

**HUMBER**

# Et Cetera

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## 'WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS'



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AHMAD STUDIES FRIDAY IN THE LIBRARY FOR WEEKEND EXAM**





BRETT MCGARRY

Faculty march together at Queen's Park on Nov. 2 in support of the strike. With the strike over after five weeks, students and faculty are back in class to salvage what is left of their semester.

# Strike alters Humber students' semester

**Kettelia Wright and Cassandra Ryan**

LIFE REPORTERS

Humber's two academic terms were shortened by two weeks each following the province's longest faculty strike to ensure courses are delivered in shorter timeframes.

The changes were made to fit curriculums into two new 13-week semesters, cut down from 15-weeks after five weeks of classes were missed because of the college strike.

The school year will end at its scheduled date of April 27, 2018, so as not to disrupt travel and work plans. Accommodations are also being stressed by the college for students who made previous arrangements for travel during the holiday break of Dec. 23 to Jan. 7.

"With the changes in the calendar we want to make sure we provide the education that we promised," said Guillermo Acosta, dean of the school of media studies.

He acknowledges the changes could come with some stress for both students and faculty, but Acosta is certain the curriculum will be deliv-

ered. Acosta said the goal is to ensure an environment that allows faculty to teach and students to learn.

"We will get through this, I'm confident," Acosta said.

"The idea of having the two balanced 13-week semesters is to make it even in order for faculty to plan better, they won't have to rush to complete a semester in a short period of time.

"It's a matter of let's reduce the stress and pressure of cramming material in a very short period of time," he said.

Students may face new challenges in juggling their workloads under the adjustments.

"I am stressed and overwhelmed because the course load is now condensed and I have less time to learn everything," said Shanice Daley, a personal support worker student at Humber.

Acosta said a major source of stress for students taken into account is the number of assignments and tests, which will need to be reduced so students can achieve their learning outcome.

"Condensing the time raises the pressure of extra volumes of work,

and I don't think that will be the case," he said. "The conversation that we had with faculty was: 'okay, let's make it work in a reduced time frame.'"

Students will be losing the reading week in 2018, which is instituted for the mental well-being of students. It usually takes place following the family day long weekend, but this year students will have a consecutive 13-week semester.

"What we did was instead of a seven-day break, it will be a five-day break at the end of January between the two semesters," Acosta said.

He said the decision to keep the break in December was made so students can better understand how their semester is going before coming back, then getting the five-day break before the winter semester.

This hasn't reassured students that the shorter terms won't affect the quality of their education.

"It's my last year so I'm slightly worried that condensing the semester will cause me to miss out on potentially important information," said Sydney Grant, a third-year public relations student.

## Key academic calendar dates

Per an email sent out to students from Guillermo Acosta, the Dean of the School of Media Studies, students at Humber can expect the following.

1. Classes will resume the week of Nov. 20
2. The last day to withdraw from your program and receive a refund is Dec. 5
3. The last day of classes will be Dec. 22, instead of Dec. 15.
4. No classes, exams or tests will be held between Dec. 22, 2017, as of 6 p.m. to Jan. 2, 2018, at 8 a.m.
5. The first official day will be Jan. 8, 2018. The last day of the fall semester will be Tuesday Jan. 23, 2018.
6. Winter semester classes will begin Monday, Jan. 29, 2018.
7. There will be no February reading week.
8. Winter semester will extend for all classes and exams until Friday, April 27, 2018.

## Bridge helps Black students succeed and stay in school

**Michael Thomas**

LIFE REPORTER

Transformation, empowerment and success for Humber College Black students are the goals of The Bridge program, said Martina Douglas.

The engagement and retention program was developed by Beverly-Jean Daniel, a former professor with the School of Social and Community Services.

Douglas, the Student Support Advisor of Bridge program and diversity initiatives, said it has been supporting Black students for seven years. It hosts workshops, discussing topics including dealing with developing strategies to overcome adversity, at both North and Lakeshore campuses.

Bridge is a support for students who identify as African and Caribbean.

"It's also more than a program,

it's a support, it's a home away from home," Douglas said.

Bridge involves strategies that can be used academically but the programs remain outside of the college system, she said. She describes the relationships fostered by the student retention and engagement program akin to family, Douglas said.

She said Bridge offers workshops that teaches presentation and leadership skills plus self-identity workshops, tutoring, job and volunteering opportunities.

