

Report on the 2017 Canadian Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics

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CAP Congress
31 May 2017

What is CUWiP?

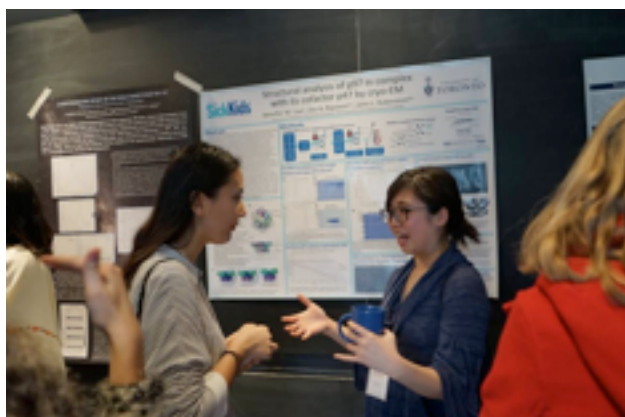
- **C**onference for **U**ndergraduate **W**omen **i**n **P**hysics
- 3-day conference held annually in Canada since 2014.
 - McGill (2014), Laval (2015), Dalhousie (2016), McMaster (2017)
- Canadian CUWiP modelled after the successful US-APS CUWiP.
 - <https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm>
 - 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”

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



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 2017

McMaster University, 13-15 January 2017

(<http://www.physics.mcmaster.ca/ccuwip/>)



CUWiP 2017

Incredible amount of support from sponsors!



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**NSERC
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McMaster University, Office of the President



CUWiP 2017

McMaster University, 13-15 January 2017



- **132 students participants (from 30 universities)**
- Invited presentations, poster sessions
- Participation in North American-wide live broadcast of keynote speaker (Prof. Nergis Mavalvala (MIT))
- Panel discussions (e.g. Alternative careers in physics, Experiences of women in physics)
- Workshops (e.g. Graduate school, Presentation skills, Starting a Women in Physics club, Mental health)
- Graduate school fair
- Lab tours and planetarium show
- Networking mentorship and opportunities
- Emphasis on general diversity issues in physics through workshop/panel offerings and organizational aspects geared at providing an all inclusive environment.

CUWiP Statistics

- Significant increase in number of applications.
- Participant selection based on:
 - One-paragraph statement of why applicant would like to participate in the conference.
 - Degree year: If required, preference given to senior undergraduate students assuming that first year students will have an opportunity to apply again in a following year.
 - University demographic: Ensure representation from as many institutions as possible thereby maximizing the reach of the conference and cross-institutional networking opportunities.

	2014 McGill	2015 Laval	2016 Dalhousie	2017 McMaster
Acadia	-	-	4	1
Calgary	-	-	-	4
Carleton	2	-	2	8
CHC	-	-	-	1
Concordia	-	-	-	1
Dalhousie	-	4	9	-
Guelph	-	3	-	3
Laurentian	-	6	1	2
Laval	7	12	3	4
McGill	10	7	6	11
McMaster	7	10	3	18
Memorial	-	-	-	1
Moncton	-	-	-	1
Montreal	2	3	2	1
Mt Alison	-	3	3	-
Okanagan	-	-	1	-
Ottawa	-	-	-	2
Queen's	8	8	2	6
RMC	-	2	1	1
Ryerson	-	-	2	8
Saskatchewan	-	-	3	-
Sherbrooke	2	-	-	6
STFX	-	-	3	1
St. Mary's	-	-	9	1
SFU	-	-	-	2
Toronto	5	4	6	11
Trent	4	2	-	5
UBC	-	-	2	1
UNB	-	-	4	-
UOIT	2	-	2	7
UPEI	-	-	3	-
UWO	-	-	-	2
Waterloo	2	4	4	14
Western	-	1	-	3
WLU	-	-	-	1
York	-	6	3	4
Participants	51	75	78	132
Applications	56	110	94	168

CUWiP 2018

Advertise to your
undergraduate
students!

- Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)
- 12-14 January 2018
- www.facebook.com/ccuwip



Local Organizing Committee

Gevy Cao
Laura Burchell
Kevin Woodcock
Lucas Rooyakkers
Laurie Huang
Laura Miller
Erin Broatch
Sebastian Gitt
Thomas Armstrong
Mari Hanson
Sandra Cheng



CUWiP 2019

Be the next institution to host this conference!

- Host site(s) application for 2019 is now open.
- Timeline:
 - Deadline for application: 1st November 2017
- Instructions: <https://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip-host.cfm>
- For more information: Brigitte.Vachon@McGill.ca

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

CAP-APS partnership

- Ongoing work to develop CAP-APS partnership to
 - Increase visibility
 - Ensure continuity and sustainability of Canadian CUWiP conferences
 - Provide technical assistance in conference organization

CAP-APS partnership

- CAP

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

NEW

- 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)
- Use of APS-CUWiP central host site application process for future conferences
- Participation in North American-wide live broadcast of keynote speaker

Summary

- **C**onference for **U**ndergraduate **W**omen **i**n **P**hysics (CUWiP)
 - Four successful editions of this conference series.
 - Fifth edition to be held at Queen's University in January 2018. [Advertise!](#)
 - Host site application open for 2019 conference. [Consider applying!](#)
- Excellent training, networking and professional development opportunities for undergraduate women in physics.
- Partnerships with APS and CAP being developed to increase visibility and ensure sustainability.

Come and join us!

(Brigitte.Vachon@McGill.ca)