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Faculty of Liberal Arts
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FALL 2025 ISSUE
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FLAS CONNECT

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Message from the Senior Dean

John Stilla, EdD

As we approach the end of 2025, I am excited to share another edition of FLAS Connect that highlights the incredible work of our students, faculty, and staff.

In this issue, you will read about students across Humber programs who have come together under the guidance of FLAS faculty members to produce meaningful work that can lead to positive change in their communities and chosen fields of study. You will hear the success stories of learners participating and excelling in the Oxford Map-the-System Competition; you will also be introduced to our inaugural Student Appreciation Month ambassador, who shares his own story about the impact and importance of food security initiatives like the FLAS Grab 'N Go Food Banks; and you will read about many other student experiences, both domestic and international, that demonstrate the importance of inclusivity, well-being, and community in the teaching and learning process.

Humber alumni are also represented in this issue, sharing their inspiring leadership and advocacy work in advancing inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And of course, we learn more about FLAS faculty projects, experiences, and initiatives that help define Humber as a leader in polytechnic education and a leader in what it means to create a culture of care for the learning community.

Happy reading, and best wishes to everyone for the start of 2026.



THE FLAS EXPERIENCE

A beautiful view of the sunset over the ocean and mountains from campus



Photo: (left to right) Dr. Tiger Tien, Dean of the Office of International Affairs from HKU takes a picture with Humber Interns Frida Pires, Abbie Pineda, Shelilah Rosario and Akhil Dalvi

FROM TORONTO TO TAIWAN: MY JOURNEY COMPLETING MY INTERNSHIP ABROAD

WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL PINEDA AND SHARED BY MEGAN HORNBLow

If ever given the opportunity to complete an internship abroad, one should definitely take it. So, when I was presented with the chance to complete my internship at HungKuang University in Taichung, Taiwan, I seized it.

I had heard of Taiwan before, but wasn't aware of its delicious food, unique landscape, and hospitable locals. In just 10 weeks, I was able to experience authentic Taiwanese dishes, travel across northern and central Taiwan, and create genuine friendships.

The most rewarding experience during my internship at HungKuang University was organizing Toronto Day, an event that introduced Toronto's culture to the students of HKU. I loved teaching the students about Canada's diverse population so that if they ever visit Toronto, they can find a piece of their home there.

This day felt like an exchange of cultures. Not only did we, the Humber Polytechnic interns, learn about Taiwan, but we were also able to learn about Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, the Philippines, and other Asian countries, as Taiwan is home to multiple ethnic communities.

I felt like a new person after leaving Taiwan. To live like a local in a different country was truly an opportunity I was grateful for, and had many memories and stories to share with my friends, family, and fellow students at Humber

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FLAS FORWARD TOGETHER SYMPOSIUM 2025

BY MARIA-LUCIA DI PLACITO

On August 27, 2025, the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (FLAS) gathered for its annual FLAS Forward Together Symposium, a cornerstone event designed to bring faculty, staff, and administrators together to reflect, learn, laugh, and chart the course ahead. This year's symposium centered on a timely and urgent theme. Yup, you guessed it, AI: Changing How We Work, Teach, and Learn.

Artificial intelligence has become a transformative force across industries, and higher education is no exception. The symposium offered a dedicated space for the FLAS community to examine how AI is reshaping teaching, research, student learning, and the very nature of our academic work. Spoiler alert: it turns out robots aren't taking over the classroom just yet! Phew... I need more time until retirement!

The day began with an engaging plenary discussion on Generative AI. Then, attendees

had their pick of breakout sessions, each one serving up a different blend of inspiration: The Futures of My Work: A Course Learning Module presented by Erin Harvey and Elena De Gregorio; Equity in Practice: A Faculty Guide to Academic Accommodations led by Estefania Toledo, Leah State, Niall O'Connor, and Rosh Wagley; The Flexible Learning Circle: Sparking Insights, Questions, and Ideas with Jessica Freitag and Colleen Ball... just to name a few!

Each session demonstrated the creativity and thoughtfulness of FLAS faculty and staff, leaving participants with ideas to test out in their own practices. I will be testing the Blackboard AI Conversation Assessment Tool this term, which I learned about during one of the presentations. Super excited!



Photo: FLAS faculty, staff, and admin team participating in the symposium and Q&A session



Photo: Peter Stevens, one of the Teaching with AI speakers, at the FLAS Forward Together Symposium 2025

The symposium also celebrated outstanding student contributions with the FLAS Senior Dean's Certificates of Recognition 2025. These awards honoured students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership across different learning environments. I don't know about you, but the recipients helped remind me of why we do what we do, which is always very inspirational. Bravo once more!



Photo: Senior Dean John Stilla giving the Certificate of Recognition to one of the student awardees present at the FLAS Symposium



Photo: FLAS faculty engaging in discussion during the morning session

Another couple points to highlight... Attendees were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to support the FLAS Grab 'n Go Food Banks at the North and Lakeshore campuses; a small action with a big impact. And when it was time to pause, the Sip and Chill Mobile Resources Cart rolled in. Faculty confirmed that a well-timed refreshment or snack can spark as much energy as any keynote, and we all know how much this author appreciates her snacks!

