

Department Newsletter
March 2005, Number 147

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Don Thompson, Mike Dolton and Richard Hodgkins** who have been awarded the College's Team Award Teaching Prize for the first-year Spanish Field Course.

Congratulations to **Mary Dengler** who has been given the Individual Teaching Prize award for the deployment of an active learning approach on the core course for the MSc in Sustainability & Management.

Congratulations to **Phil Crang** who has been conferred with the title of Professor of Cultural Geography.

Welcome to **Katie Walsh**, who started her one-year ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship working on Transnationalism and the British Diaspora, on 1st March.

Welcome back **Barbara Silva**, who has been appointed as a Research Associate in Quaternary Science, working on the National Ice Age Network, a three-year project funded by English Heritage

Congratulations to **Kathryn Yusoff** who successfully defended her PhD viva on 10th March with only minor amendments required. The examiners were Nigel Clark (OU) and David Pinder (QMUL).

David Simon attended the quarterly editorial board meeting of the Journal of Southern African Studies in London on 1 April.

Catherine Wyatt left the Department on 24th March after nearly 8 years of service. Catherine was a Research Technician working on RHIER projects, and had previously been a Laboratory Technician in the Department. She played an important role in the development of wetland ecosystems research within the College and the Department. Catherine has accepted the post of Biodiversity Officer for the Hertfordshire Environmental Forum.

Alex Loftus has accepted the post of Academic Fellow (Sustainability), and he will be joining the Department with effect from 1st September 2005. This is a prestigious post, funded for five years by Research Councils UK under a new national scheme, and leading to a University Lectureship. Alex is currently completing a DPhil at Oxford on the politics of water. Alex will be visiting the Department for an informal chat on 20th April.

Rosita Harvey left the Department on 1st April to join the IT Department of Kingston University.

Welcome to **Savitha Ganapathy**, who has started work on a GIS project on aspects of regeneration in the Thames Valley supported by Westfocus, in collaboration with the GroundWork Trust/SEEDA.

The Geography Department at Royal Holloway, in collaboration with partners in Drama and Music, is hosting one of four framework seminars organised in connection with the AHRC Landscape and Environment programme, to take place this summer. The specific focus is on 'Enchantment: Creating Landscape through Performance'. **Phil Crang** is coordinating this initiative.

Scott Elias has been appointed as Programme Director of the MSc in Quaternary Science, with effect from 1st September 2005.

Felix Driver has been appointed as the Editor of the *Journal of Historical Geography*, published by Elsevier, with effect from 1st July.

Tim Unwin has been appointed Regional Editor for Europe of the MIT Press journal *Information Technologies and International Development*.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Peter French presented a talk entitled 'Managing coastal erosion - protection or interference' to A2 level students at Charters School, Sunningdale.

Duncan McGregor attended a planning meeting as interim Treasurer of the newly-constituted Climate Change Research Group, with RGS-IBG representatives on 11 March.

Tim Unwin has been appointed an Advisor for the Development Gateway's Open Educational Resources Topic which has been established with a grant of \$235,000 from the Hewlett Foundation"

Tim Unwin was one of the judges of the AtticLearning bursary for the development of an eLearning project that will actively involve and help schools and museums, libraries and archives (<http://www.atticlearning.com/bursary/>), the final presentations for which were held in London on 28th February.

Felix Driver acted as Discussant, with Tim Benton, on 12 papers read to the Postgraduate Research Day convened by the AHRB Centre for the Study of the Domestic Interior, at the Royal College of Art, 14 March.

David Simon was guest speaker at the Steers Society's annual dinner at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge on 3 March. This is Catz's geography society. David spoke on Steers in Geography.

PUBLICATIONS

Willis, Katie (2005) 'Theories and Practices of Development', London: Routledge.

Yeoh, Brenda & **Katie Willis** (2005) 'Singaporeans in China: Transnational women elites and the negotiation of gendered identities', 'Geoforum', 36:2, pp. 211-222.

Yeoh, Brenda & **Katie Willis** (2005) 'Singaporean and British transmigrants in China and the cultural politics of 'contact zones'', 'Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies', 31:2, pp. 269-286.

Bradford, A. (2005) Write Mind: Caught in the act! Q-News, Feb, 360: 58.

Felix Driver (2004) 'Distance and disturbance: travel: exploration and knowledge in the nineteenth century', Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, 14, pp. 73-92.

