NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Welcome Back — Friday, 1st February 2002

This Week: **Off to Lie in the Sun ….**
From the Desk of the new Department Seminar Organizer
Publications
It's a Ball
Problem Corner

OFF TO LIE IN THE SUN…
This Friday we say farewell to Bev Haberfield and John Spain, who are retiring after 32 ½ years and 20 years (to the day!), respectively, in the Department.

Please remember the special afternoon tea for Bev and John at 3.30 on Friday 1 Feb.–** TODAY **

Douglas Bridges

FROM THE DESK OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT SEMINAR ORGANIZER
There are few changes to the organization of this year's department seminars. Firstly, the department seminars will be held at either 2.00pm Tuesday or 2.00 pm Thursday in Room 446. Of course, other times are possible, but these will be the default times. Secondly, while I'll organize the timetabling and advertising of the seminar, the person hosting the seminar speaker in the department will be expected to introduce and thank the speaker at the seminar. If the speaker has no such host (for example, it may be one of us), then I'll do the introductions and thanking at the seminar.

Also, just as a reminder, we have some department funds allocated for hosting distinguished academics for the purposes of presenting a seminar. If you have someone in mind, please let me know. A brief resume of the person will be needed before we can allocate department funds.

Charles Semple

PUBLICATIONS:
In Press: O.R.P. Bininda-Emonds, J.L. Gittleman and M.A. Steel. "The supertree of life: procedures, problems and prospects." Annual Reviews in Ecology and Systematics (invited review).

IT'S A BALL!
Congratulations to Bill Baritompa for coming up with a very nice solution to my homeomorphic to a ball" problem!

Mike Steel

PUZZLE CORNER
Last week: John Spain goes out with a magnificent solution to last week's puzzle about the equilateral triangle in the rectangle. In fact, he generalized the problem and solved the whole thing very comprehensively.

We will miss one of our chief solvers. He goes out winning TWO chocolate bars!

This week: There is a box with N balls, all different colours. On each turn, randomly pick a ball in each, and colour the left one the same colour as the right one, then return both. What is the expected number of turns till all balls are the same colour?

Bill Taylor