



FAST Times

FEBRUARY 2026

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

As February begins, FAST reaffirms its commitment to continuous professional learning across our faculty, staff, and student community. With technology and industry evolving at an unprecedented pace, progress depends on our willingness to keep learning, adapting, and growing.

I regularly reflect on how professional development strengthens our ability to innovate and excel in research and applied sciences. This commitment also extends beyond our campus. Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to White Bear First Nation in Saskatchewan to help lay the foundation for an Indigenous-led, hands-on training program in the high-growth Information Technology sector. A teaching centre with digital resources and course instructors will provide hands-on training to a new cohort of post-secondary students this September 2026. Learners will earn Computer Systems Technician diplomas, preparing them for local jobs in White Bear's community.

Together, we are building a framework that reflects community priorities while creating meaningful pathways

into in-demand careers and I look forward to sharing updates in the coming months as Humber provides institutional guidance and technical expertise to White Bear First Nation.

In this issue, we spotlight the third cohort of Schulich Builders scholarship recipients who were honoured at a recent gathering with the Humber community. We also highlight faculty who continue to advance applied research, sharing their expertise through impactful projects and peer-reviewed publications that contribute meaningfully to their fields. The following pages also include updates from the Humber Arboretum, Barrett CTI and include interesting results from a sustainability knowledge questionnaire following an interactive workshop with some of our first-year students.

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



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



HONOURING THE 2025-26 CLASS OF SCHULICH BUILDERS

The Humber community came together to honour the third cohort of Schulich Builders scholarship recipients – exceptional skilled trades students whose lives and futures are being shaped by The Schulich Foundation's generosity.

Through the Schulich Builders initiative, The Schulich Foundation is removing barriers, opening doors, and affirming the value and importance of skilled trades education. To date, the foundation has provided a total of \$875,000 to Humber.

We are deeply proud of the trust The Schulich Foundation has placed in the potential of our students, and we look forward to continuing this relationship as we work together to open doors, create opportunities and support student success.





STRENGTHENING STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY

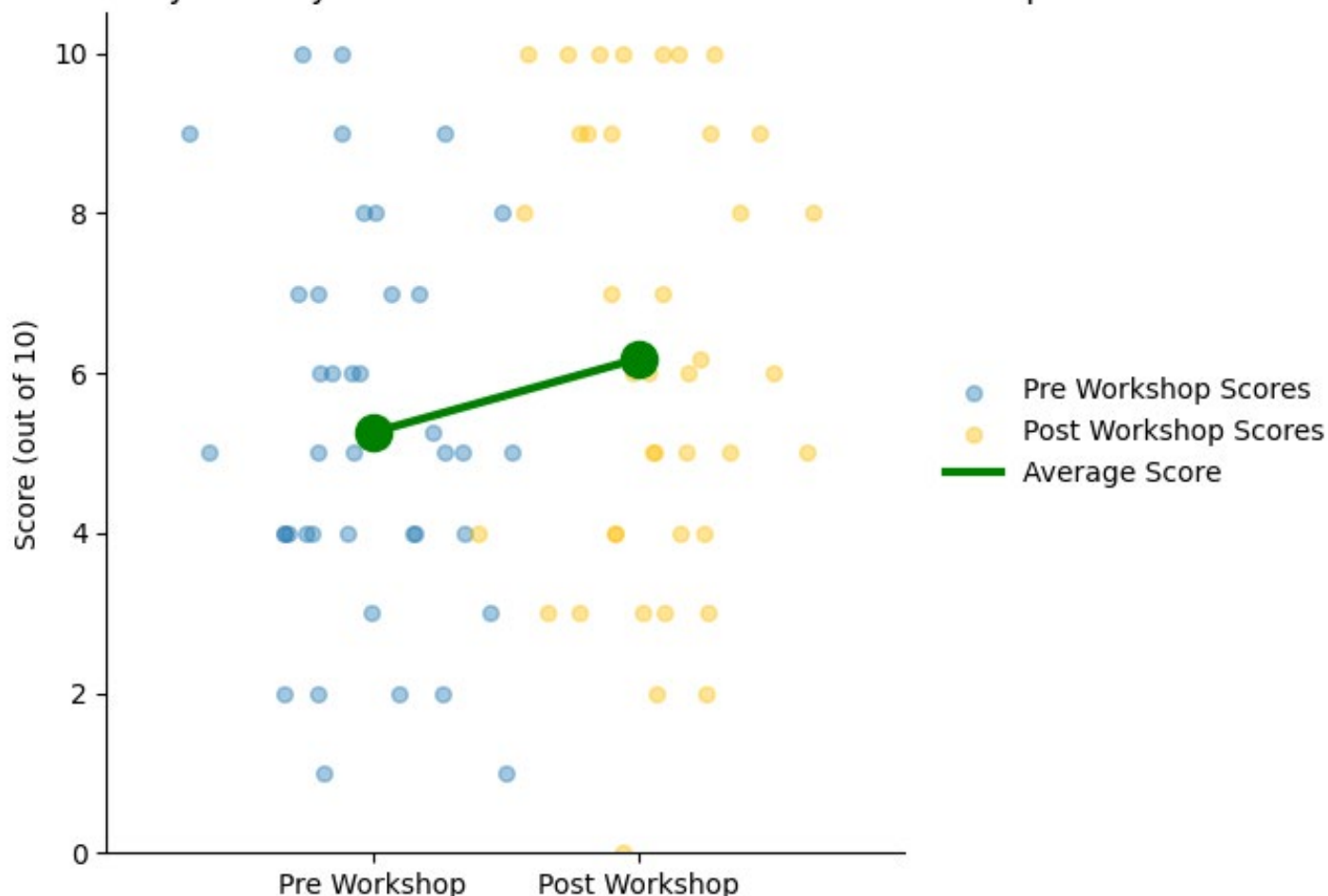
On November 4 and 5, 2025, Sandra Leutri from the Office of Sustainability delivered a one-hour interactive workshop to all four sections of the first-year students of TECH 117 – Foundational Project in the Computer Engineering Technology and Electronics Technology programs, exploring the relationship between sustainability and technology through the lens of personal technology use.

