

# ***FAST Times***

## DECEMBER 2025

### DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

This truly is a magical time of year. As we near the end of the semester and the beginning of the holiday season, I want to pause and share my sincere appreciation for your hard work, dedication, and contributions to our FAST community. It is a privilege to work alongside such talented and inspiring colleagues. Your passion and commitment to student success are evident every day, and this issue highlights just a few of the many moments that make our community so special including Fall Open House and when we gathered at our Holiday Lunch.

I would also like to offer a heartfelt and very special thank you to FAST executive assistant, Julie, as she retires this month after serving the Humber community for nearly 15 years. Her unwavering support and hard work have

been invaluable to me and our entire community. Julie's warmth, grace, and dedication have been felt by so many of us, and her presence will be deeply missed.

I hope the holiday season brings you warmth, joy, and moments of peace, along with time to create meaningful memories with those you cherish. Wishing you and your families a wonderful season filled with happiness and good health. I look forward to welcoming you back in the new year, refreshed and energized for the exciting opportunities ahead.

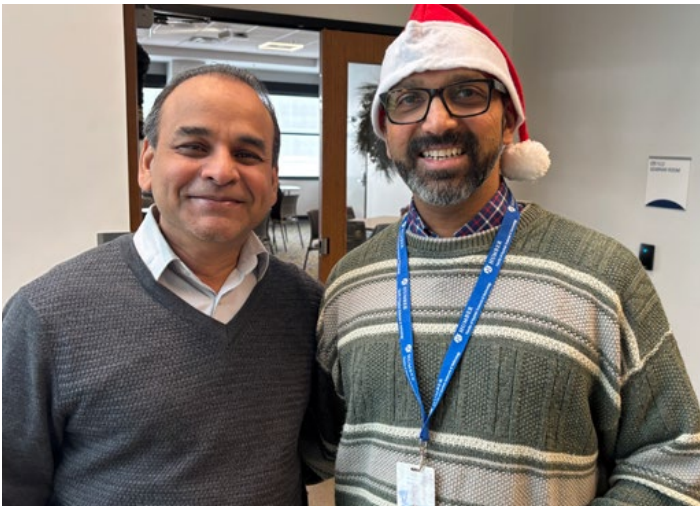


Warm regards,  
**Paul Griffin, PhD.**  
Senior Dean





## FAST RINGS IN THE HOLIDAYS







## FAST RINGS IN THE HOLIDAYS (CONT'D)







## INTRODUCING THE MASTER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE – CYBERSECURITY OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Humber's new Master of Computer Science – Cybersecurity Operations and Management is Ontario's first applied master's degree in this dynamic field.

Designed in collaboration with industry leaders, the program blends advanced technical training with strategic leadership development. With a strong focus on real-world application, students engage in research and projects that address today's most pressing cybersecurity challenges.

From cloud security to post-quantum cryptography, the curriculum prepares graduates to lead and innovate in an ever-evolving digital landscape. Program highlights include:

- Ontario's first applied master's in cybersecurity
- Industry-driven curriculum blending tech and strategy
- Hands-on training at Barrett CTI cyber labs
- 300+ hour real-world capstone project
- Prepares for roles from analyst to CISO

View the program [here](#).





## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

### FAST HOSTS ENGINEERING DEANS CANADA

We were honoured to host the Engineering Deans Canada Fall Business Meeting alongside the Indigenous Black Engineering Technology (IBET) PhD Project Conference.

Our Dean of the School of Engineering, Shaun Ghafari, warmly welcomed the conference and engineering deans from across Canada to Humber Polytechnic with two days of engaging initiatives.

Engineering Deans Canada is a national organization of Deans charged with the leadership and administration of engineering programs at Canadian Higher Education Institutions (HEI). It provides a Canada-wide forum and organizational structure to facilitate coordination, collaboration, and dialogue amongst HEIs on matters pertaining to engineering education and research.







