

School of BEES Newsletter

4th Edition – April 2018



School of
Biological, Earth and
Environmental Sciences

Welcome to the latest edition of the BEES Newsletter

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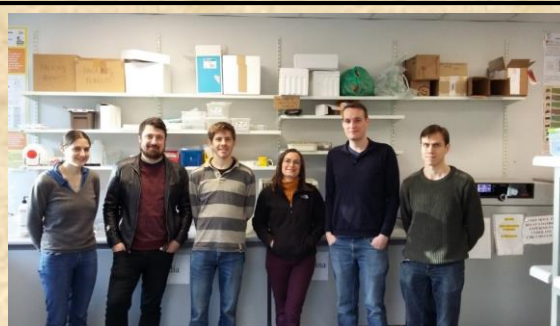
School News



School Outreach



School News



**BEES Paleontology Research Wins
International Award**



Spring BEES Conferring's





Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the (4th ed.) of the BEES Newsletter! Below are some of the great news stories you've told us about in recent months. Keep them coming! Email [Veronica](#) with your grant announcements, publication news, and other items.

In this edition of the newsletter you can catch up on a number of news stories. We celebrated with our graduates on their conferring day, which is one of the most significant milestones in their lives, as they now embark on their future careers. This edition highlights achievements across the School, development of new programmes in the School, new appointments and the retirement of some esteemed colleagues.

The content of the newsletter demonstrates the continuing dedication and effort by our staff and students who embrace new challenges with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. As Head of School, it gives me great pleasure to lead such a dedicated team and I wish to acknowledge the work and achievements of all staff and students in BEES.

Thanks to everyone who sent in news items for this issue!

Professor Sarah Culloty
Head of School of Biological, Earth and Environmental
Sciences

BEES STAFF NORTH AMERICAN IAPB PROMOTIONAL TOUR



Dr Eoin Lettice, Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich, Ms Norma Cotter and Prof. Henry Daniell at University of Pennsylvania

In early February, Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich, Dr Eoin Lettice and Ms Norma Cotter visited North America as part of a promotional tour for the upcoming 14th Quadrennial meeting of the IAPB to be held in Dublin August 2018.

Alongside the promotion of the IAPB, we were able to promote our MRes in Applied Plant Biology and Geology and we had some great conversations with University staff regarding potential work placement and study abroad opportunities for our students. The university engagements will be followed up by the UCC international office in March.



Dr Yafan Huang at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario with Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich & Dr Eoin Lettice

As part of the visit, Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich was invited to give a lecture at the Donald Danforth research centre in St Louis, one of the main plant science research centers in the USA. She was also invited to give lectures at the University Pennsylvania and at Performance Plants in Kingston Ontario.



Extensive facilities at Danforth Center glasshouses, St Louis, Missouri



Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich, Dr Eoin Lettice and Prof. Henry Daniell at Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania

The School of BEES hosted the 61st Irish Geological Research Meeting at the weekend of 23rd to 25th February. This annual all island forum is Ireland's premier geological conference and is organised each year by one of the Geoscience Disciplines or Schools in the Irish Universities.

The conference highlights the broad range of research being carried out in Ireland or undertaken by Irish geoscientists. Uniquely the meeting charges no registration fee and relies solely on the generosity of sponsors.

Dr Bramley Murton (National Oceanography Centre, Southampton) delivered a keynote address on the Friday night entitled **"Realising the Potential Risks and Rewards of Deep-sea Minerals"** we were honoured and privileged to have Bramley participate at the conference.

John Dewey FRS (Oxford) delivered his keynote address entitled **"Obducted Ophiolite Complexes and their role in interpreting the Grampian Margin"** on the Saturday night. John is internationally recognised as the leading authority on global tectonics and we were delighted he was able to attend and participate in the meeting. Following John's keynote presentation, the conference dinner was held in UCC Devere Hall.

A total of 120 registrants took part in the meeting, there were 45 posters on display and 35 oral presentations delivered.

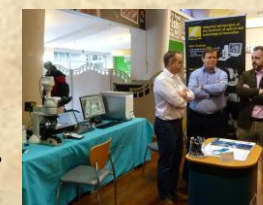
Prizes were awarded for the best student talk and the best student poster by the Irish Geological Association. The conference was a great success and we have since received numerous messages of thanks from delegates.

