

School of Mathematics and Statistics

Newsletter

February 2017

New Staff

- Welcome to Julius Jonusas who has “joined” us as a Teaching Fellow, although he is by no means new to the School. Julius arrived in St Andrews as an undergraduate in 2009, took his BSc in Mathematics and Physics in 2012 and successfully defended his PhD last summer.
- Following the interviews for a Chair in Statistics in November 2016, the School is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Andrew Lynch to a Chair of Statistics in Bioscience, in a joint appointment with the School of Medicine. Andy, who will join us in June 2017, is currently Senior Research Associate at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, University of Cambridge.

Grants

- Sophie Huczynska has been awarded a Carnegie Trust Research Incentive Grant on the topic of ‘Difference Families in Coding and Cryptography’. This will support a collaboration with Maura Paterson at Birkbeck, University of London, and Siaw-Lynn Ng at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Visitors

- Daniel Simpson of the University of Bath visited Janine Illian in February.

Public Engagement

- Jon Fraser gave a talk about fractals in nature and mathematics at Glenalmond College, near Perth, with the audience consisting of around 90 students aged between 12 and 17.

Conferences and Visits

- Nik Ruskuc visited Victoria Gould in York, and gave a seminar entitled ‘Congruence lattices of diagram monoids’.
- Sascha Troscheit visited Simon Baker and Natalia Jurga at the University of Warwick from 20-24th February where he gave a talk about gauge functions for random attractors.
- Mike Todd attended the conference *Non Uniformly Hyperbolic Dynamical Systems. Coupling and Renewal Theory* at CIRM near Marseille. This provided a wonderful week of talks, mathematical discussions, and hikes in the Calanques.
- Isobel Falconer spent three days at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, where she continued her archive research on J.D. Forbes (physicist, mathematician and glaciologist, and Principal of the United College of St Andrews 1860-68), and advised on archival policy for the Cavendish’s photographic collection
- On 26th January Alan Hood gave an Applied Mathematics seminar at Glasgow University, entitled ‘Solar Avalanches and Cellular Automata: Coronal Magnetic Energy Release via an MHD Avalanche’.

- Duncan Mackay attended an international workshop on solar prominences at the International Space Science Institute in Bern between from 6-10th February.
- Magda Carr gave a seminar at Newcastle University on 3rd February.
- Fiona Macfarlane presented a talk on ‘Mathematical Modelling of the Immune Response to a Solid Tumour’ on 2nd February at the *Workshop on Mathematical Medicine and Mathematical Pharmacology*, held at Swansea University.
- Reports from the *Computational Mathematics with Jupyter* workshop, organised jointly by the OpenDreamKit and CoDiMa projects at the ICMS in Edinburgh on 16-20th January <http://opendreamkit.org/meetings/2017-01-16-ICMS>, are now published on the Software Sustainability Institute blog: <https://www.software.ac.uk/blog/2017-02-07-computational-mathematics-jupyter> <https://www.software.ac.uk/blog/2017-02-13-computational-mathematics-jupyter-sprint> There is also a digest of #JupyterICMS tweets: https://storify.com/CIRCA_StAndrews/computational-mathematics-with-jupyter.

Future Events

- The *Third Scottish Combinatorics Meeting* on 24-25th April 2017 will be held in St Andrews; this is the first time the meeting has been held here with the previous two in the series having taken place at the University of Glasgow. Attendance is free, but anyone who would like to attend is encouraged to register by emailing the hosts, Sophie Huczynska and Nik Ruskuc. This will be followed by the *British Colloquium in Theoretical Computer Science* from 26-28th April, to be hosted by Markus of the School of Computer Science.

Caption Competition

- Captions are invited for this picture of an igloo which was constructed by a cool professor on the Lomond Hills during the recent snow. If you have any ideas for captions for the picture, send them to the Newsletter editor at schoolnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk – a selection may be published in the next Newsletter.



Next Issue

- The next edition of the School Newsletter will be circulated in mid-March. Items for inclusion may be sent to schoolnews@mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk at any time but a reminder will be sent out a week before the deadline.