NEWS

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to:

Owen Atkin, PS, who has been promoted to Professor, in recognition of his award last year of a Level 3 Future Fellowship.

Spencer Whitney, PS, who has been promoted to Associate Professor, in recognition of his award last year of a Level 2 Future Fellowship.

PAPER HIGHLIGHTED

A paper published in *Biology Letters* last year by members of EEG was selected by the journal’s Editor-in-Chief as being one of the highlights of 2009. The paper entitled ‘Positive Darwinian selection results in resistance to cardioactive toxins in true toads (Anura: Bufonidae)’, was by: Moore, D. J., Halliday, D. C. T., Rowell, D. M., Robinson, A. J. & Keogh, J. S.

BIOLOGY TEACHING & LEARNING CENTRE

The Biology Teaching & Learning Centre administration office is now fully staffed and providing support to academic staff and students across all Biology programs (including undergraduate and postgraduate coursework and research programs). Each member of the administration team plays a key role in centre operations and is the first point of contact for their individual portfolios and areas of expertise. See overleaf for further details.

ROBERTSON BUILDING FRONT FOYER EXTENSION

An extension to the front foyer area in the R.N. Robertson building should be approved by National Capital Authority this week and Circol has already been appointed to undertake the works. This will involve moving the front glass windows out to the building line, repositioning the glass doors into the middle for access to the front garden area, altering lighting, providing new tiles to the ceiling area and patching the floor tiles. This will allow us more room for whole of School gatherings and social events. The garden area at the front will be re-established once work is complete.

EEG LUNCH

The Division of Evolution, Ecology and Genetics held a lunch this week, under the trees in front of the Banks Building. The event was brilliantly organised and catered for by Pat Backwell and her team of helpers. Thanks to all involved.

NOTICES

BAYESIAN PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS USING BEAST

30 and 31 March, EEG
Free to all RSB members
Program and slides
http://www.tempoandmode.com/
Contact: Simon.Ho@anu.edu.au

HAPPY HOUR

Friday 19 March, 4.30pm
Bldg 41 Tea Room/Courtyard

Steak with red wine marinade: $2. Beer: $2-3

PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

24 March, 1pm Plant Industry Lecture Theatre, CSIRO
Phenotypic plasticity and it’s importance in a changing climate.
Dr Adrienne Nicotra, EEG.

This newsletter is distributed fortnightly by email and hard-copy, and is archived at http://biology.anu.edu.au/Newsletter. Contact Diane Whitehead to be added to the mailing list, and to submit material for future issues.

The next newsletter issue will be April 9 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD student Muhammad Fahim, PS, was awarded a scholarship from the Society of *In vitro* Biology to attend the 12th World Congress of the International Association of Plant Biotechnology in Saint Louis, Missouri. Fahim also filed his first US provisional patent in September last year with Ayala-Navarrete L., Millar A.A., and Larkin P.J. on Wheat plants with immunity to Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus.

WELCOME

The Fulton lab, EEG, welcomes a number of new PhD students. Danswell Starrs will investigate the larval ecology of freshwater fishes using trans-generational tagging techniques. Dan aims to determine how reproductive strategy influences the larval dispersal pathways, survivorship and recruitment patterns of Australian native freshwater fishes. Dominique Roche will start his PhD on predator-prey relationships in coral reef fish communities. Dom has come from MacGill University in Quebec, Canada and his research is being funded by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. Sandra Binning will begin her PhD on the phenotypic plasticity of locomotion in coral reef fishes, funded by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. She has come from MacGill University in Quebec, Canada.

Xavier Goldie has joined the Evolutionary Phyloinformatics groups, EEG, supervised by Lindell Bromham, with an ANU Vice-Chancellor’s scholarship. Xavier did a research Masters at the University of Auckland on investigating the effect of ecosystem productivity on rates of molecular evolution, focussing on
Australian plants. For his PhD he will be looking at environmental and evolutionary influences on the rate of DNA evolution.

Jussi Lehtonen, University of Helsinki, will be here from late March to mid-June working on the evolution of anisogamy with Hanna Kokko and Michael Jennions, EEG. Aside from being a biologist, Jussi made it to the final short list of ten candidates for new astronauts being recruited by the European Space Agency.

Torsten Juelich has joined the Bröer lab, BSB, to work as a research officer on nutrient regulation of epithelial cell function. Torsten has previously worked at JCSMR and complements the German workforce in the School. Torsten is known for his skills as an experiencer in the lab and in the kitchen, both of which are much appreciated by the BSB group.

James Molinari has started as an IT Client Services Officer. He comes to us from Dol where he has spent a number of years providing IT support within their Systems and Desktop Services team.

The Behm lab, BSB, welcomes Dr Haylee Weaver, a parasitologist who was previously employed at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, managing the Adaptation Research Network – Human Health. Haylee will be working on molecular genetics of C. elegans in BSB.

FAREWELL

Simon Ho, EEG, will be leaving RSB at Easter. His last official ‘work’ day will be 1 April. He joined RSB as an Australian Postdoctoral Fellow in January 2008, and will return to his alma mater, the University of Sydney, as a Senior Lecturer.

PAPERS ACCEPTED


Bröer S., Chesney Russell W. Infinoglycerinuria: The Online Metabolic and Molecular Basis of Inherited Disease. OMMBID.

Edwards R.D., Craven L.A., Crisp M.D., Cook L.G. cpDNA data confirm that Melaleuca L. (Myrtaceae) is not monophyletic. Taxon.