This symposium would not have been possible without the support of FLAS Senior Dean John Stilla, as well as the dedication of all presenters, moderators, and participants who shared their expertise and kept the conversations lively. A special shout-out goes to the 2025 FLAS Symposium Committee (Candace Iron, Barbara Cam, Marylou Di Placito, Megan MacNeil, Arl Viaje, and Anthony Riga) for planning an event that blended serious topics with community spirit.



Photo: The 2025 FLAS Symposium Committee. (left to right) Arl Viaje, Anthony Riga, Megan MacNeil, Candace Iron, Barbara Cam, and Marylou Di Placito

As AI continues to transform higher education, the 2025 FLAS Forward Together Symposium affirmed the faculty's commitment to exploring these changes collaboratively and critically. While no single roadmap exists for AI integration, the symposium proved that FLAS can navigate uncharted territory with curiosity and creativity. It was also a reminder that the symposium is a gathering place: a circle of voices where we can encourage and uplift one another. In times when the pace of change can feel dismounting, these shared moments of connection remind us that moving forward is less daunting when we do it together.



Photo: The Sip and Chill cart rolling in at the FLAS Symposium with refreshments and snacks

FLAS GRAB 'N GO FOODBANK TEAM HONoured WITH PRESIDENT'S EXTRA MILE AWARD

BY CANDACE IRON

We're thrilled to announce that the FLAS Grab 'n Go Foodbank has been recognized with a President's Extra Mile Award for its outstanding contribution to our Humber community!

Awarded at the President's Breakfast, the Extra Mile Award is designed to recognize a Humber or a University of Guelph-Humber (UGH) team that has demonstrated high levels of commitment and dedication to serving colleagues and staff, students, and clients by demonstrating extra effort, dedication, and commitment to Humber's mission, goals, values, and strategic directions, and by providing effective services to support student learning and the Humber community in spite of increasing demands and limited resources (Employee Awards).

The Grab 'n Go team, consisting of Candace Iron (Liberal Studies), Amy Weir (Humber Libraries), Fredy Mejia (Student Success and Engagement), Natasha Curtis (Student Success and Engagement), Sarah Armenia (English), and Sarah Henderson (English), was recognized for their work supporting members of the Humber community facing food insecurity, providing them with easy access to food in a judgment-free space.

Now, more than ever before, the services provided by the FLAS Grab 'n Go Foodbanks are making an impact, providing essential support and reflecting Humber's commitment to building a healthy, inclusive campus based in social responsibility and EDIB, while addressing food insecurity as a systemic, wicked problem.

It is an undeniable fact that food costs are rising across Canada, and while the 2025 statistics will be available soon, according to Canada's Consumer Price Index, food costs rose by nearly 22% in 2024. This has led to a food crisis, which affects many members of the Humber community. In fact, in 2024, 64% of Humber students reported being concerned about their ability to afford food (HSSS). Moreover, it is estimated that 1 in 3 clients at GTA foodbanks are students, 42% of new clients at GTA foodbanks are students, and 56% of the students using GTA foodbanks are international students (2024 Who's Hungry Report).

Through the efforts of the team and the support they have received from the FLAS administration, faculty, and staff, as well as the generous donations from the FLAS and broader Humber community, the FLAS Grab 'n Go initiative has been incredibly impactful across the college. Over the 2024-2025 academic year, between the North and Lakeshore campuses, the 2 FLAS Grab 'n Go foodbanks provided the Humber community with 3,540 food items, plus 130 pounds of fresh produce!

Congratulations to everyone involved with the FLAS Grab 'n Go Foodbanks and thank you for going the extra mile to support the Humber community.



Photo: PC Candace Iron receiving the President's Extra Mile Award on behalf of the Grab 'n Go team

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



Photo: Left to Right: Aman Sharma (Humber Polytechnic), Yangshu (Kelly) Jian, Elinor Bray-Collins (Humber), Sara Hassan (Humber), Maharshi Trivedi, (Humber), Martin Storkholm Nielsen (Faculty, VIA University College)

HUMBER STUDENTS PLACE IN TOP SIX AT OXFORD'S GLOBAL MAP THE SYSTEM FINALS

**BY ELINOR BRAY-COLLINS,
SARA HASSAN, ISABEL SOUSA,
AND STEPHEN STOCKTON**

Do you ever get those calls from “Canada Post,” “Service Canada,” or “FedEx,” telling you to press one to release a package and pay customs fees? Annoying, right? But have you ever thought about who’s on the other end of that call?

That’s the question Yangshu (Kelly) Jiang and Maharshi Trivedi, international graduates of Humber Polytechnic’s Global Business Management program, posed in their award-winning research presentation on cyberslavery in Myanmar and the Mekong Delta - a chilling system of human trafficking that connects organized crime, technology, and human suffering.

This summer, the pair represented Humber on the world stage at Oxford University’s Map the System

competition, hosted by the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. Out of 1,750 participants from 50 post-secondary institutions, they placed in the top six, earning recognition among some of the world’s leading universities.

