Recent publications in the school

Check out Michael’s research “In the Spotlight” below. What a star pupil, move to the top of the class!


In the spotlight

Society for Conservation Biology Oceania – Member spotlight: Stephanie Galla

Our member in the spotlight this week is Stephanie Galla from the University of Canterbury. Stephanie gave an outstanding presentation at ICCB 2017 in Cartagena, and was awarded SCBO’s 2017 Best Student Presentation Award for her talk, “Estimating relatedness in captive breeding for translocation programmes to enhance species recovery”.

Stephanie is presently doing her PhD in Biological Sciences with Tammy Steeves.

Check out Stephanie’s Q&A session with the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania.

First past the post: New research reveals competitive males can adjust sperm speed

It’s a fish tale of a sexual nature that may impact our understanding of male fertility. A University of Canterbury doctoral researcher has discovered that male salmon can adjust their sperm’s swimming speed if competing with a rival to reproduce.

Michael Bartlett, a PhD student in the University of Canterbury’s School of Biological Sciences, says that males of many species fight to establish social dominance and control over access to females and the opportunity to reproduce.

Read the full article at UC News.
Breeding salmon may help understand human fertility

Male salmon appear to have a clever way to get ahead of their breeding rivals.

A Canterbury University study has found chinook salmon can adjust their sperm's swimming speed, when competing with a rival to reproduce.

**PhD student Michael Bartlett** says the adjustment of sperm velocity alters male reproductive success and therefore fitness.

Listen to Michael speak to Mike Hosking on Newstalk ZB.

Swim speed: Salmon study unlocks sexual secrets

A species of salmon prized by Kiwi anglers could help scientists solve long-standing mysteries about reproduction.

A New Zealand study has shown how male chinook salmon, also known as king salmon, can adjust their sperm’s swimming speed if competing with a rival to reproduce.

In humans, this was quirkily signalled by one Australian study that found mixed-gender pornography stimulated male sperm faster than all-women porn.

In this case, **University of Canterbury PhD student Michael Bartlett** and his colleagues looked to chinook salmon to investigate the link between male social status, which influenced the competition for sperm, and the quality of their sperm, or how fast it could swim.

Check out the article by Jamie Morton in The New Zealand Herald.

Why female Australian jumping spiders only mate once

For most animals, sex is good, and the more the better. But for female Australian jumping spiders, once in a lifetime seems to be plenty.

In a new study, the creature resisted researchers' best efforts to get it in the mood: a comfortable piece of crumpled paper in which to build a home, plenty of baby flies to eat, and a new prospective mate every 10 days.

But more than half the females who mated in the retreats never mated again. Those that did generally only mated once or twice more in their lifetimes.

**Ximena Nelson**, a jumping spider expert at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, suggests one theory to explain the behaviour.

Read the full article written by Liam Mannix in The Sydney Morning Herald.

Funding success

**Professor Jack Heinemann**, has been successful in attracting $90,000 from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for provision of an “Exploratory fact-finding scoping study on digital sequence information on genetic resources for food and agriculture”.
Should we continue to genetically engineer our food?

Professor Jack Heinemann contributed an article for the Israeli Epoch Times Magazine on “Should we continue to genetically engineer our food?” For those that read Hebrew the original can be sourced [here](#). The internet version will appear soon.

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**Events**

**The ABC presentations**

These were held on Thursday 26th October.

And the winners are...

**Paper prizes**

- **Best Journal Article in applied natural sciences / conservation research in New Zealand by a BSc(Hons) or MSc Student**
  - NZNS
  - Nixie Boddy
  - Best Journal Article by a BSc or BSc(Hons) $200 Biology Matt Hutchinson
  - Best Journal Article by an MSc $300 Biology Sophie Hunt
  - Runner up Journal Article by a PhD $100 Biology Stephanie Galla
  - Best Journal Article by a PhD $350 Biology Sinan Uğur Umu
  - Best Overall Publication Achievement $500 Biology Qianqian Guo

**Note:** Prizes increased in 2017 due to additional $500 sponsorship from GeneSearch

**Innovation Prize**

- **Powerhouse Innovation Prize** $200 (Westfield Voucher supplied by Powerhouse) Gregory Baxter-Parker

**Presentation prizes**

- **Best BSc / BSc (Hons)** $200 Bio-strategy Aisling Rayne
- **3rd MSc** $100 Macrogen Amanda Board
- **2nd MSc** $200 Macrogen Sophie Hale
- **1st MSc** $300 ESR Lily Brailsford
- **3rd PhD** $150 ESR Jennifer Agaldo
- **2nd PhD** $250 NZMS Stephanie Galla
- **1st PhD** $500 Hill Laboratories Jo Carpenter
- **Best Overall** $500 Lab Supply Ilina Cubrinovska

**Spot prizes**

E5

**Session 1**

**Fernando Cagua**

Dealing with slides changing and having the most text-less and beautiful slides.

