

THE G(e)OSSIP

The official newsletter of the Geology Department

25 November 2021 | Issue 9

EDITORS NOTE

The lights are up around town, the Christmas tunes are in full swing, the department is very busy and a well deserved break is just around the corner! We hope you have enjoyed the newsletter this term. However, we are always looking for something new to include. Send us your field/lab photos, let us know how your research is going. What do you want to see in The G(e)ossip? Let us know via the email below.

Have a safe and happy holiday break and we'll see you in January!

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

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

The G(e)ossip Team

DEPARTMENT UPDATES & PICTURES

Christmas Party and Friday Beers Cancelled

Unfortunately due to the sharp increase in COVID-19 cases, the Department's Christmas party is no longer going ahead in order to maintain staff and student safety and health. Friday Beers will also be cancelled for the rest of the semester. Hopefully we can have a celebration in the new year. In the meantime here's a picture below from the last department party back in August. Cheers!



TTEC Museum

For anyone who was not aware, our department has a geological museum in TTEC. The museum is curated

by Professor Patrick Wyse Jackson, as pictured below and has lots of lovely specimens! Some of which may be moved back to the museum building. Patrick has also been teaching JS classes here! For more information about the collections, check out the museum [website](#). To pay a visit, email Patrick or contact geologicalmuseum@tcd.ie.



Chemis-tree spotted in the ESRL...

Clara and Sarah in Unit 6 are showing off their creativity with a Christmas tree incorporating the periodic table! They have labelled each bauble after a commonly used element in geochemistry.



COVID-19

Unfortunately, COVID-19 numbers are rising again. Please continue to wear masks in all indoor settings, wash your hands, and social distance when possible. COVID-19 restrictions are being updated weekly, so make sure to stay up-to-date on all TCD statements [here](#).

Felsic volcanic activity a potential factor in end-Permian mass extinction

A team of scientists across a range of universities in China and the U.S. have revealed evidence for climate altering volcanic activity in Southern China at the end-Permian mass extinction boundary, 250 million years ago. The end-Permian mass extinction, resulted in the eradication of 80-90 % of terrestrial and marine species, making it the largest mass extinction in the last 500 million years. For many years the primary cause of this extinction has been attributed to the large outpouring of lava at the Siberian Traps. However, this team examined other factors which may have caused extra environmental stress at the time. They studied terrestrial sediment sections covering the Permian-Triassic transition within the South China Block. Elemental analysis at this boundary showed enrichment in both Cu and Hg that can be linked to sulphur rich volcanic aerosols from felsic eruptions. Based on estimations of SO₂ injection as a result of this volcanic activity, the authors argue that the volcanism at the Siberian Traps may not have been the sole cause of the end-Permian mass extinction. Read the article in full [here](#).



Copper rich minerals present in South China sediments indicating volcanic activity at the end-Permian extinction. Image and information source [here](#).

CONFERENCES

iCRAG2021 on December 2nd is a virtual research showcase of the Centre's achievements and impacts since establishment and will highlight the new directions and research areas that the Centre will undertake in the coming years. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

iCRAG2021
Resources for a Sustainable Society

Thursday 2nd December Online

Registration now open on Hopin

13:00 – Doors Open
14:00 – 17:00 – Main Event
17:00 – 18:00 – Networking

All times are GMT



EGU General Assembly 2022

The EGU General Assembly 2022 is due to be held in Vienna, Austria from 3rd-8th April. The deadline for abstract submission is 12th January 2022 13:00 CET. For more information see the EGU [webpage](#).

WEBINARS

[European Association of Geochemistry started its Distinguished Lecture Program](#)

Juan Diego's final lecture as part of the Distinguished Lecture Programme
Monday, 29 November-11:30 – 12:30

Mechanistic insights into the formation of rare earth carbonates

[Seds Online](#)

1 December - Student Webinars, *Exploring sediment transport dynamics from source to sink*

[PhD Research Skills for Success](#)

25 November- 2 December
TCD student programme for learning research skills

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

iCRAGorama Episode 12

Final episode of the season featuring our very own Dave Chew, discussing the history of planet Earth! Also, don't forget to join the **iCRAGorama live recording** at iCRAG2021 on December 2nd!



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. The event runs until 3 December. You can still take part [here](#).



MENTAL HEALTH & STUDENT SUPPORT

Check TCD's **Student Counselling Services** page [here](#). Email them at student-counselling@tcd.ie to request an appointment. Follow their Instagram [@tcd_headspace](#) for mental health tips.

TCD Grad Chats are a great way for postgraduate students to learn how to manage stress, work-life balance, communication skills and more. Learn all about them on the PG Grad Chats [webpage](#) and pre-register [here](#).

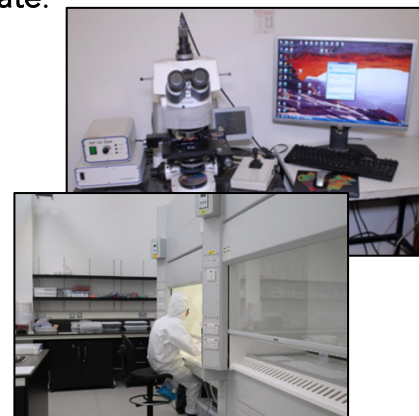
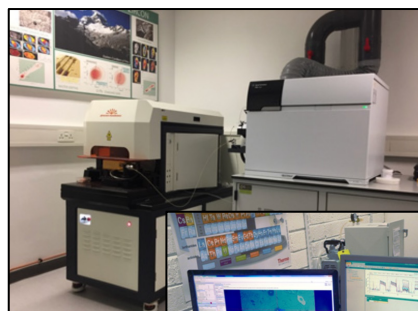
LAB UPDATES



Hilde Koch will be holding a laboratory introduction/overview/refresher session on Friday, **10th December at 10 AM** via Zoom. She will be covering all relevant topics (lab access, training, safety, costs, general lab practice,...) when using one of the following labs, which are either on the TCD main campus (museum building, CMA/iCRAG lab) or on Grand Canal Dock (TTEC):

- Fission Track Lab (museum building)
- Heavy Liquid Lab (museum building)
- Unit 36b (Grand Canal Dock)
- Clean lab (Grand Canal Dock)
- Sulphide laser lab (Grand Canal Dock)
- Geochronology laser lab (Centre for Microscopy and Analysis/iCRAG lab)

If you are already using one of these labs or if you are planning to do so, you are highly encouraged to attend this information session. It will provide you with all necessary information you need to guarantee lab access. If you do not comply with the lab policies, you will not be allowed to use them. Keep an eye on your email for a **Zoom link closer to the date**.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important: January registrants - If you haven't yet done so, please fill in and return your annual progress report signed by your supervisor to Frances Leogue at snmast@tcd.ie.

#TCDPrideInResearch

Are you interested in helping shine a light on LGBTQ+ researchers in TCD? **We need you!** After the huge success of the first virtual event in 2021, PRIDE in Research at TCD needs additional committee members to get the 2022 event up and running. To get involved and join the team please contact Lucy Blennerhassett at: blennel@tcd.ie