There are also culturally specific events that students typically don't get to see on campus, and all this is done through an Afrocentric lens, Douglas said.

"The program itself allow students to become more motivated and engaged, because they are able to meet more like-minded people," she said.

Students such as 19-year-old Keithian Green a first-year Bache-



MICHAEL THOMAS

Martina Douglas (second from right) with a number of members of Humber's Bridge program.

lor of nursing student from the Caribbean can use these resources.

"Being Black in a non-Caribbean country, I am able to speak and my experience is validated here. It's like being home all over again," Green said.

"The program helps keep me motivated even when it gets difficult, and it does sometimes, therefore Bridge to her is everything in one," she said.

Shawna Breakenridge Ruglass, 33, a second-year recreation and leisure student, shares the same feelings about Bridge.

"As a mature student who has been out of the school system for some time it was challenging at first but this program supports me academically and creates opportunities too," she said

Ruglass said interacting with other international students from Latin America and Africa has given her a different perspective on things, and working with younger students is a two-way street where they all learn from each other.

Douglas said Bridge is all about coming together not to complain, but to excel at good things.





SANZANA SYED

IGNITE president Maja Jocson (far left) listens to Grant Kerr, University of Guelph-Humber Registrar, George Bragues, Assistant Vice Provost, Barbara Riach, Humber Registrar, Alvina Cassiani, Dean of the Business School and Jen McMillen, Dean of Students, during an IGNITE information session at the IGNITE Student Centre at North campus on Friday.

## \$500 fund, student stress addressed at IGNITE panel

**Brett McGarry**  
Arts Editor

A town hall was held by IGNITE in the Humber IGNITE Student Centre and president Maja Jocson led the discussions being live-streamed on Facebook.

Students asked an array of questions about the strike and how the school will be dealing with issues around the strike and the newly revised schedules.

The paltry group of students who did attend the meeting expressed concerns about how projects and tests remaining for their courses will be weighted, concerns about stress and above all, funds from the government mandated relief funds.

Still largely the message remains the same. Administration sympathizes with students and feel it has done its best to accommodate students and have properly adjusted schedules for all parties' best interest.

"Really we are really only going from a 15-week semester to a 13-week semester, which is not uncommon," said Alvina Cassiani, Dean of

Business School. "We are all working together to assess with and support our students so learning outcomes may be achieved."

Many of the submitted questions were specifically about getting their tuition refund, course withdrawal

She said students must provide "documents and receipts that support their claim" of extra finances spent during the strike or that a previously planned arrangement was interrupted to qualify for the fund payment of up to \$500.



The \$500 amount was set out as a mandate by the government and is paid by net savings we experienced. We know it will not be enough for everything"

JEN McMILLEN  
DEAN OF STUDENTS

implications and the fund that provides \$500 to students who experienced hardship.

The student hardship relief fund was set up under mandate from the government to take funding saved by the colleges during the duration of the strike for students who experienced hardship and financial stress.

"Forms for application will be made available this afternoon," said Barbara Riach, Humber Registrar.

Students at Humber College can find the application on the My-Humber website and University of Guelph-Humber students have to fill out a paper copy of the form. Funding will be released by both schools after Dec. 5.

First year mechanical engineering student Taijean Moodie expressed concerns to the panel that a \$500 refund will not be enough and that his friends will be dropping out.

But the panel reiterated the limit of the fund payment.

"The \$500 amount was set out as a mandate by the government and is paid by net savings we experienced. We know it will not be enough for everything," said Dean of Students Jen McMillen.

In contrast Julian Rasetta, a first-year student in media communications, felt nothing has really been disrupted and it should have any detrimental effects on success.

"There really is no difference coming back, it was an easy transition," Rasetta said. "I don't see a point of dropping out right now because everything is fine and the school is handling it nicely. It's like I never left."

Students dropping out can get their tuition money back until Dec. 5, but there are implications for their academic progress.

"Some programs are very sequenced, so if you drop out now you may have to take the rest of the year off," said George Bragues, assistant vice president of Guelph-Humber.

"I know when it comes to the business school, courses are heavily

sequenced."

Specifically, for Humber College students, dropping out this semester means they will have to reapply for their seat in the course next semester, which means competing with new applicants.

Guelph-Humber students are able to reapply in any semester within six months of withdrawing, depending specifically on how their course is sequenced.

"There is only one admission period per year, so if you drop out you run the risk of losing your seat in the program and will have to compete with students coming in as freshmen," Cassiani said.