The IGRM 2018 team led by Prof. Andy Wheeler, included Dr John Reavy, Dr Sean Johnson, Dr Aaron Lim, Dr John Weatherill, admin support Veronica O'Rourke as well as a large number of volunteers: Siobhan Burke, Luke O'Reilly, Odhran McCarthy, Richard Unitt, Emma Murphy, Caroline Ess, Juergen Lang, Zahida Muhammad, Rebecca McGovern, Sonya O'Loughlin, Jennifer Moran, Keith Harlin, Luke McDonald, Austin Hynes, Marc Keating and Caoimhe Farrell supported the conference over the weekend setting up the poster display and layout, registration of delegates and so much more.

Prof. Andy Wheeler expressed huge gratitude to the IGRM team and student volunteers who helped to make the conference a huge success.
WELL DONE ALL!



Prof. Andy Wheeler, Dr John Reavy, Dr Sean Johnson, Dr John Weatherill Dr Aaron Lim and Siobhan Burke



THE FOX GOT YOU EXHIBITION OPENS

A new exhibition has opened at University College Cork which celebrates the role of plants in medicine.

'The Fox Got You' is a photographic exhibition featuring a wide range of extraordinary images and built around a greenhouse which itself display a range of images of some of the most medicinally useful plants.

The Fox Got You is an art and science project celebrating six common plants which are at the origin of five major medicinal drugs:

- Foxglove and the drug Digoxin for the treatment of heart arrhythmia.
- Goat's rue and the drug Metformin for diabetes.
- Yew and the cancer chemotherapy drugs Paclitaxel and Docetaxel.
- Autumn crocus and the drug Colchicine for gout.
- Meadowsweet, willow and Aspirin.



Françoise Sergy is a photography artist. As it happens, she is diabetic and the drug Metformin is part of her treatment. She started the project as a way of saying thank you to the plant goat's rue, which indirectly keeps her alive. She brought together the people involved at each stage of the journey from plants to drugs. Her artwork was first exhibited at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. The exhibition runs in the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES), UCC at the North Mall from 26th February to 10th March. It then transfers to the Glucksman Gallery, UCC from 13th March to 28th March. The exhibition is free to view and all are welcome.

The exhibition is brought to UCC by Mairead Kiely, Eoin Lettice and Barbara Doyle Prestwich (all of BEES) in collaboration with the artist, Françoise Sergy. The exhibition is supported by the International Association for Plant Biotechnology ([IAPB](#)) and the School of BEES.

www.foxgotyou.uk

MSc MARINE BIOLOGY MILLPORT FIELDTRIP FEBRUARY 2018



Circadian Waves of Transcriptional Repression Shape PIF-Regulated Photoperiod-Responsive Growth in Arabidopsis

BEES academic Dr Rossana Henriques has published, with colleagues, a new paper detailing their discovery that the members of a protein family form the plant internal clock act sequentially to limit the plant growth until the end of the night. This knowledge could help to understand how plants face different kinds of stress that affect their growth, such as drought or high temperature.



Dr Rossana Henriques who recently collaborated on Circadian Waves paper

The circadian clock is an internal timekeeping mechanism that allows plants to adjust their biological processes to 24h days. Together with photosensory pathways, the clock regulates the timing of plant growth to the end of the night in plants grown under short days (8h light / 16h dark). This diurnal pattern of growth was shown to depend on a specific set of transcription factors the PHYTOCHROME-INTERACTING FACTORS (PIFs). However, although PIFs could be detected during the day, they accumulated mostly at night and their growth-promoting function only occurred pre-dawn. In this report Martín et al. elucidate the mechanism behind this regulation. PIFs proteins were shown to directly interact with PRR (PSEUDO-RESPONSE REGULATOR) proteins that will inhibit their activity during the day. At night PIFs are free to induce expression of growth promoting genes, such as *CDF5* (CYCLING DOF FACTOR 5). These findings explain how the circadian clock, through PRRs' inhibition of PIF activity, gates growth responses to the adequate time of the day. They also provide candidate proteins for this regulation and allow for future identification and characterization of critical growth regulators in agronomical relevant crops.

