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THE SCHOONER

The Official Newsletter of the Dalhousie Investment Society (DALIS)

Letter From the Exec

Welcoming the Winter Semester

With the Fall semester behind us, we're ready to hit the ground running!

In fact, we already have: our fourth-year tell-all received resounding feedback from our first-year members, and we recently hosted a guest speaker for a comprehensive lecture on the mechanics of securities financing and collateral management. Not to mention, we looked like rock stars throughout it all in our new DALIS quarterzips!

As the society continues to grow, so do our teams. We've added a new Seaside team and expanded our maritime fund, but don't worry, the execs are still the same. Keep an eye on our website for pitches and notes from our team members.

With all the groundwork laid, there is a lot to look forward to outside the markets. Hot Pilates has returned by popular request, and the execs will be going head-to-head with our portfolio managers in a heated game of dodgeball. Stay tuned for our end-of-semester celebration.

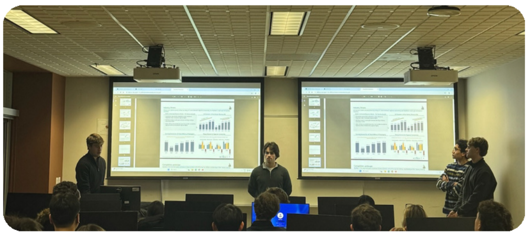
Here's to a successful winter semester!

Sam, Margaux, Cole, Thomas, Fara, and William

DALIS Merch

Fourth Year Tell-All

Maritime Fund Meeting #1



Seaside Lecture #1

A Glimpse of What's Inside:

Alumni Spotlight

Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Political Science, 2019

Jourdon Craig

FX & Interest Rate Trading

Validus Risk Management

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science, walk us through your indirect career path into the financial industry.

I was initially interested in pursuing a career in corporate or securities law and even spent months preparing for the LSAT. I was later introduced to sales and trading by someone working on the trading side at one of the Canadian banks and instantly knew I wanted to break into the space somehow.

Having never known what "coffee chatting" meant and without any relevant internship experience, I took the first market-facing role I could in FX sales at a London-based broker that had just expanded into North America. After two-and-a-half years of cold-calling and building up my market knowledge, I landed a seat on a cross-asset sales desk at one of the Big Six Canadian banks, selling structured hedging solutions to corporate and commercial clients.

Five years into sales, I've moved into buy-side execution trading at Validus Risk Management, working with private capital clients (private equity, credit, pensions, infrastructure, asset management) across FX, rates and commodities.

How does cross-asset trading (FX, rates, commodities) differ from more traditional capital markets roles in terms of pace, risk management, and decision-making?

The institutional risk management space is far less crowded than the corporate risk management space, so the work tends to be more specialized than at other shops. Validus is the largest hedge advisory firm for institutional clients globally, executing approximately US$700 billion across all asset classes annually. On busy days, we could be fielding more than 150 trade requests.

In my experience, it's much faster-paced than dealing with corporates or commercials, largely due to the sheer size and sophistication of our clients. Our clients' largest needs are running systematic programs that roll monthly, weekly or quarterly. While we do see some deal-contingent hedging, it's far more common to look at exposure from a NAV or fund-level perspective. We also execute electronically far more often than I did at the bank, mostly via Bloomberg or other electronic execution platforms. Shifting from the mindset of servicing a client to effectively being the client was a bit tricky at first, but it's been a smooth transition overall. More broadly, it's relatively uncommon to need deep expertise across multiple asset classes. Most traditional desks are single-product focused, so there's definitely a lot to keep up with on any given day.

What does a typical day look like in your current role at Validus, and what types of client problems are you most focused on solving right now?

It's a later start than I'm used to (8:30 a.m. vs. 7:15 a.m.), but I'm not complaining. I'm usually up around 6:30 a.m. reviewing overnight market moves, what to expect for the day ahead, and any emails from London regarding execution needs.

When I get in, the first priority is pricing and routing orders for systematic rebalances for pension and asset management clients, which are generally commodity basket overlays. From there, we move into new hedges or hedge rolls for our core client base, primarily large U.S. private equity and private credit managers with more than US$100 billion in assets under management. They rely on us to manage their hedging programs at the fund or strategy level, pricing and executing through one of our roughly 60 banking relationships. The rest of the day is spent responding to ad hoc requests — whether that's execution, market colour, data or other one-off needs. We'll also join meetings with fund portfolio managers to pitch a new idea or present an alternative strategy we see as more suitable if market conditions change. I'm usually out the door around 6 p.m., but typically stay online until 7:30 or 8 p.m. to make sure nothing urgent comes through in the early evening.

What's one opinion you hold that most people might disagree with?

The Leafs could still win the Cup this year. More seriously, life is a marathon, not a sprint. Don't rush to hit the next shiny milestone. More often than not, it's less fulfilling than you expect if you obsess over it or try to sprint toward a self-imposed finish line.

