

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008-09

WELCOME

- Welcome to Jon Bishop, who recently defended his thesis in the statistics division. He has joined CREEM for 6 months or a year to help with development of the software Distance.
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CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Jun Miao and Yan on the birth of a son, Jiacheng, on 5th January 2009. Congratulations also to Jun on graduating with his Ph.D.
 - Congraulations to James McLaughlin, who is delighted to announce his engagement to Dr Lynda Boothroyd.
 - Congratulations to Eric Priest on the award of a Gold Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society. The citation states that he is honoured “in recognition of both his distinguished research work and his key role in nurturing future generations of scientists”.
 - Congratulations to Martial Hille and Nina Snigireva on successful outcomes of their PhD exams.
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SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- James Mitchell gave a one hour invited lecture at the CAMELEON Logic Meeting, Leeds, on 29th November 2008, after visiting John Truss from the 26th of November. He gave a contributed talk at the Nikolaus Conference at RWTH Aachen on 6th of December 2008.

- Magda Carr and Alex Craik attended an invited workshop on ‘Large Amplitude Internal Waves’ which took place at ICMS, Edinburgh, from 1st-4th December 2008; Magda presented a talk.
- Magda Carr attended and presented a talk at the 2nd International Symposium on Shallow Flows, 10th-12th December, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The trip was supported by a travel grant from the Royal Society for £1600.
- Colva Roney-Dougal was involved in organizing a Workshop on Infinite Group Theory and Related Topics (10th-12th December), which preceded a Joint Meeting of the Edinburgh and London Mathematical Societies (12th-13th December). The event was held in Edinburgh, and attracted around 80 participants. James Mitchell was one of the invited speakers at the workshop, and gave a one hour talk; several postgrads from St Andrews also attended and contributed talks/posters.
- Alan Cairns spent two weeks in December at the Institute for Plasma Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, having been invited there to help with the modelling of wave propagation in tokamaks.
- In December 2008, James McLaughlin attended the conference “Solar Cycle 24” in Napa Valley, California, and presented the summary plenary talk for the working group “Plumes and the Fast Solar Wind”.
- James Mitchell visited Michal Morayne and Jacek Cichon at the Technical University of Wroclaw between the 7th and the 14th of January.
- Kenneth Falconer gave a seminar at the University of Bristol, in the department that he left 14 years ago. The department has changed beyond recognition, though it was pleasing that a few former colleagues who are still there came along to the talk.
- David Dritschel co-organized a four month long programme at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge on the Nature of High Reynolds Number Turbulence. The programme brought together over 100 leading experts from around the world and included 6 focussed workshops throughout the period. Chuong Tran and Richard Scott attended the program as visiting fellows, spending respectively 11 weeks and 4 weeks at the Institute. Throughout the period David and Chuong each

gave several presentations of recent work carried out in the Vortex Dynamics Research Group. The programme culminated in a week long focussed workshop on Rotating Stratified Turbulence in which all three St Andrews participants gave talks. They were joined that week by PhD students Greig Henderson and Dan Lucas.

- Following recent interviews, Dr. Brett McClintock (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center) has been offered a position as a PDRA, working with Ruth King, Len Thomas and Jason Matthiopoulos (Sea Mammal Research Unit) on the 3-year EPSRC grant titled “The Way They Move: Towards a General Framework for Understanding Animal Movement in Changing Environments”. Brett has accepted the offer in principle and it is anticipated that he will begin the position in May/June, based at CREEM.

NEXT ISSUE

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