

Report on Operator Theory Mini-course June 5-6, 2006, UNBF

On June 5-6, 2006, a Mini-course on Operator Theory was held at UNBF, organised by Andrew Toms and Dan Kucerovsky. Its purpose was to introduce graduate students and senior undergraduates to several branches of operator theory, giving them a basic flavour of the research problems in each. There were four speakers, each of whom gave two one-hour lectures. Their names, affiliations, and topics were: Nate Brown (Penn State, von Neumann algebras), Gordon MacDonald (UPEI, single operator theory), Francesc Perera (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, K-theory), Andrew Toms (UNBF, C^* -algebras).

Each lecture was attended by 10-12 students. Three of these came from the University of Toronto (Alan Lai, Nadesh Da Silva, and Kevin Teh); their travel costs were covered by Andrew Toms's NSERC Discovery Grant. One student came from UPEI (Brodie Champion); his local costs were covered by Andrew Toms's NSERC Discovery Grant. (The total cost for this travel was roughly \$2000.) The other participants were local graduate and undergraduate students.

The travel costs of the speakers were covered by AARMS and the University of New Brunswick. MacDonald stayed only for the Mini-course. Brown and Perera stayed for seven and ten days, respectively, in order to collaborate with Andrew Toms. (This collaboration resulted in an article, to appear in *Crelle's Journal*.) The total amount of support provided for this travel was roughly \$6500 (covering airfare, hotel, and per diem).

The participants in the Mini-course found the lectures to be informative and well-organised. Some students, notably Alan Lai, were sufficiently taken with operator theory that they made it the topic of the current graduate studies (Lai is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto.) The success of the Mini-course has led to its being repeated in 2007, with a slightly different emphasis. It should become a perennial event, given UNBF's growing expertise in operator theory and noncommutative geometry.

Andrew Toms, September 12, 2007