

Carl C. Coffin



Carl Coffin was born in 1903 in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. He attended Prince of Wales College and then entered Dalhousie University (BA, with distinction, 1924) with the first Sir William Young Entrance Scholarship. After two years with Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd., he went to McGill (PhD, 1929), for graduate work with Professor Otto Maass, supported by a National Research Council Scholarship.

After McGill, Coffin spent a year at Utrecht with Ernst Cohen and then returned to Dalhousie as Lecturer, Assistant and Associate Professor and finally Head of the Department of Chemistry (1942-54). He held the McLeod Chair of Chemistry for two years and subsequently the newly established Harry Shirreff Chair of Chemical Research. In recognition of Coffin's influence on the development of Canadian chemistry, and in particular on the development of scientific research at Dalhousie, he was elected a member of the Royal Society of Canada in 1935 at the early age of 32.

At Dalhousie, Coffin and his students carried out work of great significance. A series of twelve papers on the kinetics of the decomposition of esters played an important part in the development of kinetic theory, particularly on unimolecular reactions. Over the years he built up a notable school of physical chemistry at Dalhousie.

During the war he played an important role in the chemical warfare program. Later he became interested in radiochemistry and made a start on a number of very interesting problems in this field. Unfortunately, as a result of a tragic accident in 1949, he largely lost his sight. In spite of this, however, he carried on his university duties, but of necessity his scientific work was greatly cut down. This accident and his untimely death in 1954 constituted a major loss to chemical research at Dalhousie and to Canadian chemistry.

Previous Carl C. Coffin Lecturers

1993	Dr. Robert G. Ackman	MSc '52, LLD '03
	Dr. W. David Jamieson	BSc '50, MSc '51
1994	Dr. B. Lionel Funt	BSc '44, MSc '46
	Dr. Stirling G. Whiteway	BSc '47
1995	Dr. Jean M. Cooley	BSc '71
1996	Dr. John Carstairs Arnell	BSc '39, MSc '40
1997	Dr. Rod MacLennan	BSc '60, LLD '98
1998	Dr. Diana T. Messervy	BSc '64, MSc '65, PhD '71
1999	Dr. Joy M. Cunningham	BSc '57
2000	Dr. John W. Dacey	BSc '73
2001	Dr. St. John H. Blakeley	PhD '64
2002	Dr. Sue Abrams	PhD '77
2003	Dr. Danial D.M. Wayner	PhD '84

Douglas C. MacLaren



Doug was born in Truro, NS and moved throughout the maritimes as a child before settling into Charlottetown, PEI at the age of 12. He completed his BSc in Chemistry at the University of Prince Edward Island in 1998 and completed his PhD in Physical Chemistry under the supervision of Professor Mary Anne White at Dalhousie University in 2003.

Doug joined the Imperial Oil Sarnia Technology Applications & Research Department in Sarnia, Ontario in 2003 with initial assignments in the area of industrial lubricant formulation & product development. In 2006 he moved to Imperial headquarters in Calgary, AB as the marketing manager for Esso and Mobil branded commercial vehicle lubricants and led strategic marketing initiatives within the Imperial lubricants offer. In 2008 he returned to Imperial Oil Sarnia Technology Applications & Research in a variety of roles exposing him to facility project execution, business planning and financial management within the Research Department

In 2011 Doug assumed management of a team with a focus on fuel products technology (motor gasoline, diesel & jet fuels) and expanded this role in 2012 to assume management of the Sarnia Applied Process Research Section. This group explores the application of process technology to all aspects of the petrochemical value chain from crude characterization, petroleum refining, product movement and fuels product quality attributes and works in close affiliation with ExxonMobil Research & Engineering.

This talk will consist of an overview of the petrochemical industry in the Sarnia region with a focus on Sarnia Technology Applications & Research within Imperial Oil. It will cover technical, marketing and business roles in his career and reflect on important lessons learned during his experiences at Dalhousie that can be applied in successful careers in industrial R&D or the many other career paths available to chemistry graduates.

2004	Dr. William (Bill) R. MacDonald	BSc '63, PhD '68
2005	Dr. Robie W. MacDonald	BSc '68, PhD '72
2006	Dr. Mathai Mammen	BSc '89
2007	Dr. K.W. Michael Siu	PhD '81
2008	Dr. Laurie Schramm	PhD '80
2009	Dr. Alex Jurgens	BSc '80, MSc '82
2010	Dr. Ken E. Edgecombe	MSc '82, PhD '87
2011	Dr. John A. Hiltz	PhD '84
2012	Mr. Murray Hartwell	BSc '75, MSc '78
2013	Dr. Sherry Niven	BSc '83, PhD '90
2014	Dr. Jan O. Friedrich	BSc '85, PhD '88
2015	Dr. Patricia Folkins	PhD '91
2016	Dr. Kevin P. Bateman	BSc, BEd '91, PhD '97

Department of Chemistry

Insights on a Career in
Industrial R&D –
Lessons Learned at Dalhousie

2017
Carl C. Coffin
Lecture

Douglas C. MacLaren

Friday, October 13, 2017
1:30 pm
Room 226
Chemistry Building

Section Head – Sarnia Applied Process Research
Sarnia Technology Applications & Research
Imperial Oil Ltd.

October 13, 2017

