Report on the 2018 Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics

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Francine Ford (CAP)

Brigitte Vachon (McGill University)

CAP Congress
13 June 2018
What is CUWiP?

- Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics
- 3-day conference held annually in Canada since 2014.
- Canadian CUWiP modelled after the successful US-APS CUWiP.
  - [https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm](https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm)
  - Typically hosts annually ~11 conferences simultaneously across the US
  - Strong national organization and support from APS
CUWiP Goal

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

• **Strategy**: Provide 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.
CUWiP “philosophy”

• Organized for and by undergraduate students

• “Regional” conference
  - Event kept “small” providing optimal networking opportunities and sense of community.
CUWiP “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

* All expenses (food, accommodation) are covered, excluding travel costs to the conference.
CUWiP 2018

Queen’s University, 12-14 January 2018
(https://ccuwip.cap.ca/2018-ccuwip/)

151 student participants (from 34 universities)
Incredible amount of support from sponsors. Thank you!
CUWiP 2018
Queen’s University, 12-14 January 2018

• Student talks and poster session
• Invited speakers [Prof. Vicky Kaspi (McGill), Dr. Renee Horton(SLS)]
• Participation in North American-wide live broadcast of keynote speaker [Prof. Patricia Burchart (Standford)]
• Panel discussions (Diversity in Physics, Physics opportunities in Industry, Research Opportunities, Graduate School Experience)
• Workshops (Negotiation skills, Presentation skills, Interview strategies, Imposter syndrome and stereotypes in STEM, Graduate school applications)
• Graduate and Career fair
• Lab tours and stargazing

• Networking mentorship and opportunities
• Emphasis on general issues related to diversity in physics through workshop/panel offerings and organizational aspects geared at providing an all inclusive environment.
CUWiP Statistics

• CUWiP 2018:
  - Number of applications: 176
  - Number of participants: 151
  - Number of institutes represented: 34

• Detailed statistics included in appendix.

• Increase in number of applications/participants over the years.

• Increased participation from western Canadian institutes.
  - Clear interest for hosting a CUWiP in western Canada.

• Conference series has now reached nearly 500 undergraduate students.
CUWiP 2019

- University of Ottawa (Ottawa, Ontario)
- 18-20 January 2019


www.facebook.com/ccuwip

Application deadline: Mid-October 2018

CCUWiP 2019 co-chairs Emily Zhang, Amina Berrada and Courtney Tower.
Interested in hosting a CUWiP conference?

Particularly rewarding experience and one that provides undergraduate students with a unique opportunity to develop various highly-sought professional skills.

- Host site(s) applications open for 2020.
- For more information: Francine Ford (execdir@cap.ca)
Canadian CUWiP organization

• Ongoing partnership with CAP and APS.
  - Ensure continuity and sustainability of Canadian CUWiP conferences.
  - Increase visibility of Canadian conference series.
  - Provide technical assistance to facilitate conference organization.

• CAP
  - Provide administrative and technical support (e.g. conference website, application/registration website, web-based pre/post-conference surveys, IT support, conference poster printing and distribution, conference advertisement, etc.)

• APS
  - Canadian site listed on APS CUWiP website: https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm
  - Canadian site rep and CAP-CEWIP rep member of APS-CUWiP “National Organizing Committee” (meets ~ monthly)
  - Access to APS-CUWiP twiki full of useful information to assist with conference organization
  - Canadian site representative invited to attend annual in-person APS-CUWiP organizational meeting (June)
  - Participation in North American-wide live broadcast of keynote speaker
Canadian CUWiP organization

- Within recent evolution of CAP-APS partnership, looking to establish a permanent oversight structure for the conference series within CAP.

- To learn more or get involved contact:
  - Francine Ford (execdir@cap.ca)
  - Brigitte Vachon (Brigitte.Vachon@McGill.ca)
Summary

- **Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP)**
  - Five successful editions of this conference series.
  - 6th edition to be held at University of Ottawa in January 2019. **Join us and advertise!**
  - Host site application open for 2020 conference. **Consider applying!**

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

- Partnerships with APS and CAP in place to support Canadian conference series continuation and evolution.

**Come and join us!**
## CUWiP Statistics

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**Participants** 51 75 78 131 151

**Applications** 56 110 94 168 176