

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Nick Branch has been appointed on a 3 year contract from April 1st 2003 as a Lecturer in Environmental Archaeology. Nick will devote half of his time to managing ArchaeoScape and the other half to teaching and research.

Congratulations to **Scott Elias** who has been conferred the title of Reader and **Richard Hodgkins** for his promotion to Senior Lecturer.

Tim Unwin was Examiner for the PhD thesis entitled "A critical examination of the social processes underpinning agricultural change: a case study of the viticultural sector, Languedoc, Mediterranean France" submitted by Tamsin Cooper of University College London. The viva was held on 6th March 2003.

We are delighted to announce that the inaugural Paul Broome Development Research Prize for 2003 has been awarded to **David Mandiyanike** towards his forthcoming fieldwork in Zimbabwe on capacity building in rural district councils.

Duncan McGregor acted, on 11 March, as External Examiner for a Portsmouth University Ph.D. thesis entitled: *The use of geographical information systems in the development of an erosion potential indicator; Buff River catchment, Jamaica.*

Ed Derbyshire has accepted an invitation from the Assistant Director-General of Natural Sciences of UNESCO to serve on the Advisory Board for the UNESCO Interdisciplinary Initiative for the Sustainable development of the Volga-Caspian Basin.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Olav Lian was invited to give a research seminar on reconstructing ice sheets: data from glacial geology of subglacial till and associated sediments, at University of Sheffield on 4 March.

Olav Lian was invited to give a talk on luminescence dating, at Oxford University on 26 March.

David Gilbert gave a seminar on '*London of the Future: The Metropolis re-imagined after the Great War*' in the Metropolitan History series at the Institute of Historical Research, February 19th 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Derbyshire, E. 2003. Natural dust and pneumoconiosis in High Asia. In: Skinner, H.C. and Berger, A.R. (eds.) *Geology and Health: closing the gap*. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 15-18.

Edwards, C. and **Imrie, R.**, 2003, Disability and bodies as bearers of value, *Sociology*, 37, 2, 239-256.

Lian, O.B., Hicock, S.R, and Dreimanis, A., 2003. Laurentide and Cordilleran fast ice flow: some sedimentological evidence from Wisconsinan subglacial till and its substrate. *Boreas*. In press.

Nichol, S.L., **Lian, O.B.**, and Carter, C., 2003. Sedimentary evidence for a late Holocene tsunami run-up on beach dunes, Great Barrier Island, New Zealand. *Sedimentary Geology*, 155, 129-145.

McGregor, Duncan (2003) 'The environment and ecology'. pp. 179-207 in R.S. Hillman & T.J. D'Agostino (eds) *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. Lynne Rienner Publishers

Reviews

David Gilbert (2002) Review of Michael Watts *Struggles over Geography: violence, freedom and development at the millennium*. (Hettner-Lecture 1999: Heidelberg: Department of Geography, University of Heidelberg, 1999) in *Scottish Geographical Journal* 118 (2): 147-148

Imrie, R., 2003, review of Vigar, G., 2002, *The Politics of Mobility: transport, the environment, and public policy*, Spon Press, London, in *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 30, 2, 322-323.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Felix Driver was a panellist in a session on Neil Smith's new book, *American Empire: Roosevelt's Geographer and the Prelude to Globalisation*, at the AAG Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 7 March.

Felix Driver and Denis Cosgrove convened two sessions at the AAG Annual Meeting on 'Natures, spaces, identities', devoted to papers from graduate students in Social & Cultural Geography at Royal Holloway and UCLA. The Royal Holloway contingent included **Kathryn Yusoff** ('The disembodied gaze: narcissism and the mapping of Antarctica') and **Fayyaz Vellani** ('Law's contexts and scales: a critical legal geographical study of disability').

David Simon was in the USA from 27 February to 7 March. On 28th February, he presented a colloquium on 'Theory and policy at the development-environment interface' at the Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder, and held an intensive discussion workshop with postgraduate students there. He then attended the Association of American Geographers' annual conference in New Orleans from 5-7 March, and presented a paper entitled 'Emerging post-apartheid development-environment discourses, policies and practices in South Africa:

what roles for culture, locality and difference?' as part of a session on 'Taking Culture into Development' on 6th March.

Rob Imrie attended the AAG in New Orleans, March 4th-8th, and presented a paper entitled 'Urban geography, relevance, and resistance to the policy turn'.

At the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in New Orleans from 5-8 March 2003 **Jill Fenton** gave a paper entitled 'Surrealist engagement with spaces of resistance' in the session Alternative Geographical Imaginations: Networks, Resistance and New Spaces of Engagement.

GRANTS

Nick Branch, Xingmin Meng and Frank Meddens have received £4980 for a project on 'Evaluating the role of Ushnus as a physical link between Inca people, their deities, ancestors and the environment.'

Olav Lian received ca. US\$1100.00 from INQUA to attend the 2003 INQUA Congress in Reno, July 2003.

Jay Mistry, Matt Simpson (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust) and Andrea Berardi (Open University) have been awarded a three-year Darwin Initiative grant (from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) of £132,520 for a project entitled "Sustainable management of the Rupununi: linking biodiversity, environment and people". This project will contribute towards the sustainable management of the Iwokrama Forest habitats and North Rupununi Wetlands and Savannas of Guyana. The project will work with a number of local organisations, including the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. Our aim is to train local Amerindian communities, government and local university representatives in techniques which will help to monitor, understand and manage the nature of their natural environment and the impacts of changing land uses. The project will employ innovative training techniques developed by the UK's Open University, and includes the funding of a distance masters degree with the OU for a Guyanese student.

David Gilbert's ESRC-AHRB grant for the project 'Shopping Routes: Networks of Fashion Consumption in London's West End 1945-79' has been confirmed at total value of £271 412.42. In this joint project with the London College of Fashion, £104 853 will come to Royal Holloway, with a research fellow based in the Department from 2004 for two years.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Scott Nichol (University of Auckland) visited the department and gave a talk on sedimentary evidence of the tsunami record in NZ on 13th February.

Matthew Collins of Newcastle University gave a QUISS Seminar on 10th March 2003. The title of his talk was 'Amino acid racemization as a geochronological tool.'

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Klaus Dodds** and wife Carolyn who had a baby boy, [Alexander](#), on 12th March 2003.