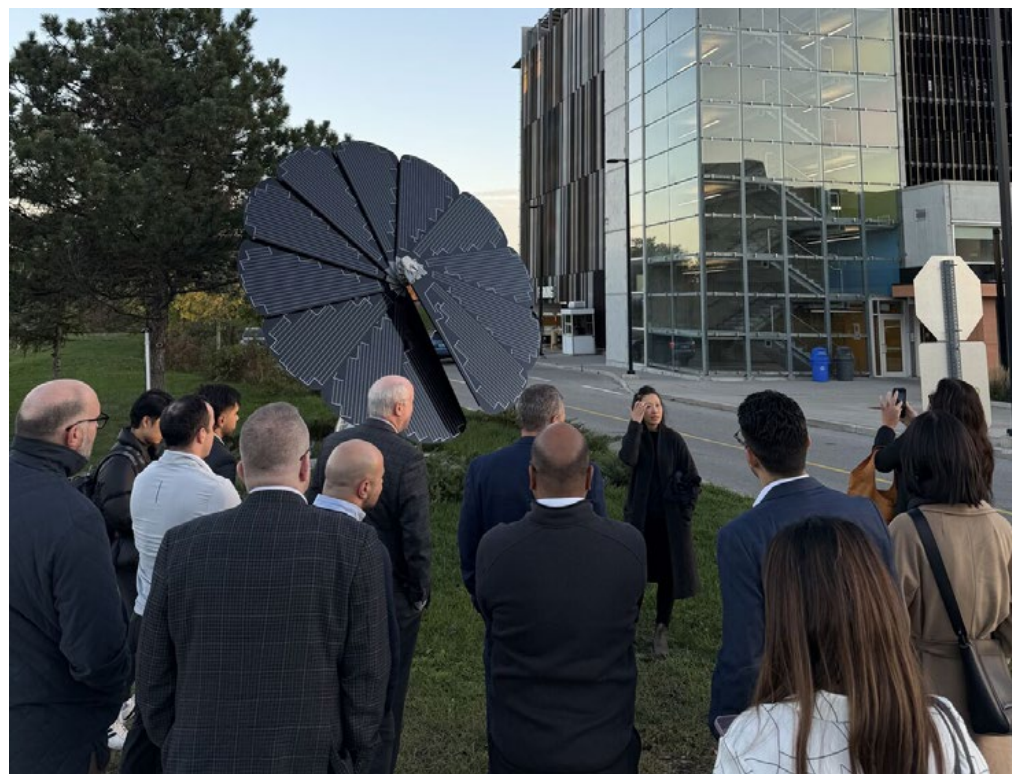
### FAST HOSTS BUILDING INTELLIGENCE GROUP INAUGURAL EVENT

The Building Intelligence Group Toronto chapter recently hosted their inaugural event at Humber to explore how microgrids are reshaping energy resilience and smart infrastructure in Canada.

Moderated by Mahmoud Ghandour, the panel discussion included our Dean of Engineering, Shaun Ghafari, and Cara Cusi who shared valuable insights on driving microgrid adoption and advancing sustainable energy solutions. The discussions sparked exciting ideas about the future of intelligent buildings, and the role education plays in accelerating change and filling skill gaps.

Following the discussion, guests experienced a behind-the-scenes technical tour of the Siemens SmartFlower and SMART Lab, to learn and discuss how microgrids are shaping the future of energy and smarter buildings.

Building Intelligence Group is a cross disciplinary education, support, and networking organization that is dedicated to advancing the market for intelligent commercial building solutions that maximize value for everyone who interacts with the built environment.







## **WOMEN IN ENGINEERING ATTEND EMPOWERING SUMMIT**

Humber's Women in Engineering club attended the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering (ONWiE) Summit at McMaster University!

Celebrating 20 years of progress, ONWiE brings together students, professionals, and leaders in engineering to celebrate, support, and empower women in the field.

The summit provided a platform to hear from incredible speakers, network, and engage in meaningful discussions about creating inclusive environments in engineering.





## WIL TEAM IN HIGH GEAR HOSTING CAREER FAIRS

The FAST WIL Team has been busy coordinating and hosting Career Fairs to support our students at Carrier Drive and North Campus!

The team hosted an event for ICT and Engineering Degree students seeking a Winter 2026 placement, as well as co-op students in the School of Engineering who are graduating this term and seeking FT employment.

To leverage National Career Month, the team arranged for a guest speaker to inform ICT students about career options in financial services (where many want to work) and the value of networking.

In addition, co-op info sessions were held at Carrier Drive for skilled trades students and North Campus for the School of Engineering diploma programs. Students were invited to come and meet with the WIL Team and bring their questions about co-op or how to apply.



