



FAST Times

JUNE 2025

Dear Colleagues,

And just like that – another semester comes to a close. But this is not the end, it's just the beginning. For the Class of 2025, it marks the exciting start of their next chapter – full of possibilities and potential.

This is one of my favourite times of the year when the Humber Polytechnic community comes together to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students as they mark this important milestone. It's a moment to reflect on how far they've come—and to look ahead with excitement to all that lies ahead.

Convocation is more than a ceremony—it's a celebration of pride and a testament to our shared commitment to guiding students toward success. It offers a meaningful moment to reflect on the difference we've made as educators and mentors, and to reaffirm our dedication to shaping the next generation and supporting their growth and development.

In this issue, we proudly showcase a photo gallery of the Class of 2025 at convocation and shine a spotlight on the recipients of the President's Medal and Board of Governors' Medal.

You'll also find plenty of inspiring stories throughout this edition including faculty who travelled to Bhutan with the International Development Institute for the Bhutan Education and Skills Training (BEST) Project; and how interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students are collaborating on unique projects to support the Humber River and the Centre for Innovation in Health & Wellness.

As many of you head into your summer break and others continue supporting our students, I hope this season awards you warm sunny days, and meaningful time with your loved ones.

Thank you for your continued hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our students and I look forward to welcoming you back at our FAST Welcome Back Meeting in August!



With gratitude,
Paul Griffin
Senior Dean



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025

Convocation marks the culmination of our students' academic journey and celebrates the beginning of a new chapter, as they step forward as the next generation of leaders.

We took great pride in welcoming the Humber FAST Class of 2025 at our Spring Convocation on June 19. More than 1,000 FAST graduands from 60+ programs marked this milestone moment and graced the stage to become career-ready graduates.

This included the recipients of two prestigious awards:

The President's Medal

Thesandi Senarathne
Civil Engineering Technology

Board of Governors' Medal

Cole Anthony Capilongo
Computer Engineering Technology

Congratulations to the next generation of engineers, designers, journey people, makers and technology leaders of tomorrow!



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IEEE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

SKILLS ONTARIO – YOUNG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE





IEEE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH-HUMBER





FAST FACULTY SUPPORT BHUTAN'S TVET TRANSFORMATION

FAST members travelled to Bhutan with the International Development Institute for the Bhutan Education and Skills Training (BEST) project from February to March 2025!

Ian MacLachlan, Professor and Program Coordinator, HVAC Technician and Technology, Donna Zarudny, Horticulture Apprentice Instructor, and Craig Trineer, Electrical Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, designed training materials, demonstrations, and hands-on learning activities for trainers at three different technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutes.

Each FAST member shared best practices, curriculum training, pedagogical methodologies, and strategies from

their field of expertise, including Solar PV, HVAC, Electrical Engineering, and Landscaping Technician. They worked closely with Bhutanese trainers to adapt the teaching material to the cultural context and equip students at the Bhutanese TVET institutions with the skills, knowledge, and expertise in these areas for employment and self-employment opportunities.

[Learn more](#) in this **Humber Today** feature article.



FAST MAKES WAVES WITH FLAS TO SUPPORT THE HUMBER RIVER

FAST professor Tim Wong and FLAS professors Steve Stockton and Jen Ball, teamed up with Tianyi (Tim) Zhang, Olha Matviichuk, and FAST graduate John Yan (Fall 2024) to develop an interactive digital dashboard that visualizes the health of the Humber River.

This innovative tool will soon be accessible to everyone, offering new ways to explore and understand our local ecosystem. The dashboard draws on living benthic macroinvertebrates (“river bugs”) to help us interpret the ecological health of the river—giving the Humber River a voice we can all listen to.

We look forward to seeing how educators, students, and the community will use this resource to enhance teaching and environmental engagement. Stay tuned for its release!





FAST STRETCHES ITS MIND FOR CIHW

The Centre for Innovation in Health & Wellness (CIHW) offers Healthy Breaks in the form of a 5-10 minute stretch or mindfulness session throughout the semester.

This programming brings these activities directly into Humber classrooms for the benefit of the students and faculty. At the end of each break, the facilitator would ask the students to fill in a feedback form. The latter would be digitized and analyzed.

Nicole Tonus-Conti, project manager, and Colleen Sartell, administrative coordinator from CIHW had a vision to turn this data into an executive dashboard for easy viewing.

FAST student Muskanpreet Kaur (Winter 2025) from the Computer Technician Program took this on as her technical project. She successfully implemented a data analytic project, using Excel, built a dashboard, and now this project is deployed at CIHW for production use!





