

# Geography

Newsletter Spring 2004 No.4



## Department of Geography, University of Sussex

*A South American theme in this issue, with 2 reports from that continent*

### Of roasted rodents and societal collapse...

*Mick Frogley spent almost three weeks this summer in the Peruvian Andes carrying out fieldwork for an interdisciplinary project with colleagues from different Universities.*

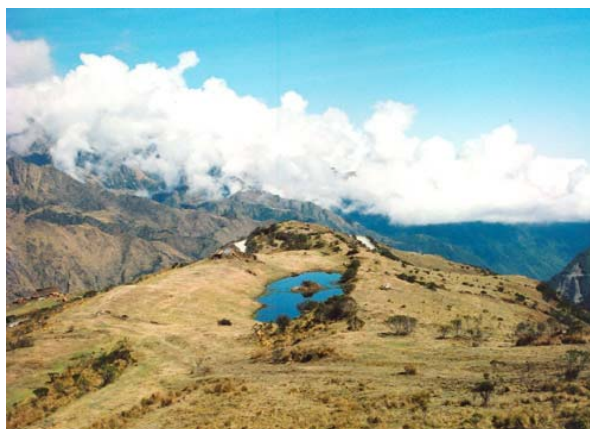
'Our base was the city of Cuzco, formerly the capital of the trans-Andean Incan Empire, though latterly populated more by gap-year students about to set off on the Inca Trail or, bizarrely, herds of garishly shell-suited dopey middle-aged American tourists looking for Machu Picchu and/or Starbucks.

As Cuzco is situated over 3300m above sea-level, our first few days were spent acclimatising to the rarefied atmosphere and staving off altitude sickness, a strategy which mainly consisted of alternating between Nurofen Plus, the local Cuzqueña beer and mugs of *maté de coca* (a sort of tea consisting of coca leaves – the stuff they make cocaine from – and hot water, a concoction which was pretty disgusting and, even worse, resolutely failed to provide even the tiniest buzz, no matter how many gallons were consumed for 'medicinal purposes'...).

The fieldwork itself was carried out with the help of local academics and students, and consisted of visiting and taking samples from a variety of lake sites in the region. The project is examining the possible links between climate change over the past 2000 years or so in the Andes and the collapse of the various pre-Incan civilisations. Our approach is to use the fossil evidence from pollen and tiny aquatic organisms preserved in the sediments of lakes from across the region to reconstruct past changes in climate. This data can then be compared with the

lakes in the area, but wanted to collect samples of modern flora and fauna to help us interpret the fossil record – many of the plant and animal species we are dealing with are new to science and nothing is known of their ecological or habitat preferences.

Simply getting to our sites was often a daily challenge, as several were extremely high (a couple being over 4000m) or extremely distant. Most days we would have to rise early (sometimes as early as 3am) and then either be driven by a local guide in a 4x4 to the sites in question or, when the lakes were not quite so remote, take the local bus.



*Abra Malaga, Peru*

This latter option was nothing if not entertaining, usually involving being squashed between a couple of villages' worth of ancient stove-pipe-hatted be-shawled women on their way to market with goats, chickens and other assorted livestock, which would invariably decide to suffer from chronic diarrhoea for the duration of the journey (the animals, not the women). To be honest, the 4x4 option was not much better either, because although initially somewhat more sanitary, the average Peruvian driver is wont to consider themselves a bit of a demon behind the wheel. As a result, wandering cattle, pedestrians, traffic lights, traffic junctions or, indeed, simply other traffic are therefore regarded as minor inconveniences to be run down and dispatched with flair and a well-practiced gesture.

*(Cont.p2...)*

#### Contents

2. Brian Short
3. Where in the world?  
Seal spotted in the Ouse
4. Rob Manchester in S.America
6. First year fieldtrip
7. Bats in the Seychelles  
New books
8. Centre for S.African Studies  
Cartographic Unit news  
Geography allotment
9. News from former students
10. Postgrad news  
Congratulations
11. People
12. Publications.  
Research seminars

independently  
derived  
archaeological  
record to see if  
there are any  
coincidences  
between  
climatic  
extremes (for  
example,  
drought) and  
the demise of  
the societies  
around at that  
time. We  
already have  
cores of  
sediment from  
over a dozen



Caption competition picture no.1.  
See the bottom of the page.  
(And yes, he is about to eat guinea pig)

Needless to say, brakes are only there to be used on religious holidays. It's fair to say, therefore, that the prospect of chronic diarrhoea was a regular feature on most Peruvian journeys.

Despite encountering such logistical and trouser-challenging problems, the fieldwork was exhilarating, given that we were romping around in some of the most spectacular scenery that South America had to offer. The people and the landscape they had engineered and managed for well over two thousand years never failed to impress and we tried to absorb as much of the atmosphere and culture we could in the short time we were there. So yes, we visited traditional markets and marvelled at the several hundred varieties of potato on sale (blue, green, yellow, red, purple, you name it); yes, we drank *chicha* (maize beer) with already-drunk farmers trying to plough old Incan terraces with oxen hundreds of metres above the Sacred Valley; yes, we visited Machu Picchu (seemingly along with half of Nebraska) and were stunned by its ingenuity and incredible location, high on a sheer mountain-side overlooking the edge of the Amazonian rainforest; and yes, we *did* try the local delicacy of *cuy al horno* (or roast guinea pig) – although this is possibly the only thing I *won't* be repeating next time I get to visit this diverse, multi-faceted and amazing country.'