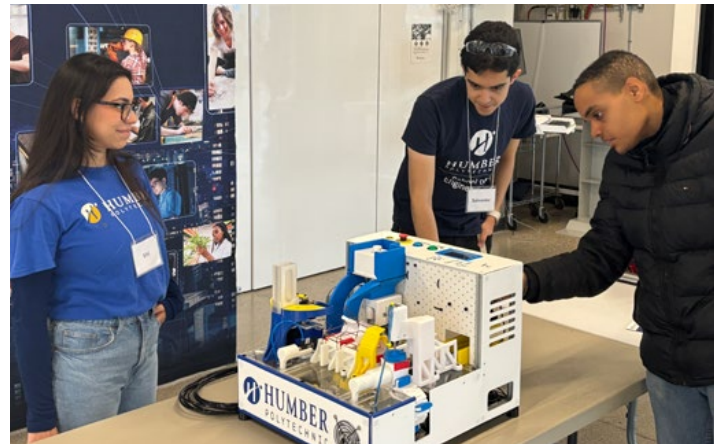




## HOME SWEET HUMBER

Celebrating and showcasing life at North Campus and Carrier Drive!

## FAST HIGHLIGHTS FROM FALL 2025 OPEN HOUSE







## FRANCIS SYMS PRESENTS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES (OCNI) AT THE ONTARIO INVESTMENT AND TRADE CENTRE







## PROFESSOR AMIN SEDIGHFAR SERVES AS A REVIEWER FOR THE 18<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ESYSTEMS ENGINEERING (DESE)







## THEY ARE GOING FROM FAST...TO TAKING IT SLOW.

### RETIREMENT TRIBUTES

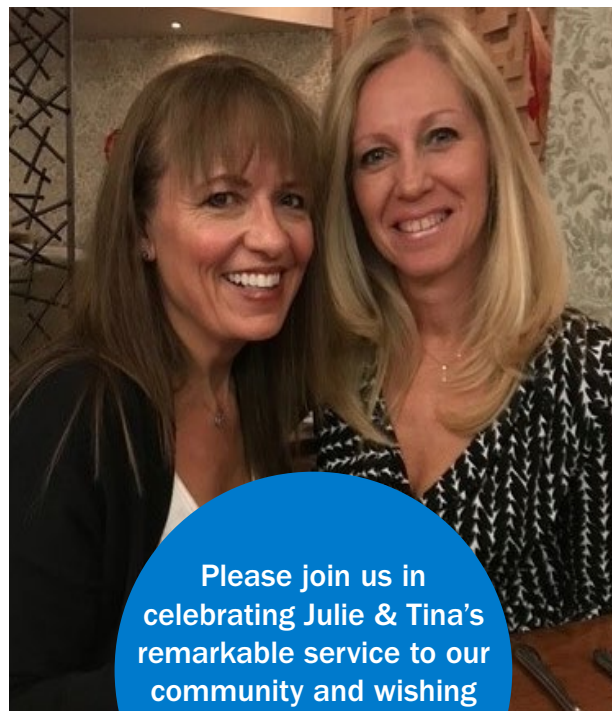
#### Julie Pasquin

For nearly 15 years, Julie has served Humber in a variety of roles, including at the Centre for Skilled Trades & Technology and, most recently, as the Executive Assistant to the Senior Dean.

In August 2018, she received the Extra Mile Award in recognition of her outstanding performance, loyalty, and exceptional teamwork with the Skills Ontario Booth Team.

A strong advocate for lifelong learning, Julie has continually invested in her professional development. She has attended numerous administrative conferences, EDI and leadership training sessions, and most recently completed the Project Management Certificate through Humber's Longo Faculty of Business.

Julie has been a steadfast presence at Open Houses, College Fairs, and Convocation since the very beginning of her time with us. Her dedication, passion, warm demeanor, and collaborative spirit have made her an invaluable member of the team.



Please join us in celebrating Julie & Tina's remarkable service to our community and wishing them all the best in this next chapter.

#### Tina Antunes

Joining Humber in 1990, Tina has served in variety of different roles and occupations throughout our community. Her career has included working in the Conference and Seminars department; Admissions at both the Lakeshore and Main Campus, Outreach and Liaison and most recently at the Centre for Skilled Trades & Technology.

Throughout her 35 years, Tina has dedicated her career to helping students and colleagues alike and has been a passionate supporter of Skilled Trades Ontario taking on a significant role in the organization and planning for Humber's Skilled Trades presence at this annual event.

Considered the guru of Ontario Skills competitions, Tina is recognized for organizing and working hard to get all the competitions filled and announcing the final winners to the Humber executive team.