If you could give one piece of advice to your fourth-year self, what would it be?

Given that I was a bit of a special case in recruitment, I'll speak directly to current fourth-years: be more personable in interviews and coffee chats, and don't just run through a checklist of questions you think you need to ask. Having a genuine conversation goes a long way in making you more memorable.

More broadly — and not job-related — find some balance and give yourself time to decompress from work and day-to-day life. Persistent stress has a way of surfacing in places you don't expect, and it's not conducive to a healthy life overall. Also, go to Splitties more often on Saturdays.

From an industry perspective, what trends or shifts in global markets or derivatives are you paying the most attention to right now?

The continued inflow into alternative assets by the general public. I've always been a fan of bringing products down-market, especially given that many of financial markets' best-kept secrets were historically only available to institutional investors. The most crowded trade is often the worst trade, and while retail access to alternatives is increasing, the space remains underallocated by most investors. From a global markets and derivatives perspective, North American institutions are just beginning to engage with significant risk transfer structures, which have been far more common in the U.K. and Europe for years. I suspect this space will continue to grow as banks look to free up their balance sheets and as credit funds expand.

Student Spotlight

Ibaad Hemani

Portfolio Manager
Machine Learning
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Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Ibaad Hemani, and I am in my fourth year at Dalhousie University. I am pursuing a bachelor of science degree, majoring in physics and minoring in math, with certificates in quantitative finance, fintech, and financial innovation and information technology. I was born in Ireland but moved to Yarmouth, N.S., at a young age and have lived there ever since. Outside of school, I enjoy golfing and playing soccer with friends.

How have you learned finance on your own?

Joining DALIS has been the most effective way I've learned about finance. I believe you gain more insight into the industry through the society than through traditional university finance classes. Speaking with professionals and students who have completed work terms at financial institutions across the country gave me a much deeper understanding of the field.

Another valuable resource has been the Bloomberg lab. We are fortunate to have access to a Bloomberg Terminal at Dalhousie. I spend time there reading the news, which has helped me understand how markets work, how they respond to events and why prices move the way they do.

What made you study physics and what brought you to DALIS?

I decided to study physics at university largely because of my experience in high school. I didn't enjoy biology, but physics came much more naturally to me. I also had a great teacher who sparked my curiosity in the subject. I learned that physics is more than formulas. It emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving, which I enjoy. That led me to continue studying physics at university.

As I moved into more specialized topics, I realized I didn't see myself spending my career in research labs. Around that time, I took a finance class as an elective and discovered how much overlap there is between physics and finance. I became fascinated by that intersection and wanted to learn more.

In my third year, I came across the Dalhousie Investment Society and attended my first general meeting. Everyone was welcoming, and I now enjoy learning something new at every meeting.

How have you found your background in physics translates to finance?

My physics background has been very helpful in finance, especially in more technical areas. Physics teaches you how to take complex information and turn it into models that are easier to understand, which is useful for financial modelling and risk management. Many of the mathematical concepts I learned through physics also appear in finance. They are applied to different problems, such as pricing derivatives instead of predicting particle behaviour.

Can you tell us about an interesting concept you explored in the Machine Learning Portfolio this semester?

One concept I explored was building a Monte Carlo simulation based on geometric Brownian motion to model possible future price paths for a stock. In physics, geometric Brownian motion is often used to describe the random motion of particles. In finance, the same concept can be applied to stock prices by decomposing them into drift and volatility components. I applied the simulation to a single stock to illustrate a range of possible outcomes rather than a single prediction.

I compared three versions of the simulation. The first was a standard Monte Carlo model with fixed volatility and drift parameters. In the second, I added a machine learning model to predict next-day prices, introducing a dynamic drift component that captured more short-term trends. In the third model, I added a dynamic volatility component using GARCH. This allowed both expected price and volatility to change over time, producing a more realistic simulation of market behaviour.

