

THE G(e)OSSIP

The official newsletter of the Geology Department

30 September 2021 | Issue 7

WELCOME

Welcome back to a new school year! The front gate is open, and the Pav is serving up pints. We are currently in phase one of in-person lectures returning to College. You can watch the Provost and Director of College Health Service's welcome video for students [here](#).

The scaffolding is finally coming down around the Museum Building. Keep an eye on your email for a reopening date of the upstairs offices.

This month's issue is also of special significance as we pay tribute to the late George Sevastopulo, who passed away earlier this month. George was an important and inspiring member of the Geology Department here at Trinity.

Our newsletters are archived and uploaded on the Geology website. You can access them [here](#).

The G(e)ossip will be released on the last Thursday of each month. If you have feedback or anything to be added to upcoming newsletter issues, please send us an email at geossip.tcd@gmail.com.

-The G(e)ossip Team

STAFF MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Quentin Crowley is a native of Galway and completed his BSc and PhD at NUIG (it was called UCG back then!). Following a brief period lecturing in NUIG, Quentin took up an EU-funded postdoctoral position at Keele University in the UK in the late 90s-early 2000s. There he enjoyed three fabulous years researching the Palaeozoic amalgamation of Central Europe, with fieldwork in Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal. During this time Quentin was seconded to the NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory in Nottingham, where he was later employed as Research Scientist working with UK academics and their postgraduate students on projects all over the world. He also engaged with the British Geological Survey on UK and international projects, travelling to the Middle East (UAE and Oman) and Tanzania, to name a few. In 2008 Quentin took up a lecturing position at TCD Geology and two years later was appointed as an Ussher Lecturer. Now an Associate Professor, Quentin is Director of the Trinity Centre for the Environment, and academic lead for EIT Climate-KIC at Trinity College. He has worked closely with EIT Climate-KIC over the past five years on their education portfolio, co-developing pedagogy and co-delivering the EU-wide Journey summer school and a new climate innovation leadership programme. During lockdown in 2021 Quentin worked part-time with TCD Tangent as Director of a new postgraduate course in Climate Entrepreneurship, which will see 40 students graduate later this year. Through the Trinity Centre for the Environment, Quentin has established new academic links with the Arctic University of Norway (UiT) and UArctic (the academic arm of the Arctic Council), and is currently working on a new Arctic Resilience Accelerator programme with partners in Norway, Switzerland and the USA. On the research side, Quentin recently produced a new radon hazard map of Ireland in collaboration with Geological Survey Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency.

STAFF MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Quentin is keen to further explore opportunities to utilise geological data to create digital environmental ecosystems for fundamental scientific research and to address key societal challenges. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Douglas Hyde Gallery and interacts with artists on a range of environmental and geological topics. Outside of academic life Quentin enjoys open water swimming, cycling and running, and as a latecomer to the sport he somehow got to represent Ireland at the European Triathlon championships! Read about his team below!

MEET QUENTIN'S TEAM



Eoghan Corbett

Hi I'm Eoghan. I started my geological sojourn in Trinity as a fresh faced and idealistic undergrad almost 10 years ago. I am now haggard, grey and finishing corrections to my thesis. I loved my time in Trinity, especially opportunities for teaching and field excursions. I also got to spend a year working in the University of Notre Dame in the US, where I developed a penchant for some truly awful country music. My PhD was focused within the field of U-Pb zircon geochronology, where I developed some novel sampling methodologies using laser ablation and studied some unusual processes occurring within zircons from metamorphic terranes. I will be making the edits to my thesis from the handlebars of my bike, as I'm off with a friend cycling to Berlin, spreading the virtues of zircon as a chronometer everywhere we go.