Students who opt to withdraw and get a refund but used OSAP will see funds directly sent back to the National Student Loan Service.

For students in need of additional health and wellness services, they remain open.

McMillen recommends any student in need takes advantage of them by going to the Wellness and accessibility centre on the second floor of the LRC.

### Editorial Team

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MATT OWCZARZ

Thousands of OPSEU faculty from across the province along with students and other supporters attended a rally in Queen's Park on Nov. 2 when the college strike was well into its third week.

## OPSEU launches Charter challenge of back-to-work legislation

**Sunny Bains**

NEWS REPORTER

During the final days of the strike the NDP decided to block the Liberal's plan to get students and faculty back into classrooms.

Teachers' grievances were not addressed, the party argued. The government issued back-to-work legislation forcing striking teachers, counsellors and librarians to return to the classroom. It was something the government could've done earlier during the strike, instead of letting it run five weeks, the NDP said.

There were alleged shortcomings with the legislation which led the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, who represents faculty, to launch a constitutional challenge to the law.

Talking to the reporters at Queen's Park, NDP leader Andrea Horwath said she doesn't believe in

back-to-work legislation.

"New Democrats don't believe in back-to-work legislation. It's something we fundamentally think is a breach of people's charter rights," she said.

"This is a democracy and within democracies political parties, in and out of the government, exercise their rights, and I suppose from the standpoint of the NDP, it was exercising its democratic right," said William Walcott, who teaches Humanities and Sociology at Humber College.

The NDP's tactics could only have limited effect, and the party knew what the end result would be. By delaying the back-to-work legislation, the New Democrats obliged the house to sit through last weekend to get the legislation passed rather than completing the process on Friday.

NDP's weekend objections had

negligible impact on the timing of return to classes. The current semester will be extended until Dec. 22 in many colleges, the winter reading week will be removed, and an extra week will be added to the school year next spring to make up for lost time.

Joel Willett, president of the College Student Alliance, told reporters at Queen's Park that this is going to be a very busy rest of the semester.

"Students have indicated to us they are very frustrated. This deal should have been done weeks ago," Willett said.

Deputy premier Deb Matthews, who's also minister of advanced education, acknowledged her government will look at why the system failed students.

"We're going to take a really good look at the process of bargaining and see if there's any way we can prevent this from ever happening

again," she said.

"It could have been Monday," Matthews said. "For people who have classes Monday, it's another week...it is a meaningful delay and completely unnecessary."

Horwath termed the bill as "anti-worker" and said it deserved debate and scrutiny.

"Whether that process started Thursday or Friday makes no difference in terms of the outcome," she said.

OPSEU president Warren "Smokey" Thomas said while he couldn't fault Premier Kathleen Wynne's government for introducing the back-to-work legislation, he said the union launched its legal challenge on the legislation's constitutionality citing the Charter's Sec. 2(d), protection of freedom of association.

"For over a decade, the Supreme Court of Canada has viewed collective bargaining as a protected right under the Charter," Thomas said in

a prepared statement Nov. 23. "More recently, the court has extended that protection to the right to strike.

"In the case of the colleges, the provincial government had the power to direct the employer to make the moves necessary to bargain a settlement," he said. "The government chose legislation instead. They trampled on the right to collective bargaining when they clearly had other choices."

Thomas said the premier only offered a small window for negotiations Nov. 16 after 86 per cent of faculty turned down a College Employers Council offer.

"That three-hour deadline was a sham designed to provide legal cover for legislation that was already a foregone conclusion. Instead of directing the colleges to settle, the government let them walk away from the table, then came back with a hammer."

## Refunds, rebates, lawsuit welcome students back

**Demetre James Politis**

LIFE REPORTER

Full tuition refunds and upwards of \$500 in reimbursements are the available compensation options for students who lost time in classrooms.

Any student who withdraws by Dec. 5 from their studies because of the impact from the five-week strike will be given a refund for their tuition.

The only caveat is that many programs admit students once per calendar year, and there are no guarantees students will be readmitted in the following year.

Advanced Education Minister Deb Matthews responded to stu-

dents' concerns on Monday, saying students who decide to withdraw from their semester because of the strike could receive the full-tuition refund.

Matthews also said the money saved by the colleges as a result of not paying faculty during the strike will be put towards a \$500 reimbursement.

It's eligible for full-time students, suffering from unexpected costs such as rent, travel tickets, and child-care expenses.

