

School of Mathematics and Statistics

Newsletter

January 2018

Congratulations to...

- Rocio Prieto Gonzalez for successfully defending her PhD thesis ‘Incorporating animal movement into circular plot and point transect surveys of wildlife abundance’
- Hannah Worthington who has been appointed to a Lectureship in Statistics from 1st December 2017.
- Richard Glennie who has been awarded a five-year Research Fellowship by the University starting on 1st April 2018.
- Lindsay Scott-Hayward who has been appointed to a temporary Lectureship in Statistics for three years from 1st January 2018.
- Giorgos Minas, currently at the University of Warwick, who will join us in July 2018 as a Lecturer in Statistics, working on medical statistics. His webpage is [here](#).
- Kenneth Falconer who has been appointed to the Regius Chair of Mathematics by Her Majesty the Queen by a [warrant](#) signed by Her Majesty and the First Minister. The St Andrews Regius Chair was founded by Charles II in 1668 with the appointment of James Gregory. There are now three [Regius Chairs in Mathematics](#), with those at Warwick and Oxford founded in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

Visits and conferences

- Nik Ruskuc gave an invited lecture entitled ‘On groups of units in one relation monoids and inverse monoids’ at the *Winter One-relator Workshop* in Norwich held from 9-11th January.
- Mike Todd visited Fairfield, Connecticut for the first ten days of 2018 to work on dynamical systems with holes with his collaborator Mark Demers. Apart from research, he experienced the ‘bomb cyclone’ affecting the north-east USA, getting snowed in for a day and with record low temperatures.
- On 12th January Peter Cameron gave a talk on ‘Equitable partitions of Latin square graphs’ to the Combinatorics Study Group at Queen Mary University of London (a seminar he founded thirty years ago).
- James Threlfall visited the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Durham on 15th December to give a seminar ‘What can test particles tell us about magnetic reconnection in the solar corona?’.
- Isobel Falconer spent a week in Cambridge in January, advising the Cavendish Laboratory on the development of their photo-archive, and exploring archives relating to D’Arcy Thompson’s time as an undergraduate at Cambridge.
- Len Thomas gave an invited talk ‘Counting something that’s almost gone: combined visual-acoustic abundance estimate of the vaquita’ at the conference *Statistics in Ecological and Environmental Monitoring* in Queenstown, New Zealand. While there, he climbed a local hill, Ben Lomond and visited nearby villages Glen Orchy and Rannoch. Clearly homesick Scots were involved in place naming!

- Andy Lynch spoke on 15th January at the [St Andrews Bioinformatics Workshop](#) on ‘Challenges and results from the CRUK Prostate ICGC project’.
- Janine Illian gave an invited talk entitled ‘Treating ecological data structures as thinned point processes’ at *CMStatistics 2017* (Computational and Methodological Statistics) held at the University of London Senate House, 16-18th December. She also gave a seminar entitled ‘Spatial modelling for ecological surveys -- contributions from and to point process modelling’ and was the opponent at the public defence of Jussi Jousimo’s PhD at the University of Helsinki.
- On 7th December Michail Papathomas attended the *LMS/EMS Good Practice Scheme Workshop* in Edinburgh, on good practice with regard to PhD and staff recruitment, and also on Athena SWAN applications.

Visitors

- Russell Alpizar-Jara, from University of Evora, Portugal made a short research visit, interacting with many in CREEM, giving a research seminar, and examining Rocio Gonzalez’s PhD.

Public Engagement

- On 6th December, Rick Camp, a PhD student in CREEM, gave a talk ‘A brief history of monitoring Hawaiian forest birds and selected research’ at the Fife branch of the annual meeting of the *Scottish Ornithologists’ Club*.

Future Events

- Ineke de Moortel will be University Chaplain Donald MacEwan’s guest in [Chaplain’s Conversations](#), at the Byre Theatre on Monday 12 February at 5.30pm. Attendance is free, but tickets should be obtained from [this link](#).
- Mark Chaplain will give his Inaugural Lecture on Wednesday 11th April 2018 – colleagues are encouraged to note the date in their diaries.
- St Andrews will be hosting three major meetings in the coming year:

[British Applied Mathematics Colloquium](#) BAMC 2018 26-29th March

[British Mathematical Colloquium](#) BMC 2018 11-14th June

[International Statistical Ecology Conference](#) ICES 2018 2nd-6th July

Good luck to the organisers! Put the dates in your diary and encourage your colleagues and contacts to come.

Next Issue

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