

### The Dean's Message

One year plus. It is hard to believe that that is how long we have been living with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a long time since we have been able to gather, shake hands, or hug our loved ones. Our faculty, staff, and students have shown great resilience, courage, and persistence in this time of great stress and change. Your kindness, patience, and goodwill during these extraordinary times is what has allowed us to maintain our momentum and provide our students with an extraordinary experience at Seneca.

We have all responded to the situation with elegance and amazing dedication. With significant intellectual effort and passion, faculty and staff have creatively and quickly moved nearly all that we do to online and virtual delivery. Students and faculty have learned how to use multiple new platforms and have adjusted to a life unlike what they have traditionally known.

I offer a humble thank you for your support for FASET and Seneca today and in the future. Because of you, we can continue to provide a world-class education to our students in new and innovative ways. Your support gives students the foundation to continue forward in uncertain times. Your investment shows them that their education matters and teaches them that this is the time to stay the course, to work hard, to learn, and to remain present in the experience.

Your efforts are paying off. FASET's Day 10 Winter 2021 enrolment was 7976 students. This is an 11% increase over this time last year. For the three semesters that make up the 2020-21 fiscal year, we had approximately 20,000 students (a 7% increase over last fiscal year) enrolled in our programs. In any year these numbers would be impressive, but they are even more so given the current environment.

To support this enrolment activity, I am pleased to share that we are initiating searches for approximately 15 new full-time faculty positions for this year. The Chairs will be looking for members to join interview committees. I encourage you to consider participating. Your insights are needed to ensure that we bring in the right people to join our team.

The Return To Campus (RTC) project is in its third semester. Not to jinx the outcomes, but I believe we can define it as a success. Over the last three semesters, we have had over 3000 students on campus to complete required lab activities and progress through their programs.

I am sure I am starting to sound like a broken record, but I need you to continue your extraordinary efforts. Our Summer 2021 semester will also be delivered in the hybrid format. Most courses will be primarily delivered online with select courses having an on-campus component. We continue to monitor the situation and update our plans accordingly. There is a dedicated website to keep the Seneca community updated on COVID-19 developments and I encourage you to visit it often.

Of course, Fall 2021 is on our minds. As the President has stated, it is hard to define concrete plans given the external variables, namely warnings from health officials about variants and the shifting landscape of vaccination plans. The collective desire is to allow more on-campus activity, but we will follow the guidance of our Public Health Units and the respective Ministries. I will continue to make sure the realities of teaching, learning and other related activities in FASET's programs are reflected in the planning process.

This edition once again highlights, under some very challenging conditions, the great work of faculty and staff in FASET. I truly hope you enjoy it. We try to keep these newsletters interesting and relevant and welcome feedback. I thank the various contributors to this edition and to Lena Tang, Carolyn Ursabia and Andrew Wickham for their organizational and editorial oversight. I hope you and your families are well. Much like before: Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Be kind.

Ranjan Bhattacharya

Dean, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Technology

### No Weather Too Turbulent for Aviation Students to Take Flight!

Due to the pandemic FPR School of Aviation flight classes were stalled. Normally, these students would have begun their training by end of April in much preferred flying conditions. With safety precautions installed, flight training resumed but moved to October. Despite the dreary and difficult weather, with an aggressively condensed timeline of four months (normally six), the School of Aviation managed to train two students MacKenzie Gunther and Spencer Dyce (pictured right) completed their Private Pilot Licenses.



So, congratulations to all students and faculty who made this safe and the impossible, possible!

### National Engineering Month in FASET

*School of Electronics Mechanical Engineering Technology*  
SEMET hosted a Women In Technology event during Study Week. The event featured two female panelists discussing their perspectives and pathways throughout their engineering careers with a Q&A from the audience.

As well, the SEMET IEEE Seneca Student Branch club hosted a special Programmable Intelligent Computer (PIC) Microcontroller workshop and competition for electronics students to try and win a Raspberry Pi. Their website discusses their mission, vision, and also shows other events & workshops: <https://edu.ieee.org>

*School of Environmental & Civil Engineering Technology*  
SECET in collaboration with the Seneca College's Career Development Office and Seneca Alumni hosted a virtual panel discussion for the Environmental Technician Technology students on transitioning from school to work in the pre- & post-pandemic era. The event had 40 students attendees and was enjoyed by all!



