A History of the Cascadia Combinatorial Feasts

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December 17, 2025

This is a brief history of the Cascadia Combinatorial Feasts (known until 2019 as the Combinatorial Potlatches) and their speakers. It was maintained by Brian Alspach (BA) through November 2001, then by Robert Beezer (RAB) through the 2016 edition. Send additions, clarifications and corrections to Amites Sarkar, `amites.sarkar@wwu.edu`. Copyright 2002-2024, Licensed with a Creative Commons BY-SA License.

1. Combinatorial Potlatch One, 27 February 1982, University of Washington
   Branko Grünbaum *Edge-transitive planar graphs*
   C. C. Lindner *How to embed a partial Steiner triple system*

2. Combinatorial Potlatch Two, 27 November 1982, Simon Fraser University
   Bill Kantor *Algorithms for graph isomorphism and other group theoretic problems*
   Peter Kleinschmidt *Properties of simplicial complexes and Hilbert functions*

3. Combinatorial Potlatch Three, 5 March 1983, Western Washington University
   Martin Tompa *An interplay among graph theory, geometry, and computational complexity*
   Henry Glover *Groups, graphs, and surfaces*

4. Combinatorial Potlatch Four, 19 November 1983, University of Washington
   Geoffrey Shephard *The theory of fabrics*
   Richard Weiss *Some aspects of graph theory in the classification of finite simple groups*

5. Combinatorial Potlatch Five, 19 May 1984, Simon Fraser University
   Richard Weiss *Some aspects of graph theory in the classification of finite simple groups*
   Egan Schulte *A combinatorial theory of regular polytopes*

BA: At this point we have lost track of the numerical sequence, but perhaps we can reconstruct the other meetings.

6. 1 December 1984, Western Washington University
   Peter Cameron
   Random sum-free sets and cyclic automorphisms
   Tudor Zamfirescu
   Most stars are thin, most thick stars are not smooth

7. 14 December 1985, University of Washington
   Richard Nowakowski
   Pursuit and search games on graphs
   Brian Alspach
   Orthogonal factorizations of graphs

8. 5 April 1986, Western Washington University
   Moshe Rosenfeld
   Data allocation problem: Or how to divide a square into rectangles

   Dave Kirkpatrick
   Algorithms for finding maximal vectors

9. 13 December 1986, University of British Columbia
   Bojan Mohar
   Embeddings of infinite graphs

   Peter Gritzman
   Finite packing and covering

10. 9 May 1987, Pacific Lutheran University
    Stan Wagon
    Fourteen different (?) proofs of a result about tiling a rectangle

    Don Chakerian
    How to fit an elephant into a small cube

11. 28 November 1987, Simon Fraser University
    J.-C. Bermond
    DeBruijn-Kautz networks

    H. S. Wilf
    The exponential formula: Combinatorics' best kept secret

12. 9 December 1989, University of Washington
    Joan P. Hutchinson
    When does a graph contain a spanning tree with no vertex of degree 2? (And why would you want to know this?)

    Charles J. Colburn
    Intersections and supports of designs

13. 12 January 1991, Simon Fraser University
    C.C. Chen, National University of Singapore
    The edge-toughness of a graph and of its complement

    Peter Horak, Bratislava
    Transversals and matroids

14. 25 January 1992, University of Puget Sound
    Jason Rush, University of Washington
    Very dense packings of spheres and other shapes in Euclidean n-space

    Jarek Nešetril
    Dimension and boolean dimension

15. 11 February 1995, Simon Fraser University
    Mike Fellows
    Coping with intractability: The parametric point of view

    Anna Karlin
    Randomized and multipointer paging with locality of reference

16. 11 May 1996, Pacific Lutheran University
Dick Karp
Error-Resilient molecular computation

Gene Luks, University of Oregon
Algorithmic applications of the simple groups classifications

17. 24 May 1997, Simon Fraser University (Harbour Centre Campus)
Gary MacGillivray, University of Victoria
The achromatic number of graphs

Kathie Cameron
Disjoint monotone paths in simple regions: Existence, uniqueness, min-max relations, algorithms and applications

Peter Hamburger
A graph-theoretic approach to problems in elementary and combinatorial geometry

18. 16 February 2002, University of Puget Sound,
Brian Alspach, University of Regina and Simon Fraser University
Group actions and hamilton decompositions of complete graphs

Brett Stevens, Carleton University (Ottawa)
On universal cycles of k-sets of an n-set

Jonathan Jedwab, Simon Fraser University
Combinatorial design theory and the IEEE 802.12 transmission code

19. 9 November 2002, University of Victoria, Main Campus
Andrzej Proskurowski, University of Oregon
Width parameters of graphs and discrete optimization problems

