Student Mentors

The honours program is a demanding year and one that can produce high levels of stress. Peer support significantly assists students in dealing with these pressures, helping to avoid or deal with crises that could otherwise become unmanageable. By sharing the experiences and skills of recent honours graduates via a mentoring scheme, it is hoped that every honours group will enjoy a certain level of support from their peers. The central aim is to establish networks and communication channels through which the honours group can become self-supporting.

The mentor scheme is not intended to fully support individual students, nor offer any academic assistance. The focus will be on facilitation rather than dictation. While it is hoped that consistency can be maintained throughout the year, mentors may change in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Any suggestions, concerns or questions should be directed to the mentor co-ordinator (Paul) or the honours coordinators (Felisa & Jerry). Given that this is the first time the program will run, your feedback throughout will be much appreciated.

The student mentors are:

Loretta Bartolini
loretta@ms.unimelb.edu.au, Room 162, x49714
My work is in the broad area of low-dimensional geometry and topology. Currently concentrating on one-sided Heegaard splittings, my research is focused on 3-manifold topology, with an emphasis on geometric methods.

Emily Duane
e.duane@ms.unimelb.edu.au, Room 143, x47164
I am working in the area of inventory management. My research involves devising heuristic methods to find good solutions to combinatorial optimisation problems that would be difficult to solve by exact methods.

Paul Fijn (Mentor Co-ordinator)
paul@ms.unimelb.edu.au, Room 187, x49680
My research is concerned with a class of stochastic interface problems which can be solved exactly by laborious computation, however this solution simplifies greatly. Using combinatorial interpretations, my aim is to find a direct method for obtaining the simpler solution.

Maya Ramakrishnan
mayar@ms.unimelb.edu.au, Room 140, x46797
I am working in the area of telecommunication systems modeling; in particular devising capacity re-allocation schemes in logical networks. My research involves non-linear optimisation techniques and stochastic processes.

Jennifer Slater
j.slater@ms.unimelb.edu.au, Room G27, x49772
I am working on stochastically evolving networks. I consider the effect of individual birth and death processes on overall population size and persistence, with possible applications to population modeling and epidemiology.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>Mentees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Loretta Bartolini | Maurice Chiodo  
 Tom Coleman  
 Michael Dann  
 Nicholas Davis  
 Leigh Humphries  
 Anthony Mays     |
| Emily Duane       | Richard Davidson  
 Jennifer Kusuma  
 Anne Laing  
 Robin Langer  
 Tan Sen (Mike)  |
| Paul Fijn         | Ching Yun Chang  
 Heather Dornom  
 Fiona Druitt  
 Emma Lockwood  
 Nicholas Stevenson  
 Michael Wheeler  |
| Maya Ramakrishnan | David Eagle  
 Mark Griffiths  
 Hon Wai Lee  
 Seung Jin Park  
 Amy Vanathi Ratnakaran  
 Peng Wang  |
| Jennifer Slater   | Kaushik Bhaganagarapu  
 Eleanor Button  
 Shaun Cole  
 James Plunkett  
 Bruce Riding (Murray) |