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# SOC&COM

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## **A Message from Joanna Amirault, Senior Dean, FSCS**

Dear FSCS,

With the Winter break on the horizon, I am excited to share Volume 6, Issue 1 of *Soc & Com*. Please take a moment to read through the stories and join me in celebrating the countless achievements of our staff, faculty, and students.

This issue highlights the many ways FSCS fosters hands-on learning experiences, whether by bringing industry into our classrooms or taking students into the community. I am grateful to everyone in FSCS for making these opportunities possible.

I am also delighted to share our new industry partnership with Paragon Security. The first of its kind for a Polytechnic, Paragon Security—one of Ontario's largest private-sector security companies—will guarantee employment for every Humber PSI graduate beginning in Spring 2026. You can read more about this exciting new partnership further in this issue.

As the Fall 2025 semester comes to an end, I would like to thank you all for the many ways in which you support our students every day. I wish you all a safe and restful Winter break and I look forward to continuing our work together in the new year.

**Joanna Amirault  
Senior Dean, FSCS**



# Program & Faculty Highlights



## Poster Presentations: Contemporary Issues in Mental Health and Addictions

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, the 4th year [Bachelor of Social Sciences – Addictions and Mental Health \(BAMh\)](#) students showcased their research projects on contemporary, emerging and re-emerging issues in the field of addictions and mental health in the L-Building. Some topics included: Eco-Emotions in Young Adults; Synthetic Opioid Increase on the Streets of Ontario: Xylazine, Nitazenes, Carfentinal; Multi-Systems Impacts of the Closure of Supervised Consumption Sites in Ontario; Love, Sex and Robots: AI Companionship and Mental Health; “Red Bull Does Not Give You Wings:” Energy Drink Consumption Among Youth and Young Adults: Implications for Mental Health and Substance Use; The Impact of Covid-19 on Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Youths; Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Mental Health Care; and Human Trafficking in Canada.

Faculty and staff from various departments attended and served as reviewers where students engaged in critical discussion on their topics including practice application in the field, EDIB considerations, interdisciplinary relevance and application, and contemporary shifts and changes in the field of mental health and addictions.





## Forensic Identification Class Takes Tire Tracking Lab Outside

In November 2025, [Forensic Identification \(FI\)](#) Professor Andrea MacLeod guided her students through a tire impression lab that took an unexpected real-world turn. Although the class had a standard tire impression lab planned for the day, one of FSCS' forensic technicians reported that someone had recently driven over a curb and onto Humber property, causing significant damage and leaving behind large, clear tire tracks.

Recognizing an ideal opportunity for hands-on learning, Professor MacLeod quickly gathered casting materials and led the students outside to examine the scene.

Read the full story online [HERE!](#)





## Bachelor of Community Development Degree Capstone Projects

In the [Bachelor of Community Development \(CDEV\)](#) program, 4th year Capstone students don't just learn about research, they step directly into it. Through participatory research projects with community partners at The Gatehouse, Richview Community Care Services, and The City of Toronto Community Development Unit, students tackle real questions that matter on the ground. Working side-by-side with agency staff, they explore issues our partners have identified and then translate their findings into clear, practical recommendations. And the best part? Those recommendations don't sit on a shelf, they are actually implemented, creating real-world change the community can feel.

Last year's Capstone students worked with the Gatehouse to do a program evaluation for the peer support program for survivors of childhood sexual assault. Through their research, students learned that the needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ were not being met by the current Gatehouse Peers Support group. As a result, the Gatehouse initiated a 2SLGBTQIA+ Peer Support group, which is the first of its kind in Canada. This year the Capstone students are evaluating the 2SLGBTQIA+ Peer Support group, to support continued program improvement.

Read the full story online [HERE!](#)

## CSC Career Information Session Engages Justice Students

On November 6, 2025, the [Bachelor of Social Science - Criminal Justice \(BSS-CJ\)](#) program hosted Mr. Andriy Tyshkevych, Recruitment Outreach Officer with Correctional Service Canada (CSC), for a career information session at the Lakeshore Campus. The event brought together 25 students from the Justice Cluster to learn about career pathways in the federal corrections sector.

Mr. Tyshkevych discussed available employment opportunities, explained the CSC hiring process, and provided practical guidance on interview preparation. He also highlighted career mobility, from institutional corrections to parole and probation roles. Students actively participated in a lively Q&A session, asking questions about training, qualifications, and professional growth.

