

SIAG Discrete Mathematics Business Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Chair: Sue Whitesides

The meeting was called to order at 6:39.

Attendance at the start of the meeting was about 30. Refreshments were not available.

- Sue thanked the organizing committee co-chairs, Henry Cohn and Dana Randall. (Congratulations to Henry on the occasion of his marriage this weekend.) These were acknowledged with a round of applause. The organizing committee and the local organizing committee were also acknowledged with a round of applause. The invited speakers were thanked. The attendance at the meeting was reported to be approximately 340 – this number is in keeping with the past 4 conferences. James Crowley and Esmond Ng of SIAM were thanked for attending our meeting. The outgoing SIAG/DM officers were thanked: Doug West, Lenore Cowen, Guantao Chen and Rick Brewster. Guantao was recognized for organizing speakers at the ICIAM. New officers are Sue Whitesides (Chair), Dorit Hochbaum (Vice Chair), Jeannette Janssen (Program Director), Geir Agnarsson (Secretary).

- The following announcements were made:

- SIAG/DM electronic mail list – siam-dm@siam.org, which is monitored by Geir, and so members can send e-mail to that address.

- Information and archives are available at <http://lists.siam.org/mailman/listinfo/siam-dm>.

- SIAM News seeks article ideas, and these can be sent to Dorit Hochbaum. There is also a blog for this SIAM meeting.
- Cynthia Phillips and David Williamson have been elected SIAM Fellows. The SIAM Annual Meeting is in July 11-15 in Boston, MA, and is co-located with the SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences and the SIAM Conference on Network Sciences.
- The next CanaDAM meeting is at Ryerson University, Toronto on June 12-16, 2017. The Scientific Organizer is Bruce Shepherd and local organizer is Anthony Bonato.
- Future meeting locations were discussed as follows.

A DM2018 location proposal was given by Florian Pfender (U. Colorado – Denver) for the next conference to be held at his institution. Local organizers would be Mike Ferrara, Stephen Hartke, Mike Jacobson and Florian Pfender (all of U. Colorado – Denver). Flo described physical and climate attributes of Denver. Buildings to be used: Historic Tivoli Brewery (i.e. the Student Union), Student Commons and North Classroom Building, the latter two are newly constructed/renovated and there are academic rooms and reception facilities. Rooms would have white-boards. Flo described lodging options: there is university housing with capacity for up to 300 participants, and there are 27 hotels within 1 mile of CU Denver. Flo described the cultural opportunities in downtown Denver, and other travel opportunities nearby. Denver International Airport is served by major airlines, and a new rail-link connects the airport and the downtown. The dates are not fixed and will need to be discussed.

Ryan Martin asked that photos of lecture halls be provided for the officers.

The proposal was unanimously supported.

At the previous business meeting, a foreign location was discussed. Jan Kratochvil of DIMATIA (Prague) has expressed interest in hosting the 2020 meeting.

Jan has discussed this with others from Charles University in Prague, and they seem enthusiastic about the possibility.

Dana Randall spoke about the co-organization of this meeting with the SIAG Optimization. It had been suggested in the past that our two meetings could be co-located every 6 years.

Laszlo Babai asked if the number of meetings of this type have been counted. That is, how many are in North America and how many in Europe? Would locating in Europe upset the balance, whatever that might be. Doug West reinforced this point.

Sue informed us that Lenore Cowen is planning 10-12 minisymposia for SIAM DM's contribution to SIAM Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, mid-July, 2017, which will occur one month after CanaDAM in Toronto. Lenore is seeking immediate suggestions. It has been suggested that the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University and other local universities could lean on the organizing capacities of SIAM to help bring people together. Names for organizing are being sought – please send these to Lenore, Sue or the SIAG Secretary.

- Sue described “the situation”: SIAM DM's relation to the rest of SIAM. SIAM would like to see:
 - More SIAM members among our meeting participants,
 - More interaction with other SIAG's and SIAM Annual Meeting

Jim Crowley spoke about these issues, relating discussions that occur in council. John Schmitt asked for data to be provided, and Jim Crowley said he would oblige.

Sue described a proposal being put forth by the officers of making a survey, run with the help of SIAM, to determine how to interact with the rest of SIAM, how to attract members and what activities should be pursued. This survey would help inform future plans. Flo Pfender suggested that better advertising of the benefits of membership would be helpful. Ryan Martin suggested that better

registration/membership enrollment could be done, and indicated that the triangle inequality with regard to registration fees does not hold if one attends SIAM DM meeting and the annual meeting. Laszlo Babai suggested that the SIAG Optimization is not as close to this SIAG as perhaps others, such as ACM. He suggested that influence of this community is felt by the theorems proved by it. Jim (?) suggested that mailing to the attendees of this meeting to join should be done. One attendee noted that the SIAG's website is dormant. Another suggested that upon attending this meeting membership be granted. Another attendee asked what benefit does our community gain from the association with SIAM? Is the relation worthwhile? Doug West answered this by saying it was this meeting. Another attendee asked if the attendees of this conference attend other SIAM meetings, and is this data point available. Sue gave ideas for survey questions, and asked for others to be submitted. These can be sent to sue@uvic.ca.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43.

Respectfully submitted,

John Schmitt (in place of Geir Agnarsson)