Actively present at Open Houses, Colleges Fairs, Convocation and career events, her passion and devotion to students and staff has made her an invaluable member of the Skilled Trades Team. Tina has always been invested 110% to her job. Her expertise and fun personality will be missed.

Tina has said that the greatest thing about her career at Humber is the lifelong friends that she has made and it will be these relationships that she will miss the most.





### ARBORICULTURE STUDENTS GAIN INDUSTRY INSIGHT AT THE 2025 MAPLE LEAF ROPES VERTICAL EXPO

By Jennifer Carroll – Program Coordinator, Urban Arboriculture

During International Education Week, arboriculture students had the unique opportunity to step beyond their regular classroom and into one of Canada's most dynamic multi-industry learning environments—the 2025 Maple Leaf Ropes Vertical Expo. This year's event brought together 34 vendors and manufacturers representing Rescue, Police & Military, Tower/Rope Access, and the Arboriculture industry, creating an energizing atmosphere of cross-disciplinary collaboration and innovation.

From the moment students walked into the expo hall, the sense of excitement was unmistakable. The event provided a rare platform for students to engage directly with leading professionals, explore cutting-edge equipment, and discover how various vertical industries share similar systems, safety principles, and technical skills. For many, it was their first time seeing how different sectors apply rope systems, PPE, and rigging solutions in their respective environments.

To help guide their learning, students were encouraged to participate in a class scavenger hunt, designed to take them vendor-to-vendor. Each stop invited them to ask questions, explore equipment, and gather insights that would deepen their technical understanding. Instead of walking past booths to grab free swag—a common expo habit—our students took the initiative to engage in meaningful conversations, something repeatedly noted and praised by the vendors themselves.

Throughout the day, students also attended a variety of education seminars, gaining firsthand knowledge from industry experts. Sessions covered climbing techniques, canopy access, crane-assisted removals, safe body positioning, and aerial rescue planning, as well as broader conversations about safety and professional development.

The final seminar brought the class back together, where another industry expert guided the group through the evolution of modern climbing systems—highlighting how the techniques we use today evolved over time and introduced

newer styles of climbing comparing moving rope systems with static rope systems. This seamlessly connected to the very skills we had planned to explore in our practical based learning class. Maple Leaf Ropes then provided us an opportunity to take over the live tree demo area, where students previewed upcoming practical lessons, including static rope systems, ascenders, and limb-walking techniques.

The impact of the experience was clear. Students described the expo as energizing, immersive, and deeply informative. Many shared how the event expanded their technical understanding—especially regarding SRS and MRS systems, ascenders, friction hitches, throwline techniques, and rope technologies—while giving them new confidence in their developing abilities. They appreciated the chance to speak directly with arborists, trainers, rope access technicians, and gear manufacturers who offered practical advice, mentorship, and insights into multiple career pathways. Students also valued the opportunity to invest in quality gear at discounted rates and left feeling more motivated, inspired, and eager to continue practicing and learning.

Equally encouraging was the enthusiasm from vendors, who were delighted by the students' curiosity and professionalism. Their willingness to stop, ask thoughtful questions, and genuinely engage stood out—reflecting the strong learning culture we've built within our program.

The 2025 Maple Leaf Ropes Vertical Expo not only broadened students' technical perspectives but reinforced the importance of lifelong learning, networking, and experiential learning. What better time to celebrate such a meaningful and engaging educational opportunity than International Education Week—a global reminder of the power of connection, exploration, and growth beyond the classroom.

For our arboriculture students, this field trip was more than an event—it was a meaningful step into the wider professional world they are preparing to join.





## FAST LEARNERS

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



#### TEAM MEMBERS:

Gaston Yim

Karl Leung

Prashant Gurung

#### PROJECT TITLE:

Queuing System for Humber International Centre

We built this project as a deliverable for NEST259-Technical Project. Humber International Centre gave us the opportunity to design a queuing system to manage the queue for their service agents. Not only can the queue be quite long at times, the other challenge is when the next client reaches the counter, he/she may not be matched with the right agent with the expertise and thus cannot be serviced immediately causing further queuing and disappointment.

The first version of our project was a locally-hosted website. We thought it was sufficient. However, with the guidance from Professor Timothy Wong, and the support of the International Centre staff, we expanded the project to include SMS verification, a queue management system to host multiple service agents and a connection to a 'big TV' for displaying the service queue live.

