Recent publications in the school


PhD oral exam

Pictured: Professor Jim Briskie (Oral Convenor), Dr Richard Taylor (External Examiner, University of Auckland), Alfonso, Dist. Professor David Schiel (Co-Supervisor) and Dr Mads Thomsen (Co-Supervisor)
Alfonso Siciliano had his PhD oral exam on Thursday 26th July. Alfonso’s passion for his research has been highlighted in one of the UC Student Profiles. Era sempre un piacere vedere arrivare Alfonso tutto contento per una piccola chiacchierata. Anche se non capisco l’italiano, ascoltare Alfonso e Tommaso durante la pausa pranzo era come assistere ad un concerto. In bocca al lupo per tutto Alfonso.

In the spotlight

**New Zealand's largest native grasshopper 'jumping for joy' as home becomes conservation land**

The home of the country’s largest native grasshopper is now a safe haven for the endangered critter. A large section of the Mackenzie Basin has been protected as conservation land, and scientists say it could help save the large insect, with only a few hundred robust grasshoppers left in the world.

The University of Canterbury’s Tara Murray says unlike most grasshoppers, the giant critters "don't jump and land on blades of grass like other grasshoppers do. They really just flop around".

Jennifer Schori, PhD candidate, Biological Sciences, is studying this research for his thesis. Check out the full story at [TVNZ OneNews](https://tvnz.co.nz/). (includes video clip)

Events

**Thesis-in-three UC Final**

Again, the School were victorious by talking about their theses in three minutes at the College of Sciences heats (Friday 3 August). There was a great turnout and I can fully expect there to be an even larger audience at the final. Come along to support our awesome candidates on:

- **Date:** Tuesday 14th August
- **Time:** 6:00 – 9:30 pm
- **Location:** C3 lecture theatre

Stephanie Galla, PhD
Olivia Silvester, MSc

**House of Travel Botanic D'Lights**

Step into a winter wonderland at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and the Arts Centre of Christchurch with a spectacular light show. Enjoy eye-catching installations and projections, plus live entertainment, during this dazzling five-night display.

House of Travel Botanic D'Lights will be held on Wednesday 8 August to Sunday 12 August. The event will run between 6 to 9pm each night, with recommended last entry at 8.30pm.

The event will be held in be both the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and the Arts Centre of Christchurch.

[Full details](#)
The New Zealand Institute of Agricultural & Horticultural Science

Water in Canterbury - our vital resource
Wednesday 24th October 2018
Stewart 1, Lincoln University, Lincoln

Registration now open

Scholarships

GCSB Women in STEM Scholarship
Applications open on 1 June and close on 1 October.
To be eligible for GCSB Tertiary Scholarship, applicants must:
- Be female students over the age of 18 years.
- Have been a New Zealand citizen for at least 10 years or hold New Zealand Permanent Residence or hold a current New Zealand Residency Class Visa and have been a citizen of United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America or Australia for at least 10 years.
- Have enrolled, or been accepted to enrol, in a full time degree majoring in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at an approved NZQA accredited tertiary provider in New Zealand for the next academic year.
- Be eligible to obtain and keep a national security clearance.

Full details

Masters scholarship in kauri dieback research

Consideration of applications will start on 2 September 2018.
Investigating the effects that landscape changes have on the growth and survival of soilborne pathogens such as P. agathidicida associated with kauri dieback is an area of national significance. Kauri is considered a taonga species, one of New Zealand’s best-known native plants, and a beacon for tourists (for example, Tāne Mahuta). Research has shown P. agathidicida is the primary cause of kauri dieback in New Zealand’s most northern native forests. The successful candidate’s research will focus on understanding the ecology of this pathogen, in particular how well it survives in the rhizosphere of other plant species.

The candidate will be supervised by Dr Amanda Black (Lincoln University), Professor Leo Condron (Lincoln University), Dr Nick Waipara (Plant and Food Research), Dr Monica Gerth (Victoria University) and Dr Peter Scott, (Scion).

The position can be funded for a period of two years (including paper and thesis year), starting early in 2019 (ideally January) or before.

Full details

Postgraduate news

PhD Project Opportunities

Does dynamic ecological change cause rapid evolution?
Applications close: 21st August

We are seeking PhD students with interests in population genomics and mammal/reptile ecology and evolution to investigate the factors that drive population dynamics and evolution.
Project Description
Studies documenting evolutionary change have typically focused on the role of strong selection in driving adaptation following abrupt environmental changes. We are applying high resolution genomic analyses to mammal and reptile samples collected from the Simpson Desert annually for the past 12 years to provide insights into the processes that underlie evolutionary change in fluctuating environments and combine these data with long-term demographic data, century-long rainfall records and ecological models. This approach will enable us to understand how climatic fluctuations that drive periodic population pulses act to structure genetic variation and drive rapid evolutionary change.

Full details

Opportunity for students to visit Princeton University's Ecology and Evolution department
We are trying to attract a broader range of students to apply to the program and one way that the department is trying to encourage that is to have a no-strings-attached visit to the department for students that are applying to PhD programs and might not consider a place like Princeton otherwise. The visit would be a 4-day trip in early October where successful applicants would get to see the department, meet faculty, and talk to current graduate students. For successful applicants, Princeton will cover the travel (at least $900 worth though this will likely be greater for international travelers), lodging, and food expenses for the four days.

