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DEPARTMENTS

Student Chapter News Summer 2025

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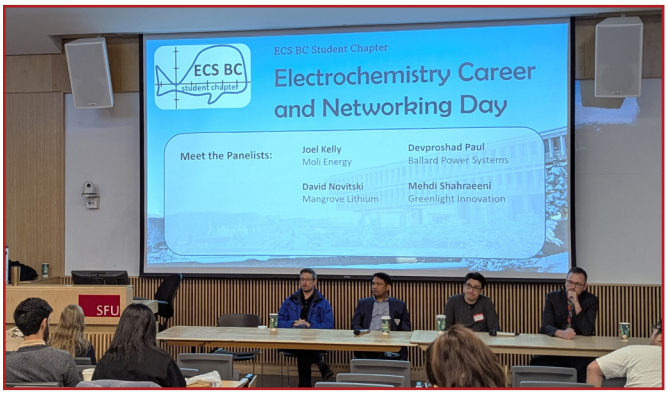
ECS British Columbia Student Chapter

The ECS British Columbia Student Chapter is a collaboration of members from Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Metro Vancouver, Canada. At UBC in winter 2023, the chapter introduced a new event highlighting local companies in the field of electrochemistry through panel discussions and networking with invited industry members. The *Electrochemistry Career and Networking Day* generated great interest and a large turnout, with more than 60 attendees (UBC and SFU undergraduate and graduate students and post docs) participating in lively discussions and networking.

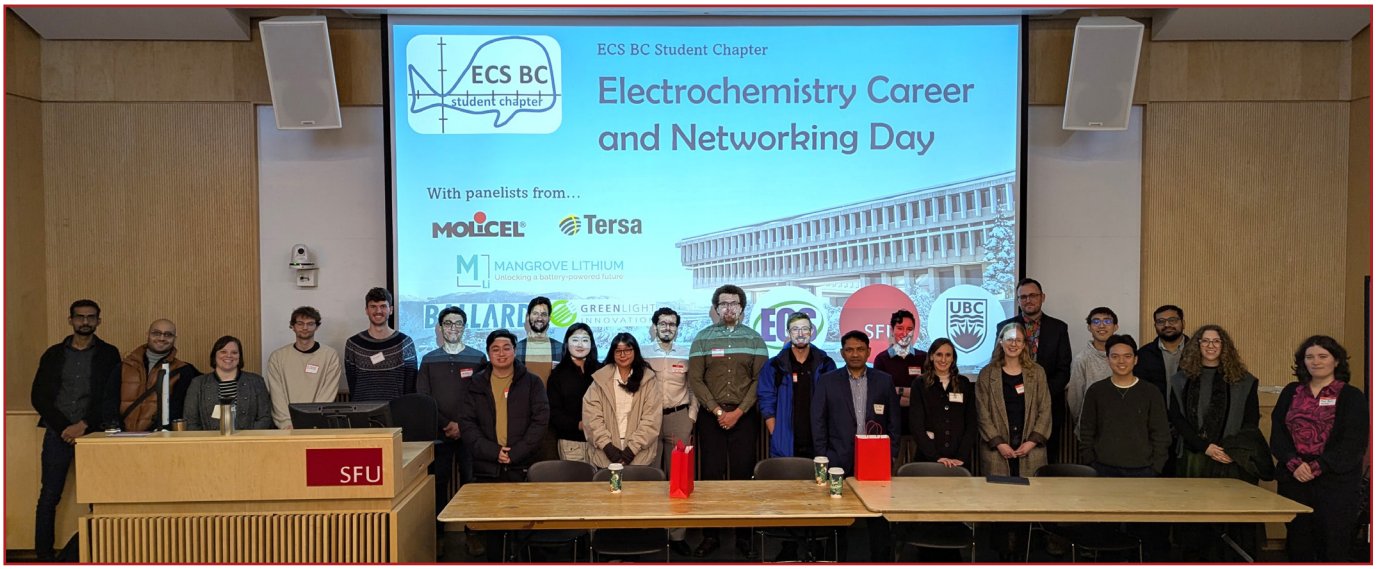
The chapter was excited to host their second *Electrochemistry Career and Networking Day* on December 4, 2024, at SFU. Four experts from local electrochemical companies were invited as panelists for the event: **Joel Kelly**, Manager, Cell Technology, Moli Energy, a manufacturer of high-performance lithium ion batteries; **Devproshad Paul**, Senior Scientist, Ballard Power Systems, which manufactures hydrogen fuel cells; **David Novitski**, Director of Government Relations and Funding, Mangrove Lithium, which specializes in lithium extraction and cathode manufacturing; and **Mehdi Shahraeeni**, Greenlight Innovation, an electrolyzer testing methods and equipment company.

