NEWS

Awards

Congratulations to Ronald Yu (Pogson Group, PS) who won the CMBE 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) on 18 August. Ronald won a $1000 research support grant and will compete in the ANU 3MT final which will be held at Llewellyn Hall on Wednesday 16 September.

Shujuan (Olivia) Zhang, former student in the Atkin Group (PS), has been selected for the prestigious German ‘Green Talents’ award.

Barry Pogson (PS) has been selected as an American Society of Plant Biology Top Author, after an analysis of the "most highly cited papers between 2009 and 2013" published in The Plant Cell and Cell Biology. Barry is a member of the editorial board, serving as Deputy and now Associate Editor of Science Advances. Science Advances is the offspring of Science, created by AAAS as their first open access journal.

Virginia Abernathy (Langmore Group, EEG) won the student presentation prize for her talk at the American Ornithologists Union Conference in Oklahoma.

Regina Vega-Trejo (Jennions Group, EEG) won $799 in the Thinkable Inspire Australia Research Competition for her video titled ‘Fiddler crabs: Their mystery behaviour’.

Sara Chica Latorre (Ball Group, PS) has been awarded the Deputy Dean of Science Education Commendation for outstanding achievement in her Honours studies.

Elena Martin Avila (Whitney Group, PS) was awarded $2,000 in a recent student competition run by the Science Faculty. Women in Science: challenges and solutions

Gender balance in science was examined in a forum chaired by Professor Brian Schmidt and the Hon. Karen Andrews MP, at the CSIRO Discovery Centre on 19 August. The well-attended public discussion was organised by Anne-Sophie Dielen and Britta Forster, and featured panellists working in different STEM fields sharing their vision of what it means to be a woman in science in 2015.

Science in Action

RSB Students, scientists and staff were out in force for the Science in Action event held at the Old Bus Depot in Kingston. Centres of Excellence Plant Energy Biology, and Translational Photosynthesis joined forces to present a popular exhibit that included a huge, bouncy plant cell, DNA extraction, and other activities and displays. The BLTC mounted a display that included live spiders and stick insects, and the League of Remarkable Women in Australian Science also presented a display.

PHDS AWARDED

Liam Cassidy (Solomon Group, PS) ‘Proteome mapping of the model fungal plant pathogen Stagonospora nodorum using LC-LC-MS/MS’.

IN THE MEDIA

A new species of African lizard, described by Scott Keogh, Mitzy Pepper (EEG) and colleagues, has been featured on the BBC Earth website. Attenborough’s flat lizard (Platysaurus attenboroughi) (pictured above), found in South Africa and Namibia, is named after naturalist Sir David Attenborough, who featured flat lizards in his 2008 TV series ‘Life in Cold Blood’. The new species is described in Zootaxa.

Alexander Mikheyev, Visiting Fellow in the Jennions Group (EEG), has published a paper in Nature. The study reveals rapid evolution in wild honey bees that have been exposed to a new parasite, and suggests that genetically diverse populations can recover from introduced diseases by evolving rapid tolerance, while maintaining much of the standard genetic variation.
Kai Chan (Pogson Group, PS) ‘Structural and functional characterisation of chloroplast signalling’.

Jason Ng (Mathesius Group, PS) ‘Local auxin transport regulation in the nascent nodule - an overview in nodulating plants and an investigation into the cytokinin receptor, CRE1-mediated control of auxin transport in Medicago truncatula’.

Isabel Saur (Rathjen Group, PS) ‘Identification and regulation of receptors involved in plant immunity’.

Hamish Web (Foley Group, EEG) ‘The genetics of essential oil yield in Melaleuca alternifolia and Eucalyptus loxophleba’.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Scientist Russell Dinnage has joined the Cardillo Group (EEG).

WELCOME

Vivian Phang has joined the BTLC team as an HDR Admin Assistant. As this position is shared between RSB/RSP, Vivian will be working in RSB on Monday morning, and all day Tuesday and Thursday. She will be located in Psychology at other times.

Micrometeorologist Dr Margi Bohm joins the Ball Group (PS) as a Visiting Fellow. She will work on the Macquarie Island project to develop a model of energy and water balance of sub-Antarctic cushion plants in relation to their responses to climate change, and on another project linking micrometeorology with stem and leaf hydraulics in mangroves. Margi will be located in Rm 84 of Building 46.

PAPERS ACCEPTED

Bromham, L, Testing hypotheses in macroevolution, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science.

Bromham, L, Hua, X & Cardillo, M, Detecting macroevolutionary self-destruction from phylogenies, Systematic Biology.

Fairweather, SJ, Bröer, A, Subramanian, N, Turner, E, Cheng, Q, Schmolz, D, O’Mara, ML, & Bröer, S, Molecular basis for the interaction of the mammalian amino acid transporters B0AT1 and B0AT3 with their ancillary protein collectrin, Journal of Biological Chemistry.


Young, CM, Cain, KE, Svedin, NS, Backwell, PRY, & Pryke, SR, Nesting success in crimson finches: Chance or choice? Ethology.


NOTICES

WHIS - Winter Hazard

As the outside temperatures drop, some RSB members have been bringing their own heaters into their offices. Unfortunately, there are a number of issues with this.

Bar radiators and fan heaters should not be used, as they represent a significant fire hazard, and they use a large amount of electricity. Further, in areas such as Linnaeus, that use modern building air conditioning controls, a localised ‘warm’ area often results in the heating system providing less heat for the other users in the area.

If you are feeling cold, please ensure you lodge a workbook request with RSB Operations/Building Infrastructure, who will try and fine tune the system, before you explore other options. - Dr Jeremy Weinman