However, law firm Charney Lawyers, which is preparing a class action law suit against the 24 colleges on behalf of students who stu-

dents accept payment from the government, they could exclude themselves from any future proceedings.

"If the Ontario government requires you to sign a release of all claims, then you can no longer participate in the class action or make any additional claims for compensation besides the ones the government is already offering to pay," the law firm's website states.

Matthews said OSAP will be extended into December in response to revised academic calendars.

The provincial government has confirmed international students will be able to extend their visas, and the labour disruption will not

affect their ability to stay in Canada.

However, it has not been made clear if international students are expected to pay the required fee to apply for a visa extension.

Ashuni Patel, 22, a third-year bachelor of industrial design student and student ambassador at Humber's International Student Centre, said she believes he'll have to pay the fee to extend his visa.

"When my visa expires, it means I'm here illegally and it's another \$150 to have it extended," she said. "That adds to the other costs I've incurred because of this strike."

"For [international] students, December is the most ideal time to go

home for us," Patel said.

"Most travel tickets are expensive and non-refundable, so many of us did not know what to do during the strike."

She said she couldn't afford to look into the possibility of getting her money refunded because her program is only offered once a year, and she only had one year left on her visa to stay in Canada.

She would have to travel back home which is another \$2,000 ticket, only to have to reapply to college in the next year without a guaranteed spot in her program.

"It would be nine months wasted of doing nothing," Patel said.



## EDITORIAL

## Post-strike: students and staff are back with mixed feelings

“So, how’s your summer?”

It’s the joke that seems to be popping up for Ontario college students who’ve recently faced the faculty strike between Oct. 16 and Nov. 21.

It’s an odd question, but relevant to the situation as students faced more than a month without classes. Unlike summer vacation, however, this left most, but not all, students stressed if not frustrated, with the sudden changes.

The weekly messages left by the college’s deans updating students on the progression (or lack thereof) of the strike only added an extra load on students’ shoulders. However reassuring the messages were, they did not alleviate students’ concerns.

By the end of last Friday, students went to Humber’s Twitter page, expressing deep concerns for their future and frustrations that the semester should just be canceled entirely, and a couple of tweets that prompted Twitter to filter and dis-

claim tweets that “contain offensive content.”

While the discontent is understandable, Humber students have to remember it isn’t just them being affected: there are about half a million other students in the province as well. Losing a semester for a first or second year student is equivalent to losing a year of classes, since most first semester classes are pre-requisites for second semester.

Final year students want to graduate on time, hoping to continue with the next stage of their life, whether that’s getting a job, pursuing post-graduate studies, or building a family.

Sarena Peterson has always had a steady job since she was 16. The final year Business Administration student at Lakeshore is a manager at a Bath & Body Works outlet and knows how to balance work and school.

“It was like a mini-vacation,” said the 22-year-old. “When the strike was starting to seem endless and

work had become busy due to the start of the holiday season, I started to commit more to work obligations.”

Peterson said the strike’s quick end caught her off guard and she knows she’s going to have a busy month ahead of her trying to balance both now. However, she said she’s happy to finally be back in the classroom.

Adapting to the new normal — at least for this academic year — will ensure everyone, from students to management, will make it to April. It’s good that the college is working on the premise that it will do everything it can to accommodate students to make it to April and to succeed.

As final year students, the editors of *Et Cetera* overcame these challenges and maintained the newspaper during the strike, although the campus was like a ghost town with rolling tumbleweeds passing through the empty parking spots.

Plus, getting food from the staff



cafeteria was a nice experience.

The point is, even without teachers to moderate classes, the strike created a live classroom for journalism students who know the news never stops. Dedicated students of the *Et Cetera* newspaper continued to come to school every day to report on the strike and the other, al-

beit few, events at Humber.

It’s where the students took the initiative to act in a real newsroom situation, something that typically does not happen until students are at their internship or in the workplace.

For journalism students — as well as a few others — summer started earlier than usual.

## Teachers and students should not leave classrooms in contract disputes



**Brett McGarry**  
ARTS EDITOR

Let’s face it, from the perspective a student, the strike was a nightmare.

Pushed from “maybe a couple weeks” to the knife’s edge of losing an entire semester, the circumstances were frustrating. Our time and education was used as bargaining chips thrown around by both parties. Neither wanted students out of the classroom nor wanted to give in to the demands across the table.

Our time, effort and thousands of dollars was caught in the middle of an argument driving a wedge between students who had no say, teachers who may have personally been fond of and the schools and the system that are the means to our education.