Erica Terese Krueger

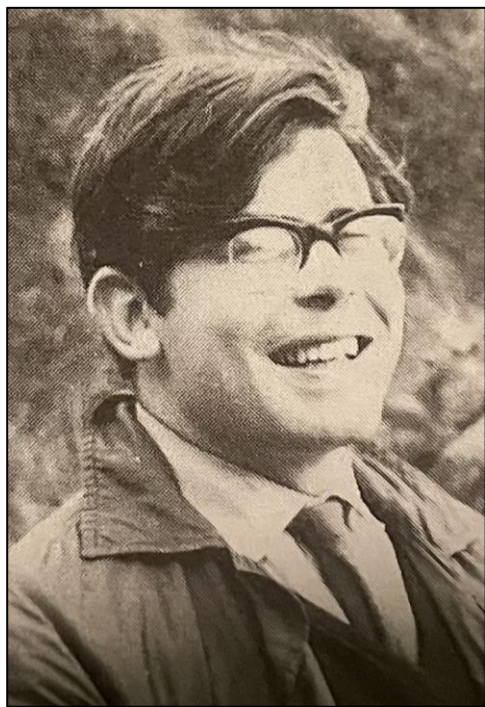
Hey y'all, I'm Erica and I was born and raised in south Florida. I attended Florida Gulf Coast University from 2015-2019 where I earned a BSc in marine science with a minor in geology (studying oysters) and an MSc in environmental science (studying hurricanes). I have just started the third year of my PhD in geology with a research focus on assessing the effects of anthropogenic and climate stressors on cold-water coral biomineralisation and skeletal structure. I serve as the postgraduate representative for the School of Natural Sciences Executive Committee, so feel free to send any issues or questions my way. When I'm not playing with corals I enjoy walking along the beach, going on coffee runs, pointing out every dog I see, and sipping on a perfectly pulled pint. Follow me on Twitter at [@etk89](https://twitter.com/etk89) or pop into M7 and say hello!



Méabh Hughes

Hi, I'm Méabh, I've commenced the final year of a Ph.D. with Quentin Crowley supervising. The overall project investigates the relationship between bedrock geology, Quaternary geology, soil geochemistry, and indoor radon. I've enjoyed many field trips to the study area around Castleisland, Co. Kerry, where I've collected (with the help of others) soil-gas radon data, soil-permeability measurements, physical soil samples, and gamma-ray measurements in all sorts of weather (from droughts (2018) to Storm Gareth (2019) and thankfully some decent weather too). The data has been collected/processed/analysed (with thanks to many technicians for helping organise lab space etc.) following the Tellus GSI protocol meaning there are a few spreadsheets full of XRF and ICP-MS/ICP-ES results of major and trace elements that need interpreting! Using geogenic data to answer questions that haven't been answered before excites me. Besides researching for my Ph.D., I also enjoy tutoring second-level students about earth science with Trinity Walton Club and Scholars Ireland/Trinity Access Programmes. In my spare time, I like to cycle and I love to swim (especially outdoors in warm water). I'm hoping the climbing wall in Trinity will be open soon, so if anyone wants to go climbing feel free to contact me, and don't be shy!

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE SEVASTOPULO



George Sevastopulo who passed away earlier this month will be warmly remembered by a generation of students as an inspirational teacher and mentor and by his colleagues as generous friend who was always great company and who liberally gave of his time and advice. His reach was global and he had many friends and colleagues in geological, palaeontological and gardening spheres in particular. George came to Trinity in 1964 as a PhD student under the supervision of R.G.S. Hudson, the noted Carboniferous stratigrapher and palaeontologist. Although his thesis focused on Irish Carboniferous crinoids, a subject that remained a lifelong passion, George rapidly built up an encyclopaedic knowledge on aspects of Ireland's geology but especially in stratigraphy, macro- and micropalaeontology and economic geology, all subjects that he lectured and published on. Appointed a Junior Lecturer in 1966, Lecturer in 1969 and Associate Professor [now Professor in] in 1982, George was elected to Fellowship in 1977. He retired in 2004 as Fellow Emeritus, but continued to work in the Department until shortly before his death. Outside Trinity his academic standing was