Read the full story online [HERE!](#)



## PFP Students Dive into Fall Experiential Opportunities

[Police Foundations Program \(PFP\)](#) students engaged in many experiential opportunities.

On September 27, 2025, seventeen of our Semester 3 PFP students took part in the Rescue IPE Weekend held at the North Campus. From 7:30am to 5:00pm, students engaged in a mock mass casualty crisis simulation alongside students from the [Paramedic](#), [Pre-Firefighter](#), [Emergency Telecommunications](#) and the [Nursing programs](#). Guided by Professors Frank Doto and Peter Iskander, as well as PFP graduate and current York Regional Police Services Officer Ryan Forsythe, the students spent the morning learning from industry experts. In the afternoon, they put their knowledge into action as they collaborated across disciplines to respond to a mock mass casualty crisis scenario.

On October 16, five Humber Police Foundation Program students took part in the York Regional Police Services inaugural Invitational Fitness Challenge. Read the rest of the story online [HERE!](#)



## New Humber Polytechnic Micro-credential Recognizes Youth Creating Real-world Impact

Humber Polytechnic's [Centre for Social Innovation \(CSI\)](#) and youth engagement organization TakingITGlobal (TIG) have partnered on a new micro-credential earned by young people who are driving social innovation change.

After a comprehensive review, Humber and TIG worked closely to identify key opportunities for continuous improvement and learning excellence in TIG's Sprout Ideas Fellowship. Read the full story online [HERE!](#)





## Spotlight on Student Success: Celebrating CJS Field Placement Achievements

[Community and Justice Services \(CJS\)](#) students demonstrated impressive professionalism and dedication during their field placements this year. We are proud to highlight three impressive student accomplishments:

After completing a 4-month field experience, Mildret (Mily) Portugal secured a full-time, permanent position with the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP). VWAP roles are highly competitive, with limited openings, making Mily's achievement particularly notable. Securing this position directly from placement is a testament to Mily's interpersonal skills and commitment to supporting victims and survivors in the justice system. Read more online [HERE!](#)

## The DSW Program Celebrates WE Inspire Week Fall 2025!

Students and Faculty from the [Developmental Services Worker \(DSW\)](#) program celebrated WE Inspire week once again for Fall 2025. This annual week celebrating the work and achievements of developmental services professionals and students from across the province was November 17-21, 2025. This year's theme was WE Inspire: DSWs as Champions of Innovation and Change in Developmental Services. On Friday Nov 21, 2025, DSW Programs across Ontario – faculty and students came together for a free, online conference that brought together over 160 people online!

Read more online [HERE!](#)



## Humber PSI-Paragon Security Partnership

FSCS' [Protection, Security and Investigation \(PSI\)](#) program is excited to announce a new industry partnership! As part of a formal agreement, [Paragon Security](#) – one of Ontario's largest private-sector security companies – will be guaranteeing employment for every Humber PSI graduate beginning in Spring 2026.

To qualify, graduates need to hold a valid Ontario Security Guard license and be willing to work full-time at a GTA location.

The agreement guarantees a baseline of security guarding employment through a 3-month probationary period. Graduates with existing security experience or other relevant skills will be considered for higher-level positions within Paragon Security.

On December 1, 2025, Paragon Security came to speak with the 2026 PSI graduating cohort and to answer questions about this new partnership. Read the full story online [HERE!](#)



## Forensic Identification Students Visit the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service

On November 20, 2025, students and faculty from the [Forensic Identification \(FI\)](#) program visited the OFPS for a full day of learning and professional exposure. They had the opportunity to see various areas of work firsthand, including dispatch operations, morgue services, autopsy services, histology, evidence management, forensic photography, anthropology, and the different disciplines within the Centre of Forensic Science (CFS).

Throughout the visit, students learned from professionals working in these roles, including several Humber Forensic Identification program graduates. Their insights helped students connect classroom learning to real-world positions in the field.

Read the full story online [HERE!](#)



## Bachelor of Community Development Program Launches Fully Online Cohort!

This September, the [Bachelor of Community Development \(CDEV\)](#) program relaunched in a fully online format. The shift has attracted a diverse cohort from across Canada, including many working professionals already active in the community development sector. A key factor in this broadened access is the program's supplemental application pathway. This option allows applicants with any post-secondary credential, combined with relevant work or volunteer experience, to be considered on a case-by-case basis. As a result, the program has drawn students with substantial real-world expertise, which has fostered strong engagement and dynamic knowledge sharing both in the classroom and throughout the wider learning community.