Winter 2026 Group Introductions

Global Macro

WILL PORTER
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

CONNOR BOEHME
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

PHILIP WILLIAMS
SENIOR ANALYST

OWEN SHEPHERD
JUNIOR ANALYST

MATT HANSON
JUNIOR ANALYST

SAMUEL LAQUERRE
JUNIOR ANALYST

TONY KO
JUNIOR ANALYST

Commodities

LUCAS ROBBINS
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

WILLIAM ALEXANDER
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

NEVE MCOUAT
SENIOR ANALYST

SYDNEY ANTOSIK
JUNIOR ANALYST

NATHANIEL DIXON
JUNIOR ANALYST

JUSTIN HALL
JUNIOR ANALYST

MATTHEW LUNDRIGAN
JUNIOR ANALYST

Long / Short Equities

JOSH FRANKEN
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

SAM WHITE
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

AUSTIN LOVERING
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

SEAN WOODBURY
PORTFOLIO MANAGER

NATE CASEY
SENIOR ANALYST

LOGAN DURNO
SENIOR ANALYST

AIDEN PITBLADO
SENIOR ANALYST

HAYDEN TAMM
SENIOR ANALYST

NOAH STRICKEY
JUNIOR ANALYST

ARIADNA SORIA
JUNIOR ANALYST

ANA KARINA SOLOVIOV
JUNIOR ANALYST

BEN WEINGUST
JUNIOR ANALYST

CATHERINE COLDWELL
JUNIOR ANALYST

MALCOLM HILL
JUNIOR ANALYST

Machine Learning

JOHN VICTOR STEPHAN DURAIRAJ
SENIOR ANALYST

IBAAD HEMANI
JUNIOR ANALYST

SARAH FINKLE
JUNIOR ANALYST

MARKO DIMITRIJEVIĆ
JUNIOR ANALYST

APAAR NAGI
JUNIOR ANALYST

ABDUL MOHAMMED
JUNIOR ANALYST

Seaside Capital

RONAN SAHAJPAL
CO-HEAD

BLAKE MCLEOD
ASSOCIATE

JAMES RIOPELLE
ANALYST

SAMUEL SINGH
ANALYST

BELLA TUCKER
JUNIOR ANALYST

GRAEME MERRIMEN
JUNIOR ANALYST

TYLER STARK
CO-HEAD

RYAN SPITZER
ASSOCIATE

JACK HARRIS
ANALYST

CHARLES MCINNES
ANALYST

MATTHEW FRASER
JUNIOR ANALYST

SIMON JENNER
JUNIOR ANALYST

Acquisition Analysis: Netflix to Purchase Warner Bros. Amidst the Competition for Viewership

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Introduction and background

On Dec. 5, Netflix (NASDAQ: NFLX) agreed to purchase Warner Bros. Discovery (NASDAQ: WBD), marking one of the most significant shifts in the entertainment industry over the past decade. The deal includes Warner Bros.' production studios, HBO and HBO Max, and an extensive intellectual property (IP) catalogue. Warner Bros. Discovery will separate Discovery Global into a spun-off entity that will not be included in the acquisition.

The transaction combines a legacy media brand with a global streaming powerhouse, pushing the industry further away from traditional cinemas. Warner Bros.' IP catalogue features notable franchises such as DC Comics, Harry Potter and a range of popular television series produced through HBO Studios.

Warner Bros. has had longstanding success at the box office and remains one of the largest film studios in Hollywood. The studio consistently produces both critically acclaimed films and commercial successes. The deal would strengthen Netflix's production capabilities through the acquisition of the Warner Bros. Studio lot in Burbank, Calif., allowing Netflix to match the scale of Universal and Disney. Industry analysts estimate synergies across production, marketing and distribution could contribute US$30 billion to Netflix's pro forma EBITDA and push margins above 35 per cent by 2028.

Industry Shifts

This acquisition marks a continued shift away from legacy media and places greater emphasis on streaming services. Pressure from box office volatility has led production studios to favour the stability of streaming platforms. Studios can sell projects to streaming services with limited theatrical releases, reducing box office risk while still achieving commercial success.

Netflix's increased spending on original television and film content has positioned the company as a high-growth content engine, reducing reliance on external franchises.

As competition among streaming services intensifies, content differentiation has become increasingly important, driving industry consolidation.

In recent years, Netflix has benefited from a high retention rate, positioning the company as a quasi-consumer staple stock. Its subscriber stability is driven by a consistent content pipeline. Netflix maintains the lowest churn rate in the industry at under two per cent, compared with an industry average of roughly 4.5 per cent for Disney+.

Deal structure and impact

At an enterprise value of US$82.7 billion, the initial agreement offered US$23.25 in cash and US$4.50 in Netflix stock for each Warner Bros. Discovery share.

At a value of US$27.75 per share, the deal represented a premium of 121 per cent over WBD's pre-acquisition price of US$12.54 on Sept. 10.

The agreement carves out Discovery cable channels — including CNN, TNT and the Discovery Channel — into a separate spun-off entity to be sold later. Shareholders would retain equity in the newly created Discovery Global through a split structure.

Proxy filings estimate Discovery Global's equity valuation at between US$1.33 billion and US$3.77 billion.

The 2022 merger between WarnerMedia and Discovery resulted in a substantial debt burden that the company was unable to materially reduce. Under the new structure, most of the debt will be assigned to Discovery Global. The spun-off entity will carry a significantly higher leverage ratio than comparable transactions such as Versant (spun off from Comcast) and Fox, contributing to a lower valuation.

Netflix restructured the deal on Jan. 20 to an all-cash offer of US$27.75 per share to accelerate closing and reduce equity volatility risk for WBD shareholders.

The transaction will be financed through cash on hand, US$42.2 billion in bridge loans and additional long-term debt to be syndicated. While the debt issuance is substantial, Netflix's balance sheet supports the financing.

Since 2022, Netflix has reduced leverage through consistent cash flow generation, allowing it to fund operations without incremental borrowing.

