

Physics & Astronomy

FROM THE HOD (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROGER REEVES)

Thank you to all who attended our welcoming bbq on Wed evening. The lack of rain and the mild temperature justified our decision to postpone from the previous week. Particular thanks to Rhondda, Ro, Graeme P, Xuefeng and Rob for running around getting food or providing cooking skills. I had hoped to have some photos in this week's newsletter but a technical hitch prevents that - maybe next week.

At the Academic Board this week VC Roy Sharp presented enrolment figures for 2007. Currently the university sits at 98% of full year budget EFTS enrolments which bodes well for the year - we will pick up new semester 2 enrolments that will presumably take us over 100%. This EFTS figure translates to around 16,600 and about 17,000 actual people.

On Wednesday I attended a meeting with 4 recruitment agents from India. Students pay these agents to facilitate their entry to desirable universities. Presumably the agent only gets the fee when the enrolment is successful and thus there can be quite a lot of pressure applied. I guess this is one of the consequences of education being seen as a commodity to be bought and sold.

THIS 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

NEXT WEEKS SEMINAR: - 11:00AM, FRIDAY 30 MARCH

Professor Fulvio Melia

University of Arizona , Visiting Erskine Fellow with the
Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Canterbury (24 Feb-24 Apr 07)

High-energy Activity at the Galactic Center

Once hidden almost completely by the intervening gas and dust along our line-of-sight, the Milky Way's central black hole first manifested itself as a radio point source, then as a variable infrared object and, most recently, as a dynamic emitter of X-rays, including an intriguing periodic modulation to suggest emission not far from its event horizon. There are even indications that it may be the dominant accelerator of relativistic protons, accounting for the central (HESS) TeV source and, possibly, the diffuse TeV emission associated with molecular clouds along the Galactic plane. In this talk, we will discuss work in progress to understand what this high-energy activity is revealing about the environment within tens of Schwarzschild radii of the central supermassive object.

CONGRATULATIONS (DAVID WILTSHIRE)

CONGRATULATIONS to Hui (Ray) Yao of the 2006 Honours class for securing a scholarship to Trinity College at the University of Cambridge to continue his postgraduate studies in mathematical physics.

LIBRARY NEWS...

UC's Institutional Repository is now up and running, and we're now actively acquiring 2006 research outputs. Right now, we're targeting research from the College of Engineering, branching out to all other parts of the University in May. Unlike arXiv, our repository is not a preprint archive - we only take research outputs after they have been accepted for print (or accepted for presentation, in the case of conference papers). Following the implementation project, we'll be asking authors to upload their research outputs to the repository at the same time as recording their work for PBRF, via the Research Database.

Once it's in our open-access repository, your research will be searchable via Google Scholar, Scopus, our own site and many others - and will therefore be available to a much wider audience than those currently limited to subscriber-based journals. Open access has some very favourable outcomes for participating authors - not only are open access articles cited more often, but IRs also offer an unparalleled way to showcase an individual author or department's research outputs, in their entirety. In terms of copyright compliance, more than 90% of mainstream journals now allow authors to archive their articles to an IR. To ensure that no publishers' feathers are ruffled, we always check the copyright policies of publishers before any material goes live. Any material that can not be made open access will be strictly embargoed. With support from academics and other researchers, the repository will go a long way towards increasing Canterbury's research profile, both domestically and internationally. If you have any questions please contact grant.barrie@canterbury.ac.nz for more details.

Adam - <http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/people/cath.shtml>

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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