June 2015 Newsletter  
Mathematics and Statistics

Professor David Wall Retires
This month another leading light in our School retires. David Wall has been a highly regarded lecturer and researcher during his 34 years at this university. He has also been influential in shaping the School, especially during his time as Head. David has had an excellent research career and many students have benefited from his teaching.

2015 UC Teaching Award
Congratulations to Michael Plank, who was presented with a 2015 University of Canterbury Teaching Award on 8 June. John Hannah read the citation in support of Mike’s award.

Research Tip of the Month
If you've found a paper online but it's not open access, rather than going to the library website to search for it, just cut and paste the following text in front of the website address you’re on:


Mike Steel
**Conferences and Visits**

**Rick Beatson:** to make a sabbatical visit to Germany from 6 September to 12 November.

**Charles Semple:** to visit the National University of Singapore from 22 July to 1 August. He will participate in in the Institute of Mathematical Science's programme on Networks in Biological Sciences by giving an invited talk and delivering 4 tutorials.

**Phil Wilson:** made research visits to the Universities of York and Toronto, Canada, in June, while on sabbatical. (See below.)

**Patrick W-Saart:** gave a talk titled *Asymmetric Conditional Correlations in Stock Returns* at the 3rd RCEA Time Series Econometrics Workshop, Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis, Italy, 22 – 23 June 2015, while on sabbatical.

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**Canadian Research Visit**

As part of his sabbatical, Phil Wilson spent 3 weeks in Toronto visiting Prof. Huaxiong Huang at York University and The Fields Institute. Together they worked on models of ion flux through biological membranes, fibrin aggregation in blood clots, electrowetting, and embryological morphogenesis. Phil reports that there was enough time for a visit to Niagara Falls but sadly none for poutine! Huaxiong, a two-time visitor to our School, will be returning next year as an Erskine Fellow.

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*Above left:* *Intuition* by sculptor John Robinson consists of 3 interwoven equilateral triangles in a symmetrical arrangement and sits near the entrance to the Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences. The sculpture is an angular version of the famous Borromean Rings: 3 rings linked together in such a way that removing any one ring leaves the other two unattached. The Borromean Triangles are the symbol of the Fields Institute.  *Above right:* View of the Toronto skyline from Phil’s office at The Fields Institute.
**Papers Submitted**


**Papers Accepted**


**Papers Published**


The Next Generation of Mathematicians

Above left: Congratulations to PhD students Peter Jaksons and Rodelyn Avila on the birth of Felicity on 17 March. Peter now works for Plant and Food, Lincoln, and Rodelyn will resume her PhD studies shortly.
Above right: Congratulations also to Blair and Emma Robertson on the birth of Eva Rose on 8 June.

**Proof**

Masters student Lisa Hall recounts her recent experience of ‘treading the boards’ in the production of “Proof”:

As the token mathematician in a play about mathematics, I was able to explain the maths jokes to the rest of the cast and help them to get into the mind of a mathematician.

Working on *Proof* has been an exercise in self-reflection and has challenged me as I’ve worked to discover my inner actor. The play is both moving and funny as it explores mental illness and the different reactions of characters as they are confronted with this.

Working on the play has been a great opportunity but I’m still not quite sure how I feel about being told I was perfect for the role of a crazy person …

Thanks to everyone at Elmwood Players and to those from the School who supported the show.

*Lisa Hall*

**Wedding Gift**

The School’s wedding gift to Steve and Phillipa Gourdie – a Kaikoura break with perfect weather and spectacular wildlife.
News from the Library

- New books: Librarians’ Picks of the Month [http://canterbury.libguides.com/newbooks](http://canterbury.libguides.com/newbooks)

From the Web:

10. The Lady Gaga of French Mathematicians Comes Stateside (New Yorker) [http://bit.ly/1yNO1Kz](http://bit.ly/1yNO1Kz)
15. 150 Years of Mathematics in the UK – in Pictures (The Guardian) [http://bit.ly/1LmOPb1](http://bit.ly/1LmOPb1)
23. And on the lighter side...
   - Bayesian Survival Analysis for “Game of Thrones” (Probably Overthinking It) [http://bit.ly/1aW3ayX](http://bit.ly/1aW3ayX)
   - Listen to Wikipedia Change and Grow (Boing Boing) [http://bit.ly/1cP2QCh](http://bit.ly/1cP2QCh)