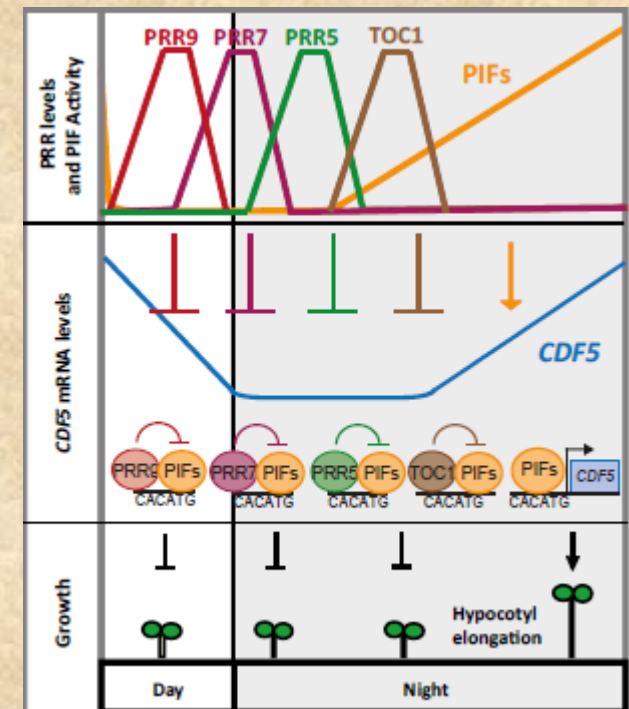
This work was developed at CRAG (Barcelona, Spain) under the coordination of Dr Elena Monte in collaboration with Dr Rossana Henriques, as well as with researchers from the University of Lancaster, the University of Edinburgh, the Institute for Plant Molecular and Cell Biology (Valencia, Spain) and the Chemical Institute of Sarria (Barcelona, Spain).

Link to the CRAG website:

<https://www.cragenomica.es/events/news/the-circadian-clock-sets-the-pace-of-plant-growth>

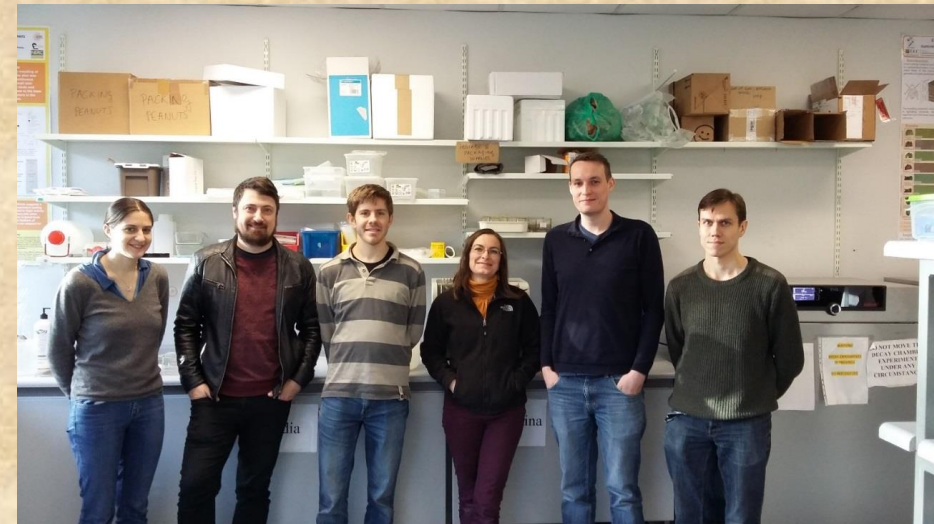
Link to published paper:

[http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(17\)31654-8](http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(17)31654-8)



BEES PALEONTUROLOGY RESEARCH WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Bees palaeontologist Dr Maria McNamara was awarded the Paleonturology Award 2017 in recognition of her 2016 paper '[Fossilization of melanosomes via sulfurization](#)' published in the journal *Palaeontology*. The paper was co-authored by Drs Bart van Dongen and Nick Lockyer (University of Manchester), Dr Ian Bull (University of Bristol) and Dr Paddy Orr (University College Dublin). The award is made by the [Fundacion Conjunto Palaeontologico de Teruel – Dinopolis](#) each year. It recognizes outstanding palaeontological research and is given to what is considered the best paper in any field of palaeontology (of those selected for consideration) in the preceding year. The award comes with a cash prize of €4,500. The award also aims to promote this research to schoolchildren, and the recipient of the award is expected to prepare a popular version of the winning article for dissemination amongst secondary school students.



Members of research team: Dr Giliane Odin, Dr Tim Astrop, Dr Luke McDonald, Dr Maria McNamara, Dr Chris Rogers and Dr James Jepson

TURNING WASTEWATER INTO ANIMAL FEED

The search for nature-based solutions to our environmental problems is leading scientists to turn to plants and algae to clean up our polluted waters. An innovative new project led by University College Cork will use duckweed and algae to treat wastewater from fish farms. The project 'AQUASUS' has just received €230,000 in funding under the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF), administered by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Led by Prof Marcel Jansen of UCC's School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Environmental Research Institute, AQUASUS will leverage the natural ability of duckweed and algae to thrive in and purify polluted water, producing both clean water for fish farms and a supply of animal feed, as duckweed and algae are edible and high in protein.