“There were so many incredible teams tackling complex global issues—we couldn’t have imagined this outcome,” said Jiang. “We feel proud but also deeply humbled.”

For Trivedi, the experience was transformative.

“Hearing our team’s name announced in the top six in the world was one of the best moments of my life,” he said. “The competition completely changed how I see my own potential and systems thinking changed the way I see the world.”

Their journey, however, began at Humber, where they placed first out of 130 teams and advanced to the national finals in Banff, earning a \$10,000 travel grant to attend the global competition. Their research explored how prolonged conflict, entrenched military control, private tech giants and the presence of

armed, non-state groups, acting as de facto authorities, have enabled a billion-dollar trafficking ecosystem.

Cyberslavery lures young, educated people through fake job ads, traffics them across borders, and forces them to run online scams under brutal conditions. Victims are beaten, starved, tortured and often coerced into defrauding their own friends and families to survive.

For Kelly, the issue is personal. In 2021, a young man from her hometown in China accepted what seemed like a legitimate job abroad. Months later, his family received a ransom call. He was returned gravely injured and died days later.

Part of their national win included a grant to develop an intervention to the issue they researched. Kelly and Maharshi are now producing a short documentary amplifying survivor voices and raising awareness of the human cost of cyber exploitation.



Also representing Humber Polytechnic at the Oxford Global Finals was Global Business Management student Aman Sharma, and his counterpart from VIA University College in Denmark, Adewale Adekunle, who were part of an international team working together through the Global Polytechnic Alliance (GPA). The GPA is a long-standing collaboration between VIA, Humber and Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga in New Zealand.

For nearly six years, a faculty team representing these three institutions have run a virtual stream of Map the System where students work together to tackle complex social and environmental challenges—online, across time zones, and across cultures. Both Humber and VIA University College are registered with Map the System. Aman's team won the VIA University College competition, and went directly to Oxford University to represent VIA (and the GPA) at the Map the System finals.

Their presentation, which also looked at Digital Scams but in India, used a systems thinking approach to identify root causes including digital illiteracy, poverty-induced cybercrimes, weak legal enforcement, low barriers to entry into digital scamming and low reporting by victims due to shame. One of their key findings was that digital fraud is not an IT problem but a systemic problem. Breaking the cycle requires grassroots-level digital literacy, trauma-informed care and collective governance. They feel the system must be changed to protect India's digital future.

After navigating an entirely virtual collaboration across full-time schedules, time zones and cultures, it was wonderful to finally see Aman and Adewale meet in-person, and share their work on the global stage with energy and enthusiasm.

Both teams showcased how Humber students are applying systems thinking to real-world challenges and turning complex systems analysis into meaningful global impact.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

FLAS FORWARD TOGETHER SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATES STUDENT BRILLIANCE

BY CANDACE IRON

The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences launched the Fall 2025 semester in style with the third annual FLAS Forward Together Symposium, held on August 17, 2025. This inspiring event once again shone a spotlight on the creativity, leadership, and excellence that define our Faculty.

A highlight of the day was the presentation of the Senior Dean's Certificates of Recognition to 12 outstanding students who exemplify the very best of FLAS. These students were nominated by faculty members and selected through a thoughtful review process by a committee comprised of Candace Iron (PC, Liberal Studies), Marylou Di Placito (PC, STEAM), and Senior Dean, John Stilla.

Each recipient was celebrated for their dedication to academic and creative excellence, as well as their contributions across the diverse learning environments that make FLAS unique — whether global, in-person, or online.

The symposium once again reminded everyone that when we move Forward Together, we elevate not only individual achievement, but our shared community of learners and thinkers.



Photo: Certificate of Recognition for Global Engagement awardee, Tu Luc, with Senior Dean John Stilla

The **Certificate of Recognition for Global Engagement** recognizes students who have been involved in FLAS Global Initiatives, including study abroad programs, work-integrated learning abroad, the Global Summer School, Map the System, and COIL projects.

This year, this certificate was presented to:

- Tu (Lucy) Luc - nominated by Elinor Bray-Collins (Liberal Studies)



Photos: Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in Online Learning awardees, Flora Jiang (left) and Taylor Doria (right)

The **Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in Online Learning** honors students for their active participation, quality contributions, and demonstration of professionalism and respect in an online learning environment.

This certificate was presented to two students this year:

- Taylor Doria - nominated by Renee Griffiths (English)
- Flora Jiang - nominated by Arundati Dandapani (STEAM)

The **Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in In-Person Classroom Learning** acknowledges students for their active participation, quality contributions, attendance and interaction, completion of course requirements, and demonstration of professionalism and respect in an in-person learning environment.

The 2025 recipients of this certificate are:

- Yograj Singh Bir - nominated by Naghmeh Saffarian-Pour (Liberal Studies)
- Jennifer Dobson- nominated by Irene Kosmas (English Language Centre)
- Suhird Singh Gill - nominated by Punam Parashar (STEAM)
- Maria Angelica Handog - nominated by Naghmeh Saffarian-Pour (Liberal Studies)
- Sena Seray Karaca - nominated by Anthony D. VanHoy (STEAM)
- Hong Chun Lau - nominated by Punam Parashar (STEAM)
- Brandy Laurent - nominated by Isabel Sousa (Liberal Studies)
- Baljit Singh Parmar - nominated by Mona Bayani-Keyvani (STEAM)
- Jonah K. Peckham - nominated by Melanie Chaparian (Liberal Studies)

Congratulations to all those recognized with a Senior Dean's Certificate this year!



Photos: Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in In-Person Classroom Learning awardees, Yograj Singh Bir (left) and Jennifer Dobson (right)



Photos: Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in In-Person Classroom Learning awardees, Suhird Singh Gill (left) and Maria Angelica Handog (right)



Photos: Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in In-Person Classroom Learning awardees, Brandy Laurent (left) and Baljit Singh Parmar (right)



Photo: Certificate of Recognition for Engagement in In-Person Classroom Learning awardee, Jonah K. Peckham

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

MEET OUR 2026 SAM STUDENT AMBASSADOR, DUC ANH VO

BY CANDACE IRON & MARIA-LUCIA DI PLACITO



Photo: PCs and Co-chairs Maria-Lucia Di Placito (left) and Candace Iron (right) with the 2026 SAM Student Ambassador, Duc Anh Vo

Since its launch in 2023, the Student Appreciation Month(s) (SAM) initiative has been dedicated to celebrating and supporting our students in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences (FLAS) through meaningful, community-focused efforts. Co-chaired by Candace Iron and Marylou DiPlacito, the SAM committee was established to recognize the hard work and resilience of our students, especially by addressing food insecurity on campus.

Over the past two years, SAM has become a highlight within the Faculty, featuring Free Food

Day events, a Munch and Chat capstone gathering, food prize giveaways, and our ever-popular Grab 'n Go Foodbank, which was established as a result of student feedback received during SAM 2024. Each initiative provides students with nutritious options, community connections, and moments of appreciation that reflect FLAS's core values of care and inclusion.

This year, SAM introduced an exciting new addition: the SAM Student Ambassador role. This designation was created to honour a student who has actively engaged with and expressed gratitude for SAM initiatives. We are thrilled to announce our inaugural 2026 SAM Student Ambassador: Duc Anh Vo.

Originally from Hanoi, Vietnam, Duc is studying at Humber while living in Canada on his own. When Candace and Marylou sat down with him, he shared openly about his experiences as an international student and how SAM initiatives have supported him both practically and personally.

Duc first discovered SAM through FLAS's Instagram page, Humber TV messages, and his math professor, who encouraged students to participate. He soon became a familiar face at all our Free Food Days and Grab 'n Go events, never missing an opportunity to connect and refuel. He smiled as he recalled enjoying our Ramen and Waffle days and even trying peanut butter for the first time through the Grab 'n Go.

When asked what SAM means to him, Duc shared, "Sometimes I forget to have breakfast, so I use the Grab 'n Go to eat. Accessing food from these initiatives saves me money and time... [and] allows me to focus on my studies."

He also expressed appreciation for the take-home foods, like pasta and sauce, that allow him to prepare meals at home, as well as the small items that make a difference in his day-to-day life: "I even got pens from one event, and that saved me from having to buy some," he remarked.

When invited to offer suggestions for improvement, Duc humbly replied, "Everything you guys do is bonus. Maybe I'm the wrong person to ask because getting food is already a bonus... I didn't know these supports would be here when I got here."

To recognize his positivity and continued engagement, we had the great pleasure of presenting Duc with the **2026 SAM Student Ambassador Certificate**, signed by Senior Dean Dr. John Stilla, along with a few food gift cards, and of course, we snapped a celebratory photo to mark the moment!

Duc's story reminds us why SAM was created: to foster belonging, gratitude, and care across our Faculty. We're so proud to have him as our first SAM Student Ambassador and look forward to growing this initiative together with our students year after year.



HUMBER ALUMNI PRESENT AT TWO MAJOR DISABILITY CONFERENCES

BY LAUREN ABELA

Humber alumni Jessica Rotolo and Lauren Abela participated and spoke at two major conferences focused on advocacy and inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)

The first was Best Buddies International's annual Leadership Conference (BBLC), held in July at Indiana University in Bloomington. With nearly 3,000 attendees from around the world, the 2025 theme of "Wickedly Inclusive" featured an incredible 3-days of performances, keynote speakers, special guests, workshops and celebrations. Rotolo and Abela accepted the distinct "Country of the Year" award on behalf of Canada and later spoke on a panel alongside staff from the Philippines to discuss an expansion in international programming. Footage from the conference, including an interview filmed with reporter Matt Lincoln, was aired on Florida news outlets.

On October 27th, Abela and Rotolo presented at the 2025 Beyond Limits Conference in Winnipeg. Their breakout session, titled "The Power of Yes: Advocacy, Friendship and Inclusion in Action," was selected from over 100 submissions. Delivered to approximately 130 attendees, the one-hour session was well-received and emphasized actionable strategies for engaging people with IDD into the community ([link to handout here](#)).

