



HUMBER

Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology

FAST News

JANUARY 2023

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

New year. New beginnings. As we bid farewell to 2022 and embrace 2023, I extend a warm welcome to our new part-time and full-time faculty members who are joining our FAST community during the winter academic term. I look forward to meeting all of you and reconnecting with our current staff and faculty after an energizing fall 2022 semester!

Every day, FAST staff and faculty inspire me with your dedication, determination, and tenacity to deliver the very best for our community and help our students thrive. Your commitment is deeply appreciated, and I am grateful to collaborate and work side by side with all of you.

As we prepare to take on a new year and begin the winter semester, we continue to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students.

Our students are at the heart of our community and continue to come out of the woodwork to showcase their talent and skills. In this issue, we celebrate the incredible achievements of our students including our learners who unveiled their stunning works of art at the Industrial Woodworking & Cabinet Making Showcase! I hope you will be inspired by our feature story on graduate Mei Fan and her impressive capsule wardrobe that literally lights up the room.

[Continue reading on next page.](#)

**WE ARE
FUTURE FOCUSED**

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Mechanical Engineering Technology Co-op student, Kurt Dickson, is the first recipient of FAST's Global Citizenship Award that recognizes the spirit of global citizenship through work-integrated or service learning. Learn about his incredible summer abroad in Aauhus, Denmark!

Our faculty continually enrich our students' learning experience with extraordinary field trips. Recently, students from the Interdisciplinary Studies course for the Bachelor of Interior Design program visited the Native Child and Family Services to explore the strong indigenous influence on its architecture and interior design.

We have so many more compelling stories that I look forward to you discovering on the following pages, including fun moments from our FAST Holiday Lunch that we highlight in our 'Home Sweet Humber' profile.

I wish you all a transformative year ahead and I cannot wait to connect with you in 2023!

Welcome back!

With gratitude,
Dr. Farzad Rayegani, Ph.D., P.Eng, FEC.
Senior Dean



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FALL GRADUATES COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK TO SHOWCASE STUNNING WORKS OF ART

Our graduating students unveiled their stunning works of art at the Industrial Woodworking & Cabinet Making Showcase! Graduates applied their skills & talent to work with the natural beauty of wood and create these beautiful & unique pieces of furniture. Their creations took pride of place at the showcase where family, friends and industry had the opportunity to interact with these talented makers.

A special shout out to our dedicated faculty & staff who play a key role in the journey of learning and discovery.



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STUDENTS OF CARRIER DRIVE

MEI FAN

Program of Study: Industrial Woodworking Technician
Graduating Year: 2022

What inspired you to pursue this program of study?

To be honest, I didn't have much knowledge of woodworking before enrolling in this program, but I got really drawn into the nomadic lifestyle of the van-life movement during the pandemic, and I bought a retired ambulance vehicle; I renovated it, put a bed in the back and drove it across the country in 2020. This travel experience confirmed my interest in wanting to build and own a "home on wheels" one day, which is what got me into choosing the industrial woodworking program at Humber College.

What were some of the most important things you learned during your program of study?

I'm a very hurried person by nature, and so through woodworking I've learned to cultivate my patience and to take time to do careful planning before executing a project. I also learned not to be afraid of making mistakes, but more importantly to learn from them; and lastly, I let go of my unrealistic standards and I now see that an organic object never needs to be "perfect".

Tell us about your design? What inspired you to design this piece of furniture?

One thing that comes with pursuing a home-on-wheels lifestyle is also the concept of living with fewer objects in your life; quality over quantity. My showcase piece was created/inspired with the play on the word "capsule wardrobe"- a small collection of curated clothes that reflects your personal lifestyle. It has a few interchangeable pieces that can be put together to create many different outfits, and it is an expression of your own personal taste. A minimalist wardrobe in the shape of a big happy pill!



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What did you learn while designing this piece? Describe any challenges you overcame?

I cannot begin to describe how much I learned through creating my final project piece. With my limited experience in woodworking, I have to thank our amazing technicians John and Joseph, who helped me and taught me a ton of skills along the way. From how to securely join the curved pieces together, to using contact cement to attach the final exterior “skin” on the carcass, they helped me out every step throughout this amazing 5 week-long journey.

