

ROY KERR INVESTITURE



On 14 April at Government House, Wellington, Professor Emeritus Roy Kerr, was invested by Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor General, as a Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services to Astrophysics. Roy took up the Chair of Mathematics at Canterbury in 1971, on his return from the University of Texas, Austin, and remained there until his retirement in 1993. For ten of those years he was also Head of Department. Professor Charles Semple represented the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at the investiture and the following luncheon, where he gave a speech on behalf of the department.

ERSKINE VISITOR

Welcome to our latest Erskine visitor, **Victor J Katz**, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of the District of Columbia. He is hosted by John Hannah and Clemency Montelle.

Victor's interests are in the history of Mathematics and in its use in teaching. He is the author of a well-known textbook *A History of Mathematics: an Introduction*, the 3rd edition of which appeared in 2008. He is also the editor of *The Mathematics of Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, India and Islam: A Sourcebook*, which was published in 2007. Professor Katz has directed two NSF-sponsored projects to help college teachers learn the history of Mathematics, how to use it in teaching, and how to involve secondary school teachers in writing materials using history in the teaching of various topics in the high school curriculum. Victor was also the founding editor of *Loci: Convergence*, the MAA's online magazine in the history of Mathematics and its use in teaching, serving from 2004 to 2009.

Victor is taking the MATH301/433 lectures this term, helping the students learn about the history of algebra.

- John Hannah

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Maarten and Ali McKubre-Jordens** on the birth of their first child, a son named Søren Nikolai McKubre-Jordens.

The proud father reports that Søren was born on Anzac Day (Monday 25 April) at ChCh Women's Hospital.

Despite his early arrival, he weighed in at an impressive 9lbs and measured 22 inches, which puts him in the 98th percentile.

Mother and baby are both doing well.

And if all goes well, this could be where your brilliant baby ends up ...

Congratulations to **Dr Blair Robertson**, caught here celebrating his recent graduation in the traditional fashion. The title of his PhD thesis is *Direct Search Methods for Nonsmooth Problems using Global Optimization Techniques*.

Blair has been invited by Dr Tim Robinson, University of Wyoming, on a research visit from 23 May to 6 June to develop research on environmental sampling. He will be working with Tim Robinson and Jennifer Brown during his visit and will be based at WEST Inc in Laramie, Wyoming.



CONFERENCES & VISITS

Rua Murray: giving a talk entitled *New Computational Methods for Open Dynamics* at the SIAM conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems in Utah from 22 – 26 May 2011.

PAPERS SUBMITTED

Barbossa, M. A., Real, R., and Brown, J.A.: *Under- and over-prediction as better alternatives to omission and commission rates in model evaluation* (submitted to *Ecography*).

Bycroft, B., and Sainudiin, R.: *Multi-threaded rigorous global optimization with Intel threading building blocks and thread-safe parts of C-XSC* (submitted journal article).

PAPERS ACCEPTED

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

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

McKubre-Jordens, M. & Weber, Z.: *Real Analysis in Paraconsistent Logic* (accepted by the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*).

PAPERS PUBLISHED

Lee, D. S., Zahari, M., Russell, G., Darlow, B. A., Scarrott, C. and Reale, M. (2011): *An exploratory investigation of some statistical summaries of oximeter oxygen saturation data from preterm babies.* (*ISRN Pediatrics*, vol. 2011, article ID 296418, doi: 10.5402/2011/296418).

Bradley, B.A. & Lee, D.S.: *Component correlations in structure-specific seismic loss estimation*, (*Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics* vol. 39, issue 3, pages 237-258, March 2010). Dominic Lee advises that this paper is among the top 10 most accessed from 2010 for the journal, which is one of the top Civil Engineering journals, especially for earthquake engineering.

Three other papers by researchers in the College of Engineering are also among the top 10, making 2010 a prominent year for the College in earthquake engineering research.

NEWS FROM EPS LIBRARY

1. Cartoon: Public perception of science vs science in reality - <http://bit.ly/ijQOAW>
2. eResources Exposé - publishers supporting us with earthquake access - <http://bit.ly/mvDf6u>
3. New Titles at the library <http://bit.ly/igxdPk>

Deborah Fitchett

EPS Library - Ka Puna Pukahataka me te Putaiaio

<http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/people/fitchett.shtml>

GREETINGS FROM LARAMIE!



Greetings from Laramie, Wyoming, the home of the cowboy! Officially, it'll be Summer here in 6 weeks, but considering it's snowed for the last 3 days I can't imagine it! I am at the University of Wyoming working on environmental statistics with Tim Robinson, Trent MacDonald and David Mukai. My children, pictured above, are at the local school and enjoying the great outdoors here, although I suspect with less enthusiasm than me. Here we are (left) snowshoeing in the Snowy Mountains last weekend. And in case you wondered, yes we've all got new cowboy boots – red, pink and brown (you can guess which are mine and which are the children's!

- Jennifer Brown

"STITCH 'n BITCH"

The first "Stitch 'n Bitch" session was held recently at Clemency Montelle's home. The vision in orange is none other than our Agate! Thanks to Phyllis Katz, wife of Erskine Fellow Victor Katz, for the photos.

