

## **SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**

# NEWSLETTER

January 2003

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### **WELCOME**

to Dr Francis Poulin, who joined the Waves, Vortices and Turbulence research group in September, to work with David Dritschel on wave-vortex interactions in rotating, stratified fluids.

to Eric Rexstad, who is visiting CREEM from January to June. Eric is on sabbatical from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and is perhaps the first winter visitor to comment on how high in the sky the sun gets at this time of year! Eric's interests are in wildlife surveys, and so he will be working mostly with RUWPA staff.

to Paolo Giuliani who has joined the Solar Theory Group as a PostDoc. Paolo is funded by the PLATON Research Training Network for the first two months of his stay and will then start his two-year Marie-Curie-Fellowship. He will work on particle acceleration in solar flares with Thomas Neukirch. Paolo did his PhD on MHD turbulence at the University of Calabria, Italy, under the supervision of Pierluigi Veltri. After that he worked at the Niels-Bohr Institute and the Danish Meteorological Institute in Copenhagen, and at the Weizmann Institute in Israel.

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### **CONGRATULATIONS**

to Oliver and Susie Bühler on the birth of their daughter Anna Katherina, who was born on January 6th weighing 7lb 15oz. Since

September, Oliver has been on leave at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. The family is doing well and enjoying New York life despite the freezing New York winter.

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## FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK

to Antonio Diaz who has been visiting the Solar Group for the last two months. He has been working with Bernie Roberts, but has enjoyed discussions with many in the department about both Solar and non-Solar things.

to Alvaro Viudez, who left the Waves, Vortices and Turbulence research group in January to take up a 5-year fellowship in Spain.

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## NEWS

Kenneth Falconer has been re-elected to the Council of the London Mathematical Society for a further two years, and will continue as a member of their Programme Committee. Kenneth also gave a Pure Mathematics Seminar in Edinburgh - this was the day after the Great Fire, and staff were bemoaning the loss of their Informatics department.

Alex Craik was re-elected for a second year to the Council of the British Society for the History of Mathematics, and in January attended a Council meeting in London. Anyone who would like to join the BSHM or who wishes more information should contact Alex or consult the web-site <http://www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/bshm>.

As briefly noted in the previous Newsletter, David Dritschel visited Japan during 12 - 26 October. There, he gave a talk on the ellipsoidal vortex model at a one-day workshop on Vortex Dynamics at Kyoto University (organised by Prof. M. Funakoshi); another on rotating, stratified turbulence at the International Symposium *Dynamics and*

*Statistics of Coherent Structures in Turbulence: Roles of Elementary Vortices*, in Tokyo (organised by Prof. S. Kida); and two further talks at Tokyo University and the University of Electro-Communications, Chofu, where he visited Professors T. Yamagata and T. Miyazaki.. Between all of this activity, there was time to enjoy some wonderful scenery (in particular at Nikko), Japanese food (soba, or buckwheat noodles) and, as always, gracious hospitality!

John and Dorothy Howie will be visiting their family in New Zealand from 17 January to 17 February. For once, John has no plans to give lectures anywhere, either in New Zealand or en route.

Jean Reinaud visited the Department of Fluid Mechanics of the Grande Ecole ENSICA in Toulouse, France, the week before Christmas. Jean is familiar with the place since he graduated in aeronautical engineering and he studied for his PhD there. He was invited by Laurent Joly to start a collaboration on the merger of radially stratified vortices. Jean took the opportunity to give a seminar about *ELM*, a new numerical approach, derived recently with David Dritschel and William McKiver.

On 12 December 2002, Thomas Neukirch and Paul Wood visited the Department of Physics and Astronomy of Glasgow University to discuss solar flare particle acceleration with Lyndsay Fletcher and her PhD students. Thomas also gave a seminar entitled *Extrapolation of Coronal Magnetic Fields*.

Thomas Neukirch, Eric Priest and Francois-Xavier Bocquet attended the Annual Meeting of the PLATON Research Training Network at the IAC, La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain on 22 and 23 January 2003. The PLATON Network which is coordinated by Thomas Neukirch, also had its Mid-Term Review Meeting on 24 January 2003, at which an evaluation of the network took place. The result of this assessment will become known within the next few weeks. Thomas and Eric gave talks at both meetings and Francois gave a talk at the Mid-Term Review Meeting.

Please send material for the next Newsletter to: [mcsnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:mcsnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk)