

The Dean's Message

As we enter the fourth week of the Summer 2022 semester (at the time of writing) I trust, in no specific order, that your classes are going well, your non-teaching time is productive, or your well-deserved vacation is allowing you to recharge and refresh. I have been working on-site a bit more often and it has been great to reconnect with colleagues after a very long time.

FASET had another successful startup and we have welcomed 5,800 students. It is great to note that we exceeded our Day 10 enrolment target for domestic students. Speaking of enrolments, FASET had another outstanding year. Over the last three semesters, we served over 20,000 students which correlates to a year-over-year increase of ten percent. My gratitude for the hard work and your dedication to providing an outstanding student experience.

Across the Seneca community, we are putting the pandemic further behind us (once again said in a slight whisper). This is evident as we continue to welcome back more employees and students. A nice side benefit is having conversations in the coffee line! We are treating the summer semester as a testbed for the new vision for FASET moving forward after the pandemic. I am gratified to see faculty pilot the flexible delivery model. This modality will be a differentiator for Seneca and will influence potential students to choose Seneca.

The FASET Leadership team has been actively collaborating with their respective Schools to vision what we will look like post-pandemic. We spent a considerable amount of time discussing the framework and settled on several guiding principles: student success and student choice, what makes sense by program/course type, alignment with Seneca Au Large, regular review and updates, and the new normal will be significantly different from our pre-pandemic state.

This may initially seem a bit daunting, but given the success of the previous two years, I am confident that with the lessons learned, the creativity demonstrated, and the significant intelligent risk taken, we will end up with a robust and resilient model that will be appealing to students and exciting for employees. I am looking forward to reviewing your great ideas.

I had the privilege of attending the recent Skills Canada competition in Vancouver, BC. Seneca had four competitors representing Team Ontario. Quite simply, they made us incredibly proud by winning one gold and two silver medals. Behind them were amazing coaches from FASET: Ms. Karen Craigs, Ms. Niyosha Zafani Rad, Mr. Ankur Patel, and Mr. Fabio Costa who spent countless hours working with our students to ensure they were well prepared, and I thank them for their incredible efforts. This is one very visible example of the passion and dedication of FASET employees. I thank everyone who goes above and beyond in our mission to provide the best possible experience for our students.

Given all that is going on, I remain extremely optimistic for the future of FASET, and Seneca overall. We continue to support each other and keep moving forward. I am proud to be on this journey with you. As far as COVID-19 is concerned, we are not out of the woods yet, so I encourage you to continue to follow public health guidelines and any other measures to keep yourself safe.

As always, this newsletter is conceptualized and created by a small but mighty editorial army made up of Andrew Wickham, Carolyn Ursabia, and Lena Tang. We welcome all feedback and suggestions for future newsletters. I hope you and your families stay well.

Ranjan Bhattacharya
Dean, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Technology

Cardboard Beds Win 2nd Prize at the Ontario Project Management Competition

The 2022 Ontario Project Management Competition had applicants plan and deliver a project tackling one or more of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals to completion.

The project team is partnered between Project Management Environmental Students & Enactus Seneca to execute an idea to develop a portable and reusable bedding solution. Their project delivered a design and functional prototype of a bed frame made of recycled cardboard. The prototype and design is a solution to address challenges prevalent in remote locations such as temporary dwellings in emergency situations and homeless shelters.



Team Members: Omkar Devasthali (PME), Hetarth Kamdar (PME), Simran Bhatia (PME), Aliya Merchant, Justin Chu (Seneca Business)

The team addressed the UN Sustainable Development Goals #3 (Good Health and Well-being) and #12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). They provided a use case for recycled cardboard, promoting responsible consumption that reduces material footprint and use of natural resources.

Congratulations to the project team for a fantastic project and working to make a meaningful difference.



Prototype of the Carboard Beds.

National Engineering Month: SEMET Employment Panel

As a part of National Engineering Month celebration (NEM), School of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering Technology (SEMET) – organized a very valuable panel discussion on employment after graduation, covering topics such as leveraging school resources, employability, professional memberships, and other aspects for getting quicker, relevant, employment.

