

Department Newsletter
May 2006, Number 160

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Jim Rose** who has been awarded the 2006 Victoria Medal by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), for his outstanding contributions to quaternary research.

Tim Unwin has been invited to join the Programme Planning Group for the 5th Pan Commonwealth Forum to be held in July 2008

David Hilling has been elected to the Inland Waterways Committee of the Department for Transport Sponsored Water Float Promotion Group, Sea & Water.

Welcome to **Dan Young and Peter Morgan** (two of our prospective 3rd year graduates) who will be working with Archaeoscape for 18 weeks (over the summer months). Dan and Peter will start the MSc in Quaternary Science at the start of the next academic year.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Geological Society in Burlington House, London , on 3 May.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Natural Sciences of the U.K. National Commission for UNESCO at the Institute of Materials , Minerals and Mining, London , on 4 May.

Ed Derbyshire attended a workshop within the newly-launched 'Environment and Human Health' programme of NERC (in collaboration with MRC, ESRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, the Wellcome Trust, DEFRA and other government agencies), held at the Cavendish Conference Centre in London on 22 May. The aim of the E&HH programme is to build multi-disciplinary research capacity in relevant sciences areas - environmental, medical, social and engineering/physical sciences supported by an initial budget of ca. £3.4 million.

Vandana Desai examined a PhD thesis at the Department of Social Policy of the London School of Economics on 22nd May 2006 entitled "A cost-effectiveness comparison of alternative microfinance models as service delivery mechanisms in Pakistan ".

During April, **David Simon** served on a 3-strong international panel for the Secretariat of the CGIAR's Challenge Programme on Water and Food (based at the International Water Management Institute, Colombo) to shortlist Expressions of Interest for development into full project proposals on Basin Focal Projects, a new multi-million dollar river basin-based initiative. This call covered the Nile, Niger , Limpopo , Indus-Ganges, Yellow and Andean basins.

As Management Committee member , **David Simon** helped host Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu as Guest of Honour for the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Canon Collins Trust (which supports educational projects and studentships for southern Africa) at King's College, London , on 19th May.

David Simon attended the reception on 23rd May and Panel Discussion on 'Africa 2005: Putting our promises into practice' on 24th May at Lancaster House as part of the UK-South African Bilateral Forum, hosted by Lord Triesman, Minister of State for Africa.

Felix Driver attended the final meeting of the Academic Advisory Board for the AHRC Centre for the Study of the Domestic Interior, a joint venture between the Royal College of Art, the V&A Museum and Royal Holloway.

Tim Unwin attended the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission meeting on 16th May and the British Council's Education and Training Advisory Committee meeting on 17th May

David Hilling attended the Royal Holloway Ceremony for the induction of new Honorary Fellows on the 18th of May.

David Hilling attended the reunion at Bedford College , Regents Park , of students from the 1960's. Over 350 were there, including 39 Geographers - still with happy memories of their time in the Department.

FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS

Katie Willis and **Katie Walsh** were co-organisers (with Brenda Yeoh and Shen Hsiu-Hsu) of a 2-day workshop on 'Sexuality and Migration in Asia' at The National University of Singapore, 10-11 April. The workshop was also partially funded by the Department of Geography at RHUL.

Katie Willis was involved in organising the joint Development Studies Association (DSA) - Developing Areas Research Group (DARG) postgraduate workshop held at The University of Liverpool 31 May - 1 June.

Tim Unwin and **Muluken Fantaye** participated in the inaugural e-Learning Africa conference held in Addis Ababa from 24th-26th May. The ICT4D Collective was one of the conference's Associated Partners, **Muluken** was employed as a conference assistant, and **Tim** chaired the final plenary session. **Tim** also took time to visit one of the projects he had initiated while leading Imfundo which was designed to use ICT to empower street children in Nazret.

Philip Crang was a keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Centre for Hospitality Management Education in Nottingham , May 11th.

Felix Driver was a respondent on 'Digitisation, interdisciplinarity and the future of research in nineteenth-century studies' at the Royal Holloway Virtual Picture Gallery Symposium supported by AHRC and LCACE, Somerset House, 26 May.

Ed Derbyshire delivered an invited lecture on 'Natural Mineral Dust: sources, pathways, toxins and some health effects' at the International Symposium on Medical Geology, held at

the University of Stockholm on 18 and 19 May, under the aegis of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Helen Scalway, Honorary Research Associate, and Jo Laromani (IGRS) presented the First Seminar of the Imagined City Series on Monday, 22nd May at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies. The title of Helen's presentation was 'Pattern, memory and the imagined city'.

Glenys Owen-Jones led a well attended session on using artefacts to interpret landscapes at Key Stage 3 at the 2006 Geographical Association Annual Conference in Manchester. Glenys presented a paper on her teaching work at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Scott Elias hosted a visit from Dr. John Hoffecker, University of Colorado, 22-23 May. Dr. Hoffecker gave a QuISS seminar concerning his work on Paleolithic archaeology of the Kostenki site in Russia. The two also finished up their revisions on their manuscript, 'The Human Ecology of Beringia,' which has just been accepted for publication by Columbia University Press.

A workshop on 'Performing Geography/Geographing Performance' was held with RHUL colleagues in the Drama and Theatre Department. One in a series of such events, this meeting was co-organised by Amanda Rogers and Enzo Cozzi, and used brief talks by Amanda (on her work on Asian-American theatre and on the process of becoming a 'theatrical geographer'), Enzo (on Confucian texts and cosmology), Alex Loftus (on urban interventions and environmental politics) and Liz Schaefer (on the 'relocation' of Australian Aboriginal performances to the UK, specifically Stonehenge) as a basis for wider discussion.

PUBLICATIONS

David Simon (2006) 'Namibia : President and predecessor divide ruling party' Oxford Analytica 9 May (2pp).

Unwin, T. (2006) Challenges at the interface between education and poverty in contemporary Africa, *NORRAG (Network for Policy Review Research and Advice on Education and Training)* 37, 15-17.

REVIEWS

David Simon (2006) Review of W. G. Moseley (ed.): Taking Sides: clashing views on controversial African issues (Guilford, Connecticut: McGraw Hill/Dushkin, 2004), *Land Degradation and Development* 17(1), p.110.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Dr Katie Walsh (ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department, 2005-6) has been awarded an RGS (with the IBG) Small Research Grant for her work on 'Britishness in the Gulf: race, intimacy and belonging'.

Lucinda Elliott, a 2nd year student on the Geography with Archaeology programme, has been awarded £1290 under the Nuffield Foundation Research Bursaries Scheme to support her fieldwork on Holocene peat stratigraphy in Ireland.

ANY OTHER NEWS

We are sorry to report the death of **David Keen**, formerly Visiting Professor in the Department. His funeral, held last month, was attended by Jim Rose, John Lowe, Chris Green, Danielle Schreve and Barbara Silva. David, an authority on quaternary palaeontology (especially molluscs), was a former President of the Quaternary Research Association and chair of the NERC Radiocarbon facilities committee, editor of Proceedings of the Geological Association and European editor of Quaternary Science Reviews. The Department has made a donation to the Myton hospice where he was cared for.