

Newsletter

Mathematics & Statistics

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MATHS OLYMPIAD STALWARTS



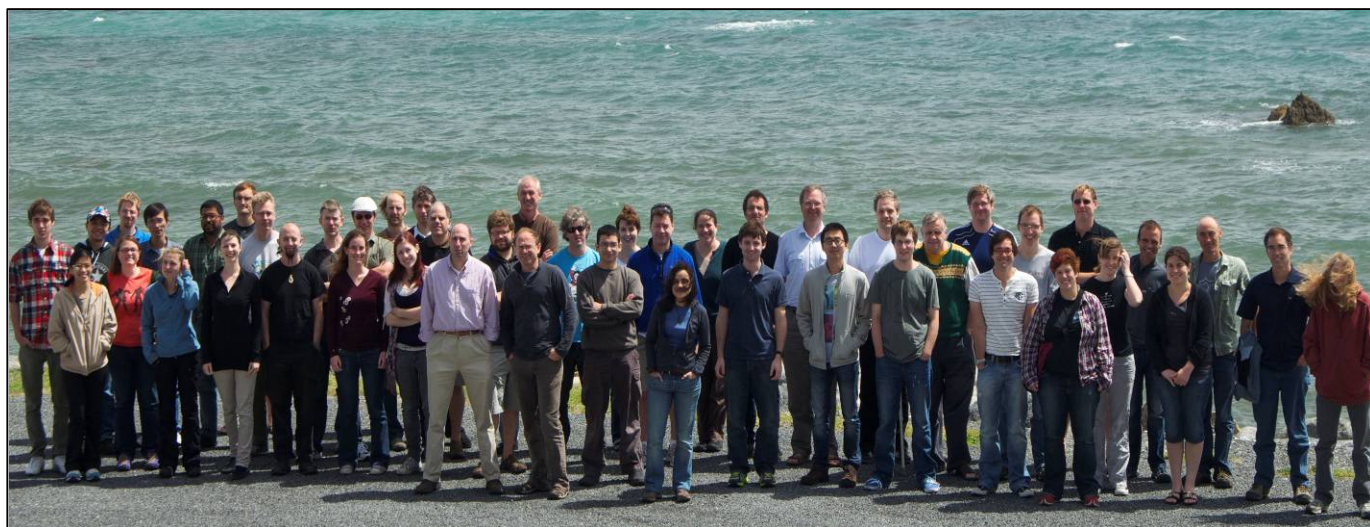
MATHS OLYMPIAD

A morning tea function and presentation took place recently in the staff room for Brian Woods and Bob Long in recognition of their long contribution to the school Maths Olympiad effort and to discuss future plans.

- Mike Steel

Photo L to R: Mike Steel, Brian Woods, Raaz Sainudiin, and Bob Long.

SOUTH 2012 – 16TH NEW ZEALAND PHYLOGENETICS MEETING



Mike Steel, Charles Semple, Raaz Sainudiin and PhD student Joe Zhu represented the department at the 16th NZ Phylogenetics Meeting in Kaikoura from 28 January to 3 February.

WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENT VISITORS

Visitor	University/Organization	Host	From	To	Room	Extn
Paul Wright	Austin Community College	C Montelle	04.01.12	17.05.12	605	8028
Ana-Maria Magdalena	NCRE Visitor	NCRE	09.01.12	30.09.12	723	8339
Iain Martyn	Simon Fraser Univ., Canada	M Steel	13.01.12	31.03.12	616	8876
Richard Law (Erskine)	York University	M Plank	15.01.12	24.04.12	710	7694
David Liberles	Wyoming University	M Steel	01.02.12	16.06.12	616	8876
Frank D'Amico (Erskine)	Univ. de Pau & Pays de l'Adour	J Brown	20.02.12	30.03.12	501	8376
Martina Gallenberger	Inst. Biomathematik & Biometrie	D Wall	25.02.12	25.03.12	723	8339
David Aldous	UC Berkeley	M Steel	27.02.12	02.03.12	607	8875
Joel Cohen	Rockefeller. NY	M Plank	11.03.12	09.04.12	607	8875
Jeppe Kolding	Bergen	M Plank	25.03.12	04.04.12	620	7431
Julia Blanchard	Sheffield	M Plank	26.03.12	28.04.12	607	8875
Celina Wong	York	M Plank	30.03.12	16.04.12	516	45558
Shijie Zhou	CSIRO Brisbane	M Plank	31.03.12	14.04.12	620	7431

"TEACHING BEYOND UNIVERSITY"

Irene David was invited to talk to the people in the Christchurch Statistics NZ office about alternatives to lectures for delivering training to their employees. Her talk was also presented to their people in Wellington and Auckland via video-conferencing.