Each panelist shared their unique background, from their education to the paths they took to reach their current positions in industry. Much of the panel discussion focused on advice for transitioning from academia to industry; particularly, the panelists discussed topics such as skills valued by industry, differences in how research is conducted in academia and industry, future growth in the field, and different roles in the workforce. Following the panel, students and panelists participated in an open networking space. Students were able to connect directly with the speakers and students from different research groups and universities. The ECS British Columbia Student Chapter hopes to make the *Electrochemistry Career Day* a regular annual event in Metro Vancouver to continue fostering connections between academia and electrochemical industries in the province.

Next, the chapter began planning its *13th Annual Young Electrochemists Symposium*, which takes place this summer at UBC. This yearly full-day symposium typically consists of research seminars from academia and industry and a student research poster competition, then concludes with a social event and the annual election.



Panelists participating in the ECS British Columbia Student Chapter's second Electrochemistry Career and Networking Day*, held at Simon Fraser University (from left to right):* **David Novitski**, *Mangrove Lithium;* **Devproshad Paul**, *Ballard Power Systems;* **Mehdi Shahraeeni**, *Greenlight Innovation; and* **Joel Kelly**, *Moli Energy.*
Photo: Daina V. Baker



Panelists, organizers, and attendees from regional universities in Metro Vancouver participated in the ECS British Columbia Student Chapter's Electrochemistry Career and Networking Day *panel discussions.*
Photo: Daina V. Baker

ECS Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) Student Chapter

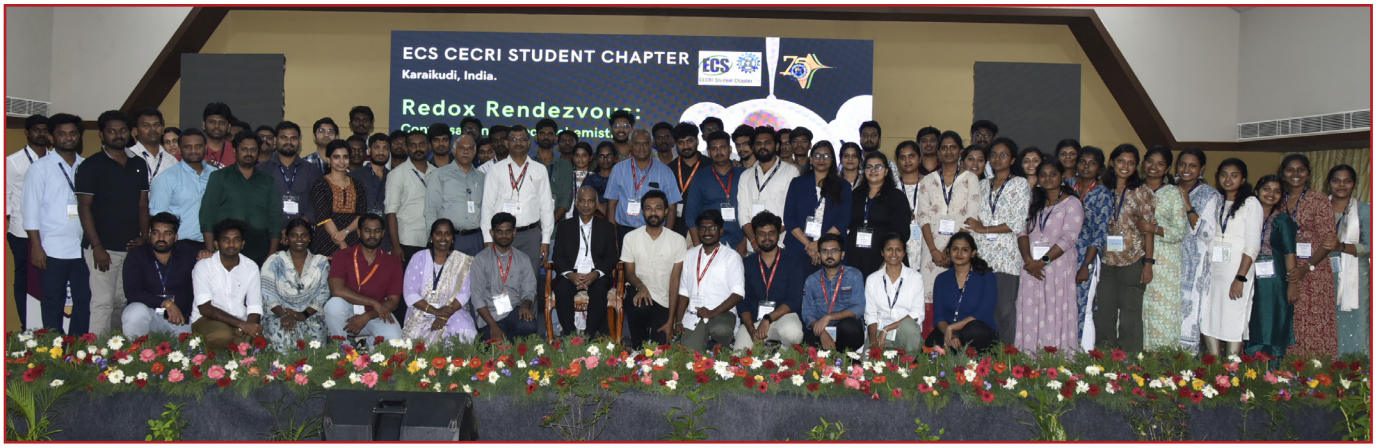
The ECS CECRI Student Chapter organized the first session of the *Redox Rendezvous: Conversations in Electrochemistry* series which featured an engaging conversation with Prof. **Arumugam Manthiram**, George T. and Gladys H. Abell Endowed Chair of Engineering, University of Texas, Austin. The globally renowned expert in materials science and rechargeable battery technologies shared his deep insights into the evolving landscape of energy storage and electrochemical systems. The session was marked by chapter members' dynamic interaction with Prof. Manthiram. He responded enthusiastically to student queries and offered thoughtful guidance on both scientific and professional topics. His approachable demeanor and willingness to share his research journey resonated deeply with attendees. Events like *Redox Rendezvous* serve as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and inspiration within the electrochemical science community. The chapter is immensely grateful to Prof. Manthiram for his time and contributions. We look forward to continuing these interactive sessions with leaders in the field.



