

VOL. 2 DECEMBER 2025

# DALHOUSIE CHEMISTRY

Department of Chemistry Newsletter

Warmest winter greetings! We have had an exciting semester filled with success and some challenges. Since our last newsletter, our community was hit hard by the loss of two of our retired chemistry professors: Drs. Jim Pincock and Axel Becke. We also experienced a historic one-month faculty lock-out and the possibility of both CUPE and NSGEU strikes. However, through these challenges, we pulled together and I am so grateful for all the colleagues, friends and family who supported each other during these difficult times.

We also had many successes, and you will see some of them in this newsletter (although there were too many to cover, so this is only a snippet or our successes). Our students and faculty were highly successful in winning awards, scholarships and grants. We are proud of all of you.

We also made significant strides in making our Chemistry Building a more welcoming and inclusive space, including the Chatt space (for social gathering), our Quiet Room (for decompressing, breast feeding and praying), our four new large accessible bathrooms (with a 5<sup>th</sup> to be completed soon) and a brand-new elevator. I thank you all for your patience through the construction phase of these projects.

Looking forward, I believe we will continue in our track record of student, staff and faculty success. We commit to continuing to improve our social and physical environment – including a fully-accessible outside door slated to begin in the spring. There will be challenges, including the Dalhousie budget issues, but I am confident that we in Chemistry will continue to support each other through any challenges that arise.

As many of you know, my guiding principle for my term as departmental Chair is “Care, Mentorship and a Place to Grow” and you all are instrumental in achieving this goal. So, I thank you all for everything that you do and all the support you provide to me and to your friends and colleagues in Chemistry.

Have a wonderful winter break.

Heather



## Holiday Greetings from Department Chair



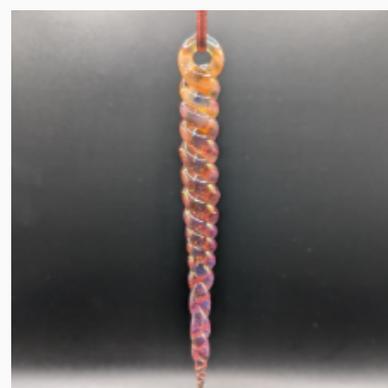


## Christmas Glass Art

Holiday season is coming! We have more holiday art pieces on display in our window and more inventory in our main office. Come visit to pick your favorite one, or you can scan the QR to order online.

 *Glass Art*  
by Ihor Krasilia

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Chemistry





## Departmental Orientation Get-Together 2025

Our Department's Orientation was a great success! The event welcomed both new and returning students with enthusiasm, featuring fun activities and inspiring speeches. Several students were also recognized with the Orientation Awards for their remarkable accomplishments, showcasing the talent and vitality that define our department community.

The winners for this year were:

- Jay Tang - Donald R. Arnold Scholarship
- Emily Brown - Anna Wilson Scholarship for Chemistry
- Julia Schmitt/Ryma Boudries - Dr. Jean Cooley Graduate Fellowship in Analytical Chemistry
- Emily Burke - Solid State Pharma Award
- Adrian Rumson/Emily Jackson/Erika Elliott/Kogie Esteban - Gerry Dauphinee Graduate Scholarship in Chemistry
- Junyi He - Belle Crowe Graduate Scholarship
- Adam Lynch/Tiana Sharpe - Douglas E. Ryan Prize for Excellence in Graduate Studies in Chemistry
- Siri Williamson - Dr. Philip Desmond Pacey Post-Graduate Scholarship





## Summer Undergraduate Research Exhibition and Welcome Back Event

Our undergraduate society hosted a highly successful Summer Undergraduate Research Exhibition and Welcome Back Event! We were thrilled to see so many students, staff, and faculty come together to support our undergraduate researchers and kick off the new academic year.

“It was by far the most successful poster session we have run and I hope this gives us momentum to continue this tradition each year to come.” - Angela Crane, University Teaching Fellow, First Year Chemistry Coordinator

A special thank you goes to our eight graduate student judges for their thoughtful feedback and dedication.

Congratulations to all of our poster presenters for their excellent work and engaging scientific discussions.

Poster Prize Winners:

- Judge’s Choice: Miko Crouse (Freund Lab) – Pd-Cu Hydrogen Sensors Generated by Galvanic Deposition
- People’s Choice: Charlotte Polo (Rainey Lab) – Investigating Spider Pyriform Silk Structural Plasticity by NMR Spectroscopy





## Story from Fatima Tuz Zehra

Fatima is one of the high school students who experienced the research environment in the Chemistry department during the summer of 2025. She worked in Doucette's group, and here are some insights from her perspective.

Being a part of Dr. Doucette's research group at Dalhousie Chemistry was a wonderful experience. I learned that research is more than a set of instructions. It involves problem-solving, curiosity, and determination. I learned a great deal about the techniques of analytical chemistry and the application of theoretical ideas taught in the classroom to the real-life laboratory experiments. Initially, I was not much familiar with the research environment and the precision in experiments. However, my supervisor and my fellow lab members' encouragement to take detailed notes, seek clarification in case of a lapse, and regard errors as a part of the learning process was very constructive. This was a very positive experience and has inspired me to take chemistry to an advanced level. I came to realize the extent of research in the advancement of science, which has developed my interest in analytical and environmental chemistry even more. I now feel much more confident in pursuing research opportunities in the future.

### SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

Please contact  
Christine.Cao@dal.ca

## High School Summer Student's Experience in Chemistry





## Chemistry Achievements

- Congratulations to Prof. Mita Dasog, who has been awarded a Tier 1 CRC in Advanced Design for Water-Energy Sustainability.
- Congratulations to Prof. Mark Stradiotto, the Arthur B. McDonald Research Chair in the Department of Chemistry. He was among three Dalhousie faculty members inducted into the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), the nation's highest academic honour!
- Exciting news from the Charron Lab — their first manuscript has just been published in Chemical Science! [Link Here](#)
- Congratulations to Blaine Fiss on securing second place at the Atlantic Canada Falling Walls Lab for his work on PFAS degradation!

## Departmental Updates

- The entrance near classroom 125 will be closed from April to August 2026, as construction will happen to make the entrance fully accessible.
- There will be new flooring laid in the Podium over the 2025 holiday break.

### PLEASE FOLLOW OUR DEPARTMENTAL SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE NEWS UPDATES

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## In memoriam: Dr. Axel D. Becke



The Department of Chemistry is saddened to hear of the passing of our colleague Dr. Axel D. Becke, Harry Sherriff Professor of Chemical Research (Emeritus), one of Dalhousie's most impactful researchers, and one of Canada's top scientists, passed away on October 23, 2025 in Halifax.

The memory announcement please find: [In memoriam - Dr. Axel D. Becke](#)

## In memoriam: Dr. James Alexander Pincock



The Department of Chemistry is saddened to hear of the passing of our colleague Dr. James (Jim) Alexander Pincock, Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, Canada's Best Chemistry Professor by the Union Carbide Award of the Chemical Institute of Canada, passed away on July 27th, 2025, at the age of 82. A private memorial celebration was held in October 2025.

The memory announcement please find: [In memoriam - Dr. James Alexander Pincock](#)