NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Issue No. 5/03 **Friday, 28 March 2003**

NEW ACADEMIC STAFF

We welcome Dr Dominic Lee from Singapore who arrived with his wife and two children at 1.20 pm on Tuesday, 25th March 2003. He will join us officially on 1st April 2003. He is in room 612, extension 7665.

Easaw Chacko

ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Kevin O'Meara with Pere Ara and Francesc Perera, Translation algebras over discrete trees are exchange rings, accepted for *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc*.

Kevin O'Meara

H. Ishihara and L. S. Vita, `Locating subsets of a normed space', to appear in *Proceedings AMS*.

L. S. Vita, `Minkowski functionals and located sets', to appear in *Bulletin Mathematiques de la Societe des Sciences Mathematiques de Roumanie*.

Simona Vîta

PAPERS SUBMITTED

Elchanan Mossel and Mike Steel: *"A phase transition for the random cluster model on phylogenetic trees"*. To Mathematical Biosciences

Mike Steel

CONFERENCE PAPERS ACCEPTED

The 18th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling, to be held from July 7 until July 11, 2003, in Leuven, Belgium will see 2 departmental statisticians representing UoC and NZ.

Irene Hudson will present a paper entitled *"Investigation into Drivers for flowering: effects of climate on flowering and cyclicity – use of Generaliaed additive models and Bayesian Hierarchical Models"*.

Marco Reale shall present a paper entitled *"How to make a causal diagram"*.

IWSM is moving to publish detailed papers in special book.At the last IWSM 2000 meeting there was only one New Zealander presenting so we are doing our bit to boost the NZ and Canterbury profile.

Irene Hudson

DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

You may have noticed groups of high school students wandering around the department. We had two visits this week, a group from the Craighead Diocesan School in Timaru and a group of 4th and 5th form students as part of the University's Equal Education Opportunities outreach program. They had a chance to explore the maths garden and see the Derick Breach room.

Bill Baritompa

Welcome to Wim Hordijk, who will be a postdoc with us for the rest of this year. Wim is originally from Holland, but has spent several years recent years on postdocs around the world - including the Sante Fe Institute, and most recently in Brasil. He has also been a mountain-bike guide in the US and involved in search and rescue. Wim's postdoc is funded by the Allan Wilson Centre and he is based in room 720.

Mike Steel

Current Visitors	**Organisation**	**Room No.**	**Ext. No.**	
Dr. David **Bryant**	McGill University	616	8876	
Tobias **Dezulian**	Tubingen University	721	8338	
Dr. Wim **Hordijk**	Santa Fe Institute	720	8337	
Assoc. Prof. Peter **Lockhart**	Massey University	616	8876	

Current Visitors	Organisation	Room No.	Ext. No.	
Prof. Philippe **Toint** - *Erskine Fellow*	University of Namur, Belgium	501	8376	
Prof. Rainer **Lowen** - *Erskine Fellow*	University of Braunschweig	502	7663	
Dr John **Marshall**	University of Auckland	720	8337	

What is "pi"? 

Mathematician: Pi is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.
Engineer: Pi is about 22/7.
Physicist: Pi is 3.14159 plus or minus 0.000005
Computer Programmer: Pi is 3.141592653589 in double precision.
Nutritionist: You one track math-minded fellows, Pie is a healthy and delicious dessert!

Top ln(e^10) reasons why *e* is better than *pi*

10) *e* is easier to spell than *pi*.
9) *pi* ~= 3.14 while *e* ~=2.718281828459045.
8) The character for *e* can be found on a keyboard, but *pi* sure can't.
7) Everybody fights for their piece of the pie.
6) ln(*pi*^1) is a really nasty number, but ln(*e*^1) = 1.
5) *e* is used in calculus while pi is used in baby geometry.
4) *'e'* is the most commonly picked vowel in Wheel of Fortune.
3) *e* stands for Euler's Number, *pi* doesn't stand for squat.
2) You don't need to know Greek to be able to use *e*.
1) You can't confuse e with a food product.

Molly