

Report on CAIMS•SCMAI 2004 by Raymond Spiteri

Our Annual Meeting was held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia from June 13-15, 2004. Formally, the meeting was held jointly with the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS), the 16th Canadian Symposium on Fluid Dynamics (CSFD), and the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics (CSHPM). However in addition, the meeting was preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS) and followed by the Canadian Undergraduate Mathematics Conference.

Such a geographic convergence of Canadian mathematicians (of all ages and walks of mathematical life) was one that has rarely been seen in Canada. This was reflected in the number of participants, which approached 450. The strong co-operation amongst the various organizations was an important positive influence on this number. For example, the timing and combination of funding opportunities allowed students to co-ordinate their travels so as to attend more than one conference. Also, the CAIMS•SCMAI poster session ran consecutively with the MITACS poster session; this enabled some posters to gain exposure to both groups of participants.

The overall scientific programme reflected the uniquely diverse flavour of the meeting. There were 17 sessions in all, comprised of a healthy mixture of pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and fluid dynamics (both theoretical and computational), with a sprinkling of mathematics history and education. Of particular interest to our members were the sessions on financial mathematics, dynamical systems, and qualitative and controllability of partial differential equations. There were dedicated sessions on the application of dynamical systems to biology and medicine as well as numerical algorithms for simulating dynamical systems. However, conscious efforts were made by the organizing committee to not earmark the various sessions as “pure” or “applied”.

There were 10 plenary talks, of which 2 were CAIMS•SCMAI prize lectures, and 1 was a semi-plenary talk (only 2 talks in parallel). The 17 sessions were run mostly in parallel, and with as few as 10 and as many as 13 sessions running concurrently, there was never any shortage of opportunities to find a talk to attend. The coffee breaks were held in common, predictably scheduled for the same time each afternoon for all sessions. This afforded yet further opportunities for renewing old acquaintances, socializing, or just plain talking math.

Other features of the meeting included the fabulous (and sold-out) conference banquet, which was held at Pier 21 and featured “the parade of lobsters”, and the delegates luncheon, at which almost 300 of the conference participants enjoyed a presentation by the CMS Education award winner and the announcement of the poster session prize winners.

Overall, the meeting was well attended and collegial. The high quality of the scientific programme was essential in ensuring a successful and rewarding outcome for everyone involved. However, even the weather co-operated by giving us 3 of the nicest days to that point in the year.

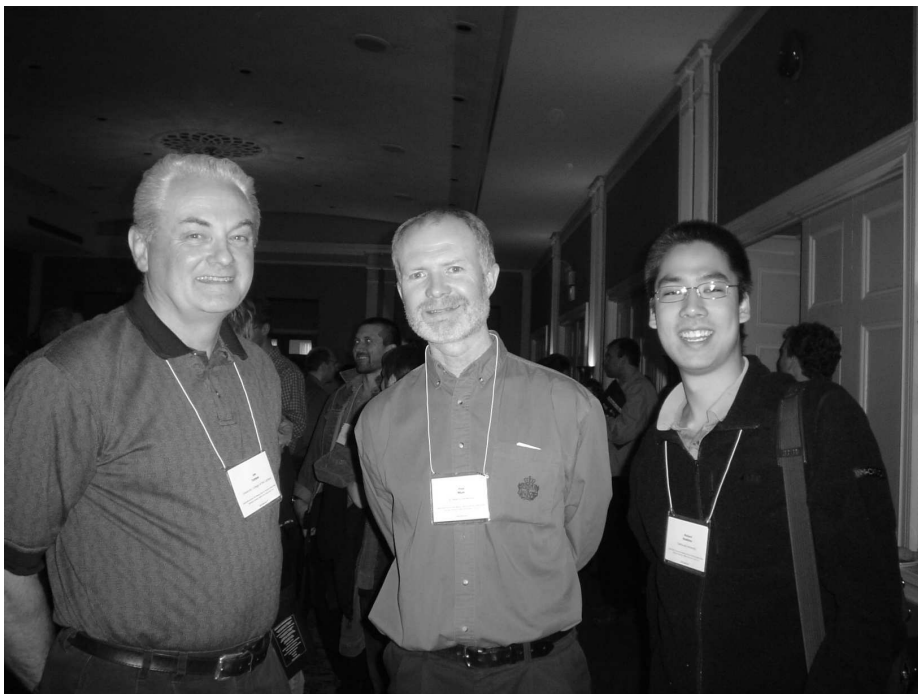
I look forward to seeing everyone at the next Annual Meeting set for the University of Manitoba in 2005!



