Report on the 2016 Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics

Dr. Brigitte Vachon (McGill)

On behalf of the CCUWiP 2016 organizing committee: Lina Rotermund, Sarah Hyatt, Emma Shouldice, Carmen Lee, Mackenzie Ruthven, Kali Caulier, Neyousha Shahisavandi, Veronica Sullivan, Anna Combie (Dalhousie)

14th June 2016, CAP Congress, University of Ottawa
CCUWiP 2016

- Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics
  - 8-10 January 2016, Dalhousie University, Halifax
  - http://fizz.phys.dal.ca/~ccuwip/
CCUWiP Goal

- **Goal**: Encourage undergraduate women to pursue a physics education.

- **How?**
  
  By giving undergraduate women the opportunity to:
  
  - Experience a professional conference
  - Discover a variety of career paths
  - Develop a regional/national network of women in Physics
  - Learn about undergraduate research opportunities, graduate studies, etc.
CCUWiP “philosophy”

- “Regional” conference
  - Event kept “small” providing optimal networking opportunities and sense of community.
- Organized for and by undergraduate students
**CCUWiP “philosophy”**

- **All conference fees* are covered for the participants**
  - Why?
    - Ensures that all students have the same opportunity regardless of their personal financial situation or whether or not they may have access to some external funding.
  - How?
    - Limited number of participants
    - Application process
    - Large number of sponsors (funding agencies, companies, universities, etc.)

* All expenses (food, accommodation) are covered, excluding travel costs to the conference.
CCUWiP 2016 sponsors

- Budget: $32,000 (including 12 travel grants ~ $5,500)
- Incredible amount of support from our sponsors!
CCUWiP 2016

• 78 student participants (from 24 Canadian Universities!)

• 5 invited presentations (academia, industry, health)
  - Dr. Kimberley Hall (Ultrafast quantum control, Dalhousie)
  - Dr. Simona Verga (Defence scientist, DRDC-CSS, manager)
  - Dr. Ingrid Stairs (astronomy, UBC)
  - Dr. Stefi Baum (Dean of Science, U. Manitoba)
  - Ms. Elaine Lau (Senior designer at Oracle)

• 3 panel discussions (several invited panelists):
  - Women in science panel
  - Grad school and graduate student life
  - Undergraduate research opportunities
CCUWiP 2016

- Publishing presentation
- Poster session and student talks
- Grad fair
- Lab tours
- and plenty of opportunities for networking.
CCUWiP Statistics

<table>
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<th>2016 Dalhousie</th>
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<td><strong>Total Participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>51</strong></td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
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Total Applications: 56, 110, 94
CCUWiP 2017

Organizing committee

Anastasia Smolina
Dana Murdoch
Jennifer Scora
Courtney Mulholland
Mindy Chapman
Sylvie Bronsard
Jennifer Tang
Canadian-US partnership

- (US) Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics started in 2006.

- Strong national organization and support from APS.
  - https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm

- Ongoing work to develop Cnd-US partnership
  - Facilitate conference organization
  - Ensure continuity of canadian conferences.
Canadian-US partnership

● **Step 1 (2016-17)**
  - McMaster site listed on APS website
  - McMaster rep attended APS-CUWiP annual organizational meeting (College Park, June).
  - Cnd reps on “National Organization Committee”.
  - Poster prepared by APS.
  - Use APS central host application process for 2018 host bids.

● **Step 2 (2017-18)**
  - Use APS application/registration/payment website (-5$CND/student).
  - Use APS assessment surveys
Canadian-US partnership

- APS “National Organizing Committee”
  - designees from current conference sites
  - designees from most recent conference sites
  - professionals engaged in assessment of conferences
  - rep from APS education and diversity dept.
  - member of APS Committee on Status of Women in Physics (CSWP)
  - member of CAP Committee to Encourage Women in Physics (CEWIP)
CCUWiP 2018

- Host site application for 2018.
- **Deadline 1st November, 2016**
- Host site(s) notified by mid-December 2016.
- For instructions:
  - [https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip-host.cfm](https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip-host.cfm)

Advertise and consider applying!
Summary

- **Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CCUWiP):**
  - 3 first editions were an overwhelming success!

- Excellent training, networking and professional development opportunities for women.

- In the process of setting up a partnership with APS CUWiP organization.

- Fourth edition to be held at McMaster University in January 2017.