One thing I remember the most is that I was really upset one day for messing up an important piece of the work that was going to take me a significant amount of time to reproduce. I really wanted to walk out of the class in frustration at the moment, but instead I took the time to cry it out a little and got back to work. I guess what I’m saying is, at your hardest moments when you feel like you really want to give up, don’t. To me, those are the hardest moments to overcome.

What advice would you give to students interested in pursuing a career in woodworking?

Be and stay curious, have a positive learning attitude inside and outside of school, and keep on practicing and making things as often as you can. Humber’s woodworking program is a great place to begin learning. We have incredible instructors that have many years of real-life working experience and who have specialized in different areas of woodworking that you can learn and get support from. Professor Aaslepp is a patient and great teacher. With or without prior experience, students with an interest in pursuing a career in woodworking could give this program a go.

What are your career aspirations upon graduation?

I am now working at a locally owned company in Toronto as their cabinet maker to build custom-designed kitchens/cabinetry for custom tiny homes. Eventually, I am interested in getting into custom furniture making, but I understand it is a difficult sector to get into, so I am planning on returning to Humber’s woodworking night school to further my training, to continue building furniture in my free time, and to keep on producing work and learning.



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FOURTH YEAR INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS EXPLORE INDIGENOUS INFLUENCE ON ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

As part of the Interdisciplinary Studies course for the Bachelor of Interior Design program, the final year students visited the Native Child and Family Services building at 30 College Street, to explore the strong indigenous influence on its architecture and interior design.

The building was chosen by Professor Órla Keane to demonstrate practical evidence of the interdisciplinary design practice theories and methodologies discussed in class.

Architect Dean Goodman led the tour and focused on not only how crucial the input of the indigenous community was to all aspects of the design, but also the challenges they faced regarding bridging the views of western society with indigenous practices and beliefs, enabling a co-learning journey to take place throughout all phases of the project.

The students were given an in-depth tour, which included a native garden with a healing lodge, traditional medicinal plants, and a healing circle which connects the city's Native clients with their culture. The environment also includes a contemporary cedar clad longhouse, which incorporates Native cultural elements that the architects absorbed from their Curve Lake experience, and is now used for circle sessions, ceremonies, and uniting families and their children.



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WIL SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

KURT DICKSON

Mechanical Engineering Technology Co-op student
Inaugural Recipient of FAST's Global Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Kurt Dickson, Mechanical Engineering Technology Co-op student who participated in a Summer Abroad learning opportunity in Aauhus, Denmark in August 2022. Kurt is the first recipient of FAST's Global Citizenship Award. The award recognizes the spirit of global citizenship through work-integrated or service learning. Sponsored by supporters of FAST, the award was established after Senior Dean, Dr. Farzad Rayegani, walked the El Camino de Santiago trail in Spain. The Camino de Santiago is designated a UNESCO World Heritage for its important role in encouraging cultural exchanges between people from all over the world.

How did you learn about the Summer Abroad opportunity?

I heard about this program through an email sent to all students in FAST, and from my Program Coordinator, Sherif Hanna, who supported my interest.

Tell us about this amazing opportunity.

The program was called "UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals" and focused on the state of our planet and what would be required to get onto a path of healing from a path to the end of the human population on Earth. To be completely honest, there were moments during this course that were very depressing. There were constant reminders of the poor balance between human, animal and planet life with a focus on how complicated and overwhelming the solutions are. One small step at a time but with an overall global focus on sustainability seems to be our only option at this point.

How did the opportunity align with your academic program and/or your career goals?

