

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS



NEWSLETTER



November - December 2007

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to John Jardine on his appointment as Bedellus in the University following the retirement of Jim Douglas.
 - Congratulations to Magda Carr who got an EPSRC first grant to study the breaking characteristics of large amplitude internal solitary waves. Starting in Oct 2008, the grant will fund a postdoc for 3 years and laboratory work in the Universities of Dundee and Oslo for 6 and 3 months respectively.
-

WELCOME

- Welcome (back) to Rhona Maclean, who has rejoined the Solar group as a Postdoc after having spent a year in Armagh. Rhona can be found in Room 307.
-

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Copson Lecture was delivered on 12th December by Dr John Haigh of the University of Sussex on the subject 'How Likely is That?'. This lecture, describing some of the pitfalls encountered on thinking about probabilities, was enjoyed by a mixed audience of students, staff and a substantial number of the general public. A lively discussion at the end was testament to the interest which the lecturer aroused.
- John Howie will be in New Zealand from 22nd January to 19th February. He can be reached by e-mail, with his normal address.

SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Kenneth Falconer made a short research visit to Bern where he gave a colloquium talk. He particularly enjoyed working in an office with fine views of the Eiger and Jungfrau out of the window (at least for the periods when the cloud lifted)!
- Lining Liu and Tony Samuel attended a workshop on Stochastic and Random Dynamics at Imperial College London.
- Sara Munday attended a one meeting in Cambridge to mark Alan Beardon's retirement.
- Dee McDougall gave an invited seminar on "MHD Mode Conversion in a Stratified Atmosphere" to the Solar Physics and Space Plasma Research Centre at Sheffield University on 30 November. On the back of this, some collaborations with the group are planned.
- Magda Carr gave an invited seminar at the Universities of Stirling and Dundee (on Nov 6th and 20th respectively) on 'Penetrative Convection in a Superposed Porous Medium-Fluid Layer'. She also attended a two day workshop on Stratified Flow Over Topography at The Scottish Association for Marine Science in Oban (Nov 13th-14th) where she presented work on 'Benthic Flow Beneath Large Amplitude Internal Solitary Waves'.
- Madhu Bhattacharjee gave a talk at the CAMDA 2007 conference at Valencia, Spain, in December. This multidisciplinary conference is unique and well known in the field of Bioinformatics. The work entitled 'Biomarker identification using Bayesian variable selection' was done jointly with Catherine Botting from the Biology Department and Dr. Mikko Sillanpaa of Helsinki University. Madhu also served on the Scientific Committee for the conference. Earlier this month Madhu was invited to give a talk at the CEGG forum organised by the Biology department.
- Duncan Mackay attended the PROM Workshop at UC Berkeley between the dates of 29th October-2nd November where he gave a talk on 'Modelling the Global Solar Corona: Filament Chirality Simulations'. Following this he visited Lockheed Martin Space Science Lab for two days where he gave a seminar on 'MHD Simulations of Solar Prominences'.

- Between the 3rd-7th December Duncan Mackay attended a workshop at the International Space Sciences Institute in Bern where he gave a review of ‘Observations and Models for the Formation of Solar Filaments’.
 - In November Peter Jupp gave a seminar at the University of Bath on ‘Estimation of population size: conditioning has negligible effect’. While there, he met our former colleagues Simon Wood and Nicole Augustin (and their two children).
 - Stéphane Régnier attended the first SOLAIRE network meeting in Leuven (Belgium) and gave a talk entitled ‘Global properties of Alfvén speeds in an isothermal atmosphere’.
-

NEXT ISSUE

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

