

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Welcome to **Mary Dengler** our new Lecturer in Geography, who recently completed her PhD at UCL.

Jude Hill has been appointed as a Post-Doctoral Research/Teaching Fellow in the Geography Department at Exeter University for two years from September 2004.

Dr Helen Scalway, Honorary Research Associate in the Department, has started work on a new research project funded by AHRB under the Small Grants in the Creative & Performing Arts scheme. The project is looking at design and multiculturalism in London, and is entitled 'New Babel ? Pattern, memory and the cosmopolitan city'.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Ed Derbyshire chaired a meeting of the Data group of the 'CHANGES' programme, together with Professor David Thomas and Mt. Mat Telfer in the School of Geography, University of Oxford, on 9 August.

David Gilbert has been invited to join the editorial board of the London Journal

David Gilbert has been appointed to the Museum of London Advisory Committee, formed to advise on the development of the Museum's 'later galleries' (covering London's history post-1666), and the Museum's new Learning Centre. He attended the first meeting on Thursday 29 July 2004.

Richard Hodgkins attended the World Climate Research Programme 'Climate and Cryosphere' meeting at the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, 6th August.

PUBLICATIONS

Imrie, R., 2004, Housing quality, disability and domesticity, *Housing Studies*, 19, 5, 685-690.

Imrie, R., 2004, Disability, embodiment, and the meaning of the home, *Housing Studies*, 19, 5, 745-763.

Driver, F., *Power and Pauperism: the Workhouse System, 1834-1884* (CUP, 2004, paperback edition of book originally published 1993).

Toms, P.S., King, M., Zárate, M.A., **Kemp, R.A.** & Foit, F.F. (2004). Geochemical characterization, correlation and optical dating of tephra in alluvial sequences of central western Argentina . Quaternary Research 62, 60-75.

Tim Unwin and Virginia Hewitt (2004) Reconstructing national identities: the banknotes of central and eastern Europe in the 1990s, in: Green, E., Lampe, J. and Stiblar, F. (eds) Crisis and Renewal in 20th Century Banking, Aldershot : Ashgate, 254-275.

David Simon had an opinion piece, 'Supra-national good governance in Africa : part of the 'end of history' or a new beginning?' published on the online newssite, Gleanernews.com

Aya Sakai (2004) "Case study: Tokyo , Japan." in Ed. the Bartlett School of Planning and CABA Space, Is the grass greener?, London : CABA Space: pp.16-19.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Ed Derbyshire was awarded a sum of £850 from the IGCP fund of the Royal Society to enable him to attend the 32nd International Geological Congress in Italy , 20-28 August.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Prof. Jordi Marti-Henneberg, Head of Geography at the University of Lleida in Catalunya, met with **Tim Unwin** on 17th and 19th August to discuss research and teaching collaboration, particularly in the field of GIS and Historical Geography. One outcome of these discussions is that three PhD students from Lleida will be supporting the first year field course to Spain in January 2005.

Jane Carr, Chief Executive of the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, visited **Tim Unwin** on 13th August to discuss issues relating to intellectual property rights, open standards and the role of new technologies in publishing.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Ed Derbyshire attended the 32nd International Geological Congress in Firenze , Italy , 20-28 August. On 21 August, he attended a business meeting of the International Consortium on Landslides, as a member of the Editorial Board of the journal 'Landslides' (Springer). On 22 August he was an invited panelist at the round table discussion on future initiatives and programmes in the earth sciences under the Expert Advisory Group of the Directorate General of Research, Global Change and Ecosystems, of the European Commission. On 23 August, he attended a meeting of the Management Team of the International Year of Planet Earth, a consultation meeting between the Assistant Deputy Minister for Natural Resources of Canada and the International Year, and then contributed to an open meeting on the International Year. He convened and co-chaired a full-day Special Symposium 10.01 on collaboration in international geoscience programmes that included a panel discussion

chaired by the Director of the United States Geological Survey. Later that day, he chaired a meeting of the Managers of the 'CHANGES' programme. He contributed an oral paper on 'Natural mineral dust, fibrous minerals, and human health' at the Topical Symposium on 'The effects of natural environments on the health of humans and animals' held on 27 August. The next and final day, he chaired the first session of the Topical Symposium on 'Fibrous structure and health effects: asbestos from an occupational to an environmental hazard', and then attended a final meeting of the Management Team of the International Year of Planet Earth.