Irene reports that "Key people at Statistics NZ are very interested in alternative methods of providing statistical training. There was a lively discussion of the various means we use for engaging and assessing the students through 'Learn'.

The following is an extract from an email received from Statistics New Zealand...

Hi Jennifer

As you may be aware, Irene David came into StatsNZ at my invitation to talk about all the innovative stuff being done with the first-year Statistics course. I thought you should know that I have had very positive feedback regarding the presentation. Also of note is that the Deputy Government Statistician, who has responsibility for statistical education within StatsNZ, Andrew Hunter, was in attendance. I have heard from him that he was very impressed with many of the ideas and is hoping we can leverage off the work that has been done.

Well done, Irene!

- Jennifer Brown

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Rosalie Hosking, who has accepted a Department PhD Scholarship from the 2011 end-of-year round. Three other students in MATH and STAT were awarded UC PhD scholarships at the end of 2011 – Abdul Haq, Chitrika Wickramarachchi and E Thavanayagam.

- Jennifer Brown

KOREA FOUNDATION POSTGRADUATE STUDIES FELLOWSHIP

Steve Manion has been awarded a highly competitive Korea Foundation (KF) Postgraduate Studies Fellowship for research students in Australia and New Zealand. The fellowship is for postgraduate students undertaking research related to Korea. The research Steve is completing in his PhD programme in the field of Computational and Applied Mathematics at the University of Canterbury tackles disambiguation problems in the fields of Natural Language Processing and Machine Translation. In brief, the goal of his research is to ensure a machine is able to select the most appropriate vocabulary in a given context. The target language pair that he is focusing on for translation is Korean-English as these are the two languages he speaks most fluently. Steve has been studying Korean for the past 6 years, in particular at Sungkyunkwan and more recently at Oxford University as a PhD exchange scholar from UC.

Raaz Sainudiin

ConstruMath South 2012



The successful ConstruMath South 2012 meeting was held from 26 – 28 January 2012, at the Westport Field Station. It was aimed at fostering the exchange of ideas between various disciplines, emphasizing the links between Mathematics, Computer Science, Philosophy and Statistics. Tutorials and talks on various aspects of non-classical logics were run, with a view to using these aspects in other areas of research. Thanks to the wideranging nature of the research interests of the group, the meeting proved to be very conducive to generating cross-disciplinary ideas and constructive critique. Participants also enjoyed the opportunity to explore the seal colony near Westport and walked from the colony to the lighthouse.

- Maarten McKubre-Jordens

MARSDEN INTEREST

Six Marsden applications were submitted from this department in the 2012 preliminary round.

Only one department at University of Canterbury submitted more applications than we did, so well done everyone!

- Jennifer Brown

PAPERS ACCEPTED

Clark, K.M. and Montelle, C.: Priority, Parallel Discovery, and Pre-eminence: Napier, B"urgi and the Early History of the Logarithm Relation (Revue d'Histoire des Mathématiques, 40pp)

Teng, G., Kuhn, K. and Sainudiin, R.: Statistical Regular Pavings to Analyze Massive Data of Aircraft Trajectories (Journal of Aerospace Computing, Information and Communication, February 2012)

CONFERENCES AND VISITS

Peter Jaksons: to give a talk titled Balanced Acceptance Sampling: an Adaptive Long-term Sampling Methodology at the International Statistical Ecology Conference in Oslo, 3-6 July 2012.

Alex James: to give a talk on Levy Walks at the BIOCAMP 2012 conference in Italy, 4 – 8 June 2012, and then to visit the Centre for Complex Systems Analysis at York University

Dominic Lee: to attend ISBA (International Society for Bayesian Analysis) 2012 in Kyoto, 25-29 June 2012. Talk tba.

Maarten McKubre-Jordens: attended the JAIST (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology) Spring School on 'Formal Reasoning: Theory and Application', and workshop on 'Mathematical Logic: Development and Evolution into Various Sciences', Japan 5 – 10 March 2012.,

Rua Murray: to give a talk entitled Numerical Approximation of Conditionally Invariant Measures at the BIRS Workshop on Open Dynamical Systems; Ergodic Theory, Probabilistic Methods and Applications at the Banff International Research Station, 8 – 13 April 2012.

Raaz Sainudiin participated in four research events in the South Island (Nelson, Westport, Kaikoura and Cass). The Algebraic workshop at Cass saw a very productive research week with 12 participants from 7 countries.