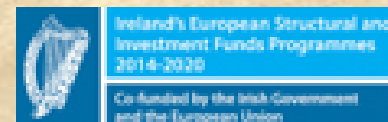
The project will refine the method involved and focus on the commercial applications. Prof Jansen speaking at the launch of the project said, "AQUASUS will explore how combinations of algae and duckweed can improve water quality, enhance fish production, and yield high quality feed, thus demonstrating the benefits of a financially viable circular economy approach".

The value of the fish farm industry in Ireland is in excess of €207m, and the industry generates over 1,900 jobs (BIM Annual Aquaculture Survey 2017). Despite steady growth, the freshwater aquaculture industry in Ireland has faced substantial challenges in the past few years. Innovative approaches are required to improve viability of the sector and to satisfy demand for high quality produce. AQUASUS will test a sustainable, low-cost water treatment option for fish farms, and produce an economically viable product, directly contributing to both the sustainability and economic viability of the fish farm industry.



Damien Toner, BIM Aquaculture Technical Specialist added; "BIM is delighted to support University College Cork with this innovative research project. Algae and Duckweed have the potential to offer a sustainable and environmentally friendly method of nutrient uptake. The AQUASUS project is one of a number of innovative studies BIM is supporting Industry and third level partners with to further develop Ireland's valuable aquaculture sector'.

Announcing the EMFF programme Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D. said, "I am pleased to announce a continued and increasing level of capital investment in our aquaculture sector which will underpin our ambitions to significantly grow our production in the coming years. I am delighted also to see recent efforts by my Department and BIM to encourage our third level institutions to become involved in the research agenda for the sector coming to fruition with three of our best third level institutions receiving approval for applied research to assist our sector in innovating and developing new technical knowledge to support the sustainable growth of the sector, together with two further industry research projects. This government is committed to building opportunities for those in coastal communities and the seafood sector".



MANAGING A PRECIOUS RESOURCE



Why do we need to manage global water resources? According to environmental scientist Dr Debbie Chapman, our health and well-being depend on it – and the payback is tremendous. Here, Dr Chapman explains the importance of managing water resources at the global scale.



Link to the article here: [click here](#)

*Dr Debbie Chapman, Director
of the UN Environment
GEMS/Water Capacity
Development Centre, UCC*

UNEP ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PANEL



Prof. Marcel Jansen has been invited to join the UNEP Environmental Effects Assessment Panel as co-author of the next full assessment report on UV-radiation and the stratospheric ozone layer. This report will be presented at the next annual meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol which will be held in Ecuador .



FOOD EVOLUTION – PUBLIC SCREENING

A free public screening of the ground breaking documentary film Food Evolution was held in UCC on Wednesday October 11th (hosted by Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich and Dr Eoin Lettice, IAPB with support from School of BEES). There was an introduction via skype with the film's director Scott Hamilton Kennedy who took questions from the audience on the night. It was a very interactive session for all.

Background: "Amidst a brutally polarized debate marked by passion, suspicion and confusion, 'Food Evolution,' by Academy Award-nominated director Scott Hamilton Kennedy, explores the controversy surrounding GMOs and food. Traveling from Hawaiian papaya groves, to banana farms in Uganda to the cornfields of Iowa, the film, narrated by esteemed science communicator Neil deGrasse Tyson, wrestles with the emotions and the science driving one of the most heated arguments of our time.

[Read more on the documentary website.](#)



MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE MEETS IAPB TEAM

The Irish Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has met with the International Association for Plant Biotechnology team at University College Cork, Ireland and has been updated on progress towards the 14th quadrennial IAPB congress being held in Dublin in August.

The Minister, Mr. Michael Creed T.D. met with the IAPB team in Cork this week.

“I was delighted to meet with Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich, Dr Eoin Lettice and Ms Norma Cotter from University College Cork and be updated on preparations for the 14th Quadrennial Plant Biotechnology Congress which will be held in Dublin in August” said Minister Creed.

“The IAPB team have already done a huge amount of work in terms of the organisation, planning and promotion of the congress with the outline programme and impressive list of keynote speakers already in place. The congress affords an opportunity to showcase world-class research in the area of biotechnology that recognises that the three pillars of sustainability - social, economic and environmental - are equally important.”

