MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2010

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Lining Liu on successfully defending her thesis 'Stable and Multistable and Localisability' on May 12th.

- Two birth congratulations - congratulations to Max and Anja on the birth of their daughter Savina, and to Ineke and Mark on the birth of their son Ben. Both babies were born in April.

- Wedding congratulations to Magda and her husband Gary, who were married in June!

WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

- Welcome to all the summer students in all research groups. We have a large number of summer students this year, in all divisions, and we wish them a productive and enjoyable time over the summer.

- Welcome to Collin Bleak, who has just started a postdoc position in the Algebra and Combinatorics group, working on EPSRC grant "Automata in Algebra" with Nik and Martyn. Collin can be found in Room 209.

- Welcome to Hattoibe Ben Aboubacar from France, who is spending 3 months' placement at the School, working on complex point process models.

- Sophie has now returned from maternity leave, and is taking over editorship of the newsletter from Ineke, who is now off on maternity leave (see above!).

SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- On 24th March, Max gave a talk on "Is there a Sudoku puzzle with 16 hints?" in the interdisciplinary seminar of the Institute for Complex Systems and Mathematical Biology lead by Professor Celso Grebogi in Aberdeen. The audience consisted of Biologists, Chemists, Computer Scientists, Physicists and Mathematicians.

- Janine Illian presented a talk at the 2nd joint statistical meeting, DAG-STAT in Dortmund, Germany in March. In April, Janine organised a workshop entitled "Pushing the boundaries of innovation" at the Informatics Forum in Edinburgh that brought together key individuals involved in the management of research and innovation in universities. In the same month she also spoke at the workshop on continuous-time and continuous-space processes in ecology, in Warwick.

- In April, Peter Jupp attended the 'Workshop on Geometric and Algebraic Statistics 2' at the University of Warwick, at which he gave a review of differential-geometric statistics. In June he attended the 'Workshop on Probability, Statistics and Analysis on Groups' at the University of Sheffield and spoke on 'Directional Statistics, L_2 spaces and orthogonal axial frames'.

- Daniel Mintz and Alex Craik gave talks at the History of Mathematics splinter sessions at the BMC/BAMC in Edinburgh on 6 and 8 April. Daniel spoke on Ptolemy's 'Geography' and Alex on William Wallace, a former professor of mathematics in Edinburgh. Marit Hartveit was also due to talk, but unfortunately had to withdraw.

- In May, Janine Illian gave an invited talk at the 8th French-Danish workshop on spatial statistics and image analysis in biology in Copenhagen.

- Ruth King was co-organiser (with Chiara Mazzetta, University of Warwick) of the joint CRiSM (Centre for Research in Statistical Methodology) and NCSE workshop on "Continuous-Time and Continuous-Space Processes in Ecology". This workshop was held from 20-21st April 2010 and was attended by approximately 25 people, including, from St Andrews, Steve Buckland, Janine Illian, Brett McClintock, Calum Brown and Jason Matthiopoulos (SMRU). Despite volcanic ash-cloud disruption, which unfortunately resulted in two invited speakers having to present their work

via skype, the workshop provided stimulating discussion of statistical research within this field.

- Colin Campbell, Max Neunhoeffer and Edmund Robertson attended Groups in Galway 28-29 May 2010. Edmund gave the talk "Efficiency - a survey" and Max gave the talk "Generalisations of Small Cancellation Theory." This particular Groups in Galway meeting was in honour of Ted Hurley, Head of the Galway Department, who retires this year.

- Ruth King acted as an external examiner at the University of Kent at Canterbury on the PhD thesis entitled "Climate Modelling for Animal Survival".

- The conference "History of Mathematics and Teaching of Mathematics" was held in Szeged, Hungary, 20-22 May. Colin Campbell, Daniel Mintz, John O'Connor and Edmund Robertson were invited speakers at the conference with Edmund being conference Chairman. However, due to the volcanic ash, they were unable to attend. They recorded their lectures: Edmund, "Galileo's Difesa"; John, "What Archimedes knew about continued fractions"; Colin, "The Edinburgh Mathematical Society Education Committee", and Daniel, "Mathematics for History's Sake: A New Approach to Ptolemy's Geography" and these were shown in the Hall of the Academy in Szeged on the morning of 20 May. After their presentations they answered questions during a Skype session. Peter Lindsay made the video recordings and helped send the files to Hungary.

- Ruth King is a CI on the recently announced MRC grant "Incidence, Prevalence, Harms and Intervention Effects for Problem and Injecting Drug Use: Crime, Morbidity and Mortality". This is an across-university MRC Strategic Grant totalling 842,621 (FEC), with contribution to St Andrews of 104,343. She has also been invited, and accepted, to be a member of the programme committee for the International Biometrics Society Channel Network Conference, 2011.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

- The 12th Postgraduate Group Theory conference was held in St Andrews from 28th-30th June. The Postgraduate Group Theory Conference (PGTC) is an annual conference organised by and for current research students in all areas of group theory and related topics, and this was the first time it was held north of the border. It was a huge success - congratulations to

the Organizers, Jay Ferguson and Nina Menezes, and to everyone else who helped to make it such a successful event.

- The Award Ceremony for Scottish Mathematical Challenge was held in St Andrews on Wednesday 9th June and was attended by about 65 pupils from schools across Eastern and Central Scotland accompanied by many teachers and parents. Dr Rachel Norman (University of Stirling) gave a talk on 'Using Mathematics to Control Diseases' and Kenneth Falconer presented certificates and mugs to the award winners. Many thanks to the staff and research students from across the School who have supported the Challenge by marking entries or in other ways. After being coordinated from St Andrews for the past three years, the organisation of the Challenge now passes to Stirling.

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