

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

July 2002

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Claire Foullon, on the successful defence of her PhD thesis ‘Helioseismology and Diagnostics of Internal Magnetic layers’. The convenor of the examining committee was Andrew Wright and Prof Michael Thompson (Imperial College) was the external examiner; the thesis was supervised by Bernard Roberts.
 - to Alexandra Cran, an undergraduate student in the department, who has been awarded the IMA Scottish branch prize for the best Honours Project in Applicable Mathematics. Her project entitled ‘An Investigation of the Sweet Spot of Cricket Bats’ has won her an inscribed quaich and a cheque. A one page review of her project will appear in the IMA Mathematics Today bulletin later this year.
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FAREWELL

- to Oliver and Susie Buhler who will leave for New York City later this summer. Oliver has been granted two years unpaid leave from St Andrews and will go to work in the Centre for Atmosphere-Ocean Science at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, which is part of New York University. Susie will give up her job here at the end of July to concentrate more on family life.
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NEWS

- From the 11-15th June, Danielle Bewsher, Daniel Brown, Klaus Galsgaard, Alan Hood, Duncan Mackay, Ineke De Moortel and Clare Parnell, all from the Solar Group, attended the ‘Magnetic Coupling of the Solar Atmosphere’ conference on Santorini, Greece. Alan and Clare both gave invited reviews on ‘Magnetic Reconnection throughout the solar atmosphere’ and ‘Small scale transient events in the quiet and active solar atmosphere’, respectively. Danielle, Daniel, Ineke and Klaus all gave contributed talks entitled, ‘Magnetic structure of transition region blinkers’, ‘Observations and modelling of rotating sunspots and their effect in the corona’, ‘Observational evidence of photospheric driving of longitudinal oscillations in coronal loops’, and ‘Flux braiding in a stratified atmosphere’, respectively. Duncan gave a poster on the ‘Evolution of a density enhancement in a stratified atmosphere with uniform vertical magnetic field’.
 - Colin Campbell attended and gave a talk at the Tenth International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and their Applications held at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff from 24-28 June.
 - Lars Olsen attended the 26’th Real Analysis Symposium at Washington and Lee University in Lexington from June 25 to June 29. Lars gave an invited plenary 1 hour talk. The title of his talk was ‘Good and bad points’.
 - During a brief visit to London, Alex Craik attended a one-day historical meeting at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on 29th June, on ‘Greenwich, some Mathematical Connections’. He also spent a day at the British Library gathering information on William Hopkins, the famous mid-19th century Cambridge private tutor; and he inspected and admired his second grandchild, Stuart, born on June 14th. Just the week before, he had been in Oxford for a meeting of the Council of the British Society for the History of Mathematics.
 - Peter Jupp attended the conference on ‘Information Geometry and its Applications’ held in Pescara (Italy) during 1-5 July. He gave a talk on ‘Yoke Geometry in Parametric Inference’.
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Slide Show

- As in the past three years, Edith and Richard Cormack are giving three new slide shows on behalf of the local branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. These will be held in the Supper Room of the Town Hall on Mondays at 7.30 pm (entry £2):

15 July - 'Scotland, the Colour - (landscapes and close-ups)'

22 July - 'Nature's Magic - colour and pattern (some with mathematical connotations)'

29 July - 'Bubbles, eruption and life = plant ecology in the Pacific ring of fire'

NEW EDITOR

- I have now been the Editor of the newsletter since April 1999 and feel it is now time for a change. The newsletter does not take much time (approximately 1-2 hours per month) and I would like to encourage anyone interested in taking on this relatively simple job to contact me. I hope to have 'retired' by the end of the summer!

NEXT ISSUE

- Please send any material for the next newsletter to mcsnews@mcs by 12pm Thursday 8th August.