“I can assure all relevant stakeholders, including academia, research institutes, industry and NGOs, will be warmly welcomed to what promises be a highlight of the scientific calendar and an opportunity for vibrant discussion around these key global issues” said Minister Creed.

A range of exciting keynote speakers have already been announced for IAPB2018 including a former scientific advisor to former US President Barack Obama, Prof. Roger Beachy and 2009 Nobel Prize winner Prof. Ada Yonath. A full list of keynote speakers can be found at www.iapb2018.com

The deadline for submitting abstracts for IAPB 2018 has been extended to March 16th 2018.



***IAPB team with the Minister:
Ms Norma Cotter, Dr Eoin Lettice, Mr Michael Creed TD, and Dr
Barbara Doyle Prestwich***

CONGRATULATIONS KARL PHILLIPS PNAS PAPER



Collecting wild guppies



Counting parasites on the skin of guppies



Karl Phillips, a postdoc who joined BEES from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań last year, presents results from a three-year experiment studying host-parasite coevolution in guppies. In his own words, "Hosts v. parasites is an ancient battle, with no likelihood of ever ending. In this experiment, my colleagues and I demonstrate the value of 'novel weapons' in this battle, and discuss how this battle has shaped the evolution of one of the most diverse gene families in the vertebrate genome."



ROYAL SOCIETY OPEN SCIENCE recently published an article titled

REPEATABLE AVERSION ACROSS THREAT TYPES IS LINKED WITH LIFE-HISTORY TRAITS BUT IS DEPENDENT ON HOW AVERSION IS MEASURED

by

Gabrielle L. Davidson, Michael S. Reichert, Jodie M. S. Crane, William O'Shea and John L. Quinn

Find Out More:

<http://rsos.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/5/2/172218>

iWISH

The BEES Palaeobiology group represented UCC at the *iWish* exhibition in Cork City Hall on the 25th and 26th of January 2018 which aimed to promote careers in science and technology to girls. We presented aspects of our Walk Like A Dinosaur exhibit, including real fossils of dinosaur footprints, fossil footprint experiments, a fossil dinosaur video game, dinosaur movement virtual reality and more. Many thanks to our many volunteers, spanning the whole BEES community (undergrads, postgrads, postdocs and staff).



Dr Chris Rogers, Valentina Rossi and Dr James Jepson at iWish, Cork City Hall presenting aspects of our Walk Like a Dinosaur Exhibit including a display of a variety of fossils

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION

The BEES Palaeobiology group hosted the exhibit 'Walk like a Dinosaur' at the BT Young Scientist exhibition at the RDS from the 10th-12th of January 2018, including real fossils of dinosaur footprints, fossil footprint experiments, a fossil dinosaur video game, dinosaur movement virtual reality and more.



Adrian O'Driscoll and Dr Luke McDonald at BTYS as they exhibit the "Walk like a Dinosaur" they engaged their young students who were simply fascinated

The exhibit was designed by BEES' Dr Maria McNamara in conjunction with Dr Emmanuel Popovici from the School of Electrical Engineering. Many thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers, in particular Chris Rogers, Luke McDonald, Bianca Govi and Adrian O'Driscoll.

TY PROGRAMME

School of BEES annual TY programme took place 19th - 23rd of February 2018. The lucky 32 students selected, coming from all over Ireland, had a bite of all the disciplines studied in BEES. Lectures and practical classes were offered to the young would-be scientists who could experience exciting activities such as bird ringing, DNA extraction, mammals identification through hair, freshwater bioindicators identification and many others. Students interested in geology enjoyed in particular the lecture delivered by Prof. Andy Wheeler, as well as the tour of our geo-garden and the geological quiz led by Dr Richard Unitt.

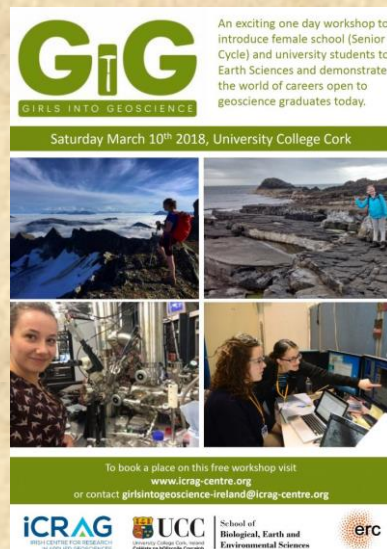
Lovers of marine biology were also inspired by Dr Mark Jessop's lecture. A very successful tour of the Environmental Research Institute, where researchers from different groups explained their work to the students. The TY students also enjoyed a visit to UCC library who welcomed the group and took great care exhibiting their special collections with a focus on very old and precious natural science books.

