

Physics & Astronomy

FROM THE HOD (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROGER REEVES)

What a shame that the weather failed to cooperate for our BBQ on Wednesday evening. We looked at the rain radar just before 3pm and it showed bands of rain approaching from the south and so we made an early decision to postpone. Some of the clear weather later had me wondering if the decision was wrong - but then by the time of 5pm or so came around it was really miserable. We have rescheduled for next Wed 21st so please note that in your diary.

On Wednesday the College of Science office farewelled Margaret Tanner who has been Ian Shaw's PA from almost the beginning of the College. Margaret and her husband are moving to Oamaru. Also moving on from the College is Cathy Gowers who has been the management accountant and Emma Prendergast who has taken care of our HR admin. Like Margaret they both will be really missed.

The announcement of refunding for the CoRE centres is getting close. To recap, the Centres of Research Excellence were established in 2002 with 6 years of funding. Seven centres were established, one of which, The MacDiarmid Institute, has a presence in this department. 33 full proposals were submitted for the new round of funding and the word is that there are now around 10 or so hosting site visits from the funding committee. *The Jack Dodd and Dan Walls Centre for Photonics and Ultra-Cold Atoms* involves **Jon-Paul Wells** as a PI and is very well placed in the competition.

I've made two interesting personal purchases this week. Some of you may know that I am a motorcycle rider. I've decided that the BMW is too big to ride the short distance from home so I've bought a scooter online from Trademe. The world seems a crazy place when a new scooter costs less than the new cell phone. (ok - the phone is high spec!)

THIS WEEKS SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 16 MARCH

Dr Damian Murphy

Australian Government Antarctic Division
Erskine visitor with the Physics & Astronomy Department 19 Feb – 13 April

Tides in the middle atmosphere above Antarctica

NEXT WEEKS SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 23 MARCH

Dr Attila Meszaros

Hungarian astronomer working in Prague at the Charles University.

Cramer theorem and the gamma-ray bursts

At the beginning of the seminar a brief survey of the topic of the gamma-ray bursts will be given. Then a paper of author will be presented (A&A, 401, 129, 2003). This paper uses a mathematical theorem (Cramer theorem) in order to prove that the short and long gamma-ray burst are physically different phenomena. This procedure in the astronomy is so surprising and curious that this method can be interesting for the non-specialists, too.

TODDLE WADDLE – EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTRE FUND RAISER

Many thanks to those who pledged donations to the ECLC's Toddle Waddle – department pledges raised \$80 for the Meningitis Trust.

WEDDING – LATOYA & JAMES

Latoya van der Meer and James Flewellen tied the knot in a very moving and beautiful ceremony at ChristChurch Cathedral last Saturday.



Baby Bunnies! (Karen Pollard)



Six very cute, good-natured bunnies (breed: Rex Satin x) to give away to good homes (children not included).



I bought two rabbits for my children (supposedly two boy bunnies) and “Jack” is now a mother. The babies are very cute and friendly and easy to look after. Here are some pictures of the babies at three weeks old – they can go to new homes at about 8 weeks old (mid-April – Easter!) Please see me if you’re interested in giving them a good home (Ph 343 9953 or 3642987 ext 7545 or email me: karen.pollard@canterbury.ac.nz)

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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: Newsletter, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, Phone: +64 3 364 2404, Fax: +64 3 364 2469.