



## News

### MathMedia

#### *“Visiting scientist”*

Back in 1964 it was big news when international scientists were visiting Australia. The following news item appeared in the very first edition of *The Australian*, which celebrated its 40th anniversary on the 1st of July this year. Imagine today to have your guests announced in a similar fashion.

## Maths expert visits ANU

Professor Alexander G. Kurosh of Moscow State University arrived in Canberra yesterday for a month’s visit to the Australian National University. The professor, known for his work in abstract and general algebra, will work with Professor B. H. Neumann at the ANU.

*The Australian*, 15 Jul 1964 (Contributed by Kim Burgess)

### Completed PhDs

#### Deakin University:

- Dr Azmeri Khan, *Many-sample location and scale tests with quantile-function error distributions*, supervisor: Prof. Lynn Batten.

#### Macquarie University:

- Dr William B. Hart, *Evaluation of the Dedekind Eta function*, supervisor: Prof. Alf van der Poorten.

#### Murdoch University:

- Dr Alexandra Bremner, *Localised splitting criteria for classification and regression trees*, supervisor: Dr Ross Taplin.

#### University of Queensland:

- Dr Birgit Loch, *Surface fitting for the modelling of plant leaves*, supervisors: John Belward and Jim Hanan.

### University of Western Australia:

- Dr John Bamberg, *Innately transitive groups*, supervisor: Prof. C. E. Praeger.
- Dr Devin John Kilminster, *Modelling dynamical systems via behaviour criteria*, supervisor: Dr Kevin Judd.
- Dr Maska Law, *Flocks, generalised quadrangles and translation planes from BLT-sets*, supervisor: Dr T. J. Penttila.
- Dr Sacha Daniel Roscoe, *Algorithms for detection of geometrical features*, supervisor: Prof. J. L. Noakes.
- Dr Tian Khoon Lim, *Edge-transitive homogeneous factorisations of complete graphs*, supervisors: Prof. C. E. Praeger, Dr C. H. Li.
- Dr Ricky O'Brien, *Modelling the transport and reaction of enzymes in germinating barley*, supervisors: Dr N. Fowkes, Dr S. Wang.
- Dr Tomomichi Nakamura, *Modelling nonlinear time series using selection methods and information criteria*, supervisors: Prof. A. Mees, Dr Kevin Judd.
- Dr Mahmoud El-Hirbawy, *Calculation of electromagnetic fields of power transmission lines using finite difference techniques*, supervisor: Dr Les Jennings.

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### New Books

- R.Y. Rubinstein (Technion) and D.P. Kroese (University of Queensland), *The Cross-Entropy Method: A Unified Approach to Combinatorial Optimization, Monte Carlo Simulation, and Machine Learning*, (Springer-Verlag 2004), 320 pages, ISBN 0-387-21240-X.
- A. Baddeley and E.B. Vedel Jensen, *Stereology for statisticians*, (Chapman & Hall/CRC, In press, late 2004).

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### Awards and other achievements

- Dr Hans Gottlieb of Griffith University has been awarded a DSc by the University of Melbourne for a thesis entitled “Studies in Vibrations and Related Phenomena”.
  - The book ‘Einstein’s Heroes’ by Dr Robyn Arianrhod of Monash University has been shortlisted for the Age Book of the Year Prize in the Non-fiction section.
  - Professor Adrian Baddeley of the University of Western Australia was presented the Pitman Medal for 2004 by the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA). The Pitman Medal is the highest honour that can be bestowed by the SSA, and it is awarded for achieving high distinction in Statistics which enhances the international standing of Australia in this discipline.
  - Dr Akshay Venkatesh, who completed his honours degree at the University of Western Australia, has been awarded a Clay Research Fellowship.
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## Appointments

### **Curtin University:**

- Professor Lou Caccetta's term as Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has expired. The new head will be Professor K.L. Teo who will join the department in January 2005. During the interregnum Dr Peg-Foo Siew is acting Head.
- Mrs. Pam Hollis has resigned.

### **Macquarie University:**

- Dr Frank Valckenborgh commenced on 21 June 2004 till the end of 2006 as MU Research Fellow, under supervision of Associate Professor John Corbett.
- Dr Sergey Panin will commence on 1 October 2004 as MU Research Fellow under supervision of Professor Paul Smith.
- Dr Thorsten Palm will commence in August 2004 as a Scott Russell Johnson Memorial Fellow with the Centre of Australian Category Theory.

### **Melbourne University:**

- At the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Dr Heng-Soon Gan has been appointed as Operations Research Consultant and Dr Meei Ng has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.
- At the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, Nancy Lane has been appointed as ICE-EM Manager, Thomas Montague has been appointed as Industry/Marketing Director, and Raoul Callaghan has been appointed as IT Manager.

