WELCOME TO:

◊ Professor Jotun Hein and Dr Annamette Hein who are visiting for 3 months on an Allan Wilson Centre sabbatical package. Jotun is Professor of Bioinformatics at Oxford University (Statistics) and is working mostly with Mike Steel.

◊ Professor Vincent Moulton and Dr Katharina Huber (University of East Anglia) who are here for the first term under the Erskine programme, working mostly with Charles Semple and Magnus Bordewich.

◊ Michelle Swenson from University of Texas, who is visiting until June and who is working on supertree theory.

◊ Burkard Polster who is here till June 10 on an Erskine Fellowship. Burkard is here with his wife Anu and their two children (1 and 2). Burkard is giving lectures for Maths in Perspective and will be joining Bill Baritompa on his "Dance of Mathematics" journeys around Canterbury. Burkard is in Room 605.

PAPERS PUBLISHED

B. Polster and G.F. Steinke; On the Kleinewillinghöfer types of flat Laguerre planes. Results Math. 46, 103-122 (2004).


BOOK ACCEPTED

PAPERS AND POSTERS PRESENTED


PAPERS ACCEPTED


M. Steel, Should phylogenetic models be trying to `fit an elephant'? Trends in Genetics.

PAPER SUBMITTED
T. Thierer and M. Steel, A characteristic function approach for phylogenies on binary characters, to Bioinformatics.

LINDA MOORE SIR JAMES HIGHT MEMORIAL PRIZE 2004
Linda Moore was awarded the Sir James Hight Memorial Prize in History for her thesis “Gender Counts: Men, Women and Electoral Politics in New Zealand, 1893-1919” in December 2004. The prize is awarded annually for excellence in history and to honour a research student who has displayed an outstanding love of learning. Accounts of electoral politics and voting in early 20th century NZ, have seldom considered gender. Moore trialled five methods for ecological inference and as such her work is a significant NZ contribution (the first quantitative contribution) in this area; awarded a High Distinction. Moore’s thesis was also the first to be jointly supervised by math/stat (I Hudson) and by history (Professor Miles Fairburn). Linda is now working for NZ Statistics (Chch then off to NZ Stat Wellington).

Irene Hudson
KYOKO FUKUDA AWARDED MSc & PhD SCHOLARSHIP
In December 2004 Kyoko Fukuda obtained a High Distinction for her Master’s thesis “New Improved Methods for Application & Interpretation of SSA: A case study of climate and air pollution in Christchurch, NZ”. Fukuda identified unique structures, not seen to date, in climate-pollution research. Fukuda developed a method to assess eigentriple similarity, novel work which she presented at the American Statistical Association, Computational Environmetrics Conference, Chicago, 2004. She was awarded a UC PhD scholarship and in April commences PhD work on statistical environmetrics with Irene and researchers in forestry and geography. Well done!  

Irene Hudson

CHARLES (QINGLIN) HU MSc SCHOLARSHIP
Charles (Qinglin) Hu has been successful in obtaining a UC MSc scholarship (2005). Charles is progressing work on tracking of deer population in NZ. He has been supervised by Irene and Hamish Cochrane (Forestry/Environmental Science) as of March 2004. We congratulate him!  

Irene Hudson

CANTERBURY MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CMRF) GRANT 2005 - 2006
A team from Christchurch School of Medicine & Health Sciences (Heitger et al), Physics (Watts) and Math/Stat (Hudson) were awarded a CMRF grant on “Mathematical and Image methods for Advanced MR imaging after mild closed head injury”. This project essentially funds the brain image research commenced by PhD Michael Chappell in 2004 and jointly supervised by Drs Watts (Phys) and Hudson (Math/Stat). Michael works also at CPIT.  

