



5th May 2026 | Issue 29

Hello everyone!

Exams are done, the weather's getting better, and everyone can take a breath and enjoy the summer rolling in.

This semester the department has been nice and busy, so let's have a recap and see some of the things we've all been up to since the last Geossip edition.

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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

WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION?

Page	Topic
1	Awards and conference presentations
2	Recently published papers and related information
3.....	Outreach and Engagement
4.....	Inserts from some capstone project letters
7.....	Fieldwork Photo gallery

WELLBEING

TCD's Student Counselling Services is open and available to all registered 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 mindfulness and mental health awareness tips.

Free, anonymous, confidential and non-judgemental listening.

OPEN EVERY NIGHT OF TERM FROM 9PM-2.30AM

FREEPHONE:
1800 793 793

INSTANT MESSAGING:
WWW.NITELINE.IE



CONTRIBUTIONS

We want to hear from you!

Did we miss something? Have you got any news to share with the department? Please let us know at geossip.tcd@gmail.com to be featured in the next newsletter. We would love to hear from you!

RECENT AWARDS

Conor, Alex and Eimear all attended the International association of Hydrogeologists - Irish groups annual conference in Tullamore, where Connor and Eimear both presented posters. During this, **Eimear** won 3rd place in the “Early Career Hydrogeology Research” award!



Emma Dunn recently won an award for “outstanding early-career contributions to the field of palaeontology”. It’s called the Dorothea Bate medal, awarded each year by the Palaeontological Association at their Annual Meeting in December.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Thanks to the University College Cork organising committee of the Irish Geological Research Meeting (IGRM) who hosted a great conference between February 27th and March 1st. The IGRM is a long-standing annual event in the geological calendar, this one being the 69th research meeting! Presentations were given by the following TCD Geology staff:

- Quentin Crowley: integrating radon into the 5th European Code against cancer.
- Emma Blanka Kovács: leaf mercury and reconstruction of past environments.
- Abdul Aziz Mohibbi: remote sensing of Ireland's peatlands.
- Micha Ruhl and Matthias Sinnesael: carbon isotope stratigraphy of Ireland's Carboniferous geology (two separate presentations).



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PUBLISHED PAPERS

Crystallization, replacement, and redox pathways governing rare earth carbonate and phosphate formation. CrystEngComm. Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco, Mellanie Maddin, Remi Rateau, Adrienn Maria Szucs, Luca Terribili, Beatriz Vallina, Kristina Petra Zubovic. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D5CE01083G>

Sustainable rare earth capture using seashell carbonates: Mineralogical pathways and comparative uptake behaviour of mussel, cockle, and oyster shells. Science of the total environment. Remi Rateau, Melanie Maddin, Adrienn Maria Szucs, Luca Terribili, Paul Christopher Guyett, Kristina Petra Zubovic, Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2026.181698>

Quantifying the P-T conditions of silica-enrichment in Archean cratonic spinel-facies peridotites. Mineralogical Magazine. Bakang J Kaekane, Emma L Tomlinson and Brendan C Hoare

Experimental investigation of the role of komatiite-peridotite interaction in generating silica enrichment in the cratonic lithosphere. Mineralogical magazine. C. Melai; A.C. Withers; P. Guyett and E.L. Tomlinson

Dowding EM, Dunne EM, Collins KS, *et al.* (2026) **The billion-dollar case for sustaining palaeontology's digital databases.** *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 10, 594–605 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-026-02985-8>

Quentin Crowley published the following papers, which are part of a thematic set of papers to highlight the scientific rationale behind the recently updated European Code Against Cancer ([ECAC5](#)). The project was co-funded by the European Union from the EU4Health programme and coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which is a division of the World Health Organization.

Ritchie, David, Crowley, Quentin, Greinert, Rüdiger, Albin, Maria, Baldi, Isabelle, Consonni, Dario, Fervers, Béatrice, Hoek, Gerard, Jochems, Sylvia H. J., Rössli, Martin, van Tongeren, Martie, Vilahur, Nadia, Feliu, Ariadna, Zeeb, Hajo, Schüz, Joachim, D'Souza, Erica, Espina, Carolina, Kromhout, Hans. 2026. **European Code Against Cancer, 5th edition - ultraviolet radiation, radon and cancer, *Molecular Oncology*, 20, (1), 49-67.** [DOI](#).

