

CUPC 2008 A return to the University of Toronto

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference (CUPC) is returning to the University of Toronto. The four day conference, from 16 to 20 October, will bring students from across Canada to share research experiences, network, and plan their futures. Registration and abstract submission are open online at www.cupc.ca. Most physics departments are willing to financially support student delegations, giving little reason not to enjoy a few days in Toronto.

While the University of Toronto helped found CUPC in 1965, it last hosted the conference in 1983. This year, they will host 250 students from across Canada. Accommodation will be at the Marriot Courtyard Toronto Downtown, a short walk across Young Street from the University of Toronto's St. George's Campus.

The keynote sessions are always a highlight of CUPC. CUPC 2008 has invited Nobel laureate John Polanyi, specializing on molecular motions in chemical reactions with interests in science and foreign policies. Laurence Krauss is a researcher in astrophysics and cosmology, as well as an award-winning science author whose works include *The Physics of Star Trek*. Lee Smolin is a founding member of the Perimeter Institute and one of Canada's premier theoretical physicists as an originator of loop quantum gravity. Every day at the conference will feature talks from these and other leading researchers.

The bread and butter of CUPC are the student presentations. For

students both presenting and in attendance, this is where one keeps up-to-date with the latest trends in physics. Many registrants will be presenting 10 minute talks on topics from simulating gravity to new advances in medical imaging and collisions at the Large Hadron Collider. For those more adept with visual media, a poster session will also be held. Prizes are awarded for the best talks and posters. New to this CUPC, the American Institute of Physics will be publishing the conference proceedings. This is an opportunity to publish a paper on your talk or poster.

To break out of the University of Toronto campus, multiple social events will be held on the Friday night. The plan is being kept secret, but will no doubt involve Toronto's famous entertainment district. There will also be fun events for those wishing not to imbibe.

No CUPC would be complete without some shameless recruitment. Grad schools and employers across Canada will come to meet you at the CUPC grad fair. The University of Toronto will also be hosting lab tours of their diverse department. Of course, having gotten into presenting your research at CUPC, it will be a perfect time to put the finishing touches on that paper for CUPJ.

For those interested in doing a little more, the next CUPC host will be determined at the annual meeting of the Canadian Undergraduate Physics Association during the conference. If your student body and department are interested, please prepare bids to hold CUPC 2009.



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