acknowledged in his being elected a member of the Royal Irish Academic in 1988 and he served this body with great distinction, chairing recently the Culture and Heritage Working Group. While always ready to offer an opinion, his advice was thoughtful and more often than not of great benefit to the College and the various societies on whose committees he sat. As Dean of Graduate Studies he was instrumental in championing the adoption of anonymous marking of examination scripts, and was a Tutor of great compassion for many years. Many students will recall his insightful teaching, both in the lab and in the field, and for his encouragement that students should be curious and investigative. While some students were undoubtedly somewhat anxious when attending his small group seminars, he was never condescending; he was engaging with all audiences. Following a sabbatical spent in Indiana, he returned and instituted the Brown Bag seminar series that helped widen the curriculum, and brought diverse lecturers to the Department. Through his participation at annual Palaeontological Association meetings where he hosted a 'Friends of the Irish' session in his hotel room, he did much to develop Trinity's post-doctoral presence in the 1970s and 1980s by inviting a number of graduate students to take up funding and come to Dublin.

George published widely and was a skilled handling editor for many years of the journal *Palaeontology*. With Bill Ausich, he authored the seminal monograph on the fossil crinoids of Hook Head, and he published extensively on matters of Irish stratigraphy and palaeontology. It is a testament to his collaborative and generous nature that he rarely published as a sole author, and often insisted on being the last listed contributor even though his role should have merited greater seniority. He was not self-serving nor did he try to advance his personal standing, but was rather modest of his achievements which were very significant. He was pleased nevertheless to have been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Palaeontological Association earlier this year. The respect with which he was held, and the gratitude of colleagues and students for his long standing friendship and mentoring is very evident when one reads the messages of condolences published on www.rip.ie.

George was larger than life and made an enormous contribution to the Department and Trinity for over five decades. He will long remain close to the hearts of those whose lives he touched. A fuller appreciation will appear elsewhere and it is hoped that a more permanent memorial in College will be arranged in due course.



WEBINARS

[Irish Geological Association](#) - register [here](#)

Lectures are held on the second to last Wednesday of the month

[Ore Deposits Hub](#)

6 October - Lana Eagle, *Reconciliation and indigenous inclusion in Canada today*

[Seds Online](#) - register [here](#)

13 October - Charlie Bristow, *GPR Applications in Sedimentology*

20 October - Marta Cosma, *3D architecture and along-bend sediment distribution of a hypertidal point bar*

[Geochemistry Group](#) - register [here](#)

27 October - Erin Scott and Tessa de Roo, *Out of Academia - Into Science*

'Out of Academia - Into Science'



The 'Geochemistry Group' (a special interest group affiliated with the Geological Society of London and the Mineralogical Society) is pleased to announce a series of free virtual events to showcase the range of diverse careers open to geochemistry PhD graduates. We're delighted to announce the line-up for the first three panels:

Instrumentation

29.09.21 (13:00 BST)

Panellists include Dr Jenny Roberts (Thermo Fischer), Dr Rich Taylor (Zeiss), Dr Ariane Donard (Nu)

Publishing

27.10.21 (13.00 BST)

Panellists include Dr Erin Scott (Springer Nature) and Dr Tessa de Roo (Leiden University Library)

Public Sector

24.11.21 (13.00 GMT)

Panellists include Dr Rhian Lane (DEFRA), Dr Emanuela Piga (Welsh Government), Dr Donald Payne (Fife Council)

SEMINAR SERIES

The [TCD Geology Seminar Series](#) has begun. Please find the full programme for Michaelmas Term 2021 [here](#). All seminars will be held as Zoom meetings on Fridays from 1 to 2 PM, and the links will be circulated by email on Wednesdays. A reminder that the seminars are **mandatory for all 4th Year and PhD students!**

The [TCD Ecology, Evolution and the Environment Seminar Series](#) has also begun. All seminars will be held as Zoom meetings on Fridays from 2 to 3 PM. Please email Nick Payne at paynen@tcd.ie to be added to the distribution list.

