NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Tuesday, 12th March 2002

This Week:

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mike Steel for being part of not one, but two, of the successful bids for CoRE funding. He is a Principal Investigator in the Vaughan Jones CoRE (Mathematical Sciences, based at Auckland) and in the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution (based at Massey). This is good news for all of us in the Department, especially those involved in our Biomathematics Research Centre. Douglas Bridges

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Frank Lad who has been appointed a visiting professor at the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna during the months of May and June this year. The programme is organised something like our Erskine visits. He will deliver a public lecture on "Probability, Marxism, and post-war Soviet Doctrine" and give a mini-course to the graduate students on operational subjective statistical methods, focusing on applications. In early July he will lecture on applied statistics at the Summer School on Human Biology to be held at Asti in the Piedmont region of northwest Italy. During May and June he will be working on continuing research projects at Bologna and Perugia, formalising the value of a second opinion on topics about which the consulted expert(s) are uncertain.

Well done, Frank. Douglas Bridges

PUBLISHED AND ACCEPTED PAPERS

Steinke, G.F. A classification of Laguerre near-planes of order four. Australasian J. Combin., v25, 2002: 145--166.

PhD COMPLETED

Congratulations to Shinji Yamamoto who has now finished all the requirements of his PhD examiners, and will be awarded with his PhD. David Wall

NZMS NEWSLETTER

News for the April 2002 edition of the NZMS newsletter can now be sent to me (new NZMS correspondent). I have the seminars, but anything else such as awards etc would be much appreciated.

Charles Semple

PUZZLE CORNER

The last problem was correctly solved by John Spain and Ulises Carcamo. The area is easy to calculate once you know that any annular track gives the same answer(!), which is the fun part of the problem of course.

It has a remarkable 3-dimensional analogue, often seen in puzzle books. A sphere has two opposite spherical caps removed, and also the cylinder between them. The length of the cylinder is one metre. What is the volume of the REMAINING material? Again, amazingly, you don't need to know the radius of the original sphere!

That, however, is not this weeks problem... This week:

Find the indefinite integral $\int \sqrt{\tan x} \; dx$

Bill Taylor