Congratulations to Douglas Bridges and Maarten McKubre-Jordens for their success as the New Zealand members of a consortium of academics that applied for funding by an EU Marie Curie IRSES grant to support a wide-ranging project on Constructive Mathematics and related fields. The consortium was largely from EU countries, with external members from Canterbury, ANU, Pittsburgh and JAIST (Japan). The money for the Canterbury researchers – roughly $0.25M over 5 years – comes from the New Zealand Government through the RSNZ. Starting from early next year, the Department will host academic visitors (including some familiar faces) from various EU countries on this project. Well done!

Jennifer Brown

Well done, everyone, the department achieved 100% compliance in primary objectives for the Health and Safety audit this month. Thank you to everyone for your help and commitment to health and safety, and a very big thank-you to the Health and Safety Team, especially Penelope. Many hours of work have been put into producing evidence of our practices and Penny has done an amazing job to collate all this – many days is more realistic, so thank you.

Jennifer Brown

Congratulations to Helen Rowley who has been appointed to the “UC Information Network”. Helen will be one of the College’s experts in records, copyright, privacy and official information.

Jennifer Brown

Congratulations to Maarten and Ali McKubre-Jordens on the birth of their second son, Bramwell Pieter McKubre-Jordens (Bram), who was born on 27 August at 17.41 hours and weighed in at 8 pounds 7 ounces. Mother and baby are both well.

Professor Terence Tao Visit – 27 August

There was a real buzz in the department the day the 2013 Maclaurin Lecturer and brilliant mathematician Terence Tao (UCLA) arrived to give two talks as part of a NZ tour organized by the NZ and American mathematical societies. His colloquium lecture, “Arithmetic Progression in the Primes” was followed by a public lecture entitled “The Cosmic Distance Ladder”. Born in Adelaide in 1975, Terry was a child prodigy, publishing his first paper at the age of 15, and graduating from Flinders University with his Masters at the age of 16 and from Princeton University with his PhD at age 20. Terry has won numerous awards including the Fields Medal, the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel Prize. He was hosted for his visit to UC by Charles Semple.

The Canterbury Statistics Open Day will be held on Wednesday, 20 November, 9:00am – 5:00pm, in Erskine 031. This event is designed to showcase the work of researchers in the Canterbury region, as well as being a networking opportunity for people in statistics and related fields, such as biostatistics, econometrics, geo-statistics, health statistics, official statistics, etc. The day will consist of a number of invited and short contributed talks of 15-20 minutes in length, with morning and afternoon teas and lunch provided. For further information, please contact Nuttanan (Nate) Wichitaksorn or Jennifer Brown.
**Erskine Fellow**

Welcome to Professor Martin Buhmann, who arrives on 1 September from the Institute of Mathematics at Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. Martin, whose special interests are Approximation Theory and Numerical Analysis, will be teaching in MATH365 and interacting with Rick Beatson, Qui Bui and honours students, as well as giving a department seminar. He is hosted by Rick Beatson and will be based in Erskine 607.

**New PhD Students**

Welcome to Kanchana Attapatu Arachchille, from Sri Lanka, who arrived recently to commence a PhD in Pure Mathematics - the automorphism groups of 2-dimensional tubular geometries - under the supervision of Gunter Steinke. Kanchana graduated BSc(Hons) in Mathematics from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and read an MPhil in Pure Mathematics at the University of Birmingham, UK. Her research interests lie in the topics in Group Theory. When she’s not working, she enjoys spending time with her two children. Kanchana is based in Room 511.

Welcome to J, a HAPS PhD student supervised by Clemency Montelle (Maths), Andy Pratt (Chemistry) and Patrick O’Sullivan (Classics). J is a historian by qualification but is also interested in the origin of life, the origin of language and evolutionary theories of behaviour. His research contrasts human natural inferential processes with deductive, demonstrative logic. Taking a historical perspective, he’ll be aiming to trace the cultural evolution of the discipline of logic, and analysing historical contingencies that may account for it. Janos’s interests include baking, cooking, gardening and animals. He is based in Room 516.

From Front Page to Feral!

Rua Murray arrived at work recently to find, in the foyer outside his office, a very large poster (left) courtesy of Hadleigh and friends (Ethan, Brendan, Alex and Amber) from PhysSoc. Their artistic endeavours were in recognition of Rua’s recent AKO Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award. All publicity is good publicity, Rua!
CONFERENCES & VISITS
Elasukanthan Thavanayagam: invited speaker on *Modelling the Cell’s Communication Between the Endothelium and Smooth Muscle, and Homogenisation of Homocellular Coupling*, at the International Conference on Mathematical Modelling in Computer, Management and Medical Sciences, India, 13 – 15 June 2013. (See also under Papers Published.)


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PAPERS ACCEPTED


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PAPERS PUBLISHED


**THE CASE OF THE MISSING ROOF RACK AND SKIS**

Which athletic academic had the Police leaping into action when he reported the roof rack and skis on his vehicle stolen en route to the mountains? Fortunately for our colleague (who shall remain nameless!), a more observant motorist spotted them further back down the road, looking somewhat the worse for wear, at the spot where they’d fallen off our colleague’s vehicle!

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**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**


From the Web

4c. Some University of California Open Access Policy Confusions (Scholarly Kitchen) [http://bit.ly/17kQ9a3](http://bit.ly/17kQ9a3)

And on the lighter side...


John

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