

Submittee: Colin Barr

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Title: Canadian Undergraduate Computer Science Conference

Event Type: Conference-Workshop

Location:

UBC Okanagan

Dates:

July 8th-11th

Topic:

Computing Sciences

Methodology:

Mornings were filled with keynote speakers (academic and industry), mixed with student talks. We also held a recruitment fair, and a Women in Computer Science Dinner which included panellists who answered questions followed by dinner and discussion.

Objectives Achieved:

Our conference objectives were more general than a specific topic. The CUCSC was modelled after the CUMC to bring together students from across Canada to present and attend undergraduate student research talks in a bilingual venue. We exposed attending students to a breadth of topics via our invited keynote speakers. After speaking with plenary speaker Brenda Gershkovitch, CEO of Silicon Sisters Interactive, Undergraduate student Nav Bhatti from BCIT said, 'No matter how unsure you are about your life goals, all it takes is somebody doing what you dream of doing to look you in the eye and say "Just go for it!" to wash that all away.'

Our women in Computer Science Dinner was another success, helping to promote and encourage women in the field. We are very proud to report that 43% of our attendees were women, showing a strong interest in this part of the event.

We also hosted a small recruitment fair which helped connect attendees with companies and professors from other institutions, helping open doors for their future careers. A student studying by correspondence at Athabasca University connected with a professor from the University of Alberta during the recruitment fair held at the conference. This student thanked the organizers personally for the opportunity to network with a professor from his top choice university for graduate school, something he had previously been unable to do while studying by correspondence.

Scientific Highlights:

N/A

Organizers:

Abby Arnold, Math, UBCO
Yasha Pushak, Math/CS, UBCO
Fiona Tse, CS, UBCO
Dana Klamut, Math/CS, UBCO
Madeline Arnold, Math, UBCO
Charles Jolin-Landry, Math, UBCO
Allan Tsai, CS, UBCO
Colin Barr, Math CS, UBCO
Ryan Trenholm, CS, UBCO
Sukanto Mondal, CS, UBCO

Speakers:

Stephanie Van Dyk, Site Reliability Engineer, Google
Talk: Finding Something Worth Doing

Dr Richard Hoshino, Mathematics Professor, Quest University Canada, Squamish, BC
Inspiring Change through Computer Science

Dr Patricia Lasserre, Associate Dean, University of British Columbia Okanagan
How research can inform teaching

Brenda Bailey Gershkovitch, CEO, Silicon Sisters Interactive Inc.
What I learned from Kim Kardashian, and how to make it as a women in the games industry

Dr Frank Maurer, Associate Vice-President (Research), University of Calgary
Problem-driven research on multi-surface systems

Dr Charles Ling, Professor, University of Western Ontario
How to Choose A Graduate Program? Or not at all?

Links:

<http://www.cucsc.ok.ubc.ca/>

Comments / Miscellaneous:

After holding the conference three other institutions submitted bids to host the CUCSC 2016. Overall, the feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive regarding the conference. Several students thanked us personally for organizing the conference, and giving them the opportunity to connect with other students and professors or companies. Thank you for your support and help making this conference possible.
