Submittee: William Hackborn
Date Submitted: 2014-06-02 11:48
Title: Alberta Mathematics Dialogue
Event Type: Conference-Workshop

Location:
University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, 4901 - 46 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta T4V 2R3

Dates:
1-2 May 2014

Topic:
Number Theory, Mathematics Pedagogy and Outreach, The Alberta K-12 Mathematics Curriculum, Mathematics of General Interest, Mathematical Biology, Partial Differential Equations (and Mathematical Analysis)

Methodology:
Five plenary lectures, including one public lecture open to all. // Inter/nationally prominent plenary speakers, including two Tier 1 CRC's. // Parallel sessions in Number Theory, K-12 Education, Pedagogy on Day 1. // Parallel sessions in Mathematical Biology and PDE's on Day 2. // 38 lecture presentations of 20/25/30 minutes, including 15 by post-docs, graduate, or undergraduate students. // Round Table Discussion on K-12 Curriculum involving provincial officials. // Skype interview with Eoin Gill, founder of Maths Week Ireland. //

Objectives Achieved:
In total, 92 people attended AMD 2014, exceeding the expectation of 75. // Extensive time for networking at coffee/snack breaks, lunches, and banquet. // Attendees from almost every postsecondary mathematics department in Alberta. // Substantial involvement of undergraduate and graduate students. // A good balance of teaching/pedagogical topics and research topics. // A good balance of topics in pure and applied mathematics. // Controversial issues in the Alberta K-12 Curriculum were addressed and covered by provincial media. // A discussion was begun on mathematical outreach, specifically initiating a Math Week Alberta. //

Scientific Highlights:
Deep and engaging presentation by Paul Gauthier of U Montreal on the Riemann Hypothesis and analytic number theory. // Broad, accessible lecture by Mark Lewis of U Alberta on mathematical models of biological invasion and the data underlying those models. // Walter Craig, Director of the Fields Institute, gave a fascinating talk on the applied and pure math associated with vortex filament dynamics. // Graphically stunning public lecture by Przemyslaw Prusinkiewicz of U Calgary's Computer Science Department on simple mathematical/computer models of plant growth, now available on Augustana's Youtube channel. //

Organizers:

Hackborn, Bill, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta (principal) // Hillen, Thomas, Mathematics & Statistics, University of Alberta // Safouhi, Hassan, Campus Saint Jean, University of Alberta // Woolgar, Eric, Mathematics & Statistics, University of Alberta // Zvengrowski, Peter, Mathematics, University of Calgary // Thangarajah, Pamini, Mathematics, Mount Royal University // Estabrooks, Manny, Mathematics & Statistics, Red Deer College //

Speakers:

The complete conference program for AMD 2014 is available on the link given below. // This website contains information on all the speakers, their titles, and abstracts. // A two-page summary (uploaded with this report), one page for each day of the conference, was provided to all attendees, and limited copies of full titles and abstracts were also available. //

Links:

http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/amd
http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/edmonton/Staples+experts+have+spoken+Discovery+math+needs+make/9798153/story.html

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Comments / Miscellaneous:

The second link given above is associated with a (somewhat slanted) article in the Edmonton Journal covering the session and roundtable on the Alberta K-12 Curriculum at AMD 2014.

File Uploads:

Additional Upload 1: http://www.pims.math.ca/files/final_report/AMDschedule.pdf