A proxy fight on the calendar

Rival media conglomerate Paramount Skydance (NASDAQ: PSKY) launched a hostile bid seeking to overturn the Netflix agreement through a shareholder vote.

The proposal values WBD at US$30 per share, or an enterprise value of US$108.4 billion, in an all-cash deal. Concerns have emerged regarding Paramount Skydance's ability to finance the transaction.

With a current equity value of approximately US$12.5 billion, PSKY would need to issue a significant amount of debt, making the takeover the largest leveraged buyout in history.

Financing includes US$54 billion in committed bank funding and US$40 billion in equity financing personally guaranteed by Larry Ellison, father of PSKY CEO David Ellison.

Unlike Netflix's proposal, PSKY's bid includes both Warner Bros. and Discovery Global assets, arguing it could integrate Discovery channels into Paramount Media. PSKY contends its offer provides greater shareholder value and raises concerns over Netflix's post-acquisition pricing power.

Netflix's agreement includes a US$2.8 billion break-up fee, reinforcing the WBD board's commitment. The proxy vote is scheduled for April, with debate centred on Discovery Global's valuation and leverage profile.

Regulatory and competitive challenges

U.S. and EU regulators must approve the transaction amid antitrust scrutiny. The combined entity would control roughly 36 per cent of the global video-on-demand streaming market. Reduced competition could increase Netflix's pricing power at consumers' expense.

The agreement includes regulatory risk provisions anticipating a prolonged approval process. Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos is scheduled to testify before a U.S. Senate hearing in February in support of the deal.

Labour unions have also raised objections. SAG-AFTRA leadership has stated the deal "must be blocked" due to concerns over job losses. The Writers Guild of America has echoed these concerns, citing downward pressure on wages and higher consumer prices. The shift toward streaming premieres over theatrical releases could reduce industry employment and alter revenue-sharing structures.

A rough six months for Netflix

After outperforming the S&P 500 communication services sector for much of 2025, Netflix's performance deteriorated in the second half of the year. Shares have fallen roughly 30 per cent since October amid earnings misses, a stock split, the WBD acquisition and a hostile bid from Paramount Skydance.

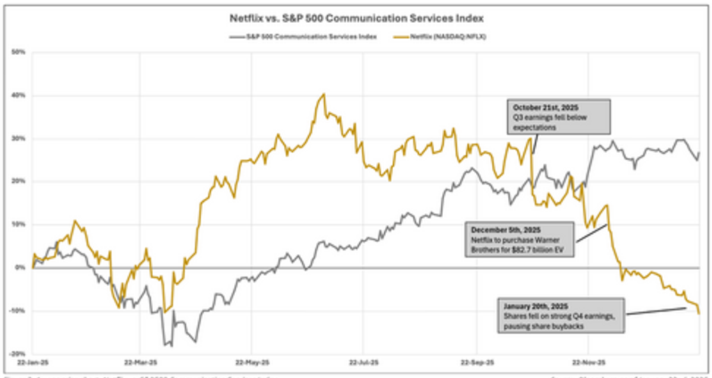

Figure 2: 1-year price chart: Netflix vs. S&P500 Communication Services Index — Source: Bloomberg as of January 22nd, 2025

- **Oct. 21, 2025 – Q3 earnings report:** Netflix shares slide on EPS miss, driven by $619 million tax dispute with the Brazilian government **(-10 per cent).**
- **Dec. 5, 2025 – Agreement to Purchase Warner Brothers:** Netflix shares trade lower on Warner Brothers announcement, large price tag, regulatory and hostile bid clouds outlook for 2026 **(-6 per cent).**
- **Jan. 20, 2026 – Q4 earnings report:** Netflix shares fall on trimmed forecast for 2026 amid fight with Paramount Skydance, paused share buybacks to conserve cash **(-5 per cent)**.

Netflix is increasingly valued on viewership time rather than subscriber growth. The focus on profitability over expansion has shifted content strategy toward hours watched rather than volume. The Warner Bros. acquisition would deepen Netflix's competitive moat through expanded IP ownership.

The Future of Movie Production

Industry trends favour leveraging existing IP rather than developing new franchises due to lower costs and reduced volatility. While Netflix has invested heavily in original content, outcomes remain uncertain in the streaming model. The Warner Bros. acquisition provides access to one of the industry's most valuable IP catalogues, enabling spin-offs, remakes and franchise expansion.

Netflix has committed to 15 to 20 theatrical releases annually, primarily to meet awards eligibility criteria.

Content exclusivity remains a core advantage, strengthening Netflix's distribution platform relative to competitors.

The outlook for Netflix

Netflix's operations will remain constrained pending the WBD shareholder vote in April. Increased leverage will pressure cash flow in the short to medium term, prompting management to pause share buybacks. Regulatory reviews by the U.S. Department of Justice and the European Commission are expected to extend the approval process to approximately 18 months.

