

Newsletter

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PITCHING IN AT MIKE STEEL'S HOME



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Peter Smith who has been awarded the College of Engineering Research Award for 2010.

Congratulations to Irene David who has been awarded a 2010 UC Teaching Award. This was to have been presented at April graduation but presentation has been delayed.

Congratulations to PhD student Steve Manion, who has been offered a place on the Oxford PhD exchange programme based at Nuffield College. He will be in the Department of Statistics at Oxford during the Trinity term and will work with Tom Snijders, Alison Etheridge and James Martin on random walks on massive finite works, one of his PhD topics.

Congratulations also to Honours student Amanda Hughes, another student who has been awarded an Oxford exchange fellowship, from 1 May to 25 June. Amanda will be based at Lady Margaret Hall College for the Trinity term. Dominic Lee has been appointed her co-ordinator at UC and he will oversee her course of study, combining work here and at Oxford.



Postgrads and staff prepare to visit the Erskine Building

COMPUTER WORKSHOP

A recent "Ubuntu and ABCs of Linux/GNU systems Workshop" was organised by U Can Compute! A UC Learning Community, in the spirit of our student volunteer army.

The co-ordinator of the workshop was Raazesh Sainudiin and the conductor was Zhu Sha (a.k.a. Joe in NZ). The goal of the workshop was to help each other learn the rudiments of one of the world's free and powerful and friendly operating systems, Ubuntu. Toward the end, Sha Zhu got a Ubuntu virtual machine working in the Windows laptops of Nuradilla Azhari, Amanda Hughes, Irene Van Woerden and Heyang Li. Steve Manion, Gloria Teng and Rachel Tappenden were also present for the tutorial on Bash commands and vi given by Raazesh Sainudiin. Raaz also introduced compiling C and C++ programs and Sha Zhu showed how to install new packages from the Shell. We are always looking for volunteers who can help our bright undergraduates become more independent with their computing needs.

Some pictures from the event are displayed at:

<http://www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/~r.sainudiin/ucancompute/>

Raaz Sainudiin

CONFERENCES & VISITS

Peter Jaksons: to attend the Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (GenStat and ASRemi) in Palm Grove Queensland, 12 – 15 July, and to engage in collaborative work in Belgium.

Catherine Solomon (John Hannah's PhD student): to attend the AAMT-MERGA Conference 2011 Mathematics: Traditions and (New) Practices in Alice Springs from 3 -7 July. She will present a paper entitled *Metaphors used by Year 5 and 6 Children to Depict their Beliefs about Maths*.

Sha (Joe) Zhu: to attend the Phylogenetics: New Data, new Phylogenetics Challenges follow-up meeting at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge, UK, 20 – 25 June 2011. He will present a poster entitled *Probabilistic modelling of gene trees given species networks* and will also visit Bjarki Eldon.



TAKING A QUAKE BREAK

It's not often that a camera catches Julie, but thanks to her daughter Alice we have this photo of her having a break recently in Queensland and catching up with Ben Martin who was combining a visit to Stephan Tillman at the University of Queensland with a family holiday.

PAPERS ACCEPTED

Innes, C.R.H, Lee, D., Chen, C., Ponder-Sutton, A.M., Melzer, T.R. & Jones, R.D. (2011): *Predicting driving ability in people with brain disorders: do complex models increase prediction of complex behaviours?* (to appear in Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology).

Lee, D.S., Zahari, M., Russell, G., Darlow, B.A., Scarrott, C. & Reale, M. (2011).: *An exploratory investigation of some statistical summaries of oximeter oxygen saturation data from preterm babies* (to appear in ISRN Pediatrics).

Lemke, D., Hulme, P.E., Brown, J.A. and Tadesse, W.: *Distribution modelling of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) invasion in the Cumberland Plateau and Mountain Region, USA* (accepted by Forest Ecology and Management).

MacDonald, A., Scarrott, C.J., Lee, D., Darlow, B., Reale, M. & Russell, G. (2011). *A flexible extreme value mixture model* (to appear in Computational Statistics and Data Analysis).

Moradi, M., Salehi, M., Brown, J., Karimi, N.: *Regression Estimator under Inverse Sampling to Estimate Arsenic Contamination*. (accepted by Environmetrics).

POST-QUAKE STAFF MEETINGS

Thanks to Phillipa Williams and Forestry for hosting our post-quake staff meetings.