Richard Hodgkins attended the International Glaciological Society International Symposium on Arctic Glaciology, in Geilo, Norway, 23rd-27th August, presenting a paper entitled, 'Topographic Controls on the Spatial Distribution of Winter Accumulation at a High-Arctic Glacier (Finsterwalderbreen, Svalbard)'.

While in Nigeria for a governance training programme run by CENCOD, **David Simon** and **Sylvester Odion Akhaine**, along with a prominent Nigerian journalist and political scientist, presented an hour-long panel discussion about democracy, human rights and development on the current affairs programme, Democratic Licence, on 30th July on African Independent Television. This is Nigeria's largest private national TV station, broadcasting to a potential audience of several hundred million across Africa on DSTV and via cable also to the UK and USA.

Jude Hill, **Pippa Biltcliffe** and **Starr Douglas** recently co-convened three sessions on 'Geographies of Collecting' at the IGC-UK conference in Glasgow. The diverse set of papers presented within the sessions included their own, entitled: 'The Story of the Amulet' (Jude Hill); 'Collecting Art Objects: Patronage, Possession and Place' (Pippa Biltcliffe) and 'Eighteenth century insect collectors and the Aurelian society' (Starr Douglas). Felix Driver also contributed to the sessions by acting as Discussant.

Jill Fenton presented a paper entitled 'Contemporary Surrealist Imaginary Geographies of Utopia and Dystopia' at the 'Imagining the City' conference hosted by the Research Group Cultural History & Literary Imagination of St John's College Cambridge. The conference took place between 30 July and 2 August.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Xingmin Meng** and Yan Yan on the arrival of their baby boy, and a little brother for Snow. Yang was born on the 17th of August at 12:30pm weighing 3.07 kg

A group of intrepid Geography Department alumni embarked on the 24 hour 3 Peaks Challenge on July 22nd and 23rd. A group of five including **Ruth Salter**, **Shaun Richardson** and **Adrian Palmer** managed to crack Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon in 23hrs 58 mins and 16 seconds. As you can guess it was very well planned to make use of all the time available to the group, in spite of some dodgy map reading from the geographers. The group would like to thank everyone in the department, who sponsored the escapade in aid of the Parkinsons Disease Society.

Geography succumbs to the world of rocks.

The thunder clouds parted and the floods miraculously ebbed away to allow the annual Geography/Geology cricket trophy to take place on Nobles Fields. Nature can be harsh unless you want it to be. Thanks to the efforts of Simon 'Blockers' Blockley the geography select few managed to muster enough players to challenge Geology in what turned out to be a game of tragic proportions. Having elected to bat first, Geography the cheap wickets of Ade Palmer and Mike Dolton. Ade gave Geology some early catching practice while Mike studiously avoided hitting the ball as it gently bounced through his stumps.

Ians Candy and Matthews clawed the score back towards respectability and double figures followed by Ollie Knight's noble effort to remind Dolton and Palmer that hitting the ball and running between the wickets is the best way to score runs. After Blockers holed out to 3rd man, Iñaki Valcarel made his debut with some mighty swipes. Sadly the meagre total of barely 50 runs was never going to trouble Geology. Dolton made a stunning catch deep in the field off Blockers' precision bowling but a few expensive overs from Dolton and Palmer left Pete Riches with little room to weave his magic. Not that this mattered. Within minutes both batsmen and fielders alike gasped as Pete threw one down the wicket and then dived like a kingfisher catching a stickleback to make a catch that will live long in cricketing folklore. Alas this wasn't enough and Geology despatched our brave losers and consigned our department to a rare defeat.

Special thanks to Blockers for running around like a mad Yorkshire man and making the game happen. No thanks to Blockers for failing to invoke the Yorkshire God of Blizzards at a critical point in the match.