

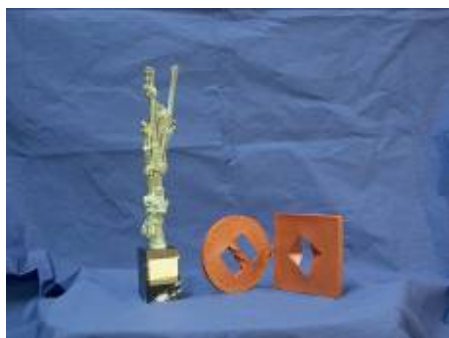
EURANDOM Newsletter

Volume VIII, Issue 2 - Winter 2006

Previous Newsletters to be found on the EURANDOM-website

General News

December 1, 2006 we had a change in directorship. After almost ten EURANDOM years, Wim Senden, managing director, retired. An afternoon of lectures by Remco van der Hofstad ('Small worlds and Six Degrees of Separations'), Nelli Litvak ('Google PageRank from Stochastic OR Perspectives') and Willem van Zwet ('Statistics and the Law; the case of the negligent nurse') was organised, followed by a reception. During this farewell reception, on 23 November, Wim Senden was given the TU/e medal of honor by Rector Magnificus Prof.dr.ir. Hans van Duijn. The TU/e medal of honor is a bronze, artistic variant of a medal (see on the right in the picture below). The object is awarded a few times per year at most, to persons with an exceptional service record at the TU/e.



Wim Senden also received a statue made by Jacqueline Verhulst (see on the left in the picture) for having worked forty years in various positions at the TU/e. The coming year Wim Senden will still act as an advisor for EURANDOM. Wim Senden is succeeded by Connie Cantrijn.

Scientific Advisors

Richard Gill just returned from his sabbatical (from September until January) at the University of Aarhus. Remco van der Hofstad gave his inaugural lecture at the TU/e on September 22 ('Random networking: between order and chaos').

Frank den Hollander gave his inaugural lecture on October 27 ('Toeval in focus') at Leiden University. As per November 1 Wim Schoutens (Catholic University Leuven) became Scientific Advisor of a new theme within the QPA programme: Multivariate Risk Modelling.

Workshops

11-13 December 2006 the PASCAL workshop 'Image Analysis and Inverse Problems' took place at EURANDOM. People from various areas of image analysis and inverse problems who use different approaches to common problems were brought together. Many new researchers came to the institute and were enthusiastically participating. We hope to see many of them back in the coming years as the Statistical Signal and Image Analysis theme is further developed at EURANDOM.

Upcoming Workshops

- YEP IV (Young European Probabilists), 'Random Graphs and Complex Networks' (March 19-23, 2007)
- 'Mathematical Methodologies for Operational Risk' (April 16-18, 2007)
- 'Random Polymers' (June 18-22, 2007)
- 'Applied Probability INFORMS Conference' (July 9-11, 2007)
- 'Sandpile models and related fields' (September 10-13, 2007)

For details please visit the EURANDOM-website.

Visitors in 2nd half of 2006

July: U. Yechiali (Tel Aviv University, Israel) and F. Caravenna (University of Zurich, Switzerland).

August: A. Klenke (Universität Mainz, Germany), L. Ormeci (Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey) and F. D'Alché-Buc (IBISC, France).

September: O. Kella (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel), A. Sakai (University of Bath, United Kingdom), A. Bovier (WIAS, Berlin, Germany), R. Foley and B. Zwart (Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA).

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October: D. Kroese (University of Queensland, Australia), A. Greven (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany), P. Contucci (Università di Bologna, Italy).

November: E. Olivieri, E. Scoppola and A. Gaudilliere (Università degli Studi, Roma II, Italy). F. D'Alché-Buc (Université d'Evry, France), G. Mailard (EPFL, Switzerland), A. Richards (Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom) and J. Gärtner (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany).

December: M. Viana (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA).

New People in 2006 and 2007

QPA Adam Wierman (July)
Andreas Löpker (September)
Seva Shneer (November)
Henrik Jönsson (November)
Vika Masol (November)
Brian Fralix (February)

RSS Sebastien Blachère (September)
Tobias Müller (October)
Cristian Spitoni (November)

SIM Nicolas Brunel (July)
Efang Kong (January)
Guangming Pan (February)
Ambedkar Dukkipati (March)

Alumni News

From August 7 till September 14, 2006 Lerzan Ormeçi visited the Netherlands to work with Gül Gurkan from Tilburg University. In the second half of 2006 four former post-docs started working at the TU/e: Adriana Gabor, Francesca Nardi, Cristian Giardinà and Johan van Leeuwen.

September 25, 2006 Maria Vlasidou defended successfully her thesis 'Lindley-Type Recursions' at the TU/e. She is now working as a post-doc at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA.



More changes in September 2006: Madalin Guta started to work as fixed-term lecturer at the University of Nottingham, School of Mathematical Sciences, Division of Statistics. Roxana Ion started a new job as Biostatistician at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development Laboratory of Janssen-Cilag Pharmaceutica, Belgium. Johan Segers started a new job at the Institut de Statistique, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, and Mandira Sarma became Research Fellow at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, India.

During the BETA conference 'Management of Service Operations', September 15, 2006 Johan van Leeuwen received the BETA PhD Award 2006. November 14, 2006 Iryna Snihir obtained her Masters diploma at the TU/e. She is now working at the Rabobank International (Control RI & Modelling and Research Department, Utrecht, The Netherlands).