**Session 2**

**Luca Mondardini**

Best title slide.
Session 3  
**Sophie Hale**  
Wonderful graphics/cartoons to communicate study.

Session 4  
**Ilina Cubrinovska**  
Comparing competition in Chatham Island shore plover breeding pairs to an extreme version of “The Bachelor”.

E6  
Session 1  
**Nuwan de Silva**  
Introducing us to amazing bioindicator gastropod which are never lonely because they are hermaphrodites.

Session 2  
**Pariya Tork**  
Innovative methodology and effective communication skills.

Session 3  
**Amanda Board**  
Explaining a very technical process in simple and general terms for ease of understanding.

Session 4  
**Solomon Wante**  
Calling out the full long names of his experimental treatments at different stages of his talk and still finishing on time!

E7  
Session 1  
**Emmanuel Adewale**  
A polite description of a very scary story, all in time for Halloween!

Session 2  
**Heather Shearer**  
The confidence in presenting after a technical problem.

Session 3  
**Mona Bidanjiri**  
Literally microscopic capillary tube.

Session 4  
**Samarth**  
For making genes sound like families with brothers, sisters etc. Made the talk interesting.

Stephanie Galla (Runner up Journal Article by a PhD; Presentation, PhD, 2nd place) and her colleague Jasper Obico
Understanding factors that affect macrophytes in agricultural waterways

Katie Collins
@kcollins UC_CAREX
Catherine Fabria, Helen Warburton, Kristy Hogden, Havely Devlin, Angus McIntosh, Jon Harding
School of Biological Sciences
CAREX Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment
A project funded by the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation

Katie Collins presenting her PhD research

Kauri Grain

Stephanie Dijkstra presenting her PhD research
Michelle Marraffini and Rogini Runghen, PhD colleagues

Nuwan de Silva, Solomon Wante and Gowtham Janardhanan, PhD researchers relaxing after the talks
Spring Gradfest is coming!
Spring Gradfest will be held from the 30 October – 3 November. The program includes nearly 30 sessions on skills and information brought to you by Academic Skills Centre, the Library and the Postgraduate Office. All Gradfest events & sessions are free and open to all Postgraduate Research students. The program will be available soon. Put Gradfest in your Calendar!

Thesis House
A reminder that Thesis House is available for thesis students to use for analysis and writing. Its location is 35/39 Creyke Rd and should be open every day.

How many Supervisors should I have?
All Postgraduate Research students are required to have at least two Supervisors. Having two supervisors is in your best interests to ensure that you continue to receive adequate supervision during your research. Your Senior Supervisor should be a continuing member of the Academic Staff. On rare occasions there are exceptions to this. You should not have more than 4 members of your Supervisory Committee.

It’s Scholarship season!!
Please consult the Scholarships website for details, eligibility and closing dates and information about scholarships http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/

New Zealand Natural Sciences recruiting new editors
NZNS is a UC student-run, online, open access journal that publishes research on all aspects of natural sciences in New Zealand and Antarctica (https://sites.google.com/site/nznaturalsciences/). It continues in sequence from its predecessor, Mauri Ora, which was first published in 1973! Several former student editors from over the years are now well-known academics and researchers in SBS and across New Zealand; hence, there is strong tradition and value in contributing to the survival of our journal. The current student editors, Katie Collins and Brandon Goeller, are searching for two new student editors to continue this tradition by managing journal submissions, overseeing external peer-review, and formatting and publishing accepted manuscripts. Please e-mail us at nzns@canterbury.ac.nz to discuss keeping this valuable and still-relevant body of research and knowledge alive!

