Congratulations to …

• Tom Kempton on being appointed to a Lectureship in Pure Mathematics at the University of Manchester. Tom is the third member of the Analysis group in just over three years to get a lectureship at Manchester, following Xiong Jin and Jon Fraser (although Jon will be returning to St Andrews next month).

Meetings organised

• Vasilis Archontis organised an International Scientific Seminar on the ‘Structure and dynamics of the solar atmosphere: recent advances and future challenges’ held at the Kavli Royal Society International Center, Chicheley Hall, near Milton Keynes, on 25-26th May. Alan Hood gave a talk on ‘Modelling the coupling between transition region and corona’ and Ineke De Moortel spoke on ‘Coronal density structure and its role in wave damping in loops’.

• The Scottish Mathematical Challenge Award Day took place in St Andrews on 8th June organised by Sophie Huczynska. Around 60 youngsters from 15 schools across central Scotland received mugs and certificates to mark their success in the competition, and Kenneth Falconer gave a talk ‘Win with Mathematics’. Thanks to those staff and research students who marked Maths Challenge entries during the year.

Conferences and Visits

• Colin Campbell, Michael Torpey and Wilf Wilson attended a meeting of NBSAN (North British Semigroups and Applications Network) in York on 11th May.

• Collin Bleak, Colin Campbell, Nayab Khalid, Feyisayo Olukoya and Martyn Quick attended Groups in Galway 2016 held at the National University of Ireland, Galway from 19th-21st May. Collin gave a lecture entitled ‘On detecting solubility for finitely generated subgroups of the group $\text{PL}_n(I)$’.

• Edmund Robertson was Chair of the History of Mathematics and Teaching of Mathematics Conference held at the Esterházy Károly University of Applied Sciences in Eger, Hungary, 19th-22nd May. He gave two talks at the conference: ‘MacTutor - History of Mathematics Archive’ and ‘Charles Matthew Wish (1795-1833)’. He also addressed the CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies) session on Central European Contributions to the History and Teaching of Mathematics. The social events included a visit to Eger Castle and a visit to the Eger Camera Obscura which is one of a very few camera obscura in the world, one of the others being in Edinburgh.

• Colva Roney-Dougal visited the University of Aalto, Finland, from 11-13th May where she gave a talk ‘Proving hyperbolicity in polynomial time’. She also attended a meeting on ‘Branching Problems for Reductive Groups’ at the Mittag-Leffler institute in Sweden from 16-20th May where she spoke on ‘Maximal subgroups of low rank almost simple groups’.

• Alla Detinko visited RWTH Aachen University from 23rd-26th May. During the visit she gave a seminar titled ‘Linear groups and computation’ on methods and algorithms for computing with infinite linear groups.
• Peter Cameron attended a meeting on ‘New Directions in Combinatorics’ in Singapore, 23rd-27th May, where he spoke on ‘Combinatorics of transformation semigroups and synchronization’. One of the organisers was his former PhD student Cheng Yeaw Ku. On 1st June he spoke on ‘Road colouring and road closures: synchronization and idempotent generation’ at a meeting in Bristol on ‘Permutation groups’ of the Groups and Applications Network. Peter also attended the London Combinatorics Colloquia on 11-12th May, where he chaired a meeting of the British Combinatorial Committee.

Peter encountered this huge goldfish on the National University of Singapore campus

• Peter Cameron was in Hay-on-Wye for the ‘How the Light Gets In’ festival on 3rd-4th June, having walked from Abergavenny the previous day. He gave a two lecture course on ‘Secret Codes’, and took part in a panel discussion on ‘Randomness’, with Physics Nobel Laureate Frank Wilczek and Mike Duff from Imperial College.

• Nik Ruskuc visited Robert Gray at the University of East Anglia in Norwich from 16-20th May to work on one relation monoids and inverse monoids.

• Louis Theran attended a workshop on ‘Geometric Rigidity Theory and Applications’ at ICMS, Edinburgh, 30th May-3rd June, where he gave a talk on ‘Generic global and universal rigidity’. He also attended a one day Geometric Rigidity workshop at Lancaster University.

• Mike Todd returned to St Andrews to recover after six weeks at the Erwin Schrödinger International Institute for Mathematics and Physics (ESI) in Vienna on the thematic programme ‘Mixing Flows and Averaging Methods’, which included two weeks of schools and three weeks of workshops/conferences as well as lots of research discussions.

• Magda Carr gave an invited talk at the ‘B-waves’ meeting at the University of Bergen from 13th - 17th June. Magda thanks the University of St Andrews Caring Fund for contributing towards her attendance.

• Ineke de Moortel visited Bart De Pontieu at the Lockheed Martin Solar Astrophysics Lab in Palo Alto, California, from 9-13th May to work on the analysis of solar observational data.

• Michael Paphathomas gave a talk at the MRC Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge on 7th June on ‘Exploring dependence between categorical variables’. He also had promising discussions with potential collaborators from MRC Biostatistics. He was pleasantly surprised to meet Ian Goudie’s son Robert who is a researcher there.

• Rosemary Bailey attended the 25th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics, in Funchal, Madeira from 6-9th June, where she gave a talk on ‘Association schemes in designed experiments’.

• Markus Pfeiffer visited Michael Kohlhase, Florian Rabe, and Dennis Müller at Jacobs University, Bremen 30th May-4th June to work on OpenDreamKit’s automatic interfacing of computer algebra systems.

• Markus Pfeiffer and Chris Jefferson visited Rebecca Waldecker in Halle from 6-10th June, continuing work on backtrack search in permutation groups.
Future Events

• Registration is now open for the conference ‘Mathematical Biography: A MacTutor Celebration’ in St Andrews on 16-17th September, http://www.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/mathbiog/. Could staff who intend to come to some or all of the meeting, but find the university's online shop too daunting, please see Isobel Falconer (Maths Institute, room 120) in order to register.

• Distinguished Professor Steven Skiena from Stony Brook University will be visiting on 15-17th September (speaking at the Mathematical Biography conference on Friday 16th afternoon). Steve’s research interests include the design of graph, string, and geometric algorithms, and their applications, particularly to biology http://www.cs.stonybrook.edu/~skiena/. He is author of several popular books in the fields of algorithms, programming, and mathematics. He’s meeting Mark-Jan Nederhof in Computer Science on 15th, but if anyone else would like to talk to him, please contact Isobel Falconer.

Next Issue

• The next edition of the School Newsletter will be circulated in July. 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.