David Simon (2005) 'Contextualising South African local economic development within current development debates: the international setting', in E Nel and CM Rogerson (eds) Local Economic Development in the Developing World; the experience of Southern Africa, New Brunswick and London : Transaction, pp.17-35. (publication of paper by the same title from Urban Forum 14(2-3), 2003).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Department has been awarded a fourth collaborative PhD studentship, funded by ESRC, for a project on 'The material culture of health in central America' supervised by **Katie Willis**, in association with the Science Museum.

The Department has been successful in an application for an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award for a PhD project on 'Hidden Histories of Exploration', supervised by **Felix Driver**, in association with the Royal Geographical Society. This will start in September 2005.

The Department's three bids under the HEFCE Capital programme have received 'initial approval' from the college. Two of the bids, led by **Clive Gamble**, are devoted to high-precision dating archaeological applications and environmental archaeology (both in partnership with the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art); the other, led by **Phil Crang**, is for a Qualitative Methods Laboratory. The total grant bid for under these heads is £500k.

Nick Branch has been awarded a grant from Royal Holloway Enterprise Ltd in support of Archaeoscape publicity.

Felix Driver has been awarded an ESRC Collaborative Studentship on 'Colonial copyright and the photographic image: a Canadian case study' (with the British Library).

John Lowe has been awarded a Royal Holloway Research Strategy Fund (£4k) for a pump priming grant for a project on 'Proof of Concept of New Applications of Micro-Tephra Research'.

Karen Till has been awarded a British Academy research grant (£7k) to support a project on 'Memory-work in the new South Africa : sites and landscapes of trauma and healing'. She will work with the District Six collaboratively to organize four 'memory methodology' workshops with Cape Town, South Africa and international groups.

Tim Unwin has been awarded an ESRC Collaborative Studentship on 'The evaluation of technology-enhanced learning in Africa: theory and practice' (with Cisco Systems) due to begin in September 2005.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Tom Kennedy (independent consultant, Cape Town) visited **David Simon** on 8 March to discuss common interests regarding the impact of infrastructure on development in Africa and transitional economies.

Adrian Godfrey (Director Corporate Social Responsibility, Cisco) and Michelle Selinger (Education Strategist, Cisco, and Honorary Research Associate) visited the College on 4th March for a strategic planning meeting with colleagues in the ICT4D collective, and especially the Computer Science and Geography Departments."

Sandy Johnstone (Director CSR for Europe, Middle East and Africa at HP) visited the Department on 1st March and gave a lecture to the students doing GG3077 ICT4D on HP's CSR activities.

Alan Cooper from the Department of Zoology at Oxford University presented the QUISS Seminar entitled 'Studying Quaternary Events Using Ancient DNA' on the 10th of March.

Gemma Divall from the Educational Support Office presented the Departmental Seminar on 24th March and the talk was entitled 'Supporting students with physical disabilities in Geography'.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

David Lambert presented a paper at the 'Beyond imperial centre and colonial periphery' conference held at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities at the University of Cambridge (10-12 March, 2005).

David Simon, Katie Willis, Jay Mistry and **David Mandiyanike** led 27 2nd year undergraduates on the very successful GG2001 development/environment fieldcourse in Kenya, 12-22 March.

David Gilbert, David Lambert, Bronwen Edwards, Katie Walsh, Fayyez Vellani, Luke Dickens and **Hilary Geoghegan** ran a successful Glasgow field class from 13-19 March 2005 for 31 second year students. Visiting talks were given by Martin Waters, Dr Mark Boyle, and Dr Hayden Lorrimer and support given to the trip from the Glasgow University Archives, the Mitchell Library, staff at Glasgow University and many others.

Nineteen students and five staff went on the second-year physical geography field trip to northwest England , 18-24 March. The students participated in various two-day modules, including Fluvial Geomorphology, led by **Richard Hodgkins**, Coastal Environments, led by **Xingmin Meng**, and Glacial Landforms and Paleoecology, led by **Scott Elias**. The groups'

headquarters was Morecambe, but the various modules involved excursions into Cumbria , Yorkshire, and other parts of Lancashire . The weather was surprisingly good for March. We had no snow, and only occasional rain. Staff and students alike found it an exhilarating and worthwhile experience.

Rob Kemp attended a joint ICSU and IGCP 490 meeting on 'Holocene environmental catastrophes in South America' in Córdoba , Argentina from 11th-17th March. Rob presented a paper (with a number of co-authors including Nick Branch, Barbara Silva and Frank Meddens) on 'Sustainability and sensitivity to climatic change of Pre-Inca terrace agricultural systems in the southern Peruvian Andes', chaired a session on 'Catastrophes and the archaeological record', and co-led the post-conference field trip with two Argentinian colleagues.