This experience has been invaluable for us because we applied the knowledge we learned in our courses and successfully built this completed solution for the real world.

We would like to thank the Humber International team; Alex Flores, Joshua Favaro, Diane Simpson, Eniola Akinyemi, Munirat Iliyas, Vallari Solanki and many others in the front office. We also want to thank Prof Muhammad Khan and our AD Francis Syms for supporting our extended effort.





## BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

### HOW INDUSTRY COLLABORATION IS POWERING STUDENT SUCCESS

Humber Polytechnic's Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation (Barrett CTI) once again welcomed students, faculty, and industry leaders to celebrate a partnership that's making a real difference.

At this year's Advanced Manufacturing Skills Consortium Partner Celebration, guests heard how industry support from the consortium continues to help students succeed and contribute to Canada's growing technology sector.

The Barrett CTI's consortium partners – a group of 11 leading industry partners including BDATA, Cisco, DMG

Mori, FESTO, Javelin Technologies, KUKA, Magna, Rockwell Automation, SCHUNK, SEW Eurodrive, and SICK Sensor Intelligence – shape how students learn and engage with industry by supporting advanced equipment labs, mentorship, training environments, scholarships, and applied research collaboration opportunities for students. It's an environment where hands-on learning is central to every student's experience.

Read this *Humber Today* feature story [here](#).







### BCTI DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HUB INFORMATION SESSION FOR HUMBER'S STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT TEAM



Humber's Digital Technology Hub took the spotlight earlier this month in an Information session based out of the Barrett CTI's 4th floor Data Centre for Humber's Student Success & Engagement Team to gain an in-depth look at how the Hub is shaping the future of applied learning.

Humber's Student Success & Engagement Team actively engages with SMEs to develop opportunities for Humber students & graduates to work with industry. It was great that this team was able to spend time with Barrett CTI staff to learn more about Humber's Digital Technology Hub and how SMEs looking to work with Humber students can leverage its project opportunities and services.

The Digital Technology Hub is a collaborative innovation space connecting students, faculty, and industry to advance digital transformation. Equipped with advanced infrastructure for exploring Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cyber Security, and Internet of Things (IoT), the Hub bridges academic learning with real-world industry applications and innovation.

For Industry partners, the Hub offers a comprehensive range of services for Industry partners - including

cybersecurity assessments, strategic planning and business management, and educational workshops for upskilling workers.

For students, the Hub serves as a platform to gain hands-on experience and engage directly with industry leaders. This experiential learning environment ensures that future professionals are well-prepared to tackle real-world challenges in cybersecurity and digital technology.

Students in cybersecurity, IT, and mechanical programs showcased their on-going projects, with topics ranging from biometrics & cryptography to online platform development - all in partnership with Humber FAST Faculty and industry partners.

The Digital Technology Hub will continue to be a cornerstone of innovation at Humber Polytechnic - empowering learners to experiment, build, and shape the digital future.

We are always open to opportunities to collaborate with faculty and industry. If you have a business challenge or problem that could be a potential project idea, please [contact us](#).





### "COLLABORATE WITH BCTI" INFO SESSION FOR FAST FACULTY

At the end of November 2025, the BCTI hosted an information session and tour for Faculty across all of Humber Polytechnic to explore the many pathways that they can take to engage with the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation.

Attendance from FAST faculty covered a wide range of disciplines from Horticulture to AI, ML, Cybersecurity, Automation, PLC Programming, Data Science and Advanced Manufacturing. During the session, the BCTI highlighted how our resources - from 3D printing and machining to advanced labs, dedicated project rooms, and technical expertise - can enrich applied research and experiential learning across all programs.

Our goal at the BCTI is simple: bring faculty, students, and industry together to tackle real-world challenges. Through these collaborations, students gain practical, hands-on experience, while faculty have opportunities to test new ideas and build meaningful industry connections.

The BCTI team welcomes opportunities to collaborate with faculty across all academic areas, whether through applied research projects, experiential learning activities, or collaborative technical workshops.

Have an idea for a project or workshop? We'd love to hear from you! Please [contact us](#).







## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 24 – January 2

Holiday Period - The campus is closed.

### January 5, 2026

College Re-Opens

### January 5 – 8

Orientation

### January 7

School of Engineering Orientation

### January 12

Day & Evening Classes Begin

## 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 Jennifer Buchalter: [jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca](mailto:jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca)

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