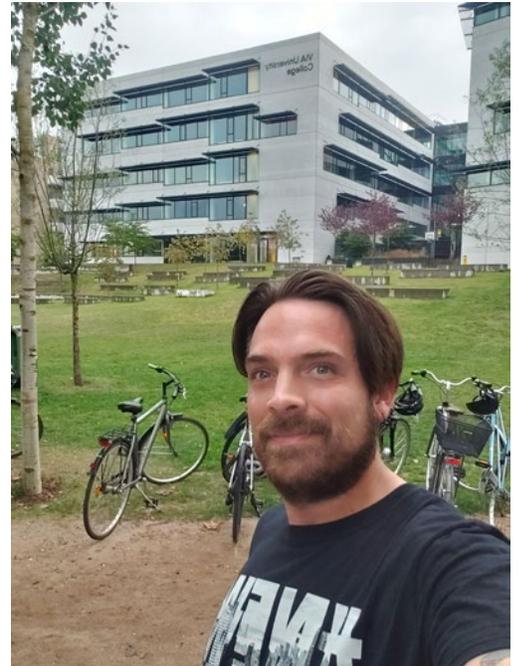
I personally wanted to take part in this program as my main goal for taking mechanical engineering at Humber is to eventually go down the entrepreneurial route with a business concept in the renewable energy sector. My vision is to design, manufacture and install renewable energy technology into homes and all structures, eventually turning all buildings and structures into miniature powerplants. Thus, reducing dependence on the fossil fuel energy industry.

How would you describe the culture of Denmark and working with people from other countries?

The culture in Denmark was incredible and easy to integrate into as the language mainly used was English and the Danish culture is very similar to Canada with their "four season" year and outdoorsy lifestyles. I was able to bond with all 35 of my classmates extremely early into the program and got to spend the remainder of the month building those friendships and strengthening our bonds. I now have friends from Germany, Switzerland, France, South Korea, Britain, Mexico, Denmark of course, and on the west coast of Canada!

What was the best part of the experience?

Working with this group of people was eye-opening and thoroughly enjoyable as we all had generally the same mindset. We all wanted to learn what we could do to help save our species from extinction. To be able to bond academically as well as socially with people from across the world will be forever one of the most lifechanging experiences of my lifetime. The memories, friendships, and networking contacts I made would be three of the best parts of this incredible experience.



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INTERIOR DECORATING STUDENTS EXCEL AT STUDIO 3 PROJECT

Students in our interior decorating diploma program learn from practising professional experts and have the benefit of gaining hands-on experience from our living labs including our North Campus hotel suites!

Designed by the college's interior design school and located in BCTI, these hoteling suites are not only for the benefit of industry partners but also provide a living lab for our students to have a real space to experience and inspire design.

Recently, students were challenged to submit hoteling space designs for their Studio 3 project. Developed by Professor Vanessa Villic-Evangelista and led by Professor Robyn Hayward, the scope of work was to develop a concept that connects to the college.

Students were tasked to create a design that reflected the creative identity of a Canadian artist and challenged to design a workspace based on the hoteling concept giving importance to flexibility and productivity within the workspace. Students were required to develop the space through research, ideation and experimentation while applying principles and elements of design.

Professor Rose Della Penna's students, Leidy Guerra and Miho Ozaki, recognized the indigenous culture is an essential part of the Humber College philosophy and created a concept that reflected the creative identity of renowned Canadian indigenous artist, Daphne Odjig. They designed an atmosphere that promotes creativity and features a statement wall where common elements within Odjig's artistic production are reflected such as sinuous shapes, overlapping and organic shapes.



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HUMBER STUDENT AND FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENTS AT IEEE TORONTO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Toronto recently hosted its annual general meeting where IEEE Toronto Chair, Dr. Maryam Davoudpour and Dr. Farzad Rayegani presented the annual IEEE Toronto Section Awards. Congratulations to the following Humber faculty member and student who are the recipients of the following awards.



Michael Cutts, Electronics Engineering Technology student
IEEE Toronto Scholarship



Professor Saba Sedghizadeh, Instrumentation and Measurement/Robotics and Automation Chapter Chair
IEEE Toronto Section Appreciation of Service Award
Congratulations Michael and Saba!

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HOME SWEET HUMBER

Celebrating and showcasing life at north campus and Carrier Drive!

