Why be a Graduate Student at WID?

Aniruddha Bhargava: So my name is Aniruddha.

Amy Cannestra: I’m Amy Cannestra.

Kevin Jamieson: My name is Kevin Jamieson.

Bhargava: I work with the optimization group here at WID.

Jamieson: I work in the Optimization group.

Cannestra: I’m a Frontier Fellow from 2012-2013.

Bhargava: So, one of the benefits of working at the WID, is there is a lot of discussion space. You have whiteboards everywhere, you can draw on almost any surface, and many times when you want to discuss [something], you can just go grab the nearest space and kind of sketch out your ideas with the people who you want to talk to.

Jamieson: Being squished into this building with so many people there doing completely different things than you are doing -- I have never seen this level of involvement of all these different departments, and all this interaction.

Bhargava: So there is also this whole community aspect to the WID, where there are all these relationships that pop up not just because of the primary things you are working on but all these secondary things and that also goes to create a nice atmosphere.

Cannestra: Not only is it supported by a community, they want to see you succeed, so they take every step necessary to take your idea, and make it happen. I know I keep talking about this support and this hands on community, but it is still really your project. It’s support in a way that lets you still be your own person and on your own track. They don’t muddle around and make it their idea. It’s you, it’s still all you, they want to make it happen.

Bhargava: Between Wisconsin and other universities that I have been to, I would definitely say there is a much more collaborative atmosphere here.

Jamieson: That’s kind of the whole atmosphere of WID, the atmosphere of running into each other, of having meetings collide. It’s having a meeting with a physicist and that turning into a meeting with a psychologist.