Prof. **Arumugam Manthiram** *during the* Redox Rendezvous: Conversations in Electrochemistry *event organized by the ECS Central Electrochemical Research Institute Student Chapter.*
Photo: M. Satish



Participant engaging in a conversation with Prof. **Arumugam Manthiram** *at the* Redox Rendezvous: Conversations in Electrochemistry *series.*
Photo: M. Satish



Prof. **Arumugam Manthiram** *and participants in the* Redox Rendezvous: Conversations in Electrochemistry *series.*
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ECS Texas A&M University Student Chapter

On March 29 and 30, middle and high school students from across Texas came to Texas A&M to compete in the *Texas Science & Engineering Fair* (TXSEF). Texas A&M departments, student organizations, and industry partners hosted TXSEF student participants on March 28 at the *Night at the ZACH* extravaganza. More than 3000 guests attended to learn more about A&M and participate in hands-on activities designed and run by chapter members, including **Vivek Dalai**, **Karan Deshpande**, **Laura Hoagland**, **Autumn Kudlack**, **Wynn Miholits**, and **Khirabdhi Mohanty**. Students made pictures with Lite-Brites while learning how the circuit underneath powers lights in series, and how batteries generate electricity. Additionally, the students discussed their own science projects and discoveries. It was a great event for inspiring students to study science.

On April 5, the ECS University of Texas (UT) Student Chapter visited Texas A&M. Students led presentations and lab tours throughout the day. A&M and UT students learned in a casual environment about electrochemical research at A&M and gave attendees ideas to take home. ECS Texas A&M Student Chapter President **Laura Hoagland** explained Dr. **Abdoulaye Djire**'s lab's work on nitride MXene synthesis and characterization, as well as in situ electrochemical catalysis and energy storage. Dr. **Hugo Yuset Samayoa Oviedo** represented Dr. **Lane Baker**'s research group, showing how their lab designs and utilizes novel analytical tools for performing scanning ion conductance microscopy on electrochemical systems. Dr. **Francisco Alejandro Ospina-Acevedo** shared Dr. **Perla Balbuena**'s group's research and discussed their work in computational electrochemistry modeling. Dr. **Ahmed Badreldin** presented Dr. **Ying Li**'s lab and showed their work in carbon dioxide reduction on the lab scale and beyond. The chapter's Vice President **Autumn Kudlack** showed the work of Dr. **Jodie Lutkenhaus**' research group in organic polymers used for polyelectrolytes and solid state batteries.

