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Laurier prepares to host top mathematicians at centennial conferences

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is organizing a series of mathematic and computational science workshops this spring and summer that will bring some of the world's greatest mathematicians to the Waterloo campus.

Laurier will play host to the Waterloo Workshop in Computer Algebra 2011 from May 26 to 29. Laurier will also host the International Conference on Applied Mathematics, Modelling and Computational Science July 25 to 29. Both events are part of Laurier's centennial celebrations.

"We felt these events could play an important role in marking the university's 100th anniversary," said Ilias Kotsireas, an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Computer Science and the lead organizer. "They will also bring people to campus who will get to learn more about Laurier as a university and as a community."

The May conference celebrates the 80th birthday of legendary combinatorial mathematician Herbert S. Wilf. Attendees will include George Andrews, past president of the American Mathematical Society, and David Bressoud, president of the Mathematical Association of America. Helping to co-ordinate the conference is Eugene Zima, an associate professor of Physics and Computer Science at Laurier.

The July event is one of the largest mathematical conferences of this size being hosted in Canada. Kotsireas expects to have approximately 350 presenters, including Alan Edelman, a professor of applied mathematics and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Notable Canadian mathematician Peter Borwein will present via Skype. Borwein is a mathematics professor at Simon Fraser University and the co-discoverer of the Bailey-Borwein-Plouffe algorithm for computing pi.

In addition to the Laurier conferences, Kotsireas is helping to organize the Symbolic-Numeric Computation 2011 conference June 7 to 9 in San Jose, California in the heart of the Silicon Valley high-tech region. The event received funding from Maplesoft and NAG and will feature speakers from Australia, Canada and the United States.

The Laurier conferences received support from the Fields Institute in Toronto. The May conference also received support from the WLU Internal Grants program. The July conference received funding from SHARCnet, and is being co-organized by Laurier Math Professor Roderick Melnik, the Canada Research Chair in Mathematical Modelling.

The conference websites are listed below.
- Waterloo Workshop in Computer Algebra 2011: www.cargo.wlu.ca/W80/
- International Conference on Applied Mathematics, Modelling and Computational Science: www.ammcs2011.wlu.ca/
- Symbolic-Numeric Computation 2011: www.cargo.wlu.ca/SNC2011/

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