We wanted what’s best for our teachers, but we also wanted what we paid for so we can move forward in life. So, I propose in the case of a labour

dispute, teachers and students do not leave the classroom.

Even our college President Christ Whittaker had suggested using another model for labour negotiations.

“I don’t believe that a model where students are disadvantaged because of debates between other parties is a good model,” Whittaker told *Humbernews.ca*. He cites other models of bargaining systems do not leave students or vulnerable “out in the cold” but what Whittaker is hinting at is that maybe it’s time to designate post-secondary faculty, at least in the colleges, as an essential service. In other words, a third-party arbitration for settling these disputes while students remain in the classroom.

Since 1972, with an amendment in 1997, an arbitration commission was created for Ontario police to handle labour disputes so that officers cannot strike and leave citizens in need. A similar council exists for fire fighters. For ambulance services, a collective bargaining agreement in 2001, Sec. 4(b) stipulates that during a strike a certain amount of ambulance workers will remain working.

And this all makes perfect sense.

It would seem unruly and would cause chaos should police, fire fighters and ambulance workers strike, leaving citizens down and out. They are, after all, essential

services.

So why should this not be implemented for teachers, when students are left down and out?

Now that the strike is completed, we are left to rush our remaining semester in less time with no reading week and a shortened Christmas break. Along with the typical stressors at school, it all has to be completed in less time.

The only chance we have of getting money back is participating in a class-action lawsuit or a government implemented refund system. We have to prove with documentation that we suffered financial strain during the break to get our money. I’m going to hazard a guess that this not the vast majority of the half million students.

Labour disputes that involve students’ education may only get worse should they happen again in the future considering how enrollment has increased by at least 1 per cent since 2013 and will go up moving forward. Should a strike happen again, even more students will be involved.

We live in a time where getting a post-secondary education is essential for obtaining a livable wage and a career that can support many of our goals in creating a life worth living. As the means to attaining that life can be hanging in the balance due to a labour dispute, it shows the system is not working.

## Gig-economy: rising trend in Ontario job markets



**Ed Hitchens**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Have you ever watched *Daredevil*?

I’m not speaking about the debacle that featured Michael Clarke Duncan as a black Kingpin and launched the decade-long romance between Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck.

I’m talking about the show on Netflix, where New York Bulletin writer Ben Urich is told by his boss that in order to compete with social media, the paper has to concentrate on topics that are sleazy trash. He coldly tells Ben that everybody they know “is on a beach writing on a blog, somewhere” while they toil in an antiquated newsroom.

When most of our parents grew up, full-time work was easier to come by. One grew up, found a job with or without high school, joined a union, earned benefits, retired and faded away into the sunset.

Now, kids wake up, take control of an electronic device and sit in front of YouTube or Instagram, fueled by delusions of grandeur that they can generate millions of hits for a video. Lily Singh, The Fine Bros., The Dobre Brothers and Shawn Mendes are but a few who have launched their careers on social media platforms.

But precarious work threatens to become the new economic normal. It remains a lightning rod among Ontario college faculty, where between 75 per cent and 80 per cent of professors, counsellors and librarians are part-time or partial load.

Hard-hitting, edgy journalism is overshadowed by Twitter and podcasts, arguably driving members of publications, like the *LA Times*, to unionize. Even taxi and food delivery industries are now faced with app-driven services such as UBER.

While not the initial cause of friction, the theme of ‘same work, same pay’ was a rallying cry with OPSEU faculty workers at 24 Ontario Colleges in the recent 35-day strike. The strike ended with government legislation, but while attention was focused on colleges, post-secondary schools remain in turmoil. University of Toronto workers recently voted nearly 91 per cent to give its CUPE local a strike mandate mainly for job security.

Job security is definitely an

issue.

According to a 2014 study by the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers, nearly half of the faculty at post-secondary campuses were not permanent.

Businesses in general argue it provides them flexibility and doesn’t lock them into providing permanent jobs, with expensive benefits and wages.

Louise Birdsell-Bauer, PhD candidate at the University of Toronto, said college faculty were tired of being played by the system.

“People were upset that they were working really hard, teaching valuable lessons to students. These are highly qualified people too. I think for these people, precarious work was not okay. They are doing a highly important professional service,” Birdsell-Bauer said.

She said while some people like the flexibility that comes with freelancing or with precarious work, employers appear to assume everybody loves it. People prefer the predictability of a full-time job.