Rotolo and Abela continue to be active ambassadors for inclusive education and leadership. Their work aligns with Humber's values of equity and community engagement. Faculty seeking speakers on topics of inclusion, disability advocacy, or peer mentorship are encouraged to connect with them directly.



Photos: Humber alumni Jessica Rotolo and Lauren Abela at the Best Buddies International's Leadership Conference in Bloomington, and 2025 Beyond Limits Conference in Winnipeg

STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

STUDENT WELL-BEING IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

BY ESTEFANIA TOLEDO



Photo: Dr. Estefania Toledo at Showcase

The Well-being in Learning Environments Academic Priority 3 Project was a cross-faculty collaboration with the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, the Longo Faculty of Business, and Student Wellness and Equitable Learning to amplify curriculum design and teaching practices that support learner well-being at Humber Polytechnic and post-secondary environments.



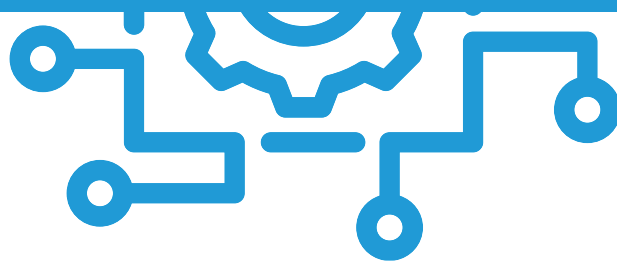
Photo: Student Panel featured on the Supporting Learning Well-being in Higher Education podcast

Led by Dr. Estefania Toledo (Professor), Dr. Christina Meredith (Associate Dean, Pathways Programs), and Leah State (Director Student Well-being), the project conducted an extensive literature review and REB-approved study to identify evidence-based practices that foster well-being in academic settings. Findings informed the creation of a self-paced learning module focused on course planning, learning environment design, and assessment strategies that reduce barriers and support student well-being. Faculty interviews conducted as part of the REB-approved study will be featured on the new Supporting Learning Well-being in Higher Education podcast. Both the module and podcast are set to launch late Fall 2025 on Humber's Healthy You Hub and the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health's educational resources. The first podcast episode features a student panel sharing insights on classroom practices that either support or challenge well-being, offering faculty practical, learner-centered recommendations for improvement.

In 2025–2026, FLAS and SWEL will continue their collaboration by expanding the podcast series and collecting additional research data. The Pathways Programs will act as an incubator for innovative teaching practices, equipping faculty with evidence-informed approaches that strengthen learner mental health and well-being, which can be then scaled across the Humber community.

Faculty interested in participating in the study or being featured on the podcast are invited to sign up here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/tMiVvquNkY>



GLOBAL SUMMER SCHOOL: THINKING IN SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM

BY VIVI TSOUKALAS-TOMOU

This summer, Liberal Studies offered the SOCI 3200: Thinking in Systems course as part of the Global Summer School taught by faculty member, Jesse Clarke. Humber students and international students took the course together.

The course ran for two weeks, during which students learned about systems thinking and began putting together projects surrounding topics of interest and mapping out their chosen issues. At the end of the course, they hosted a Symposium where they presented their projects.

On July 30 and 31 each group shared a presentation which included an overview of their selected topic, their connection to the topic, the history of the issue, and finally a map which showed the interconnectedness of their subject.

There were a wide range of presentations, including:

- Homelessness in Toronto
- Violence in the Shashemene Region in Ethiopia
- Crime & Security in Argentina vs. Canada
- Gen Z Mental Health in an Economic, Social and Health Context
- Public Transit in Toronto: Why has the Eglinton LRT Not Opened Yet
- Plastic Pollution and the Plastic-Free movement
- Overconsumption of Fast Fashion
- Opioid Crisis in Ontario

FLAS and Humber Global staff were welcome to attend the Symposium to learn about the presented issues and ask questions. It was a huge success and students shared how much they were able to learn about their issue by applying systems thinking. They expressed their thoughts on how valuable this new skill they developed was and that it could be applied to any area of study. Students were able to take the skills back with them to their other courses and some of the Global Summer School students shared this would be applied in their PhD studies.

Overall, the Symposium was a huge success that allowed students to apply their learning and truly engage with the content.



FLAS CPL: INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN ACTION

BY SAMANTHA ROACH

CPL International Partnership Enhances Healthcare Communication Skills

FLAS Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) is proud to announce a successful international partnership with Hungkuang University in Taiwan in spring 2025. We delivered a micro-credential titled “Professional Communication for Healthcare” to students in Hungkuang’s Bachelor of Nursing program as part of their core course requirements. This initiative marks a significant step in integrating micro-credentials into post-secondary education, offering students the opportunity to build essential skills while earning additional credentials that boost their employability.

