

Report on a Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics

Dr. Brigitte Vachon, McGill

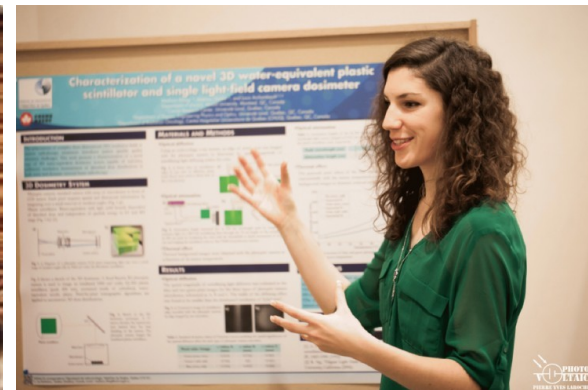
On behalf of the CCUWiP 2014 organizing committee:

Maggie Burns, Dr. Lily Childress, Laurence Coursol, Dakota Desjarlais, Luise Dziobek-Garrett, Kelly Gourджи, Valérie Losier, Madison Rilling, Laurel Stothers, Larissa Veryha, Dr. Tracy Webb

17th June, 2014
CAP Congress
Laurentian University

CCUWiP 2014

- **Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics**
 - 10-12 January 2014, McGill University
 - <http://www.physics.mcgill.ca/ccuwp14/>



CCUWiP Goal

- Modelled after the US CUWiP conference series held annually
<http://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm>
- **Goal:** Encourage undergraduate women to pursue a physics education.
- **Strategy:** Provide the opportunity for undergraduate women in physics to
 - experience a professional conference (*without the need to secure external funding*)
 - meet other women in physics
 - learn about work opportunities (academic and others), undergraduate research, graduate studies, etc.

... in a supportive environment

CCUWiP “philosophy”

- “Regional” conference (people can drive to the venue for the weekend)
- Event kept “small” providing optimal networking opportunities and sense of community
- Entirely organized for and by undergraduate students

Organizing committee, CCUWiP 2014



CCUWiP “philosophy”

- All conference fees* covered for all 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?
 - Event kept “small”
 - Seek out sponsorship from large number of sources
 - Consequence: Application process

* Include accommodation, catering, etc. except transportation costs to the conference venue.

CCUWiP 2014 sponsors

Total budget: \$17k

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors



McGill Department of Physics
McGill Faculty of Science
McGill Astrophysics Group
McGill Centre for the Physics of Materials

