New Academic Year

Welcome to a new academic year here at ASE and NTU! We have a record number of 44 students entering our programs this year. But first we celebrate the 30 graduating ASE students at convocation Tuesday 30 July. There will be a photo-taking session after the Convocation ceremony at 4.30pm. Please meet in front of EOS if you wish to take photos with our students.

Do also note that our ASE club students will be selling tickets to the Graduation Party on the same day from 11am to 12noon at the Section C lounge. The graduation party is on Saturday 3rd August. Do join if you can.

In the news

Congratulations to David Wardle, who had a paper on worldwide nematode distribution in Nature last week. Hopefully it will get many reeds. Nature Communications recently listed their most read papers of 2018, with my paper on marsh vulnerability to sea level rise in 13th place, an encouraging confirmation of the interest in the work we do.

So is also our visibility in the media recently, all documented in the web news but a couple of highlights are a Straits Times interview with Kang Min Ngo on Singaporeans’ attitudes towards wildlife, and Eleanor Slade introducing Dame Judi Dench to Bob the dung beetle (and explaining his ecological significance).
Issues in Ecology course exploring a karst forest in Taiwan

Beach clean-up during the Bali course

Assembling the ASE field tent during the California field course

Awards

I’d like to congratulate Halimah Razali, who won the top prize for her presentation at the Young Marine Scientist Symposium Singapore (YMSS), based on her work in Federico Lauro’s lab, where she is now a research assistant.

Finally, the new academic year has started well with three new Tier 1 awards to Adriana, Judith and Sylvain, who will be studying marine planktonic eukaryotes; tectonic growth in southern Nepal; and tools for Pleistocene (Quaternary) sea-level reconstructions, respectively.

Best wishes

Ben