

School of Mathematics and Statistics

Newsletter

August 2019

Welcome ...

- to Jochen Kursawe, our new Lecturer in Mathematical Biology. After taking a master's degree in physics in Munich, Jochen did his DPhil with the Mathematical Biology group in Oxford, winning the Reinhart Heinrich Prize of the European Society for Mathematical and Theoretical Biology for his thesis. He then held a postdoc position in Manchester before coming to St Andrews.
- to Lauren Gatherum, our new School Secretary, currently located in Room 204.
- to Pablo Shmerkin and Alexia Yavicoli from Argentina who are long term visitors to the Analysis Group.

Farewell ...

- to Tom Elsdén. Tom came to St Andrews as an undergraduate and took our MMath degree. He followed this with a PhD supervised by Andy Wright and continued as a postdoc. But Tom's St Andean odyssey is coming to an end. He has been awarded a prestigious Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, which he will shortly take up at the University of Leicester. Tom plans to maintain strong links with St Andrews and visit frequently, so don't be surprised if you see him around in the future.

Visits and Conferences

- Peter Cameron spent the week 22nd-26th July at the London Mathematical Society's *Undergraduate Summer School* at the University of Leeds, where he gave two talks, one on 'Problems around graphs, groups and semigroups' and one on 'The random graph'.
- From 29th July-2nd August Rosemary Bailey, Peter Cameron, and Siavash Lashkarighouchani attended the *British Combinatorial Conference* at the University of Birmingham. Peter organised a mini-symposium on *Designs and Latin Squares*, at which Rosemary spoke on 'Substitutes for the non-existent square lattice design for 36 treatments'. Peter also contributed a talk on 'Hall-Paige and synchronization'. At the conference business meeting, Peter was re-elected chair of the British Combinatorial Committee, a position he has held for 25 years.
- Thomas Neukirch attended the *Vlasovia 2019: Sixth International Workshop on Theory and Applications of the Vlasov Equation* in Strasbourg from 22nd-25th July, where he gave a talk entitled 'From the Harris sheet to the force-free Harris sheet - a family of self-consistent Vlasov-Maxwell equilibrium distribution functions'. Despite temperatures rising from just above 30° C on Monday to about 40° C on Thursday the discussions remained lively (and the participants awake)!
- Stuart Burrell, Kenneth Falconer, Jon Fraser, Doug Howroyd, Lawrence Lee, Mike Todd and Han Yu attended the workshop *Thermodynamic Formalism: Ergodic Theory and Geometry* at the University of Warwick from 22nd-26th July, held to mark Mark Pollicott's 60th birthday.
- Peter Jupp attended the *European Meeting of Statisticians* in Palermo on 22nd-26th July, at which he spoke on 'Parallel lines and rotations of crystals'.

- Michail Papathomas visited Vietnam from 8-16th June for a Global Challenges project on the collection of data relevant to farming irrigation. He met with collaborators and took part in field trips to the Kontum region and Hanoi. On 14th June he delivered a session at the VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi, on statistical methods for the social sciences.
- Fiona Macfarlane, Cicely Macnamara, Giorgos Minas and our newly appointed Jochen Kursawe attended the *Annual Meeting of the Society of Mathematical Biology* in Montreal, which had the highest ever attendance of around 600 people. Fiona presented a poster ‘Modelling approaches to describe tumour-immune competition and tumour development’, and Cicely and Giorgos gave talks entitled ‘Oscillations in Gene Regulatory Networks: The Importance of Spatial Aspects’ and ‘Transcription regulation as a decision making process: the NF-kB case study’ as part of the mini-symposium organized by Jochen on ‘Modelling gene transcription’. Jochen also contributed a talk ‘Stochastic amplification of gene oscillations during embryonic neurogenesis’.

Caption Competition

- Suggestions for captions for last month’s picture shown on the right include:
 ‘The new School Manager is pulling out all stops to get a better overview of the School!’ TN
 ‘Who told the window cleaners that we had a six storey building?’ KJF

Next Issue

- The next edition of the School Newsletter will be circulated in September. 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.