While regulatory and financial hurdles remain, the outcome appears clear. The acquisition of Warner Bros.' studio assets, streaming platforms and IP catalogue would solidify Netflix's position as the dominant player in the entertainment industry, reshaping consumer access to film and television content.

Shifting Priorities: What the WEF Global Risk Report 2026 Means for the Investor

Sakib Khan, General Member
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Reading the World Economic Forum's recently published Global Risks Report 2026 was not exactly a pick-me-up. But beyond the doom and gloom about the world being on the edge, it reveals a notable shift in how global leaders in business and government perceive and prioritize risk. These shifts present important signals for investors and market analysts about where capital may flow, which sectors could face increased risk and volatility, and where opportunities might emerge as the world adapts to new realities.

Cybersecurity risks

Cybersecurity and misinformation have surged to the top of the short-term risk index. This is not a surprise, given the increasing sophistication of cyberattacks and their growing economic impact. Data breaches, ransomware attacks on critical financial infrastructure, and the proliferation of AI-generated misinformation, or deepfakes, have moved from theoretical concerns to daily reality. This affects both businesses and governments worldwide. What makes this shift particularly relevant for markets is the interconnectedness of these threats. A single breach can cascade across supply chains, financial systems and critical infrastructure. For investors, this heightened perception of cyber risk suggests several implications, including a rising security risk premium across markets. Technology companies offering robust security solutions may see sustained demand growth. Firms with weak cybersecurity, however, may face operational disruptions and reputational damage, which can significantly affect valuations and lead to a higher cost of capital. This trend is already evident in the insurance sector, where cyber insurance premiums are rising sharply as digital threats become increasingly unpredictable.

Geopolitical fragmentation

Perhaps more concerning is the report's emphasis on declining multilateral co-operation. The collapse of the rules-based order after the Second World War is increasing uncertainty for businesses worldwide. Strained international relations, the breakdown of traditional alliances and the rise of economic nationalism are weakening the collective ability to respond to common challenges. When countries struggle to co-ordinate responses, markets face greater uncertainty, trade disputes become harder to resolve, rules diverge across borders and foreign investment becomes more complex. This creates both risks and opportunities for investors. As seen in many developed countries, including Canada, defence spending is rising, domestic manufacturing is receiving increased government support through industrial policy, and supply-chain resilience is becoming a strategic priority. As a result, companies or industries that help nations achieve greater economic autonomy, such as those involved in rare earth minerals, may benefit from sustained government support. This, however, often comes at the expense of economic efficiency.

Environmental risks

The report states that environmental concerns have slipped down the short-term priority list, while remaining among the top long-term risks. Climate change, biodiversity loss and natural resource depletion are still recognized as critical challenges, but more immediate political and technological concerns are overshadowing them. The disconnect between short-term and long-term priorities creates a blind spot for markets and investors. Environmental issues are being deprioritized not only in reports but also in policy.

Governments are rolling back climate commitments, extending regulatory timelines and prioritizing energy security over green transitions. For green investments, this shift brings real risks. Renewable energy companies, electric vehicle manufacturers and clean technology firms are facing reduced subsidies and slower adoption than many expected. The ESG boom of 2020-21 has already declined sharply, and further volatility appears likely. Physical climate risks have not disappeared simply because they have moved down the priority list. Investors must balance near-term policy considerations with potential long-term structural changes, recognizing that both matter for portfolio decisions.

Market implications

Overall, the Global Risks Report 2026 reinforces several key lessons for those involved in financial analysis or investment decision-making. First, risk landscapes are dynamic. Factors that were critical five years ago may no longer dominate today's agenda. Today's priorities will continue to evolve as new challenges emerge and others are resolved or deprioritized. Second, integrating cyber and geopolitical risks into traditional frameworks is essential for accurate valuation. Investors who fail to account for these factors risk being caught off guard. Finally, the report highlights that short-term attention does not always align with long-term importance. Markets tend to react more strongly to immediate concerns. Effective investors must balance short-term pressures with long-term realities. As global risks continue to shift, staying informed and adaptable will be critical for navigating markets ahead. The World Economic Forum's report offers valuable insight into how market perceptions evolve.

Why Wall Street Cares About Greenland

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In theory, Greenland shouldn't matter to financial markets. In practice, however, markets tend to react quickly when geopolitics signal a change in risk, which is why the wave of U.S. political interest in Greenland has shown up in recent market conversations.

At a basic level, the U.S. wants more access and influence, while Denmark and Greenland have set firm limits. This sits within a broader NATO and Arctic security context as global competition in the region increases.

From an economic standpoint, Greenland matters less for what it produces today and more for what it represents.

This isn't about the United States "buying Greenland." It's about how investors read policy signals when security, resources, and risk start to overlap.

Why Greenland matters strategically

Part of the reason Greenland enters market conversations is its potential role in critical mineral supply chains. These materials matter because they sit at the center of competition between the U.S., China and Russia across energy, technology and defence. For markets, the more important signal is what this suggests about how much the U.S. is willing to risk in order to maintain close alliances in pursuit of strategic resources. Any meaningful production would take years and face significant permitting, financial and infrastructure hurdles.

