

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Olav Lian left the Department at the end of this month to take up a position in Canada .

Prof. Rob Kemp has stepped down as Head of Department from the end of this month. **Prof. Felix Driver** will be the new Head of Department as of the 1st of January 2005.

Welcome to **Dr. Pamela Shurmer-Smith**, author of books on cultural geography, research practice and India , who has been appointed as an Honorary Research Associate in the Department.

Ed Derbyshire contributed to the BBC World Service programme on dust storms in Mongolia and North China (the third in the four-programme "Parched planet" series) on 16 December. Part of the programme also featured in 'The World Today' on 19 December. A short related text item on 'Dust storm migration begins in China ' became available on the World service News web page ('Asia-Pacific') from 17 December.

Carly Kenny successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled 'Nitrogen transformations and nitrous oxide ablations in estuarine intertidal zones' on 14th December. Her examiners were Prof Brian Moss (Liverpool) and Dr. Kate Spencer (Queen Mary).

Savitha Ganapathy successfully defender her PhD thesis on 14th December, with some minor corrections. Her examiners were Christophe Sannier from Cranfield University and Peter Buckley from Imperial College .

Felix Driver examined a PhD thesis by Michael Gallagher, in the Geography Department at the University of Edinburgh, entitled Producing the Schooled Subject: Techniques of Power in a Primary School, 15 December.

Clive Gamble presented a paper to the SCG landscape surgery entitled 'Dances with wolves or a dance to the music of time: the rhythms of social life half a million years ago', 14 December. This paper was previously presented to an ESF Workshop on Music, Language and Human Evolution, as reported in Science, 12 November 2004.

David Simon was an invited participant in the live BBC World Service Radio programme, Africa Live, on 15th December, which dealt with African cities' problems and possible solutions.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Ed Derbyshire travelled to the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Cambridge on 16 November to discuss with Dr. Chris Rapley (Chief, British Antarctic Survey) synergies and collaboration between the International Year of Planet Earth and the IPY.

Ed Derbyshire attended, by invitation, the NERC Workshop on the proposed NERC initiative on 'Environment and Human Health' held at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre at Hinxton, south of Cambridge. He was also invited to make a presentation on the International Year of Planet earth, with special reference to the included Theme of 'Earth and Health'.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting at the Geological Society on policy strategy for the International Year of Planet Earth and the role of the United Kingdom together with Edmund Nickless, Eduardo de Mulder (Haarlem) and Ted Nield on 16 December.

David Simon attended the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Christmas reception for the diplomatic corps, advisors and journalists on 15th December.

David Simon served on the selection panel to appoint a new Scholarships Programme Manager for the Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa, in London on 16th December.

Tim Unwin participated in the Commonwealth Secretariat Workshop on 13th December at Marlborough House on the "Commonwealth Action Area: Using Open and Distance Learning (ODL) to Overcome Barriers", during which he gave a presentation entitled "The contribution of 'new technologies' to the MDGs: education and health".

PUBLICATIONS

Bradford, A.M. made Progress on the following publications: IWMI (2005) Irrigated urban agriculture in West Africa (I): Characteristics of a non-traditional farming system between public recognition and prosecution. IWMI Research Report. International Water Management Institute (IWMI), West Africa Office; Adam-Bradford, A. (2005) 'Container composting in Peri-urban Kumasi, Ghana '. In van Veenhuizen (ed.) Cities Farming for the Future. Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture, in preparation. Adam-Bradford, A. (2005) 'Recycling of Organic Urban Waste in Urban Agriculture'. In van Veenhuizen (ed.) Cities Farming for the Future. Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture, in preparation.

Karen E. Till , "Emplacing Memory Through the City: The New Berlin ," German Historical Institute Bulletin 35 (Fall): 73-83.

Gamble, C. 2004. "Social archaeology and the unfinished business of the Palaeolithic," in Explaining social change: studies in honour of Colin Renfrew. Edited by J. F. Cherry, C. Scarre, and S. Shennan, pp. 17-26. Cambridge : McDonald Institute Monographs.

Gamble, C. S ., W. Davies, P. Pettitt, and M. Richards. 2004. Climate change and evolving human diversity in Europe during the last glacial. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Biological Sciences 359:243-254.

Gamble, C. S., and E. K. Gittins. 2004. "Social archaeology and origins research: a Palaeolithic perspective," in *Social archaeology: a companion*. Edited by R. Preucell and L. Meskell, pp. 96-118. Oxford : Blackwell.

Reviews

Edwards, R., (April 2005) Review of, Stephen P. Osbourne, Rona S. Beattie and Arthur P. Williamson, 'Community involvement in rural regeneration partnerships in the UK: Evidence from England , Northern Ireland and Scotland '. Policy press; Bristol , 2003, 50pp

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Prof. John Lowe and his co-investigators (including **Jim Rose** and **Simon Blockley**) have been awarded a NERC grant of £280,767 for a project entitled 'Precise chronology of the timing of changes in behaviour of the North Atlantic THC and their forcing effects, 16-8 ka BP'. The grant will support a Research Assistant and a PhD student.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Claudio Vita-Finzi from the Natural History Museum presented the QUISS Seminar on Thursday 2nd December. His talk was entitled 'Buckling of India'.

