



NEWS

New labs in RSB

Craig Moritz (EEG) and **Sarah Pryke** (EEG) have taken up their positions as lab leaders in the School. Craig is a Laureate Fellow who joins the School from Berkeley. Craig holds a joint position with CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences and is in the process of establishing the joint ANU-CSIRO Centre for Biodiversity Analysis. Sarah, who was recently awarded a Future Fellowship, joins the School from Macquarie University. Her research is in the area of bird behavior, ecology and evolution.

Grants and fellowships

Alex Maier (BSB) has been awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship.

Craig Moritz (EEG) and **Scott Keogh** (EEG), along with colleagues in South Australia and Western Australia, have been awarded an ARC Linkage Grant totalling \$570K for their project "Phylogenomic assessment of conservation priorities in two biodiversity hotspots: The Pilbara and the Kimberley"

Kieran Kirk (BSB) has been awarded a grant of US\$50K from the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) for the project 'Testing the MMV Malaria Box on malaria parasite ion regulation'.

The ReFuGe (Reef Future Genomics) project, of which **Sylvain Foret** (EEG), **Eldon Ball** (EEG), **Shunichi Takahashi** (PS) are members, has received funding of \$500K from BioPlatforms Australia.

Dominique Roche (Jennions lab, EEG) and **Sandra Binning** (Backwell/Keogh labs, EEG) each received funding (US\$1800) from the International Society for Behavioural Ecology to attend the

14th International Behavioural Ecology Congress in Lund, Sweden.

Amanda Edworthy (Langmore lab, EEG) has been awarded the 2012 Professor Allen Keast Research Award (\$4922) and the Jill Landsberg Trust Fund Scholarship (\$6000) from the Ecological Society of Australia for her work on forty-spotted pardalotes.

Iliana Medina (Langmore Lab, EEG) has been awarded \$2400 from the Canberra Birds Conservation Fund.

Veronica Briceño (Nicotra lab, EEG) received a travel grant from the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility to visit Innsbruck University in Austria.

Bianca Dobson (Tscharke lab, BSB) was awarded a bursary covering accommodation costs to attend the XIX International Poxvirus, Asfavirus and Iridovirus Conference in Salamanca, Spain.

Uyen Nguyen (Maier lab, BSB) has been awarded an OzEMaLAR Travel scholarship to visit the Institut Pasteur in Paris for 3 months.

VC awards

Isabelle Ferru (T&L) has been awarded a Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning "For a sustained commitment to engaging and inspiring students in parasitology and the medical sciences, through innovative curricula, authentic learning, thought-provoking resources, and challenging assessments."

Krisztina Valter-Kosci (recently moved from RSB to JCSMR) received a Special Commendation Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning "For inspiring teaching through development of curricula and resources in the field of Medical Sciences."



Jan's party. L- R: Jan Anderson, Stephanie McCaffery, Cornelia Osmond and Barry Osmond.

Happy Birthday Jan

Jan Anderson (PS) recently celebrated her 80th birthday. In honour of this milestone, Jim Barber (Imperial College) and Peter Horton (Sheffield University) organized an international meeting on "Structure and dynamics of the thylakoid membrane" at the Kavli Royal Society International Centre in May.

Barry Osmond (PS), Tom Faunce (Law & Medical School), **Fred Chow** (PS) and **Stephanie McCaffery** (PS) also attended the meeting. The proceedings will be published in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*.

New artwork

The ANU Public Art Committee has commissioned a sculpture for the new science precinct by Wolfgang Buttress, a UK-based artist. Wolfgang will create a mirror-polished steel sphere perforated with holes that map out a constellation. The mirror surface of the sphere will reflect the buildings and trees that surround it. Inside the sphere, visible through the holes, is a second, dark metal sphere also perforated in the pattern of a constellation.

Linnaeus Building awards

The Linnaeus Building was announced as the 'Project of the Year' for 2012, as well as winning five other awards at the ACT Master Builders Association's awards. The building was complemented on its facade, interior finish, sustainable design features and project management.