Students completed a general sustainability knowledge questionnaire before and after these sessions, with results

showing a 20% increase in average scores following the workshop. This significant improvement highlights the value of targeted learning experiences intentionally woven into the curriculum, reinforcing course content while advancing Humber Learning Outcomes (HLOs).

When sustainability is integrated in ways that align with students' subject areas, it supports deeper learning and helps students meaningfully apply sustainability concepts within their field of study.

Sustainability Literacy Assessment Scores Pre and Post Workshop





HOME SWEET HUMBER

Celebrating and showcasing life at North Campus and Carrier Drive!

TECHBRIDGE





HOME SWEET HUMBER (cont'd)

WHITE BEAR FIRST NATIONS VISIT



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



BARRETT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

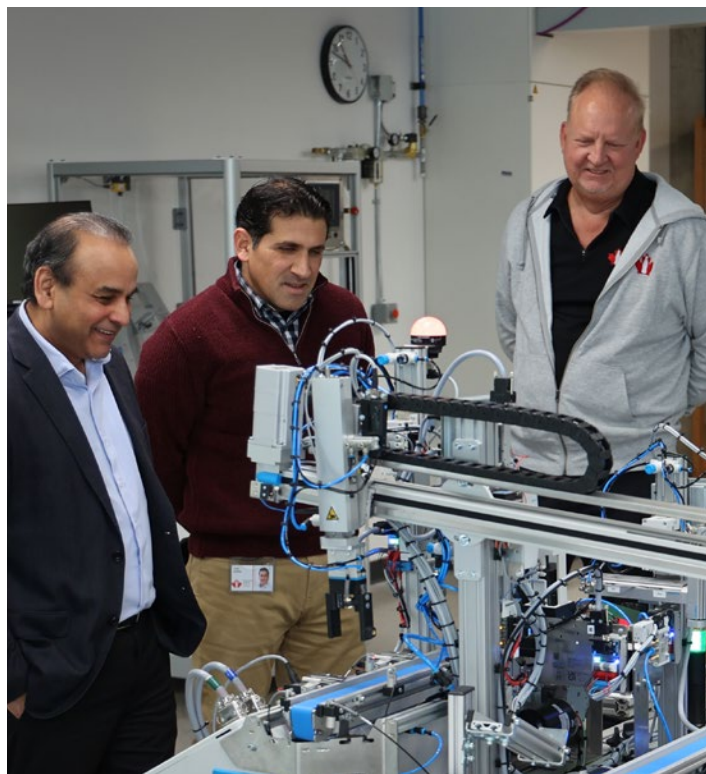
COCA-COLA EXECUTIVES VISIT THE BCTI

We were pleased to welcome executives from Coca-Cola Canada Bottling Ltd. on a tour of the Barrett CTI.

It was a valuable opportunity to highlight our state-of-the-art facilities and demonstrate how Humber collaborates with industry partners to prepare career-ready professionals. With hands-on training and programs designed directly in response workforce needs, Humber supports employers in shortening on-boarding time and building the skilled talent pipelines essential for adapting to a rapidly evolving industry.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening Canada's workforce, supporting local communities, and driving innovation in manufacturing. Together, we're exploring opportunities that connect industry and education in meaningful and future-focused ways.

We're excited to keep the conversation moving and explore new ways to collaborate!





HUMBER ARBORETUM

Register Now for March Break Nature Camp

Registration is open for the Humber Arboretum's March Break Nature Camp. From March 16 to 20, kids aged 6 to 12 can spend their days active and engaged while they explore animal adaptations, signs of spring, the science of staying warm, winter birds, and more. Camp is \$405 for all five days.

Learn more and register now: humber.ca/arboretum/learn/camps/march-break-camp.html



March Break Nature Camp

Registration Now Open!