Tours of the Djire, Lutkenhaus, and Baker labs followed the student presentations, allowing attendees to ask more detailed questions about research conducted in these spaces. This event coincided with Family Weekend, which further emphasized the connections forged between Texas student chapter members. This, the fourth annual visit between Texas A&M and the University of Texas, demonstrates how ECS brings students and researchers together.



ECS Texas A&M University Student Chapter member **Karan Deshpande** *shows his support with a Gig 'Em while chapter Vice President* **Autumn Kudlack** *explains a demonstration to a student.*
Photo: Laura Hoagland



Dr. **Francisco Alejandro Ospina-Acevedo** *explains the* **Perla Balbuena** *group's research.*
Photo: Laura Hoagland



A&M and UT students tour the **Lane Baker** *lab to learn about analytical electrochemistry.*
Photo: Laura Hoagland

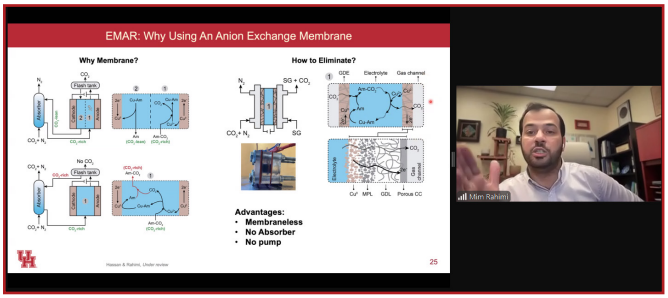
ECS University of Michigan Student Chapter

Through a variety of talks, journal clubs, and social gatherings over the 2025 winter semester, the ECS University of Michigan (U-M) Student Chapter actively fostered academic growth, meaningful discussion, and community involvement among the university's electrochemists.

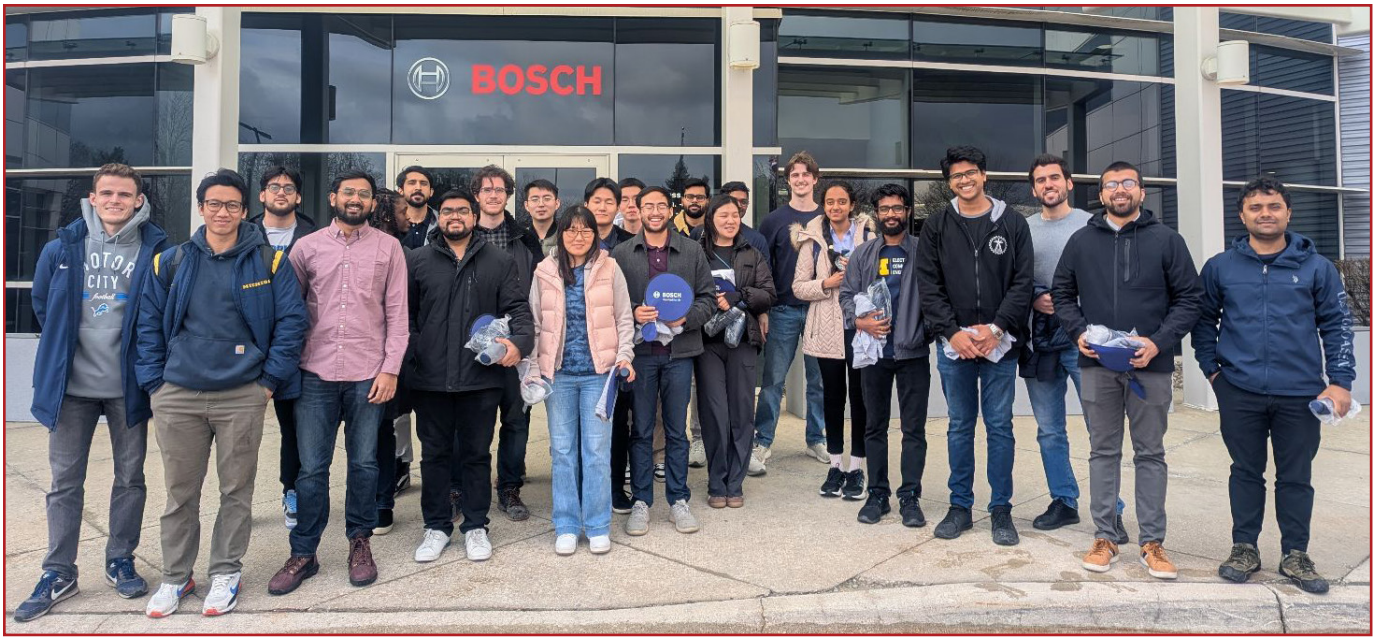
The chapter hosted a talk by Dr. **Krista Hawthorne** of the Chemical and Fuel Cycle Technologies Division at Argonne National Laboratory. In "Electrochemical Recycling of Used Nuclear Fuels to Support Advanced Reactor Deployment," she discussed her group's efforts to address aspects of the process of electrochemistry and engineering at multiple scales to support the industrialization of nuclear fuel pyro-processing. Next, the chapter hosted a virtual talk by Prof. **Mim Rahimi** from the Department of Environmental Engineering, University of Houston, on "Electrochemical Carbon Capture: Technological Advancements and Economic Considerations." Dr. Rahimi described the emerging science and research progress underlying electrochemical carbon capture processes and assessed their current maturity and trajectory for carbon capture from various sources. The chapter also hosted a networking dinner with Prof. **Matthew McDowell**, Associate Professor at the Woodruff School of Materials Science and Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. Over dinner, Dr. McDowell shared advice regarding research directions, looking for jobs in industry and academia, his thoughts on the development of batteries, and more.