CONGRATULATIONS

Marlene Reichel has been awarded the JG Crawford Prize for her Master of Biotechnology thesis "investigating abundance and target site structure in plant microRNA - mediated gene silencing". Marlene is only the third

Images of the Wolfgang Buttress artwork for the new science precinct



Lab Leader Profile Ben Corry, BSB



Lab Members:

Michael Thomas, postdoc
Natalie Smith, PhD student,
still at UWA

Lab researching:

"The mechanisms of transport
in ion channel proteins

and other porous materials and how this is
controlled by structural changes of the pores."

Greatest achievement: "Showing how the
principles of selective transport in biology can
be utilised to create synthetic materials for the
more efficient desalination of sea water and
treatment of contaminated water; as well as
linking experiment directly with simulation to
monitor the structural changes taking place in
mechanosensitive proteins."

Next big thing: "Computer power is rapidly
advancing and we are starting to be able to
simulate the timescales at which interesting
biological events occur. Hopefully this means
we can finally get a grip on the dynamic
nature of proteins and how they achieve their
function."

Science hero: "Richard Feynman – not only
was he a genius, he was interested in a wide
range of fields, did not follow the latest trends
and had an interesting life outside of science."

science student to win in the Masters
category since the prize's inception in 1973.

Honours students, **Jonathan Milne
Henshaw** (Jennions & Kokko labs,
EEG) and **Erick Tanujaya Tjhin** (Saliba
lab, BSB) have each been awarded a
University Medal in Biology.

Hongyan (Yeshi) Xie (Nicotra lab,
EEG) submitted her PhD thesis
"Ecology, phylogeny and evolution of
breeding system in Tibetan poppies
(*Meconopsis* Vig.) from Eastern Tibetan
region" at the end of May.

Benjamin Rae (Price lab, PS) has
had his PhD on the evolution of the
CO₂ concentrating mechanism of
cyanobacteria accepted. Ben continues
to work in the Price lab.

WELCOME

Lisa Schwanz has joined the
Keogh lab (EEG) as a postdoc.

This monthly newsletter is archived at
biology.anu.edu.au/newsletter

Content: Casey Hamilton.

Editing: Kiaran Kirk & Casey Hamilton.

Contact [Casey Hamilton](mailto:Casey.Hamilton@anu.edu.au) to submit content or
to be added to the newsletter distribution list.

Meisha-Marika Holloway-Phillips

has joined the Nicotra lab (EEG) as a
postdoc.

Nguyen Thi Hoa will join Marilyn Ball's
lab (PS) from Vietnam to begin a PhD
on mangroves.

FAREWELL

Morgane Merlin (Ball lab, PS)
has returned to the Ecole Normale
Supérieure (Ulm Paris, France)
to defend her Master's thesis on
interactive effects of temperature and
water status on photosynthetic activity
in Antarctic mosses.

Yuan Yuan Hu has completed her
second six-month visit to RSB and will
return to Xinjiang, China, after working
on leaves and non-leaf photosynthetic
organs of cotton in the Chow (PS) and
von Caemmerer (PS) labs.

MEDIA

[Howard Bradbury's](#) (EEG) work on
konzo, a profile on [Hanna Kokko](#) (EEG)
and [Gabriel James'](#) (Djordjevic lab, PS)
work on algal biofuels were all featured
in the winter edition of *ANU Reporter*.

[Lyanne Brouwer's](#) (Cockburn lab, EEG)
work on birds benefiting from a helping
hand while raising chicks was featured
in an article on [PhysOrg](#).

[Anastasia Dalziel's](#) (Magrath lab, EEG)
[press release](#) on lyrebird mimicry was
featured widely on radio and in print,
including [The Australian](#) and the [Daily
Telegraph](#).