CAIMS•SCMAI 2004 Photo Gallery



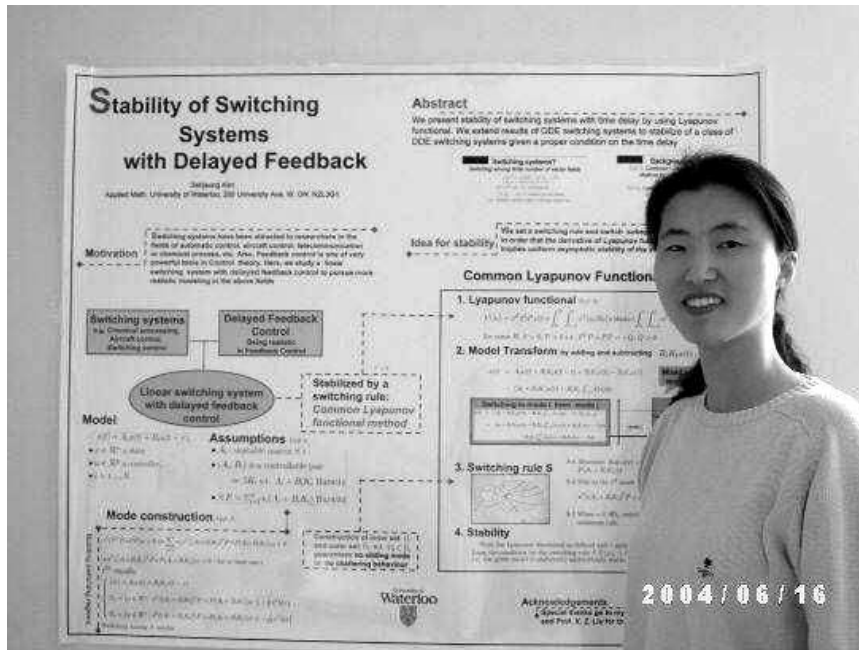
John Clements (Dalhousie), Daryl Tingley (UNB) and his wife Minnie



Jim Totten (University College of the Cariboo), Paul Muir (St. Mary's) and Richard Hoshino (Dalhousie)



CAIMS•SCMAI 2003 Photo Gallery

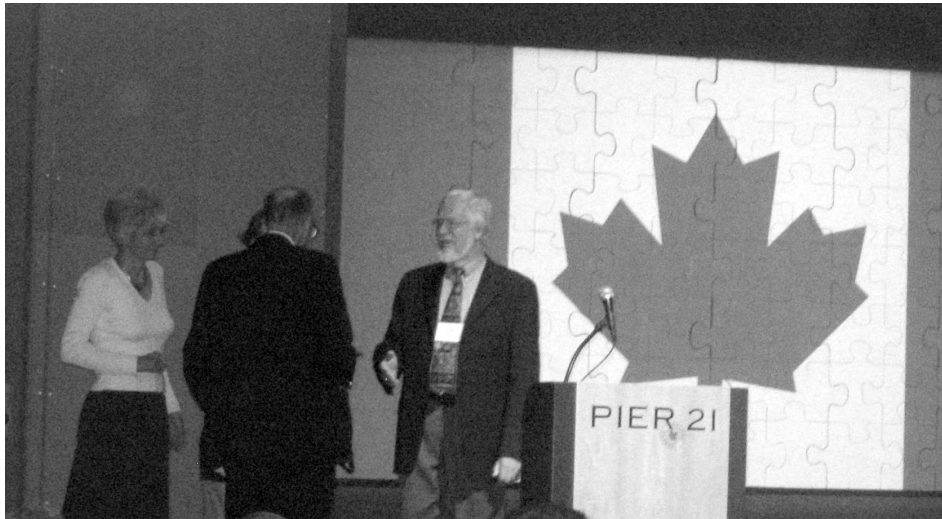


Sehjeong Kim (winner of the CMS Best Poster Award) with her poster



Poster session organizer, Franklin Mendivil, presenting CAIMS•SCMAI poster prize to Adriana Dawes