We are extremely thankful to Seneca alumni Malav Bhatt and Deval Patel for sharing their journeys from student to professional. They articulately covered priorities while attending school and after graduation to get employment. Both are successful electronics program graduates. Students were greatly appreciative for their time and value-added advice.



*Certificate of Appreciateion for:
Deval Patel & Malav Bhatt*

Thank you to Professors Karen Craigs, Agnieszka Stopka and Dr Rakesh Kantaria for their efforts to make this event successful under leadership of Niyosha Zafani and Romel Cipriani.

The Living City NEM Event by Seneca Environmental Association (SEA)

by Larrissa Wallisch, Shania Chhom, & Justin Trudge

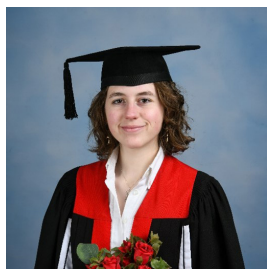
The Seneca Environmental Association (SEA) held a NEM panel on March 10th, 2022 addressing 'The Living City: Green Spaces as a Tool for Resilience in the Urban Environment'. Guest panelists, Brian Milward, Don Forester and Allison Hands spoke on this topic and provided insight backed by their involvement in the environmental field. This event was organized by SEA's executive committee members; Larissa Wallisch, Shania Chhom and Justin Trudge.



Each graduate shared reflections on their time and experiences at Seneca and in SEA.

Larrissa Wallisch

Resiliency is important to me because it is one of the key pieces to combating climate change. I believe, climate resiliency and the built environment are two peas in a pod - we can strengthen our resiliency through a more sustainable built environment. Implementing programs such as climate action plans and green development standards are a great example of a step in the right direction.

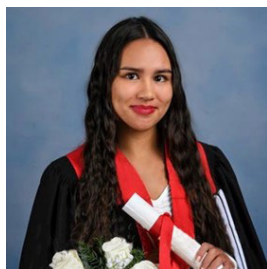


Taking on the responsibility of President of the Seneca Environmental Association has been immensely rewarding. SEA granted me the opportunity to deep dive into Seneca's community to learn about, participate in and raise awareness at amazing events and projects that Seneca is continuously enacting to combat climate change. Being involved with the community and sharing the same goal with team members has been a key motivation when it comes to my next steps; I have elected to continue my education to learn more about what we can do in the fight against climate change.

A huge thank you to Justin, Shania and professors at Seneca for being dedicated to NEM's success! The event could not have been made possible without your constant support.

Shania Chhom

I have been a part of SEA since I first arrived at Seneca in September 2019. I joined the team as a first-year representative in the hopes of encouraging others to participate in making positive changes for our planet, promote and advocate for current environmental events, and also to meet like-minded people who wish to see both urban and ecological development occur within our communities in a manner that is sustainable. I have since become the Vice-President for SEA from 2020-2022.



I have been so thankful for the time that I was able to spend planning and coordinating events with SEA executives and I hope to see SEA continue to thrive in the coming years, as the people I have met through this club have been nothing short of incredible and inspirational. I am now currently working as a full time CAD Technologist as I have just graduated from the Environmental Technology program. I'd like to thank Larissa and Justin for all of their hard work and dedication to SEA, as well as all of the professors and faculty members who have assisted us throughout these past few years in planning and coordinating events and field trips for the club.

Justin Trudge

I had joined SEA in my second year of the Environmental Technology program in in 2021. During my first year in the club there were solid plans to create and promote and NEM event. However due to the ongoing issues of Covid and the difficulties of navigating online platforms, the event had unfortunately been cancelled. This year for the 2022 NEM event I had wanted to take on a more active role in the club which led me to the treasurer position. Lots of work went on behind the scenes to ensure our NEM panel was a success even before I was elected Treasurer. Much of the success for this event I would attribute to Larissa and Shania who both I was happy to have as colleagues. With the support of Larissa and Shania, I slowly became more confident in my role and successfully supported them in the planning and execution of the NEM event.

