

# THE 2017 CANADIAN-AMERICAN-MEXICAN GRADUATE STUDENT PHYSICS CONFERENCE

BY CHRIS PUGH

The theme of the conference was “Physicists of the Future: Transcending Boundaries.” This topic is always relevant as many physicists travel the world performing and presenting research and collaborating with many people from many countries. The panel discussions on “Geographical, Disciplinary & Career” boundaries and “Personal and Societal: Life as a Graduate Student in Canada, Mexico, Cuba and the United States” were especially interesting and the focus on graduate students was, as is always the case at this conference, extremely important to hear. Learning about the experiences of graduate students from the other countries provides insights into how different our research lives can be just based on where we are located.

Thursday morning the conference kicked off with welcome remarks from each of the organizations followed promptly by the first plenary speaker. Each day was jam packed with student talks as well as a poster session on Friday, but there were many coffee breaks to allow for fruitful discussions to take place. The conference banquet took place at the Capitol Hill Rayburn House Office, a short walk from the hotel past the United States Capitol Building. The only rain during the entire conference happened during this walk, but the APS organizing team had somehow predicted this perfectly and supplied ponchos and umbrellas for each of the participants!

The Canadian delegation were each supplied with a Canada 150 t-shirt and we wore these shirts to the conference welcome reception on Thursday to identify ourselves as the Canadian delegation. Our plenary speakers were also supplied with these shirts to provide us with a unique identifier at the conference.

Overall, the conference was an extremely positive experience for all those involved where students from Mexico, the United States, Cuba and Canada came together to share their research. The specific focus on graduate students is extremely beneficial and can really help students gain an



international perspective on physics research across North America. I would like to thank the organizers, especially from the American Physical Society and Dr. Krista Freeman for the wonderful conference. Thank you also to the Canadian sponsors who helped provide travel support for our Canadian delegates including the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP), the CAP Foundation, and SNOLAB.

We look forward to seeing many more students attend the 2019 CAM (possibly soon to be known as C<sup>2</sup>AM) which will be hosted either in Canada or, possibly, Cuba!

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At the time of the conference, Chris was with the Physics Department, University Waterloo, Waterloo, ON

## SUMMARY

**13 young Canadian physicists attended the biennial Canadian-American-Mexican Graduate Student Conference in Physics from August 17-19, 2017, in Washington, DC.**