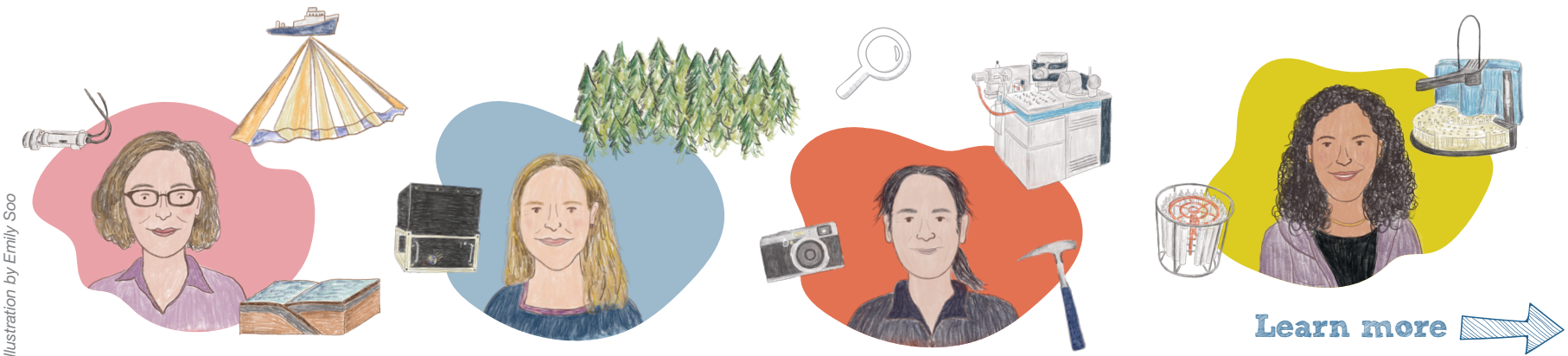
Columbia Climate School
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Meet the Lamont Scientists

More scientists at:
ldeo.columbia.edu



Learn more

Illustration by Emily Soo

Climate Scientist

Wally Broecker

"I like puzzles of any kind. It is what we don't understand that is of most interest to me"

Wally popularized the term global warming over 40 years ago and introduced us to the global ocean conveyer belt. He transformed our understanding of the climate system.

Wally never learned to type or use a personal computer; he wrote with a pencil and notepad.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WALLY:

news.climate.columbia.edu/2019/02/19/wallace-broecker
news.climate.columbia.edu/2018/04/25/wallace-broecker

Marine Geologist

Marie Tharp

"The whole world was spread out before me, I had a blank canvas to fill with extraordinary possibilities"

Marie, along with colleague Bruce Heezen, published the first complete world map of ocean floors. Their work helped prove the theory of plate tectonics, the idea that continents move over time.

Marie and Bruce's map cost $40,000 to print in 1977 — equivalent to about $170,000 today.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MARIE:
news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/07/24/marie-tharp

Oceanographer

Taro Takahashi

"Being a scientist is exciting and fun"

Taro was a seagoing scientist who made key discoveries about how oceans absorb and give off huge amounts of carbon dioxide.

A huge Yankees fan, spoke two languages, and went to the bottom of the ocean in a submarine.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TARO:
news.climate.columbia.edu/2019/12/04/taro-takahashi

