Recent publications in the school


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**Farewell to Dr Marie Hale**

Apart from doing an awesome job dishing out advice, juggling 4th year timetables and organising their exams (plus colleagues), Marie also did a wonderful role as teacher and enthusiastic research conservationist.

The School held an informal farewell for Dr Marie Hale (Population & Conservation Genetics lecturing academic). Marie joined us back in 2005. We wish you the very best in W.A.

Professor Angus McIntosh presented Marie with gifts from the School.
Welcome to the School

New PhD student Alex Noble comes to us with an MSc in genetics from the University of Otago. She will be working with Amy Osborne developing a zebrafish model of environmental epigenetics and investigating the interaction between substances of recreational abuse, and methylation in both the human genome and the zebrafish model.

If you are new to the School and would like your introduction here, please send me a small blurb, like the one above with an image.

In the spotlight

Kim unleashes her science potential
Seventeen year old Kim Fowler has her eyes on science. In December 2017, Kim spent four days at Powering Potential in Wellington.

Kim, who graduated from ACG Strathallan last year was one of the 40 students selected. She has an interest in science and art, and is involved in GirlGuiding NZ and is chairperson of the Papakura Youth Council.

In February, she will be pursuing her passion by studying a Bachelor of Science at the University of Canterbury. Read about Kim’s journey at The Post (Franklin & North Waikato). Welcome to UC!

Student Profile

PhD student in Medical Biochemistry: Nooshin Ghodsian
Nooshin is passionate for problem solving and interested in discovering a way to stop cardiovascular disorders such as Atherosclerosis attracted her to continue her research in the field of Biochemistry.

Biochemistry, as the name suggests, is where Biology meets Chemistry: it’s the study of living things at a molecular level or, to put it another way, the study of the very foundations of life. It helps us to understand topics as diverse as disease, genetics, evolution and DNA. Our understanding of Biochemistry enables the creation of safe synthetic drugs, helps forensic teams solve crimes, and allows the development of agriculture and food and much, much more. If you’re struggling to decide between Biology and Chemistry, or you see yourself working as a scientist in a role that makes a real difference, Biochemistry may be the perfect choice for you.

As with any degree, you can expect to have a core set of compulsory modules to begin with, but the number of compulsory modules is likely to reduce in subsequent years to allow more scope for you to choose your own and specialise in areas you find interesting. Areas in which you could specialise might include disciplines such as virology, immunology, cancer biology and neuropharmacology.

Nooshin qualified the diploma course of Natural Science as well as bachelor which has been Cellular and Molecular Biology. Nooshin moved to Malaysia in 2011 to continue her study and detected several Genetic mutation associated to hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus during her Masters degree in the top university of Malaysia. She published five papers during her masters in the high impact factor journals.

Nooshin is currently doing a PhD in the field of Biochemistry at the University of Canterbury. She is studying on how to control the atherosclerotic plaque development which causes the majority of the death in the worldwide especially in the western countries. She aims to continue her research as a last long plan to help people with her discoveries on the cardiovascular disorders.

Ernest Rutherford

The Editor went on a guided tour of the “new” Ernest Rutherford Regional Science & Innovation Centre. Lots of shiny bits and splashes of colour everywhere. My personal favourite spot was the “Red” space.

Because my link didn’t work via a pdf the first time I am adding the pics directly into the newsletter.
Second floor: The red space. If you chucked in thousands of plastic balls it could be the playroom at McDonalds.

Third floor foyer signage

Those chairs...

The Jack Torrance escape room
Fifth floor: Common room for staff.
Oddly enough, a separate room was next door for the postgraduates

Fifth floor: Ante-room for Ancient DNA
Notice the viewing wall.