A full morning was dedicated to career perspectives with the help of Dr Shay Nolan, from the UCC Career Services. The importance of communicate science was not neglected and, on the last day, the students were guided to write a blog post about their experience in School of BEES. Hopefully we inspired at least some of these students to pursue a career in science!



GIRLS INTO GEOSCIENCE

The inaugural Girls into Geoscience – Ireland event took place Saturday March 10th at the School of BEES and was co-organised by Dr Maria McNamara of BEES and Dr Fergus McAuliffe from iCRAG. Over 20 teenage girls visited BEES to learn about geoscience's and the world of careers open to geoscience graduates today, through hands-on workshops, speed networking, and invited talks.



TY STUDENT ON WORK EXPERIENCE

We had lots of help for a week in January 2018 sorting our sizeable fossil collection from Nomah Sullivan – a Transition Year student who is interested in palaeobiology!



PalAss MEETING 2017



Valentina Rossi, Dr Giliane Odin and Tiffany Slater at the Friends of the Rotten workshop .

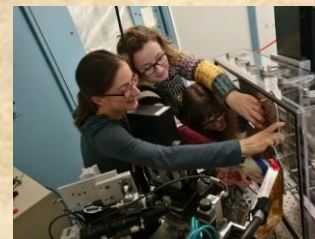
The fossil colour research team attended the Friends of the Rotten workshop (as part of the Palaeontological Association's 2017 Annual Meeting) at Imperial College London in December 2017, where Maria and Tiffany gave talks on decay experiments.

CHINESE FOSSILS EXAMINED WITH SYNSCHROTRON LIGHT

The BEES Palaeobiology group are the first group of Western scientists to be allowed to take specimens of feathered dinosaurs and primitive birds out of China for chemical analysis. The group analysed three specimens in January and February 2018 at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource using synchrotron-X-ray fluorescence – mapping the spatial distribution of trace elements and sulfur species over the fossils. for analysis at the new low-Z beamline at SSRL in January 2018.



Chris and Tiffany during this beam session. Also SSRL in daylight. After the analyses were complete, Tiffany returned the fossils to China



Here we have Valentina Rossi, Tiffany Slater (half-hidden!) and Dr Maria McNamara loading up a feathered dinosaur



Using the new low-Z beamline at SSRL in January 2018 for analysis.



Samples for analysis left to right: a wing, an amphibian and a fish) that Maria, Chris and Tiffany scanned at their recent trip in February 2018 to the SSRL facility

BEES HOSTED A PIONEERING PLANT SCIENTISTS TALK AT UCC



These talks were **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**.

Held on Wed November 15th in Boole 1

[Sir David Charles Baulcombe](#) FRS. Plant Science, University of Cambridge

David is credited with the discovery and characterisation of an RNA silencing system that protects plants against viruses. This system also affects the patterns of plant gene expression.

Title : Non coding RNA and non Mendelian inheritance in plants

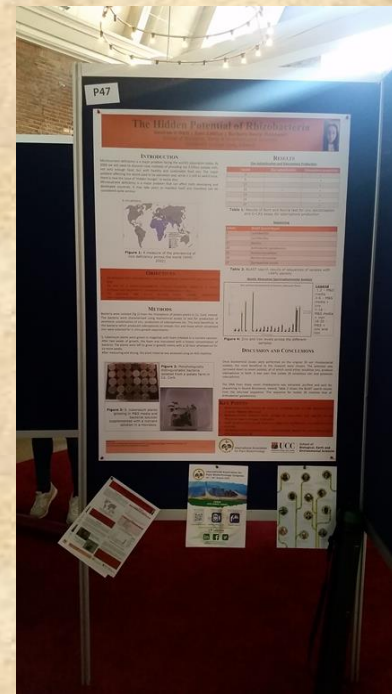
[Dr Henry Daniell](#) is Professor and Director of Translational Research at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. He pioneered chloroplast genetic engineering as a new platform to produce and orally deliver low cost vaccines and biopharmaceuticals bioencapsulated in plant cells. His invention was ranked by Nature Biotechnology among the top ten inventions of the past decade and among Biomed Central's Hot 100 authors in the world.