Through this program, students gained practical competencies in:

- Medical vocabulary development
- Crisis response communication
- Workplace communication strategies
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Professional documentation practices

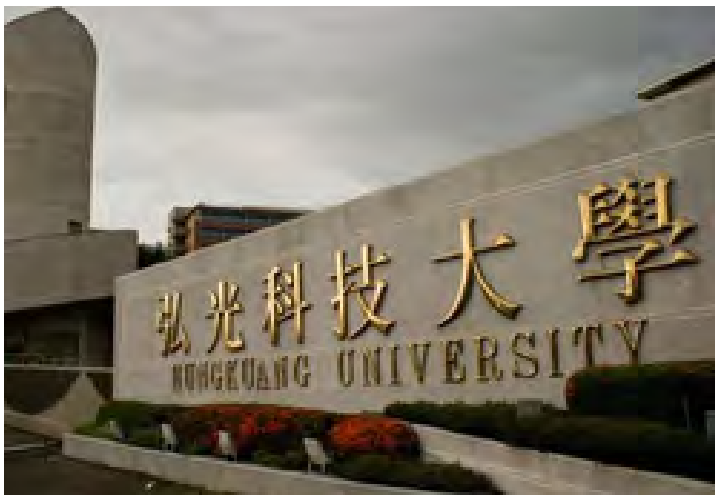


Photo: Hungkuang University

By participating in this micro-credential, students not only fulfilled academic requirements but also enhanced their readiness for the workforce. This partnership exemplifies how global collaboration can enrich learning experiences and prepare students for success in the healthcare system.

We look forward to expanding these opportunities to other international partners and within Canada to support the development of future-ready professionals.

Humber Hosts National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) of Ghana for Compliance Risk Management Training

FLAS Continuous Professional Learning (CPL), in partnership with Humber’s leadership team, proudly welcomed a delegation of 11 senior executives—including board members—from the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) of Ghana for a week-long professional development program at Humber’s North Campus.

The course, titled “Compliance Risk Management,” focused on building essential skills in identifying, assessing, and mitigating organizational risk.



Photo: FLAS CPL team, Senior Dean John Stilla, and Humber SVPA Gina Antonacci with the delegates from Ghana’s NHIA



Photo: Humber's leadership team welcoming the delegation from Ghana's National Health Insurance Authority

Through interactive sessions, the NHIA team explored key topics such as:

- Risk management frameworks
- Risk mitigation strategies
- Risk assessment tools and techniques
- Sustainable risk management
- Hazard vulnerability analysis

Participants applied their learning to real-world scenarios, drawing connections between course content and their own workplace challenges. The program emphasized the importance of proactive risk management in strengthening organizational resilience and accountability.

This international collaboration highlights Humber's commitment to global engagement and leadership in professional learning. We're proud to support NHIA Ghana in advancing their compliance capabilities and fostering a culture of strategic risk awareness.

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For more information:
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For more information, scan this QR code >

Contact us at +1-437-565-1251 or email ielts@humber.ca

ANNOUNCEMENT



Holiday Food Drive to Support **Grab 'n Go Food Banks** at Humber November 17 to December 20

The **Grab 'n Go Food Banks** at both the North and Lakeshore Campuses support our Humber community experiencing food insecurity. To support the **Grab 'n Go Food Banks**, donate non-perishable food items in boxes located at the North and Lakeshore Campuses.

If your department would like to participate in the Holiday Food Drive for the **Grab 'n Go Food Banks**, please contact sarah.armenia@humber.ca (Lakeshore), sarah.henderson@humber.ca (Lakeshore) or candace.iron@humber.ca (North) for branded donation posters.



Current Drop Off Locations:

FLAS 5th Floor, North Campus

MED 3rd floor FLAS, Lakeshore Campus

Most needed non-perishable food items: grains, pastas, rice, noodles, canned foods (fruits, vegetables, beans, fish, meat, sauces), oatmeal and non-perishable breakfast items, infant foods, allergy-free foods (Made Good bars, gluten-free), oils.

Courtesy of Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences in partnership with the Library, Faculty Union, Support Staff Union, and Career & Advising Services



Meet the FLAS TEAM

BY FRANCES SPARANO

In this issue, we interview Neesha Meminger as we dive into her world and take immense pride in her roles and accomplishments.



 **Neesha Meminger**

**Program Coordinator,
Professional Writing and Communications**

What drew me to a career in education—and to Humber, in particular—comes from my own story. I'm the child of immigrants who didn't speak English when they arrived in Canada, so from a young age, I found myself teaching, translating, and helping others understand the world around them. Education has always felt like a powerful tool—not just for learning facts, but for building empathy, creating connection, and encouraging curiosity about people who are different from us. I believe it's one of the foundations of a peaceful and inclusive society.

One thing I'm especially proud of in my current role is starting the South Asian Employee Resource Group (SA ERG). It was something I'd been thinking about and researching for a couple of years, and once I stepped into the Program Coordinator role, I was able to connect with the right people to get it off the ground. It's now an officially recognized ERG at Humber, and it means a lot to me to help create a space where people can feel represented and build community.

I see myself contributing to FLAS by bringing both vision and a strong sense of connection to people. I'm someone who's good at big-picture thinking, but I also draw on a range of lived experiences that help me understand the needs and perspectives of students and colleagues alike. Whether it's supporting inclusive initiatives or helping with recruitment and retention strategies, I hope to be someone who brings thoughtful energy and care to the faculty.

