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BIOMATH WORKSHOP

Last month, a week-long biomath workshop was held at the University of Canterbury's field station at Cass, near Arthur's Pass.

This small, informal meeting has been held for the past 3 years to provide a focus for the overseas visitors and Summer students who typically are around following the annual phylogenetics meeting in February.

This year's Cass theme was *Random models in phylogenetics and resolving ancient divergences*, and around 15 people were involved during the week.



Working inside the cosy Cass field station



Klaas Hartmann, Denis Wong, Tracy Heath, Stefan Grunewald & Tanja Gernhard on their way up Mt Rolleston

The weather was better this year, so besides a good deal of discussion, reading, and writing, a moderate amount of 'field work' was also undertaken. That included ascents of Mt Misery (Klaas, Tanja & Stefan) - despite becoming stranded at one point in Misery Swamp, which is marked on the map, apparently! - as well as a traverse of the three peaks of Mt Binser (Erick). In addition, some of the crew, including Mike Plank, took part in the 'Avalanche Peak Challenge' mountain race on Saturday 24 February, cheered on by Carl Scarrott, who was perched halfway up the first grunty section.

Perhaps the highlight of the 'field work' was a trip up Mt Rolleston, towards the end of the week. Ascent was via the Otira Valley and via rock on to the upper Goldney ridge, a route necessitated by the complete lack of any alpine equipment! Once the cloud cleared, the weather was perfect and we got to try out the new walkie-talkies, which worked splendidly for keeping in touch between the two groups.

Mike Steel

NEW ARRIVAL – DR PHIL WILSON

Phil Wilson moved to New Zealand from Japan early this year to take up a lecturing position with this department. We welcome Phil and his family (wife Yuri and son Koto) and wish them all the best for their new life in Christchurch. Phil's research interests include mathematical modelling in biology and industry, multi-scale information transfer and emergent phenomena, and the philosophy and communication of mathematics.



WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

Associate Professor Xuan Thinh Duong will be arriving next month to collaborate with Qui Bui on a project on function spaces associated with a differential operator. Professor Duong is an expert on harmonic analysis, and is well-known internationally for his research on singular integral operators and function spaces on spaces of homogenous type. His visit is supported by a grant from the Australian Research Council.

Professor Lyman McDonald from Wyoming, USA, is arriving early April as an Erskine Fellow. He is also associated with the Modelling Invasive Species and Weed Impact programme. Lyman is the president of Western EcoSystems Technology Inc., a company that provides environmental and statistical consulting services. He has been involved in a number of very interesting environmental projects, including surveying golden eagles, grizzly bears, and polar bears. All in a day's work for a statistician, claims Jennifer Brown!

<u>Visitor</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Extn</u>
Ms Simone Linz	Dusseldorf University, Germany	C Semple	29/9/06	31/8/07	724	7691
Dr Magnus Bordewich	Durham University, UK	C Semple	8/1/07	30/3/07	724	7691
Dr Balchandra Thatte	Massey University	M Steel	8/1/07	31/3/07	720	8337
Ms Tanya Gernhard	Munich University, Germany	M Steel	19/1/07	10/4/07	620	7431
Mr Dennis Wong	New Brunswick University, Canada	M Steel	1/2/07	5/4/07	710	7694
Prof G Kristensson	Lund University Sweden	D Wall	7/2/07	14/4/07	607	8875
Prof Richard Law	York University, UK	D Wall	10/2/07	21/4/07	607	8875
Prof H van Maldeghem	Ghent University, Belgium	G Steinke	20/2/07	14/7/07	605	8028
Fabio Pardi	Welcome Trust Genome Campus, UK	M Steel	20/3/07	23/4/07	710	7694
Dr Kamila Larripa	University of California, Davis	A James	1/4/07	1/5/07	724	7691
A/Prof Xuan T Duong	Macquarie University, Australia	Q Bui	9/4/07	20/4/07	710	7694
Prof. Lyman MacDonald	University of Wyoming, USA	J Brown	14/4/07	10/6/07	605	8028
Prof. Tony Olsen	E.P.A.	J Brown	23/4/07	27/4/07	605	8028

(Erskine Fellows)

Welcome also to **Meghan Williams**, a newly arrived PhD student from California. Meghan is the NZIMA PhD scholarship student with the Modelling Invasive Species and Weed Impact programme. Meghan is studying with Jennifer Brown and Alex James and will be associated with the new Geospatial Research Centre. She is an environmental science student and her expertise is in GIS.

PAPERS ACCEPTED

N G Gresnigt, P F Renaud & P H Butler: *The Stabilised Poincare-Heisenberg Algebra – A Clifford Algebra Viewpoint* (Int. J Modern Physics D)

PAPERS PUBLISHED

D S Bridges: *Constructing Local Optima on a Compact Interval* (Arch. Math. Logic 46, 149-154, 2007)

D S Bridges, H Ishihara, R Mines, F Richman, P M Schuster & L S Vita: *Almost Locatedness in Uniform Spaces* (Czechoslovak Math J. 57(1), 1-12, 2007)

NZIMA ONLINE VIDEOS

NZIMA (New Zealand Institute for Mathematics and its Applications) recently released a DVD and on-line resource at <http://www.mathsreach.org/>, to promote mathematics and statistics in schools and the wider community. The DVD includes interviews with six academics, four of whom - Jennifer Brown, Alex James, Ben Martin and Mike Steel – are from this department. This resource was launched last month by the Prime Minister.

FEATS OF ENDURANCE!

Some scale mountains while others devour inedible edibles...



Stefan Grunewald (above) and Klaas Hartmann (right) on the Biomath field trip



Sarah Vincent and friends devouring some vile part of a cow's anatomy at the Wild Foods Festival on the West Coast
