

Newsletter

Mathematics & Statistics

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November-December 2009

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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING RESEARCH AWARD



PVC Jan Evans-Freeman presenting Douglas Bridges with a 2009 College of Engineering Research Award

HoD NEWS

We have now reached the end of the teaching year, with the exams and all the associated marking, examiners' meetings and the inevitable aegrotats now behind us.

Thank you all for your efforts this year, especially for the work that went into the 15-point changes. 2010 will be a year of change with some 15-point courses being implemented and others planned for 2011, which will mean more work for us all.

I do believe that the 15-point scheme is a change for the better and, hopefully, in a few years when it has all settled down, we will have a more efficient and well-designed programme of study. Until then, all I can say is keep looking forward to the day we can say "Phew, that was worth all the effort!"

We have had an outstanding month, research-wise, with Mike Steel being awarded the James Cook Fellowship, two Marsden grants to Charles Semple and Mike Steel, and a Fast-Start grant to James Degnan. Douglas Bridges topped it off with the College Research Award (left) – one of only 2 awarded in 2009. Well done to those people and to all the Department for your ongoing research.

Enjoy the Summer months!

- Jennifer Brown

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Clemency Montelle** who has been invited to be an investigator in the recently awarded 4-year project *Numerical Tables and the History of the Mathematics* funded by the French ANR, as part of the Rehseis research group in the Laboratoire d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences in conjunction with CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) and Paris VII-Denis Diderot University. This is an international research collaboration of high prestige and the CNRS is the leading French institution for scientific research.

- Charles Semple

Congratulations to **Michael Langton** for successfully completing his PhD. The title of his thesis is *Radial Basis Functions Applied to Integral Interpolation, Piecewise Surface Reconstruction and Animation Control*.

Congratulations also to Mathematics Honours student **Thomas Steinke**, whose Computer Science team, Team JET, has come top for the second year in a row in a national programming contest. They were named New Zealand champions once again in this year's ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest and placed second overall in the South Pacific regional finals, where more than 70 teams competed for the chance to represent their country in the contests' world finals in China next February.

Congratulations to **Richard and Emily Brown** on the arrival of their 4th child, Isabelle Joy, on 17 November. Mother and baby are doing well and all are sighing with relief after a difficult pregnancy.



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>
Karen Magnuson-Ford	Simon Fraser University, Canada	M Steel	23/9/09	8/12/09	616	8876
Travis Ingram	University of British Columbia	M Steel	29/9/09	17/12/09	620	7431
Tom Wilkinson	University of Otago	D Wall	4/11/09	29/1/10	444	7882
Prof. Rauno Aulaskari	Joensuu University, Finland	Q Bui	18/11/09	29/11/09	605	8028
Dr Robin Havea	University of the Sth Pacific	D Bridges	7/12/09	22/12/09	605	8028
Prof. Richard Laugesen	University of Illinois	Q Bui	17/12/09	14/1/09	605	8028

BOOK ACCEPTED

Neil Watson: *Introduction to Heat Potential Theory* (Mathematical Surveys and Monographs series, American Mathematical Society)

PAPER ACCEPTED

A Klein, J Schillewaert & L Storme: *Generalised Veroneseans* (Advances in Geometry)

RESIGNATION

Neil Watson has announced his retirement, with effect from 19 February 2010, to devote more time to the book he is currently writing and to his other interests.

RETIREMENT

BILL TAYLOR

A function was held last month to mark Bill Taylor's retirement after 30 years with the Department.

However, Bill will no doubt continue to be a familiar face around the department for some time to come.



53rd MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY



UC conference delegates dining out in Adelaide – seated L to R: Kathy Clark, Chris Price, Clemency Montelle, Mark Hickman and Ian Coope. Rumour has it that IKEA 'shouted' dinner to thank Clemency for her generous contribution to their Adelaide store's annual turnover!

CONFERENCES & VISITS



Marco Reale making a big impact in Cyprus!



Jennifer Brown dining out, Qatar style!

Jennifer Brown, Miriam Hodge and Blair Robertson met up with **Marco Reale** in Cyprus for the 3rd International Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics. Jennifer and Miriam also visited Qatar University to meet with a research colleague, Salehi Mohammad, and to discuss their plans to establish a statistics postgraduate programme. (See above.)

Irene David: to present a paper, in conjunction with Jennifer Brown, entitled *Implementing the change: teaching statistical thinking not just methods* at the ICOTS Conference in Lublijana, August 2010.

Ben Martin: visited a collaborator at Rutgers University, USA, and gave a talk at the AMS South-eastern Sectional Meeting in Florida.

Clemency Montelle: to give a talk entitled *The Greek mathematical diagram* and to facilitate a special session stream *Pictures and Proofs in Mathematical Thought* at the Australasian Association of Philosophy Annual Conference, Palmerston North, 7 – 10 December 2009.

Raazesh Sainudiin & Brendan Bycroft: to attend the 12th Annual NZ Molecular Ecology Meeting at Catlins, Southland, 27-29 November 2009. Raaz to give a talk entitled *How to use all the information in the SFS about the hidden genealogy*, and Brendan to give a talk entitled *Simulating Markov chains on trees for population genetic sampling distributions*.

Phil Wilson has been travelling in Europe and North America. He has been working with Prof. F T Smith and Dr Nick Overton on granular flows and lipid rafts at University College London, and he gave a talk on lipid layers at the Lighthill Institute of Mathematical Science. At York University, Canada, he has been working with Prof. H Huang on cortical spreading depression and has delivered a talk at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics in Minneapolis on turbulent boundary layers.

DWCAA09

Rick Beatson, Jeremy Levesley, Holger Wendland, Robert Schaback and other assorted approximationists enduring the rigours of the 2nd Dolomites Workshop on Constructive Approximation and Applications (DWCAA09) at Canazei, Italy, in early September. Rick reports that it was a great conference in a beautiful place.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Clemency Montelle courageously took on the task of organising and hosting a Halloween party for the younger generation and, judging by the photos, a great time was had by all.



Rua Murray (Jasper) & Yann Montelle (Gabriel) finding creative solutions to the anti-smacking legislation!



Hypnotised by food – Timothy Thomas and Isabella Price



Raaz Sainudiin giving Ashwini a helping hand.



What every girl longs to do to her little brother! Jennifer Brown's Caroline & Timothy



Raaz admits defeat!



"You expect me to dive into that?" Rachel & Daniel Martin



The Price children getting revenge on Dad Chris!



Oliver Moyers-Gonzalez wins the prize for the cutest Halloween baby!



Compliments of the Season!