“There are people who want that kind of job security. They want to know when they are working, not having to worry about their next paycheck,” Birdsell-Bauer said.

It will be interesting to see if the recent trend of precarious work continues with actions such as the minimum wage increase introduced by the government.



**QUOTED** Now that the strike is over, what are your plans for the semester?

I'm excited to finish up all my assignments. Thankfully Guelph-Humber ends all their final exams on the 22nd.



**Priya Rajkumar**  
GUELPH-HUMBER MEDIA STUDIES  
3RD YEAR

Despite my friends wanting to drop out, I have to continue my studies in order to go to university. The drive I used to have isn't there.



**Taijean Moodie**  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
1ST YEAR

I'm a bit unmotivated, but my teachers have been very understanding to accommodate assignments for students.



**Jessica Meschino**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
1ST YEAR

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK** MENS OFSAA VOLLEYBALL

Rockway Mennonite College warms up for their game against the Brampton Christian Academy. The consolation Q2 playoffs best of five match was held at Humber College. The games will go on until Saturday night where one team will be crowned the OFSAA Boys A champion.

DAN CAUDLE



Use **#HumberEtCetera** on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and send us your best photos for a chance to be published in next week's issue!





# Women's volleyball wins in straight sets

Ed Hitchens  
SPORTS EDITOR

The five-week faculty strike is over, and that's no problem for the women's volleyball team.

In its first game back after the labour action involving all professors, counsellors and librarians, the team acted casually as they beat Niagara in straight sets Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Scores were 25-12, 25-13, and 25-23, halting the Knights' win streak at two, boasting a 7-0 record to stay in the top spot in the West Division.

The first set was indicative of the Hawks, as they dominated with net play and service. The second and third sets were close early on, with the Knights managing to build an early lead in the final stanza before the Hawks came back and closed the show.

Humber sits first in the OCAA Western Division, while the Knights stand pat in third place, one game ahead of Cambrian Golden Shield and tied with the St. Clair Saints.

Hawks coach Chris Wilkins said the Knights' place in the standings is a testament to the well-oiled machine they are.

"These girls are very well-



ED HITCHINS

Hawks' Devan O'Connor (left) and Jasmine Lougheed try to block a spike by a Niagara Knights player Wednesday.

coached," said Wilkins after the game. "We played in our system, and in early on in the second and third we got away from it. But and we were able to execute on that to

get us the win."

He said they can't take any liberties with the way the division is panning out even with a regular season streak that has stretched over 130 games.

"These are games we have to get up for. In our league this year, every team is really good," said Wilkins, whose team gave him a nice birthday present with the three-set sweep.

Outside hitter Brianna Golding paced the Hawks with nine kills and 19 total attempts.

Middle blocker Nicole Collard, who had three kills and seven total attempts, is excited going forward with the strike now a thing of the past.

"We capitalized on practice and workouts more," said Collard, who a first year General Arts and Sciences student. "If anything, the season was going to be postponed. So, I don't think we ever worried."

She said the challenge of playing the Knights got them up to rise to the occasion.

"This team, they're really good," Collard said. "They used their size to their advantage, which is rare in our league."

Niagara outside hitter Zeniah Pinnock, held to just a point on one kill with four total attempts, says Humber will continue to be dangerous going forward.

"They're strong, they're athletic," Pinnock said. "It's always hard playing against them, but we know what to work on going forward."

Next up for the Hawks is Cambrian, who is in fourth with a 3-3 record, on Dec. 2 at the Humber Athletics Centre.

## Hawks' find silver and bronze lining during strike

Ed Hitchens  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a busy time for Humber's varsity teams during the five-week faculty strike, winning a few medals.

But gold medals eluded them — including the once invincible women's rugby sevens — during the labour dispute between Oct. 16 to Nov. 19.

The Humber men's soccer team seemed to be an invincible juggernaut heading into October's provincials with a national number one ranking with a 40-plus game undefeated streak.

An OCAA victory seemed

inevitable.

Instead, Humber faded out in the semi-finals, as rival Algonquin Thunder prevailed in a brutal, hard-fought game 1-0 on penalties. Algonquin later lost the gold medal match to Durham, who captured their first title in 20 years, by a 1-0 score.

Head coach Michael Aquino said the team had to continue to keep themselves up, even though the loss was wdisappointing.

