ST LUKE’S LABYRINTH

Phil Wilson recently laid out and helped to supervise the building of a labyrinth on the site of the former church of St Luke’s in the City, on the corner of Kilmore and Manchester Streets. The labyrinth was built by the Student Volunteer Army with assistance from parishioners and Koto Wilson, as part of a UC competition. The design is based on that of the labyrinth inlaid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral and will eventually feature a central tree with benches and external landscaping. While mazes have many paths and are designed to get you lost, unicursal labyrinths such as this have one path and are designed to help you find yourself. They are found throughout the ancient world and embody metaphors for life as well as elementary mathematics.

- Phil Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS!

John Hannah reports that on 13 August Shannon Ezzat successfully defended his PhD thesis in Auckland. Just some minor improvements need to be done to the thesis and then you can call him Dr Ezzat! With Ben Martin, his supervisor, and Shannon himself both now in Auckland, the decision was made to hold the Canterbury oral in Auckland. Thanks go to Steven Galbraith of the University of Auckland’s Mathematics Department, who did a fantastic job of representing Canterbury’s interests.

Congratulations to James Dent who has been awarded a UC Doctoral Scholarship. His thesis is in the area of Constructive Reverse Mathematics and his co-supervisors are Douglas Bridges and Maarten McKubre-Jordens.

Congratulations also to Janos Tamas Nemeth, an incoming international student from Hungary who was awarded a UC Doctoral Scholarship. He will be studying under History and Philosophy of Science with Clemency Montelle as a co-supervisor.

Congratulations to Maths Honours student Simon Todd, who has been invited for a Fulbright Scholarship interview.
Welcome to our New Postgraduate Students

Abdul Haq has arrived from Pakistan to undertake a PhD in Statistics under the supervision of Jennifer Brown and Elena Moltchanova. Abdul graduated BSc in 2005, MSc (Statistics) in 2007, and MPhil (Statistics) in 2010. His research interests are the development of sampling designs, quality control charts and Bayesian inference. He is currently on study leave from his lecturing position at the Quad-i-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan and is based in Room S21.

Alfadino (’Dino’) Ali Akbar, from Malaysia, will be undertaking his PhD in Statistics (Extreme Value Theory with application in Finance) under Carl Scarrott. Dino graduated BSc(Hons) in Actuarial Mathematics & Statistics from Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh and MCom in Actuarial Studies from the University of NSW, Sydney. He is also an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries Australia and has had 14 years’ experience as a manager at the Central Bank of Malaysia and as an Actuarial Consultant in Australia, mostly in the area of regulation, supervision, capital adequacy and risk management of banking and insurance. Dino is married with 5 children and his wife, Mazlina, is currently a PhD student at UC’s College of Education. He loves fishing, cooking, travelling and sports activities.

New Arrivals

Left:
Big sister Jessica holding Matthew James Brouwers, who was born on 26 August. Congratulations to Angela and Paul.

Right:
Proud grandmother, Liz Ackerley, holding her first grandchild, a girl named Zita, who was also born in August.

Welcome to Our Department Visitors

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<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>
<td>NCRE</td>
<td>09.01.12</td>
<td>30.09.12</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>8339</td>
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<td>Michael Matschiner</td>
<td>Basel</td>
<td>M Steel</td>
<td>01.04.12</td>
<td>31.12.12</td>
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<td>Hajime Ishihara (Erskine)</td>
<td>Japan Advanced Inst. Sci &amp; Tech.</td>
<td>D Bridges</td>
<td>08.07.12</td>
<td>29.09.12</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>7694</td>
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<td>Markus Stroppel (Erskine)</td>
<td>Stuttgart</td>
<td>G Steinke</td>
<td>27.07.12</td>
<td>08.10.12</td>
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<td>Beata Faller</td>
<td>ANU Canberra</td>
<td>J McLeod</td>
<td>03.09.12</td>
<td>21.09.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulette Lieby</td>
<td>NICTA, Canberra</td>
<td>J McLeod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Havea</td>
<td>Univ. of the Sth Pacific</td>
<td>D Bridges</td>
<td>09.09.12</td>
<td>23.09.12</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>7694</td>
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PAPERS SUBMITTED
Clark, K.M., James, A., Montelle, C.: *The role of group synergy in the problem-solving behaviours and practices of advanced tertiary students* (Journal of Mathematical Behaviour, 38pp)


PAPER ACCEPTED

PAPERS PUBLISHED

STATISTICAL SEMINARS FOR POSTGRADUATES
The first two in a series of four statistical seminars for the post-graduate students took place on 23 July and 13 August. The series is organised by the Statistics Consulting Unit together with the Postgraduate Office and is aimed at students with non-statistical backgrounds using statistics in their research. The topic of this first seminar was *Experimental Design* while the second was on the *Analysis of Variance*.

A total of 58 students took part in the two seminars (3 from Arts, 4 from Business and Economics, 4 from Education, 13 from Engineering, 33 from the College of Science and 1 unidentified), and there was a lot of very positive feedback (and new consulting appointments) afterwards. The other two seminars in the series will consider regression (10.9.12) and interpretation of statistical results (29.10.12), in turn. In case of the continued enthusiasm, it is planned to make such series a permanent feature.

Another (smaller) seminar on good statistical research practices, for the undergraduate students, is planned for 10am on 31 October, within the framework of GradFest 2012.

- Elena Moltchanova

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

From the Web
7b. The right to read is the right to mine (Peter Murray-Rust, University of Cambridge) [http://bit.ly/NIFUYi](http://bit.ly/NIFUYi)
11. Brought to book: Academic journals face a radical shake-up (The Economist) [http://econ.st/R8Wh2I](http://econ.st/R8Wh2I)