

Newsletter

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“A committee is a cul de sac
down which ideas are lured
and then quietly strangled!”
- Sir Barnett Cocks

MARSDEN GRANT

Congratulations to Douglas Bridges, who has been awarded a Marsden Grant for a 3-year Postdoctoral Fellow to work with him on constructive reverse mathematics. The aim is to classify constructive theorems according to the strength of proof principles that they require, and to classify non-constructive theorems by the strength of non-constructive principles to which they are equivalent.

ALLAN WILSON CENTRE NEWS

- Two Allan Wilson Centre Summer scholarships have been awarded. One will support Simone Linz, who will be flying out from Dusseldorf, Germany, in January to work with Charles Semple. The other is for Tanja Gernhard, who is currently visiting from Munich.
- A one-year post-doctoral contract, commencing in February, has been signed by Oliver Will, who is currently in the USA.
- A PhD scholarship and fees (from the Allan Wilson Centre) has also been offered to Marakei Fisher from Germany, who will arrive in early 2006 to work with Mike Steel.
- The first and final Allan Wilson Centre Lecture will be presented on Wednesday 23 November at 5.30pm in A1. The speaker will be Prof. John Jungck, founder of the BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium and the title is: *Biological Patterns Through the eyes of Artists, Biologists and Mathematicians*.

Mike Steel

PAPERS PUBLISHED

D S Bridges, L S Vita, H Ishihara, P M Schuster: *Strong Continuity Implies Uniform Sequential Continuity*

PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Frank Lad: *Objective Bayesian Statistical Methods: Do You Buy It? Should We Sell It?* (A commentary on the papers of Berger and Goldstein). Accepted for publication in *Bayesian Analysis*.

CONFERENCE FUNDING

Congratulations to the following who have been awarded grants towards conferences:

Rick Beatson is attending the SIAM conference on Geometric Design and Computer in Phoenix Arizona from 30 October to 3 November. Rick is a keynote speaker and his paper is entitled: *RBF Interpolation to Function, Derivative and Integral Data*.

Ben Martin is attending the Group Theory Workshop at the University of Auckland on 1-2 November. His paper: *Coclass, p -adic integration and elimination of imaginaries*.

David Wall, Arno Berger and Alex James will be attending the NZ Mathematics Colloquium in Palmerston North from 5-7 December.

MATH406 SEMINAR

Doreen Bestmann, Damien Campbell, Alethea Rea and Bill Rea gave an excellent seminar in the Centre for Bioengineering as part of their assessment for MATH406 (Mathematical Models in Biology). The subject of the presentation was the honeydew scale insect (aka beetle), which they have been studying this semester together with Roger Duncan (Biology) and Alex James. These bugs are very interesting as little is known about them and yet they have a large impact on a forest's eco-system. At the seminar, some of the data collected on the MATH406 field trip in August was presented, along with the modelling work on how the beetles control the flow of honeydew and how the honeydew droplets evaporate over time.

Mike Plank

BRAIN TEASER

The first thirteen in an increasing sequence of 23 integers are as follows:

2, 7, 10, 13, 14, 22, 26, 27, 28, 31, 49, 53, 57

Can you identify the sequence? (Hint: think culturally.)

Douglas Bridges

HAIR-RAISING FUNDRAISING

A final reminder that Sarah Vincent's fundraiser for the Cancer Society takes place over Show Weekend, on Saturday 12th at approximately 3.00pm in the Birdcage at Riccarton Race Course. Many thanks to all those generous souls who have already contributed to this worthy cause.

WELCOME TO DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

Dr Jon Pitchford, from the Department of Mathematics & Biology at the University of York, is visiting until January 2006. He is currently working on models of stochasticity and uncertainty in Biology and Ecology. Recent work has been in applying stochastic differential and difference equations, and queueing models, to understand fish recruitment and fishery conservation. Other research interests involve simple models of plant growth and competition, aphid population outbreaks, soil biodiversity and carbon flux, and mixotrophy in plankton. Jon's pastimes include reading books and watching TV, having been banned from all hazardous pursuits following an exciting collaboration with his current host Alex James in the Italian Dolomites!



Dr Emily Lane, hosted by David Wall, is visiting us from UCLA where she has been working as a Post-Doctoral Researcher for the past year. She is interested in PDEs and dynamical systems and their applications to Geophysical systems with an emphasis on Geophysical Fluid Dynamics. Recently she has been working on understanding coastal wave-current interactions in the framework of the vortex force, using asymptotic methods to derive wave-averaged equations and then modeling near-shore and surf zone regimes. Her husband Chris and 9 month old daughter Ngaire have accompanied her to New Zealand and they all enjoy cycling, tramping, and the outdoors, with Ngaire showing a special predilection for eating dirt!

Professor Minoru Murata of the Department of Mathematics at Tokyo Institute of Technology will be visiting the Department for the week of 19-26 November. The co-author of over 40 research papers, he is working in partial differential equations related to non-negative solutions of parabolic and elliptic equations. Neil Watson will be his host.

Current Visitors	Name of Organization	From	To	Room	Extn
Dr John Holt	Massey University, NZ	15 March 05	31 March 06	502	7663
Prof Dominic Welsh	University of Oxford, England	1 Sep 2005	1 Dec 2005	620	7431
Ms Tanja Gernhard	Technical University of Munich	24 Sep 2005	24 Dec 2005	616	8876
Dr Granville Tunnicliffe-Wilson	Lancaster University, England	25 Sep 2005	15 Nov 2005	710	7431
Dr Emily Lane	University of California, USA	1 Oct 2005	31 Mar 2006	502	7663
Dr Jon Pitchford	University of York, England	15 Oct 2005	15 Jan 2006	607	8875
Prof Minoru Murata	Tokyo Inst. of Technology, Japan	19 Nov 2005	26 Nov 2005	501	8376
Visitors due to arrive	Name of Organization	From	To	Room	Extn
Dr Robin Havea	University of the South Pacific, Fiji	28 Nov 2005	23 Dec 2005	605	8028
Dr John Newell	University of Ireland, Galway	19 Dec 2005	24 Jun 2006	501	8376
Ms Ramona Schmid	Tübingen University, Germany	6 Jan 2006	6 Jun 2006	620	8028
Dr David Borchers	University of St Andrews, Scotland	23 Jan 2006	11 Aug 2006	501	8376
Dr Sean Cleary	City University of New York, USA	1 Feb 2006	30 Mar 2006	607	8875
Dr Katherine St John	City University of New York, USA	1 Feb 2006	30 Mar 2006	607	8875
Prof. Domenica Piccolo	Univ. of Napoli Federico II, Italy	7 Feb 2006	6 May 2006	605	8028
Prof. Daniel Huson	Tübingen University, Germany	15 Feb 2006	15 Jun 2006	620	8028
Prof. Stephen Gardiner	University College Dublin, Ireland	01 Jul 2006	31 Aug 2006	605	8028
Prof. Jeremy Levesley	University of Leicester, England	9 Jul 2006	14 Sep 2006	605	8028