

Department Newsletter

April 2005, Number 148

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **David Mandiyanike** , who has successfully passed the College's PG Certificate in Teaching Skills in Higher Education programme.

Sylvester Odion Akhaine (PhD 2004) has been selected as a Stanford Summer Fellow on Democracy and Development, in a programme which will take place from August 1-19, 2005 at Stanford University . This is a very prestigious and highly competitive award.

David Simon attended a talk by William Gumede (Wits University , South Africa) on Mbeki's Foreign Policy, with particular reference to Zimbabwe , at Chatham House, London , on 20 April.

Andy Bradford in the build-up to the General Election participated on a live BBC broadcast on the 24 April 2005, in his informal capacity of geo-political analyst of urban guerrilla movements. In fact, it was the BBC London Tessa Dunlop's Lunchtime Entertainment Show and responding to her call for suggestions of British political films, Andy phoned in and nominated Citizen Smith (sitcom that followed the exploits of the Tooting Popular Front), in doing so, he won himself two tickets for a West End cinema, and started a debate on the merits of screenplay writer John Sullivan.

On April 26th **Mary Dengler** participated in a focus group session about Education for Sustainable Development hosted by the Geography, Earth and Environmental Science (GEES) subject centre. Mary presented a poster Deployment of an Active Learning Curriculum to Enhance Student Learning about Sustainability, which is based on her teaching for the MSc Sustainability and Management.

Julia Symons , one of our alumnae (BSc Geography, 2000) has won a prestigious Leverhulme Trust Study Abroad Scholarship 2005, which will fund her 2-year MSc programme of research on the impact of soil pH on crop productivity in North West Zambia. She is registered at the University of Stellenbosch , South Africa . Julia was born in Zambia and returned to work there for three years after graduation, establishing a development NGO in the process. She also undertook her undergraduate dissertation research on the Mkushi commercial farming area in Zambia .

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin participated in the UN ICT Task Force and GESCI meeting held in Dublin from 13th-14th April. Dr. Michelle Selinger, Honorary Research Associate, was a lead discussant in the break-out session on Learning Strategies.

Dr. Alasdair Unwin , representing the ICT4D Collective, participated in the User Challenge Workshop for the Government's Foresight programme for the detection and identification of infectious diseases held in Croydon on 13th-14th April, and chaired by Sir David King.

David Simon has been appointed by the Scientific Committee of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) to the Executive Scientific Steering Committee of the newly launched IHDP core project on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change. IHDP is linked to IPCC, ICSU, ISSC and the IGBP.

David Lambert spoke at a conference on 'Nation and Empire', sponsored by the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, held at the LSE (20-21 April).

Mark Stephens presented a paper on the "Micromorphology of Tropical Cave Sediments: The Great Cave of Niah, Sarawak" at the UK Archaeological Science 2005 conference at the University of Bradford on 14 April 2005.

Scott Elias attended a UKPopNet-funded workshop at York University from 12-15 April. The workshop investigated the impacts of climate change on extinction. The workshop included about 25 European scientists, mainly population biologists working on the response of the modern fauna and flora of Europe to climate change. The aim of the workshop was to produce a manuscript on this topic, to be submitted to Science in the near future.

Mike Dolton attended the 'Developing an Inclusive Curriculum' conference held by the Geography Discipline Network in Coventry on 21 April.

PUBLICATIONS

Imrie, R ., 2004, Urban Geography, Relevance, and Resistance to the 3 Policy Turn2, Urban Geography, Vol. 25, No. 8: 697-708.

Ali Saeidi and **Tim Unwin** (2004) Wine in the poetry of Hafiz, Journal of Wine Research, 15(2), 97-114.

David Simon (2004) Chapter 9, 'Recent trends in development theory and policy: implications for democratisation and governance', in S. Odion-Akhaine (ed) Governance: Nigeria and the World. Lagos : CENCOD, pp. 118-132.