"For me, the Community Development degree is more than an academic path," says Christine Zinni, a Semester 5 student who was already working in the Community Development field when she joined the program. "It's the space where everything I care about finally intersects. It's where theory meets lived experience, where social justice isn't just something we talk about, but something we learn to practice with intention. This program has given me language for the things I've always felt, frameworks for the change I want to help create, and the skills to actually do the work in real communities with real people."

Read the story online [HERE!](#)

## BBS Grad Appointed to ONTABA Board of Directors

Every year, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis (ONTABA) elects a new board of directors, including a student representative. This year, the student representative is Humber's very own [Bachelor of Behavioural Science \(BBS\)](#) third year student, Aleesha Chughtai. Aleesha attended the ONTABA conference last year, which piqued her interest in the association. She attended the conference again this year and was elected to the board. Congratulations, Aleesha!





## FSCS Events

### **Meet your Faculty – Aug 27**

In Fall 2025, FSCS hosted MYF sessions during the Fall Orientation week. All registered, full-time students were invited to attend the MYF sessions, which provide an opportunity for students to connect with faculty in their programs ahead of the semester start.

### **Alexandre Boucher Memorial Lecture – Oct 16**

As part of Mental Health Awareness Month, the FSCS holds an annual lecture in memory of Alexandre Boucher, Criminal Justice Degree student. These lectures are meant to raise awareness and provide support to students and staff within the Humber community. This year's lecture focused on resilience in the face of adversity.

### **College Information Program (CIP) Night – Nov 25**

Humber Polytechnic welcomed prospective learners to its North Campus for the inaugural College Information Program (CIP) Night, a new event designed to connect students with postsecondary opportunities across Ontario.

Seventeen colleges participated, transforming the Learning Resource Commons into a vibrant hub of exploration and conversation.

The Faculty of Social and Community Services (FSCS) hosted an information table, offering insights into its programs and answering general admissions questions.

### **Community and Justice Service (CJS) Mock Interviews – Nov 26**

On November 26th, the CJS program hosted Term 4 Mock Interviews. Community agencies interviewed graduating CJS students, providing them with critical feedback regarding their responses to questions and overall presentation. Sixteen agencies participated, and their feedback was glowing! Several students left with contact information to follow up on job opportunities upon completion. One agency commented, "Now that we know the caliber of students that are actually available, we will be setting our standards higher and looking for the quality of students you have prepared." Congratulations to the Graduating Class of Fall 2025!





## Bonded in Brilliance BH365 Panel Event

On November 25, faculty and alumni from the FSCS took part in *Bonded in Brilliance: Black Kinship, Culture, and Community*, a panel discussion hosted by the Lakeshore Principal's Office in partnership with the Office of EDIB. The conversation was moderated by FSCS faculty member Julet Allen and Bachelor of Child and Youth Care student Onoriode Francis Osifo.

The panel brought together an inspiring group of leaders, including UGH and Community and Justice Services (CJS) alumna Tenisha Noel, a speaker, youth advocate, and entrepreneur. Joining her were the Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman to serve as both a federal Minister of the Crown and a Member of Parliament, and Dr. Rosemary Sadlier, an acclaimed author, social justice advocate, community leader, and former president of the Ontario Black History Society. Read the full story online [HERE!](#)



# Research & Innovation



## FSCS Faculty Advance Research in Partnership with CIHW

This fall, [Addictions and Mental Health \(ADMH\)](#) faculty members Dr. Adam Kingsmith and Dr. Kathryn Mettler, in collaboration with members of the CIHW research team, successfully completed the first phase of an important research study exploring the impact of precarious employment on the mental health and well-being of international students. The team, which included ADMH student and research assistant Arushi Gupta, surveyed hundreds of students across all three Humber campuses to gather valuable data.

As shared by Kathryn Mettler: “There is a lot of anecdotal evidence that suggests international students are often navigating a variety of challenges with precarity and unfair treatment in the workplace. We also know that safe and secure employment is a significant social determinant of health and can have lasting impacts on our mental health and wellbeing...” *Cont'd next page.*