Title : Affordable biopharmaceuticals and enzymes made in plant cells



Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich and Dr Eoin Lettice with the International Association for Plant Biotechnology, School of BEES, ERI and UCC were delighted to host two eminent plant scientists as part of Science Week in UCC.

PLANT MICROBIOME SYMPOSIUM AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS



Ms Saoirse O'Neill MRes candidate in Plant Biology working under the supervision of Dr Barbara Doyle Prestwich and Dr Eoin Lettice presented her work at the 2nd Plant Microbiome Symposium at the Barbizon Palace, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (19th to 21st Feb 2018). Saoirse's work is focused on examining the hidden potential of rhizobacteria in relation to addressing micronutrient deficiency (~ 2 billion people are micronutrient deficient). In our research we are particularly interested in the role of soil isolates in mobilising zinc and iron.

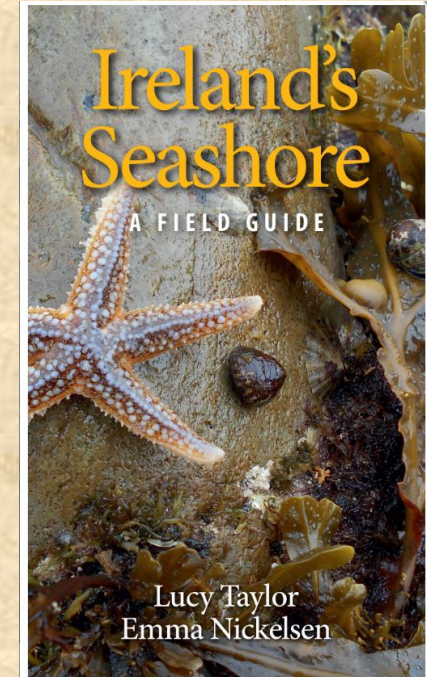
IRELAND'S SEASHORE: A FIELD GUIDE

By Lucy Taylor and Emma Nickelsen
Two graduates of BEES's MSC Marine Biology

Ireland's seashores are famous for their spectacular beauty, ranging from exposed rocky headlands that receive the full power of the Atlantic to enclosed sea loughs and sheltered mudflats. Our northern latitude means that some Arctic species find a home here, but the warm currents that flow up from the Gulf of Mexico also make Irish shores habitable for species found in southern Europe, the Canaries and the Mediterranean. Providing habitats like no other, our coasts are teeming with plant and animal life. Whether you visit on a sunny summer day or for a wild walk in winter, there is always something interesting to see, either living on the shore or washed up from the sea.

Lucy Taylor and Emma Nickelsen studied together on the MSc in Marine Biology and graduated in 2016. They share a passion for Irish shores and all of the life that inhabits them. Lucy has a background in writing and teaching, and Emma had previously studied environmental science. They have combined their skills and interests to create this accessible and informative guide to the life on Irish coasts. It is the ideal companion to any seashore ramble, whether you are an experienced naturalist or just enjoy spending time at the beach.

The book will be available in bookshops and from The Collins Press website (<https://www.collinspress.ie/irelands-seashore.html>) on the 19th March



Emma Nickelsen



Lucy Taylor

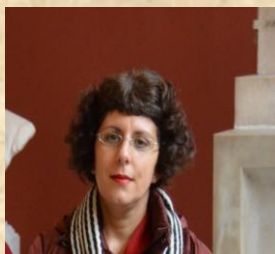
NEW ACADEMIC STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Dr Mark Jessopp – Lecturer Zoology



Congratulations to Mark a recently appointed Lecturer in Zoology in the School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Science, UCC. Mark is a marine biologist with a wide array of research experience, having worked on phytoplankton, zooplankton, marine mammals, and seabirds. Mark's previous research experience includes spending 2 and a half years on the island of South Georgia in the south Atlantic, studying the breeding and foraging ecology of Antarctic fur seals, penguins and albatrosses using a combination of population census, telemetry and diet analysis. Mark has also been involved in research focussing on the role of Marine Protected Areas, and the role of coastline configuration in reserve connectivity. Current research effort focuses on the role of seals and seabirds in the marine ecosystem through diet and telemetry studies.

