

# School of Mathematics and Statistics Newsletter

**March 2020**

## **Congratulations ...**

- to David Borchers on his election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. David joined the School and CREEM in 1993 where he finished his PhD before becoming a lecturer, then reader and professor. He researches in statistical methods for estimating wildlife population parameters, including abundance, distribution and trends, from survey data. This includes use of distance sampling, mark-recapture and removal methods, sampling theory and spatial modelling methods.

## **Farewell ...**

- to Tommaso Lorenzi who left St Andrews at the end of February to take up a position as Lecturer at the Politecnico of Torino. Tommaso joined the Mathematical Biology Group in 2015 and he contributed greatly to the School and Group in both teaching and research.

## **Visitors**

- Victoria Gould visited Nik Ruskuc from 17th-21st February to start work on a new project dealing with finiteness conditions of monoids.

## **Visits, Seminars and Conferences**

- Nik Ruskuc is currently visiting Peter Mayr at the University of Colorado at Boulder from 9-20th March, continuing their project on subdirect products in algebra, and working on a joint EPSRC/NSF grant application.
- Nik Ruskuc took part in an EPSRC Prioritisation Panel on 25-26th February.
- Peter Cameron took time off from the Isaac Newton Institute programme to make two research visits. One was to Florence from 10-14th February (though delayed by Storm Ciara) working on integrals of groups, the other to Lisbon from 24-28th February, working on complete mappings for semigroups.
- Mike Todd ventured across the Tay on 9th March to give a seminar at the University of Dundee on ‘Extreme Value Theory in Dynamical Systems’.
- Jon Fraser is now in New York at the start of a research visit / lecture tour visiting City University New York, Wesleyan University in Connecticut and the University of Toronto.
- Istvan Kolossvary gave a talk at the *Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems Seminar* at the University of Bristol on 27th February entitled ‘Typical self-similar and self-conformal sets on the line’.
- Meredith Houlton, PhD student in the History of Mathematics, presented her research on ‘William Sanders and *Elementa Geometriae*’ at the British Society of the History of Mathematics *Research in Progress* meeting on 29th February at The Queen’s College, Oxford.  
<https://www.bshm.ac.uk/events/research-progress-2020> (William Sanders was St Andrews’ second Regius Professor of Mathematics, from 1674-88.)

- Rosemary Bailey is currently a member of the Committee on Fellows for the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the international learned society devoted to the development, dissemination and application of statistics and probability.
- Hannah Worthington was an invited speaker at the Lancashire and East Cumbria Royal Statistical Society Local Group Meeting *Statistics in the Natural Environment* on 27th February. Her talk was titled ‘Land, sea and air: Hidden Markov models for capture-recapture/recovery data’.

### **Grants**

- David Dritschel has been awarded an EPSRC standard grant worth £581k to study the dynamics of clouds and moist convection, with colleagues in Leeds and Edinburgh. The grant will run for four years starting in September 2020. David is the lead PI and additional funding will go direct to Leeds and Edinburgh to support their work on this grant.

### **Other News**

- Kenneth Falconer’s ‘new’ book フラクタル - 岩波書店 was published in February. This is the Japanese translation of his *Fractals – A Very Short Introduction*.

### **Next Issue**

- The next edition of the School Newsletter will be circulated in April. Items for inclusion may be sent to [schoolnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:schoolnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk) at any time but a reminder will be sent out a week before the deadline.