*School of Fire Protection Engineering Technology*

The 10th Annual Fire Protection Industry Event, organized by the Fire Protection Student Association, set attendance records with students, alumni and industry partners all joining in to hear from two great presenters: the National Fire Protection Association's Canadian Director Shayne Mintz and Seneca's Professor Professor Kris Gillis. The sessions discussed emerging fire and life safety issues and how in many cases Fire Protection Engineering has solutions for reducing deaths and or injury.

### International Student Housing Workshop Wins OPMC Award



**Project  
Management  
Institute®  
Toronto**

Students Afiya Sandy, Shengxi Lin, and Gabriella Noelien from the Project Management – Environmental program have won the Wideman Excellence Award from the Project Management Institute in Toronto.

The 2021 Ontario Project Management Competition had applicants plan and deliver a project to completion. Projects were to tackle one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, their focus being Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities. The event provided a housing information presentation and followed by a Q&A section with Director of Accounts at Places4students Mark Taylor. Participants learned details about renting off-campus, tenants' rights, and avoiding fraud from landlord, and much more. Check out more details on the competition and award on the PMI Toronto social media channels.

Congratulations to the team for a successful event, hard work, and award!

### BSAC Partners with Industry to Combat Viruses

In June 2020, faculty and graduates from the School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry (BSAC) engaged in a project to produce a long-lasting antimicrobial spray to sanitize surfaces. The spray could be used to stop the coronavirus and other respiratory viruses from spreading on all types of porous surfaces in large public spaces such as transit terminals, daycare centres and fitness centres.

The project is a collaboration with Giftgowns, a Toronto-based company that produces specialty hospital gowns. While Giftgowns initially approached Seneca to develop an antibacterial spray for use on the garments, it revised its objective following the COVID-19 outbreak to produce an antimicrobial spray that would be more effective against viruses, including the coronavirus. (For more background, go to <https://www.senecacollege.ca/news-and-events/seneca-news/seneca-teams-up-with-industry-partners-to-combat-viruses.html>)

Following the success of this project, and with the support of the Seneca Centre for Innovation in Life Sciences, Professors Barkev Keoshkerian and Frank Merante are leading the next phase of this work: looking at the efficacy of antimicrobial spray on hard surfaces such as metals, glass and plastic. Initial results suggest that it is just as good at reducing pathogens as it is on rough surfaces.

Giftgowns is in the process of applying to Health Canada for testing of an optimized formulation at a GMP lab to enable production and marketing of a product. Congratulations and good luck to all involved in this project: Co-principal investigators Barkev Keoshkerian and Frank Merante, and research assistants/BSAC graduates Peter Lystbaek, Diljot Singh, Rutvi Patel and Dang Minh Tu Tran.

### FASET's Spotlight Event

Seneca's Recruitment Spotlight Event was held on Saturday, Feb.20, 2021. This event was targeted at domestic applicants who have received an offer of enrollment. FASET has 56 faculty and staff participate in this online event to by hosting program information sessions and answer applicants' questions. Nearly 500 guests attended the 14 FASET information sessions.

We would like to thank everyone involved for making this an outstanding event!

### Welcoming Hadi Majzoub as Chair, SECET and SFPET & Professor Sonal Kamath

On March 22, 2021, we welcomed Mr. Hadi Majzoub as the new Chair of the Schools of Environmental and Civil Engineering Technology (SECET) and Fire Protection Engineering Technology (SFPET). Hadi has been a member of the Seneca community for nearly twenty years: as a student, Lab Technologist, Academic Program Manager, Interim Chair, and now Chair. He holds a Bachelor of Education in Adult Education and Master's of Education through Brock University, and graduated with Honours from Seneca's Computer Engineering Technology program. In 2016 Hadi received the Silver Staff Excellence Award by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan). The Silver Staff Excellence Award recognizes the extraordinary contribution of individuals to their college/institute/communities, and highlights the role of our institutions in social, cultural, and economic development.



The School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry welcomed Sonal Kamath as a new full-time professor. She will primarily be involved in the Cosmetic Science graduate certificate program. Her cosmetic industry experience includes a variety of roles including innovation and research and development. Ms. Kamath holds a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and a Masters in Cosmetic Science.