

Department Newsletter

May 2002 Number 118

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Vandana Desai has been promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st August 2002.

David Simon was the intercollegiate examiner for the PhD thesis of Priscilla Cunnan (QMW; supervisor Sarah Curtis), Health of urban poor, black women street traders in Durban, South Africa, on 17 May.

David Simon was external examiner of the DPhil thesis by Lucy Stevens (Jesus College), 'Informal settlements in Gauteng: social differentiation and the impact of housing policy', University of Oxford, on 24 May.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin presented a paper entitled "ICT and poverty: delivering the millennium development goals" at the workshop on Poverty: Relative or Absolute held at University College London on 29th April 2002.

Catherine Nash attended the first International Advisory Board meeting of the Academy of Irish Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster, Derry, Northern Ireland, 31 May - 1 June.

Peter French was interviewed on 15th May by BBC Southern Counties Radio on the coastal management strategy for Birling Gap, Sussex.

Don Thompson attended an EDC Seminar entitled 'Embedding Skills in the Curriculum' on Thursday 16th May.

Siwan Davies attended the Copenhagen Ice Core Dating Initiative (a project sponsored by the Carlsberg foundation) at the Department of Geophysics, University of Copenhagen (May 23rd-24th) and gave a presentation entitled 'Analysis of NGRIP tephra filters'.

Vandana Desai attended a workshop on Understanding and Supporting Students Mental Health Problems held at Royal Holloway on 3rd May and 23rd May 2002.

Vandana Desai attended the Equal Opportunities Committee meeting held on 23rd May 2002 at Royal Holloway.

David Simon attended the (rare) meeting of the University of London Specialist Group in Geography, at UCL, on 28 May

David Simon attended a talk by representatives from Medicines sans Frontieres on the post-conflict humanitarian crisis in Angola, to the British-Angola Forum, Chatham House, on 28 May.

David Simon completed his 3-year appointment as External Examiner in human geography, Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 30-31 May 2002.

Felix Driver attended a meeting of the Advisory Board to the AHRB Centre for the Study of the Domestic Interior, at the V&A Museum, 29 May.

Kathy Prendergast's work featured in the television documentary 'Tim Marlow on the Tate Modern' on Friday 24th May, Channel 5. Her art work 'Lost' is part of the Tate Modern permanent collection.

As UK vice-president of the European River-Sea Transport Union, **David Hilling** was invited by the Chartered Institute of Shipbrokers to participate in preliminary discussions with the view of establishing a British Short-Sea Shipping Promotion Centre on 23rd April 2002.

David Hilling visited Wynns abnormal load haulage company, Eccleshall, Staffs on 1st May 2002, to brief and advise on movement of abnormal indivisible loads by water transport.

David Hilling attended the College's annual Honorary Fellows and Associates Award Ceremony on 16th May 2002.

David Hilling participated in a study tour of small ports and coastal ship builders in North Holland from 1st-7th June 2002.

Danielle Schreve attended the Steering Committee meeting of the NERC-funded EFCHED programme (Environmental Factors in the Chronology of Human Evolution and Dispersal) in Swindon, 27th-28th May.

PUBLICATIONS

Bradford, A. (2002) Community-Based Waste Management Strategies Peri-Urban Interface, Kumasi, Ghana. Poster presented at the London Human Geography Postgraduate Training Workshop, King's College, London, 10 May 2002.

Bradford, A. Brook, R. and Hunshal, C. (2002) Risk Reduction in Sewage Irrigated Farming Systems in Hubli-Dharwad, India. *Urban Agriculture Magazine*, 6: 40-41.

David Gilbert 'The New Aleph: Peter Ackroyd's London.' *London Journal* 26:2, 2001, 65-70.

Hilling, D. (2002) Planners must take their eyes off the road, *Lloyd's List R.J. Kent* (was Rebecca Edwards) 2002 'History and necessity: the evolution of soil conservation technology in a Jamaican farming system.' *Geographical Journal*, 168 (1), 48-56.

M. I. Bird, C. S. M. Turney, L. K. Fifield, R. Jones, L. K. Ayliffe, **A. Palmer**, R. Cresswell and S. Robertson (2002) Radiocarbon analysis of the early archaeological site of Nauwalabila I, Arnhem Land, Australia: implications for sample suitability and stratigraphic integrity, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, Volume 21, Issues 8-9, April 2002, Pages 1061-1075

David Simon (2002) Africa: infrastructure issues, *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*, 8 May, Section 4. (3pp)

Barker, G., Badang, D., Barton, H., Beavitt, P., Bird, M., Daly, P., Doherty, C., Gilbertson, D., Glover, I., Hunt, C., Manser, J., McLaren, S., Paz, V., Pyatt, P., Reynolds, T., **Rose, J.**, Rushworth, G. and **Stephens, M.** (2001) The Niah Cave Project: The second (2001) season of fieldwork. *The Sarawak Museum Journal*, 56 (n.s. 77), 37-120.

Reviews

Bradford, A.M. (2002) Review of Drechsel, P. and Kunze, D. (2001) *Waste Composting for Urban and Peri-urban Nutrient Cycle in Sub-Saharan Africa*. CABI Publishing, Wallingford. *Land Degradation & Development*, 13 (3): 272-273.