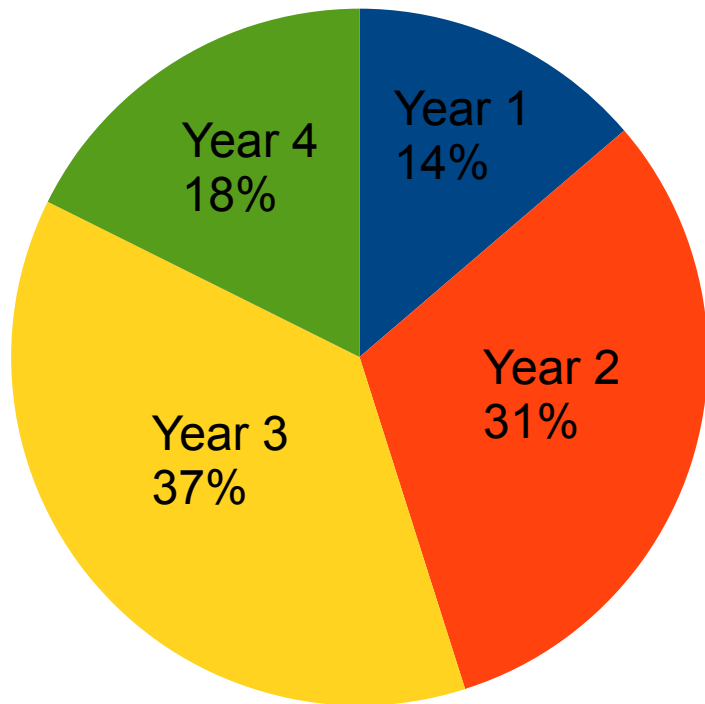


CCUWiP 2014: Statistics

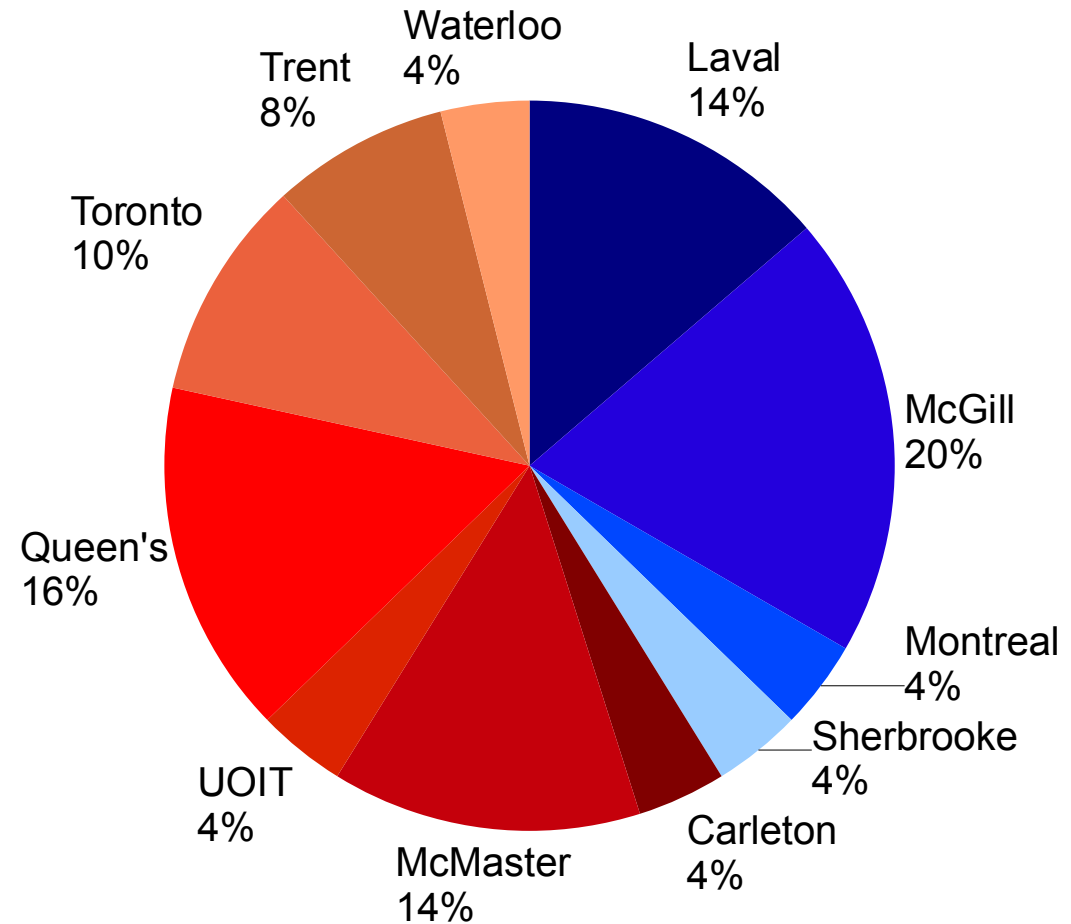
- 51 student participants (38 out-of-town participants)
- 6 invited presentations
 - Dr Preeti Chalsani (technical advisor in patent law)
 - Dr Jennifer MacLeod (NanoFemto Lab, INRS-SEMT)
 - Dr Lia Meringa (TRIUMF accelerator division head)
 - Dr Janelle Morrier (clinical Medical physicist)
 - Annick Routhier-Labadie (consultant with McKinsey & Company)
 - Dr Tracy Webb (astronomer, McGill)
- 3 panel discussions (13 panelists)
 - Career paths and life challenges
 - Grad school and graduate student life
 - Undergraduate research opportunities
- Poster session
- Tour of McGill physics labs
- NSERC/CAP presentations, and small graduate fair

CCUWiP 2014: Statistics

Undergraduate participants
current year of study



Institutional distribution of participants



CCUWiP: Feedback

- Pre/post-conference surveys conducted
- Overwhelming positive feedback!
- Useful suggestions for future improvements

CCUWiP 2015

- 9-11 January 2015
- Université Laval, Québec city
- <http://craq-astro.ca/CCUWiP/index.php>
- E-mail: CCPEP-CCUWiP@phy.ulaval.ca



Organizing committee, CCUWiP 2015

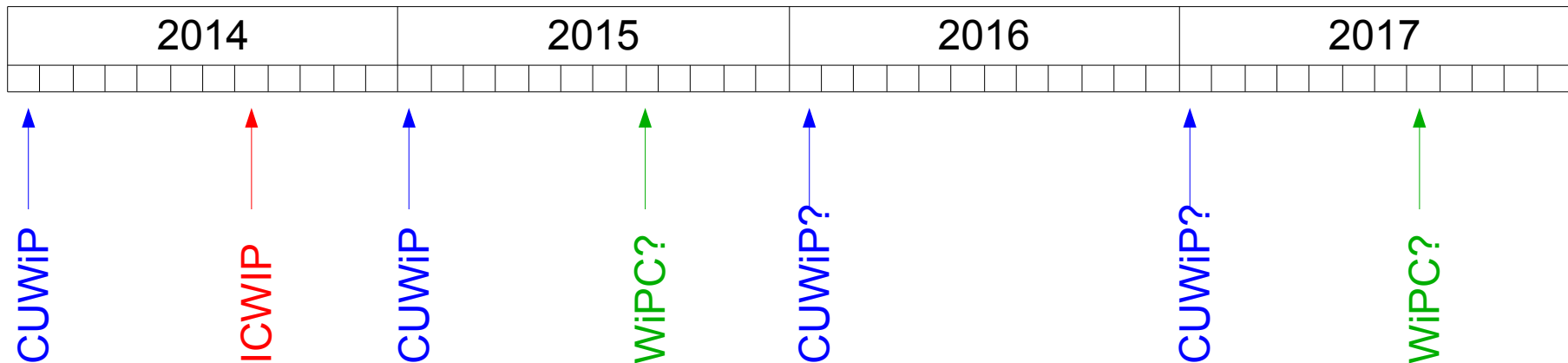


Summary

- Conference for **U**ndergraduate **W**omen in **P**hysics organized at McGill University in January 2014.
 - An overwhelming success!
- Follow-up event to be held at Université Laval in 2015.
- There is a clear demand for these kind of events
 - We encourage different regions of Canada to organize their own “regional” conference
- Ongoing discussions within Canada to coordinate undergraduate/graduate women in physics conferences and regional events.

Discussions

- Time line of future events?
 - WiPC (national, grads/postdocs/...) every two years
 - CUWiP (regional, undergrads) every year



- Canadian coordination for all events?
 - Unified voice for advocating for these types of events, seeking funding, leveraging resources, etc.