Greenland's value is geographic. As climate change gradually alters Arctic conditions, northern shipping routes, infrastructure and military presence are becoming increasingly relevant. Control, access and monitoring capacity in the Arctic matter for logistics, deterrence and crisis response. Strategic geography can carry value even before it generates revenue. Investors tend to respond when access itself becomes a lever of power, especially in regions tied to global stability.

Three transmission channels

Policy risk and volatility

Markets generally tolerate bad news better than uncertainty. Geopolitical tensions introduce the risk of tariffs, diplomatic escalation, or shifting alliances, all of which increase uncertainty even if outcomes never materialize. When that uncertainty rises, investors demand a higher risk premium. Valuations compress, volatility increases, and risk assets can wobble without any change in underlying earnings. The Greenland headlines fit this pattern. The reaction mattered more than the resolution.

Energy prices

Geopolitical developments show up first in energy markets. Strategic tension adds a risk premium to oil prices even in the absence of supply disruptions. That dynamic ripples through equities unevenly. Higher oil prices support producers and energy-linked assets while pressuring fuel-intensive sectors such as airlines, transportation and parts of the consumer economy.

Defence and infrastructure spending

An increased strategic focus on the Arctic almost inevitably brings higher spending on defence infrastructure. This is where market spillovers become most tangible. Defence contractors, satellite and security technology firms, and industrial suppliers tied to infrastructure investment are more directly exposed than speculative mining ventures. For investors, the clearer signal lies in where budgets flow, not in distant resource extraction timelines.

Who's impacted?

From a sectoral perspective, potential beneficiaries include defence-related industries, energy producers and companies involved in logistics or infrastructure spending. Areas that may face pressure include trade-sensitive multinationals and cyclical risk assets during periods of elevated volatility. A separate speculative bucket includes early-stage mineral exploration, which has long timelines, high capital requirements and even higher political risk. The key distinction is between assets exposed to policy flows and those dependent on uncertain long-term production.

The Investor Takeaway

Greenland is a headline catalyst. The island itself isn't about to reshape global markets, but the reaction to it reveals how sensitive investors are to geopolitical signalling. Investors should watch policy language, alliance dynamics, energy price moves and trends in defence and infrastructure spending. That's where geopolitical risk tends to show up first.

JDCC 2026 Recap

Veronica Denson, General Member
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Competition Overview

At the beginning of January, 24 Dalhousie University students travelled to Waterloo, Ont., to compete in the annual JDCC Central competition hosted by the Lazaridis School of Business and Economics. The team competed in three categories: academics, athletics and dance. The academics section was diversified, as Dal sent teams of three students each to compete in finance, accounting, marketing and business strategy. The competition concluded with an awards ceremony and gala on Sunday, Jan. 18, at which Dal performed strongly, placing third in both marketing and dance.

Competition Overview

All of the academic cases were three-hour crisis cases that covered a range of topics. The finance case involved recommending whether a company should accept an acquisition offer from a private equity firm or pursue a strategic transaction in the open market. The team was given one precedent transaction and average comparables. They built a discounted cash flow model and a 20-slide deck from scratch, which was then presented to a panel of judges.

The marketing team was tasked with advising a real Business-to-Business company in Ontario as it developed its B2C retail presence. The team also advised on the company's transition from a standard to a premium pricing model.

Athletics

The athletics team competed in capture the flag on Day 1 of the competition and European handball on Day 2. The team showed grit and determination throughout the games, and their energy had the whole stadium cheering them on.

Dance

The 24 delegates came together to compete in a decades-themed dance competition. Dalhousie's theme was the 1970s, and the dance was five minutes long, with a music mix featuring songs such as "Dancing Queen" and "It's Raining Men." The team members' commitment was especially impressive. Although only two delegates had prior dance experience, the entire team was dedicated and focused throughout practices. That effort led to a third-place finish overall. DALIS co-president Sam Tanner also caught some airtime on stage.

Captains' Comments

The team was led by co-captains Aidan Brooking and Margaux Hamel. The pair was instrumental to the team's success. Throughout the weekend, the captains ensured everything ran smoothly and that all delegates were as prepared as possible for their events.

Brooking said competing at JDCC should be on every business student's bucket list before graduating.

"Representing Dalhousie at one of the largest case competitions in Canada was an incredible experience that I was thankful to be part of," he said. "Finishing third in both dance and marketing as a new school is a strong start in establishing ourselves as a competitive program, and I'm excited to see how far we can push ourselves in the years ahead."

"Returning to JDCC for the first time since 2020 marked a significant step for Dalhousie," said Hamel.

