

# Newsletter

## Mathematics & Statistics

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### THIS ISSUE

1. "Amazing Grace"
2. NZMASP 2007
3. Congratulations
4. Departmental Visitors
5. Papers Accepted/Published
6. Conferences & Visits
7. Soccer – Staff vs Students

### "AMAZING GRACE"

Dr Grace Johnson was farewelled at the tutors' end of year function in October. Commencing her university studies in her 50s, embarking on her successful PhD studies in her 70s, and retiring from tutoring in her 80s to concentrate on the great New Zealand novel, Grace is an inspiration to us all!



Grace with (from left) Jacqueline Congdon, Carl Scarrott, Irene David, Hilary Seddon, Kyoko Fukuda (front), Olena Rodnyanskiy and Anna MacDonald



Grace with PhD supervisor, Frank Lad

### NZ MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS POSTGRADUATE (NZMASP) CONFERENCE 2007

The inaugural NZMASP Conference will be held at Rydges Lakeside Resort in Queenstown on Thursday, 22 November and Friday 23 November 2007. This conference will bring together postgraduates from around New Zealand to present and discuss their research. On-line registration is open on the conference website: <http://www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/bio/NZMASP/>.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Jason Bentley** won a prize for best student presentation at the 2007 Spring Bayes Conference in Brisbane for his talk on *Exact Markov Chain Monte Carlo and Bayesian Variable Selection*. This is the second prize Jason has won for his Masters research.

**Sarah Hickford**, Math/Emth171 & 271 Course Administrator, has been awarded a PhD in Chemistry.

**Piers Lawrence** has been awarded a Summer Scholarship by the Australian National University in Canberra.

**Ash Lightfoot** has been awarded a University of Canterbury Summer Scholarship. The title of his project is *Relatives of the von Koch snowflake curves and their properties*, and his supervisor will be Gunter Steinke.

## WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

**Dr Timothy Robinson** (University of Wyoming) is visiting Jennifer Brown from 5 November to 28 June 2008. His areas of interest are design of experiments; response surface methodology; categorical data analysis; and applications in engineering, medicine and the environment. He will be based in Room 605.



**Dr Oleg Davydov** (University of Strathclyde) will be visiting Rick Beatson for two weeks from 24 November. His areas of interest are: approximation theory; finite elements; multivariate splines; wavelets; scattered data fitting; denoising & compression; and numerical solution of partial differential equations. He will be based in Room 710.

<u>Visitor</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Extn</u>
Tobias Thierer	University of Auckland	M Steel	21/5/07	21/12/07	616	8876
Prof. Willy Hereman	Colorado School of Mines, USA	M Hickman	1/7/07	20/12/07	605	8028
Dr Oleg Davydov	University of Strathclyde, Scotland	R Beatson	24/11/07	8/12/07	710	7694
Dr Timothy Robinson	University of Wyoming, USA	J Brown	5/11/07	28/6/08	605	8028
Alethea Rea	University of Auckland	M Steel	3/12/07	4/1/08	620	7431

## PAPERS ACCEPTED

**D S Bridges:** *Uniform Continuity Properties of Preference Relations* (Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic)

**J Berger & D S Bridges:** *The anti-Specker property, a Heine-Borel property and uniform continuity* (Archive for Math. Logic)

**Neil A Watson:** *An extension theorem for supertemperatures* (Annales Academiae Scientiarum Fennicae Mathematica)

## PAPERS PUBLISHED

**J Berger & D S Bridges:** *A fan-theoretic equivalent of the antithesis of Specker's theorem* (Proc. Koninklijke Nederlandse Akad. Wet. (Indag. Math., N.S. 18(2), 195-202)

**D F Robinson:** *Strip Patterns – an analysis by windows* (NZ Mathematics Magazine Vol. 44, No. 2, August 2007, pp14-22)

## **CONFERENCES & VISITS**

**Gunter Steinke:** to give a talk on *Trades in Transversal Designs TD\_1(3,4,4) and Geometric Substitution* at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Australasian Conference on Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing (32ACCMCC) in Dunedin, 3-7 December 2007

**Douglas Bridges:** to give a talk on *Constructive Reverse Mathematics* at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007.

**Rick Beatson:** to give a talk on *RBFs on Projected Space* at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007

**Alex James:** to give a talk on *From Lessons to Lectures: NCEA Results and First Year Mathematics Performance* at the NZMS-AMS Joint meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007

**Iris Loeb:** to give a talk on *Indecomposability of the Continuum in Constructive Reverse Mathematics* at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007.

**Rua Murray:** to attend the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007, followed by a research visit with Dalia Terhesiu in Christchurch, 16-22 December 2007

**Neil Watson:** to attend the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007.

**PhD students Scott Graybill, Peter Humphries, Hannes Diener & Daniel Lond:** to give talks at the NZMS-AMS Joint Meeting in Wellington, 12-15 December 2007

**NZ Mathematics & Statistics Postgraduate Conference 2007:** 22-23 November 2007, Queenstown (see page one).

## **SOCCER MATCH REPORT – THE STAFF PERSPECTIVE!**

Staff: Begg, Hauber, Martin, Montelle, Obaid, Plank & Sainudiin

Students: Bentley, Diener, Graybill, Humphries, Carding, Lond & Richens



*Plank & Graybill keeping their eye on the ball*



*Montelle and reserves cooling their heels on the sideline*

The students took the title of UC Mathematics Football Champions for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year after a closely fought encounter. After pre-match complaints about the eligibility of some of the staff team were dismissed, the match got underway in gale-force winds. The staff took an early lead and maintained a slender advantage for most of the game, in spite of some freak student goals caused by the following wind! However, the departure of half the staff team with 10 minutes left on the clock was fatal. Heroic goalkeeping by Ben Martin could only stem the tide for so long and in the end the students exploited their numerical advantage to take and retain the lead until the final whistle!

- Mike Plank