### **University of Queensland:**

- Drs Joseph Grotowski and Tony Roberts have accepted Lecturer C positions and commence in February 2005. Dr Grotowski is currently an Associate Professor at City University in New York while Dr Roberts is a Lecturer B at QUT in Brisbane.
- Dr Andrew Blinco has resigned his Lecturer A position to work as trainee actuary at SUNCORP.
- Dr Phil Isaac has been appointed as a Lecturer A until December 31, 2004.
- Dr Abdollah Khodkar has resigned his position at the University of Queensland to take up an Assistant Professorship in the Department of Mathematics State University of West Georgia, USA.

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

- Dr Alice Niemeyer was promoted to Senior Lecturer in February.
- Dr Nazim Khan has been appointed as Lecturer/Consultant.
- Dr Maska Law has been appointed as a Research Associate.
- Dr John Bamberg has been appointed as a Research Fellow.

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## Introducing Mathematics-in-Industry Information Site

Cambridge University Press has announced the launch of a new website, Mathematics in Industry Information Site. MIIS is a joint venture of the Oxford Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, The Smith Institute for Industrial Mathematics and System Engineering, and Cambridge University Press/European Journal of Applied Mathematics. It

contains records of Study Groups, Workshop reports, interactive elements, a combination of preprint server, notice board, and help facility that will help mathematicians and scientists/engineers in Universities and those in industry. All this is free.

MIIS aims to be a window on what mathematics can do for industry and how industry can be a source of new ideas for mathematics. It is an on-line resource of choice for Industrial Mathematics. The ANZIAM MISGs have been invited to participate. Visit <http://misg2005.massey.ac.nz>.

Graeme Wake  
Centre for Mathematics in Industry, Massey University  
Director, MISG2005

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### 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.

- Etienne Ghys; ENS-Lyon; 18 September to 3 October; Geometry and Dynamical Systems; LTU; Grant Cairns
- Marcel Nicolau; Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; 18 September to 3 October; Differential Geometry; LTU; Grant Cairns
- Prof. Tomaso Poggio; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 1 to 10 October; –; UWA; Prof. Lyle Noakes
- Dr Soenke Blunck; University de Cergy-Pontoise; 1 September to 15 October; Analysis and Geometry; ANU; Prof. Alan McIntosh
- Dr Max Neunhoffer; University of Aachen; 4 to 30 October; –; UWA; Prof. Cheryl Praeger and Dr Alice Niemeyer
- Dr Alan Camina; University of East Anglia; 4 to 31 October; –; UWA; Prof Cheryl Praeger
- Prof. Liu; Oufu Normal University (China); July to October 2004; Functional Analysis and Partial Differential Equations; CUT; Dr Peg-Foo Siew and Dr Yong Hong Wu.
- Prof. Ury Passy; Technion-Israel Institute of Technology; 1 August to 1 November; –; UMB; Moshe Sniedovich
- Prof. Samuel Muller; U Bern; 27 October to 1 November; Statistical science; ANU; Prof. Alan Welsh
- Prof. Kirk Lancaster; Wichita State University; 18 October to 6 November 2004; Nonlinear and Applied Analysis Program; ANU; Dr Ben Andrews
- Prof. H.W. Capel; University of Amsterdam; 1 October to 12 November; ARC CoE for Mathematics and Statistics of Complex Systems; LTU (Bundoora); Prof. R. Quispel
- Prof. Denis White; University of Toledo; 3 to 24 November; Analysis and Geometry; ANU; Prof. Alan Carey
- Mike Thorne; British Columbia Cancer Research Centre; July to November 2004; Combinatorics of Finite Sets, Bioinformatics; CDU; Dr Ian Roberts
- Prof. Lincheng Zhao; University of Science & Technology of China; October to November; –; UWA, Dr Jiti Gao
- Prof. Z.M. Guo; Donghua U; September to November 2004; –; UNE; –