Branko Grunbaum, University of Washington
Polyhedra: Combinatorial and geometric

Jozef Siran, Slovak University of Technology
Links between graph theory, group theory, geometry, Riemann surfaces, and Galois theory

20. 8 November 2003, University of Victoria, Downtown Campus
Steph van Wilgenburg, University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
Enumerative properties of Ferrers graphs

Peter Horak, University of Washington (Tacoma)
Graph theory as an integral part of mathematics

Rick Brewster, University College of the Cariboo (Kamloops)
Categorical aspects of graph homomorphisms

Zdenek Ryjacek, University of Western Bohemia (Czech Republic)
Closure concepts, contractible subgraphs and hamiltonian properties of line graphs

21. 20 November 2004, Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre Campus
John Gimbel, University of Alaska (Fairbanks)
The traveling sales rep gets into abelian groups

Xuding Zhu, National Sun Yat-sen University (Taiwan)
The game chromatic number of a graph

Jozsef Solymosi, University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
Bounds on incidences and problems from additive number theory

22. 19 November 2005, Seattle University
Bojan Mohar, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Simon Fraser University
Small separations in symmetric graphs

Jenny Quinn, Occidental College and University of Puget Sound
Determinants via determined ants

John Caughman, Portland State University
How distance-regular graphs got all tangled up with the theory of knots

23. 11 November 2006, Portland State University
Richard A. Brualdi, University of Wisconsin at Madison
The Bruhat order for (0,1)-matrices

Gary Gordon, Lafayette College
Graph polynomials for you; graph polynomials for me

Matt De Vos, Simon Fraser University
Sumsets and subsequence sums

24. 29 September 2007, University of Victoria
Manley Perkel, University of Puget Sound
Antibandwidth and cyclic antibandwidth of Kneser graphs

John Moon, University of Alberta
On the number of proper nodes in rooted trees

Anthony Quas, University of Victoria
Distances in positive density sets

25. 22 November 2008, University of Puget Sound
Eric Fusy, University of British Columbia
Bijective links on planar maps via orientations

Chuck Dunn, Linfield College
Complete multipartite graphs and the relaxed coloring game

Ioana Dumitriu, University of Washington
Path counting and the moment method for random matrices or *Fun with Walter and Theo*

26. 21 November 2009, Simon Fraser University
Glencora Borradaile, Oregon State University
Graph constrained knapsack problems

Louis Deaett, University of Victoria
New dimensions to graph coloring

Omer Angel, University of British Columbia
Locally transitive graphs

27. 11 December 2010, Western Washington University
    Christine Kelley, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
    Codes from algebraic lifts of graphs

    Richard Guy, University of Calgary
    Some columns Martin Gardner might have written

    Kai-Uwe Schmidt, Simon Fraser University
    What's special about 0.3420...? How to increase the merit factor of binary sequences

28. 19 November 2011, Seattle University
    William Stein, University of Washington, Seattle
    Sage — Creating a viable free open source alternative to Magma, Maple, Mathematica and Matlab

    Josh Laison, Willamette University
    Obstacle numbers of graphs

    Peter Winkler, Dartmouth College
    Cop vs Drunk: Chasing the random walker on a graph

29. 17 November 2012, Simon Fraser University
    Chris Godsil, Waterloo University
    Continuous quantum walks on graphs

    Dan Drake, University of Puget Sound
    Higher order matching polynomials and d-orthogonality

    Ron Graham, University of California, San Diego
    The combinatorics of solving linear equations

30. 23 November 2013, University of Victoria
    Richard Hoshino, Quest University
    Applying combinatorics to inspire change

    Dillon Mayhew, Victoria University of Wellington
    Characterizing representable matroids

    Jeremie Lumbroso, Simon Fraser University
    Analytic random generation of combinatorial objects

31. 22 November 2014, Western Washington University
    Jane Butterfield, University of Victoria
    Line-of-sight pursuit in sweepable polygons

    Steven Klee, Seattle University
    Face enumeration on simplicial complexes

    Richard Anstee, University of British Columbia
    Forbidden configurations

32. 21 November 2015, University of British Columbia
Kilian Raschel, Université de Tours
A Human Proof of Gessel's Lattice Path Conjecture

Daniel Johnston, University of Montana
On k-Ramsey Numbers of Graphs

Cory Palmer, University of Montana
Turán-type Theorems for Berge-Hypergraphs

Alexander Holroyd, Microsoft Corporation
Finitely Dependent Coloring

33. 19 November 2016, Seattle University
Sara Billey, University of Washington, Seattle
Enumeration of Parabolic Double Cosets for Symmetric Groups and Beyond

Shahriar Shahriari, Pomona College
Forbidden Configurations and other Combinatorial Problems for Posets of Subspaces

Marni Mishna, Simon Fraser University
The Remarkable Ubiquity of Standard Young Tableaux of Bounded Height

