

NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Friday, 18th October 2002

This Week: DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS
MATHS TESTS AT BRITISH UNIVERSITIES
UC GRANT
WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?
ALLAN WILSON CENTRE NEWS
PUBLISHED PAPERS
CALCULUS COMICS

DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

Adjunct Assoc Prof. Rey Casse from University of Adelaide is due to arrive in three weeks' time. He will be doing some research with Dr David Glynn for three weeks.

MATHS TESTS AT BRITISH UNIVERSITIES

Maths, science and engineering departments in UK universities are bringing in maths tests for all their new students after concerns that A-level mathematics in secondary schools is not providing them with the necessary skills. Many universities are also setting up campus-based mathematics support centres to tackle the problem. The universities introducing the tests include Warwick University, which takes only students with top grades.

Douglas Bridges

UC GRANT

Congratulations to

Charles Semple on being awarded a UC Research Grant for the project "Matroid connectivity and Rota's conjecture";

Bob Broughton on being awarded a UC Equipment Grant for "Thin client computer terminals".

Douglas Bridges

WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?

Congratulations to Rob Ware who has submitted his doctoral thesis "Three Studies in Numerical Methods for Statistical Approximation" to the registry! The thesis will be reviewed by Professor Wes Johnson of the University of California at Davis and Doctor Yu Hayakawa of the Victoria University of Wellington. Both are internationally recognised experts in Sequential Forecasting and Bayesian Statistics.

Frank Lad

ALLAN WILSON CENTRE NEWS

Congratulations to Dietrich Radel who has been awarded an Allan Wilson Centre summer scholarship to work with us over the next 4 months.

Next Thursday/Friday we welcome Assoc. Prof. Peter Lockhart, a molecular biologist from Massey University who is closely involved in the AWCME and who will be a frequent visitor here over the next 6 years. Peter, myself and Allen Rodrigo (University of Auckland, Bioinformatics leader) are organising a one-day bioinformatics/ systematics workshop for biologists from throughout New Zealand which will be held here on November 27, and funded by the Allan Wilson Centre.

Mike Steel

PAPERS PUBLISHED

Sober, E. and Steel, M. Testing the hypothesis of common ancestry. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 218, 395-408 (2002).

Steel, M. and Szekely, L.A. Inverting random functions (II): explicit bounds for discrete maximum likelihood estimation, with applications, *SIAM J. Discr. Math.* 15(4): 562--575, (2002).

Mike Steel

CALCULUS COMICS