Climate Scientist

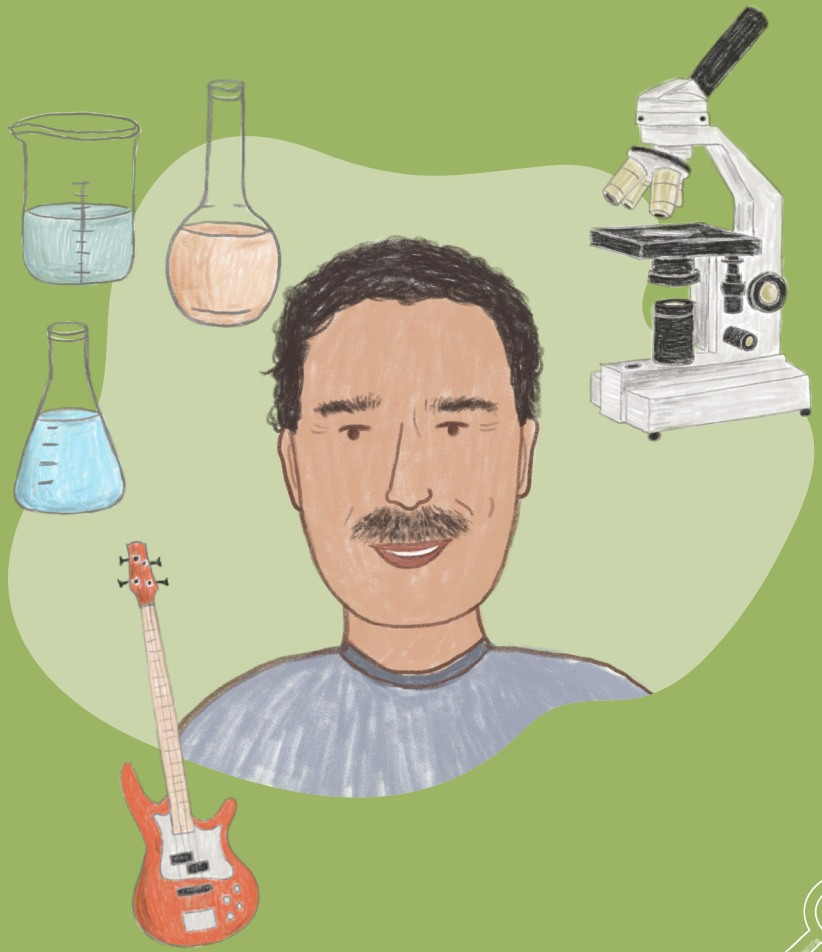
Robin Bell

"Our home planet is so beautiful, and science is essential to making sure we can live here equitably and sustainably"

Robin studies the changing ice in the polar regions, why it matters to everyone, and what is hidden beneath the ice.

Has discovered hidden lakes and mountains, Bell Buttress in Antarctica is named after Robin.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ROBIN:
news.climate.columbia.edu/2019/03/07/robin-bell



Oceanographer

Joaquim Goes

"I love science because it makes you curious about everyday life problems and provides you the knowledge and skills to solve them."

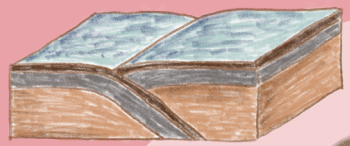
Joaquim studies how ocean ecosystems and plankton are responding to climate change.

Played bass in a rock band in middle and high school and loves scuba diving as it allows him to see a part of the world that is unseen to many.

LEARN MORE ABOUT JOAQUIM:
earth.columbia.edu/users/profile/joaquim-i-goes

Multi-beam Echo Sounder

Theory of Plate Tectonics



Airgun Array

Marine Geologist

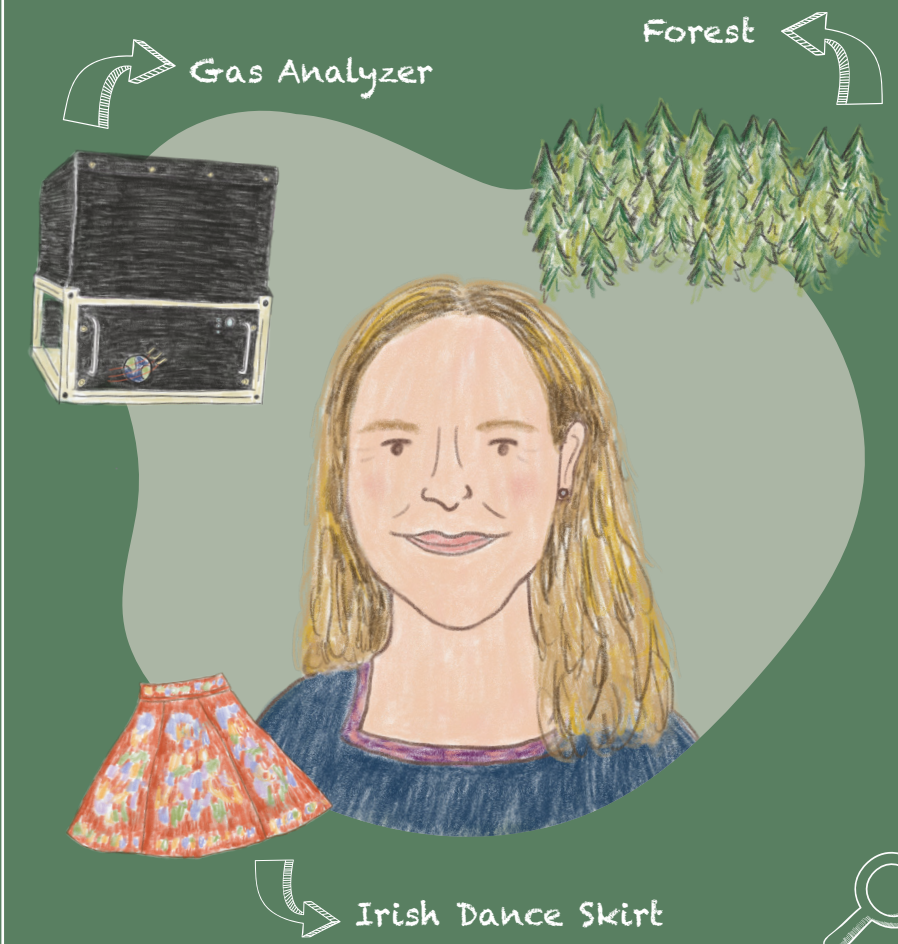
Suzanne Carbotte

"The processes that shape our dynamic planet reveal an ever-fascinating cycle of life on the grandest scale"

Suzanne studies submarine volcanos and earth-quakes using different techniques to image beneath the seafloor and into earth's crust.