CAIMS•SCMAI 2003 Photo Gallery

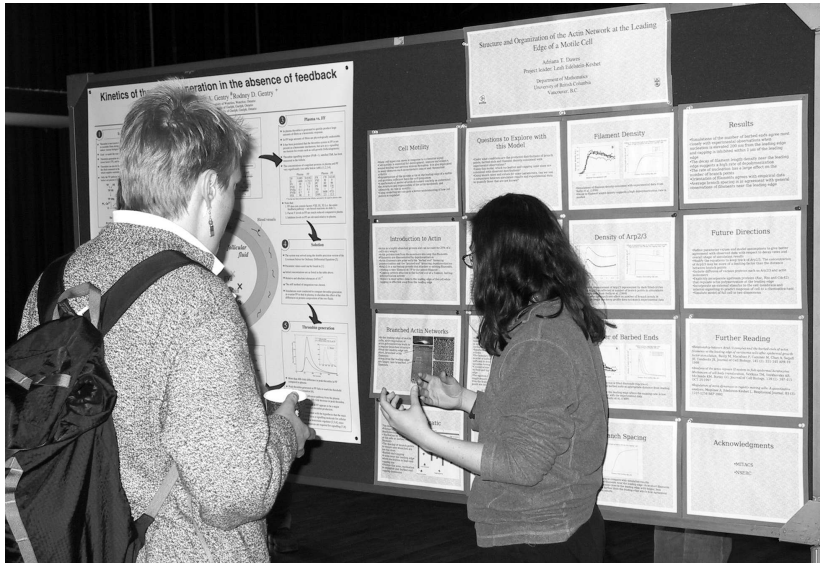


Bill Langford presenting the Arthur Beaumont Distinguished Service Award to Keith Ranger

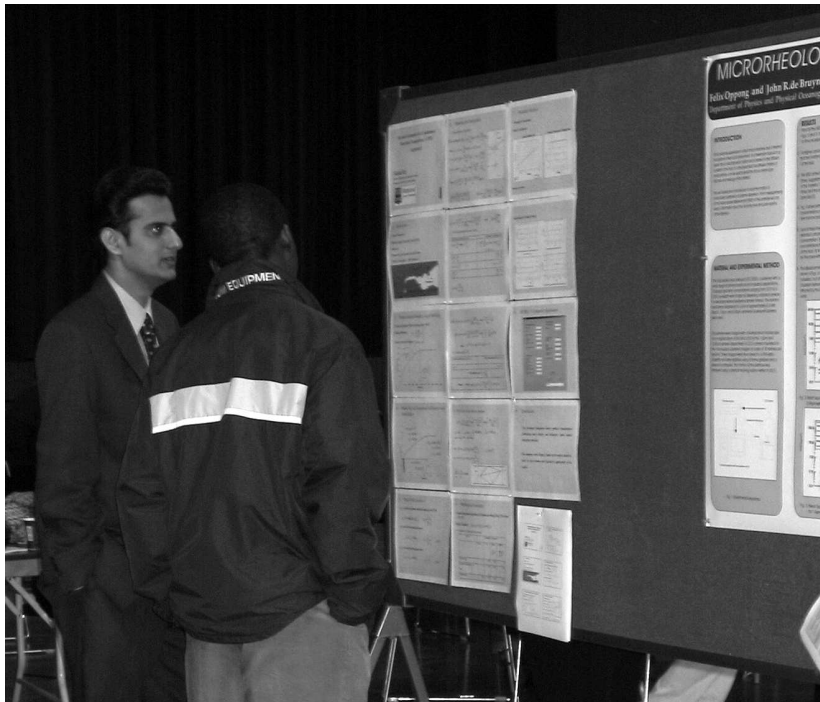


Christiane Rousseau and Sam Shen watch Bob Russell's acceptance speech for the CAIMS•SCMAI Research Prize

CAIMS•SCMAI 2003 Photo Gallery



Adriana Dawes explaining her poster to Gerda de Vries



CAIMS•SCMAI 2004 poster session

CAIMS•SCMAI 2003 Photo Gallery



Sharene Bungay explaining her poster to Leah Keshet



CAIMS•SCMAI 2004 poster session