Department Diversity Committee Activities 2013-2014 and Department Diversity Workshop, March 16-18, 2014

This past academic year, the Department Diversity Committee stepped up its activities. The committee, which consisted of faculty members and graduate students, held special events in both the Fall and Spring Semesters. The aim of the Committee is to promote diversity in the Department at all levels, in part by promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, friendliness and cooperation within the Department.

In October 2014, the Committee hosted members of the graduate student body who wanted to take part in the University’s Challenge Course, located on Baseline in Boulder near Williams Village. Led by guides, participants took part in balancing activities and rope-climbing and other such events that used teamwork skills as well as athleticism. In February 2014, the committee organized a special “ice-skating night” for faculty and students.

The Departmental Diversity Workshop, entitled “Diversifying Math: Increasing the number of successful students from traditionally underrepresented groups in CU Boulder’s Mathematics Ph.D. programs” was held March 16-18, 2014 and was partially sponsored by a grant given to the Diversity Committee by the University of Colorado System Office of Academic Affairs.

This grant, together with departmental funding, helped the Diversity Committee and departmental leaders put on the workshop. The committee brought in mathematicians who have extensive experience in diversity issues, including Professor Phillip Kutzko from the University of Iowa, who helped with planning the workshop structure, Professor Ruth Haas from Smith College, Professor Aloysius Helminck from North Carolina State University, and Dr. Paulette Willis from Reasoning Minds Inc in Houston, Texas. These visitors brainstormed with members of the department, both students and faculty, on ways to increase numbers in our graduate program of students from traditionally underrepresented groups, and to discuss more general strategies for making the Department graduate program nurturing and supportive for all graduate students. The visiting experts met with students and faculty in small groups, at a reception and in more informal gatherings. The visitors also gave a departmental colloquium in the form of a panel discussion.

In addition to the Diversity Committee’s formal activities outlined above, throughout the year, graduate student members of the committee held conversations with fellow graduate students to discuss various issues of concern to all students in a supportive setting.
The members of the Diversity Committee during 2013-2014 were: Judith Packer, Anca Radulescu and Robert Tubbs (faculty members) and Allison Beemer, Clifford Bridges, Natalie Coston, Jae Min Lee, Megan Ly and Keli Parker (graduate student members).

**Photos of Diversity Workshop Activities**

Left to right: Anca Radulescu, Clifford Bridges, and Megan Ly of the Department Diversity Committee help plan the Diversity Workshop.
Left to right: Diversity Workshop visitors Loek Helminck, Paulette Willis, Ruth Haas and Phillip Kutzko take part in the panel discussion
Faculty, visitors, and students take part in the post-workshop dinner at the Backcountry Pizza.