April graduates who attended the graduands’ afternoon tea function last month included the above, from left to right: Evan Williams (BSc Hons), Anna MacDonald (PhD), Ilaisaane Vehekite (BSc), Amanda Hughes (BSc Hons), James Dyer (BSc), Nicholas Stringer (BSc), Micheal Dolan (BSc) and Brendan Bycroft (BSc Hons). Also eligible to graduate were: In Kang (PhD), James Duley (MSc), Edwin Flores (BSc Combined Hons), Scott Thomas (BSc), Mihai Tataru (BSc), Steven Job (BSc), Kieran McCartin (BSc), Rosalia Rohwer (BSc), Safa Osman (BSc), Guowei He (BSc) and Daniel Lau (BSc).

Dr Anna MacDonald
Congratulations to Anna MacDonald who was awarded her PhD degree in April. Her supervisors were Carl Scarrott and Dominic Lee.

Anna is now working at Statistics NZ as a Statistical Analyst in the Population and Census Team, which is currently looking at how future censuses will be run.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDENT

From now on, we’ll be recording postgraduate arrivals in the newsletter, so a belated acknowledgement of those already here, who have coped magnificently with the difficult conditions of the past 18 months, and now to the newest member of the team:

Welcome to Aizuddin (‘Din’) Yusoff from Malaysia who commenced his PhD studies with us this month. Din, who is based in Room 522 with Jacky Sung, is married with two daughters. His first degree was a Bachelor of Engineering Electronics majoring in Telecommunications. He worked for several years with Intel and Telekom Malaysia. Later, he obtained a Master’s degree in Applied Statistics and joined the Universiti Putra Malaysia as a tutor. His research interests are Applied Statistics related to time series analysis, biostatistics and experimental design. His hobbies include chess, badminton and jogging.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mike Steel who has been elected to the Council of the Society of Systematic Biologists (by the largest number of votes). The Society of Systematic Biologists is an international scientific body that helps to organize the annual Evolution meetings, normally held in North America; manages the journal *Systematic Biology*; and awards prizes and grants to students and Postdoctoral Fellows.

- Jennifer Brown

Congratulations to Marco Reale and Jennifer Brown who have both been successful in obtaining grants from the University of Pau, university of our recent Erskine visitor Frank D’Amico, for one-month visiting professorships. Marco has been invited by the Laboratory of Applied Mathematics (LMAP: http://lma-umr5142.univ-pau.fr/live/), and Jennifer by the Federation of Multidisciplinary Research on Aquatic Environments (MIRA: http://milieux-aquatiques.univ-pau.fr/live/).

- Charles Semple

Congratulations to Mike Steel and Charles Semple, Miguel Moyers-Gonzalez, and Maarten McKubre-Jordens who have made it through the preliminary round for Marsden.

- Jennifer Brown

Congratulations to Phil Wilson who is the new College representative on the UC Library Committee.

- Jennifer Brown

STATISTICAL CONSULTING

We continue to get very positive feedback with respect to Elena Moltchanova’s statistical consulting role. For example, the following comments were received in a recent email from the Communication Disorders Department:

“Thanks for bringing in Elena Moltchanova. She is lovely, explains things clearly and has been very available when we needed something. We have only needed her twice but she has been very helpful. She is very much appreciated.”

- Jennifer Brown

WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENT VISITORS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitor</th>
<th>University/Organization</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>From</th>
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<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ana-Maria Magdalina</td>
<td>NCRE Visitor</td>
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<td>David Liberles</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>M Steel</td>
<td>25/1/12</td>
<td>16.6.12</td>
<td>616</td>
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<td>Michael Matschiner</td>
<td>Basel</td>
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<td>Deidre Wall</td>
<td>Nui Galway</td>
<td>C Scarrott</td>
<td>04.05.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Gonnaud</td>
<td>ENSTA-Paris Tech</td>
<td>A James</td>
<td>14.05.12</td>
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BOOK PUBLISHED

Last month saw the publication of Neil Watson’s book entitled Introduction to Heat Potential Theory:

This book is the first to be devoted entirely to the potential theory of the heat equation, and thus deals with time dependent potential theory. Its purpose is to give a logical, mathematically precise introduction to a subject where previously many proofs were not written in detail, due to their similarity with those of the potential theory of Laplace’s equation.

The approach to subtemperatures is a recent one, based on the Poisson integral representation of temperatures on a circular cylinder. Characterizations of subtemperatures in terms of heat balls and modified heat balls are proved, and thermal capacity is studied in detail. The generalized Dirichlet problem on arbitrary open sets is given a treatment that reflects its distinctive nature for an equation of parabolic type. Also included is some new material on caloric measure for arbitrary open sets.

