NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Issue No. 6/03 **Friday, 11 April 2003**

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ulises Carcamo and Marion Baroni who have each been awarded $1300 departmental research funds to support their forthcoming conference travel. Marion is presenting a talk at the 5th Congress of Romanian Mathematicians and delivering a paper at the Fourth International Conference on Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science (Dijon, France).

Ulises is presenting a paper at the 5th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM) in July.

Mike Steel

PAPER PUBLISHED

Neil A. Watson, *A generalized Nevanlinna theorem for supertemperatures*, Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Math., v28, 2003:35-54.

Neil Watson

PAPER ACCEPTED

Wake, G.C. and Pleasants, A.B. *"Calculating animal performance from limited live weight measurements of the population"*, to appear in the Proceedings of the NZ Society of Animal Production, June 2003.

Conference information:
Industrial Mathematics Initiative, Korea, July 2003-partly sponsored by RSNZ under the MOU between NZ and South Korea, see http://parter.kaist.ac.kr/imi/

Graeme Wake

JAMES O'MALLEY NEWS

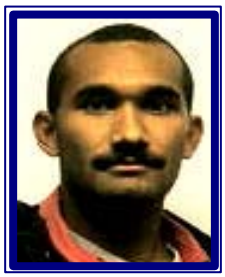
Anyone interested may check the Harvard University website at http://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/to find an article about research by James O'Malley, one of our statistics Ph.D.'s from a few years ago. James has been doing research and teaching at the Harvard School of medicine for a few years now.

Frank Lad

NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Just to keep everyone informed. The department welcomes the following postgraduates to the department.

Gunter Steinke

Names	Surname	Supervisor	Room No.	Ext. No.	
Philip J	**Daniel**	Charles Semple Mike Steel	522	7695	
Linda M G	**Moore**	Irene Hudson	607	8875	
Paul	**Roughan**	Allan Willms	501	8916	

DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

Current Visitors	Organisation	Room No.	Ext. No.	
Dr. David **Bryant**	McGill University	616	8876	
Dr. Wim **Hordijk**	Santa Fe Institute	720	8337	
Assoc. Prof. Peter **Lockhart**	Massey University	616	8876	
Prof. Philippe **Toint** *-Erskine Fellow*	University of Namur, Belgium	501	8376	

TOP TEN REASONS WHY *e* IS INFERIOR TO *pi* π

1.) *e* is less challenging to spell than *pi*.

2.) *e* ~=2.718281828459045, which can be easily memorized to its billionth place, whereas *pi* needs "skills" to be memorized.

3.) The character for *e* is so cheap that it can be found on a keyboard. But π is special (it's under "special symbols" in word processor programs.)

4.) *Pi* is the bigger piece of pie.

5.) *e* has an easy limit definition and infinite series. The limit definition of *pi* and the infinite series are much harder.

6.) *e* you understand what it is even though you start learning it late when you're in pre-calculus. But *pi*, even after five or six years it's still hard to know what it really is.

7.) People mistakenly confuse Euler's Number (*e*) with Euler's Constant (gamma). There is no confusion with the one and only π.

8.) *e* is named after a person, but *pi* stands for itself.

9.) *Pi* is much shorter and easier to say than "Euler's Number".

10.) To read *pi*, you don't have to know that Euler's name is really pronounced Oiler.

Molly

PROBLEM CORNER

A more theoretical one this week.

Let a_n for n = 1,2,3,... be strictly positive numbers with sum = 1.

Is it always possible to find disjoint CLOSED segments A_n in [0,1] such that length(A_n) = a_n ?

NOTE: It is impossible for finitely many a_n, but what about countably many, as above?

Bill Taylor