School of Mathematics and Statistics Newsletter

February 2016

"For some ridiculous reason, to which, however, I've no desire to be disloyal,
Some person in authority, I don't know who, very likely the Astronomer Royal,
Has decided that, although for such a beastly month as February, twenty-eight days as a rule are plenty,
One year in every four his days shall be reckoned as nine and twenty"

W.S.Gilbert

Welcome to …

• Patrick Antolin who joins the Solar Theory Group, having previously worked at the National Observatory of Japan and Oslo University.

Meetings Organised

• An EPSRC-sponsored Symposium on Big Data and Discrete Mathematics was held at St Andrews from 15-17th February, organised by the Schools of Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science. Several members of the School attended, Igor Rivin spoke on 'Experimental mathematics, mathematical discovery, zeolites, and data science', and Rosemary Bailey spoke on 'Why data collection still matters: a case study from agriculture'. Other topics included large networks, large simulations, and the problems in both storing and accessing large amounts of information, whether it comes from scientific measurements, exact classifications in discrete mathematics, or simulation of large systems. In the final session, Peter Cameron presented a summary of all the talks and gave an overview of the meeting.

Visitors

• Victoria Gould from York visited Nik Ruskuc 10-13th February. Victoria, Bob Gray and Nik are preparing a joint EPSRC proposal on idempotent generators in algebra.

• June Barrow-Green, from the Open University, visited the History of Mathematics Group on 17-18th February, and discussed 19th century mathematics. June gave a fascinating and very well attended seminar on Olaus Henrici.

Conferences and Visits

• Several of the Analysis group are taking part in the Semester-long Program on 'Dimension and Dynamics' at ICERM (International Center for Experimental Mathematics) at Brown University, Rhode Island, with Tom Kempton, Vuksan Mijovic, Mike Todd, Sascha Troscheit and several former members of the School as long term visitors at the Center. They all took part in a week-long workshop on 'Ergodic, Algebraic and Combinatorial Methods in Dimension Theory' for which they were joined by Kenneth Falconer who gave the concluding talk of the workshop. At the end of February, Mike Todd gave a minicourse at the Center on 'Thermodynamic formalism in one-dimensional dynamics'.

- Mike Todd visited Ohio State University in mid-February to collaborate with colleagues and to give a seminar on 'Continuity of measures'.

- Sascha Troscheit visited Francesco Cellarosi at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada from 24th-26th February and gave a talk in their Ergodic Theory seminar.

- Magda Carr gave an invited seminar on 12th February at the University of Cambridge in their Fluid Dynamics Seminar Series for which she gave a review of her work on internal solitary waves.

- Nik Ruskuc visited Bob Gray at the University of East Anglia from 4-9th February, to continue their joint project on semigroup presentations and word problems.

- Colin Campbell attended the North British Geometric Group Theory Seminar in Durham on Monday 22nd February.

Other News

- Colva Roney-Dougal has been appointed President of the Mathematical Sciences Section of the British Science Association, for one year from October 2016. Apart from attending committee meetings, her main "duty" will be to give a 1 hour presidential lecture at the British Science Festival in September 2017.

Future Events

- Edmund Robertson will give the inaugural London Mathematical Society Hirst Lecture in the Mathematical Institute on Wednesday 20th April. The Hirst Lecture celebrates the joint award of the Hirst Prize and Lectureship to Edmund Robertson and John O'Connor for their creation, development and maintenance of the MacTutor History of Mathematics website http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk. The prize is for original and innovative work in the history of mathematics, which may be in any medium. The meeting, aimed at a general audience, will open at 3.15pm with Mark McCartney (Ulster) speaking at 3.30pm, and with the Hirst Lecture at 5.15pm followed by a wine reception.

- 'Mathematical Biography: A MacTutor Celebration' is a 2-day conference in St Andrews, 16-17th September, being organised by Isobel Falconer in collaboration with the British Society for the History of Mathematics, and with funding from LMS and EdMS, see http://www.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/mathbiog/

- There will be a meeting of the North British Semigroups and Applications Network in St Andrews on 17-18th March. Speakers will include Marianne Johnson (Manchester), Ying-Ying Feng (York), Mark-Jan Nederhof (St Andrews), and Rebecca Waldecker (Martin-Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg).

Next Issue

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