

## **Two weeks at Waterloo – A summer school for women in math**

“Two weeks at Waterloo – A summer school for women in math” was a two-week workshop, held at the University of Waterloo, from August 12-25, for outstanding female undergraduate mathematics students. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage and inspire talented women students to continue their studies in mathematics and to consider graduate work in mathematics.

Two mini-courses were offered, Introduction to elliptic curves, taught by Prof. Matilde Lalin (U. Montreal) and Introduction to math biology, taught by Prof. Gail Wolkowicz (McMaster U.). As part of the courses, the students worked in small groups on a research project. Three guest lectures by prominent women mathematicians were given, including one public lecture, and one lecture was given by a pair of women working in industry. Tours were made to meet with female mathematicians in industry at IBM, Manulife and Maplesoft. The students also visited the Fields Institute.

The program was advertised across Canada and 16 women were chosen from over 50 applicants. They came from 7 provinces and 13 different universities, including one from St. Francis Xavier University, supported by AARMS funding. Most were entering their final year of undergraduate studies. The program was well supported financially and all the travel and living costs of the students were covered.

The students reported that the school was a worthwhile experience. The majority indicated that they were more interested in graduate school now than they had been before. Many told us how much they enjoyed meeting and doing mathematics with other women students and instructors. They found it helpful to hear the life stories and different career paths of women mathematicians.

It is our hope that this will become an on-going event.

Our current income/expenditure summary follows. The actual expenses might be slightly higher than we are reporting, as there may be a few more taxi/shuttle reimbursements still to come.

Total Expenses: \$40,629.32 Includes  
travel \$7667.47  
accommodations \$11,785.90  
meals \$15,701.93  
treats & entertainment \$781.74  
buses for field trips \$1361.65.

### Income:

\$15,000 Fields Institute  
\$7,500 TD  
\$7,500 Manulife  
\$7,500 PIMS  
\$5,400 private alumni donation  
\$2,500 CMS  
\$1,201.46\* AARMS  
\$1000 MapleSoft  
\$500 CAIMS  
travel costs of 3 students from Quebec (not included in expenses) ISM.

The University of Waterloo provided lecture halls, administrative and computing support,

coordinated fundraising, and was ready to shoulder cost overruns. Unused funds from our corporate sponsors will either be rolled over to a future offering of our program, or diverted to our Women in MathScholarship fund.

\*We had one student, Chenlu Shi from STFX, attend our program from Atlantic Canada. Her travel claim was \$687.31, and her accomodation cost \$514.15, for a total of \$1201.46.