

School of Mathematics and Statistics Newsletter

January 2019

Athena SWAN Presentation

- Michail Papathomas attended the Athena SWAN equality diversity and inclusion awards ceremony at Southampton University on 10th December where he was presented with the Athena SWAN Bronze Award for our School.



Visits and Conferences

- Thomas Neukirch and Richard Scott attended the 2018 *Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union*, which took place in Washington D.C. from 10-14th December with about 24,000 participants. Thomas presented a poster entitled 'New Analytical 3D Magnetohydrostatic Equilibria for Modelling Solar Magnetic Fields'. Neither Thomas or Richard had realised that the other was going to the meeting until they met at the departure gate at Newark airport waiting for the connecting flight to Washington D.C.
- Len Thomas attended the annual review meeting of the US Navy's *Living Marine Resources* program in Ventura, California, and presented three talks on projects they sponsor being undertaken by CREEM. Getting to the meeting required driving through one of the recent California burn sites, which was sobering. Len then had a short research visit to the US *National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hollings Marine Lab.* in Charleston, South Carolina for a start-up meeting on a new project. Luckily the meeting took place before the government shut-down, but the field work planned for January now looks in danger.
- Nik Ruskuc is visiting James East at the Western Sydney University from 7-25th January to continue their joint project on congruences of partition monoids, which is now funded by the EPSRC.
- Several members of the School attended a *Workshop on Groups, Generalisations and Applications* at the University of Aberdeen on 16th January, with Colva Roney-Dougal as one of the organisers. Martyn Quick gave an invited talk on 'Presentations for Brin's higher-dimensional Thompson groups nV ' and Collin Bleak, Luke Elliott, Raad Al Kohli, Simon Jurina and Veronica Kelsey also attended.

Public Engagement

- On 10th January Isobel Falconer and Stephanie Yardley were main speakers at Lancaster University's *Florence Nightingale Day*, attended by around 60 sixth-formers. The day is designed to attract teenagers, particularly girls, into mathematics. Isobel spoke on 'Women in the history of mathematics - known and unknown' and Stephanie on 'Our explosive Sun'.

- Isobel Falconer spoke at a Strathmartine Centre coffee morning on 16th January on ‘J.D. Forbes and the development of curve plotting’. The Strathmartine Centre in St Andrews exists to promote the study of Scottish history among independent scholars, many of them retired from other, non-academic, walks of life. Forbes was a physicist and glaciologist and became Principal of the United College in St Andrews from 1859-68.

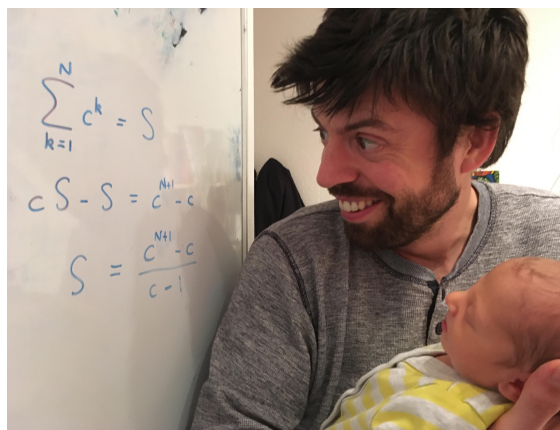
Future Events

- The School’s *Research Day* will be held on Thursday 24th January in Lecture Theatre D of the Mathematical Institute. It will be a whole-day meeting with refreshments, and wine at the end. The schedule can be found at <http://www.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/~miket/Meetings/MnSResDayTT.pdf>

Caption Competition

Caption suggestions for this picture in last month’s newsletter include:

- ‘Things like this have helped my PhD supervisor and me fall asleep in the past - let’s see whether it works for you as well!’ TN (*This refers back to the picture in August 2016 Newsletter.*)
- ‘Dad, if I were you I would start the summation at $k = 1$.’ BR



Next Issue

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