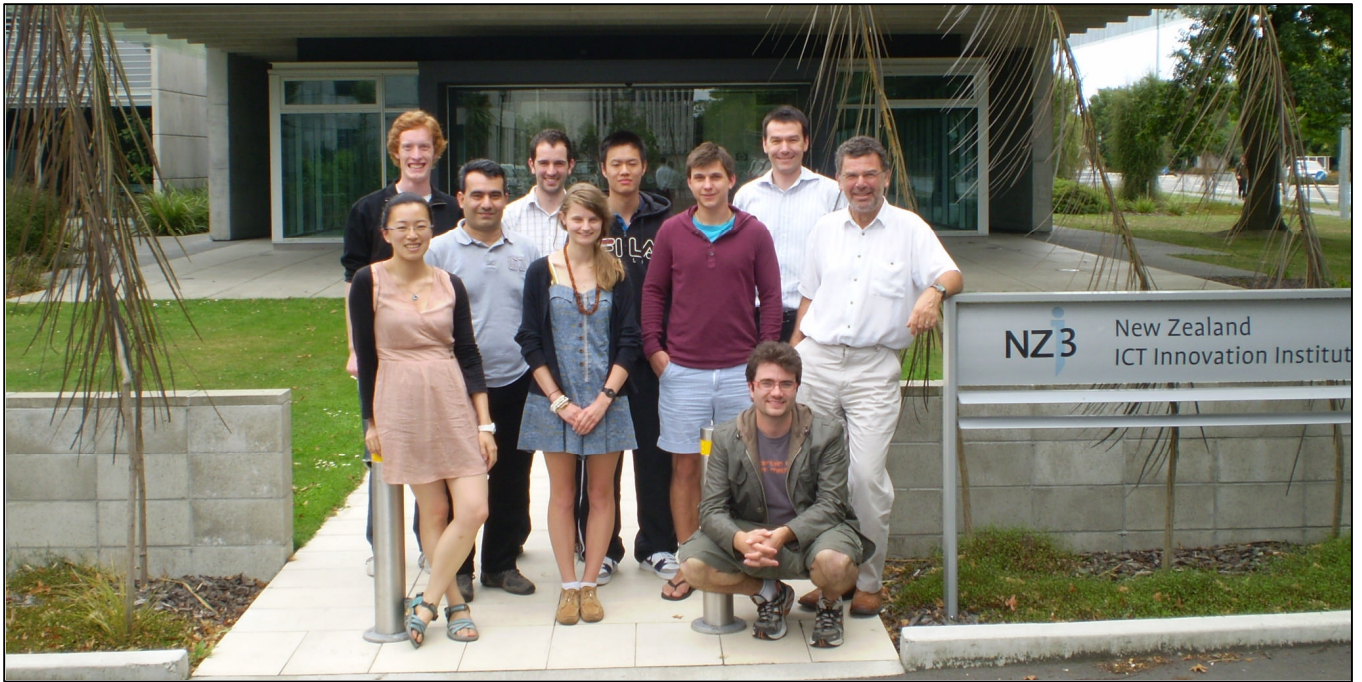
Raaz Sainudiin has accepted a month-long 'invited Professorship' in 2013 from the research group "Models for the Evolution of the Living, Centre of Applied Mathematics (CMAP), Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau. He will be engaged with the research 'chaire' program Mathematical Models of Biodiversity held by Veolia Environnement, the Ecole Polytechnique and the French National Museum of Natural History. This invitation is to support the theoretical aspects of his research on Chatham Island Black Robins.

Charles Semple: to give a talk at the 2012 Spring Eastern Section AMS Meeting at George Washington University, Washington DC, 17-18 March, in the Special Session on Matroid Theory. Talk title: What is a Typical Matroid? He will also be making a research visit to Louisiana State University.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

1. The Real Fake Elsevier: Non-fake thoughts on the Elsevier Boycott <http://bit.ly/AbwYIJ>; The Cost of Knowledge (boycott page, especially by mathematicians, with Statement of Purpose) <http://bit.ly/xiv34R>
2. Eli Pariser: Beware online "filter bubbles" (TED) <http://bit.ly/zM2z2J>
3. Ng• Kupu Ingarihi – an online English-Maori dictionary <http://bit.ly/zHbzNS>
4. New titles for Physics <http://bit.ly/wafqjA>; new titles for Astronomy <http://bit.ly/xntPcH>
5. Science Finds a Better Way to Teach Science (Discover Magazine) <http://bit.ly/Ap8ZMz>
6. Potential Crisis May Be Brewing in Preservation of E-Journals <http://bit.ly/xGtiN>
7. The state of the eBook, early 2012 <http://bit.ly/xyzWcU>
8. The 'Undue Weight' of Truth on Wikipedia (Chronicle of Higher Education) <http://bit.ly/ykN4Hu>
9. New titles for Physics <http://bit.ly/wafqjA>; new titles for Astronomy <http://bit.ly/xntPcH>

All floors of the EPS Library have now re-opened providing access to Engineering and Physical Sciences print collections.



Tim David, Rua Murray and Richard Brown with their Summer Project students



Douglas Bridges took this photo in Stockholm last month. It shows people walking on a frozen, snow-covered inlet of the Baltic Sea.