"We came in with no expectations and very little idea of what to expect, but despite having less preparation than many other schools, we remained competitive on the main stage. I think that says a lot about Dalhousie students," she said. "Every delegate put their heart into their cases, sports and dance, and it showed in our results. Coming home with two podium finishes and a best speaker award reflects how well the team worked together, and I couldn't be prouder to co-captain such an incredible group."

Battle on Bay 2026 Recap

V Josh Franken, Austin Lovering, Sam White & Sean Woodbury
Portfolio Managers, Long/Short Equities

Overview of the Competition

To start off the year, we had the honour of representing Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Investment Society at Battle on Bay 2026. The three-day event, hosted by Toronto Metropolitan University and the Ted Rogers School of Management, tested our skills against 16 schools from across Canada. In addition to the main case and crisis case, the conference featured several panels, workshops and social activities. Panellists came from across the financial industry, with varying ages, experience and backgrounds, allowing each participant to take away something different from each speaker while continuing to build their networks.

Main Case

Our challenge was to pitch a long or short position on a North American equity with a market capitalization greater than $1 billion. With the case parameters released one week before the competition, we took a short position on Deere & Co. (NYSE: DE). Through extensive teamwork, long hours and open discussion, we refined the idea into a full deck, model and pitch that highlighted our strengths and allowed us to represent Dalhousie to the best of our ability.

Crisis Case

The crisis case challenged us to work in areas outside our own expertise. With none of us coming from investment banking co-op backgrounds, we were tasked with a two-hour case centred on an acquisition in the cybersecurity industry. We relied on one another so each team member could focus on their strengths. By the end of the case, we had built a model, formed an investment thesis and developed a fully fleshed-out deck under significant time pressure before presenting. Despite being moved to the first presentation slot on the second day in a row, we delivered a strong case for the acquisition and successfully completed our conference deliverables.

Our Message to Dalhousie Students

Case competitions are among the best ways for students to gain industry-specific experience. Working under pressure, refining pitches, building models, navigating Q&As and persuading others of your ideas are all essential skills to develop early. It is difficult to predict what will come your way, and no amount of coursework can fully prepare you for the atmosphere of a case competition. Practice and repetition, however, can help prepare you for that unpredictability. Success is not about being the smartest person in the room, but rather about an individual or team's willingness to go the extra mile. Do not shy away from problems simply because you do not yet have the answer. Instead, take the opportunity to challenge yourself and grow. We believe every student should make an effort to attend at least one competition, no matter how intimidating it may seem.

Final Takeaways

We had a phenomenal experience at the conference and enjoyed the highs, lows and intensity that came with it. We were impressed by the level of participation from younger students and those from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds. We are proud to have represented Dalhousie, and while we did not secure a top-three placement, the learning opportunity alone justified the time and preparation involved. Any student willing to take the leap and put their name forward should feel the same way, knowing that every experience contributes to personal and professional growth.

With the conference concluding several weeks ago, we have had time to reflect and take pride in the Dalhousie Investment Society and the broader community. We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to represent our school. Finally, we extend our thanks to the Ted Rogers School of Management, the Ted Rogers Finance Society and the organizing committee for hosting an excellent event.

Rick's Rant

Knowing Versus Understanding

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I generally come into the university quite early in the morning. I do that to avoid traffic, and I also to avoid having to hunt for a parking spot. I also like to come in early, as I can get more done in the early hours when no one is around than I can for the rest of the day, when there are countless interruptions and distractions.

Driving into Halifax from the boonies where I live has been a bit of an adventure this week with the weather. Yes, I drove in on both of the days that the university was closed due to the snowstorms that we received. As a Canadian, I would like to think that we know about driving in winter weather. You exercise caution, you drive to the conditions, you know how to steer into a skid and, of course, you have appropriate tires. I believe that if you live in Canada, this is simply something that you know about. After all, it is a major part of the written portion of your licensing exam (which, because of illogical interprovincial regulations, I have had to take in four different provinces).

So, driving in earlier this week, at 6 a.m., the roads were not cleared — not even the highway — as the snow was still coming down hard. It was dark, and the roads were greasy, as my father always put it. On the Highway 102, we formed a polite, Atlantic Canadian-like single-file line and more or less drove at about half the speed limit in the right-hand lane. Occasionally, there would be a car that would decide that was too slow and pull out into the passing lane — which was even greasier — and quickly decide better of it and pull back into line.

As I neared town, I saw a car in the passing lane on the other side of the highway. It was going much faster than everyone else and then, all of a sudden, it started to put on a light show. The headlights began weaving crazily back and forth and then, it went dark. I saw the bottom of the car hit the median barrier. It went airborne, then crashed back down (fortunately upright) and became a spinning top, taking out a couple of other outbound cars.

My first thought was to say a little prayer of thanks for the median barrier, or I would have been an accident statistic as the car came straight at me. My second thought was, "There is someone who simply does not understand." The person who was going too fast must have known that winter driving is different from summer driving. They must have known that prudence was called for. They must have known that the left-side passing lane was much greasier than the already greasy right lane. Yet all that knowledge, and they still crashed. They were OK, but they did have to be extricated from the car due to the force of the collision.

