

Department Newsletter

June 2002 Number 119

STAFF AND STUDENTS

A reception to launch the Visualising Geography Landing exhibition took place in the department on Wednesday 19th June.

Ed Derbyshire's proposal (with Professor Peter Sammonds of UCL) on 'The natural fabrics of collapsible sediments during freezing, melting, dehydration and hydration: a dynamic approach using environmental electron microscopy', has been successful in the recent competition, run by the Electron Microscope Unit, to find projects likely to help development of new techniques in the use of the Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope (ESEM). The "prize" is 40 free hours of ESEM/Technician time (value £400).

David Simon has been invited to join the Editorial Board of the South African Geographical Journal.

Peter French acted as University of London examiner in the Geology Department, Royal Holloway, for a PhD thesis entitled 'Cherniers of the Essex Coast: morphology, sedimentology and management for coastal defence'.

Klaus Dodds has been awarded a Visiting Erskine Fellowship to be held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch between November-December 2002.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon attended the biennial DFID Policy Forum, led by Clare Short, in London on 20 June.

David Simon participated in a round table discussion with Abel Chivukuvuku, a key UNITA leader and possible contender for the party leadership to succeed Jonas Savimbi, at the British-Angola Forum, Chatham House, on 14 June.

David Simon was the Faculty Opponent of the PhD thesis, 'The Bright Lights Grow Fainter; livelihoods, migration and a small town in Zimbabwe', by Agnes Andersson, in the Dept. of Human Geography, Univ. of Stockholm, on 7 June.

David Simon attended a roundtable with Lopo de Nascimento, former Angolan Prime Minister, at the British Angola Forum, Chatham House, London, on 26 June.

As a member of the selection panel, **David Simon** attended report back presentations by returned RGS-IBG Slawson Postgraduate Award winners in London on 26 June.

As a former Rhodes Scholar and Linacre alumnus, **David Simon** attended the dinner at Linacre College, Oxford, on 27 June to mark the opening of the Rhodes Building at Linacre.

David Simon attended the quarterly meeting of the Journal of Southern African Studies editorial board, at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, on 28 June.

Danielle Schreve attended a press conference at the site of Lynford, Norfolk on 25th June.

The site (c. 50 000 years old) is currently being excavated by the Norfolk Museums Service Archaeological Unit and was subsequently reported extensively in the national press, television and radio. It contains the remains of at least 4 mammoths (one of them juvenile), woolly rhinos, reindeer and brown bear, associated with Mousterian handaxes and knapping debris. Danielle and Russell Coope will be working on the vertebrate and beetle remains respectively.

PUBLICATIONS

Bradford, A., Brook, R. and Hunshal, C. (2002) Wastewater Irrigation: Hubli-Dharwad, India. Paper produced for the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and ETC-Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF) Electronic Conference on: The use of (untreated) urban wastewater in agriculture, 24th June to 5th July 2002.

D.F.M. McGregor (2002) 'Communities protecting water', Insights 41, 6 (ID21 Institute of Development Studies).

Schreve, D.C., Bridgland, D.R., Allen, P., Blackford, J.J., Gleed-Owen, C.P., Griffiths, H.I., Keen, D.H. and White, M.J. 2002. Sedimentology, palaeontology and archaeology of late Middle Pleistocene River Thames terrace deposits at Purfleet, Essex, UK. Quaternary Science Reviews 21/12-13, 1423-1464.

Reviews

French, P.W. (2002), review of Markandye, A. and Dale, N. (eds) 2001, Measuring Environmental Degradation: Developing Pressure Indicators for Europe, Land Degradation and Development, 13: 2639-273.

Howie, C. (2002), review of Xuan, V. and Matsui, S. (eds) 1998, Development of Farming Systems in The Mekong Delta, Vietnam, Land Degradation and Development, 13: 2639-273.
Howie, C. (2002), review of Bowen, D. (1998), The Mekong River Basin: Case Studies in Biodiversity and Ecologically Sustainable Development, Land Degradation and Development, 13: 2639-273.

Imrie, R., 2002, review of Flyvbjerg, B., 2001, Making social science matter: why social inquiry fails and how it can succeed again, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, in Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design, 29, 3, 461-462.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Andy Bradford contributed to the discussion on 'strategies to ensure proper management by the farmers of the health and environmental risks associated with the use of untreated wastewater' in the IWMI and ETC-RUAF Electronic Conference: The use of (untreated) urban wastewater in agriculture, 24th June to 5th July 2002.

Rob Imrie gave the keynote address at the Joint PRESCO-CRISP International Workshop on

'Sustainable Construction: Recommendations and Indicators', held in Ostend, Belgium, June 23rd-25th.

On 5 June, **David Simon** presented a session on 'The Social Shaping of Urban Space', to a 35-strong group of young professionals from the global South and transitional European countries, at the third training workshop of the International Human Dimensions of Global Change Programme (IHDP), organised by the IHDP Secretariat in Bonn. The workshop took place in Königswinter, outside Bonn.

Rob Potter and **Joan Phillips** commenced the fieldwork on their Leverhulme Trust funded project on foreign-born and young returning nationals, during March and April 2002. Initial work is focusing on Barbados, and produced in collaboration with the Facilitation Unit for Returning Nationals (FURN), of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr Joan Phillips will be continuing the in-depth interviews with returnees through to the end of June. Whilst in Barbados, Rob Potter presented copies of 'Low Cost Housing in Barbados: Evolution or Social Revolution' to the Prime Minister of Barbados and the Minister of Housing and Lands.

Danielle Schreve attended the Stage 3 project meeting in Cambridge, 20th-22nd June.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Elfar Loftsson (Södertörns University, Stockholm) visited **David Simon** and **Peter French** on 11 June to discuss mutual interests in African development-environment, and temperate coastal zone management, respectively.

GRANTS

Andrea Colantonio has been awarded the following in support of fieldwork in connection with his PhD research on "Foreign-direct investment and the urban Caribbean: Cuba in the Special Period" (supervisor Rob Potter):

- Developing Areas Research Group (DARG) of the RGS/IBG, Postgraduate Travel Award, 2002, £500.
- Dudley Stamp Memorial Trust £200
- British Airways/RGS-IBG Travel Bursary: flight to either Kingston, Jamaica or Mexico City.
- Waterstone's Gower Street Book Award, £40 worth of Waterstone's vouchers to assist in purchasing books.