Alon Orlitsky
‘Grace of Dimensionality’

Andrea Goldsmith
‘Wireless Networks’

Henry Pfister
‘Spatial Coupling’

Robert Calderbank
‘Art of Measurement’

En-hui Yang
‘Source Coding’

Brendan Frey
‘Decoding the Genome’

Workshop: Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering (ILead)

Panelists:
L. Balzano (Ann Arbor)
P. Boufounos (MERL)
R. Calderbank (Duke)
A. Goldsmith (Stanford)
B. Khoshnevis (RBC)
A. Tenenbaum (Telus)

Lunch/Posters
Picnic@Islands
Dinner@Fields
Reception@Fields Institute
Poster sessions
(prefaced by “30-sec madness”)
Social Events

Wednesday: Game and Dinner night at Fields
- Challenge: Teach everyone the game “SET”
- Outcome: Elimination tournament won by Jessalyn Bolkema (U. Nebraska, Math Department)

Thursday: Picnic dinner on Toronto Islands
- Challenge: Get 60 students through Toronto subway & onto ferry at rush hour
- Outcome: No lost grad students, everyone caught 10:30pm return ferry

Friday: Reception at Fields
Statistics

Attendance ~125
- 95 registered attendees (3 no shows, 10 non-students e.g., post-docs)
- 6 lecturers (present at school for a combined 18 days)
- 3 industrial panelists (MERL, Telus, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC))
- 5 organizing committee members (UofT, Waterloo, Queens, McGill)
- 13 other faculty attendees (UofT, Queens, Waterloo, McMaster, UoIT, Lakehead, Ann Arbor)

Registrants per categories
- 45% (43) IEEE + IT Society members @ registration cost of $100 each
- 16% (15) IEEE-only members @ registration cost of $150 each
- 39% (37) non-IEEE @ registration cost of $200 each

Other
- 140 applicant to school, all accepted, 95 registrants
- 58 students in on-campus housing at extra charge of $50
- Country information: 51 Canadian (54%) 36 US (38%) 8 other (8%).
- 15 NSF Scholarship students (included in registration category numbers above)
**Preliminary accounting** (final accounting @ Allerton BoG meeting)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT Society</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields Institute</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>use for accommodation &amp; lecturer travel only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>15 fully funded NSF Scholars: including registration, housing, and travel costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration</td>
<td>$13,500</td>
<td>does not include NSF registration/housing fees, no registration charged to attending faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,500</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>facilities</td>
<td>$3,700</td>
<td>rooms, A/V, poster-board rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catering</td>
<td>$15,400</td>
<td>breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, Friday reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>student events</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>food, subway, ferry tickets to Toronto Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>student accommodations</td>
<td>$8,100</td>
<td>on campus at New College dorms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hotel accommodations</td>
<td>$6,300</td>
<td>accommodations for lectures &amp; organizing committee members Mitran &amp; Yuksel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speaker &amp; organizer dinners</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>souvenir</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
<td>NASIT water bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>thank you gift for lecturers</td>
<td>$520</td>
<td>theorem proving instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lecturer travel</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>(budgeted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF Scholar travel</td>
<td>$12,750</td>
<td>(budgeted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$57,750</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Notes**: majority of surplus is in Fields funding (restricted to accommodations & travel) and excess NSF funds (due to too few applicants). Apart from lecturer/NSF travel, cost was ~$400/student.
New at NASIT this year

- Invited outside faculty (13) to increase social opportunities for networking and interaction.
- Workshop on leadership and engineering (http://ilead.engineering.utoronto.ca).
- Managed organization w/ Google group to pass on useful documents easily.
- Social networking: created NASIT Facebook Group.
- NSF Scholarships: advertised in IT, CS, and math-department-based coding community.
- Used ITA to promote school (NASIT postcards).

What went well

- Quality of lectures and diversity of topics.
- Found that 30-sec madness sufficed. In previous years both 30-sec and 60-sec tried. On main screen projected only title & student name (no student slides), on side screen projected timer to keep people on time (http://www.online-stopwatch.com).
- Student games night & outing to islands: students reported SET tournament night was especially interactive and fun.
- Interaction in lectures & poster sessions, with lecturers and outside faculty.
- Eco-friendly glass NASIT water bottle as souvenir — no bottled water provided at event.
- Partnering with Fields Institute to put on event. Fields provided administrative and significant logistical support.
- Facebook group — 40 members, threads on visas, poster sizes, pre-networking, coordination of social activities, advertising.
- Half of workshop registrants were from Canada — many were first-time participants.

Where to make improvements

- Attract applicants to NSF scholarships (under-subscribed).
- Outreach to non-core IT community (math, machine learning).
- Leverage continuity across years: through Facebook (student and advertising of future schools) & Google (organizer) groups.
- 140 applicants, only 95 registrants; could have accommodated more, reason for attrition unclear (will ask through survey).

Ideas for future innovations

- Set of mini courses on “infrastructure of research”, e.g., 30-min lunch workshops on short topics: how to present; interview & networking skills; writing resume; round-table lunches led by senior graduate students akin to academic/industry panel but student only; how to use CVX; how to use version control; introduction to python; TikZ. (Can be led by grad students.)
- Expanded industrial participation: companies representatives could participate in a poster session; networking at reception to meet potential summer interns; speed-interview sessions.
- See survey of previous (and 2014) organizers on Google group for additional ideas.
Still to do + who is responsible (all in process)

- NSF Scholarship students will write thank you notes to NSF (Students)
- Collect PDFs from lecturers & build archival IT Society website (Serdar)
- Survey 2014 organizing committee for suggestions for future year organizers (Stark)
- Survey participants & collect posters PDFs: what went well, suggestions for improvement and for future innovations (Stark, Alison Conway from Fields)
- NSF Scholar travel reimbursements (Penn State, Aylin Yener served as NSF PI — thanks!)
- Assemble “how-to-organize NASIT” document (everyone send input to Stark for assembly)
- Reports to sponsors: IT Society newsletter, Fields Institute, NSF, other? (Stark, w/ input)
- Close books (Alison, Stark, Penn State)
- Pass on Google group & Facebook group ownership to future organizers (Stark)
Thanks to

Speakers

School advisors

Student activity organizers

Organization committee

Sponsors

IEEE IT-Society Board of Governors

Director W. Craig
Program Manager A. Conway

Program Manager P. Regalia