Becky Briant of King's College London presented the QUISS Seminar on Tuesday, 7th December. Her presentation was entitled 'Catchment scale study of late Quaternary river activity in Eastern England '.

Abdullah Adam-Bradford , RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on Thursday, 9th December. His talk was entitled 'Urban Agriculture: Feeding the poor'.

Colin McFarlane from the University of Durham presented the CEDAR Seminar on Monday, 13th December. His presentation was entitled 'Managing Knowledge for Development: from the World Bank to Slum/Shack Dwellers International'.

On the 15th of December, 26 pupils and 3 staff from Lampton school in Hounslow visited the department as part of the strategy to encourage local pupils to apply to do a geography degree at Royal Holloway. The workshop was divided into three parts: a lecture by **David Simon** and **Don Thompson** about 'water quality'; a lecture/seminar about 'sustainable cities' conducted by **Katie Willis** ; and, a lecture by **Rob Imrie** about 'new urbanism'. The afternoon was concluded by talking the party around the department on a tour.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Ed Derbyshire visited UNESCO Headquarters in Paris , 7-8 October, for consultations with the Director of the Earth Science Division and the Section Chief of the Intergovernmental

Oceanographic Commission concerning various aspects of the International Year of Planet Earth.

Ed Derbyshire took part in a meeting of the Management Team of the International Year of Planet Earth on 14 October, by means of a telephone link with UNESCO Headquarters in Paris .

Ed Derbyshire visited the dust collection site (On Pico de la Gorra , 1930m asl) of the Facultad de Ciencias del Mar of the Universidad de Las Palmas on 22 October, at the invitation of Dra. Maria Dolores Gelado Caballero (Universidad de Gran Canaria) and Dr. José Joaquin Hernández Brito (Instituto Canario de Ciencias Marinas del Gobierno de Canarias), I order to examine the system and to agree on future collaboration on Sahara dust collection and analysis.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of selected members of the Management Team of the International Year of Planet earth at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 9 and 10 December.

Abdullah Adam-Bradford participated on an ESRC funded overseas institutional visit to the International Water Management Institute, West Africa Office, Accra , Ghana , 8 August - 30 October 2004. During the visit Abdullah attended the Humboldt-Universitat Zu Berlin, IWMI and FAO workshop Restoration of African- and Rangelands: A comparison of approaches and adoption experiences in different dry land regions in sub-Saharan Africa, Accra, Ghana, 23-25 August 2004; visited some peri-urban sites outside Accra with Rudolf Amenga-Etego, Goldman Environmental Prize winner 2004; and in Kumasi conducted closing workshops with participants on his Ph.D. research project 'community-based waste management strategies'; workshops were funded by IWMI (total now US\$ 4800).

Karen Till conducted a week of fieldwork studying the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa on the occasion of its tenth anniversary (December 10). The museum has become an important international symbol of human rights activist and land restitution in post-apartheid South Africa. It continues to develop its community outreach and educational activities, including a youth 'Ambassadors Program' to train A-level students in museum and heritage best practices. Karen also assisted the museum staff in developing a proposal and schedule for a large international conference on "Landscapes of Postcolonial Memorialisation" planned for next year.

Tim Unwin presented a paper entitled "ICT4D Partnerships: Critical Success factors" in the Corporate Panel on Industry-Education Partnerships at the eAgenda 2004 summit held in San Diego, California, on 14th December.

Tim Unwin and Jan Grabowski from InWEnt convened a session on 2nd December at Online Educa in Berlin on "E-Learning and the Digital Gap: are we selling placebos?"

OTHER NEWS

RGS-IBG Post Graduate Forum Christmas Party

The PGF Christmas Party held on the 9th December was a great success. Over 70 geography postgrads and staff came along from all of the London Colleges and a really good time was

had by all. The event raised just over one hundred pounds from ticket sales and a raffle. Many thanks to the RHUL Geography Department who generously donated £ 30' s worth of book tokens as a raffle prize. Pip and Al would like to thank all those from Royal Holloway who came along and were, as ever, fantastic in their support of the event.

Proceeds from the party will be used for postgraduate travel bursaries to attend conferences next year. Details of these bursaries will be posted on the PGF website:

<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/RGS-PGF> (which is also accessible from the RGS-IBG website, under 'Research' and 'Research Groups'). The website is updated regularly with useful links and information for postgraduates so please check it from time to time.

The next PGF event to put in your diaries is the Postgraduate Forum Conference to be held at Nottingham University on Saturday 19th February - again details of this are to be found on the PGF website. It is an excellent opportunity for postgraduates to present their work at a national conference and to meet geography postgraduates from all over the UK .

David Simon represented CEDAR and DARG at the funeral-cum-memorial service for Anders Närman in Gothenburg on 3 December. He was one of the main speakers. Anders, the leading Nordic development geographer-activist, died suddenly on 15th November aged 56 (an obituary is posted on the CEDAR and DARB websites).