Irene Hudson

DEPARTMENT RESEARCH FUNDS
Congratulations to the following who had/have been awarded grants towards conference expenses:

- Michael Plank – MISG Conference which was held in Massey, Albany on the 24-28 January 2005; the ANZIAM Conference which was held on 30 January-3rd February in Napier; and the International Workshop on Algebra and Geometry at Victoria University in Wellington on February 9-10 2005.
- Gunter Steinke (The universal covering group of SL (2, P) as group of automorphisms of geometries) and Michael Plank – International Conference: Geometry, Interactions with Algebra and Analysis held at the University of Auckland, February 14-18 2005.
- Ben Martin - Oberwolfach Meeting “Groups and Geometry” being held in Oberwolfach, Germany, 6-12 March 2005; NZMRI Summer Workshop "Geometry: Interactions with Algebra and Analysis" held in Napier 8-15 January 2005; "International Workshop on Algebra", Victoria University in Wellington on the 9-10 February; "Geometry: Interactions with Algebra and Analysis", at the University of Auckland on the 8-14 February. Ben gave talks entitled "Completely reducible subgroups of reductive algebraic groups" and "Complete reducibility, geometric invariant theory, and a question of Serre" in Wellington and Auckland respectively.
- Qui Bui – Approximation and Harmonic Analysis Conference, held in Auckland, 8-11 February 2005; Special Semester on “Modern method of time-frequency analysis” at the ESI, Vienna 1-10 June – talk entitled “Non-orthogonal expansions and greedy algorithms”.
- Charles Semple – The Annual New Zealand Phylogenetics Meeting which was held in Whitianga 12-17 February 2005.
- Douglas Bridges to give a talk “Journeys in to Apartness Space” at the ASL Annual Meeting being held at Stanford University 19-22 March 2005, and to attend the ASL Spring Meeting in San Francisco 23-26 March 2005.
- Rick Beatson – To give a seminar to the Department of Mathematics at the University of Otago.
- Irene Hudson (Gendered counts of historical voting in NZ 1892-1919: A rigorous statistical ecological inference approach), Easaw Chacko and Murthy Mittinty (Bootstrap variance estimation for two stage cluster designs with imputed data) to attend the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute 2005, 5-12 April, being held in Sydney.
ERSKINE FELLOWSHIP ACCEPTED
Neil Watson will be hosting Professor Stephen J. Gardiner, of University College Dublin, who has accepted an invitation to visit Canterbury in July and August of 2006. Stephen's interests lie in the areas of Potential Theory, Function Theory, and Harmonic Approximation. For further details, visit his webpage at http://mathsa.ucd.ie/staff/sjg/.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS
It has been a clucky month in the office with Julie and Sarah’s sisters opting for some sleepless nights. Sarah’s first nephew arrived on the 2nd February at 4.31am, and Julie’s 7th niece on the 19th February at 4.37pm.

DEPARTMENT VISITORS

<table>
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<th>Current Visitors</th>
<th>Name of Organization</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Extn</th>
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<td>Prof. Claude Belisle</td>
<td>Université Laval</td>
<td>15 Dec 2004</td>
<td>30 Jun 2005</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>8376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Vincent Moulton Dr Katherine Huber</td>
<td>University of East Anglia</td>
<td>7 Feb 2005</td>
<td>9 Apr 2005</td>
<td>607</td>
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<td>Prof. Jotun Hein Dr Annamette Hein</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>5 Jan 2005</td>
<td>8 Apr 2005</td>
<td>620</td>
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<td>Dr Burkard Polster</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
<td>21 Feb 2005</td>
<td>10 Jun 2005</td>
<td>605</td>
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<td>Prof. Greg Reid</td>
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<td>28 Jan 2005</td>
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<td>Prof. James Oxley</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
<td>14 Mar 2005</td>
<td>18 Mar 2005</td>
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<td>Prof. Geoff Whittle</td>
<td>Victoria University, Wellington</td>
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<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>1 Jun 2005</td>
<td>16 Aug 2005</td>
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<td>Richard Laugeson</td>
<td>John Hopkins University, Maryland</td>
<td>9 Jul 2005</td>
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<td>Prof. Daniel Naiman</td>
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<td>Prof. Dominic Welsh</td>
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