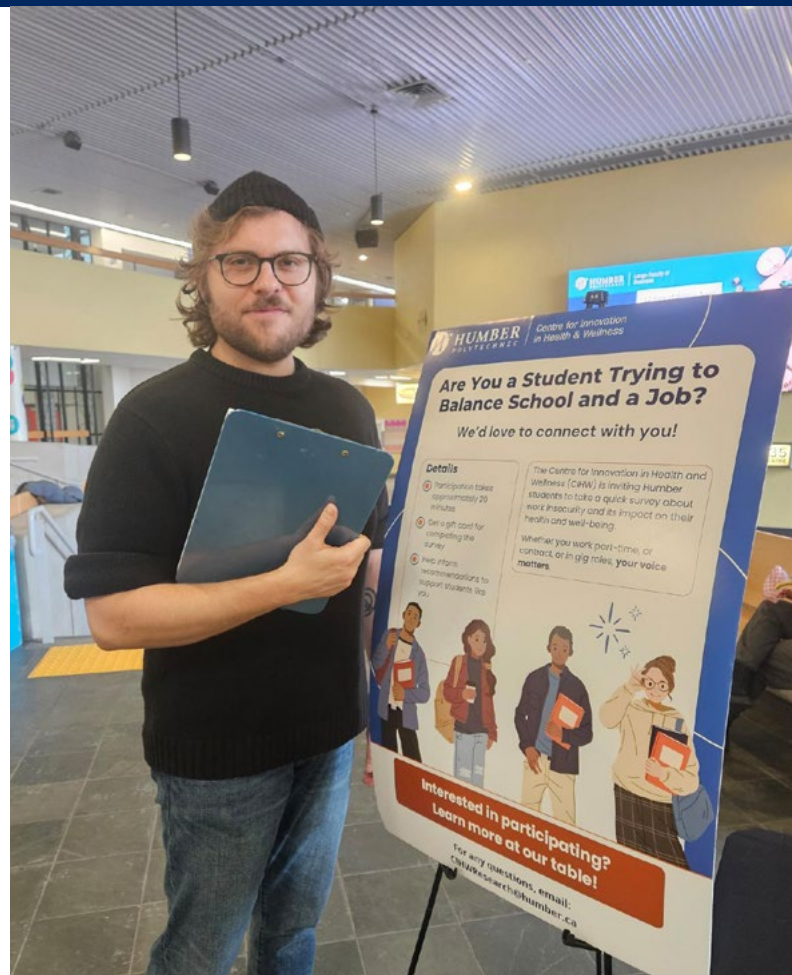
“..Our goal with this project is to collect meaningful data, and to capture the experiences of international students, to hopefully inform improved programs and policies.”

The survey results will also inform the next phase of the project, which will involve conducting focus groups to further examine the experiences of precarious employment amongst international students.

This project is a testament to Humber’s commitment to advancing research and innovation, demonstrating how interdisciplinary collaboration can drive meaningful solutions in health equity.

For more information about the project, please contact the principal investigators at:

Dr. Adam Kingsmith, [adam.kingsmith@humber.ca](mailto:adam.kingsmith@humber.ca), and  
Dr. Kathryn Mettler, [kathryn.mettler@humber.ca](mailto:kathryn.mettler@humber.ca).



## BBS Faculty Featured in SPARK Magazine

Humber’s SPARK magazine featured FSCS faculty members Jo Anne Nugent and Roma Mehta in an interview earlier this year. The [Bachelor of Behavioural Science \(BBS\)](#) faculty members discussed their [Collaborative Online International Learning \(COIL\)](#) project which examines interdisciplinary care and services for people living with dementia. In partnership with the University of Salford, UK, and the British University of Bahrain, Bahrain, students learn international approaches in developing possible solutions for dementia care. Read their full interview [HERE](#).

# Advancement & Alumni

## ALUMNI STORIES

**Anthony Petrini****Program:** [Child and Youth Care - Accelerated](#)**Grad Year: 2021**

In the Child and Youth Care program, every day was a dynamic journey into the complexities of nurturing young minds and souls. Through a blend of theory and hands-on experience, we delved into child development, psychology, and social work. Classroom discussions were vibrant with perspectives on diverse family structures, cultural backgrounds, and developmental stages. Field placements were the heartbeat of our education, where theory met reality. Working in community centers, schools, and residential facilities, we encountered the raw beauty and challenges of supporting children and youth facing adversity.

Read Anthony's full story online [HERE](#)

**Heather Perl****Program:** [Bachelor of Child & Youth Care](#)**Grad Year: 2024**

I had the most amazing experience at Humber. I was able to build friendships through different activities such as being a class leader, getting involved in open house and other volunteer opportunities, as well as building relationships with your professors. I was able to build so many great relationships with my professors. Hearing their stories that they are experiencing in their jobs currently and what has happened in the past allows for the content to be taught using real life examples and to be clear. Each class that I took allowed for different points of view when working with children, youth, and their families.

Read Heather's full story online [HERE](#)