Suzanne went to art school before she decided to become a marine geologist.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUZANNE:
earth.columbia.edu/users/profile/suzanne-m-carbotte



Climate Scientist

Róisín Commane

"What we measure in the atmosphere is often times a mixture of what the weather tells us and emission changes."

Róisín measures carbon dioxide and methane levels in the atmosphere and works to understand what the air we breathe in is made up of.

Róisín's first job was singing at a medieval castle in Ireland, she toured around Europe as an Irish dancer and musician before moving to the U.S.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RÓISÍN:
earth.columbia.edu/users/profile/roisin-commane

Oceanographer

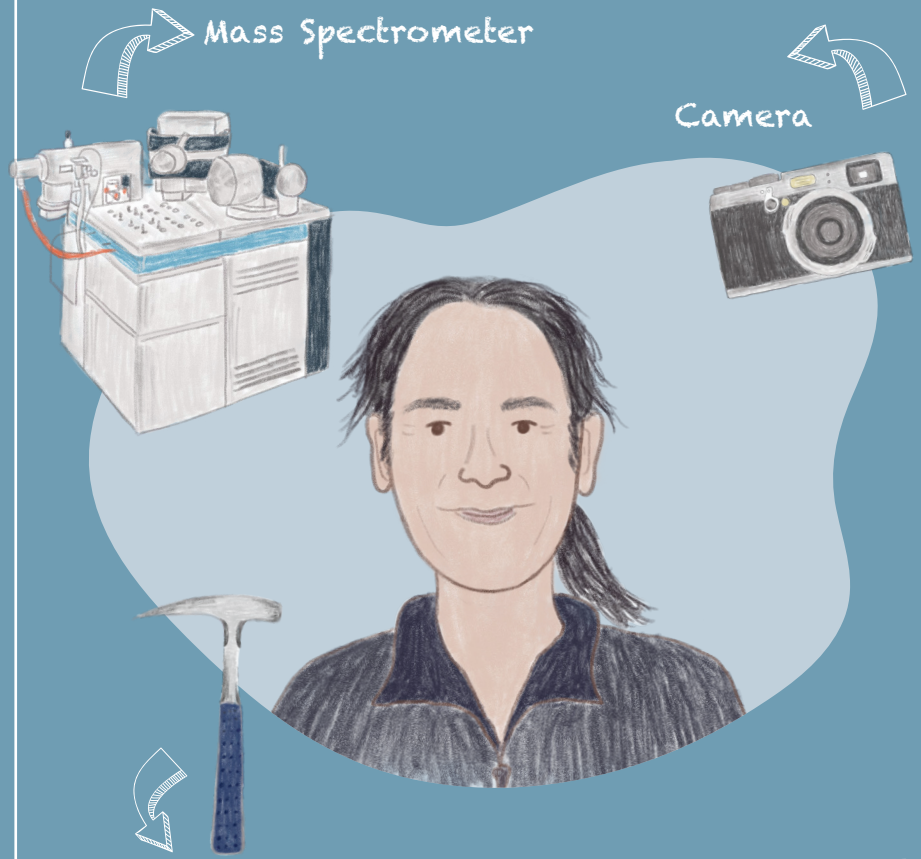
Kailani Acosta

"Science is so interesting because everything is connected. Understanding that connectivity gives you a greater admiration of the beauty and power of life and the Earth."

Kailani studies biological oceanography and how nutrients move and flow in our ecosystem.

Kailani means heavenly ocean in Hawaiian and Acosta means lives by the coast in Spanish, so she was set up very well to study the ocean!

LEARN MORE ABOUT KAILANI:
news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/06/16/kailani-acosta



Climate Scientist

Kevin Uno

"The current climate crisis is the greatest challenge our species has ever faced. We must adapt and innovate, and we need to do it now."

Kevin studies the impact of past climate change on human and mammal evolution and he also specializes in wildlife forensics.

Before becoming a scientist, Kevin taught middle school English in Japan.

LEARN MORE ABOUT KEVIN:
earth.columbia.edu/users/profile/kevin-t-uno
news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/02/03/adapt-climate