

NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Issue No. 1/03

Friday, 31 January 2003

**This Week: KEVIN O'MEARA
HoD
DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS
BOOK PUBLISHED
PAPERS SUBMITTED
PUBLISHED JOURNAL ARTICLES
ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION
PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS**

KEVIN O'MEARA

Today is Kevin O'Meara's last official day of work in the department, although he will still be popping in occasionally for some time yet. Kevin has worked in the department for 31 years, making significant contributions on both the research and the teaching fronts.

His research papers have always been a joy to read, tackling hard problems and giving crystal clear explanations of his beautiful solutions. His branch of pure mathematics is probably not well appreciated locally, but his work is certainly held in high regard among other ring theorists around the world.

On the teaching front, many local high school teachers have told me of their fond memories of Kevin's lectures, his clear explanations and his superb notes. The notes from his old fourth year course on abstract algebra would make the basis for an excellent text book. One of his lasting contributions to our teaching program is the third year coding theory

course, pioneered by him and now a staple part of the second professional year for electrical engineers.

I did my PhD under Kevin, many years ago now. He was not long finished his own doctorate, and he tried hard to persuade me that there were no jobs for ring theorists. However, I persisted and he was the ideal supervisor, offering just the right balance of challenge and encouragement in our weekly meetings. I still have fond memories, too, of a seminar he and Rob Bull organized for Frank Nolan and me, all about categories, where I finally learned how to take proper notes, and where I also saw my own internal picture of a function (an arrow) receive official blessing in a text book.

Have a great retirement, Kevin, and I hope that, like other recent retirees from the department, you'll continue to maintain an active relationship with us in the years ahead.

John Hannah, Acting HoD

HoD

Roseanne Sovka, from Statistics New Zealand, will be joining us in term 1 as a replacement for Marco who will be on parental leave. Roseanne will be teaching STAT 111 and STAT 131 for six weeks.

As you may know, Graeme is going to be with us for only 30% of the time this year (as part of a phased retirement package). The other 70% of Graeme's teaching load will be taken by Chris Hann. Funding for this came from vacancy funding for the rest of Graeme's position. It's difficult to know what to call such positions, but I've labelled them Teaching Fellows and no-one in Registry has complained so far!

Congratulations to Doris who was promoted during the last promotion round. Senior tutors were dealt with separately, so her success wasn't mentioned in the publicity at the end of last year. Doris is already off the top of the official Senior Tutor scale, and promotion for such people is only considered in exceptional cases. So Doris's success shows how highly the Staffing Committee viewed her contributions to the department over the last few years.

Congratulations too to Michael Cohen who has been awarded a Sims Empire Scholarship to help him pursue graduate study in Britain. Michael got First Class Honours in Mathematical Physics last year.

Today's my last day as Acting HOD. I'm looking forward to resuming my previous low profile, but thank you to everyone who helped me during the last two months. Please extend the same friendly welcome to David next week!

John Hannah, Acting HoD

DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

We extend a warm welcome to the Department to Professor Phillippe Toint, University of Namur, Belgium, who is a Visiting Erskine Fellow to the Department from 31 January until 11 April 2003. Professor Toint will be giving a series of lectures as part of the 4th year Optimization paper, and research seminars. Professor Toint is Professor of Mathematics, co-ordinator of the Numerical Analysis Unit, and Director of the Transportation Research Group at Namur. He is an international figure in optimization and will be lecturing on Trust-Region Methods, the work in his book (SIAM, 2000).

Professor Toint also recently completed a 4 year stint as Director of IT Services for the University of Namur.

Further information on Professor Toint including publications may be found on his web page <http://www.fundp.ac.be/~phtoint/toint.html>



Bob Broughton

Professor Toint is in Room 401, phone 8376.

Welcome to Prof. Vincent Moulton and Dr Katherina Huber who are visiting for 3 weeks from Uppsala, Sweden. They can be contacted at Ext. 8337 in Room 720.

Next week we welcome Dr Olivier Gascuel who is visiting for 1 month from Montpellier, France.

Mike Steel

Next month we have several visitors from overseas visiting the department. They are

<u>Visitors due to arrive</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>
Dr. David Bryant	McGill University	1-Feb-03
Prof. Olivier Gascuel	University of Montpellier, France	1-Feb-03 (1 month)



Visitors due to arrive**Organisation****Arrival Date**

Tobias Dezulian

Tubingen University

1-Feb-03



Prof. Daniel Huson

Tubingen University

9-Feb-03



Dr. Wim Hordijk

Santa Fe Institute

20-Feb-03

Prof. Rainer Lowen- Erskine Fellow

University of Braunschweig

1-Mar-03

BOOK PUBLISHED

Phylogenetics, Oxford University Press
Charles by Semple and Mike Steel

*Mike Steel***PAPERS SUBMITTED**

Cyclic permutations and evolutionary trees by
Charles Semple and Mike Steel

Peeling phylogenetic oranges by Vincent
Moulton and Mike Steel

*Mike Steel***PUBLISHED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

M.L. Dalrymple, I.L. Hudson, Ford, R. 2003
"Finite Mixture, Zero-inflated Poisson and
Hurdle models with application to sudden
infant deaths (SIDS)". Journal of
Computational Statistics and Data Analysis
Vol. 41(3-4), pp 491-504

Keatley M.R., Hudson I.L. and Ades P.K., 2002
"Phenological studies in Australia: Potential
application in historical and future climate
analysis". International Journal of
Climatology, Vol. 22 (14) pp1769 - 1780.

*Irene Hudson***ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION**

K.C. O'Meara with C.Vinsonhaler, K_0 like
constructions for almost completely
decomposable groups, accepted by Journal of
Algebra.

*Kevin O'Meara***PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS**

One of the applicants for the Prof. Stats Chair
is coming to NZ with his wife and will be
spending the week following interviews
touring around the Bay of Islands. If anyone
has any helpful info on what to do, where to
go, etc can they pass this onto me. Apparently
he has a keen interest in diving.

Julie Daly