

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS



NEWSLETTER



December 2005

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

- The Statistics Division welcomes Richard Gormley and Caleb O'Loan as research students. Both Richard and Caleb graduated here earlier this year and started as research students in September.
 - Welcome to Peng-Fei Chen who has just arrived and will be visiting the Institute to collaborate with members of the Solar Group for a year. He is sharing room 307 in the Institute with Peter Damiano and a house with Chuong Van Tran. He is an excellent researcher who has published widely on numerical models for magnetic reconnection, solar flares, coronal mass ejections and EIT waves. He is a permanent lecturer at Nanjing University, China, where he lectures on Fluid Mechanics and Computational MHD.
 - Goodbye to Barry Ridge, who is finishing up his MPhil under Lars Olsen at the moment and will be starting a Marie Curie fellowship Ph.D. in computer vision in Slovenia in January on the Visiontrain program. We wish him all the best for the future.
-

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Clare Parnell, who has been awarded the Royal Astronomical Society Fowler Prize for 2006 in recognition of her major theoretical contribution to understanding the coronal heating problem. Seven areas of research were cited including her work on X-ray bright points, the nature of 3D magnetic null points, statistical analysis of nanoflares, numerical simulations of the motion of isolated magnetic flux sources, the

magnetic carpet, transition region blinkers and the complexity of the coronal magnetic field due to the discrete nature of the photospheric magnetic field distribution.

The Fowler prize is awarded annually, to an individual who has made a particularly noteworthy contribution to geophysical sciences at an early stage of their research career, and it is intended to recognise this contribution sufficiently early to give their career impetus. Well done Clare!

- Each year the IMA award prizes for the best final year projects by undergraduates at Scottish universities. James Lawson, who graduated last year, has been awarded the runner up prize, for his project ‘Classical Mechanics and the Golf Swing’, supervised by Andy Wright. Congratulations to James (and Andy).
- Freda (and David) Kemp are relieved that Univariate Discrete Distributions (3e) by Johnson, Kemp and Kotz (Wiley, 2005, ISBN 0471272469) has now been published, despite the nonparticipation in this edition by the third author and the sad death last November of the first author. The book is a substantial revision of the second (1992) edition and contains a large amount of new material. Congratulations on the publication of this book.
- Congratulations to Vince Vatter, who successfully defended his thesis at Rutgers in November.
- Congratulations to Ineke de Moortel on completing the Munros, with an ascent of Ben More on Mull on 20th November to watch the sunrise. (For the uninitiated, the Munros are the Scottish hills of 3000ft or over of which there are 284). Ineke is the third Munroist in the School.

SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Martyn Quick gave a seminar, entitled “Some groups which just aren’t quite finite”, at the University of Glasgow (26th October) and University of Manchester (15th November).
- Louise Burt gave an invited talk at a workshop on “Predictive modelling on species distribution” which was held at the International University of Andalucia, Baeza, Spain, from 2nd-4th November.

- Brigitta von Rekowski gave an invited seminar in Newcastle on 11th November, on “Solar coronal heating by magnetic cancellation”.
- Sophie Huczynska gave an invited seminar at Royal Holloway, University of London, on 15th November, on “Generalizing permutation arrays”.
- James Mitchell gave a talk at the 25th anniversary of the Centre of Algebra of the University of Lisbon on 25th November.
- Delaram Kahrobaei visited the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm for a week in November. During her visit she gave an Stockholm Algebra Seminar. She will be visiting Laurent Bartholdi at the Institute of Geometry, Algebra, Topology in Ecole Polytechnique Fdrale de Lausanne(Switzerland) during the third week of December.
- Lars Olsen gave a talk at the University of York in November, on “Distribution of digits in integers”.
- Peter Jupp attended the 2nd International Symposium on Information Geometry and its Applications, which was held in Tokyo from 12th - 16th December. He gave a talk on “Geometry of yokes”.

FOR SALE

- Stereo for sale, 2 years old. plays CDs and radio. Fairly small, with 2 separate speakers. Talk to Colva if you'd like to see it. £70 ono.

NEXT ISSUE

Please send material for the next Newsletter to: mcsnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk