

CMS Student Committee Report from the Chairs

This past June, the CMS Student Committee (Studc) experienced a change of membership. We are happy to report that Studc has, as always, a group of energetic and active members.

Studc has twelve members: two chairs, Joy Abramson (University of Toronto) and Antoine Khalil (Concordia University); one faculty advisor, Robert Woodrow (University of Calgary); the CMS Executive Director, Graham Wright (University of Ottawa); and eight other student members. The student members are working on the following projects.

* Erica Blom (Queen's University) is the president of the organizing committee for the upcoming CUMC, to be held July 13th to 17th, 2005. As in past years, we are sure that the Queen's CUMC will be another great success! We encourage all undergraduate mathematics students to check out the CUMC site at <http://cumc.math.ca> and consider attending. Congratulations and thanks to Gillman Payette, president of the 2004 CUMC at Dalhousie, for organizing an amazing conference last summer.

* Adriana Dawes (UBC) is working on our regional conferences project. The goal of this project is to support a number of student activities across the country. If you are planning an activity and need funding, send an email to student-funding@cms.math.ca. Adriana is also a liaison between Studc and MITACS.

* Sandra Gregov (York University) is new to Studc as of June, and is working on a variety of projects related to the CUMC: updating the CUMC Ops manual, assisting the current CUMC team, and helping to create infrastructure for future CUMC's. Sandra is also working on an updated poster for Studc.

* Duana Kipling (Saskatchewan) is working on updating the Studc Operations Manual. This manual describes the ongoing projects and

policies of our committee to ensure that operations run smoothly when we have a change of members each June.

* Taunya Nieuwpoort (Acadia) is another one of our new members, and is working on a new project to encourage more students to join the CMS. Do you have ideas for initiatives that would encourage you to join the CMS? If so, let us know at chair-studc@cms.math.ca.

* Dan Pollock (Victoria) is our new newsletter editor, and this is his first issue as editor. Congratulations to Dan as he takes over from Antoine who was the newsletter editor for many years. Newsletter comments can be directed to Dan at student-editor@cms.math.ca.

* Boris Reitman (Simon Fraser University) has recently stepped down as our webpage editor after many years of service. Thanks, Boris, for all your great programming that has put into place an infrastructure for future webmasters! Check out our webpage at <http://cms.math.ca/Students>.

* Nithum Thain (Queen's) is also new to Studc and is working on a series of mathematics problems to be posted on our website. He's also working on a listserv for math students across Canada, which will communicate opportunities such as conferences, funding, and summer schools. Please email chair-studc@cms.math.ca if you wish to subscribe to the listserv or send a message to it.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our previous Studc chairs, Susan Cooper and Robert Juricevic, who did an amazing job both as long-time Studc members and as Studc Chairs, and whose hard work has made our transition as Chairs as easy as possible. Also, for any interested students, we expect to have some vacancies on Studc soon, so if you are interested in joining the committee, please contact us at chair-studc@cms.math.ca for more information.

Sincerely,
Joy Abramson and Antoine Khalil
Co-Chairs, CMS Student Committee

Rapport du Comité des étudiants de la SMC

En juin, 2004, le comité des étudiants de la SMC (Studc) a subi un changement de membres. Nous sommes ravis du fait que la Studc est formée d'un groupe d'étudiants actifs et énergétiques.

La Studc a 12 membres: 2 doyens, Joy Abramson (Université de Toronto) et Antoine Khalil (Université Concordia); un conseiller, Dr. Robert Woodrow (Université de Calgary); le directeur exécutif de la SMC, Graham Wright (Université d'Ottawa); et huit étudiants membres qui travaillent sur les projets suivants:

* Erica Blom (Université Queens) est la présidente du comité organisationnel du CCEM qui sera à Queen's entre le 13 et le 17 Juillet 2005. Nous encourageons tous les étudiants du premier cycle en mathématiques à visiter le site du CCEM au <http://ccem.math.ca> et bien sûr de bien vouloir y participer.

Bravo et merci à Gillman Payette le président de la CCEM 2004 à Dalhousie pour l'organisation d'une très belle conférence l'été passé (2004).

* Adriana Dawes (UBC) travaille sur le projet des conférences régionales. Le but de ce projet est de supporter quelques activités d'étudiant au Canada. Si vous planifiez une activité et vous avez besoin d'un support financier, envoyez un email à student-funding@cms.math.ca. Adriana est aussi la liaison entre Studc et MITACS.

* Sandra Gregov (Université York) est un nouveau membre de Studc depuis juin, 2004 et travaille sur une variété de projets concernant la CCEM: l'assistance du groupe actuel de la CCEM, la mise à jour du manuel d'opération de la CCEM, et l'aide à créer une infrastructure pour les futures CCEM. Sandra travaille aussi sur une nouvelle affiche pour la Studc.

* Duana Kipling (Université de Saskatchewan) travaille sur la mise à jour du manuel d'opération de Studc. Ce manuel décrit les projets courants et les règles de notre groupe

pour s'assurer que les opérations continuent à fonctionner normalement à chaque changement de membres en juin.

* Taunya Nieuwpoort (Université de l'Acadie) est un autre nouveau membre et travaille sur un projet encourageant plus d'étudiants à rejoindre la SMC. Avez-vous des idées, des initiatives qui vous encouragent à rejoindre la SMC? Si oui, contactez nous à chair-studc@cms.math.ca.