Outside of work, something not everyone knows is that my first novel, a Young Adult book, published by Simon & Schuster in New York, was a kind of love letter to my daughter after the events of September 11th. There were a lot of racially motivated incidents after that day and, as a Sikh woman, I wondered what type of world my daughter would grow up in. Storytelling has always been a way for me to process the world and connect with others—and that same drive to connect is what I bring into my professional life too.

Meet the FLAS TEAM

BY FRANCES SPARANO

In this issue, we interview Mojgan Habibi as we dive into her world and take immense pride in her roles and accomplishments.

What motivated you to pursue a career at Humber and within the educational sector?

My passion for education began in childhood when I accompanied my mother, a high school counselor, to work. Those early experiences sparked a lifelong interest in supporting learning environments. Although I studied physics, my first job was teaching English to adults, which reinforced my commitment to education. Over time, I transitioned into roles involving student assessment, teacher training, and administration—areas where I could make a broader impact.

When I moved to Canada, continuing in education felt natural. I started as an exam proctor, earned trust through my work, and advanced to center manager. My first encounter with Humber was during training for IELTS clerical markers. I was impressed by Humber's vision—transforming from a test venue into a full IELTS test center. That demonstrated to me that Humber values innovation and pays attention to every detail that keeps the system running. This commitment to excellence and growth stayed with me.

Can you share an accomplishment or project in your role that you take particular pride in?

I'm incredibly proud of what our team has achieved together in such a short time. This has included streamlining internal processes and enhancing customer satisfaction; embracing training opportunities which have fostered confidence, improved efficiency, and developed deeper expertise; successfully completing a comprehensive self-audit; and improving partner satisfaction by building strong relationships. These achievements are a testament to collaboration and shared vision, and I'm excited about what we can accomplish next.



Mojgan Habibi

**Manager,
IELTS and Professional Learning**

In what ways do you envision your contributions fostering the overall success and growth of the FLAS?

I'm fortunate to have an incredible mentor, Samantha Roach, and the support of amazing teammates - Yiqi, Anu, Deepti, Nive, Brian, Halyna, Jeremy, Test Day Leads, Invigilators, and Examiners. Their collaboration, dedication, and flexibility turn ideas into reality and drive the expansion of our center. We are optimistic and have exciting projects underway to make Humber's testing services more versatile and accessible to diverse communities and interests.

My goal is to create a working environment that is both meaningful and inspiring. Our Centre's goal is to transform what could be a stressful experience into a positive and memorable one for our clients.

We would like to get to know more about the person behind the professional role. Could you share something personal about yourself, perhaps a dream, a goal or something people might not know about you?

In our department, I'm known for two things: my love of Excel and French fries! Over time, I've created around 20 workbooks—and yes, I've managed to get everyone using them and they love it!

Outside of work, I'm passionate about jigsaw puzzles. They're my favorite way to relax and challenge myself. And while I'm a manager professionally, the role that defines me most is being a mom to my energetic 4-year-old. That keeps life full of joy and surprises like finding muddy puddle drawings all over my carpets.

OPENING DOORS TO ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

**BY PATRICE ESSON AND
CHRISTINA MEREDITH**

Gaining admission to engineering and applied sciences degree programs is a rigorous and demanding process. These programs typically require applicants to demonstrate strong academic foundations in mathematics, science, and technology—subjects that can be challenging even for the most dedicated learners.

Humber's Applied Sciences and Engineering Fundamentals (ASEF) Ontario College Certificate program serves as a vital bridge for students who are passionate about these disciplines but need additional preparation to meet entrance requirements. This one-year, full-time certificate is designed to help students build the academic foundation necessary for success in engineering and applied science degrees and diplomas. ASEF provides a supportive and structured environment where learners can strengthen their skills, boost their confidence, and position themselves to thrive in future academic settings.

The ASEF curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving, helping students develop the intellectual agility required in higher education. Students engage with core subjects such as physics, calculus, computer science, and technical communications—all essential for engineering and science studies. These courses are taught with a focus on both theory and application, ensuring that students not only understand the material but can also apply their knowledge to real-world problems.



Beyond classroom instruction, the ASEF program offers hands-on experiences through lab work, group assignments, and technology-based problem-solving. These opportunities allow students to apply their learning in practical settings, reinforcing their understanding and preparing them for the demands of diploma or degree-level coursework. This experiential learning also helps students develop teamwork and communication skills, which are vital to success in engineering and science careers.

What makes ASEF especially valuable is its supportive approach to learning. Recognizing that students come from diverse educational backgrounds, the program is designed to meet learners where they are and guide them forward. Faculty members are dedicated to student success, offering guidance, growth-oriented feedback, and academic support throughout the year. Interactive classroom activities and collaborative projects foster a sense of community and encourage peer-to-peer learning.

The one-year duration of the ASEF program is ideal for students who are eager to move forward but need a steppingstone to meet admission criteria. Whether they are recent high school graduates or individuals returning to education, ASEF provides a clear and achievable path toward academic advancement. Upon successful completion, graduates are eligible to apply for Humber's engineering and applied science degrees as well as diploma-level programs, now equipped with the skills and confidence to succeed.

