Recent publications in the school


Read ‘In the spotlight’ below on invasive plant species.


**In the spotlight**

**Thesis-in-Three: College of Science heats**

Our very own **Samarth (PhD candidate)** came out trumps in the CoS heats with his award winning three minute talk on ‘Plant memory in massive mast flowering’. Samarth was on a huge high after his win and nothing was going to burst his bubble, congratulations Samarth! Our two other contenders did extremely well, **Mona Bidanjiri** received an honourable mention with her fabulous talk and **Jennifer Schori** did us proud amongst the 20 finalists. Check out the CoS Facebook page for full details (24 July).
Our new research lab in SBS1

On Wednesday 19th July our new lab in room 463 was up and running for the first time with an abundance of keen and enthusiastic students. May it always be that way!
Invasive plant species can enhance coastal ecosystems

Invasive plant species can be a source of valuable ecosystem functions where native coastal habitats such as salt marshes and oyster reefs have severely declined, a new study by scientists at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington finds.

"With the progressive decline of coastal habitats worldwide, our findings suggest it's better to have a non-native habitat than no habitat at all," said Aaron Ramus, a PhD student at UNC Wilmington and former Bookhout Research Scholar at the Duke University Marine Laboratory, who led the research.

Ramus and Silliman published their peer-reviewed study the week of July 17 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Mads Thomsen from the University of Canterbury and Zachary Long from UNC Wilmington co-authored the paper.

Kaikoura coastline may never recover from quake damage

Marine biologists are unsure whether the Kaikoura reef will ever recover from "shocking damage".

In the latest Christchurch Dilemmas episode, University of Canterbury marine ecology researchers *Shawn Gerrity* and *Tommaso Alestra* share how they are working with the Ministry of Primary Industries to monitor what is happening to the marine life.

Check out the video and story at the [New Zealand Herald](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/chch-dilemmas/news-story/kaikoura-coastline-may-never-recover-from-quake-damage/).

**Chch Dilemmas: Sea change at Kaikoura – check out article on Stuff.**

Kaikoura youth to participate in scientific research happening around them

Kaikoura’s youth voice could be documented in marine research being conducted along the coastline following November's earthquake.
Dr Sharyn Goldstien, of the University of Canterbury, and Te Ha o Matauranga - Learning in Kaikoura coordinator Sarah Beardmore have been working together on ways to include young people who experienced the earthquake.

The Kaikoura Education Trust has been successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for the programme.

Read the full story at the Marlborough Express.

The first comprehensive description of alien flora of the world

Six years of effort of an international team of botanists and plant ecologists from the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and United Kingdom, complemented with a broad range of collaborators from 19 countries all over the world, resulted in the first comprehensive publication on the global alien and invasive flora. The group of authors lead by Petr Pyšek from the Institute of Botany in Průhonice, The Czech Academy of Sciences, and Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague describe patterns in diversity and geographic distribution of naturalized and invasive plant species, taxonomic, phylogenetic and life-history structure of the global naturalized flora as well as levels of naturalization and their determinants. The study published this week in Preslia, the journal of the Czech Botanical Society, is based on the recently built Global Naturalized Alien Flora (GloNAF) database, containing data on the distribution of naturalized alien plants in 482 mainland and 362 island regions of the world.

Read the article on these impressive flora.

Events

Equity and Diversity in the College of Science

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Friday 4 August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>F1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
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2.00-2.05pm: Welcome (Pieter Pelser, Biology)
2.05-2.30pm: Heteronormativity: How is that still a thing? Addressing bias against the rainbow communities in speech, language, and hearing services and research (Rebecca Kelly-Campbell, Communication Disorders)
2.30-2.45pm: Is stigma weighing us down? Implications of weight-related prejudice (Elizabeth Chivers, Psychology MSc student)
2.45-3.00pm: Good intentions are not enough. When diversity can lead to segregation (Mengjie Wang, Psychology PhD student)
3.00-3.15pm: How intergroup contact impacts prejudice in culturally diverse societies (Nadia Andrews, Psychology PhD student)
3.15-3.30pm: Tea break
3.30-3.45pm: New approaches to managing diversity (Bre Ealam, Psychology MSc student)
3.45-4.10pm: Caring collectives: Holistic supervision and NZAid-funded scholars (Kelly Dombroski, Geography)
4.10-4.35pm: The importance of diversity for research (Elissa Cameron, Biology)
4.35-5.00pm: The dog that sighed (Jan Wikaira, Chemistry)
Vacancies

PhD scholarship from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), New Zealand

Studying Legionella mobility and persistence in plumbing systems using micro mimics
We are seeking a highly motivated PhD student to study the mobility and persistence of Legionella in plumbing systems using biopolymer-based micro mimics. The PhD study forms part of a 3-year multi-disciplinary Marsden Fund project awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The position will close once a suitable candidate is found so we encourage applicants to apply promptly. The starting date will be as soon as possible. Read here for full details.

What song is that?
Sitting like a princess perched in her electric chair.

405: I've got a razor blade smile.

Answer: Regrets by Eurythmics
Guessed by: Lyn de Groot

Classified

Looking for part time/full time work
I am a University of Otago graduate who completed a BSc (Hons) with First class majoring in Anatomy. My degree also included papers physiology, neuroscience and microbiology. I am looking for positions available as a lab demonstrator, assistant research fellow or anything else - contact me at 0276340637 or davidtimajo@gmail.com

Experienced editor available
Experienced editor available online for essays, dissertations, theses and for postgraduate’s papers and publications. Specialist help for students whose first language in not English (ESL).

Virginia Gray, BSc (Canterbury), Dip.Edit.
grey.edit@clear.net.nz 027 419 1046

Proofreading and Editing Services
Let me help you produce writing that is clear, error-free and consistent.

Joan Gladwyn, BSc, MSc, CPhys, DipEdit
joan@properwords.co.nz (+64) 21 213 6511
...and now for something completely different

Look back at the weekend

Super Rugby semi-finals
Crusaders vs Chiefs and Lions vs Hurricanes

Boys discover ancient fossil while playing in the desert

Mysterious mega-swan once waddled through New Zealand

Rabbits in Otago ride out of flood on woolly sheep

Thought for the week

Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contact details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in this newsletter, contact the admin office before noon on Friday at BIOLAdminSharedMailbox or phone ext 95078.