

STAFF AND STUDENTS

David Simon and **Katie Willis** attended the Sir Robert Birley Memorial Lecture at City University, given by Manuel Castells on the subject 'Universities and cities in a world of global networks', on 17 th March. Following the lecture, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of science.

David Simon was interviewed live in the prime time extended interview on Australian Broadcasting Corporation National Radio's 'Breakfast' programme (equivalent to Radio 4's Today programme) on 11 March about the Namibian government's plans to accelerate land redistribution and concerns that it might follow the Zimbabwean route.

David Simon organised and hosted the Department's annual Careers' Evening for current students, on Monday 8 th March. Laura Carr (BSc 1995); Eve Billingham (MA 1998), Daniel Tain (BA 1998) and **Nick Branch** (PhD 1999), four alumni of the Department working in different fields explained how they had utilised their geography degrees and how their career tracks have evolved. This is the major event of our annual careers' advisory activities, all of which are conducted in conjunction with the College's Careers Service.

Rebecca Edwards , RHUL Postgraduate presented the Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Seminar, hosted by Bedford College , entitled 'Urban Policy, New Labour and Local Authorities: The Implications for English Public Spaces' on Monday, 15 th March.

Steve Bell presented a paper entitled "Repoliticising participatory development for an empowerment agenda" at the RGS Postgraduate Forum on 21 st February 2004.

Welcome back to **Tim Unwin** who returns to the Department on the 1 st of April following a three year secondment on the DFID Imfundo initiative. Tim will be taking over as Director of Graduate Studies with immediate effect.

Jay Mistry was internal examiner for the doctoral viva of Alistair Smith (supervised by Dr Martin Wooster) of the Department of Geography, King's College London, which took place on the 29 th March. The thesis was entitled 'Determining nitrogen volatilised within African savanna fires via ground-based remote sensing'.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon has been invited to act as an advisor to the Commission for Africa being set up by the Prime Minister. Members announced so far include representatives of several governments and Bob Geldof.

David Simon attended the Trustees' meeting of the Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa , at the House of Lords, on 26 th February.

David Simon was co-chair of the Open Forum on Zimbabwe-South African relations in the context of the current Zimbabwean crisis, held in the Brunel Theatre at SOAS on Saturday 28 th February. Speakers included Brian Kagoro, Chair of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Committee, and Moeletsi Mbeki, journalist and vice-chair of the South African Institute of International Affairs (and brother of the SA President). Organised by the Britain-Zimbabwe Society, Zimbabwe Association and Canon Collins Educational Trust, it attracted a capacity crowd from across the political spectrum.

Jay Mistry gave a talk on the 9 th March as part of the Research Seminar series of the Geography Department at King's College London entitled 'Indigenous fire management in the Brazilian savannas: the case of the Krahô of Tocantins'.

PUBLICATIONS

Tim Unwin (2003) *Oino V kai Ampelo V : mia istorikh gewgrafia th Vampelokalliergeia V kai tou oinemporiou*, Aqhna: Ekdosei V Iwn, 420 pp (Revised Greek Edition of *Wine and the Vine*)

Driver, F. , 'Imagining the tropics: views and visions of the tropical world; Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 25 (1), pp. 1-17.

Imrie, R., 2004, Dymystifying disability: a review of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 26, 3, 287-305.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Scott Elias has been awarded £101,737 from the Leverhulme Trust, to fund a three-year project entitled 'Reconstruction of isotope stage 17-5 interglacial environments in Eastern Beringia .' The grant begins in June of this year.

Mark Stephens has been awarded a Geological Survey of Norway Networking Grant (£2,376.65) to conduct fieldwork and palaeomagnetic labwork analysis on the Quaternary cave deposits of western Norway .

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Richard Hodgkins presented a lecture entitled Glacial Landscapes and Processes, Climate and the retreat of glaciers : the environmental implications, on Monday 1 st March. The lecture forms part of the Lectures in Geography series which the Department has been running aimed at AS and A-level curricula students.

On February 10th, the Department of Geography welcomed a group of 8 refugees and their tutor from the Refugee Council. A series of widening participation events were organised including a tour of the campus and the Queen's building, a talk by **Professor David Simon** about studying for a degree at university, and a presentation and practical demonstrations by **Adrian Palmer** about the different types of laboratory based research that is carried out in the Department of Geography. In the evening, the group attended the annual lecture of the Centre for Developing Areas Research, a talk about the amelioration of child poverty. The attendees originate from a range of African countries, including Rwanda , Burundi , Ethiopia , and the Ivory Coast .

Sylvester Akhaine , Centre for Constitutionalism and Democracy, Lagos and RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar entitled 'Civil Society and Human Rights Diplomacy: The Diary of an Activist' on Monday 1 st March.