"Losing in penalties is tough," Aquino says. "It's never a great way to lose the game, it's part of the game. We've been on both ends of it. I'm proud of our team and our staff and we had a

fantastic season nonetheless."

Humber ended the year with a bronze medal performance versus Niagara Knights, with midfielder Gianlucas Scorzafave with the winning goal.

That feeling of unattained expectations was shared by women's rugby coach Dale Essue.

A number one post in the OCAA highlighted by a 25-game winning streak headed into Fleming College in Peterborough, the women's sevens outscored their opponents by an emphatic 531-68 margin during the regular season, which they finished 16-0.

After a 19-17 nail biting win

over Algonquin, Humber faced off against Seneca. The Hawks had been completely been in control in two wins over the Sting this year, with a combined 43-7 margin.

However, the roles were reversed in the gold medal match, as Seneca shut out the powerful Hawks by a stunning score of 15-0, thus securing their first championship and halting the streak.

It was not all bad news for the Hawks though, as Christina Grant and Daniella Branch earned all-tournament honours.

Essue was proud the way his team played all year.

"We showed grit, we showed hus-

tle all year," Essue said. "I've told the girls all year: we gotta keep our foot on the gas. We just didn't show it, and they got us."

Humber also collected silver in baseball, being shut out 10-0 in the finals by St. Clair, who captured its fifth consecutive title.

The women's soccer team also collected silver losing to Algonquin 1-0, and the men's cross country team finished in eighth place overall at the Nationals in Blainville, Que. This was highlighted by Aaron Venstra, who finished in 40th with a personal best time of 27:29 in the 8 km race.

## Humber faculty wins Canada's top literary award

Michelle Rowe-Jardine  
ARTS REPORTER

Humber College faculty member Michael Redhill took home Canada's top literary prize on Monday night for his novel Bellevue Square.

The Giller Prize has been awarded annually to Canadian authors since 1994 and has increased in value and prominence since partnering with Scotiabank in 2005.

Redhill was presented with a \$100,000 cheque for winning the award and the runners-up are given \$10,000 each.

"I'm still trying to answer the messages and texts that I got on Monday night...there's been a lot of activity and it's wonderful. I think I might be hearing from 90 per cent

of every person I've ever met," he said.

The creative writing professor at Lakeshore campus is a poet, author and playwright who was born in Baltimore, Md., and raised in Toronto.

He was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize in 2001 for his novel Martin Sloane, but he said Bellevue Square is his stronger book.

Bellevue Square, published by Doubleday Canada, is described as a darkly comic literary thriller. It follows Toronto bookstore owner Jean Mason's case of mistaken identity down a rabbit-hole of plot twists in Kensington Market that lead to the inside of her own psyche.

The awards gala on Monday was the deciding moment between Redhill and four other Canadian

authors who had thrown their hats into the literary ring. The other finalists were Rachel Cusk for Transit, Ed O'Loughlin for Minds of Winter, Michelle Winters for I am a Truck and Eden Robinson with Son of a Trickster.

A jury selected the finalists from among 112 titles.

Redhill said winning the Giller Prize will "push the sales of the book immensely and it will create opportunities I might not have had any other way, it makes a huge difference."

Prior to the Giller Prize victory, he had won multiple awards for his writing, including the Books in Canada First Novel Award in 2001 and the City of Toronto Book Award in 2007.

His first novel written under the

psydenoum Inger Ash Wolfe, The Calling, was made into a movie starring Susan Serandon in 2014.

Redhill said if Bellevue Square ever went to theatres, his choice for Jean Mason would be Australian actor Rose Byrne.

Redhill first dipped his pen into poetry, so by the time his first novel was published, he said he'd already found his voice.

When he's not writing, he helps his students find their own voices in Humber's Creative Writing program.

"To me, a writer's voice is the thing that his or her work is imbued with. It's a stamp of some kind, as unrepeatable as DNA. So, you don't teach someone how to find a voice, you write until you recognize a connection between your unconscious

self and your rational self," he said.

Redhill began teaching at Humber College in the early '90s and has been associated with the college for about 25 years.

While he has a lot of writing experience to impart to students, he said his students have taught him about the importance of passion.

"That drive, that urgency that a lot of young writers have is something that you need to hold on to. Having a little bit of wildness and excitement about what you're working on is something you need to keep, that's something that they teach me," Redhill said.

Bellevue Square will be the first in a trilogy, and Redhill is currently writing the sequel, Mason of Tunica, expected to be released in 2019.