In today's academic landscape, proficiency in engineering and applied sciences is in high demand, and the highly competitive nature of admissions requirements for diploma and degree-level programs reflect that reality. ASEF helps level the playing field by offering students a chance to prepare thoroughly and thoughtfully for the next steps in their academic careers. The ASEF program is not just about helping students meet the prerequisites for admission into degree or diploma programs; it is also about cultivating a mindset for success.

For students who dream of contributing to the future of engineering, designing innovative technologies, and solving complex scientific problems, ASEF is more than a preparatory program: it is a launchpad. With its blend of academic rigor, practical experience, and unwavering support, Humber's Applied Sciences and Engineering Fundamentals program empowers learners to take the next steps in their academic journey boldly, knowing their goals are within reach.



THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IS REVAMPING

BY MATTHEW HARRIS

The English department is in the process of an exciting revamp of its WRIT, CORE and ESOL courses!

This project has come about for several reasons. First, the English curriculum was last updated over ten years ago. It was time for a refresh. The pandemic produced many changes to our English courses as we pivoted online and then back again. And most importantly, the rise of GenAI has completely changed the educational sector in the last few years.

Beginning in Fall 2024, a committee including myself and several of my English department colleagues was formed to redevelop the courses. Throughout 2024 and into 2025, we conducted various forms of research: outreach to other programs, a literature review, comparisons to other English college programs, connections with the Office of EDIB and IE&E, and inputs from fellow faculty and students.

Throughout this research, several key themes kept recurring. English courses at Humber needed to focus on oral communication as well as written communication. GenAI needed to be addressed in the courses. And critical thinking – a key part of the courses currently – needed to remain a focus of teaching.

Once the research was completed, we drafted new course names, codes, descriptions, course learning outcomes (CLOs), and modules. These were completed by May 2025 and presented to faculty in the spring semester. Due to the long lead times required for PPDR and the wider institution, these changes are projected to go live in Fall 2026. We will tell FLAS Connect readers more as we get closer to the date.

We are currently hard at work producing the curriculum for the new courses. If you have any questions or if you would like to know more about the changes, please contact Matthew Harris, Program Coordinator for WRIT at the North Campus: Matthew.Harris@humber.ca

There are some great changes coming to the English department's courses. Stay tuned for the full details!



Photo: English feedback session poster





Photo: Mark Andrade and Mike Spencer chatting with guests.

CONNECTIONS – FROM CLASS TO CAREER: A PODCAST BRIDGING LEARNING AND LIFE

BY MARK ANDRADE AND MIKE SPENCER

Connections : From Class to Career is a video podcast series hosted and produced by English professors Mark Andrade and Michael Spencer with support from Humber's Priority 3 project funding.

The series asks a simple question: how does what we learn in the classroom show up in the rest of our lives?

The idea grew out of conversations about redesigning curriculum, but it quickly became something bigger. It highlights how Liberal Arts skills and mindsets like communication, ethics, critical thinking, sustainability, and more show up in work, relationships, and everyday decision-making.

Each episode features a conversation with industry experts to talk about where learning, work, and life meet. Guests like CFL's Head of Player Marketing Mohamed Hassan, FLAS's own Systems Thinking experts Sara Hassan and Isabel Sousa, and Indigenous music advocate and producer Matt Maw share stories about the unexpected ways education, life, and work intersect.

The podcast is also a teaching tool. It connects Humber Learning Outcomes (HLOs) with real voices and real contexts, giving students a chance to see their studies in action.


At its heart, the project is a reminder that education does not stop when class ends.

PUBLICATIONS

Masood Zangeneh *Editor*

Essentials in Health and Mental Health

Unlocking the Keys to Wellness

 Springer

Masood Zangeneh

Essentials in Health and Mental Health: Unlocking the Keys to Wellness

It is a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted landscape of health and well-being, delving into key aspects that affect individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Through the lens of 20 meticulously crafted chapters, this book takes you on a journey to understand the essential elements that contribute to our overall health, from the invisible struggles of loneliness and mental health problems to the impact of global events like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Differential Equations

Amir Tavangar



Amir Tavangar

Differential Equations (also published in French Équations Différentielles)

This book offers an application-focused introduction to differential equations for engineering and science students. It covers first- and second-order ODEs, Laplace transforms, series methods, linear systems, and key PDEs like heat and wave equations. Interactive graphs and “Try an Example” exercises with dynamic problems deepen understanding through visualization and practice.

Mathematics of Finance

Amir Tavangar



Amir Tavangar

Mathematics of Finance

This interactive textbook makes financial mathematics accessible and practical, covering topics like interest, annuities, loans, and business decision-making. It presents both formula-based and financial calculator approaches, supported by dynamic “Try an Example” problems, videos, and visualizations. A free companion app and step-by-step guidance enhance hands-on, self-paced learning.

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Thank you to all contributors and interviewees for participating in the creation of our fall issue



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