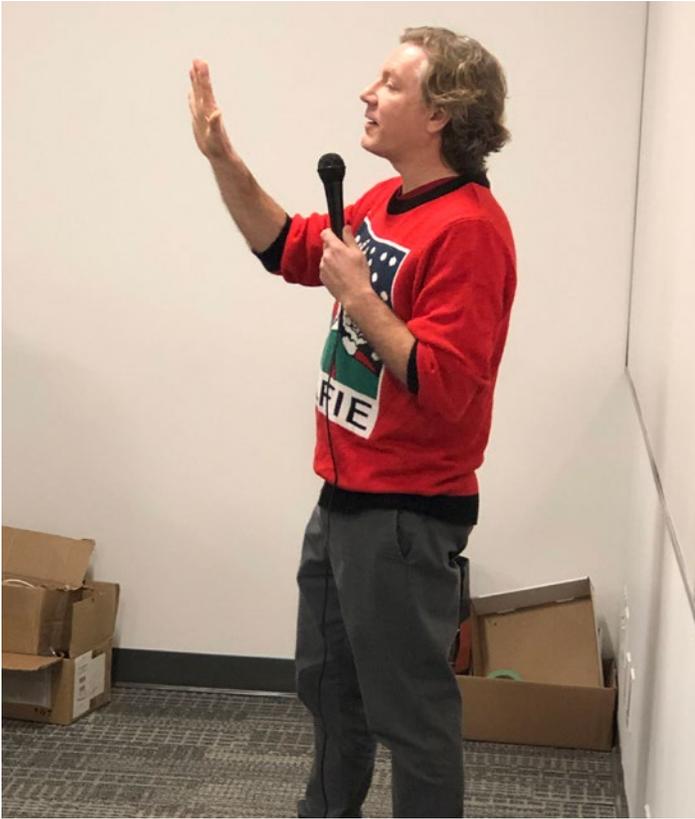
Our FAST community came together to celebrate the holiday season and made the holidays even brighter with the spirit of giving back to our community. Together, we collected and donated \$640 to support Humber's United Way of Greater Toronto campaign!

A special thank you to Julie Pasquin and her team of elves who coordinated this festive celebration.



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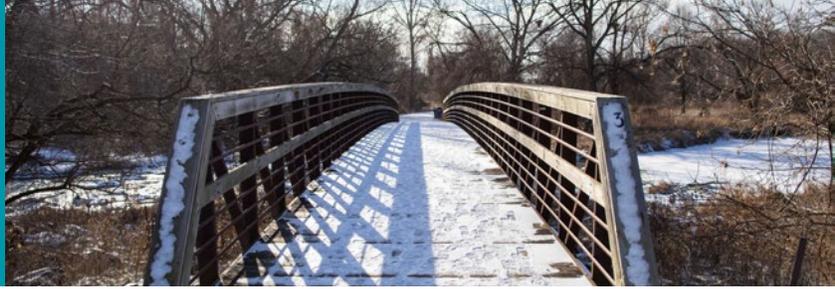
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Share your life on campus images in the next FAST News issue!
Please submit to Jennifer Buchalter: jennifer.buchalter@humber.ca

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WELCOME TO FAST!

To kick-off the new year and winter academic term, we hosted a New Faculty Orientation where we welcomed new full-time and part-time faculty. Please join us as we extend a warm welcome to all faculty including these new full-time FAST members!

Shahdad Shariatmadari, Computer Science Information & Communications Technology

Shahdad received his M.Sc. in software engineering from Azad University in Iran and has been teaching at Humber as a partial-load faculty since 2015. He was a program coordinator for ITS/ESDV program between 2018 and 2021 and he is currently an academic advisor for the programs. He is also very active in applied research projects.



Arman Hamzehlou Kahrizi, Computer Science Information & Communications Technology

Arman is currently working towards his Ph.D. in computer science at Toronto Metropolitan University, expecting to complete in 2023. He is specialized in machine learning and neural information processing. Arman has been teaching at Humber as a partial-load faculty in CPAN program since Fall 2021 and has six years of industry experience as a software developer.

Ali Taha, Mechanical Engineering Advanced Manufacturing

Ali holds two master's degrees in mechanical engineering/solid mechanics and is a member of Professional Engineer Ontario. He has worked in the plastic injection molds and part designs sector for more than five years and worked in the automation and machine design/building for more than 18 years. Ali has been teaching at Humber College as partial load faculty for a few years. He volunteered to support "Tetra Society of North America" to design and build custom assistive devices to individuals with disabilities, and the Shriners of Canada to support 37 sick kid's hospitals all over the world for more than 20 years.

