

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 10-23, 2014, 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, *Kekeya sets, or, a handbook of parallel parking*, taught by Prof. Malabika Pramanik (University of British Columbia) and *Algorithmic learning theory*, taught by Prof. Jennifer Chubb Reimann (University of San Fransisco). As part of the courses, the students worked in small groups on a research project. Each course also had a female graduate student act as a TA and mentor for the students.

The students had the opportunity to meet with females with PhDs in mathematics, working in a variety of settings. A public lecture was given by Prof. Mary Lou Zeeman (Bowdoin College), and there were guest lectures given by Catherine Sulem (University of Toronto), Julia Viinikka (Sun Life Financial), and Megan Dewar (Tutte Institute). Tours were made to meet with female mathematicians in industry at IBM, Sun Life and Maplesoft. The students also visited the Fields Institute.

The program was advertised across Canada and 14 undergraduate women participated in the two week program. They came from 8 provinces and 12 different universities. Most were entering their final year of undergraduate studies. 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.

Expenses

Student	Travel Claim	Accommodation	University
Alyson Spitzig	\$521.89	\$587.60	Dalhousie
Jana Elise Andersen-Aitken	\$561.04	\$587.60	Dalhousie
Leah Amy Jean Duffett	\$495.22	\$587.60	Mount Allison
Rebecca Hynes	\$699.75	\$587.60	Memorial
	total	\$2,277.90	\$2,350.40