You can know about something, like how to drive in the winter, for instance, but still not understand it. This is a fundamental issue in academia, and particularly in business academia. There is a fundamental gap between knowing and understanding, and I fear that current fads in education (rubrics, ugh! multiple-choice assessments, etc.) and the rise of AI are widening it and creating dangerous situations. Knowing is not the same as understanding.

This is one of the big values of the co-op program. It forces students out of textbooks and into the world of doing. It is only by doing that you understand. Memorizing something is not the same as understanding it. On your co-op, you cannot look up the rubric for how to do something — or at least not if you want to have a second week in that co-op position. Also, you will never be able to look up how to do a task, as it will be unique to the situation and require you to understand and adapt based on your own understanding, rather than relying on book knowledge. True, that is not always the case, but then again, those tasks are being replaced by bots. "Do you want fries with that?" asks the McDonald's kiosk.

DALIS is, in my opinion, a major contributor to closing the knowing–understanding gap. Although it is a paper hedge fund, DALIS members make decisions not by a rubric, not by a textbook or a rule book, but by developing their intuition.

There are some ugly mistakes made (one of the benefits of being a paper fund), but it is through the process of having successes, being lucky, having peer “beat-ups” and making mistakes that one transforms what one knows (or perhaps thinks they know) into something that they understand. That is what makes a human superior to AI. Conversely, a human who relies solely on knowledge is inferior to almost all common AI models today.

Do you think the driver who unfortunately crashed their car earlier this week has a new understanding of winter driving? Do you think students who have actually tried things — even if unsuccessfully — have a better understanding than someone who has memorized the textbook and mastered multiple-choice exams? Do you prefer knowing or understanding?

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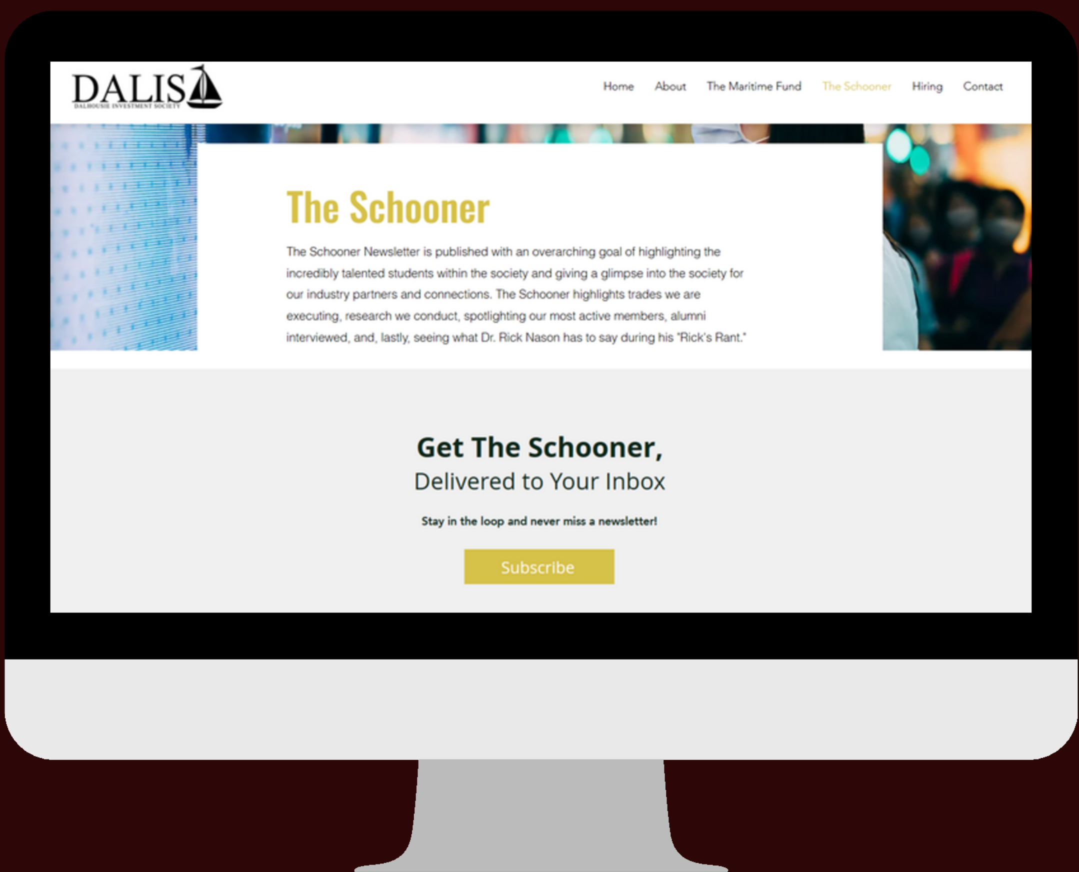

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