PAPERS ACCEPTED

Callander, S., Bolton, J., Jennions, M.D. &
Backwell, P.R.Y. A farewell to arms: males
with regenerated claws fight harder over
resources. *Animal Behaviour*.

Deakin, J.E., Graves, J.A., & Rens, W.
Evolution of marsupial and monotreme
chromosomes. *Cytogenetic and Genome
Research*.

Dewar, R.C., Tarvainen, L., Parker, K.*,
Wallin, G. & McMurtrie, R.E. Why does
leaf nitrogen decline within tree canopies
less rapidly than light? An explanation
from optimization subject to a lower
bound on leaf mass per area. *Tree
Physiology*.

*Kathryn Parker is a PhD student whose
contribution to this work was done as
part of an Advanced Studies Course.

Drayton, J.M., Hall, M.D., Hunt, J., &
Jennions, M.D. Sexual signalling and
immune function in the black field cricket,
Teleogryllus commodus. *PLoS ONE*.

Drayton, J.M., Boeke, J., & Jennions,
M.D. Immune challenge and pre- and
post-copulatory choice in the cricket,

Teleogryllus commodus. *Journal of Insect
Behaviour*.

Edwards, D.L., Keogh, J.S. & Knowles,
L.L. Effects of vicariant barriers, habitat
stability, population isolation and
environmental features on species
divergence in the south-western
Australian coastal reptile community.
Molecular Ecology.

Flesch, I.E.A., Hollett, N.A., Wong,
Y. & Tschärke, D.C., Linear Fidelity in
Quantification of Anti-Viral CD8+ T Cells.
PLoS One.

Franklin, O., Johansson, J., Dewar,
R.C., Dieckmann, U., McMurtrie, R.E.,
Brännström, Å. & Dybzinski, R. Modelling
carbon allocation in trees: a search for
principles. *Tree Physiology*.

Jennions, M.D., Kahn, A.T., Kelly, C.D.
& Kokko, H. Meta-analysis and sexual
selection: past studies and future
possibilities. *Evolutionary Ecology*.

Kay, G. & Keogh, J.S. Molecular
phylogeny and morphological revision
of the *Ctenotus labillardieri* (Reptilia:
Squamata: Scincidae) species group and
a new species of immediate conservation
concern in the southwestern Australian
biodiversity hotspot. *Zootaxa*.

Keogh, J.S., Noble, D.W.A., Wilson, E.E.
& Whiting, M.J. Activity predicts male
reproductive success in a polygynous
lizard. *Plos One*.

Knight, A.K., Johnson, N.M. &
Behm, C.A. VHA-19 is essential in
Caenorhabditis elegans oocytes for
embryogenesis and is involved in
trafficking in oocytes. *PLoS ONE*.

Kou, J., Oguchi, R., Fan, D-Y & Chow, W.
S. The time course of photoinactivation
of Photosystem II in leaves revisited.
Photosynthesis Research.

McMurtrie, R.E., Iversen, C.M., Dewar,
R.C., Medlyn, B.E., Näsholm, T., Pepper,
D.A. & Norby, R.J. Plant root distributions
and nitrogen uptake predicted by a
hypothesis of optimal root foraging.
Ecology & Evolution.

Ménard, A., Turgeon, K., Roche, D.G.,
Binning, S.A., & Kramer, D.L. Shelters and
their use by fishes on fringing coral reefs.
PLoS One.

Osborne, K., Umbers, K.D.L., Backwell,
P.R.Y., & Keogh, J.S. Male tawny dragons
use gular colour patterns in rival recognition.
Biology Letters.

Oliver R.P., Friesen T.L., Faris J.D. &
Solomon P.S. *Stagonospora nodorum*:
From Pathology to Genomics and
Host Resistance. *Annual Review of
Phytopathology*.

Sevanto, S., Holbrook, N.M. & Ball,
M.C. Freeze/thaw-induced embolism:
probability of critical bubble formation
depends on speed of ice formation.
Frontiers in Plant Science.