DAVE PATRICKSON RETIRES

After an extraordinary 42 years of service, we are honoured to recognize and celebrate the retirement of David Patrickson, a dedicated educator and mentor in the Mechanical Program.

Throughout the decades, David has shaped countless minds, inspired future engineers, and left an enduring legacy of excellence, integrity, and passion for teaching. His commitment to student success and the advancement of mechanical education has made a lasting impact on our community.

Wishing you all the best Dave as you begin this new chapter!





HUMBER ON THE GLOBAL STAGE AT CANADIAN NUCLEAR MISSION

Associate Dean, Francis Syms, joined Team Canada to attend the Korea-Canada Nuclear Business Forum in Seoul.

Organized by the Korea Atomic Industrial Forum, Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries, Canadian Nuclear Association, Investissement Québec, Government of Canada, Quebec Government, this event saw active participation from the Canadian delegation, as well as numerous organizations and businesses from the Korean nuclear industry.

The only Canadian post-secondary institution to attend, Francis proudly represented Humber Polytechnic and joined other presenters to highlight the current state of the nuclear industries and policy directions of both countries, nuclear education in Canada and at Humber and conducted discussions on potential areas for collaboration, including CANDU refurbishment and SMRs.

He toured a research reactor; their new nuclear AI monitoring and diagnostic centre & centralized control room at the KHNP's Artificial Intelligence Monitoring and Diagnosis (AIMD) Centre in Daejeon; visited the research reactor at the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) and had a full day of meetings with the Atomic Energy Industrial Forum.





HOME SWEET HUMBER

CELEBRATING AND SHOWCASING LIFE AT NORTH CAMPUS AND CARRIER DRIVE!

FAST PRIDE





AWS CLOUD PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION



TECHBRIDGE



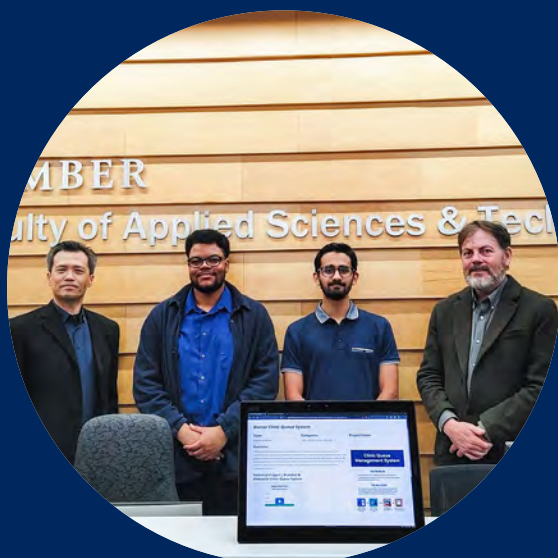
Share your life on campus images in the next FAST Times issue!

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



FAST LEARNERS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



NAMES:

Ahmad Sarwari and Brandon Joyles

PROGRAM OF STUDY:

NEST Computer Systems Technician –
Information Technology Infrastructure
and Services

CURRENT YEAR:

2025 Graduating Year

TITLE OF PROJECT:

Doctors Clinic Queue System

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT?

Our project is titled the Doctors Clinic Queue System, developed as part of Humber's capstone project. It was created to solve a very real, local issue observed at Islington Medical Centre, where Dr. Mahmood Elahi and his team needed a better way to manage walk-in patients.

THE PROBLEM:

Walk-in clinics typically rely on manual check-ins, clipboards, verbal reminders, and patient memory which can quickly become disorganized, especially during busy hours. Patients often wait with no idea of their place in line, and staff are overwhelmed managing the queue manually. This causes frustration, inefficiencies, and leads to poor patient management.

OUR SOLUTION:

We developed a fully functional, web-based queue and SMS notification system designed for real deployment at Islington Medical Centre. Patients check in by scanning a QR code at the clinic entrance, which opens a mobile friendly web form where they enter their name, phone number, and consent to receive SMS updates. Once submitted, their information is securely stored in a local SQLite database.

On the clinic's side, receptionists log in to a secure admin dashboard that displays all queued patients in order of arrival. When it's time to notify a patient, the receptionist simply clicks a "Notify" button, which uses the Twilio API to instantly send a personalized text message to the patient's phone. The entire application is hosted locally on the clinic's Windows computer using Flask (Python), with frontend technologies like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. To make the system accessible from outside the local network, we used Cloudflare Tunnel to securely link the application to a custom domain. The system also includes practical features such as encrypted admin login, a daily queue reset on startup, estimated wait time display for patients, a checkmark icon beside notified patients, and a desktop batch file for easy startup making it simple and intuitive for staff to operate with minimal technical knowledge.