- Prof. Bill Lampe; University of Hawaii; 7 November to 11 December; Universal algebra, lattice theory; LTU; Dr Brian Davey
- Prof. David Pike; Memorial University of Newfoundland; 15 October to 11 December; combinatorial designs and graph theory; UQL; Elizabeth Billington
- Prof. Chengxiu Gao; Wuhan University; 15 September to 15 December; –; UMB; Dr Sanming Zhou
- Dr Miroslav Haviar; M. Bel University, Slovakia; 18 October to 18 December; Universal algebra, duality theory; LTU; Dr Brian Davey
- Prof. Chaiho Rim; Chonbuk National University; 1 December to 22 December; –; UMB; Paul Pearce
- Dr Rachel Camina; DPMMS Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge; 17 August to 27 December 2004; –; UWA; Prof. Cheryl Praeger and Dr Alice Niemeyer
- Dr Michael Levitan; USA; January to December 2004; –; UWA
- Prof. Dongsheng Tu; Queen's U; 1 February to 31 December; Statistical science; ANU; Profs. Peter Hall and Sue Wilson
- Mr Bard Stove; University of Bergen; 4 October to 31 December; –; UWA; Dr Jiti Gao
- Prof. Giuseppe Mussardo; SISSA, Trieste; 1 November 2004 to 11 January 2005; –; UMB; Paul Pearce
- Prof. Gi-Sang Cheon; Daejin U, South Korea; 15 January 2004 to 15 January 2005; linear algebra and combinatorics; ANU; Dr Ian Wanless
- Prof. Ralph Stohr; UMIST; 27 August 2004 to 27 January 2005; Algebra and Topology; ANU; Dr Laci Kovacs
- Prof. Chaohua Dong; China; 1 February 2004 to 31 January 2005; –; UWA
- Prof. Karl Hofmann; Technische Universitat Darmstadt; 1 October 2004 to 31 January 2005; topological groups and semigroups; UB; Sidney A. Morris
- Prof. Dale Rolfsen; University of British Columbia; 1 November 2004 to 31 January 2005; –; UMB; Hyam Rubinstein
- Prof. Jean Bertoin; University Pierre et Marie Curie; 14 January 2005 to 14 February 2005; Stochastic Analysis; ANU; Prof. Ross Maller
- Wahib Arroum; University of Southampton; 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005; –; UMB; Owen Jones
- Dr Alex Lindner; Technischen University; 16 January to 12 April 2005; Stochastic Analysis; ANU; Prof. Ross Maller
- Prof. Akos Seress; Ohio State University; July 2004 to July 2005; –; UWA; Prof. Cheryl Praeger
- Prof. Wen-Han Hwang; Feng Chia University; February to August 2005; Statistical Science; ANU; Prof. Richard Huggins
- Kim Levy; Universite de Montreal; 11 August 2004 to 1 August 2005; –; UMB; Felisa Vazquez-Abad
- Prof. Robert Lipster; Tel Aviv University; 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005; Stochastic Processes; MNU; Prof. Fima Klebanar
- Eloim Gutierrez; Universite de Montreal; 10 September 2004 to 1 December 2005; –; UMB; Felisa Vazquez-Abad
- Dr Shenglin Zhou; Shantou University; October 2004 to October 2006; –; UWA; Prof. Cheryl Praeger
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## Conferences

### **The Centre of Excellence for Mathematics and Statistics of Complex Systems Workshop on Metapopulations**

2 September, University of Queensland, Brisbane

*Web:* <http://www.maths.uq.edu.au/~pkp/MetaPop04.html>

### **Computational Techniques And Applications Conference: CTAC 2004**

27 September – 1 October 2004, The University of Melbourne

*Web:* <http://www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/CTAC2004/>

### **48th Australian Mathematical Society Annual Conference (2004)**

28 September – 1 October 2004, RMIT, Melbourne

*Web:* <http://www.ma.rmit.edu.au/austms04/>

### **International Conference on Mathematical Inequalities and their Applications**

6 – 8 December 2004, Victoria University, Melbourne

*Web:* <http://rgmia.vu.edu.au/conference>

### **6th International Conference on Optimization: Techniques and Applications**

9 – 11 December 2004, University of Ballarat

*Web:* <http://www.ballarat.edu.au/icota>

### **2004 World Conference in Natural Resource Modelling**

12 – 15 December 2004, RMIT, Melbourne

*Web:* <http://www.ma.rmit.edu.au/2004RMAconference>

### **The First International Workshop on Intelligent Finance (IWIF 1)**

13 – 14 December 2004, Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne

*Web:* <http://www.iwif.org>

### **The 2004 NZIMA Conference in Combinatorics and its Applications and The 29th Australasian Conference in Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing (29ACCMCC) (Joint Conference)**

13 – 18 December 2004, Lake Taupo, New Zealand

*Web:* <http://www.nzima.auckland.ac.nz/combinatorics/conference.html>

### **Geometry: Interactions with Algebra and Analysis**

January – June 2005, Auckland

*Web:* <http://www.math.auckland.ac.nz/Conferences/2005/geometry-program>

### **Mathematics-in-Industry Study Group 2005**

24 – 28 January 2005, Massey University at Albany, Auckland, New Zealand

*Web:* <http://misg2005.massey.ac.nz>

**ANZIAM 2005: The annual ANZIAM Applied Mathematics Conference**

30 January – 3 February 2005, Napier, New Zealand

*Web:* <http://www.math.waikato.ac.nz/anziam05>

The Annual ANZIAM Applied Mathematics Conference and Annual Meeting of ANZIAM for 2005 is sponsored by the Royal Society of New Zealand. The annual conference of ANZIAM is an established annual gathering of applied mathematicians, scientists and engineers with wide-ranging interests. It provides an interactive forum for presentation of results and discussions by students, academics and other researchers on applied and industrial problems derived in many scientific fields and amenable to quantitative description and solution.

The deadline for registration is December 1.

**49th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society**

26 – 30 September 2005, The University of Western Australia

Director: Lyle Noakes

*E-mail:* [lyle@maths.uwa.edu.au](mailto:lyle@maths.uwa.edu.au)

*Web:* <http://www.maths.uwa.edu.au/~austms05/index.html>

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