designing Silver Conductive Ink S-Curve Interconnects for Bio-potential Monitoring E-Textiles Via Material Deposition Fabrication**” and lead by Dr. Maryam Davoudpour, the paper was presented as part of the Industry Track at the IEEE International Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications (PerCom 2025).

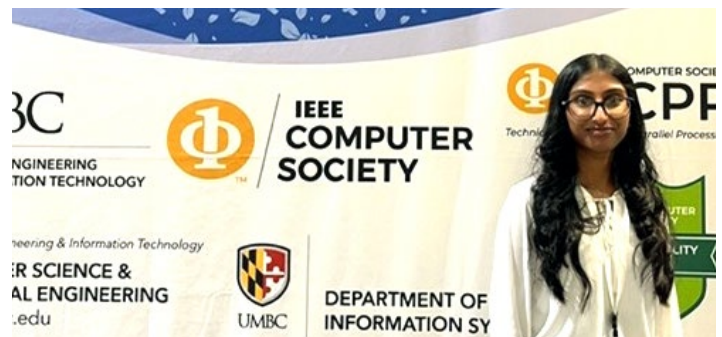
Hosted in Washington, DC, from March 17 – 21, the conference was organized by IEEE and provided insightful knowledge on Pervasive Computing. The event featured discussions on AI-driven sensing, robotics, wireless networks, highlighting advancements in both academia and industry.

The Industry Track selected the top five submitted papers for presentation. This paper was the only one representing a collaboration between academia and industry, showcasing our joint efforts between Humber Polytechnic and the industry partner Conveyor Built. This work also benefited from contributions by esteemed

researchers and professors from the Unity Health Network – St. Michaels, Toronto Metropolitan University, and the University of Toronto.

This research was supported by funding received from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) – Applied Research and Technology Partnership (ARTP) grant for “Wearables and Fabric Based Research, Innovation and Technology Development for Canadian SMEs”.

Authors and Humber participants include: Vlad Porcila (Technologist, Humber), Alfonso Miguel Alvaran (Humber Alumni and engineering student at McMaster University), Jeremy Nugara (Humber Alumni and engineering student at McMaster University), Ahsan Abdullah (Third year, Mechatronics Engineering at Humber), Sonya Patel (Humber), Adriana Ieraci (Toronto Metropolitan University), Dr. Sharon Gabison (University of Toronto), Dr. Jane Batt (Unity Health Toronto), Dr. Alireza Sadeghian (Toronto Metropolitan University), and Dr. Maryam Davoudpour (Humber).



RESEARCH PROJECT EARNS APPROVAL

Congratulations to Professor Maryam Davoudpour whose proposal for the third round of the Innovation in Wearable Therapeutic Technologies Research Funding competition, in collaboration with The SONA Group and Vee Technologies, has been approved by SONA/Vee.

This proposal is in collaboration with colleagues from Georgian College and University Health Network and will include three Humber FAST interns.

The project involves the development of an innovative data gathering and transmission protocol over a state-of-the-art communication platform. It aims to develop a system that will collect data from a multitude of sensors in a single platform.



THINK LOCAL. ACT GLOBAL.

Humber Polytechnic welcomed a Kenyan delegation as part of the Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training (KBEST) Program, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada and implemented by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan). Humber Polytechnic leads one of the projects under the program, KBEST-05, which aims to equip youth, particularly women and vulnerable communities, with skills for employment in the blue economy while promoting the preservation of oceans and water systems.

As part of the visit to Humber, Kenyan partners engaged in discussions and tours with Humber faculty and staff

to explore Humber's best practices in key areas such as entrepreneurship, gender, EDI, marketing, curriculum development and design, and industry linkages.

On Wednesday, March 26, Kenyan partners visited the Centre for Skilled Trades & Technology to meet with Michael Auchincloss, Associate Dean & Principal, and engage in conversations about strengthening apprenticeship programs by integrating industry engagement and hands-on learning opportunities for students. The group also explored best practices for curriculum development and industry collaboration.