HUMBER ARBORETUM

+ CENTRE FOR URBAN ECOLOGY

Squirrel Appreciation Day on CBC Radio

On January 21, Outdoor Educator Olivia Ypelaar was interviewed live on CBC's Metro Morning for International Squirrel Appreciation Day. After sharing fascinating squirrel facts and stories with radio listeners, Olivia and Nature Interpreter Joaquín Varela led some intrepid squirrel appreciators on a snowy walk of the Arb to admire the fluffy-tailed acrobats in person.

Thank You to Our "Nature for All" Donors

Since launching in December, the Humber Arboretum's Nature for All Fund has received \$800 in donations to support programming at the Arb. Many of the recent donations were made in memory of community member Anna Michailidis, who one donor said "loved plants and gardening so much." The Nature for All Fund is an ongoing opportunity to support our nature-connection activities for people of all ages. Our deepest thanks to all who have contributed.

Learn more at: humber.ca/arboretum/donate



HUMBER ARBORETUM (CONT'D)

New Milestones for the Humber Arboretum Atlas on iNaturalist

iNaturalist is a citizen science platform which allows anyone to record and map their encounters with wild organisms – both plants and animals. The Humber Arboretum Atlas project on iNaturalist recently surpassed 5,000 observations, representing the contributions of over 400 individuals. Over 3,000 of the observations are currently considered “research grade” within the system, confirming the presence of over 650 different species. A special shout out to 2025 summer camp leader Kiwi for adding over 900 observations! iNaturalist is free to use, and any observations made within the boundaries of the Arb are automatically added to the atlas project.

iNaturalist Search Explore Community More Donate Log In or Sign Up

About Members 29

Help us chronicle the diversity of life at the Humber Arboretum. How many species can be found within this urban green space? Observations made within the Arb are automatically added to this project, but you can also join the project to keep up to date with new sightings, help identify observations,

Read More >

Project Journal

Overview 5,092 OBSERVATIONS 1,154 SPECIES 1,558 IDENTIFIERS 438 OBSERVERS Stats

Upcoming Events at the Arb

Visit the Arb for bird walks, boardgames, bushcraft skills, and to meet some live birds of prey. Learn more and register at: [Humber.ca/arboretum/events](https://humber.ca/arboretum/events)

- Wed Feb 4: Beaks and Brews Morning Bird Walk
- Thurs Feb 12: Knots – Bushcraft Workshop Series
- Wed Feb 18: Beaks and Brews Morning Bird Walk
- Thurs Feb 19: Nature Boardgame Drop-in for Students
- Wed Feb 25: Who's Hoo Part 2: Live Birds Presentation
- Thurs Feb 26: Cordage – Bushcraft Workshop Series
- Wed Mar 11: Nature Boardgame Drop-in for Students
- Thurs Mar 12: Spoon Carving – Bushcraft Workshop Series
- March 16-20: March Break Nature Day Camp
- Thurs Mar 26: Coal Burning: Bushcraft Workshop Series





FAST CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Professor Maria Jacome, Ph.D., whose paper *“Machine-Learning-Derived Hydrogeochemical Facies to Support Geoelectrical Interpretation of Contaminant Plumes”* was recently published.

Together with her colleagues, Vincenzo Luciano Costanzo, Amaru Izarra-Jacome, Vincenzo Costanzo-Alvarez, Rosario Trigo-Ferre, Melanie Jeffrey, Yixuan Cheng, Milagrosa Aldana and Cristina H. Amon, this study presents a framework that integrates groundwater-quality records with electrical resistivity and Induced Polarization (IP) data to better understand landfill-derived leachate plume behavior.

Visit [this link](#) to read the full paper.



Cheers to Professor Amar Sawadi, P.Eng., who virtually presented a paper, *“Evaluating the Impact of False Data Injection Attacks on an Adaptive MILP-Based Energy Management System for a Nuclear-Renewable EV Charging Station”* at the 9th International Conference on New Energy Applications (ICNEA2025) in Tokyo, Japan.

Together with his colleagues, Hossam Gabbar and Associate Dean, Francis Syms, P.Eng. this paper investigates an N-R HES, comprising a Micro Modular Reactor (MMR), renewables, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), controlled by an adaptive Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (MILP) based EMS. This study models and simulates the impact of targeted False Data Injection (FDI) attacks on the EMS’s decision-making process.

Recently, Professor Ahmed K. Al-Ani, Ph.D., delivered several cybersecurity workshops in collaboration with four universities. The workshop, titled *“The Psychology of Hacking: Social Engineering & Security Awareness,”* focused on how attackers exploit human behavior, the psychology behind social engineering, and the importance of building strong security-aware cultures within academic environments.

Furthermore, he published a conference paper titled *“Detecting IPv6 SEND Flooding Attacks Using a Machine Learning Framework”* and obtained his CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) certification, which is widely recognized as one of the most challenging and prestigious certifications in the cybersecurity field.





FAST MILESTONES

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

FEBRUARY

5 years

Piranes Rajeswaran

Diana Balingit

1 year

Sophia Abdi



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16

Family Day. Campus is closed.

March 2-7

Winter Reading Week. No Classes. Campus is open.

March 5

International Women's Day Luncheon and Panel Discussion at Barrett CTI Atrium

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

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