Adam-Bradford, A. (2005) Hazards and Society in the Peri-urban Interface. Paper presented at the Auburn University Center for Forest Sustainability international conference 'Emerging Issues Along Urban/Rural Interfaces: Linking Science and Society', Atlanta , Georgia , 13-16 March 2005.

Tim Unwin attended the Online Education: Schools and ICT South East Asia Policy Forum organised by the British Council in Bangkok from 28th-30th March, during which he presented a short paper on "Learning beyond the classroom - The challenge of the new pedagogy", chaired sessions on "Language Learning and ICT" and on " Learning beyond the classroom - connecting home and school", and participated as a panellist in the final plenary session. He also met with prospective postgraduate students from Thailand , as well as the College's educational agent in Bangkok to discuss ways of enhancing postgraduate recruitment from the region.

Tim Unwin participated in the Governance in the Commonwealth: new issues and actors workshop held at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies from 13th-14th March, during which he presented a paper on "e-Governance and Development".

ANY OTHER NEWS

A Lovely day.

Wednesday 23rd March 2005 started off like any other day. South West Trains apologised for delayed trains, Michael Howard practiced smiling in his bathroom mirror. Michael Howard ordered another bathroom mirror from Argos after sweeping up the shards of glass from the bathroom floor - just another day. By 4.30 p.m. that afternoon, however, the day had been etched into the collective memory as one of the most thrilling sporting days ever to be held on 23rd March 2005 as the mighty Geography undergraduates' football squad sought revenge over the 'staff' side who had beaten them so gratefully the year before.

The undergraduate squad looked confident and relaxed before kick off as they knocked the ball about in front of a swelling crowd. At the other end of the pitch the staff side quietly grouped together an ensemble of post grads and staff that barely knew each other but, collectively, sensed the doom that awaited them. Paul Abbott, Steve Bell, Colin Clark, Steve Forden, Mike 'Crouchy' Harman, Rob Holdway, Jon Lewis, and Justin Spinney all made their debuts, as did the mighty Ian 'Cat 2' Matthews, in goal who laid the ghost of Ian 'Cat 1' Candy

firmly to rest. With so many debutants looking to impress the result became increasingly less than a forgone hammering. Fortunately the original 'spine' of Inaki 'Mr. Calm' Valcarel, Tim 'my hamstring's gone' Unwin, Mike 'yes I really am Bobby Moore's reincarnation' Dolton , Mark 'the Ghost' Stephens and the awesome Ade 'Colossus' Palmer managed to hold together a side that would not countenance defeat. Palmer crashed around the back line wreaking havoc on repeated Undergrad attacks while everyone else ran their socks off. Crouchy and Jon Lewis ran the undergrads back four ragged without managing to break the deadlock. Point blank saves from Cat2 left the undergrads bewildered and deflated as they struggled to overcome the loss of Vish Skinner who left the field after his head had found itself between the staff goal and a thunderous volley from one of his own players.

Despite relentless pressure from the Undergrads it was the Staff side who surged into a 2 goal lead with The Ghost dancing through repeated challenges to deftly put the Staff side in front. A late goal from the increasingly desperate Undergrads gave them some hope but a bizarre Irish jig from Tom Holmwood, when all he had to do was put the ball in the net from six inches from the line, left Michael Flatley impressed but the Undergrads still in deficit. The undergrads finally managed a last gasp equaliser which resulted in a grinding period of extra time and, ultimately, a penalty shoot out.

The tension became unbearable as Cat2 pulled off a save whilst the Staff kept their nerve and kept scoring. When Dolton eventually struck the sweetest of penalties the pressure on the Undergrads' shoulders proved too much. Despite Crouchy sending his penalty into orbit, Ross Willard could only stare in horror as his deciding penalty flew wide. The Staff side had fought magnificently and ground out the most improbable of victories. For the winners, unbelievable smugness. For the losers, a month of exams. Thanks to everyone who took part and turned up. Big thanks to Ross Willard for making the game happen and for making a clanger of a penalty.

Thank you to all those involved in the Department's splendid contribution to the College's Science Open Day on Saturday 19th March, notably **Nick Branch, Clive Gamble, Jenny Kynaston, Sue May, Danielle Schreve, Elaine Turton and Tim Unwin.**