STAFF AND STUDENTS

Guillaume Iyenda successfully defended his doctoral thesis, entitled, *poverty and households’ livelihoods: sociological study of strategies for development of Congolese cities*, on 11 December. The examiners were Dr. Tony Binns (Sussex) and Deborah Potts (KCL). Guillaume was supervised by David Simon.

Siwan Davies successfully defended her PhD thesis, entitled 'Extending the known distributions of micro-tephra layers of last glacial-interglacial transition age in Europe' on 19th December, 2002. The External Examiner was Professor Kevin Edwards, Aberdeen University, and the 'internal' (UoL) examiner was Dr Jeff Blackford, QMW. The examiners were very complimentary about the standard of presentation, as well as the scientific results. Siwan was NERC-funded and completed the PhD programme within the prescribed three years. She has a few minor corrections to make before the job is complete. Nearly-Dr. Davies is currently contracted for one-year as a post-doctoral researcher at Stockholm University, and on completion of that project she will transfer to the University of Copenhagen, to work with the GRIP ice-core team, also as a post-doctoral researcher.

Fiona Henderson had her PhD viva examination on 30th January 2003 at Bedford Square. The examiners were Dr Michael Crang of Durham University and Dr David Pinder of Queen Mary, University of London. Fiona was awarded her doctorate for the thesis 'The Guidebook and the European City: Tourist Geographies of London, Paris and Berlin 1945-2002', subject to minor amendments.

David Simon has been appointed as external examiner for the Final Honours School at Oxford University, 2002/3 - 2004/5.

David Simon acted as external assessor for the selection of a research programme director at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, November 2002.

David Simon will take over as social science editor of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* later this year.

Peter French has been invited to join the editorial board of the journal *Estuarine Coastal & Shelf Science* from January 2003.

Duncan McGregor acted, on 16 December, as University examiner for a King's College PhD entitled "An analysis of the drivers and impacts of landuse change in the tropical uplands of Mindanao, Philippines". The thesis was passed with minor amendments to be made.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS
David Simon attended a reception at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 2 December 2002, hosted by Baroness Amos, Minister of State for African Affairs.

David Simon attended the quarterly editorial board meeting of the Journal of Southern African Studies, in London on 10th January.

David Simon was principal speaker at the book launch of *Uniting a Divided City; governance and social exclusion in Johannesburg*, by Jo Beall, Owen Crankshaw and Susan Parnell (Earthscan, 2002), held at the LSE on 17th January.

David Simon attended the Management Committee meeting of the Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa, in London on 28 January.

David Simon lectured on 'Living in Third World Cities' to approximately 100 students at Trinity School, Croydon, on 30 January.

Ed Derbyshire convened a meeting of the Data Group of the ÔCHANGESÕ initiative at Luton University on 15 November.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Geological Society at Burlington House, Piccadilly on 19 November.

David Gilbert gave a lecture on 'Multicultural London? Race, ethnicity and the post-war city' to the Berkhamsted Geographical Association on Thursday 23rd January. The speaker was treated to supper at the Hillings before the event.

David Gilbert gave a lecture on 'The Heart of Empire? A guided tour of imperial London' at the Montague Hall Hounslow on Tuesday 28th January, for the Hounslow history society.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Reviews


CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

David Simon was in Kumasi, Ghana from 23-29 November to work on the DFID-funded project to implement sustainable natural resource-based livelihood plans for the peri-urban poor, on which he is a subcontractor to CEDEP, a Ghanaian NGO. While there, he also spent time with Andy Bradford, his and Duncan McGregor's PhD student, who is undertaking research into community-based waste management. Unfortunately, Andy went down with malaria but rallied quickly.

David Simon attended the Berlin 2002 Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, Knowledge for the Sustainability Transition: the challenge for social science. This was held at the Free University of Berlin, 6-7 December. David presented a paper entitled: Regional Development-Environment Discourses, Policies and Practices in Post-Apartheid Southern Africa.

David Simon was an invited member of a small international team to undertake a scoping/planning exercise for the International Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Programme, on an envisaged new research programme on Cities and GEC, at the IHDP headquarters in Bonn, 7-9 December.

Andy Bradford attended the 1st International Solid Waste Conference. Theme: Charting Strategies for Municipal Solid Waste Management. Waste Group Ghana Ltd, Kumasi in
collaboration with the Institute at the Bauhaus University of Weimar, Germany, and the Faculty of Science, KNUST, Kumasi. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, 4-5 December 2002.

Andy Bradford presented a paper at the NRI, IRC, South Africa Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and IWMI international symposium 'Water, poverty and productive uses of water at the household level', Muldersdrift, South Africa, 21-23 January 2003.

Rob Imrie and Rebecca Edwards were invited participants at a seminar hosted by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on November 27th, on the theme of 'Safe Haven or Social Division? Gated Communities and Social Balance in the United Kingdom.'

Ed Derbyshire convened and chaired a meeting of the Managerial Group of the CHANGES programme in the Università La Sapienza, Rome, Italy, on 21 and 22 November.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Managerial Team of the IUGS-UNESCO initiative on the International Year of Planet Earth, held in Haarlem, The Netherlands, 2 and 3 December.

Mark Stephens was visiting fellow at the School of Geosciences, University of Wollongong, Australia (11 Nov - 16 Dec 2002) and collaborated with Dr. Bert Roberts in OSL dating the Niah Cave archaeological sediments.

Mark Stephens gave a talk there on 11 Dec entitled "Quaternary palaeoenvironmental reconstruction using stable isotopes (d18O, d2H, d13C) on archaeological and modern materials, Niah Cave, Malaysian Borneo".

GRANTS

Funding for the joint project with the London College of Fashion on London's West End (part of the ESRC Cultures of Consumption initiative) has now been finalised at £270 412.42

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Professors Anders NSrman (Gothenburg), Nimal Dangalle and Sundana Bandara (Kelaniya, Sri Lanka) visited the Department on 27th January and presented a CEDAR seminar on Poverty and Power in Hambantota District, Sri Lanka.

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Richard Hodgkins and wife Sue who had a baby girl, Rebecca, on 22nd December 2002.