Hoek, Gerard, van Tongeren, Martie, Rössli, Martin, Jochems, Sylvia H. J., Vilahur, Nadia, Albin, Maria, Baldi, Isabelle, Crowley, Quentin, Fervers, Béatrice, Greinert, Rüdiger, Consonni, Dario, Feliu, Ariadna, Zeeb, Hajo, Schüz, Joachim, D'Souza, Erica, Ritchie, David, Espina, Carolina, Kromhout, Hans. 2026. **European Code Against Cancer, 5th edition - outdoor and indoor air pollution and cancer, *Molecular Oncology*, 20, (1), 81-95.** [DOI](#).

Jochems, Sylvia H. J., Vilahur, Nadia, van Tongeren, Martie, Albin, Maria, Baldi, Isabelle, Consonni, Dario, Crowley, Quentin, Fervers, Béatrice, Greinert, Rüdiger, Hoek, Gerard, Rössli, Martin, Zeeb, Hajo, Schüz, Joachim, Feliu, Ariadna, D'Souza, Erica, Ritchie, David, Espina, Carolina, Kromhout, Hans. 2026. **European Code Against Cancer, 5th edition - occupational exposures and cancer, *Molecular Oncology*, 20, (1), 68-80.** [DOI](#).

RELATED INFORMATION

In the news:

https://www.tcd.ie/news_events/top-stories/featured/the-surprising-power-of-seashells/

In The Conversation:

<https://theconversation.com/the-surprising-power-of-seashells-how-oyster-waste-can-recapture-rare-earth-elements-279494>

Dr Caterina Melai and Dr Michele Rinaldi guest edited a special issue of Mineralogical magazine on 'Mantle Heterogeneity and Evolution', linked to our session at the EMC meeting in Dublin in 2024.

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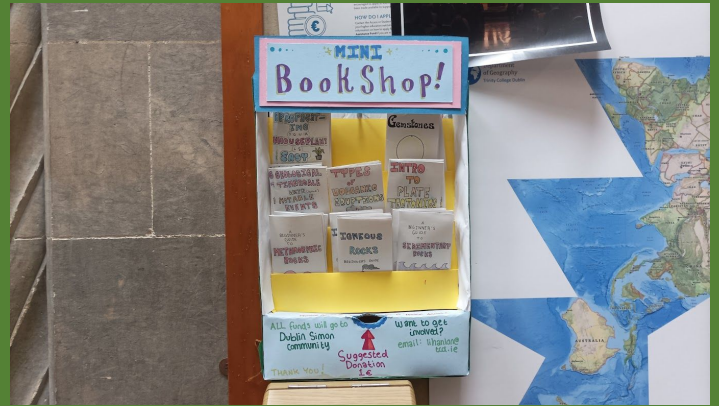
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

CRAFTY FUNDRAISER

A “mini bookshop” was set up in the museum building lobby by Rock, who was been selling small zines on different geological topics.

All the proceeds have been going to Dublin Simon Community, and since christmas this box has raised **€158!**

If you have a topic that you think would translate well into a small zine, or would like to get involved, then email Rock at: lihanlon@tcd.ie



RADIO

Dr Matthias Sinnesael was interviewed on RTE radio one on “Mooney goes Wild”. This episode was on the KPG mass extinction event, discussing likely mechanisms that helped to lead to the extinction event!

Listen to it here:
<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22585089/>



ARTISTIC INFLUENCES

Quentin Crowley recently mentored artist Louis Haugh for a residency in the Loughshinny Boathouse studio, which was sponsored by Fingal County Council. Quentin also contributed to a short video made by Louis, which you can view [here](#).



FILM FESTIVAL PANEL

Quentin Crowley participated in a Climate Storytelling panel discussion as part of the Dublin International Film festival in February. In addition to Quentin, the panel featured film director Elham Ehsas, author Caoilinn Hughes, and founder of Climate Spring, Lucy Stone.



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CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Geology Capstone Projects and the Blundell Scholarship

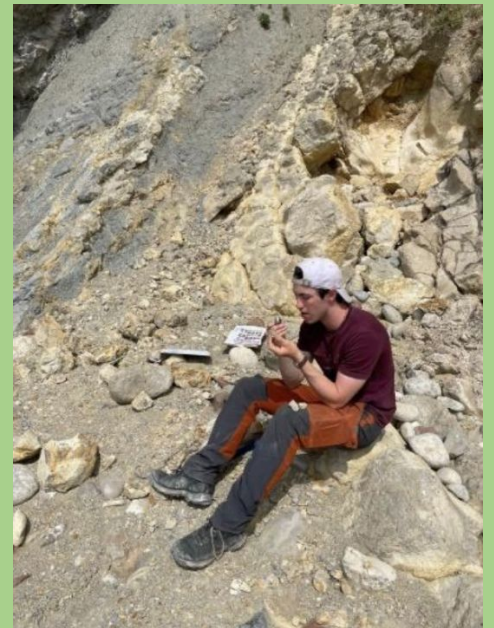
As part of our TCD Geology curriculum, all 4th year students pursue a "Capstone Project". This is an independent study of, ideally, something cool and related to the geosciences. Generally, projects consist of either (a) research, in the field, the laboratory, or both, or (b) the mapping and interpretation of rocks across an area. In both cases, the guiding rationale is to provide students with experiential learning and critical skills to becoming top geoscientists.