Each chapter concludes with bibliographical notes and open questions. The reader should have a good background in the calculus of functions of several variables, in the limiting processes and inequalities of analysis, in measure theory, and in general topology for Chapter 9.

Readership: Graduate students and research mathematicians interested in partial differential equations and potential theory.

- American Mathematical Society Bookstore
http://www.ams.org/bookstore-getitem=surv-182

A big thank you from Lisa Kulczycki for those, including Phil Wilson and James Williams, who helped out at this month’s Careers Expo, talking to high school students and engaging them with our interactive demonstrations. Lisa reports that the expo was very busy and seemed to go very well.

UC INAUGURAL TEACHING WEEK 5 – 8 JUNE

Irene David has been invited to be one of the presenters at this event. She’ll be talking in the Wednesday and Friday sessions in the Blended Learning workshops about the use of Echo capture, so go along and show your support if you can.

- Jennifer Brown

XIN ZHAO

This month we bid farewell to Postdoctoral Fellow Xin Zhao who has left to take up a position with Jade Corporation here in Christchurch. We wish her well in her new career.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

From a recent 300-level Stats student survey comes this gem about our HOD:

“She’s got a good sense of humour for someone of her age and position”!

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PAPERS SUBMITTED


Lemke, D. and Brown, J.(Journal article): Habitat Modelling of Alien Plant Species at Varying Levels of Occupancy (submitted to a special issue of the journal Forests, Exotic and Invasive Plant Species Impacting Forests, on 17 May.)


PAPERS ACCEPTED


Lad, F., Frederic, P. and Di Bacco, M.: Combining expert probabilities using the product of odds (accepted for Theory and Decision, June 2012)


Parvadeh, A., Panahbehagh, B., Salehi, M., Brown, J.A. and Smith, D.: Asymptotic properties of the sample mean in adaptive sequential sampling with multiple selection criteria (accepted by Bulletin of the Iranian Mathematical Society on 22 May.)

PAPERS PUBLISHED


CONFERENCES AND VISITS

Rick Beatson: to Oslo to chair an invited symposium on radial basis functions at the Eighth International Conference on Mathematical Methods for Curves and Surfaces and to present a paper entitled A Polya criterion for (strict) positive definiteness on the sphere. On the way, he will make a working visit to Dr Wolfgang zu Castell, Helmholtz Zentrum, in Munich, 10 June – 3 July 2012.

Frank Lad: gave the following lectures during a visit to Brazil in March – Completing the logarithmic scoring rule for assessing sequential forecast distributions (invited lecture at the 11th Brazilian Bayesian Statistics Meeting, Amparo, Brazil 19 March); “How big is your Mathematics? and Statistically assessing the synchronicity of whale strandings with phases of the moon (invited lectures at the Department of Statistics, Federal University of Brazil, San Carlos, Brazil).
AFTERNOON TEA FOR APRIL GRADUANDS AND THEIR FAMILIES
NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

- Shift Happens (50th anniversary of Kuhn’s The Structure of Scientific Revolutions) [http://bit.ly/ImHC9w]
- The Death of the Lecture (Inside Higher Ed) [http://bit.ly/Kbs5sN]
- Is the ‘net generation’ a myth? (ScienceOmega) [http://bit.ly/K2s7qd]
- Related article: [http://bit.ly/J1Sp8B]
- How to Spot the Future (Wired) [http://bit.ly/KnnzLm]
- [Humour] Every Major’s Terrible (xkcd) [http://bit.ly/KnnzLm]
- Do you want to recommend books to the Library? – send the details to the Library Liaison Officer for Physics, Dr Chris Gordon [http://bit.ly/GEWv4z]
- Understanding the Journal Impact Factor – Part One (Scientific American) [http://bit.ly/KgVAhN]
- Wikipedia + Journal articles (Scientific American) [http://bit.ly/KgVahN]
- Brain Gain, Brain Drain (Migration patterns of scientists; Inside Higher Ed) [http://bit.ly/KgwPcm]
- Moon throw (an impact crater-scarred blanket; Discover Magazine) [http://bit.ly/JfuVTb]

Check that your postgrads know EPS Library is well and truly open! We have noticed that some students are requesting books for pickup at other branch libraries simply because they don’t know they can walk into EPS and get materials straightaway.

John Arnold

Engineering and Physical Sciences Library – Kā Puna Pūkahataka me te Pūtaiao