FAST LEARNERS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU LEARNED?

We learned a tremendous amount about both technical development and real-world deployment.

Some key things we learned:

System Integration: Tying together frontend, backend, database, and external APIs (Twilio) into one cohesive application.

Security Practices: Using hashed credentials, session-based access control, and securing local servers via Cloudflare Tunnel.

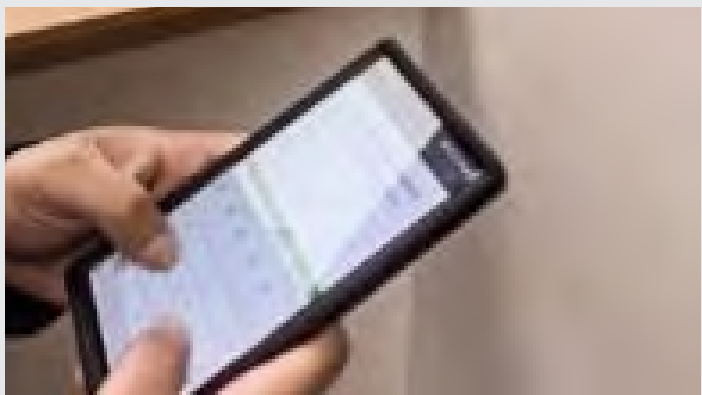
Deployment Challenges: Understanding the difference between development environments vs real deployment, such as local IPs, DNS configuration, and Cloudflare setup.

User-Centric Design: We had to think like both patients and staff. Everything had to be intuitive, especially for people who may not be tech-savvy.

Testing for Real Use: We simulated many edge cases, like poor connectivity, SMS failures, and queue resets to make the system as stable as possible.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER STUDENTS INTERESTED IN YOUR PROGRAM?

- 1. Get Hands-On Early:** The best way to learn is by building. Don't wait for assignments, try making small tools, web apps, or scripts on your own.
- 2. Collaborate with Real People:** Work on something that solves a real problem. It's far more rewarding, and it teaches you how to build for an actual user, not just a grade.
- 3. Don't Be Afraid to Break Things:** We ran into many issues, broken batch files, port conflicts, SSL errors, but each one made us better problem solvers.
- 4. Document and Organize Your Code:** This helped us stay on track and made it easy for anyone else to read and use our system.
- 5. Leverage Free Tools Wisely:** Services like Twilio, Cloudflare Tunnel, and SQLite are powerful, and many other free tiers perfect for student projects.
- 6. Ask for Feedback Often:** We showed early versions to the clinic staff and adapted based on their needs. That input was invaluable.





IN LOVING MEMORY: RON DOTZKO

JUNE 22, 1962 – JUNE 4, 2025

Ron Dotzko was far more than a valued faculty member and the dedicated program coordinator of the Plumbing Apprenticeship Program — he was a trusted friend, an inspiring mentor, and a guiding force for countless students and colleagues. His passion for teaching and unwavering commitment to others left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ron's witty jokes and big laugh was contagious to all around him. The accomplishments of his children were a source of pride to him as well as his commitment to mentoring his students. His enjoyment in music and voracious appetite for books (and food) was only surpassed by his devotion and love for his family and many friends.

We have lost an exceptional educator and a truly remarkable person.

FAST will host a celebration of life for all Humber faculty & staff later this summer. Details to follow.





UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 23-27

Summer Reading Week
Campus is open

JUNE 27

Employee Appreciation Half-Day

JUNE 30

Employee Appreciation Day

JULY 1

Canada Day
Campus is closed

AUGUST 4

Civic Holiday
Campus is closed

AUGUST 25 – AUGUST 29

Orientation Week
Welcome Back FAST Faculty Meeting
Cluster Meetings

AUGUST 28

President's Breakfast
Welcome Back FAST Faculty Meeting

SEPTEMBER 1

Labour Day
Campus is closed

FAST CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to the following FAST members who have joined our team or progressed to new positions!

TIANA GREGORY

PSO, ICT Cluster (secondment)

BAN OBAID

PT Faculty scheduler

ROOP GILL

LSA, FAST North Campus



IMRAN KHAN

P.Eng.

Congratulations to Imran Khan who earned his Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) designation.

This significant achievement reflects his commitment to engineering excellence, ethical practice, and ongoing professional development. The P.Eng. designation is a mark of distinction and responsibility in the engineering profession across Canada.

Please join us in congratulating Imran on this milestone accomplishment!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

FAST Times recognizes and celebrates the achievements of our faculty and students. To share your successes with us, please submit stories and images to the Office of the Senior Dean, Julie Pasquin: julie.pasquin@humber.ca

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