Capstone Projects almost necessarily come at extra cost, a financial burden not borne by students in other disciplines at Trinity. Fortunately, some are partly supported through Benefactions and Awards, which are funds that have been generously donated to us by past TCD Geology students. For the 2025/2026 academic year, one such fund -- The Paul and Jackie Blundell Scholarship -- supported a series of mapping projects. Queue up the theme song to "Law & Order", these are their stories ...

Corey Ó Conghaile

Corey's capstone project was in Portugal to create a geological map and palaeo-geographic reconstructions from sedimentary logs.

"Over the course of the trip, I learnt and experienced so much and not just geology related. One of the joys of this discipline is that it takes you around the world to many amazing different places. I now have a personal attachment to a small portion of the Portuguese coastline and am sure I will return at some point in my life."

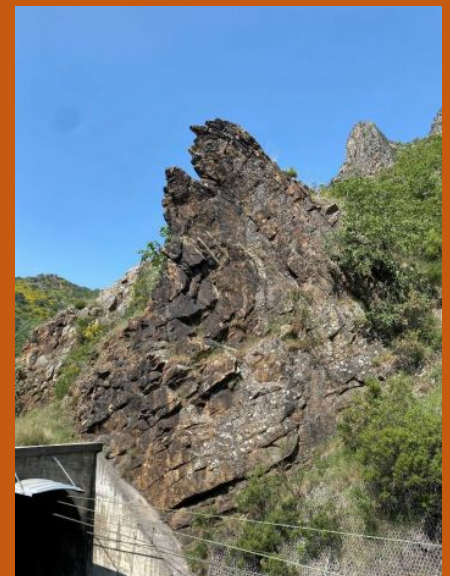


Jenny Little



Jenny's project was in the Cantabrian Mountains, Spain, observing the intense structural features of the area, and investigating the fossils included, such as a trilobite found in a road transect.

"It was a great experience for me to undertake this independent mapping project [...] It has inspired me to continue my studies in geology."



Orrin Bradley-Brady

Orrin's project was in the Lusitanian Basin, Portugal. A rift system with large intrusions of gypsum which caused deformation.

"I found this experience truly rewarding as not only did it develop my field research skills, it also gave me the opportunity to mature and learn what it is like to live with like-minded individuals."



Tarra Ferry

Tarra's project was in the Lusitanian Basin, Portugal. The aim was to create sedimentary logs to reconstruct a paleogeographic map of the region, as well as a geological map of the area.

"The experience taught us patience, teamwork, and resilience. [...] The skills acquired during this experience will attest to our growth, and will stay with us forever."



Luan Cullinane

Luan's project was in the Lusitanian Basin, Portugal, investigating the paleogeography of the rift basin, and producing a geological map of the area.

"It would not be an exaggeration to say that this experience revolutionised my understanding and appreciation of geology."



Titouan Kipping

Titouan's project took place at the Lusitanian Basin, Portugal. The aim was to understand the paleographic environment and construct a geological map of the area.

“ it makes me think that I might've chosen the right field to study in after all. Fieldwork is the perfect representation of what being a geologist is all about: the balancing of unavoidable challenges and obstacles with the incredibly rewarding opportunities to travel, discover, and learn.”



Victoire Deseine-Stevens

Finally, Victoire's project was also in the Lusitanian Basin, Portugal.

“Overall, the project gave me more confidence in myself, a clearer sense of what I want to do in the future, and so many memories I'll always look back on with gratitude.”



Well done everyone, and good luck to the students starting their capstone projects this year! Hopefully these stories can help to get you even more excited for what's to come.



Did we miss something? Have you got any news to share with the department? Please let us know at geossip.tcd@gmail.com to be featured in the next newsletter. We would love to hear from you!

FIELDWORK PHOTO GALLERY

Antrim, March, 2026



Photo Credit: Mary O'Shea

Greece, April, 2026



Photo Credit: Emma Tomlinson and Dave Chew

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