

Newsletter

Mathematics & Statistics

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THIS ISSUE

1. Fulbright New Zealand
2. Congratulations
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(L to R) Mele Wendt, Executive Director of Fulbright NZ; Clemency Montelle; Harriet Fulbright; and a representative from the NZ Federation of University Women.

On 12 December last year, **Clemency Montelle** attended a Fulbright New Zealand event at Parliament House in Wellington hosted by the Hon. Parekura Horomia. The function was in honour of the visit to New Zealand of Harriet Fulbright, wife of US Senator Fulbright who initiated the international Fulbright Programme. The guests included Prime Minister Helen Clark, the US Ambassador William McCormick, and the Hon. Chris Carter.

Clemency, a former Fulbright Scholar who studied for her PhD in History of Mathematics at Brown University, has recently been appointed to the position of Fulbright New Zealand On-Campus Advisor and Representative for the University of Canterbury.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The departmental prize winners for 2007 are:

- Peter Bryant Memorial Prize (100 level): **Abhishek Vadnerkar**
- Peter Bryant Memorial Prize (200 level): **Parham Baghaie & James Dent** (shared)
- Cook Memorial Prize: **Timothy Candy**
- Page Memorial Prize: **Ashley Lightfoot**
- Statistics New Zealand Prize: **Shaodan (Anna) Lin**
- William Brent Wilson Memorial Prize: **Jevon Carding**

Statistics New Zealand Undergraduate Prize 2007

Statistics New Zealand awards an annual prize to the best 300-level Statistics student from each of New Zealand's universities. Due to her excellent performance, **Shaodan (Anna) Lin** was awarded the University of Canterbury prize for 2007.

Rachel Milicich (General Manager, Statistics NZ's Geography, Regional and Environment Unit) is pictured, with Carl Scarrott, presenting the prize to Anna at Statistics NZ's Christchurch branch office.

Anna has recently taken up a position in that office's Statistical Methodology section, but will be returning to UC part-time to take some of our honours courses as part of her continuing professional development.



The following students have been awarded Postgraduate Scholarships:

- **Anna MacDonald** (Canterbury Doctoral Scholarship)
- **Shannon Ezzat** (UC Doctoral Scholarship)
- **Miriam Hodge** (UC Doctoral Scholarship)
- **Timothy Candy** (UC Masters Scholarship)
- **Matthew Hendtlass** (UC Masters Scholarship)

Last month, **Raazesh Sainudiin** was awarded a certificate signed by the Duke of Edinburgh, Chairman and President of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, in recognition of his research at the University of Oxford during 2005-2007 into integrating information from ape genomes with human population genetic data.

Congratulations to **Paul Brouwers** and his partner of 6 years, **Angela Knibbs**, who became engaged on Sunday 20 January at the Ilam Gardens!