HUMBER ARBORETUM

+ CENTRE FOR URBAN ECOLOGY

HUMBER ARBORETUM

STUDENT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT CONFERENCE

Congratulations to Mia Maceasik, a Student and Community Engagement Specialist at the Humber Arboretum, who has been accepted to co-present at the Canadian Psychological Association's 86th Annual Convention in St. John's Newfoundland this June. Along with UofGH Alumni Christopher Schiafone and Humber Polytechnic Professor Dr. Marta Wnuczko, Mia will be part of a roundtable discussion on "Broadening Educational Design to Benefit All Learners through Blind and Neurodivergent Perspectives."

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MARCH BREAK FUN AT HUMBER ARBORETUM NATURE CAMP

Over twenty day campers aged 6 to 12 spent their March Break at the Humber Arboretum where they learned how maple sap is turned into syrup; tried their hands at wood carving, fire-starting, and mask-making; dissected owl pellets and identified animal tracks; paid a visit to the BCTI; and saw seven White-tailed Deer on one of their many nature walks. Watch for summer nature camp registration to open soon.





WHAT'S UP AT THE ARB

When there are buds on the trees and Red-winged Blackbirds calling from the branches, you know spring is here! As always, Snowdrop flowers were the first to bloom in the Arboretum garden beds but now signs of spring are popping up everywhere you look. Arb operations staff are working hard out on the grounds, in the greenhouse, and behind the scenes. Watch for this new structure being built by Humber Arboretum Landscape Construction and Maintenance Specialist Talete Gallo to take its place by the woodlands later this year.



Recent educational events at the Arb included a Bird Box Building Workshop for students in honour of World Wildlife Day, nature walks for the International Day of Action for Rivers and for International Forest Day, and an introductory spoon carving workshop.

HUMBER ARBORETUM UPCOMING EVENTS

humber.ca/arboretum/events

- Saturday April 12: Choose Your Champions - Picking Plants for a Healthy Garden with the Etobicoke Master Gardeners
- Tuesday April 22: Earth Day at the Arb
- Friday April 27: Board Games for International Crow and Raven Appreciation Day
- Monday April 28: Tree and Shrub Planting for Arbor Day



BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

FAST STUDENTS EARN FIRST PLACE

Andrew Allan and Reyhan Tressler, students from the Electromechanical Engineering Program, STEAM mentors at the Barrett CTI, and co-founders of Edu Mechs, won first place at the 2025 BMO Launch Me Groundbreaker Competition last week.

Their pilot project provides middle and high school students with hands-on learning on wiring an electrical circuit and learning a basic understanding on engineering principles. With the \$15k prize, they will start their business by developing a few cells and educator content so many students will benefit from this project.

When asked why he decided to go forward with this project, Andrew added, “To give students who would not have previously had the opportunity to engage with mechatronics, so it could potentially spark their interest in choosing STEAM as their career pathway”.





DRIVING INNOVATION: XR SOLUTIONS AT BARRETT CTI

At Barrett CTI, we are proud to be at the forefront of technological innovation with our latest initiative focused on Extended Reality (XR) solutions. Currently, we are developing the first stage of this project within the industrial sector, aiming to refine the assembly process of an industrial device and ensure its successful implementation.

This work is not only enhancing industrial workflows but also strengthening the technological and educational foundations of immersive solutions. While the initial phase focuses on industrial applications, our long-term vision is to expand XR technology to the education and healthcare sectors—broadening its reach and increasing its impact and accessibility.

At Barrett CTI, we are committed to shaping the future of immersive technology, driving innovation, and opening new possibilities across industries.



FAST CELEBRATION

Congratulations to full-time faculty member Ahmed (Khallel Ibrahim) Al-Ani and his wife who welcomed their son Shaheen A. Al-Ani!





FAST MILESTONES – APRIL

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

25 YEARS

Robert Gray

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11

ICT Capstone Expo
2:00 – 5:00 PM
Barrett CTI Atrium

April 16

SNRG Capstone Presentations
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Barrett CTI Polytainers Atrium

April 18

Good Friday
Campus is Closed

April 22 – 23

AWS Deep Racer Competition
North Campus Gymnasium

April 23

Engineering Capstone Showcase
1:00 – 4:00 PM

May 5 – 7

Skills Ontario
Toronto Congress Centre



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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