Dina Goldenberg, Computer Engineering Advanced Manufacturing

Dina has been with Humber for several years as a partial load faculty, teaching various courses in computer engineering technology, computer programming and game programming, ranging from introductory to advanced level. Her educational background is in computer engineering in which she holds a master's degree. Dina worked in industry as a software engineer in the field of embedded systems, desktop applications, database, and web development. She has participated in various research projects including a collaboration with Mt. Sinai Hospital, MDA Space Missions, University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University.

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Hadeel El-Kassabi, Computer Engineering Advanced Manufacturing

Hadeel holds a Ph.D. from the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (CIISE) and received her M.Sc. degree in computer science from Carleton University. In 2021, she worked as an assistant professor at Gina Cody School of Engineering and computer science at Concordia University. Her research is focused on big data, cloud computing, workflow orchestration, deep learning, trust modeling, and data quality. Hadeel has a strong industrial experience that spans over 10 years through involvement in different R&D projects including Nortel Networks and Corel Corporation Canada.

Haytham Abdelgawad, Mechatronics Advanced Manufacturing

Haytham received his Ph.D. from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology where he developed novel analysis and control algorithms for MicroGrid systems. He has held a teaching position at the Institute where he conducted research in the areas of controls and optimization of microgrids, power systems operation, dynamics, and control, integration of distributed and renewable generation, energy storage systems and power grid modernization. He worked for Clue Engineering Solutions, where he planned, commissioned and site supervised a variety of projects.

John (Zhengrong) Chu, Mechatronics Advanced Manufacturing

John is a robotics engineer with four years of industry experience in autonomous vehicles and robotics. He specializes in navigation and control, robotic arm programming, autonomous and robotic simulation development. He has a Ph.D. degree in mechanical engineering from University of Manitoba and has worked as a postdoctoral fellow in motion control for autonomous vehicles.

Jacob Willow, Interior Design Design and Built Environment

Jacob is a Toronto-based interior decorator and holds a bachelor's degree in arts and design, specializing in interior design. In 2016, Jacob completed his master of design program in inclusive design at OCAD University. His research on "A Participatory Process for Designing Emotionally Supportive Spaces in Shelters for Homeless LGBTQ Youth" received OCADU's President Award and a medal of inclusion at GradEx 101. Jacob has worked with Humber College in different capacities for the past six years including as a partial-load faculty, teaching assistant, academic advisor, and most recently, stepped in at the eleventh hour to act as program coordinator for the interior decorating program. Jacob is a dedicated community volunteer with a number of initiatives including Humber's Community Outreach initiative for Youth Transition Program (YTP).

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STUDENT CAPSTONE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Michael Jamieson

Program: Computer Systems Technician – Information Technology Infrastructure and Services, Co-op

Capstone Project: New Hire Onboarding Automation supported by Lakeside Controls

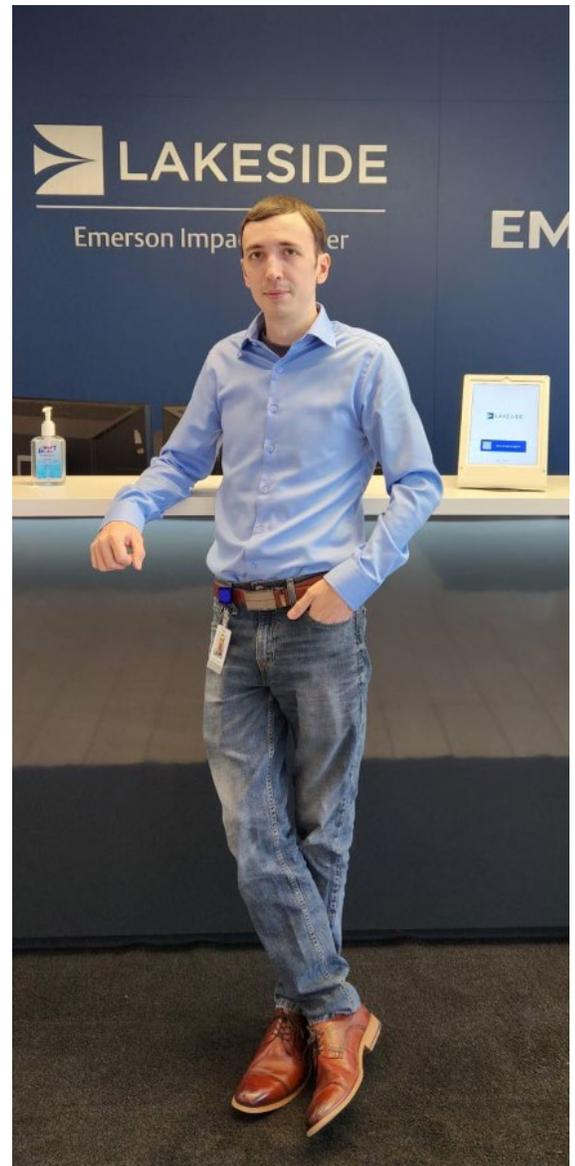
Tell us about your project?