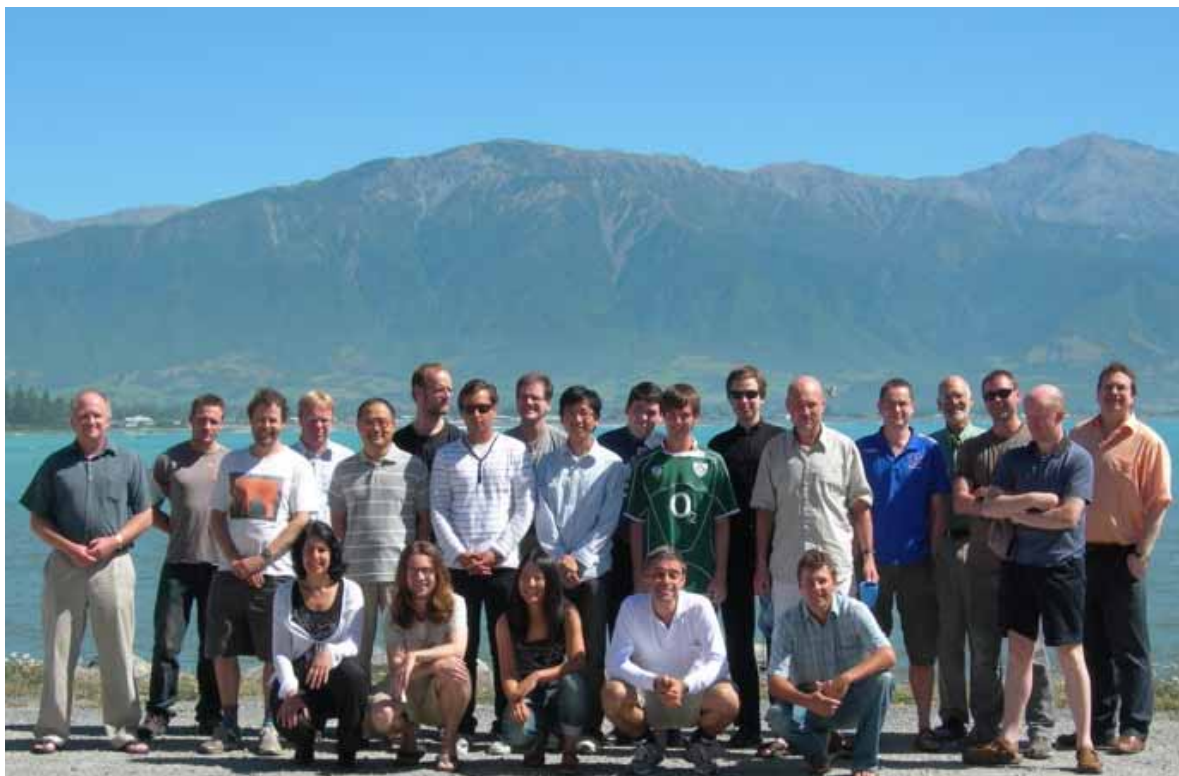


WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

| <u>Visitor</u> | <u>Organization</u> | <u>Host</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> | <u>Room</u> | <u>Extn</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Dr Tim Robinson | University of Wyoming, USA | J Brown | 13/12/07 | 11/7/08 | 605 | 8028 |
| Dr Michael Bate | Conference attendee | B Martin | 4/1/08 | 26/1/08 | 621 | 8349 |
| Prof Lisa Carbone | " | " | 18/1/08 | 23/1/08 | 605 | 8028 |
| Prof Konstantin Mischaikow | " | " | 18/1/08 | 23/1/08 | 605 | 8028 |
| Dr Simon Collins | " | " | 18/1/08 | 2/2/08 | 607 | 8875 |
| Tanja Gernhard | Munich University, Germany | M Steel | 24/1/08 | 14/3/08 | 616 | 8876 |
| Dr Robin Havea | University of the Sth Pacific, Fiji | D Bridges | 1/2/08 | 11/7/08 | 605 | 8028 |
| Prof Angus MacIntyre (E.) | Queen Mary University, London | D Bridges | 2/2/08 | 16/4/08 | 607 | 8875 |
| Dr Beatrice Pelloni | Reading University, UK | D Bridges | 2/2/08 | 16/4/08 | 607 | 8875 |
| Dr M Bartholomew-Biggs (E) | University of Hertfordshire, UK | I Coope | 22/2/08 | 11/4/08 | 605 | 8028 |

(E) = Erskine Fellow

CONFERENCE ON FINITE GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIONS



A conference on Finite Groups and Representations was held from 14-18 January at the university's field station in Kaikoura. The theme of the conference was theoretical and computational aspects of finite groups, algebraic groups and related algebras.

Twenty-six people attended from New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the USA. The overseas visitors were very impressed by the sudden southerly squall that struck during the conference dinner and threatened to blow away wine glasses, plates and small babies! But for most of the time the weather was excellent. Two people climbed up Mt Fyffe on the rest day, while others contented themselves with more leisurely pursuits such as whale-watching, walking around the peninsula or just hanging out in local cafes.

The conference was supported by money from the Marsden Fund, NZIMA and the Mathematics & Statistics Department. I'm grateful to all the people who helped with the conference organisation, especially Julie Daly, Dietrich Radel, Daniel Lond, Matt Hendtlass and my wife, Rachel.

Ben Martin

CONFERENCE FUNDING

Alex James: for Richard Brown to attend the 4th Australian Postgraduate Workshop on Stochastic Processes and Modelling (APWSPM 2008) at the University of Adelaide, 10-13 February 2008 (talk tba)

Josh Collins & Michael Snook: to attend the NZIMA Algorithmics Workshop in Napier, 18-22 February 2008 (talk tba)

Bill Rea: to give a talk entitled *Estimators for Long Range Dependence: an Empirical Study*, in conjunction with Marco Reale and Jennifer Brown, at the Econometric Study Group meeting at the University of Auckland, 7 – 9 March 2008

Michael Plank: to attend the SIZEMIC Workshop on Trophic Dynamics in Ecosystems at the University of Cambridge, 4 – 7 April 2008 (talk tba)

Bill Taylor: to give a talk entitled *Combining Mutators and the Math Behind Progressive Mutators* at the Board Game Studies Colloquium at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, 23 – 26 April 2008

THE 'COAST TO COAST' RACE

Good luck to the A Team of **David Wall** (bike and kayak) and **Alex James** (run and bike) who will be flying the flag for the mathematical fraternity early in February during this 2-day event! Photos of their moment of triumph / shattered remains (delete whichever is not applicable) will be sure to feature in the next newsletter!

While David plays his cards close to his chest, Alex is out there striking fear into the hearts of the opposition with her impressive training regime, as the following photos demonstrate:



Alex undergoes a rigorous training session led by trainer Timothy Thomas (on loan from the Jennifer Brown stable)



Generous sponsorship from the Maths & Stats Dept has given Alex access to state-of-the-art equipment!