

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

March 13, 2003

WELCOME

to Duane Broline, who is visiting CIRCA from Eastern Illinois University, Charleston from mid-January till mid-May.

to our schoolteacher-fellow, Eric Steadman, from Sidwell Friends School in Washington DC, who is visiting during January-March.

to Peter Damiano who started in January as a Postdoc. in the Solar and Magnetospheric Theory Group. Peter comes from Edmonton in Canada where he has just completed his Ph.D. under the supervision of Rick Sydora and John Samson. His thesis concerned particle acceleration in MHD waves found in the Earth's magnetosphere, and he will continue to work in this area with Andy Wright.

to Monique Mackenzie, who joins the Statistics Division and CREEM as a lecturer this month. Monique started out as a biologist, then switched to statistics as a PhD student at the University of Auckland. Her research interests are generalized linear and generalized additive mixed models. Her office will be at the Observatory.

and to Ivan Werner who joins the Analysis Group to work for a PhD.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Len Thomas and his wife Katrine. Continuing CREEM's recent rapid expansion, Corran Thomas arrived at 8.30pm on Thursday 27th February, weighing in at 9 lbs 11 oz. Both he and mum Katrine are doing fine. Corran will no doubt be available for small-scale consultancy work once he's figured out how to focus his eyes.

Please note new address, phone and fax numbers:

Len Thomas (len@mcs.st-and.ac.uk)

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SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

Bernard Roberts recently gave a seminar, "On Coronal Seismology", at Warwick University.

Berndt O. Stratmann has returned from his research leave during Martinmas Semester 2002. During the main part of that period he had a visiting professorship at the Mathematical Institute of the University of Göttingen. As one of the 20 or so invited plenary speakers at the 'Janos Bolyai conference on Hyperbolic Geometry', he received a Bolyai medal (Budapest, July 2002). This conference commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Janos Bolyai. It covered a wide range of topics in Hyperbolic Geometry and was opened by the President of the Republic of Hungary. Another of the speakers was the 96-year-old H.S.M. Coxeter, who had travelled from Canada. Berndt much enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to him.

Berndt spoke also at the conferences 'Third Days of Hyperbolic Geometry' (Gdansk, Sept. 2002), and 'Stochastics and Dynamics' (Göttingen, July 2002). He gave colloquium talks at the Finnish Math. Soc. (University of Helsinki, Dec. 2002) and at the University of

Bremen (Jan. 2003), and seminar talks at the University of Bochum (July 2002) and the University of North Texas, Denton (May 2002). He also organized a Conference 'Stochastics and Dynamics' held at the Institute for Mathematical Stochastics at the University of Göttingen (July 2002), and made research visits to the Universities of North Texas (May 2002), Göttingen (Aug. 2002 - Jan. 2003), Bochum (July 2002), Budapest (July 2002), Gdansk (Sept. 2002), Helsinki (Dec. 2002), and Bremen (Nov. 2002). In March 2003 he gave a seminar talk at the University of Edinburgh.

In early February Peter Jupp visited the Department of Mathematics at the University of Liège, where he gave two talks on 'How a geometer learned to enjoy Statistics' and discussed research with Gentiane Haesbroeck (an exchange student here in 1992-93). He also visited the Royal Observatory in Brussels to discuss the distribution of poles of visual binary stars, and then spent a few days in Apeldoorn, working on quantum statistics with Ole Barndorff-Nielsen and Richard Gill.

EVENTS

To celebrate 'International Sun-Earth Day 2003', Clare Parnell, Alan Hood and Thomas Neukirch from the Solar Theory Group will give a series of three 20-minute talks for the general public. on **Tuesday 18th March**, from 7.30 pm onwards, in Lecture Theatre A (School of Physics & Astronomy, North Haugh, St Andrews). Using stunning images and the latest observations from satellites, they will give an informal "virtual" tour of the Sun. They will discuss its various different types of activity and its impact and influence on the Earth. Afterwards, along with some refreshments, there will be an opportunity to take part in an interactive internet session, finding out how you can view close-up, real-time, images of the Sun from home and discover more about the Sun and its effects on our lives.

HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS AFTERNOON: Joint Edinburgh Mathematical Society/BSHM meeting in the Appleton Tower, University of Edinburgh, on **Friday 2nd May**. (organised by Alex Craik. All welcome!)

2:00 - 2:40 John Searl (Centre for Mathematical Education, Edinburgh University) *Where do ideas come from?*

2:40 - 3:20 Hilary Mason (Madras College, St Andrews)
J.E.A. Steggall: teaching mathematics 1880-1933.

3:20 - 4:00 Peter Neumann (Queen's College, Oxford)
A discourse concerning algebra: finite fields in nineteenth-century algebra.

4:00 - 4:30 TEA

4:30 - 5:30 Jackie Stedall (Queen's College, Oxford)
A discourse concerning algebra: John Wallis (1616-1703) and seventeenth-century algebra.

The British Logic Colloquium will hold its annual meeting in St Andrews, **3 - 6 September 2003**. Invited talks, aimed mainly at a general audience, will cover a wide range of branches of logic, from history of logic, philosophical logic and applications in linguistics to constructive mathematics, set theory, model theory, proof theory and applications in computer science. There will be sessions of contributed talks, mainly but not exclusively by research students, for whom there will be some financial support for early applicants. The meeting is organised by Roy Dyckhoff [School of Computer Science] and Stephen Read [Department of Logic & Metaphysics], with support from (inter alia) the London Mathematical Society.

Invited speakers include the following:

Patrick Blackburn (Nancy)
Douglas Bridges (Canterbury [NZ] & Munich)
Mirna Dzamonja (East Anglia)
Stuart Shapiro (Ohio & St Andrews)
Mark Steedman (Edinburgh)
Colin Stirling (Edinburgh)
Göran Sundholm (Leiden)
Alasdair Urquhart (Toronto)

Special rates will be available for local participants.

For more information, see <http://www.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~blc/>.

Please send material for the next Newsletter to: mcsnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk