



# News

## General News

### Griffith University

Chris Matthews has taken over from Hans Gottlieb as local correspondent.

### Monash University

Dr Burkard Polster will be taking over from Simon Clarke as the Monash correspondent.

### University of Sydney

Applications for the University of Sydney Postdoctoral positions are open. Up to 10 awards will be offered in 2008.

Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/research/fellowships/postdoc.shtml>.

The closing dates are

- 10 August: final day for applicants to contact Head of School;
- 14 September: closing date for full applications and referee reports to Research Office.

Note that all applicants should contact the Head of School well in advance of the final closing date.

### In the news

From Slashdot:

The BBC is reporting that students in the UK are being encouraged to drop math at the senior levels. It seems that schools are seeking to boost their standing on league tables by encouraging students not to take 'hard' subjects like mathematics, in favor of easier subjects in which they are assured good grades. The result is Universities being forced to provide remedial math classes for science students who haven't done math for two years. The BBC provides a comparison between Chinese and UK university entrance tests — a comparison that makes the UK look woefully behind.

Web: <http://science.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/04/25/1625216&from=rss>  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/education/6588695.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/6588695.stm)  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/education/6589301.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/6589301.stm)

### Chair of the ICM 2010 Program Committee

The chair of the next ICM Program Committee has been announced in the 22nd issue of the IMU electronic newsletter, IMU Net (<http://www.mathunion.org/Publications/Newsletter>):

ICM 2010 Hendrik W. Lenstra has been appointed Chair of the Program Committee of the International Congress of Mathematicians 2010 in Hyderabad, India, 19–27 August 2010 by IMU President L. Lovasz. His coordinates are as

follows: Professor Hendrik W. Lenstra, Mathematisch Instituut, Universiteit Leiden, Postbus 9512 2300 RA Leiden The Netherlands (hwlicm@math.leiden-univ.nl). If you have proposals concerning the scientific program of ICM 2010 please contact Professor Lenstra by email.

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### Completed PhDs

#### Macquarie University:

- Dr Elango Panchadcharam had his PhD conferred in absentia on 26 May 2007 under the supervision of Ross Street. The thesis entitled ‘Categories of Mackey Functors’ was submitted in December 2006. Elango has returned to a lecturing position at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

#### University of Newcastle:

- Dr Ian Gray, *Construction methods for vertex-magic total labelings of graphs*, supervisor: Dr Jim MacDougall.
- Dr Jason Kimberley, *Classifying Burger–Mozes groups and the algebras generated from their actions*, supervisors: Professor Guyan Robertson and Dr Jacqui Ramagge.
- Dr Elizabeth Stojanovski, *Statistical assessment of the relationship between life events and health*, supervisor: Professor Kerrie Mengersen.

#### University of Sydney:

- Dr Timothy Schaerf, *On contour crossings in contour-advective simulations of geophysical fluid flows*, supervisor: Associate Professor Charlie Macaskill.
- Dr Devindri Perera, *Saddlepoint approximation methods in the analysis of panel time series data*, supervisor: Dr Shelton Peiris.
- Dr Leah Ratliff, *The alternating Hecke algebra and its representations*, supervisor: Associate Professor Andrew Mathas.

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### Appointments, departures and promotions

#### Griffith University:

- Associate Professor Hans Gottlieb has taken a voluntary redundancy. He has accepted an appointment as Honorary Professor in the School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences.

#### Macquarie University:

- Emeritus Professor John Loxton, Adjunct Professor in the Mathematics Department and former Deputy Vice-Cancellor (Academic), is now Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Services) at the University of Western Sydney.
- Dr Tanya Schmah resigned from the Department at the end of 2006 and moved to Canada. Tanya returned briefly to Sydney to teach differential geometry at the ICE-EM/AMSI Summer School in Mathematics (January–February 2007).

- Professor William Chen retired from the Mathematics Department at the end of 2006. Macquarie University awarded William the title of Emeritus Professor.
- Professor Ross Street will retire in July 2007 after 37 years in the Department.

#### **University of Melbourne:**

- Dr Heping He has been appointed Research Fellow.
- Mr Russell Jenkins, Lecturer A has left the University.
- Dr Xiangwen Li, Research Fellow has left the University.
- Dr Ning Li has been appointed Research Fellow.
- Dr David Odell, Research Fellow (MASCOS) has left the University.
- Dr David Rolls has been appointed Research Fellow.

#### **University of Newcastle:**

- Professor Iain Raeburn, Dr David Pask, Dr Jacqui Ramagge and Dr Aidan Sims have all resigned to take up positions at the University of Wollongong.
- Dr Venta Terauds has been appointed to a fixed term position. Her research interest is in functional analysis.
- Mr Rohan Cattell has been appointed to a fixed term position. His research interest is in graph theory.

#### **University of Western Australia:**

- Seyed Hassan Alavi commenced postgraduate studies under the supervision of Professor Cheryl Praeger.
- Dr Thomas Stemler commenced as a Research Associate.

#### **University of Wollongong:**

- Iain Raeburn has been appointed as Professor.
- Jacqui Ramagge and David Pask have been appointed as Associate Professors.
- Aidan Sims has been appointed as Lecturer.
- A plaque commemorating Professor Austin Keane, the foundation Professor of Mathematics at the University of Wollongong and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, was formally unveiled in the Austin Keane Building at the University of Wollongong at a ceremony on 5 June 2007.
- Song-Ping Zhu has been promoted to the position of Professor.
- Professor Matthew Wand has been elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

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### **Awards and other achievements**

Professor Terence Tao was elected Fellow of the Royal Society on 17 May 2007.

Professor Eugene Seneta, University of Sydney, has been awarded the Hannan Medal by the Australian Academy of Science.

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## New Books

### University of Western Australia:

Gao, J. (2007). *Nonlinear Time Series: Semiparametric and Nonparametric Methods*. Chapman & Hall/CRC, London.

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## Conferences and Courses

### Symposium on Learning Support for Mathematics and Statistics

This symposium will be held at Queensland University of Technology, 19–20 July, 2007.

Learning support in mathematics and statistics is taken to mean any facility or programs available to students that support their learning in mathematics and/or statistics and exists outside of the regular classes provided as part of an enrolled program (lectures, practicals, tutorials, etc.).

Learning support in mathematics and statistics is increasingly important in universities and the Symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for all interested in such learning support — whether associated with mathematics and statistics departments, specific or more general learning support centres, teaching support centres, or university management — to come together to share information and experiences, and to develop networks, strategies and plans.

The symposium is part of a Carrick Leadership Project held by Professor Helen MacGillivray and entitled ‘Quantitative diversity: disciplinary and cross-disciplinary mathematics and statistics support in Australian universities’. A report on the project to date will be presented at the Symposium.

As well as keynote speakers, the program includes opportunities for discussion groups, and short presentations by individuals or representatives of universities or groups. If you would like to give a presentation, please contact Helen MacGillivray ([h.macgillivray@qut.edu.au](mailto:h.macgillivray@qut.edu.au)).

Support from the Carrick grant and the QUT School of Mathematical Sciences has enabled a low registration fee that includes morning and afternoon teas and lunches on both days. A symposium dinner, with payment separate to registration, will be held on the Thursday evening at a city riverside restaurant.

Web: <http://www.carricksymposium07.qut.edu.au>

### BioInfoSummer2007: ICE-EM Summer Symposium in BioInformatics

This symposium will be held 10–14 December, 2007, at the Centre for Bioinformatics, Australian National University, Canberra.

Theme: Sequence, Structure, Evolution and Networks

The BioInfoSummer Symposium comprises both a research meeting in bioinformatics, and a summer school, aimed at promoting bioinformatics as an interdisciplinary research area to interested researchers and students. The first day consists of introductory lectures in biology. Each subsequent day starts with educational

lectures followed by keynote and contributed presentations. Specialised workshops are also given.

Speakers (confirmed to date): Lloyd Allison (Monash University); Hans Binder (University of Leipzig, Germany); Conrad Burden (Australian National University); John Mattick (University of Queensland); Rafael Najmanovich (EBI, UK); Rasmus Nielsen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark); Allen Rodrigo (University of Auckland, New Zealand); Gordon Smyth (WEHI); Terry Speed (WEHI); Matthew Wakefield (WEHI).

Travel scholarships are available to students (advance undergraduate/honours and postgraduate) from Australian and New Zealand universities, and to postgraduate students and early career researchers from South American and Asian universities. Partial scholarships are also available, including students from institutions associated with the Pacific Rim Mathematical Association (PRIMA).

Note: the 2007 International Symposium on Computational Models for Life Sciences follows immediately, 17–19 December, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Web: <http://www.maths.anu.edu.au/events/BioInfoSummer07>

Email: [BIS07committee@maths.anu.edu.au](mailto:BIS07committee@maths.anu.edu.au)

### **Recent advances in asymptotic probability and statistics with time series applications**

10–12 December 2007, University of Sydney.

Organisers: Rafal Kulik, Qiyang Wang and Neville Weber.

Web: <http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/SemConf/StatWorkshop/>

### **1st Joint Meeting of the American and New Zealand Mathematical Societies**

Incorporates the 2007 NZ Mathematics Colloquium. Victoria University of Wellington, 12–15 December 2007.

Registration for this meeting is now open.

Plenary speakers: Marston Conder, University of Auckland; Rod Downey, Victoria University of Wellington; Michael Freedman, Microsoft Research; Gaven Martin, Massey University; Assaf Naor, Courant Institute; Theodore Slaman, University of California, Berkeley; Matt Visser, Victoria University of Wellington.

The following special sessions will run: Computability Theory; Dynamical Systems and Ergodic Theory; Geometric Numerical Integration; Group Theory, Actions and Computation; History and Philosophy of Mathematics; Hopf Algebras and Quantum Groups; Infinite-Dimensional Groups and their Actions; Integrability of Continuous and Discrete Evolution Systems; Mathematical Models in Biomedicine; Matroids, Graphs, and Complexity; New Trends in Spectral Analysis and PDE; Quantum Topology; Special Functions and Orthogonal Polynomials; Water-Wave Scattering Focusing on Wave-Ice Interactions.

Potential speakers in any of these areas are asked to contact one of the session organizers first (details at website). There will also be a stream of general contributed talks.

Web: <http://www.mcs.vuw.ac.nz/~mathmeet/amsnzms2007/>



## The 51st Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society

25–28 SEPTEMBER 2007

La Trobe University Melbourne

*Featuring the 2007 Mahler Lecturer*



### Plenary Lecturers

Paul Baum (Penn State)  
 Peter Bouwknegt (ANU)  
 John Cannon (Sydney)  
 Tony Chan (National Science Foundation – US)  
 David Hill (ANU)  
 Mark Kisin  
 Mahler Lecturer (Chicago)  
 Joe Monaghan  
 ANZIAM Lecturer (Monash)  
 Panagiotis Souganidis (U.Texas Austin)  
 Stephen Wright (Wisconsin)

CELEBRATING  
**40**  
 YEARS  
 1967–2007

### Special Sessions

- Algebra and Combinatorics
- General Session
- Geometry (including Topology and Differential Geometry)
- Lie and Representation Theory
- MASCOS Presents
- Mathematical Physics
- New Applications of Mathematics
- Noncommutative Geometry and Operator Theory
- Number Theory
- Optimisation
- PDE's and Analysis
- Probability and Statistics
- Smooth and Discrete Dynamical Systems
- Teachers Session

### Registration

<http://wt.maths.latrobe.edu.au/register/conferences/AMS2007>  
 Early-bird registration closes on Friday 27 July

Conference Director: Geoff Prince [g.prince@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:g.prince@latrobe.edu.au)

[www.latrobe.edu.au/mathstats/math/conferences/AMS2007](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/mathstats/math/conferences/AMS2007)

### 5th Asian Mathematical Conference

Universiti Sains Malaysia and the Malaysian Mathematical Society will be organizing the 5th Asian Mathematical Conference in November 2009. The areas of focus are: algebra; algebraic geometry; analysis; operator algebra and functional analysis; lie group and lie algebras; number theory; combinatorics; logic and foundations of mathematics; ordinary differential equations and dynamical systems; partial differential equations; topology; mathematical aspects of computer science; numerical analysis and scientific computing; control theory, optimisation and operations research; probability and stochastic process; statistics; application of mathematics in sciences; mathematics education.

Web: <http://math.usm.my/amc2009/>

Contacts: [amc2009@cs.usm.my](mailto:amc2009@cs.usm.my); [dean\\_mat@usm.my](mailto:dean_mat@usm.my)

### Visiting mathematicians

Visitors are listed in the order of the last date of their visit and details of each visitor are presented in the following format: name of visitor; home institution; dates of visit; principal field of interest; principal host institution; contact for enquiries.

Dr Peter Brooksbank; University of Oregon; 14 June 2007 to 2 July 2007; computational group theory; USN; J.J. Cannon

Prof Bjorn Stansted; Surrey; 30 June 2007 to 4 July 2007; travelling waves; USN; M. Wechselberger

Dr Vivien Kirk; University of Auckland; 2 to 6 July 2007; travelling waves; USN; M. Wechselberger

Prof Jean Michel; University of Paris VII; 2 to 7 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; A. Henderson

Prof Anthony Davison; Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne, Geneva; 2 to 13 July 2007; modelling of statistical extremes, higher order asymptotics, and statistical modelling, particularly for applications in biology; UQ; Tony Bracken

Prof Louise Ryan; Harvard School of Public Health, USA; 2 to 13 July 2007; statistical methods related to environmental risk assessment for cancer, developmental and reproductive toxicity, and other non-cancer endpoints; UQ; Tony Bracken

Prof George Bluman; University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada; 23 June to 14 July 2007; differential equations and symmetry; MQU

Prof Cedric Bonnafé; University of Science and Technology Besancon; 1 to 14 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; A. Henderson

Prof Corrado De Concini; University of Rome; 8 to 14 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; A. Henderson

Prof Tonny Springer; Utrecht; 2 to 14 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; G.I. Lehrer

Prof Lynne Billard; Department of Statistics, University of Georgia, USA; 16 June to 15 July 2007; UMB

Dr Emmanuel Letellier; Concordia University; 6 to 16 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; A. Henderson

- Dr Oliver Ruff; University of Toledo; 13 June 2007 to 18 July 2007; modular representation theory; USN; A.P. Mathas
- Prof Leticia Barchini; Oklahoma State University, USA; 2 to 20 July 2007; representation theory of real reductive lie groups; UQ; Tony Bracken
- Prof Alexander Pott; Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Germany; 2 to 20 July 2007; coding theory and cryptography (binary sequences, Boolean functions); UQ; Tony Bracken
- Prof Nolan Wallach; University of California; 2 to 20 July 2007; methods and applications of invariant theory; UQ; Tony Bracken
- Prof Nick Wormald; University of Waterloo, Canada; 2 to 20 July 2007; combinatorics, graph theory and random graphs; UQ; Tony Bracken
- Prof Roger Zierau; Oklahoma State University, USA; 2 to 20 July 2007; representation theory of real Lie groups and related geometry; UQ; Tony Bracken
- Prof Claudio Processi; University of Rome; 8 to 21 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; A. Henderson
- Dr Serguei Novak; Middlesex University, London, UK; 2 to 23 July 2007; UMB
- Dr Richard Samworth; Statistical Laboratory and Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, University of Cambridge, UK; 8 to 27 July 2007; UMB
- Dr Tatiyana Apanasovich; School of ORIE, Cornell University, USA; 11 June to 28 July 2007; UMB
- Prof Francois Digne; Universite de Picardie Jules-Verne; 25 June to 29 July 2007; geometry and lie theory; USN; A. Henderson
- Prof Anthony Davison; Institute of Mathematics, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland; 16 to 31 July 2007; UMB
- Inessa Epstein; University of California; 15 January to 31 July 2007; –; UMB; –
- Prof Buyung-Moo Kim; Chungju National University; 31 July 2006 to 31 July 2007; integral theory; USN; D.E. Taylor
- Prof Hitoshi Koike; –; 1 to 31 July 2007; bilipschitz homeomorphisms; USN; L. Paunescu
- Dr Toshio Ohnishi; Institute for Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo, Japan; 5 February to 31 July 2007; –; USQ; Dr Peter Dunn
- Prof Dorette Pronk; Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada; July 2007; MQU; Dr Simona Paoli
- Prof Raymond Carroll; Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University, USA; 23 June to 4 August 2007; UMB
- Prof Nick Wormald; Department Combinatorics and Optimization, University of Waterloo, Canada; 21 July to 6 August 2007; UMB
- Prof Xianhua Li; Suzhou University, China; 10 March to 10 August 2007; –; UWA; A/Prof Caiheng Li
- Dr David Juher; Department d'Informatica i Matematica Aplicade, Universitat de Girona, Spain; –; 30 July to 12 August 2007; UMB
- Prof Robert Behringer; Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham, USA; –; 12 to 24 August 2007; UMB
- Mr Degui Li; Zhejiang University; 23 July 2007 to 24 August 2007; –; UWA; Prof Jiti Gao
- Prof Lluís Alseda; Department de Matemàtiques, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain; 30 July to 30 August 2007; –; UMB
- Dr Paul Yip; Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Hong Kong; 10 July to 31 August 2007; UMB



- Prof Ejaz Ahmed; Statistics, U Windsor, Canada; approximately 12 August, 2007 for three weeks; –; MQU
- Dr Tobias Beck; Austrian Academies of Sciences; 4 August 2007 to 2 September 2007; computational algebraic geometry; USN; J.J. Cannon
- Dr Ciprian Coman; University of Glasgow; 25 July 2007 to 2 September 2007; –; UWA; Prof Andrew Bassom
- Dr Alexander Chervov; Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow; 23 July 2007 to 7 September 2007; quantum groups and their representations; USN; A.I. Molev
- Dr James Parkinson; Cornell University; 4 June 2007 to 19 October 2007; buildings and Hecke algebras; USN; D.I. Cartwright
- Mr Mikael Johansson; Mathematisches Institut, Fakultät für Mathematik und Informatik, Jena, Germany; 10 September to 20 October 2007; computational aspects of group cohomology; USN; J.J. Cannon
- Dr Eric Badel; INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research): Wood Material Laboratory (LERMAB) – Nancy, France; February to November 2007; –; QUT
- Prof Jiang-Min Pan; University of Yunnan, China; 15 August 2007 to 1 November 2007; –; UWA; A/Prof Caiheng Li
- Prof Vyacheslav Futorny; University of San Paolo; 24 September 2007 to 3 November 2007; quantum groups and their representations; USN; R. Zhang
- Prof Robert Liebler; Colorado State University, USA; 1 October to 11 November 2007; –; UWA; Prof Cheryl Praeger
- Dr Akira Yasuhara; Tokyo Gakugei University; 1 July 2007 to 30 November 2007; classical links; USN; J.A. Hillman
- Ms Weiwei Ren; Yunnan University, China; February to December 2007; –; UWA; A/Prof Caiheng Li
- Dr Alex Kitaev; Steklov Mathematical Institute; 25 August 2007 to 31 December 2007; singularities and other properties of integrable systems; USN; N. Joshi
- Jan Saxl; Cambridge University; mid-November to December 2007; –; UWA; Cheryl Praeger
- Mr Mohamad-Reza Mohebbi; Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran; 18 March 2007 to 1 February 2008; –; UMB; –
- Dr Youyun Li; Hunan Changsha University; 1 May 2006 to 1 May 2008; –; UWA; A/Prof Song Wang
- Dominic Schuhmacher; University of Zurich; 1 April 2006 to 31 May 2008; –; UWA; Prof Adrian Baddeley
- Dr Alireza Nematollahi; University of Shiraz; 15 December 2007 to 15 December 2008; multivariate analysis and time series; USN; N.C. Weber
- A/Prof Andrea Previtali; University of Insubria-Como; 1 October 2007 to 28 February 2008; computational group theory; USN; J.J. Cannon
- Dr M. Iranmanesh; Yazd University, Iran; 10 June 2007 to 10 March 2008; –; UWA; Prof Cheryl Praeger