David Simon (2005) 5 entries in T. Forsyth (ed) Encyclopedia of International Development (London & New York : Routledge)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa , p. 99

Equitable development, pp. 214-5

Intermediate technology, pp. 367-8

People-centred development, p. 522

Southern African Development Community, p. 649

David Simon (co-author with R. Sánchez-Rodríguez, Karen Seto, William Solecki, Frauke Kraas and Gregor Laumann) (2005) Science Plan: Urbanization and Global Environmental Change. IHDP Report 16, International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, Bonn . (60pp) ISSN 1814-7925.

Felix Driver , 'Geographical Knowledge, Exploration and Empire', in N Thrift and S Whatmore (eds), Cultural Geography: Critical Concepts in the Social Sciences (Routledge, 2005), vol. 1

Derbyshire, E . 2005. Natural aerosolic mineral dusts and human health: potential effects. In: Selinus, O., Alloway, B., Centeno, J.A., Finkelman, R.B., Fuge, R., Lindh, U., Smedley, P. (eds.) Essentials of Medical Geology, Elsevier, Chapter 18, 459-480.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Luke Dickens won the annual AAG Qualitative Methods Specialty Group Student Research Award for his Ph.D., "Performing the Urban Margins: Post-graffiti, Public Art and Urban Spaces". The grant will be used to buy equipment to support his research of 'post-graffiti' artists and mappings of London . Congratulations to Luke on a very competitive international award in geography!

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

On 20 April, Graham Tubb and Tanya Mennie (an alumna of our MA Geog of Third World Development programme), respectively the Head of Sustainable Development, and Sustainable Business Manager of SEEDA, visited the Department to meet **David Simon, Rob Imrie, Jay Mistry, Mary Dengler** as well as **Dirk Matten and Jeffrey Unerman** (School of Management) to discuss mutual interests in the field of sustainability and CSR, and to explore possible areas for future collaboration.

Tim Allen (Recently Head of Rural Economies and Strategies Division, and also responsible for the Rural Funding Review in Defra) visited the Department on 27th April to discuss possibilities of collaboration, particularly in the context of the establishment of the new Environment and Policy Research Group.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

David Simon was in Colorado from 2-9 April to participate in the Association of American Geographers' Developing Areas Specialty Group and Political Geography Specialty Group conference in Boulder , 4-5th April, and the annual conference of the AAG in Denver 6-9th April. At the former, he co-chaired a plenary discussion on 'Globalization and development: Northern and Southern perspectives' (4th April) and convened and spoke in a plenary

discussion on 'Key Thinkers in Development' (5th April). In Denver, David participated in a panel on 'Urbanization and Global Environment Change: interactions and responses within cities' (7th April), presented a paper entitled '(Post)Development and (Post)Colonialism: how/ever the twain shall meet' in the session on Postcolonialism and Development (7th April), and was the first speaker in the first of three sessions on 'Piers Blaikie's Life Work: Political Ecology and Development Studies' (8th April).

Ed Derbyshire was invited to visit the Instituto Canario de Ciencias Marinas in the Universidad de Las Palmas on 10 March to discuss with staff research collaboration on sources, pathways and human impact of Saharan minerogenic dusts.

Ed Derbyshire met Mr. T. Craddock, U.K. Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO on 4 April, in order to discuss aspects of the recent UNESCO budget proposals, with particular emphasis on their potential impact on the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP).

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Management Team of the International Year of Planet Earth in UNESCO, Paris, on 5 April.

Ed Derbyshire met the Deputy Ambassador to UNESCO of Pakistan in Paris on 6 April to discuss Pakistan's political support for a UN International Year of Planet Earth.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Working Group for input into UNESCO's Executive Board of the Natural Sciences Committee, United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO on 13 April at the Royal Society, London.

Ed Derbyshire met Shabir Banday on 13 April at the Geological Society to discuss the prospects of future work on aerosolic dust in Ladakh.

Katie Willis gave a paper at the AAG conference in Denver entitled 'Mexican health sector reform: Discourses of health, choice and well-being.'