34. 18 November 2017, University of Victoria
Tinaz Ekim, Bogazici University, Istanbul
Recent Results on Equimatchable Graphs

Jephian Lin, University of Victoria
General Spectral Graph Theory: the Inverse Eigenvalue Problem of a Graph

Bruce Shepherd, McGill University
Stable Matchings and Extensions

35. 17 November 2018, Simon Fraser University
Shahla Nasserasr, Brandon University
The Inverse Eigenvalue Problem: Distinct Eigenvalues

Orit Raz, University of British Columbia
Every Embedding of a Dense Graph has a Rigid Subset

Fan Chung, University of California, San Diego
Geometric Aspects in Spectral Graph Theory

36. 23 November 2019, Western Washington University
Joris van der Hoeven, Ecole Polytechnique
Creative Telescoping via Reductions

Riana Roux, Stellenbosch University
Reconfiguration Problems in Irredundance

Sue Whitesides, University of Victoria
On Hamiltonicity in Grid Graphs

37. 21 November 2020, University of Victoria
Mike Henning, University of Johannesburg
Upper Bounds on the Domination and Total Domination Numbers of a Graph in terms of Minimum Degree

Natasha Morrison, University of Victoria
The Typical Structure of Sets with Small Sumset

Chip Klostermeyer, University of North Florida
Eternal Chromatic Numbers of Graphs

This conference was unusual in two ways. First, it was held remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic. Second, it was held in honor of Gary MacGillivray, and featured many contributions from among Gary's friends, students and colleagues, past and present.

38. 20 November 2021, University of Victoria
Shuxing Li, Simon Fraser University
Packings of Partial Difference Sets

Amarpreet Rattan, Simon Fraser University
Generalized Mahonian Statistics and Minimal Factorizations of the Full Cycle

Boram Park, Ajou University, Republic of Korea
Independent Domination of Regular Graphs

Once again, this conference was held remotely.

39. 19 November 2022, Seattle University
Cynthia Vinzant, University of Washington, Seattle
Determinantal representations and the principal minor map

Hays Whitlatch, Gonzaga University
Counting power domination sets in complete m-ary trees

Imre Bárány, Rényi Mathematical Institute, Budapest
Pairwise intersecting convex sets and cylinders in $\mathbf{R}^3$

40. 26–28 April 2024, University of Puget Sound
Christine Kelley, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Decoding failures of quantum graph-based codes

David Farmer, American Institute of Mathematics
An unauthorized and inaccurate history of PreTeXt

Andy Zimmer, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Counting in terms of eigenvalues

Dylan Poulsen, Washington College
Authoring a PreTeXt book as a semester-long class project in probability theory

Sam Vandervelde, Proof School
Riddle of the dots

Gary MacGillivray, University of Victoria
Switching m-edge coloured graphs

This conference was held in honor of Rob Beezer, and featured many contributions from among Rob's friends, students and colleagues, past and present.

41. 26 October 2024, University of Victoria
Melissa Huggan, Vancouver Island University
Cops and robbers variants: recent work and open problems

Saieed Akbari, Sharif University (visiting Simon Fraser University)
A linear lower bound for the square energy of graphs

Jonathan Noel, University of Victoria
How to make a regular tournament "look random"

Lightning talks

Benjamin Buckley, Simon Fraser University
Uniform sampling and visualization of 3D-reluctant walk

John Gimbel, University of Alaska
A short proof of a result on zonal labels

Krishna Narayanan, Simon Fraser University
Monitoring edge-geodetic sets in graphs

Haley Freigang, University of Victoria
Minimally unavoidable graphs for a cycle of length 4

42. 22 November 2025, Simon Fraser University
Mark Kayll, University of Montana
Edmonds, Konig, and Egervary (the graphs, not the people)

Felix Clemen, University of Victoria
Regular Simplices in Higher Dimensions

Caroline Colijn, Simon Fraser University
Trees in Evolutionary Applications

Lightning talks

Richard Hoshino, Northeastern University
Creating Mathematically-Optimal Timetables for Schools

Patrick King, Simon Fraser University
Weight Enumerators of Symplectic Self-Dual Codes

Jinting Liang, University of British Columbia
Log-Concavity and -Convexity via Distributive Lattices

Owen Montefisher, Western Washington University
Ramsey's Theorems in Context

Elise Mozaffari, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Damage Numbers of Graphs: An Improved Upper Bound

Stefan Trandafir, University of Sevilla
On Weary Drivers, Records of Trees, and Parking Functions

BA: You will note that Richard Weiss is listed as giving the same talk at two consecutive Potlatches. I vaguely recall that Richard had to cancel his appearance for the first of the two listed so that I think the later listing is correct. I undoubtedly have an early announcement in my files. It is certainly the case that he talked only once.