

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Tim Unwin has been invited to be a member of the Programme Planning Group for the 5th Pan-Commonwealth Forum to be presented by the Commonwealth of Learning and the University of London during the period 13th-17th July 2008. The series started in Brunei in 1999, with the next forum being held in Ocho Rios in November 2006.

Welcome to **Steve Pawley** who has joined the Department as a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant for three years from May 2006 Steve will be working on the Leverhulme-funded project on the case for MIS 6 age Scandinavian sourced ice-sheet in eastern England, with Jim Rose and Richard Bailey.

Welcome to **Professor Gi Young Jeung**, of Andong National University , South Korea , who is visiting the Department for 12 months to conduct collaborative research on loess palaeosols with Rob Kemp.

Welcome to **Amanda Ferguson** (third year undergraduate) who will be working for Jim Rose over the summer from 1st July.

Clive Gamble completed his fourth and final year as External examiner for the Human Sciences degree at the University of Sussex .

David Simon was external examiner for the DPhil thesis of Alexander Thornton, 'Beyond the metropolis: a critical analysis of urban and peri-urban agriculture in two selected small urban centres in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa ', University of Sussex , 29 June. The internal examiner was Alan Lester.

Katie Willis acted as an external examiner for a PhD in Sociology at The University of Essex. The PhD was entitled 'Building Migratory Trajectories: Guatemalans, Salvadorians and Hondurans at the South Mexican Border' and the candidate was Carmen Fernández.

William Davies, Post Doctoral Research Assistant on the NERC funded Megafauna Project, has just been appointed to a lectureship in Palaeolithic archaeology at the University of Southampton . William will be starting in October.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Rob Kemp gave an invited keynote presentation entitled ' Environmental change: soil system response and records' at the British Geomorphological Research Group Meeting on 'Geomorphology and Earth System Science' held at the University of Loughborough between 28-30 June.

On 18 June **Dr Alex Loftus** presented his findings from a series of workshops on urban interventions in London as part of an urban forum organised by City Mine(d) (for more information see www.generalizedempowerment.org). The keynote speaker was Professor Saskia Sassen. Alex's work with City Mine(d) on Democratic Interventions into the Urbanisation of Nature has recently been short-listed for the ESRC Michael Young Prize. The workshops for the project have brought together some of the most innovative artistic practitioners working on urban interventions in London .

Fernando Garcia and **Philip Crang** presented a paper on 'Café cultures and hospitable cities' at a day-long workshop on The Hospitable City hosted by the 'Urban cultures and consumption' cluster of the School of Geography, University of Leeds , June 22nd.

Ed Derbyshire attended the inaugural Annual Conference of the UK Commission for UNESCO at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham , on 17 June, and the pre-Conference Dinner on 16 June, at which the speaker was the Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development.

Clive Gamble attended the 10th meeting of the research Advisory panel of English Heritage on June 7th.

David Simon chaired the UoL Centre of African Studies research seminar by Muchiparara Musemwa (University of South Africa) on 'A tale of two cities: the evolution of the city of Bulawayo and Makokoba township under conditions of scarcity of water, 1894-1953', at SOAS on 8 June.

David Simon was discussant at the workshop on 'Debating the Namibian state: civil society, citizenship and the public good', Dept of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester , on 1 June, organised as part of an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Felix Driver attended a meeting of the Steering Group for the Centre for Art and Travel, at the National Maritime Museum , which is organising a series of workshops in 2006-7 funded by AHRC, 30 June.

FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS

David Simon was in Vancouver from 17th-23rd June to attend the Scientific Steering Committee meeting of the IHDP's Urbanisation and Global Environmental Change programme, and to participate in the World Urban Forum 3, held at the Vancouver Conference and Exhibition Centre. The researchers' session, in which the UGEC team participated, was heavily oversubscribed and raised some important issues. Over 10,000 people attended WUF3, which was a fascinating window on the worlds of urban research, activism, policy-making and governance.

Alban Igwe , PhD student, attended a four day conference in Trondheim, Norway on "Mobilities in Transit" - courtesy of Norwegian University of Science and Technology sponsorship.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Professor Mauricio Abreu, of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, visited the Department in May 2006 and presented a seminar in the London historical geography series, convened by **David Lambert**, during this period.

Dr. Sanjay Chaturvedi from the Centre for the Study of Geopolitics, Panjab University presented the first Politics and Environment Research Group Seminar on Friday, 23rd June.

Day in the Ice Age

Barbara Silva & Danielle Schreve organised a Day in the Ice Age (as part of the National Ice Age Network initiative) at the Geography Dept on 24th June.

