



AMSI News

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AMSI and ICE-EM are pleased to be working with the Australian Mathematical Society and the Statistical Society of Australia for the betterment of the whole profession. On 23rd May, AMSI, ICE-EM, Aust MS, SSAI and the Australian Bureau of Statistics hosted the workshop, Careers and Opportunities, organised by Jan Thomas. An interesting aspect of the meeting was the broader perspective offered by non-university participants from ABS, CSIRO, Qestacon, Powerhouse Museum, DEST and state education authorities. Held in Graduate House at University of Melbourne, the workshop generated lively discussion. A report is being written, out of which there will emerge a public relations campaign to encourage the study of mathematics. This is still being formulated, in conjunction with our media advisers.

We are calling interested members to collaborate over the remainder of this year to write Carrick grant proposals. The three areas that we have in mind are

- Best access grid practice for learning and teaching mathematics
- Engagement of engineering students in mathematics
- Mathematics education for primary teachers

Operations of the Australian Centre for Risk Analysis are well under way. In my previous report, I suggested that risk analysis might be a worthwhile second string to the bow of a mathematical scientist. If you would like to find out about the subject, I suggest that you register for the Conference of the Society for Risk Analysis to be held at AMSI Headquarters, University of Melbourne, 17th–19th July 2006. The first day of this meeting will be devoted to biosecurity, which is the primary interest of ACERA. Other topics of the meeting will relate to engineering and finance, which are areas of interest to many mathematicians and statisticians.

Mathematical sciences benefit from a healthy international collaborative network. Next April, we intend to run the first joint activity of AMSI, ICE-EM, MASCOS and MITACS, the Canadian national network Mathematics, Information Technology and Complex Systems. This will be a short-course and workshop on energy supply, demand and pricing. Some international students have been enrolling for the ICE-EM graduate school and summer school. These schools and the regular BioInfoSummer are proving to be a boost for postgraduate education as well as a cohesive agent for our student body. Suitably qualified AMSI-affiliated students have travel and accommodation funded by ICE-EM without any debit to AMSI institutional travel accounts.

The North American and European mathematical science institutes regularly run thematic scientific programs over six months or longer. In Australia, geographic sparsity of mathematical scientists makes it difficult to achieve a critical mass to run such a long program. However, we can aim to run a shorter version over four to five weeks, three weeks being the absolute minimum duration. This time would be segmented into different activities such as an introduction and review session, a short course, a conference and problem solving groups. Interested organisers may propose such a program to the AMSI Scientific Advisory

Committee. The first theme program will be From Statistical Mechanics to Conformal and Quantum Field Theory; AMSI Headquarters, University of Melbourne, 8th January–8th February, 2007. Organisers: Paul Pearce (Australia), Giuseppe Mussardo (Italy), Chaiho Rim (Korea).

AMSI is sponsoring or co-sponsoring many workshops. Please consult our monthly bulletin or website. For current events and developments, see the websites <http://www.amsi.org.au> and <http://www.ice-em.org.au>.

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