

University of Waterloo

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS

About the Mathematics endowment fund

Key Facts

Founded: **1994**

Principal (Aug. 2007): **\$3,087,521**

Total projects funded since inception: **\$745,908.73**

Projects funded in 2007: **\$144,217.72**

Student contribution: **\$10 π (\$31.42)/term**

Projects Funded by MEF

Since its inception, MEF has made funding grants totalling over \$740,000. Here is the breakdown of categories of projects MEF has funded and some sample projects in each category.

Course development and course materials: 24%

- Winter 2007: Course notes for CM 452/AMATH 442

Math clubs: 11%

- Spring 2007: Books for Statistics Club library

Other: 7%

- Fall 2007: Operations Research Contest

Student conferences: 11%

- Fall 2007: Funding for students to attend the Canadian University Software Engineering Conference

Design/project clubs: 12%

- Spring 2007: Supplies for Intercollegiate Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Team

Computing facilities: 35%

- Winter & Spring 2007: Hardware and TA for MapleTA interactive software

The Mathematics Endowment Fund is a student-run income-generating endowment fund that finances projects for the academic betterment of mathematics undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo.

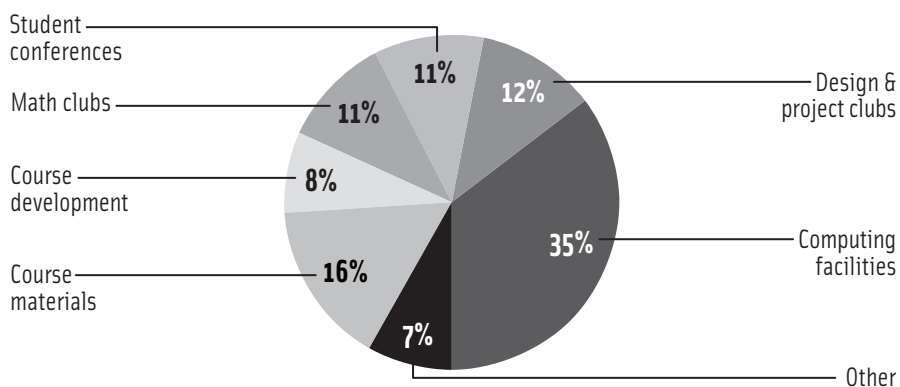
Thanks to contributions primarily from undergraduates, MEF has been able to fund almost \$750,000 worth of projects since its inception in 1994. As the fund continues to grow, MEF will be able to fund larger projects the impact of which will be felt by everyone who studies mathematics at Waterloo.

What projects does MEF support?

MEF finances student or faculty projects of an educational nature, including projects that support course development, allow students to attend academic and professional development conferences, enhance computing facilities for math students, and support student clubs and projects.

Who decides how the money is spent?

All math undergraduate students and faculty can submit proposals to MEF, which are reviewed by Funding Council, composed of undergraduate students from all math academic plans and years, as well as faculty and alumni representatives. MEF is managed by a undergraduate student Director and overseen by a Board of Directors.



project profile: operations research contest

Prof. Jochen Konemann and Prof. Romy Shioda, Combinatorics & Optimization

How did students benefit from the project?

Most classes offered at UW focus on theory, and not so much on the application of mathematical techniques to practical problems. This is where the OR Contest comes in. The purpose of the contest is to expose students to industrial-scale practical operations research problems, and to demonstrate that math can make a difference. We usually partner with an outside organization to obtain a suitable problem and problem data for the competition; this way, participating students get a taste of operations research in the real world.

How many students did the project reach?

We have held the contest in the past two years and reached an average of about 50 students per year. The students come from all departments in the Math Faculty as well as the Engineering Faculty.

What did the support of MEF allow you to do?

MEF funds were used for the cash prizes awarded to the top three teams. Without MEF, this contest would not have been possible.

project profile: actuarial science student conference

UW Actuarial Science students

How did students benefit from the project?

The Actuarial Students National Association (ASNA) holds an annual conference that brings together undergraduate students from across Canada, employers, and members of the actuarial science industry. MEF subsidized the registration cost for the 90-100 Actuarial Science and Statistics students who are going to attend the conference. For the 2008 conference, MEF awarded a total of \$6,000 for Waterloo students to attend.

Why did you approach MEF for funding for this project?

MEF funding makes the conference financially viable for UW math students to attend. Without funding, some students would not be able to experience the many benefits that ASNA offers: educational presentations, networking, and career opportunities.

project profile: new monitors for MC 3006

Mathematics Faculty Computing Facility

How did students benefit from the project?

Math undergraduate students are able to complete assignments on updated PCs and new 19" LCD monitors with fantastic resolution. This equipment rollover was long overdue as previous computers and monitors were over five years old.

How many students did the project reach?

Upgrading equipment in MC 3006 enhances over 30 workstations, available 24/7.

support MEF

MEF's major source of contributions is the refundable student endowment fund amount of \$31.42 (\$10T) contributed by undergraduate math students each term.

MEF also receives donations through the Pink Tie Pledge for graduating students and from alumni donors.

Donations to MEF are added to the principal of the endowment fund, which is now over \$3 million, and the interest income allows MEF to support over \$60,000 worth of projects each term.

Other important ways to help MEF are to:

- Join Funding Council
- Submit a proposal for a project that benefits undergraduate mathematics education
- Join the Board of Directors
- Take on the MEF Directorship for a term



Mathematics Endowment Fund

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