Miscellaneous

Two of our post-docs obtained a prize: Seva Shneer and Adam Wierman. Seva Shneer won the MacFarlane prize for the best dissertation of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland. Adam Wierman received the SCS (School of Computer Science) Student Award of Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, USA) within the Carnegie Mellon Siebel Scholars Program. This program was established 'to recognize the most talented students at the world's leading graduate schools of business and computer science (a.o. Harvard, MIT and Stanford). The Siebel Scholars are selected on the basis of academic performance and qualities of leadership'.

The second half of 2006 we organised a farewell party for Adriana Gabor, Bernardo D'Auria, Fabio Rigat, Talia Figarella, Rongfeng Sun, Maria Vlasidou, Nadia Lalam, Leila Mohammadi, Adam Wierman, Cristian Giardinà and Nicolas Brunel. They all found a position elsewhere. For more details about their current position please have a look at the EURANDOM website under the button 'Alumni'. We also said good-bye to four Master students of Ivo Adan who were temporarily working at EURANDOM: Richard Bakker, Martin van Jole, Peter van de Ven and Dennis Vos.

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November 14, 2006 the TU/e organised the conference 'Female Technology' and presented its 'own Marie Curies', i.e. the (commercial) results of TU/e's female researchers and designers in the previous 50 years. Three former female post-docs are also part of this new network: Nino Mushkudiani, Nelli Litvak and Maria Vlasidou.

During the Annual Christmas Dinner, December 13, the winner of the First EURANDOM International Table Tennis Tournament (EITTT) was announced: Nicolas Pétrélis. We thank Nicolas Brunel and Sebastien Blachère for initiating this activity.



Upcoming events

On March 23, 2007 the Stieltjes Afternoon will take place at EURANDOM. We will have lectures on the work of the two Fields Medal 2006 prize-winners: Andrei Okounkov (Department of Mathematics, Princeton University, USA) and Wendelin Werner (Laboratoire de Mathématiques, Université Paris-Sud and Département de Mathématiques et Applications, Ecole Normale Supérieure, France).

Please note that the next Applied Probability INFORMS Conference will take place July 9-11, 2007 at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), The Netherlands. Just before this conference (Sunday afternoon) the Scientific Council will have its annual meeting. And after the conference, on Wednesday afternoon, July 11, 2007 we plan to organise an ALUMNI meeting. The meeting will have an informal character including a dinner on Wednesday evening.

Expected Visitors in 2007

January

Mor Harchol-Balter (Carnegie Mellon University)
Peter Glynn (Stanford University)

February

Francesco Guerra (Università Roma La Sapienza)
Pierluigi Contucci (Università di Bologna)
Sara Brofferio (Université Paris-Sud)
Dmitrii Silvestrov (Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden)

March

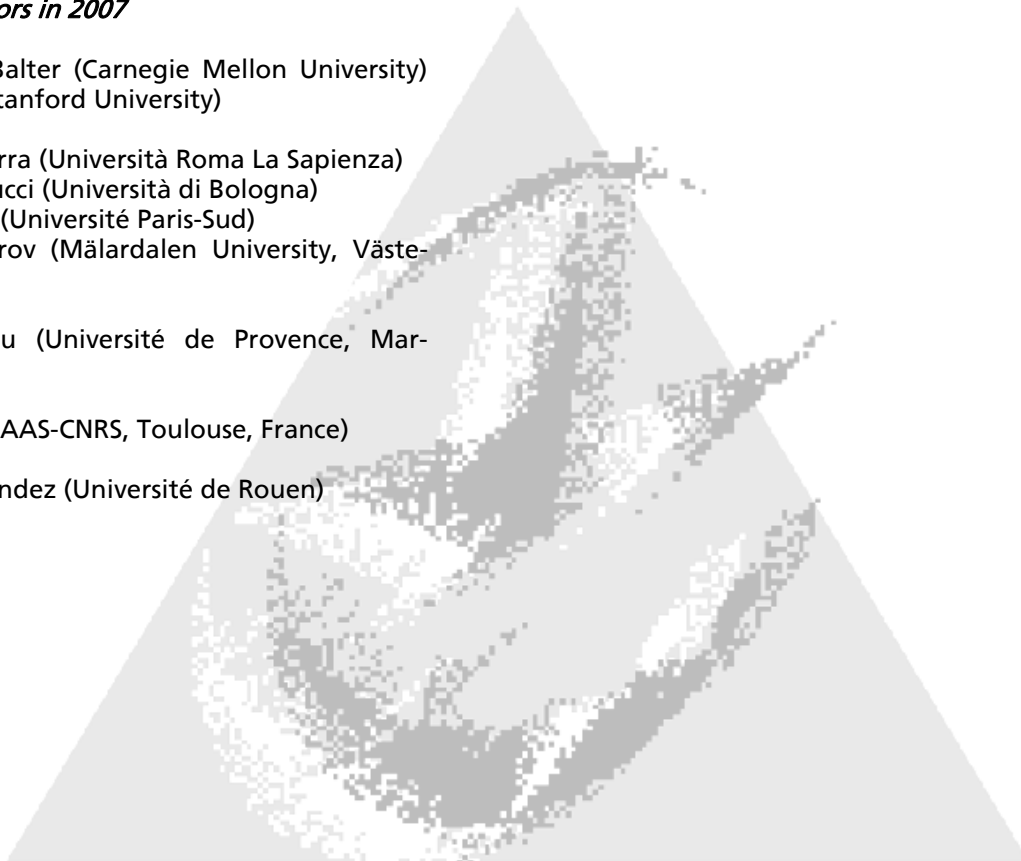
Pierre Mathieu (Université de Provence, Marseille)

Summer

Urtzi Ayesta (LAAS-CNRS, Toulouse, France)

September

Roberto Fernández (Université de Rouen)



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