EEB encourages students to apply to the 2018 EEB Scholars Program, in which exceptional students (EEB Scholars) will be selected from a competitive national applicant pool and invited to Princeton University for a weekend program focused on the graduate application process, connecting with EEB faculty and students, and highlighting Scholars’ academic achievements. Students with backgrounds historically underrepresented in STEM are particularly encouraged to apply to this scholastic program.

Full details
Flyer

Vacancies

Postdoctoral positions in macroecology/global change biology
The Ohio State University. Positions will be available as early as 1st September.

Position 1 (Biodiversity Change): The successful candidate will conduct research in the broad area of macroecology and large scale biodiversity change. Potential areas of interest include, but are not limited to, spatial and temporal scaling of biodiversity and its change, trait-based biogeography, and implications of global change for biodiversity. An ability to traverse community-level and species-level perspectives and to address processes at different spatial and temporal scales are particularly welcome.

Position 2 (ButterflyNet): The successful candidate will join an ongoing NSF-funded project ButterflyNet—a collaboration with researchers from Harvard University, City University of New York, Georgetown University, and the University of Florida. ButterflyNet’s goals are to produce the first fully resolved species-level phylogeny of butterflies and synthesize available databases on host associations, reproductive and life-history traits, ecological characteristics such as habitat associations and mobility, and patterns of geographic distributions. Potential research projects include butterfly assemblage dynamics, trait-environment relationships, implications of global change for butterfly diversity, and biogeography and evolution of butterflies. Knowledge of butterfly biology and ecology is welcome, but not essential.

Full details
**Open Faculty Positions in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Sciences**

**Application Deadline: August 31, 2018 (EDT)**

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University ([https://www.oist.jp/](https://www.oist.jp/)) invites applications for at least 2 new faculty positions in **ecology, evolution, and related disciplines** as part of its planned expansion. Scientists using theoretical or empirical approaches, and working on any system/geographic region will be considered.

Excellent scholarship and creativity will be the main criteria. We are particularly interested in scholars who complement and extend existing strengths at OIST and have the potential to interact broadly with the interdisciplinary OIST community.

Successful candidates are expected to establish an active and independent program of research, to supervise Ph.D. students, to teach in the graduate program, and perform service tasks. Generous and sustained research resources will be provided, which may be supplemented with external grants. Appointments will be Tenure-Track or Tenured. Starting date is flexible. There are also Open Faculty Positions advertised in Marine Science at OIST, applications via either route will be shared, please apply only once.

Applications should include the following:

1. **Cover letter** with contact details
2. **CV and publication list**: including one or two sentences describing up to six significant reports
3. **Research Statement**: summary of previous research (max. 1 page) and research proposal, (max. 2 pages)
4. **Teaching Statement** (max. 1 page)
5. **Contact Reference** (3 referees will be approached only if shortlisted)

Information and instructions regarding application submission: [https://groups.oist.jp/facultypositions](https://groups.oist.jp/facultypositions)

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For both positions:
OIST offers a world-class research environment with an international research community and opportunities for interdisciplinary research. Research and teaching are conducted in English. The campus is situated in a beautiful subtropical setting in Okinawa, Japan, providing opportunities to work on a range of interesting ecosystems on the island and more broadly in the Asia-Pacific region.

OIST Graduate University is an equal opportunity educator and employer that is actively working to increase the diversity of its faculty, students and staff. OIST has implemented policies designed to promote a culture of diversity and inclusion and a family friendly working environment. These include considerations for hiring and supporting dual career couples, “stop the clock” options for new parents, an on site child care facility for children from 2 months to 6 years of age, and after-school and holiday programs for K-6 children. The University strongly encourages applications from women and other underrepresented groups.

Inquiries should be directed to Professor Mary Collins, Provost and Dean of Research, faculty-recruiting@oist.jp

What movie is that?

Wendy? Darling? Light, of my life. I'm not gonna hurt ya. You didn't let me finish my sentence. I said, I'm not gonna hurt ya. I'm just going to bash your brains in!

428: My name is Reuben Warshowsky.
Answer: Norma Rae (1979). Ron Leibman (Reuben Warshowsky) uttered these words
Guessed by: Nobody

Classified

Offering private tutoring
Aimed at 1st and 2nd yr students, in the area of microbiology, molecular biology and genetics. Contact: Dian Munoz, or ph: 0221031977

Needing garden plants for research
Masters student is looking for some garden grapes (Vitis vinifera) and fruit from the Bay plant (Laurus nobalis) as part of her master's project and was wondering if anyone may have some in their garden. Email Laura or see her directly in room 325.

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

World's marine wilderness is dwindling
The internet reveals the peak time for ordering pizza
App helps ecologists map vulnerable ecosystems within minutes
Discovery in Plants May Help Uncover Genetic Mechanism, Potential Therapies for Friedreich’s Ataxia

The Snip - Simon’s Cat
(turn on audio for this one, quite comical)

Thought for the week
“When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.”
-Dalai Lama

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.