In room G1, people could try lots of different 'Ice Age' research techniques including identifying pollen grains (**Barbara Silva & Zoe Hazell** - an ex-MSc Quaternary Scientist), beetles (**Scott Elias**) and sediments (Mark Stephens - University of Leicester) as well as Ice Age mammal remains. Andy Currant kindly lent us some more unusual mammal fossils from the Natural History Museum collection to complement the existing mammalian collection, including a fossilised sloth skin from Patagonia , sabre tooth cat skull and a very impressive woolly rhino skull. He, **Danielle Schreve, Barnaby Crocker** and **Caroline Juby** were on hand to talk to people about Ice Age animals. Pierre Scheve also demonstrated 'restoration in action' with an aurochs skull excavated earlier this year. Dr John McNabb (University of Southampton) and Dr Jenni Chambers (University of Birmingham) had displays of Stone Age tools and put the stone tools to impressive use in butchery demonstrations on a pig's belly!

In room 136, there were interactive stalls and displays from Surrey County Archaeological Unit on the finds from North Park Farm (a site that members of the dept have been involved in) and the Wildwood Trust, with a fantastic variety of animal skins and bones on display for people to handle. Kent RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) put on a large display of fossils from Kent , and Helen Leaf (UCL) provided a musical element with her bone flutes. The Bushcraft Magazine had a wide variety of edible plants and funghi for people to taste, ranging from pickled nasturtium seeds to elderberries.

Out in the Quad , **Lucy Farr** was in charge of cave painting and some beautiful murals were produced (still in the loading bay if anyone would like to see them before they disappear). Faces were painted (lots of sabre tooth cats) and spears made (Alistair Brown - University of Southampton and **Fiona Coward**) - and not just by children either! Phil Harding's flint knapping demonstrations were very popular as well as Gavin Stacey's demonstrations of Stone Age survival techniques including fire and twine making. Finally, but not least, **Clive Gamble** gave a very well received lecture on 'Human Origins' in which the infamous scene of him eating widgety grubs was shown, much to the delight of the younger members of the audience!

Thanks are also due to Ruth Temple and Naomi Weston for staffing the reception desk and **Jenny Kynaston** for all the printing, as well as other volunteers on hand to help out on the day. It was a great success, with over 230 people attending - many thanks to all in the Department who supported and attended this event.

PUBLICATIONS

Kemp, R.A., Zárate, M.A., Toms, P., King, M., Sanabria, J. & Argüello, G. (2006). *Late Quaternary paleosols, stratigraphy and landscape evolution in the Northern Pampa, Argentina*. Quaternary Research 66, 119-122.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Sorayya Khan, a PhD student in the department, has been awarded the Paul Broome Development Research Prize of £200, for her research on Community Participation in Health Service Provision in Rural Mali.

David Simon has been awarded £7,500 from the British Academy Small Grants Scheme for a study of 'The road beyond hell: the influence of Holocaust survivors on development thinking'.

The AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme, Research Networks and Workshops Scheme has awarded funding for a 1 year programme of workshops on the theme 'On-the-Go: mobilities, settlement and performance'. The grant holder is **Philip Crang**, working with **Clive Gamble** and **Tim Cresswell** as well as colleagues at RHUL in Drama and Theatre, English and Music.

ANY OTHER NEWS

On Saturday June 3rd, postgraduates from the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group ran a one-day postgraduate conference on 'researching cultural spaces', in collaboration with colleagues from Queen Mary, University of London. Funded by the AHRC, and held at RHUL's central London premises, the day combined 48 presentations by PhD students with two plenary talks by **Professor Tim Cresswell** (RHUL) and Dr Jane Rendell (Bartlett, UCL). The conference was noticeable for its interdisciplinarity, with speakers drawn not only from Geography but also from departments of Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Art, Cultural Studies, Dance, English, French, History, Informatics, Literature, Media and Film Studies, Modern Languages, Sociology, and Theatre and Performance Studies amongst others. Papers were focused around four themes: exploring im/materialities, re-presenting landscape, mobilising identity and placing performance. Further details will continue to be posted on the conference webpages, to be found at www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/cultspaces. The postgraduate organising committee were **Luke Dickens** (RHUL, lead organiser), **Hilary Geoghegan** (RHUL), Fiona McConnell (QMUL), Holly McLaren (QMUL), **Amanda Rogers** (RHUL) and **Andy Storey** (RHUL).

Ed and Maryon Derbyshire celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, together with their 3 sons, three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, on 2 June.