

STAFF AND STUDENTS

John Lowe has been invited to join the newly-established NERC Strategic Development Panel on Climate Systems. This is one of seven panels created by NERC in order to develop its new Science Strategy for the next five years.

David Gilbert has been invited to join the AHRC Peer Review College .

Andrew Bradford successfully defended his ESRC-funded PhD thesis "Assessing the potential for community-based waste management strategies: action research in the Kumasi PUI, Ghana" on 19 April 2006. Andrew was co-supervised by **Duncan McGregor** and **David Simon** and his examiners were Prof Philip Harris (Coventry) and Dr Julio Davila (Development Planning Unit, UCL). Andrew has been appointed by Islamic Relief as Field Officer in their newly-constituted Disaster Response Team.

David Hilling has been appointed external examiner for the London Metropolitan University MSc in International Trade and Transport.

We are sorry to announce that **David Keen**, formerly Visiting Professor in the Department, has died. His funeral, held last week, was attended by Jim Rose, John Lowe, Chris Green, Danielle Schreve and Barbara Silva. David, an authority on quaternary palaeontology (especially molluscs), was a former President of the Quaternary Research Association and chair of the NERC Radiocarbon facilities committee, editor of Proceedings of the Geological Association and European editor of Quaternary Science Reviews. The Department has made a donation to the Myton hospice where he was cared for.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Final Year students doing GG3077 (ICT4D) visited Paris from 9th-11th April to give their course presentations in the offices of the Information Society Division at UNESCO. Colleagues from UNESCO who met with the students included Abdul Waheed Khan (Assistant Director General of UNESCO), Liz Longworth (Director, Information Society Division), and Tarek Shawki, Jean-Claude Dauphin, René Cluzel, Boyan Radoykov and Armelle Arrou all of whom work in the Information Society Division. Several postgraduates also participated in the visit, which provided an opportunity for Master's students to discuss their proposed dissertation research.

Luke Dickens spent a week collaborating on an interdisciplinary research project, 'The Elephant Vanishes', run by Tate Modern and London College of Communication (3rd - 7th April 2006). The week culminated in an exhibition of stories, photographs, maps, sound recordings and sculpture at the Tate, all of which will be used to establish an open archive on the changes facing the Elephant and Castle area under the vast regeneration master plan put into operation earlier this year.

As UK vice president of the European River-Sea Transport Union, **David Hilling** attended the organisation's 18th presidium meeting, Berlin, April 2-5.

Ed Derbyshire called two meetings on aspects of the International Year of Planet Earth 2008 at the Geological Society, London, on 10 and 12 April.

David Simon, **Katie Willis** and **Ruth Payne** visited Street Child Africa's offices in Thames Ditton on 5 April to meet with **Fr Patrick Shanahan** and hold Ruth's ESRC Case Award termly joint meeting.

FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS

David Simon was a plenary speaker at the conference of the Green Economics Institute on 'Long termism, specificity and intergenerational equity in Economics', held at Mansfield College, Oxford, on 8th April. His paper was entitled 'Urbanisation and global environmental change: new intergenerational challenges'. He also spoke in a plenary panel session on 'Long termism in Economics'.

Ed Derbyshire attended, as a Founding Member, the inaugural meeting of the INQUA-sponsored interdisciplinary research group on Isotopes and Biogenic Silica (IBiS), held in Windermere, 26-27 April. The prime aim of IBiS is "to promote the study of all forms of biogenic silica (opal phytoliths, diatoms, chrysophytes, sponge spicules, radiolarian, etc.) and their role in biogeochemical cycling at ecosystem to global scales". He also made a presentation on the International Year of Planet Earth 2008.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Prof. Mauricio Abreu, from the Geography Department at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, visited the Department on 28 April 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

French P.W. (2006) Managed realignment - The developing story of a comparatively new approach to soft engineering. *Estuarine, Coastal & Shelf Science* 67: 409 - 423.

David Hilling (2005), 'The changing spatial dimension in port relations' in David J Starkey & M Hahn-Pedersen (eds) *Bridging Troubled Waters*, proceedings of the 7th North Sea History Conference, Dunkirk, 2002, Fiskerie og Sofartsmuseets, Study No. 17, Esbjerg, 229-246

David Hilling (2005), 'Renaissance of UK waterborne freight', *Navigator*, European River-Sea Transport Union, Berlin, 02/05, 21-22.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Jim Rose and **Richard Bailey** have been awarded a grant of £132k by the Leverhulme Trust in support of a project on 'Testing the case for MIS 6 age Scandinavian sourced ice-sheet in Eastern England'.

Jay Mistry and co-PIs Dr Matthew Simpson (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust), Dr Andrea Berardi (The Open University), Mr Calvin Bernard (University of Guyana) and Dr David Singh (Iwokrama International Centre, Guyana) have been awarded £106,000 from the Darwin Initiative, DEFRA, as a follow up grant to their current project. Starting on the 1st October, this Post-Darwin project aims to build the capacity of Guyanese stakeholders at both the local and national level in implementing the North Rupununi Adaptive Management Plan (NRAMP) in ways that are ecologically, socially and financially sustainable. The NRAMP will be a key output of the original project and will provide recommendations for the sustainable management of the North Rupununi wetlands and form guidelines for adaptive decision making. Although it will be adopted by a number of organisations it has become increasingly clear that the wider capacity to undertake biodiversity conservation within Guyana is limited by both human and financial resources. The Post-Darwin project is designed to assist the Guyanese partners in the implementation of NRAMP by: significantly expanding the number of trained individuals in biodiversity monitoring and management; developing material for Guyanese university courses and schools to help raise awareness of, and build capacity for, biodiversity conservation (providing the next generation of biodiversity professionals and active conservationists); and developing local financially sustainable livelihood schemes, such as eco-tourism, that have a linked objective to the biodiversity monitoring and conservation of key wetland habitats important to the local communities. By developing innovative educational material and approaches to sustainable livelihoods within the region, this project hopes to build on the success of the original project and ensure that species and habitat monitoring is permanently established and biodiversity conservation within the region is achieved.

The Department has been awarded a further AHRC Collaborative PhD studentship, this time a project supervised by **Danielle Schreve** jointly with colleagues from the Museum of London, entitled 'London before London: reconstructing a palaeolithic landscape'. This studentship is funded through AHRC's Landscape & Environment Programme.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Will (Weili) Wang** and Jessica (Zhe) Dong who got married on the 8th of April. We wish Will and Jessica every happiness.