Fifth floor: Inside Sally Gaw’s vacuum sealed lab

Postgraduate news

PhD Position in Agroecology
Managing pollination and biological pest control in Peruvian cacao agroforestry systems
Applications close: 28 February

Cacao agroforestry systems may support high levels of biodiversity and profit from ecosystem services such as pest control and pollination. There is growing evidence that cocoa agroforestry systems based on native fine flavour genotypes and with appropriate management practices to optimise the provision of multiple ecosystem services can be as productive as monocultures with commercial non-native cacao clones and high external fertiliser and pesticide inputs.

Full details
PhD scholarship available for a population-genomic and taxonomic study of Eucalyptus at University of Canterbury, New Zealand

The New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative (NZDFI) aims to create plantations of high-value Eucalyptus species in dry environments of the east coast of the South Island. For this purpose, Australian seed collections of five Eucalyptus species were planted in New Zealand to determine if these species produce desirable growth and wood qualities (e.g. low growth stress, high natural durability) in the New Zealand environment. The proposed project aims to use genomic tools to understand how genomic and environmental variation interact to influence commercially important traits of selected Eucalyptus species in the NZDFI common garden experiments to:

1) Inform future genomic selection in breeding programs,
2) Resolve the taxonomic delimitation of two morphologically similar species (E. argophloia and E. bosistoana), and to
3) Inform the conservation management of E. argophloia (Vulnerable) and E. bosistoana (Near Threatened) in Australia.

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student with field and lab research experience in population genetics/genomics or systematics, preferably in plants, and an interest in building strong multidisciplinary relationships. Good written and spoken communication skills are essential. Candidates must have a valid driver’s licence and be willing to undertake field work.

The successful applicant of will be supervised by a multidisciplinary team of researchers in the Schools of Forestry (Drs. Apiolaza and Altaner) and Biological Sciences (Drs. Pelser and Steeves) of University of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand). The research team is committed to Kindness in Science (kindnessinscience.wordpress.com); we aim to capture diverse perspectives and foster a science environment where early career researchers flourish and better science outcomes are achieved.

The scholarship contributes to living expenses (NZ$ 22,000 p.a.) and all university fees (NZ$ ~8,200) for a maximum of 3.5 years.

The position remains open until filled. Starting date is open for discussion, but an early start is preferred.

Inquiries and applications (cover letter, CV) are to be addressed to Pieter.pelser@canterbury.ac.nz

What song is that?

Like Harrison Ford I'm getting frantic

417: It's the same old theme since nineteen-sixteen

Answer: Zombie by The Cranberries (1994)

Guessed by: Group guessed by Lyn and Song guessed by Bill.
Casual work wanted in ecology
I am a forest ecologist, having received my PhD with a strong focus on restoration/forest ecology at the School of Forestry last year. I do hold a full working visa and am skilled in data analysis, data entry, writing scientific publications – basically, everything that you need to successfully complete your PhD. Contact Conny Keyz.

Wanted: Field work volunteer
I am after a volunteer to help me catch weka on the West Coast (near Hokitika) in February and March for my PhD. I definitely don't need someone who can commit to the whole time frame but if you could commit to at least a week that would be great! I will pay for your food, accommodation and transport. No previous bird handling experience required but must enjoy thrashing through bush, bribing birds with cheese, and listening to dulcet weka squarks. For more information contact Jo Carpenter on carpenter.jk@gmail.com

Casual work wanted
Do you need someone to assist with your field work or admin data? Jana Wold is available to help you out! She will be starting a PhD here at UC next year in Ecology. Jana did her MSc on albatross at Victoria. Make contact with Jana at her email.

Editor/proofreader available
Experienced editor/proofreader available online for essays, dissertations, theses and for postgraduates’ papers and publications. Specialist help for students whose first language in not English (ESL). University of Auckland approved proofreader.

Virginia Gray, BSc. (Canterbury), Dip.Edit.
Pennell.edit@gmail.com
027 419 1046

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; ph/txt: 021 292 5319

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

Paws & Chores - Simon’s Cat | STORYTIME

Did you leave it on?

Olympic photos of the day: February 11, 2018
Thought for the week

Piglet: “How do you spell love?”
Pooh: “You don’t spell it, you feel it.”

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.