

# Newsletter

## Mathematics & Statistics

ISSUE 9/06

December 2006

### THIS ISSUE

1. Ben and Rachel
2. Soccer - Staff vs Students
3. SIMASP Conference
4. Papers Submitted/Accepted/Published
5. Departmental Visitors
6. Climbing the Walls



### CONGRATULATIONS!



**Ben Martin and Rachel Shelton** were married on Sunday 26 November at the Old Stone House in Cracroft.

Rachel, who is originally from Brisbane, has been living in Christchurch since mid-2005. She works in the IT section of the Central Library.

The large contingent of Australians who came over for the event were treated to a display of typical Christchurch Spring weather – strong winds, rain, and enough sun to burn the unwary!

The big bowl of bananas at the reception was particularly popular with the Australian visitors, as bananas are currently selling for \$11 per kilo in Queensland!

Ben and Rachel are expecting their first child at the end of January.

### STAFF VS STUDENTS SOCCER MATCH

For the third consecutive year, the students emerged as winners of the annual staff versus students fixture, but were run close by an impressive staff team ... according to some!

The final score was 6-3 to the students, with goals scored by **Peter Humphries**, **Scott Graybill** and **Daniel Lond**, for the victors, while **Ben Martin**, **Mike Plank** and **Sarah Vincent** scored for the staff.

In this photo, **Simple Senior** demonstrates characteristic courage as he fights off a stiff challenge from **Simple Junior**!



## SIMASP CONFERENCE – NOV 2006

Twenty-six postgraduate students and staff from the Universities of Canterbury and Otago converged on Queenstown for the inaugural S. Island Mathematics & Statistics Postgraduate Conference held over 3 days in November.

The talks reflected the broad range of studies that can be undertaken in mathematics, including modelling downhill skiing, matroids, teaching maths, and frontal lobotomies. The award for best student talk, courtesy of the NZMS and Prof. Gaven Martin, was presented to Nicole Kleinstreuer.



Queenstown was an ideal setting for SIMASP. Contrary to expectations, the locals weren't unfriendly except for the vicious magpie that attacked poor Mike Plank, which he claims was a Haast eagle!

This was a hugely successful conference, providing participants with a chance to present their work in a friendly setting and make useful connections with other students. It was inspired by John Hannah and Derek Holton, who delegated its organization to Alex James, who, in turn, convinced PhD students Daniel Lond and Scott Graybill that it would be good for them to organize a conference! Scott and Daniel did a superb job and deserve to be congratulated. Thanks also to Julie Daly for her motherly supervision!

The conference could not have taken place without the financial support of both university departments and the NZMS, and on behalf of all participants we extend our warm thanks to them. Funding permitting, we look forward to another captivating conference next year!

*Klaas Hartmann & Hannes Diener*

### PAPERS SUBMITTED

**Michael Chappell, Jennifer Brown, John Dalrymple-Alford, Aziz Ulug & Richard Watts:** *Multivariate approaches increase the sensitivity of diffusion tensor imaging voxel-based analysis: cortical and subcortical microstructural damage in young professional boxers.* (Human Brain Mapping)

**Nisse Goldberg, John Heine & Jennifer Brown:** *The application of adaptive cluster sampling for rare subtidal macroalgae.* (Marine Biology)

**A N H Smith & J A Brown:** *The response of rare herbaceous plants to the removal of unwanted competitors in an unproductive environment* (Austral Ecology).

**John Hannah:** *False position in Leonardo of Pisa's Liber Abbaci* (Historia Mathematica)

### PAPERS ACCEPTED

**W Zhao, E G Mason & J Brown (2006):** *Modelling height-diameter relationships of pinus radiata plantations in Canterbury, New Zealand* (NZ Journal of Forestry 51 (1): 23-27)

### PAPERS PUBLISHED

**G F Steinke:** *A classification of 4-dimensional elation Laguerre planes of group dimension 10* (Advances in Geometry 6, 339-360, 2006)

**G F Steinke:** *The automorphism groups of the Laguerre near-planes of order four.* (Australasian Journal of Combinatorics 36, 249-263, 2006)

### CHAPTERS IN BOOK

The work of **Jennifer Brown, Marco Reale & Carl Scarrott** appears in numerous entries in the recently published Encyclopaedia of Measurement and Statistics, 2006 (SAGE, CA)

## WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

**Prof. Rainer Loewen** (Department of Analysis and Topology, Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany,) arrived on 30 November for a six-week stay. Rainer is a former Erskine visitor and last visited us in 2003. His seminar on 7 December at 11.00am is entitled *Compact Projective Planes: an Introduction to Topological Geometry*. Rainer is hosted by Gunter Steinke and based in Room 607.

**Dr Michael Bate** is visiting from the University of Oxford from 30 November to 16 December. He is working with Ben Martin on reductive algebraic groups and their subgroups and is based in Room 605.

**Prof. Richard Laugesen** (University of Illinois and graduate of Canterbury University) is returning on 18 December for a brief visit. His host is Qui Bui and he will be based in Room 710.

Visitors	Name of Organization	From	To	Room	Extn
Ms Simone Linz	University of Dusseldorf, Germany	29 Sep 2006	31 Aug 2007	724	7691
Ms Beata Faller	Eotvos University, Hungary	14 Oct 2006	20 Dec 2006	616	8876
Dr Wolfgang zu Castell	ESF Research Ctre, Munich	14 Nov 2006	28 Nov 06	501	8376
Dr Michael Bate	University of Oxford, England	30 Nov 2006	16 Dec 2006	605	8028
Prof Rainer Loewen	University of Braunschweig	30 Nov 2006	6 Jan 2006	607	8875
Prof Richard Laugesen	University of Illinois	18 Dec 2006	6 Jan 2007	710	7694

## CLIMBING THE WALLS

Staff and various offspring demonstrate their climbing skills during a recent night out at Roxx.

(Clockwise from left: Alice Daly, Alex James, John Hannah & Clemency Williams, Martin Hannah & Mike Plank, and Charles Semple with Henry & William.)