My project was focused on onboarding automation. The goal of my project was to develop an easy to use and fully automated solution. By achieving this goal, it solved many inefficiencies and reduced manual labour involved in the traditional onboarding process from an IT perspective. My system takes information inputted into a web form and sends it through an approval process to each department involved, such as Human Resources and the IT team, with email updates for each step in the process.

The process is initiated by a hiring manager using the web form. It will then be sent to the HR department for review with the option to approve or deny the request. If approved, it will be sent off to the IT team for final review and once fully approved, it will be sent to an automated queue to be processed. All accounts will be created, access levels will be applied, and the exchange mailbox for the user will be enabled. Upon successful completion of the process, a final email will be sent to the hiring manager with the username and randomly generated password of the new account.

What are you most proud of?

I achieved a lot during my time working on this project, I learned about designing, and building out the virtual environment and the web page that handles the requests. I was also able to design a database and simulate a system service using python. I am proud of the final output of this project and how far I have come.



FAST MILESTONES

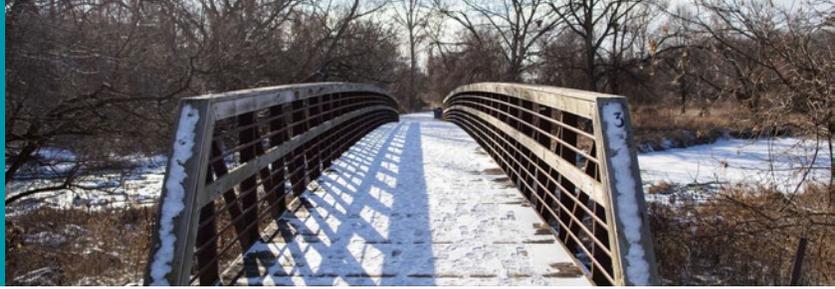
Congratulations to the following faculty and staff who are celebrating a Career Milestone in January!
We truly appreciate your contributions to the Humber FAST community and congratulate you on reaching this important milestone!

1 year Órla Keane

10 years Brandeen McDonald

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ALL DAY BREAK-FAST WITH FARZAD

As we build upon the past five years and embark on this continuous journey together, we welcome your feedback!

To schedule a Break-FAST chat with Farzad or any member of the Leadership Team, please contact the Office of the Senior Dean, Julie Pasquin julie.pasquin@humber.ca



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

FAST NEWS 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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SENIOR DEAN'S IMPACT REPORT 2017-2022

With great pride, May 2022 marked my five-year milestone serving FAST as senior dean. Celebrating the accomplishments of the FAST community is a joy and privilege.

What we have accomplished together during my five-year tenure as senior dean would not be possible without the extraordinary accomplishments of my predecessors, the Humber community and our FAST leadership team.

I humbly present to you the [Senior Dean's Impact Report: 2017-2022](#) – a culmination of our collaborative approach these past five years. We have accomplished incredible growth; launched new programs including three historical engineering degrees; invested in addressing the growing skills gap; fostered strategic industry partners; and helped to transform education on a global stage.

I hope you will take the time to find a quiet corner, sip your beverage of choice and dive into this comprehensive report that chronicles and celebrates our collective achievements!