

Newsletter

Mathematics & Statistics

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PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE RETREAT WEEKEND



Philip Catton (UC Philosophy), Clemency Montelle and Kathy Clark were joined by students from the Mathematics, Philosophy and Computer Science Departments at a recent weekend retreat at the Kaikoura Field Station to hear talks on Newton, Frege, Peirce, Mathematical Logics and Mathematical Physics. Distinguished visitors included Mark Wilson (visiting Erskine Fellow from the University of Pittsburgh), Cathy Legg (Waikato University), David Wiltshire (UC Physics), Aneta Cubrinovska (UC Philosophy) and Thomas Forster (UC Philosophy).

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>
Simon van Gennip	University of York, UK	A James	9/5/09	15/9/09	605	8028
Prof. Tae-Young Yang	Myong Ji University, Sth Korea	M Steel	12/7/09	12/12/09	620	7431
Prof. John Rhodes (Erskine)	University of Alaska Fairbanks	M Steel	15/7/09	1/11/09	607	8875
Prof. Elizabeth Allman	University of Alaska Fairbanks	M Steel	15/7/09	1/11/09	616	8876
Prof. Huaxiong Huang (Erskine)	York University, Toronto	P Wilson	19/7/09	22/8/09	607	8875
Elisabeth Bauma	Westfälische Wilhelms Universität	P Wilson	23/7/09	21/8/09	703	8878
Tim Candy	University of Edinburgh	Q Bui	25/8/09	30/9/09	605	8028

ERSKINE VISITOR - CANCELLATION

Regretfully, Dr Eleanor Robson, who was due to arrive this month, has had to cancel her visit at the last minute due to family circumstances.



ERSKINE VISITOR

Recent Erskine visitor Huaxiong Huang managed to see something of the country and its inhabitants during his stay.

The first photo (top left) records his first encounter with NZ sheep on Mt Maunganui.

The second photo (top right) shows him relaxing in the Hanmer Springs hot pools with Phil and Koto Wilson.

The third photo (right) with Graeme Wake was taken at Massey University's Albany campus.



BOOK SUBMITTED

Clemency Montelle: *Chasing Shadows: Mathematics, Astronomy and the Early History of Eclipse Reckoning* (John Hopkins University Press)

PAPERS SUBMITTED

Andreas Dress, Vincent Moulton, Mike Steel & Taoyang Wu: *Species, Clusters and the 'Tree of Life': a graph-theoretic perspective* (submitted to Systematic Biology)

PAPERS ACCEPTED

Jennifer Harlow, Bry Ashman & Raazesh Sainudiin: *Extending Galton's Binomial Quincunx to the Trinomial Septcunx* (Technological Innovations in Statistics Education, Berkeley Electronic Press)

Mike Steel & Michael J Sanderson: *Characterizing phylogenetically decisive taxon coverage* (Applied Mathematics Letter)

CONFERENCES & VISITS

Jennifer Brown: to give a talk, in conjunction with Tim Robinson, entitled *Reducing Uncertainty about Uncertainty* at the NZSA conference and workshop at Victoria University, 2-3 September 2009.

Richard Brown: last month gave talks at the University of York (UK), the University of Osnabrück (Germany), and the Society for Mathematical Biology (SMB) Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Ian Coope: to present an invited paper at the Optimization special session of the AustMS 53rd Meeting, University of South Australia, Adelaide, 28 September – 1 October 2009.

James Degnan: to attend the NZSA Conference at Victoria University, 31 August – 2 September 2009

John Hannah: to give a talk entitled *The Language of Linear Algebra* at the Delta Conference in Capetown, 29 November – 4 December 2009.

Anna MacDonald: to present a poster at the Spatio-temporal Extremes and Applications Workshop and the Risk, Rare Events and Extremes Conference in Lausanne, 9 – 13 November 2009; and to visit Lancaster University.

Richard Penny & Raazesh Sainudiin: to present a paper entitled *Imputation Variance Estimation for Statistics New Zealand's Accommodation Occupancy* at the NZSA 2009 Conference in Wellington, 2-3 September 2009.

Mike Plank: to give a talk entitled *Effective Assessment of Computational Skills* at the Delta Conference in Capetown, 29 November – 4 December 2009.

Marco Reale: to attend the 3rd International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics in Cyprus, 29-31 October 2009. Marco has co-authored 3 of the papers. He will also be part of the scientific panel and will chair a session.

Blair Robertson: to present a paper at the 3rd Computational and Financial Econometrics Conference in Cyprus, 29-31 October 2009.

Raazesh Sainudiin: to give a talk entitled *Computational Statistical Laboratories with SAGE Notebook Server* at the Kiwi Pycon 2009 Conference in Christchurch, 7-8 November 2009.

NEW POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



Welcome to Igor Rychkov, who arrived recently to take up a 2-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow, working with Rick Beatson.

Igor came to us from the UK where he worked on SPH modeling of geophysical fluids and surface roughness analysis based on TLS point clouds. Prior to that, he spent some time in Australia deriving new statistical ensembles. His new project is about RBF and wavelet-based surface modeling on CUDA-GPU.

Igor's interests are varied, and include soccer, windsurfing, tai chi and life drawing.



A view of Kranjska Gora in Slovenia, where Douglas & Viv Bridges were spending a few days en route to a meeting in Ljubljana.

POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE SHOWCASE

The UCSA in association with the University of Canterbury is hosting the Postgraduate Conference: Showcase on 2 September in the South Arts Block. This is a valuable opportunity for postgraduates to present their research to a general audience and win great cash prizes. It is also an opportunity to meet postgrads from other departments and see the range of research being undertaken at Canterbury. Staff and other students are also encouraged to come along and watch the presentations.

Postgrads who wish to enter a 10-minute presentation of their research, a conference poster, or put on a performance are asked to sign up on the website: www.canterbury.ac.nz/showcase. General enquiries should be sent to postgrad@ucsa.canterbury.ac.nz.