Dr Rossana Henriques – Senior Lecturer in Plant Genetics



Rossana is the newly appointed Paddy O’Keeffe Senior Lecturer in Plant Genetics at the School of BEES, UCC. Rossana got her PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from the University of Lisbon and the Max-Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Germany which focused on the identification of metal transporters from the model plant *Arabidopsis* and the woody plant *Camellia japonica*. She then moved to Royal Holloway, University of London, UK as a postdoctoral fellow working on understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying growth regulation in plants. After this she joined the Laboratory of Plant Molecular Biology, at The Rockefeller University in New York, USA as a Research Associate. In 2012 she joined the Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics in Barcelona, Spain as a Junior PI.

Dr Jean O’Dwyer – Lecturer in Environmental Science



Congratulations to Jean a newly appointed Lecturer in Environmental Science. Jean has a BSc in Environmental Science (2011) and a PhD in Environmental Fate Modelling (2014) from the University of Limerick. Prior to joining UCC as a Lecturer in Environmental Science, Jean was awarded an IRC postdoctoral fellow and worked on several national (DAFM, Enterprise Ireland) and international (EU-FP7) research projects. She has been a collaborator on several successful grant applications providing expertise in the area of environment and health, as well as geo-statistical modelling of contaminants. Jean has been an invited speaker at several national and international events, presented at over 30 conferences and has published over a dozen ISI peer reviewed research papers and several book chapters in collaboration with UL, DIT, UCD and the HSE since 2014. She is a reviewer for a number of international journals, a selected member of the Public Water Forum and an appointed Climate Ambassador.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF APPOINTMENTS



Ms Veronica O'Rourke – Postgrad Administrator across the School

Welcome to BEES Veronica. She is a newbie to UCC, has had a very varied career which has given her an abundance of administrative experience having worked in a variety of functions as well as working in 5 different countries. Veronica's interests include Cooking, Theatre, Furniture Upcycling and Volunteering



Ms Siobhan Boyle – 1st & 2nd Year Administrator & EV / PS Admin Support

Welcome to team BEES administration Siobhan who previously supported a research project in UCC Dept of General Practice for the past 3 years. After UCC graduation she spent time travelling and worked in Australia for 2 years. She enjoys outdoor activities and recently joined Castlemagner's ladies football team.



Ms Christine Dennehy – 3rd Year Administrator & ZYFY Admin Support

Welcome to BEES Christine, a 17 year veteran of UCC. Christine has a wealth of knowledge having previously supported the Chemistry department for 15 years and over a year in the School of Music & Theatre. She loves to travel and Italy is a favourite destination. She has great interest in Music and Theatre and is a volunteer usher at the Everyman Theatre.

RESEARCH STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The School of BEES welcomes newly appointed research staff
and wish you the very best of luck well in your roles!

Postdoctoral Research Staff

Geology

Sean Johnson

Zoology and Ecology

Peter Moran

Karl Phillips

Thomas Colgan

Plant Science

Holger Kuhnhold

NEW POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

The school is delighted to welcome new postgraduate students who have recently commenced their studies.

- ❑ Sara Albuixech Martí, Katie Costello and Kate Mahony have all commenced PhDs with Professor Sarah Culloty and Dr Sharon Lynch.
- ❑ Luke O'Reilly has commenced a PhD with Professor Andy Wheeler and Dr Aaron Lim.
- ❑ Lindy Verstraten has commenced an MSc with Dr Fidelma Butler and Dr Pádraig Whelan.
- ❑ Zahida Muhammad has started an MRes with Dr Pat Meere.
- ❑ Eileen McCarthy has started a PhD with Dr Ed Jarvis and Dr Zili Li (Civil Engineering)



Sara Albuixech



Kate Costello



Kate Mahony



Luke O'Reilly



Lindy Verstraten



Eileen McCarthy

CONGRATULATIONS TO 18 NEWLY CONFERRED MSc MARINE BIOLOGY GRADUATES



Newly conferred MSc Marine Biology graduates Waad Al-Otaibi and Basmah Alrasheedi.



MSc Marine Biology graduates Emma Quinn, Deborah Allbrook, Sarah Ryan, Rosa Allshire and Mary Kate Bolger pictured at the recent Spring Conferring's.

Congratulations to all of our 18 new MSc graduates who received their degrees at the Spring Conferring's. We hope you enjoyed your time in the School and wish you all the best in your future careers!

FEBRUARY 2018 CHINESE NEW YEAR



In early Feb, BEES hosted a hot pot supper for our visiting Chinese students. It was a great night with huge contributions from staff and students alike. News of the event had reached the Beijing office by 9am the following morning. They asked if they could use some of our pics for publicity purposes. Thanks to all for taking part particular thanks to Veronica and Mary for helping to set up on the day.

Barbara