* Dan Pollock (Université Victoria) est l'éditeur de notre bulletin. Ce dernier, remplace Antoine qui fut éditeur pour plusieurs années. Vous pouvez envoyer vos commentaires à Dan au student-editor@cms.math.ca.

* Boris Reitman (Université Simon Fraser) vient de quitter sa position d'éditeur de notre page Web après plusieurs années. Merci Boris pour toute votre magnifique programmation qui a permis de créer une infrastructure pour nos prochains éditeurs. Visitez notre page Web à <http://cms.math.ca/Students>.

* Nithum Thain (Université Queens) est un des nouveaux membres. Il travaille sur une série de problèmes mathématiques qui seront postés sur notre site Web. Nithum travaille aussi sur une *listserv* pour tous les étudiants en maths au Canada. Cette liste permettra d'envoyer des annonces de conférences, des possibilités de support financier, ainsi que les dates et programmes des écoles d'été. SVP envoyez un email au chair-studc@cms.math.ca si vous voulez vous inscrire ou envoyer un message.

Nous voulons aussi remercier nos doyens précédents Susan Cooper et Robert Juricevic qui ont fait un excellent travail en tant que membres et doyens de Studc. Leur travail a facilité notre transition comme nouveaux doyens. De plus, pour les étudiants intéressés, nous aurons prochainement des postes vacants au Studc. Si vous êtes intéressé à vous joindre à notre comité, contactez nous à chair-studc@cms.math.ca pour plus d'information.

Bien à vous,
Joy Abramson et Antoine Khalil
Co-Doyens, SMC Comité des Etudiants

Rapport du CCEM

L'université Queen's a le plaisir de tenir la 12e Conférence Canadienne des Étudiants en Mathématiques, du 13 au 17 juillet 2005. Les étudiants de premier cycle dans toutes branches des mathématiques, incluant statistiques, informatiques, et les maths appliqués, sont invités. La conférence permet aux étudiants d'assister à des exposées offert par des étudiants tout autant que des professeurs, ainsi que rencontrer des étudiants partageant des mêmes intérêts, de toutes parties du pays.

Les étudiants sont encouragés de préparer des exposées, en français ou en anglais, mais ils ne sont pas obligés. Dans le passé, les sujets embrassent de la philosophie des maths à la théorie de jeu, ainsi que plusieurs autres sujets.

En dehors des exposés, il y aura l'occasion d'explorer la belle ville de Kingston et de jouir du festival annuel des buskers de Kingston, qui prendra place au même moment.

Pour plus de renseignements, n'hésitez pas à visiter notre site Web <http://ccem.math.ca>, ou envoyez-nous un courriel à ccem@ccem.math.ca.

Au plaisir de vous voir!

HomePlay

One of the classic questions in plane geometry can be phrased in the following manner: *Given a piece of string of length 'p', what closed figure should you make with it to enclose the maximal area?*

With the aid of a bit of calculus, we are able to see that the "best" shape is, remarkably, always a circle. Now, suppose we replace this piece of string, with a bunch of sticks of fixed length. This should make the problem easier, shouldn't it? So suppose I now give you 'n' sticks of length $m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_n$. (And suppose they can be made into some polygon). How should you arrange them so that the polygon they form encloses the maximal area?

Thanks to Dr. Peter Taylor at Queen's for submitting this problem. For more problems of this type, please visit: <http://cms.math.ca/Students/en/Problems>

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CMS Summer Meeting

Following the success of the winter meeting, the CMS summer meeting will be held at the University of Waterloo, June 4th to 6th, 2005.

Want to find out what Canadian mathematicians do for a living? Learn more about our Student Committee?

Check out

<http://cms.math.ca/Events/summer05>

Need money to get there? Email:

gradtravel-s05@cms.math.ca

The deadline for requests is April 10th, 2005. (You could also ask your math department for support!)

CUMC Report

(En Français à la page 4)

Queen's University is proud to host the 12th annual Canadian Undergraduate Mathematics Conference from July 13th to 17th, 2005. Undergraduate students in all branches of mathematics, including statistics, computer science, and applied math, are invited to attend. The conference provides an opportunity for students to hear talks by both students and professors, as well as to meet like-minded students from across the nation.

Students are encouraged to prepare talks, in either English or French, but are not required to do so. In the past, topics have ranged from philosophy of math, to the Golden Ratio, to game theory, and many in between. Outside of the talks, there will be plenty of opportunities to visit the beautiful city of Kingston and take advantage of the annual

Kingston Buskers Rendezvous, which will be taking place at the same time.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://cumc.math.ca>, or email us at cumc@cumc.math.ca. We look forward to seeing you!

Free Money for Student Events!

Are you attending or organizing a math-related conference or workshop? Will Canadian math students be attending? If so, you could qualify for funding through our regional conferences program!

The regional conferences program gives conference and workshop organizers up to \$125 for a student social event. The aim of this program is to promote interaction between math students of all levels. The type of social is entirely at the discretion of the organizers—it could be a beer and pizza party, an organized outing or some other event just for students!

All we ask in return is that you hang a CMS Student Committee poster that we provide for your event, and send us a photo for our website. Some conferences we have funded in the past include the AARMS Summer School and the 4th Canadian Summer School on Quantum Information. We only sponsor four events per year, so if you're interested in applying for this funding, please contact Adriana Dawes at:

student-funding@cms.math.ca and we can provide you with more details!