SOAR Advisors: New postgrad peer advisory team is ready to help
The SOAR advisory team is here to provide postgraduate students with confidential advice on research related queries. These 10 peer advisors from different disciplines offer a broad range of skills in qualitative and quantitative research such as human ethics approval, report writing, statistical analysis (SPSS, Statistica, NVivo, etc.), conference presentation, publication, and much more. Students can contact the SOAR Advisors to make an appointment for advice and assistance in their areas of expertise (http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgraduate/phd-and-doctoral-study/soar-advisors/). For more information or interest in engaging with the SOAR Advisors, you can contact Brandon Goeller, who represents Biology within SOAR (brandon.goeller@pg.canterbury.ac.nz).
Scholarships

Auckland Botanical Society Lucy Cranwell Grant

Application closes: Friday 15th December

Applications are invited for the Lucy Cranwell Grant of $2,500 from the Auckland Botanical Society to assist a student studying for the degree of PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons) or B. Appl. Sci. in any tertiary institution in New Zealand whose thesis project deals with some aspect of New Zealand’s flora and vegetation. Priority will be given to projects relevant to the northern half of the North Island.

The research project to be supported will be chosen on the basis of appropriateness to the objects of the Society, namely to encourage the study of botany, and to stimulate public interest in the plant life of New Zealand and its preservation, conservation and cultivation.

The grant will be administered by the student’s supervisor as a contribution to expenses associated with the project.

Call for applications for 2018
Application form

Vacancies

PhD student and Postdoctoral Fellow

The Helmholtz Institute in Germany is looking for an informatics-oriented PhD student and postdoc to work on high throughput data analysis in bacterial models of infection at their new institute focusing on RNA and infection (the HIRI, in Würzburg).

The PhD project is focusing on producing a dual RNA-seq atlas of Salmonella infection of a panel of host cells, building on their paper from last year, while the postdoc will be working on integrating, analyzing, and visualizing the many types of functional genomic data they are producing.

PhD project: Dual RNA-seq analysis of pathogen and host.

Postdoc project: Data science for RNA infection biology.

What song is that?

Another shot of whiskey, can't stop looking at the door

411: Bid my blood to run
Answer: Bring me to life by Evanescence (2009)
Guessed by: Nobody
Proofreading PhD theses

Virginia Gray Pennell
BSc, Dip.Edit.
0274191046
pennell.edit@gmail.com

Do YOU struggle with procrastination?
Would you like a $10 Westfield Voucher? Or a chance at a $100 Westfield Voucher?

I want to hear from you!

I am looking for people with **android smart phones** to partake in my procrastination study. The study requires participants to download a free app that will record their daily procrastination habits as well as some health related measures for two weeks and fill out a questionnaire at the beginning and end of the study (these should take 30 minutes or less each time and will be done electronically).

All participants will be reimbursed for their time with their choice of either a $10 Westfield Voucher or PSYC 105/106 course credit. All participants that stay with the study for the full two weeks and complete all questionnaires will go into the draw to win one of two $100 Westfield vouchers.

If you are interested or would like any further details please email me at:

[Nikita.dow@pg.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:Nikita.dow@pg.canterbury.ac.nz)

Or just come to my office anytime between 12pm and 5pm, Monday – Thursday, Room 602, Level 6, Psychology Building (the end closest to the Law Building)

Need assistance over the summer?
Would love the opportunity for some work experience in biology or ecology. Field or lab work. Contact [Jessica Shamy](mailto:Jessica.Shamy@pg.canterbury.ac.nz).

Local honey for sale
1 kg $10, 500 g $5. 2017 season, multi-floral Ilam garden honey in plastic pottles. Soft granulated. I will deliver to the School of Biological Sciences or arrange pickup/delivery elsewhere. Harry Taylor, email: [harry.taylor@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:harry.taylor@canterbury.ac.nz); ph/txt: 021 292 5319

Wanted: Data Science Summer Projects
The first cohort of [MADS](https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/academic-departments/data-science) of students (MSc. in Applied Data Science) are looking for projects to work on over the summer. They will have training in data wrangling, analysis, management, ethics and big data. The project is worth 45 points ([DATA601](https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/courses/data601), EFTS for SBS), and will typically be run between November and February. There are ~40 students who need to be placed on either industry or academic projects. They will be assessed based upon a write-up, peer-assessment and a presentation of their results.
If you have a suitable project, then please email the details to [james.williams@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:james.williams@canterbury.ac.nz)
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

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

Thought for the week

Christmas is more than a day in December
It’s all of those things that we love to remember
Its carolers singing familiar refrains
Bright colored stockings and shiny toy trains
Streamers of tinsel and glass satin balls
Laughter that rings through the house and its halls
Christmas is more than a day in December
Its the magic and the love That we'll always remember.

(M.E. Miro)

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 95200.