The chapter has devoted much effort to connecting U-M students with industrial partners. This semester, the chapter hosted a tour of the Bosch Industrial Hydrogen Research Lab for roughly 30 undergraduates and graduate students. Collaboration with the ECS Detroit Chapter has also strengthened, with students attending and presenting at the ECS Detroit Section's "Detecting Internal Short Circuit in Li-ion Cells with the Sahraei Failure Model" seminar.

Moreover, the chapter also introduced a new series of *ECS Student Chapter Presentations*, in which students are welcome to present their research or collective efforts in addressing issues related to electrochemistry. In the first presentation, chapter President **Rachel Silcox** described the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Azerbaijan, which she attended in November, and connected the visit to her own research on carbon removal technologies. Finally, the student chapter also hosts a social event every month to enhance collaboration among electrochemists in the U-M community.



The ECS University of Michigan Student Chapter (U-M) hosts "Electrochemical Carbon Capture: Technological Advancements and Economic Considerations," a talk by Prof. **Mim Rahimi** *of the University of Houston.*
Photo: Daniel Liao



ECS U-M Student Chapter members tour the Bosch Industrial Research Hydrogen Lab.
Photo: Daniel Liao

ECS University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter

On April 3, the ECS University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter held its annual meeting in a friendly and vibrant atmosphere. Members came together to celebrate the chapter's achievements, share lunch, and reflect on the past year. The meeting included a review of the last year's activities, a discussion of plans for the upcoming year, and elections of new officers. Chapter President **Sahand Serajian** led the meeting and was unanimously re-elected for a third term. Elections for other leadership roles followed, with **Oghenetega Allen Obewhere** elected as Vice President, **Sarang Ismail** as Treasurer, and **Micah Quirie** as Secretary.

The chapter gives a big thank you for the continued support of all their passionate members and advisors. We look forward to another exciting year of collaboration and engagement in the field of electrochemistry, both within and beyond the university community.



ECS University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter
Photo: ECS University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter



ECS University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter members come together at their annual meeting to celebrate the chapter's achievements and reflect on the past year, and to enjoy lunch.
Photo: ECS University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Chapter

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