The [UCD School of Earth Sciences Seminar Series](#) has also begun, held on Wednesdays from 1 to 2 PM. If you would like to be included in their seminar mailing list, please let Anna or Stratos know by emailing them at ucdseseminars@ucd.ie.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

From 8 November to 3 December 2021, show school students that STEM is something for them.



I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here is a student-led online engagement activity connecting school students with working scientists from across Ireland. Inspire the next generation of scientists and help students see science as relevant to their lives, by taking part in instant messaging-style Chats with them, and answering follow-up questions. Find out more and apply to take part [here](#).

I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here is flexible and works around your schedule - you choose to take part at times that suit you over the 5-week activity. It's all online and text-only (no audio or video). All you need is a web browser. Anyone in a STEM-related job is welcome to apply: from industry, academia or the public sector; technicians, apprentices, and people in non-lab roles. Take part to show students the wide range of STEM-related careers out there.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Did you know that TCD's Student Counselling Services is open and available to all students?



Check out their website to read about the services they provide [here](#), email them at student-counselling@tcd.ie to request an appointment, and follow them on Instagram at [@tcd_headspace](#) for tips on mindfulness and mental health awareness.

Hunting for the world's oldest ice

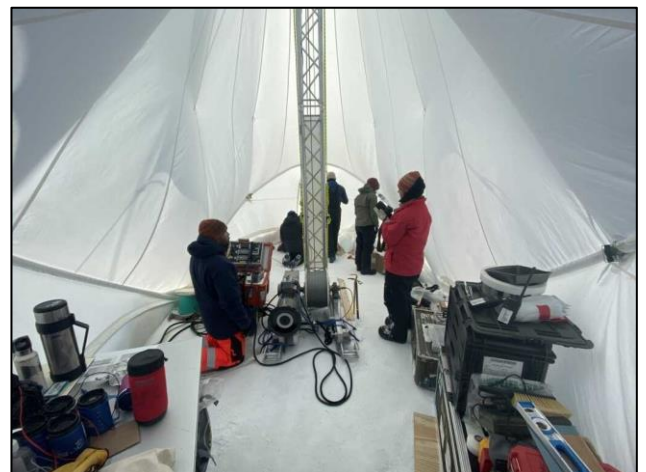


Credit: Yuzhen Yan; Ice core collected in Antarctica in 2015, [Science.org](https://www.sciencemag.org)

A new research centre will be established to help uncover the Earth's oldest ice, using \$25 million worth of funding from the US National Science Foundation. The centre for oldest ice exploration (COLDEX) aims to spend the next 10 years revealing the first contiguous record of Antarctic ice from the last 3 million years or more. The programme will employ a range of techniques to help locate the best sites to drill, including complex modelling and remote sensing. Locating this ancient ice will help geoscientists to understand past climate change. Studies will include the investigation of ancient greenhouse gas concentrations during warmer periods and biogeochemical analysis of dust during large scale climate transitions. A novel instrument known as the 'ice diver' will be employed by the COLDEX team to move down through the ice and use dust layers to estimate the age-depth relationship, as cold events are associated with greater atmospheric dust fluxes. To read a more detailed summary of this new and exciting research check out the Scripps Institution of Oceanography site [here](#).



Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Ludovic Brucker, [NASA](https://www.nasa.gov) (left); John Higgins, [NPR](https://www.npr.org) (right)



PODCASTS

iCRAGorama at Sea! stories from the PORO-CLIM Expedition is back for Part 2. Listen on your favourite streaming channel [here](#) and stay up-to-date through their [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Working through a PhD is tough. Have no fear because the **PhD Life Raft** podcast is here to help! Listen to all of their episodes [here](#) and find more on the Instagram at [@phdliferaft](#).

COVID-19

Please don't forget to sign in on the Geology Google Doc and check in on the [SafeZone app](#) if you're on campus. This is very important for contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case on campus.

As always, wash your hands, practice social distancing and wear a mask. You can stay up-to-date on all TCD statements [here](#).