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September 3, 2014

Dear International Distinguished Visitors Committee;

**Re: 2014 Invited International Distinguished Visitor, C. Sagastizábal**

I am pleased to report the results of the 2014 Invited International Distinguished Visitor Fund supporting Dr. Claudia Sagastizábal's visit.

Dr. Claudia Sagastizábal visited The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, in Kelowna, B.C., Canada, from July 19th to August 7th, 2014. It was a great pleasure to have her visit, and her visit touched many lives on the UBC Okanagan Campus.

During her visit, Dr. Sagastizábal gave two public lectures. Both were well received. Her second lecture was part of the *COCANA Live seminar series*, which is webcast to 4 universities in Western Canada (UBCV, U. Victoria, Simon Fraser U., and U. Calgary). As planned, Dr. Sagastizábal was accompanied by her husband, Dr. Mikhail Solodov, who also gave a lecture in the COCANA Live seminar series. Finally, as an added surprise, Dr. Sagastizábal's visit inspired Dr. Robert Mifflin (Washington State University, Pullman, USA) to drive up to Kelowna for a 3-day visit. Dr. Mifflin also gave a lecture in the COCANA Live seminar series during his visit. Advertisements for all of these lectures can be found here

<https://ocana.ok.ubc.ca/seminarsPast.php>.

Dr. Mifflin's visit had the added bonus that Washington State University, Pullman Campus, has now joined the list of locations where COCANA Live is webcast!

During the visit, Dr. Sagastizábal, Dr. Solodov, and myself, collaborated on research regarding the construction of a new Bundle Algorithm designed to work for Inexact Oracles and Nonconvex Functions. The research has been submitted to the peer-reviewed journal 'Computational Optimization and Applications'. This is considered

one of the top three journals in optimization research.

During the visit, we discussed several opportunities for future interactions, including a new Brazilian grant that funds Brazilian Ph.D. students to do a 1-year research visit with a Canadian institution (among a list of other countries). We plan to use for this funding for any appropriate students that either Dr. Sagastizábal and Dr. Solodov might have.

Overall, Dr. Sagastizábal and Dr. Solodov were both extremely impressed by their visit. Multiple times they mentioned that they would love to repeat the visit someday, and encouraged me to send any graduated my Ph.D. students to Brazil for postdoctoral studies. It was a great pleasure and highly productive to have them visit, and I hope that we can find a way to repeat the event someday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Hare', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Warren Hare