

STAFF AND STUDENTS

The department welcomes **Anne Ballard** as the new part-time Departmental Secretary.

Congratulations to **Klaus Dodds** who will become Dean of the Graduate School from July 2003.

One of David Simon's former PhD students, **Dr. Maano Ramutsindela** (1999), now a lecturer at the University of Cape Town, has been awarded one of only 13 prestigious President's Awards by the National Research Foundation, in recognition of his impressive research and publications record and outstanding potential. These new nationally and internationally peer reviewed awards are designed to reward and encourage young researchers (under the age of 35), and includes research funding for five years.

Klaus Dodds was invited to an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Latin American Studies.

Tim Unwin has been appointed to the British Council's Education and Training Advisory Committee, which has/d its first meeting on 3rd October 2002.

Tariq Jazeel submitted his PhD thesis on the 26th September last. The thesis, entitled 'Being Sri Lankan: three cultural geographies', will be examined by Professor James Duncan (University of Cambridge) and Dr. Alison Blunt (Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London).

Rob Kemp acted as Internal Examiner for Jenny Heathcote's PhD Thesis on 'An investigation of the pedosedimentary characteristics of deposits associated with managed livestock'. The viva was held at the Institute of Archaeology on August 29th, Professor Donald Davidson (University of Stirling) being the other examiner.

Rob Imrie has been appointed external examiner for the MA, Space, Place and Politics (Research Training) degree in the Department of Geography at the University of Aberystwyth. The appointment is from 2002-03 for a period of three years.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon attended a strategy meeting at Reading University on 9 September for DFID Project R8090, Who Can Help the Peri-Urban Poor? (2002-4), in Kumasi, Ghana, on which he is a subcontractor.

David Simon gave a talk on 'Living in Third World Cities', to about 85 AS and A Level pupils and staff at Oundle School, Northamptonshire, on 1 October 2002.

Tim Unwin visited the Environmental Change Institute in Oxford University from 26-27th September as External Examiner for the MSc in Environmental Change and Management

Felix Driver gave a seminar on 'John Septimus Roe and the Art of Navigation, 1815-1830' in the Department of Geography at the University of Birmingham, 2 October 2002.

Felix Driver gave a lecture on the cultural geography of imperial London to students from the University of California, at the Museum of London, 9 October.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Earth Resources Committee of the Royal Society on 9 September 2002.

Catherine Nash gave a research seminar in the Department of Geography, University of Manchester on 23 October.

PUBLICATIONS

David Gilbert and **Fiona Henderson** (2002) 'London and the tourist imagination' in Pamela Gilbert (ed.) *London Imagined* (SUNY Press, Albany)

Iyenda Guillaume (2002) 'Pauvrete urbaine et secteur informel a Kinshasa', *Development et Cooperation*, no 5 pp18-21.

Imrie, R., 2002, 'Go softly, softly...and don't disturb the builders', *Access Journal*, Issue 8, Autumn, 20-21.

Janot Mendler, David Simon and **Paul Broome** (2002) 'Virtual development and virtual geographies: using the Internet to teach interactive courses in the global South', *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 26(3): 313-325.

David Simon (2002) 'Namibia's Economy: from Colonial Chattel to Postcolonial Pragmatism'; Chap 9 in A. Lemon and C.M. Rogerson (eds) *Geography and Economy in South Africa and its Neighbours* (Aldershot: Ashgate): 171-185.

David Simon (2002) 'Namibia: Succession Stakes', *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*, 21 October, V, 4pp.

Reviews

Charles Howie For the Journal of Land Degradation and Development [THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN: CASE STUDIES IN BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT](#) David Bowden, Australian Association for Environmental Education, Manly NSW Australia. [DEVELOPMENT OF FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE MEKONG DELTA, VIETNAM](#) edited by Vo-Tong Xuan and Sheigo Matsui, Ho Chi Minh City Publishing House

David Simon (2001) Review of Tony Hodges, *Angola from Afro-Stalinism to Petro-Diamond Capitalism* (James Currey, Oxford, and Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, IN, 2001); *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 35(3): 607-609.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

David Simon visited Sri Lanka from 20-31 August to act as co-leader of a workshop for university staff and district planners on Development Theory and Policy, financed by SIDA/SAREC and held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo, 21-8 August. This also involved a weekend fieldwork visit to the semi-arid Hambantota District. Following the workshop, David made a brief reconnaissance visit to Trincomalee, now again accessible since the ceasefire, and also met with his colleagues on the recently completed FISHSTRAT project to discuss aspects of the final report.