Jane Parpart from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London presented the CEDAR Seminar entitled 'Gender, Power and Governance in a Globalizing World"on Monday 8 th March.

Dr. Mary Edwards from Southampton University presented the QUISS Seminar entitled 'Holocene Paleohydrological history and boreal forest dynamics in interior Alaska ' on Wednesday, 3 rd March.

Matthew Canti of English Heritage presented the QUISS Seminar entitled 'The Interpretive Potential of the Calcium Carbonate Granules Produced by Earthworms" on Monday 8 th March

Steve Pawley , Postgraduate at RHUL, presented the QUISS Seminar entitled 'The Surging Glacier Land System : examples from high-arctic Svalbard ' on Tuesday, 16 th March.

Marilyn James from EDC, RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on Thursday, 18 th March entitled 'Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. dyslexia) in an Academic Context'.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

David Simon led a 4-day adult education trip to Berlin from 19-22 February to study the city's urban and cultural history, particular of its Jewish community.

Tim Unwin participated in two panel sessions at the Association of American Geographers' centennial annual meeting held in Philadelphia from 16 th -20 th March, one on the notion of terroir, and the other on teaching the geography of Europe .

Steve Bell spent five weeks in Uganda building initial contacts with governmental and non-governmental organisations working with young people for his PhD fieldwork. He was also working as an advisor to an NGO called Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW) running a rural community-based health education programme. This involved helping to plan, coordinate and lead four weeks intensive training programme in non-formal and participatory education techniques for the 60 Ugandan, British and Australian volunteers working from

January - September of this year, as well as helping to develop SPW's Monitoring and Evaluation system.

Fiona Henderson presented a paper at the AAG conference in Philadelphia on March 17th. The title of the paper was: 'Re-Mapping Romantic Paris : Gay Guides to Paris 1945-2002'

Toby Butler took a group of second year students to the Museum of London in preparation for the undergraduate field trip to Glasgow . The idea of the trip was to introduce the students to the realities of museology and show them a traditional approach to museum display that would contrast with some of Glasgow 's community centred museums. The students were given a 'behind the scenes' tour of the museum stores in Hackney which was said to hold the biggest social history collection in Britain . They also saw the new 1920's exhibition at the museum and questioned Cathy Ross, head curator of the Later Department. The students were also given a talk by Catherine Speight, an ex-RH geography student, who now works as a curator in the oral history section at the museum - a fine role model! On the Glasgow field trip the students went on to encounter several contrasting approaches to displaying cultural identity at St Mungo's museum of religion, the Open Museum, Pollock Kist (a community museum in a Leisure Centre) and the People's Palace. Students met and questioned curators at each site, using the experience as a basis for their own independent research.

Glasgow Field Trip - 2004. This human geography fieldtrip has been a huge success once again! Led by **Rob Imrie** , **Fiona Henderson** , **Toby Butler** and **Becca Edwards** , students learnt about wide ranging issues in Glasgow , from urban regeneration through to the cultural geographies of museums through to the marketing of the city of Glasgow . In addition to having the opportunity to work on individual projects, students were able to meet with local officials (in the City Council and the Scottish Executive) as well as eminent academics such as Dr Andy Cumbers, Dr Mark Boyle and Dr Gesa Helms. The trip was also a success socially with the opportunity to indulge in Glasgow 's modern café culture, ten pin bowling and the city's well known clubbing scene. The trip finished more traditionally with a ceilidh, in which **Rob** and **Fiona** excelled in Scottish dancing, in addition to a few notable others! Glasgow 2004 was a most enjoyable trip with a wide variety of high quality research conducted.

Scott Elias , **Peter French** , **Richard Hodgkins** , **Xingmin Meng** , and **Catherine Wyatt** led the 2nd -year field trip to northwest England , 21-27 March. The trip was very successful and the 18 participating students worked steadily through each day, learning about coastal defenses, glacial land forms, paleoenvironments, and fluvial geomorphology. Post-doctoral research assistant Simon Blockley and doctoral students Ian Matthews and Adrian Palmer accompanied the Paleoenvironments group on their trip to core Clapham Bog in Yorkshire . An invigorating week of field research and learning was had by all.

Duncan McGregor, **David Simon** and **Katie Willis** took 24 Second Year students to Marich Pass Field Centre, West Pokot, Kenya , between 20 and 30 March, as part of GG2001 Field Research Training. The trip, though enervating in the 30+ C temperatures, was enjoyed by all, and the dry season broke fairly convincingly with torrential downpours at Marich and on the way home, at Nakuru. The group visited for the first time the Osarian flower exporting farm at Naivasha. All were impressed by the process (if perhaps not some 'gender' issues involved therein!), and the achieved target of 36 hours between cutting the flowers and display at your local Tesco.

