

Physics & Astronomy

FROM THE HOD (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROGER REEVES)

It seems that we have all survived the first week of classes and all is going well. Our enrolment figures are ahead of budget for the year which is most pleasing. The gain seems to be at 100 level which I hope means we have a larger flow on to the higher stages.

Welcome to Professors Melia, Ormos and Murphy who arrived recently for Erskine visits - look for some more profiles in next week's newsletter or refer back to last week's for Damian Murphy's profile. They join Prof. Alan Walton in contributing to our teaching programme which is very much appreciated.

I am enjoying my new role as HoD and all the time learning the workings of the dept. Fortunately there have been no "disasters" to deal with - or maybe the excellent competence of everyone is shielding me! This semester I get to attend a programme on the workings of the university which will be interesting. First up is how UC finance works.

We look forward to hearing favourable news from the Department's cricket team on Friday afternoon - good luck to all the participants. (see further on for details).

THIS WEEKS SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 2 MARCH

Peter Szekeres

Visiting Research Fellow at the
School of Chemistry and Physics, University of Adelaide

Cosmological networks

NEXT WEEKS SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 9 MARCH

Adam Cath

Physical Sciences Library:- Roadshow '07

Physical Sciences Library will provide an introduction to the library's people, resources and services, highlighting recent changes and library news relevant to the department. There will be some discussion of changes taking place within the UC Library and in the larger world of information and on how resulting library collection decisions may impact upon the Department. The session will conclude with a question and answer session and hopefully some one-on-one between library staff and the department. All welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS – BETH GERAGHTY (PHD)

Congratulations to Beth Geraghty, who successfully defended her PhD thesis "Comparative numerical modelling of tsunami propagation over various bathymetries" last week. The examiners were Willem de Lange (Waikato) and Jack Baggaley, with Richard Watts presiding over the event. We were glad to see Darlene come back to Canterbury to support Beth.

RENE HAS SUBMITTED! (DAVID MACKENZIE)

Congratulations also to Renè Reichel who handed in his thesis yesterday. A few of us went bowling to celebrate.



VISIT FROM ASSOC. PROF PAUL KEALL - STANFORD UNIVERSITY (JUERGEN MEYER)

On Wednesday afternoon I had a visit from Paul Keall who is an Associate Professor at Stanford and Director of Medical Physics (http://med.stanford.edu/profiles/Paul_Keall/). Paul is a Kiwi with family ties to Christchurch, which was the reason for his visit to New Zealand. I first met Paul many years ago at a seminar in Birmingham, UK. Paul had won the *1995 AAPM Young Investigator Award* and travelled around Europe to give presentations about his work. One of the reasons for his visit to Birmingham was probably the fact that Richard Hugtenburg works there. Richard did his PhD here in our department.

It was great to catch up with Paul who has been working on similar problems that I have been working on. They are related to management of respiratory induced motion of lung tumours. We had the chance to exchange ideas and talk about future directions in the treatment of lung cancer. It also gave me the chance to bounce some ideas off him with regards to possible research projects here at UC. Being on the organizing committee for the EPSM (<http://www.keynotewa.com/epsm-abec-2007/index.html>) conference in 2008 in Christchurch, I also took the opportunity to ask if he would be interested in being a keynote speaker. He said he was happy to attend EPSM if we would select him as one of the keynote speakers.

PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY CRICKET MATCH (DAVID MACKENZIE)

Annual Physics/Chemistry Cricket Match
2nd March.

Contact: David Mackenzie
(dmm75@student.canterbury.ac.nz) or come and see me in room 605

Come along and support the Department Team!

WEDDING INVITATION – LATOYA & JAMES..... (see notice next to staff photo board on level 7)

Latoya van der Meer and James Flewellen have posted an invitation to all members of the Physics and Astronomy Department to attend their wedding vow ceremony at ChristChurch Cathedral at 1pm on Saturday 10 March.

LIBRARY NEWS...

MARCH 2007 SCHOLARSHIPS – WEB SITE

View General Scholarships at:-

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/resources/currentnoticeboard.shtml>

College of Science Scholarship

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/noticeboard/march2007sci.shtml>

If you have anything you would like to contribute to the Newsletter, please email Ro on rosalie.reilly@canterbury.ac.nz:
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