Semester one is in full swing. For students and teachers alike, schedules are overflowing. Paddling harder, staying in the middle of the river, and hoping for the best is the only option. Those who believe in multitasking are most welcome to do so. I will keep my hands firmly on the paddle. And so, this April edition of GEO.news will be concise, but informative and entertaining nevertheless.

The Giant Science USYD program brings the wonders of science to primary school students. On the 4 and 5th of April, PhD candidate Samantha Clarke ran the School of Geosciences session called “This Amazing Earth: Fossil Fun!” with the help of PhD candidates Elyssa de Carli, Melissa Fletcher and Phyllis Yu. Four different High Schools (Yagoona Public, Fairfield Public, Villawood East and Marrickville West) totaling 120 students participated over 4 sessions.

Sam, Elyssa, Mel and Phyllis, thank you all very much for taking the time to look after the next generation of Geoscientist.

For each 100 student coming from China to enroll in an Australian University, no more than 3 OZ students attend Chinese Universities. Considering the relative size of China and Australia populations this statistic is in fact tipped in favor of Australia. Nevertheless, it makes much sense for our students to engage with China.

Sydney PhD candidate Erin Smith from the School of Geosciences has successfully applied to a federal government program aimed at addressing the perceived disparity and fostering engagement between the University of Sydney and other ‘Group of eight’ (Go8) universities with their ‘China nine’ (C9) counterparts. Congratulation Erin, and as they say in China ...
IN THE NEWS THIS MONTH

Seriously Newsworthy-
Thanks to GeoSoc for organizing another great, well attended, and true blue OZ BBQ in front the Madsen Building. A great opportunity to mingle with undergrads in a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere ... and for some to miss classes.

In front of a coffee table loaded with Easter chocolates, Andrew O’Keefe and Samantha Armytage - from Channel 7’s Weekend Sunrise - spoke to Bill Pritchard on why people are hungry in a world full of food. Another flawless performance from Bill ... excepted perhaps for a very short subliminal message at exactly 1:13 mn into Bill’s intervention ... Good one Bill!

http://au.tvyahoo.com/sunrise/video/-/watch/8a5bd8ao-cb43-3e87-95fe-f963e19754d0/hungry-in-a-world-full-of-food/

Andrew Merdith, a recent graduate from our School, has published in the Australian Journal of Earth Sciences his very first paper. The paper demonstrates the power of sophisticated computer-based data processing, untainted by human biases and processing limitations, to understand the formation of opal in central Australia.


Congratulation to Andrew and his co-authors.

In the Press

Dr Maria Seton, Dr Simon Williams, Sabin Zahirovic and their co-author from UWA Dr Micklethwaite, published a fascinating and brilliantly titled paper in EOS about their recent undiscovery of the now famous Sandy Island:


The paper featured in the Washington Post of April 17th. We can’t beat that.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/achenblog/wp/2013/04/17/sandy-island-the-island-that-never-was/
Nicky Wright et al. paper published last month in *Biogeosciences* (cf. March issue of *GEO.news*) is now featuring in *Geolog* the official blog of the European Geosciences Union. Well done Nicky!


Ivana David, an Honours student in our School, has been successful in her application for an Australian government National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy grant. She has been awarded $21,000 grant to cover the costs of “HyLogger” diamond drill core scanning. The technique will provide rapid spectroscopic logging and imaging of host rocks at the Great Cobar deposit in NSW. Ivana’s Honours research is undertaken in collaboration with New Gold Inc. and is supervised by Derek Wyman. Well done Ivana!

IODP drilling proposal for the Northwest Shelf, co-led by Earthbyte Dr Christian Heine has been fast-tracked through the IODP system, received a rating of ‘excellent’ and is now scheduled for drilling in 2015.

Title of the proposal: "Reefs, Oceans and Climate: A 5 Million Year History of the Indonesian Throughflow, Australian Monsoon and Subsidence on the Northwest Shelf of Australia". The Indonesian Throughflow (ITF) is a critical part of the global thermohaline conveyor. It plays a key role in transporting heat from the equatorial Pacific (the Indo-Pacific Warm Pool, IPWP) to the Indian Ocean and exerts a major control on global climate.

The team: S. Gallagher (U Melbourne), C. Fulthorpe (U Texas), A. Heap (Geosci Australia), C. Heine (USYD), K. Czarnota (GA/ U Cambridge), N. exon (ANU), D. Greenwood (Brandon U), N. Herold (Purdue U and former USyd PhD), Y. Iryu, W. Renema, Y. Rosenthal, K. Sniderman, A. Talukder, B. Wastaff, M. Wallace (U Melbourne).

Well everyone!