

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Duncan McGregor gave a talk on "Tropical Ecological Systems: what are they like, and how can we manage them?" to years 12 and 13 in the Geography Department of Herschel Grammar School, Slough . David Wilkins (graduated from RHUL Geography in 2002) has joined the staff of Herschel this Session.

Welcome to **Rosita Harvey** , our new Computer Technician, who started with the Department on the 2 nd of February. Rosita previously worked as a Computer Staff Support Technician at Dublin City University .

Felix Driver gave a paper on 'The art of navigation: the visual archive of travel' in the seminar run by HARC and the Centre for Victorian Studies on 'Locating nineteenth-century aesthetics: interdisciplinary conversations on the politics of the arts', 1800-1910', Royal Holloway, 18 th February.

Charles Howie presented a talk entitled 'Farmer Decision-making in the Mekong River Delta, Vietnam ' at the Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Seminar hosted by the Bedford Centre on Monday, 2 nd February

Klaus Dodds presented a lecture entitled 'Antarctica: Protecting a wilderness area', to 120 very enthusiastic Year 9 students at the Magna Carta School in Staines on the 10 th of February.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Felix Driver chaired a series of five seminars on the theme of 'Geography and the uses of film' in the Historical Geography series supported by Royal Holloway and held at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, University of London

Katie Willis chaired a session on 'Sexual and reproductive rights' at a Workshop on Gender and Law in Mexico , held at The Institute of Latin American Studies, London , 19-20 February.

PUBLICATIONS

James Duncan and **David Lambert** , 2004, 'Landscapes of home', in James Duncan, Nuala Johnson and Richard Schein (eds), *A Companion to Cultural Geography* (Blackwell), 382-403.

David Lambert , 2004, 'Creole negotiations: White anti-Methodism in Barbados , 1823-26' in Miles Ogborn and Charles Withers (eds), *Georgian Geographies: Essays on Space, Place and Landscape in the Eighteenth Century* (Manchester University Press).

Imrie, R ., 2004, '*Governing the Cities and the Urban Renaissance*' , in Whitehead, M. and Johnstone, C., (eds.), *New Horizons in British Urban Policy*, Ashgate, London , 129-143.

Yeoh, B.S.A. & **K. Willis** (eds) (2004) *State/Nation/Transnation: Perspectives on Transnationalism in the Asia-Pacific* , London : Routledge.

Willis, K . (2004) 'Approaches to gender and development: Perspectives from urban Mexico ', in A. Boran & B. Murphy (eds) *Gender in Flux* , Chester : Chester Academic Press, pp. 192-222.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Rob Kemp and **Nick Branch** have been awarded £6,400 by the Royal Society to support a new research project on 'the raised fields and q'ochas of the Titicaca Basin : environmental archaeological records of pre-Hispanic agriculture'

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Simon Blockley presented the QUISS Seminar on the 24 th of February entitled New Developments in Tephrochronology at RHUL.

Prof. Trudy Harpham of London South Bank University presented the CEDAR Annual Lecture entitled 'Young lives : an international study of child poverty' on the 10 th of February.

Katie Willis presented the CEDAR Seminar entitled 'The Globalisation of Health Discourses, Policies and Practices: health sector reform in Mexico ' on the 16 th of February.

Dr. Nick Megoran, University of Cambridge presented the Departmental Seminar on the 19 th of February entitled 'Bordering on the insane? : Critical Geopolitics of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan boundary dispute.

Prof Louis Dupon , Director of the *Laboratoire Espace et Culture* and teacher at the University of Paris (Sorbonne) visited the Department on Monday 16 February. One of his PhD students, Benoit Frelon, visited the Social & Cultural Geography Group during February.,

Professor Alan Jenkins of Oxford Brookes University , Higher Advisor for the Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences Subject Centre presented the Departmental Seminar on 26 th February. Entitled 'Linking Teaching and Research: International Perspectives'.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

PGF Mid-Term Conference, Saturday 21st February

On Saturday 21st February the annual mid-term conference of the RGS-IBG's Postgraduate Forum was hosted by Royal Holloway at 11 Bedford Square . The event was organised by **Pippa Biltcliffe, Alasdair Pinkerton** and **Becca Edwards** . The day was a massive success with over ninety delegates attending from all over the UK , making it one of the largest national gatherings of postgraduate geographers ever held. With over thirty papers given by postgraduates from all aspects of the discipline, the day emphasised the dynamic and thriving nature of the postgraduate research community.

We would like to give our warmest thanks to both the staff and students of the geography department for their continued support and help, without which, such an event would not have been possible. Particular thanks go out to **Rob Kemp, Felix Driver, Klaus Dodds and Tariq Jazeel** who addressed the delegates at the plenary sessions, and to **Fiona Henderson** and **Simon Blockley** who gave feedback on research posters. Special thanks also to **Kathy Roberts, Jenny Kynaston, Graham Bishop** , and **Anne Ballard** for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

Jay Mistry , together with Matthew Simpson of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and Andrea Berardi of the Open University, carried out fieldwork for the 'Sustainable management of the Rupununi' (Darwin Initiative) project. This involved meeting with stakeholders both in Georgetown and in the Rupununi, running a training course at the Iwokrama Centre for Conservation and Development field station, and two seven-day boat trips along the Essequibo and Rupununi Rivers selecting sites and training local counterparts in monitoring techniques. In total, thirty sites were selected, and monitoring work will begin in April.