David Simon was in Uganda from 22-28 September, to facilitate a training workshop on Development Theory and Policy for the Social Science Faculty of Makerere University, as part of a Sida/SAREC funded link programme. He also visited the government Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI) in Jinja (adjacent to the source of the Nile River), from where **Julius Kanyemunya** and the late **Connie Tumwine** came to the experimental distance learning programme in 1998.

Between the 7th and 14th September, **Peter French** and Mike Green visited Tehran University, Alzahara Women's University, Shahid Beheshti University, Isfahan University of Technology, and Shiraz University in Iran to further the links between these and Royal Holloway science departments. A student from Shahid Beheshti starts work in our Geography Department in January.

Jay Mistry and Andrea Berardi of the Open University carried out fieldwork for one month during August in the state of Tocantins, Brazil. This involved interviewing Amerindians of the group Kraho on their use of fire, measuring wildfires in the field and ground-truthing remote-sensed images."

Ed Derbyshire convened and chaired an Ad Hoc Committee on the establishment of the Scientific Programme Committee of The International Year of Planet Earth (an IUGS-UNESCO initiative) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris 13-14 September.

Ed Derbyshire attended the annual meeting of the Chairpersons of the Five Intergovernmental Science Programmes of UNESCO, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, 3-5 October, culminating in policy consultations with Mr. K. Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO.

Felicity Callard attended the Emotional Geographies Conference at the Institute of Health Research, Lancaster University, September 23-25 and presented a joint paper with Dr Constantina Papoulias entitled 'Emotions or affect? The challenge of psychoanalytic approaches to psychic geographies'.

Rob Kemp chaired a session on 'Soils and Environmental Quality' at the British Society of Soil Science Annual Conference on 'Soils and the Environment' held at the University of Plymouth between 9-11 September.

Jenny Kynaston and **Xingmin Meng** visited the 38th Annual Society of Cartographers Summer School at John Moores University in Liverpool from the 2nd-5th September 2002. The summer school involved a valuable and informative series of lectures, workshops and visits and was attended by more than 70 delegates including cartographers, GIS specialists, geographers and graphic designers.

4 Staff and 18 postgraduates of the Social & Cultural Geography Group visited the Thames riverside between Tate Modern and the new GLA Building, on the afternoon of 22 October. Rose Jajee of the London Rivers Association (a member of the Department's External Advisory Board) spoke to the group about the cultural geography of the Thames.

Charles Howie (RHUL Geography Department/RHIER and Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester) returned in July from fieldwork in An Giang Province, Vietnam. He visited nearly 50 smallholder farmers in 3 communes in the Mekong Delta. The first stage of his PhD is to develop a typology of farming, later that will be followed with a closer look at decision-making. Some highlights of the fieldwork experience were recounted to colleagues at the departmental postgraduate forum in October under the title Doing research in Vietnam: some realities; some data; and some questions

GRANTS

Andy Bradford has been granted additional funds by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) to support continued research work into community-based waste management strategies in the peri-urban areas of Kumasi, Ghana. This now brings the total sum awarded to US\$3300. The work will also contribute to the [Canadian] International Development Research Centre (IDRC) funded project on 'Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) and Waste'.

Charles Howie has gained an NERC/ESRC award for research into decision-making by small scale farmers in Vietnam. This enables him to convert from a part-time to a full time PhD student.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Etienne Nel (Rhodes University, Grahamstown) visited **David Simon** on 17th September to discuss common research interests.

Professor Susan Smith (Edinburgh) visited the department on 11 October, in her capacity as Visiting Examiner for the MA in Cultural Geography (Research).