NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Friday, 22nd February 2002

This Week: **Congratulations to David Byatt**
Erskine Visitor
Seminars
Published Papers
Greetings from Julian Visch and Graeme Wake
Puzzle Corner
Postgraduates Office Olympics

CONGRATULATIONS

David Byatt has been awarded a Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship for his research proposal on "Derivative-free methods for numerical optimisation". (Supervisors: Ian Coope and Chris Price). This prestigious scholarship is for three years and carries a stipend almost twice that of a Canterbury Scholarship and also includes conference funding. Congratulations David. Ian Coope

Congratulations to David on gaining this Top Achievers PhD Award in the face of very stiff national competition. Douglas Bridges

ERSKINE VISITOR

Welcome back to Professor John E. Dennis from Rice University, who will be visiting the department in Term 1. John will be giving a series of lectures during his stay on "Optimisation using surrogates".

SEMINARS

Monday 25 February at 1.00 pm, Room 446:
Dr Jack Stecher, University of Minnesota – "How Complex is the Message Space".

Tuesday, 26 February at 2.00pm, Room 446:
Sagi Snir, Technion, Israel – "Four Taxon ML Forks Under Molecular Clock: Analytic Solutions."

Tuesday, 26 February at 4.00 pm, Room 534, Commerce Building:
Dr Jack Stecher, University of Minnesota – "Intuitionistic Rationality with an Application to Equilibrium Search".

Friday 1st March at 2.00pm, Room 446:
Prof. Neil Robertson, Ohio State University – "On Five Graph Colouring Problems".

PUBLISHED AND ACCEPTED PAPERS

Brown, J.A. 2002. Designing an efficient adaptive cluster sample. Journal of Environmental and Ecological Statistics.

Accepted: Marco Reale and Granville Tunnicliffe Wilson. The sampling properties of conditional independent graphs for structural vector autoregressions. Accepted for publication on Biometrika.

In Press: ML Dalrymple, IL Hudson and RPK Ford. Finite Mixture, Zero-inflated Poisson and Hurdle Models with Application to SIDS Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, special issue – Recent Developments in Mixture Modelling .

B. Basse and GC Wake. "A case study in Epidemic Modelling: Epidemic Waves" in "MODELLING CASE STUDIES", edited by A. Fitt and E Cumberbatch, Cambridge University Press, September 2001, pp 132-154.

GC Wake (with HK Kim & B van-Brunt). "On a singular Sturm-Liouville problem involving an advanced functional differential equation", European J Applied Maths, Vol 12, No. 6, December 2001, pp 625-644.

GREETINGS

Not much happening here, struggling to keep up with my washing, going tramping each weekend, just joined the "poshest" gym in Wellington, they worked out to be cheaper for what I wanted (aerobics) all the rest combined everything as one big package. Bought myself a new bike today, so I am at last properly mobile, walking everywhere around Wellington while good exercise is time consuming (walking on average 2hrs+ a day), more when I go tramping. Well give the department my best wishes. Julian Visch

Regards to all from the Wakes in Oxford where spring is coming on beautifully, and the Brits have banned me from talking about cricket!! Graeme and Lil Wake

PUZZLE CORNER

There is a (circular) annular running track, and the longest straight line that can be drawn on its surface has 100 yards. What is the track's area? Bill Taylor

OFFICE OLYMPICS

Due to recent Olympic fever gripping town, we, the postgrads, lay down the challenge to the staff to find the supreme gold medallist in the OFFICE OLYMPICS. The contest will consist of one event per month commencing on THURSDAY 7 MARCH. These events will include the office slalom, the latex challenge and the grammarathon. Ideas for other events most welcome. Further details for event 1 will be announced soon and we look forward to your support throughout the year. Michelle and Robin, MSPGS