Vandana Desai (2002) reviewed a book by Adrian Leftwich "States of Development: On the Primacy of Politics in Development" Polity. The article was entitled "The poverty of development studies without the politics" in *Times Higher Education Supplement* on 24th May 2002 pp.31.

David Gilbert (2002) Review of Naomi Miller *Mapping Cities* (Boston University Press, 2000) in *Environment and Planning A* 34, 2 p. 378. (2002)

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Sylvester Odion Akhaine attended this year's The Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh Annual International African Studies Conference under the theme: "A New Approach to African Development? Internal and External Vision." The Conference held on May 22-23, 2002 at Dave Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh.

Harriot Beazley was an invited participant to a Java Workshop Conference on Jeunesse et Identité a Java (Youth and Identity in Java), Institute of Southeast Asia & the Pacific, Université de Provence, Marseille, France. May 2-4 May. Paper presented: 'Youth, Identity and Drugs'.

Harriot Beazley attended a conference on 'Designing Modern Childhoods: Landscapes, Buildings, and Material Culture' University of California, Berkeley, USA: (May 2-4 2002), paper presented in absentia: 'The Geographies and Identities of Street Girls in Indonesia'

Danielle Schreve, Jonathan Lee and Adrian Palmer attended the Quaternary Research Associations Short Field Meeting in Thuringia, Central Germany from 13th - 16th May. **Danielle Schreve** was the co-organiser for the trip, and Jonathan and Adrian received some

monies from the QRA overseas conference fund to attend the meeting. Quaternary sites of Central Germany were explained by the local experts, with ample opportunity to examine collections of the archaeological and palaeological remains excavated from the sites. An excellent field trip!

Danielle Schreve ran a Short Field Meeting for the Quaternary Research Association in and around Weimar, Germany, 12th-17th May, also attended by **Adrian Palmer** and **Jon Lee**. The importance of the Thuringian region to Quaternary studies lies in its diversity of evidence, located close to the type areas of the Elsterian and Saalian glaciations and encompassing long fluvial records from several different river systems. However, the region is arguably most famous for its wealth of palaeontological sites, including a significant number with early human fossils and archaeology. The excursion party first visited the Early Pleistocene site of Untermassfeld (c. 1 million years old), where more than 250 articulated vertebrate skeletons have been excavated, including remains of cheetah, sabre-toothed cats and giant short-faced hyaena. The second day was spent examining exposures of Elsterian and Saalian glacial deposits in the spectacular brown coal mines around Leipzig. On behalf of **Jim Rose**, Danielle presented the excursion leader for that day, Professor Lothar Eissmann, with a Special Issue of *Quaternary Science Reviews* (vol 21/11 for May 2002) entitled "Tertiary and Quaternary geology of the Saale-Elbe region of eastern Germany", dedicated to Eissmann's work in that region. The focus of the third and fourth days was the post-Elsterian interglacial record and the party visited the celebrated Holsteinian travertines of Bilzingsleben, the late Eemian-early Weichselian sediments at Burgtonna and the late Middle Pleistocene travertine site of Weimar-Ehringsdorf. Finally, there was an opportunity to look over the the laboratories and stunning fossil collections of the Palaeontology Institute and the archaeological museum in Weimar itself. A field guide was produced to accompany this meeting: Meyrick, R.A. and Schreve, D.C. 2002. *The Quaternary of Central Germany (Thuringia and surroundings). Field Guide*. London: Quaternary Research Association, and a report on the meeting is to be submitted to *Quaternary Newsletter*.

David Hilling attended the presidium and plenary meetings of the European River-Sea Transport Union, Berlin on 17th-19th March 2002.

David Hilling joined cruise ship Seabourn Pride to give destination lectures on Madeira, Morocco and Andalucia from 1st to 7th April 2002. It was rumoured that he had to be dragged off the ship at the end of the voyage!

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

The second and third of the 'Visualising Geography' (AHRB Innovation Award) day workshops took place in the department on 2 and 9 May. Both were organised by the project team (**Felix Driver**, **Catherine Nash**, **Kathy Prendergast** and Ingrid Swenson). The participants on 2 May included Vandana Desai, Luciana Martins, the artists Juan Cruz and Nils Norman, and an external guest Shelley Sacks (Head of Fine Art, Oxford Brookes). On 9th May the external guests were Gillian Rose (Open University) and Eric Laurier (Glasgow University), and in addition to the project team the staff involved were **Felicity Callard**, **David Gilbert**, **Rob Kemp** and **Adrian Palmer**. The artists taking part were Jeremy Deller, Richard Wentworth, and Jacqueline Jeffries.

Aoibheann Kilfeather (Queen Mary) visited the department to continue the preparation of thin sections; and Dr Pip Noon (BAS) to continue the analysis of samples using the Sedigraph.

GRANTS

Andy Bradford has been awarded a grant of £1000 from the International Water Management Institute, Kumasi Office, Ghana, to conduct participatory action research into community-based waste management strategies in the peri-urban areas of Kumasi. The grant will be used to fund micro-projects, local capacity-building and community workshops.