

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Victoria Higgins and **Jo Cross** (2nd year) will be the first RHUL Geography students contracted to work with Maven Management this summer under our new internship scheme with this leading marketing and research consultancy firm in High Wycombe. The Research Director there is Kathryn Lewis (Geography 1995). Part of the deal is that the interns undertake work which will be utilised for their dissertations.

Stuart Johnson had a successful viva on 28 th April for his PhD thesis entitled *Rural Estonia a decade after re-independence: post-Soviet transformations and the non-agricultural sector* . The examiners were Professor Richard Munton (Geography, UCL) and Dr. Ray Abrahams (Social Anthropology, Churchill College Cambridge)

Philip Crang was a guest on You and Yours on Radio 4, commenting (very, very briefly it turned out!) on the 'Indianness' of 'Indian' restaurants in the UK .

Peter French presented a talk to 200 lower sixth students at George Abbot School , Guildford about moving on to university.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Ed Derbyshire , together with Dr Ted Nield (Communications Officer, Geological Society of London), met Dr. Chris Rapley (Director of the British Antarctic Survey) in London on 25 March for a discussion of mutual support between the initiatives on the International Polar Year 2007 and the international year of Planet Earth 2006.

Ed Derbyshire and **Xingmin Meng** met Professor Philip Weinstein (School of Population Health , University of Western Australia) at the Geological Society of London on 16 April for discussions on collaboration in research on Land Use, Dust and Respiratory Health in Drylands, and on Medical Geology within the framework of the International Year of Planet Earth 2006.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting with Dr. Brian Marker (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister), Dr. Eduardo de Mulder (President of the International Union of Geological Sciences - IUGS) and Dr. Ted Nield (Chair of the Outreach Programme Committee of the International Year of Planet Earth) at the Geological Society of London on 21 April.

Felix Driver has joined the Editorial Advisory Board of the Dictionary of Human Geography, 5th edition, to be published by Blackwell in 2007.

Felix Driver gave a talk on 'Imperial history: in series and in parallel' to a colloquium at the University of Southampton to mark twenty years of the *Studies in Imperialism* series, edited by John MacKenzie, 16 April

Felix Driver took part in a workshop on the unlocking the archives exhibition, at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 8 April 2004.

On behalf of the Canon Collins Educational Trust, **David Simon** met with Chris Mullin MP, Minister of State for Africa, at the FCO on 27 April to discuss the deepening crisis in Zimbabwe and possibilities for increased studentship support for Zimbabweans in the UK , as well as for southern Africa as a whole.

David Simon participated in a closed meeting of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Africa Policy Advisory Group on 20 April, to discuss the implications of the FCO's new 10-year Strategy on Africa .

David Simon served as a member of the selection panel for the RGS/IBG's Slawson Awards for doctoral research overseas. This involved shortlisting, and then interviewing candidates at Lowther Lodge on 20 April.

David Simon participated in the 'Futures for Southern Africa' conference in London on 1-2 April, organised by the Catholic Institute of International Relations, Nordic Africa Institute, and Institute of Commonwealth Studies . He chaired the session on 'Building a regional civil society: secular and faith dimensions'.

David Simon attended the quarterly editorial board meeting of the Journal of Southern African Studies, held at ICS, London , on 2 April.

David Simon attended the first briefing for advisors by the newly appointed secretariat of the Prime Minister's Commission for Africa, held in Westminster on 6 April.

Tim Unwin presented a keynote lecture entitle "Banknotes and the Imagery of Place" at the annual conference of the Geographical Association held at the University of Kent at Canterbury from 5th to 7th April.

PUBLICATIONS

Cloke P, Cook I, **CRANG P** , Goodwin M, Painter J and Philo C 2004 Practising Human Geography (Sage: London)

F. Driver , 'Colonies' in S Harrison, S Pile & N Thrift (eds) *Patterned Ground* (Reaktion, London , 2004), pp. 93-4

Unwin, T . (2004)Trade, in Harrison , S., Pile S. and Thrift, N. (eds)

Patterned Ground, London : Reaktion , 91-92.

Reviews

F. Driver (2004), review of David Livingstone, *Mission and Empire* (2002), in *History*, 89 (2), pp. 316-7

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Council of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) have conferred on **Rob Imrie** the Back Award for 'contributions to research on national and local policies in urban development and local governance'. The award will be presented by the President, Sir Neil Cossons, at the Society's Annual General Meeting on June 7th.

Dr. Jon Lee who has just completed his PhD in Quaternary Science in the Department of Geography at RHUL has been awarded the Lewis Penny Medal by the Quaternary Research Association. The medal and (£100) prize money is awarded to a young researcher who has made a significant contribution to the Quaternary stratigraphy of the British Isles . The award recognised the great significance of Jon's recent PhD research into the glacial and pre-glacial Quaternary deposits of Eastern England . His research was jointly funded by RHUL and BGS and he was supervised by Jim Rose and Brian Moorlock. Currently he is employed by the British Geological Survey (BGS).

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

The second of this year's London Human Geography Postgraduate Training Workshops was held in the Department on the 29 th of April. Approximately 30 first year PhD students from across the London system attended.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Management Team of the UNESCO-IUGS initiative on an International Year of Planet Earth 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 5 and 6 February. He attended the international Information Meeting on the International Year of Planet Earth at UNESCO on 11 February, which was followed by a further meeting of the Management Team of the International Year. On 12 February, he presented a critique of the six-year review of the work of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) to the Scientific Board of the IGCP.

Ed Derbyshire spent the period 25-28 February working with the IUGS President (Eduardo de Mulder) in Gran Canaria on the detailed strategy for the Science programme of the International Year of Planet Earth.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Management Team of the UNESCO-IUGS initiative on an International Year of Planet Earth 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 22 and 23 March.

Ed Derbyshire attended the First General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) in Nice , France , 25-30 April. He chaired the first session of the symposium on "Aeolian dust as a player and recorder of environmental change" and (together with **Xingmin Meng**) presented an invited paper on "Loess as a record of climatic change and the 'dust climate'

Philip Crang, Becky Fox, Fernando Garcia and **Katie Walsh** all presented in a session on 'Convivial Geographies: Textures of Intimacy' at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Philadelphia in March. Peter Jackson (University of Sheffield) was the session's discussant.

Philip Crang also co-chaired the Cultural Geographies lecture at the AAG meeting, given by Sarah Whatmore of the Open University, and acted as a panellist for a fascinating session on Global Citizenship and Corporate Social Responsibility, which showcased some very interesting North American work on commodity systems, fairtrade, and ethical consumption.

David Simon was an invited participant in the workshop on 'The making of micro-regions in Africa', held at the offices of the United Nations University's Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU/CRIS) programme, Brugge, Belgium, 22-24 April. This workshop was focused on the discussion of draft chapters for a forthcoming book on the subject. David presented a paper, jointly with Muriel Samé Ekobo (Univ. of Paris X , Nanterre), on ' Walvis Bay - Swakopmund: desert micro-region and aspiring regional gateway'; he also acted as discussant of another paper and chaired a third session.