

The 2nd Canadian-American-Mexican Physics Graduate Student Conference (CAM2005) Report from the Chair of the Organizing Committee

Outcomes

Appendix D. Survey Responses (Specific Conference Segment Quality):

Note that the sessions were very well received—both the topics chosen and the particular speakers seemed to engage the participants. Of most interest were the scientific plenary session and the education session; the careers session was also of great interest, but the session on scientific ethics was slightly less so.

Appeal/usefulness of plenary talks (41 responses):

Excellent: 23 Good: 13 OK: 5
(88% Excellent/Good)

Appeal/usefulness of education session (36 responses):

Excellent: 13 Good: 18 OK: 5
(86% Excellent/Good)

Appeal/usefulness of ethics session (30 responses):

Excellent: 11 Good: 11 OK: 7 Poor: 1
(73% Excellent/Good)

Appeal/usefulness of career session (34 responses):

Excellent: 18 Good: 10 OK: 5 Poor: 1
(82% Excellent/Good)

Appendix E. Survey Responses (Overall Conference Quality):

Note that the overall appeal of the conference was very high--35 out of 39 (or about 90%) rate the conference as Excellent or Good “overall”, as well as with regards specifically to the “social atmosphere”.

The scientific usefulness of CAM 2005 was (38 responses):

Excellent: 11 Good: 14 OK: 11 Poor: 1 Awful: 1

The social atmosphere of CAM 2005 was (39 responses):

Excellent: 24 Good: 11 OK: 3 Poor: 1

Overall, CAM 2005 was (39 responses):

Excellent: 18 Good: 17 OK: 3 Poor: 1

Appendix F. Representative Comments from Participating Professors:

"Seems like a huge success--primarily in two goals - creating a conference by + for graduate students, including the international perspective. This is a huge step in creating a community.- giving a broad perspective on physics + allowing for grad student voice in our community"

"Excellent + enjoyable--I have had many subsequent conversations with the other grads + faculty about issues raised in [my] talk"

"I thought this was an interesting and excellent conference, with interested and interesting student attendees. I especially enjoyed the discussions after the presentations and/or during the round table discussions. Attendance seemed to remain very high throughout this meeting, indicating that the students were very interested in the agenda/content."

"Scientifically, CAM2005's size & topical range is very useful to students in this age of increasing specialization of conferences. Socially, grad students from around North America learning about other institutions is certainly useful, especially w.r.t. future careers."

"I was impressed at the choice of the program, the quality of the student presentations, and the high degree of interactivity among all participants."

All respondents would be interested in participating in the next CAM Conference, and all would recommend attendance at CAM to graduate students whom they know.

Appendix G. General Comments from Student Participants

- "Overall, CAM has been the best conference I've ever attended. Nice work."
- "This was one of the best conferences I had the pleasure to attend in recent years."
- "I met many people, learned a lot through the talks, + overall had a very rewarding experience at CAM. I especially enjoyed the plenary talks, + I thought the speakers were well-chosen."
- "Overall, CAM 2005 was great! It's great to present to other graduate students. This was my first time giving an oral presentation and I was happy to have the opportunity. It's less intimidating to present at something like this."
- "I really appreciated that this conference addressed several very important issues that are often not addressed--careers in physics, physics education research and ethics in physics. These presentations were very valuable for me. I appreciated the large number of female participants and female presenters."

Appendix H. Some Student Responses to the Survey Question “What did you like most about CAM 2005?”

- "Exposure to other areas of research at a level I could understand, & absence of professors made it less intimidating to ask questions so it was possible to get more out of talks."
- "opportunity to learn what's not taught at school/other conferences"
- "The efforts taken by our peers to encourage and guide us with physics related career opportunities."
- "The chance to talk informally with great people like Michael Turner."
- "The plenary talks, social atmosphere"