

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

January 2000

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Michael Ruderman, on gaining a lectureship in Applied Mathematics at Sheffield University. Dr Ruderman works in the field of magnetohydrodynamic waves, with applications to the Earth's magnetosphere and the Sun's atmosphere.
 - to Prof John Howie who will be awarded an honorary degree of D.Univ from the Open University at a graduation in Edinburgh on 6 May.
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WELCOME

- to Carmen Fernandez, formerly at the University of Bristol, who has been appointed to a lectureship in Statistics.
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NEWS

- In November Samantha Strindberg participated in a workshop on Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing for Marine Mammal Science as well as the Society for Marine Mammalogy's 13th Biennial Conference, both held on Maui, Hawaii. She contributed a poster presentation on 'Optimized Survey Design: The Zigzag Sampler in Line Transect Surveys' and saw more members of the Sea Mammal Research Unit on Maui than she usually sees in St Andrews...
- Liz Clarke attended a meeting of the EC MIQES project in IJMuider in the Netherlands. This project has been set up to improve estimation methods of fish stock size in the North Sea, for input into management programs and involves collaborators from most of the EC countries bordering

the North Sea. Discussion centred around modelling the spatio-temporal changes in fish distribution using generalised additive models and modelling the stock dynamics over time using Bayesian state-space methods. After an exhausting meeting in the industrial centre of Holland, Liz spent the weekend relaxing in the far more picturesque Amsterdam.

- Daniel Brown is currently visiting the Lockheed Martin Space and Astrophysics Laboratory in Palo Alto where he is working on theoretical interpretations of solar flares observed with TRACE and SoHO/MDI. So far he has given two seminars. One on the topology of magnetic fields and the other on X-ray bright points.

EVEN YEARS!

- A little note in the Times a few days ago pointed out that Wednesday 2nd February (2/2/2000) will be the first day with only even digits since 28/8/888. This, of course, is a break of 1112 years, the same length of time that we will have to wait for the next day with purely odd digits!

SEMINARS

- Solar Group Seminars (Math. Rm 3B - 1.30pm)
 - Wednesday 2 February Ineke De Moortel
 - Wednesday 9 February Klaus Galsgaard
 - Wednesday 16 February Duncan Mackay
 - Wednesday 23 February Richard Ryan
- Informal Analysis Seminar (Math. Rm 1A - 3pm)
 - Tuesday 1 February Bernd Stratmann “Notes on upper bounds for the exponent of convergence for convex cocompact groups”

NEXT ISSUE

- Please send any material for the next newsletter to mcsnews@mcs by 12pm Thursday 24th February.