**Mick Frogley**  
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### News from the Head of Department of Geography

Welcome back to a new term! The autumn term was always going to be a difficult one in so many different ways with the restructuring of the university, but hopefully we can put that behind us and, learning from the issues encountered, move on. Within Geography, the new BA and BSc curricula for the new First Year students seems to have been well received, although the electives have proven to be difficult to bed into the Sussex Arts system. But the new format Geography courses – lecture based and with generic tutorials with personal tutors – seems to have gone well, although as yet we do not have any formal feedback. I am available via e-mail or during office hours to see any First-year Geographers experiencing problems.

Much of my own time during the latter part of this term has been preoccupied with two issues. The first is thinking ahead to the next Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which will be in December 2006. Working with members of our Research Committee, Geography has formulated a Research Strategy through to 2006, which will be based around three groupings of faculty: (i) Population and migration geography; (ii) Geomorphology and environmental change; and (iii) Culture, development and economies. The second issue relates to the outcomes of Geography's Periodic Review in 2002 and Developmental Engagement in 2003. The main follow-up area from these two highly favourable reviews is to put forward a Staff Development Strategy to cover all staff within the Geography department, and I have been working with Sarah Strupinski and Janet Aspley (Staff Development Unit) and John Davies (Teaching and Learning Development Unit) to identify the main issues and draft a strategy. This is now done, and we will be discussing this during the Spring Term 2004. I am hoping that we can identify a day towards the end of the term when staff can meet off campus to reflect on the 2003-4 year, the RAE, staff development and doubtless many other matters which will have arisen by that time.

**Brian Short**  
[scfh9@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:scfh9@sussex.ac.uk)

### Caption Competition

Entries are invited for captions for any or all of the 4 pictures selected in this newsletter. Prizes will be awarded for the best captions, and the results will be published in the next newsletter (maybe). Send your captions to [saafc9@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:safc9@sussex.ac.uk) by the end of February please.

## The Research Centre for Southern African Studies

Since its inception the University of Sussex has had an international reputation for its work on the South African region. The honorary doctorate awarded to the current President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, a graduate in economics from the university, the Mandela Scholarship Fund, and the number of Sussex-educated alumni with positions of power and influence in the new South Africa, are only the most obvious outward manifestations of the university's deep engagement in the problems and successes of the subcontinent.

In 1997 the university made a grant to establish a Centre of Research Excellence in Southern African Studies. The Centre provides a focus for faculty and postgraduate research, in particular through the organisation of regular conferences and seminar series.



The most recent conferences organised and partially funded by the Centre were *South Africa in the 1940s: Worlds of Possibilities* (Saul Dubow, Sussex and Alan Jeeves of Queen's University, Canada) and *Historical Geographies of Southern Africa* (Alan Lester). The former has resulted in a forthcoming book and the latter in special issues of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* (ed. Alan Lester) and the *Journal of Historical Geography* (ed. JoAnn McGregor). A book combining the best of these special issue articles and a few extra-solicited chapters is now being planned.

Since 2004 marks the tenth anniversary of the birth of post-apartheid South Africa, Alan Lester and Rob Skinner from History will be planning a special celebration funded by the Centre. The exact nature of the celebration is still being discussed, but one option is to invite an address from a very well known South African figure.

**Alan Lester**

[A.J.Lester@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:A.J.Lester@sussex.ac.uk)

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/csas/index.shtml>

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## Where in the World?

The departmental Christmas activity this year was a very unscientific survey of which countries Geography staff and students had visited, and more importantly, which countries they hadn't.

- 100 people completed the survey – approx. 30% of the Department
- the countries which no-one has visited are: Armenia, Georgia, Haiti, Moldova and Sudan. Do let me know if you have been to any of these places.
- 73 have been to Wales (although I suspect a certain member of faculty ticked Wales every time he went past), and 62 to Scotland, while 37 have visited Northern Ireland and/or Eire
- 65 have been to the USA and 84 to Spain – more than have visited many of the countries in the UK!
- Ibiza and Alaska have achieved country status according to some people participating in the survey
- never trust the Internet – I downloaded what was supposed to be a complete listing of all the countries in the world, didn't check it, and found after the survey had started that lots of countries were missing including many African nations, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea. Which does, of course mean, that there may be other countries we haven't visited....
- the famous geographer Laurence Dudley Stamp died in 1966 shortly after completing his quest of visiting every country in the world! The last country he visited was British Honduras (now Belize) and he died at the IBG meeting in Mexico City having come directly from there. Thanks to Ron Skeldon for this anecdote.

So - anyone for a fieldtrip to Haiti?

**Evelyn Dodds**

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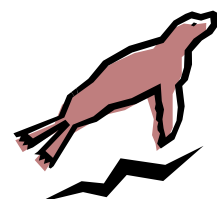
## Seal spotted in the Ouse!

On routine fieldwork for the STONE project in late November, Richard Charman and Jonathon Dolly saw something break the surface of the murky waters north of Newhaven...was it a dog?...was it a scuba diver? The snouted creature looked around inquisitively and then dived back beneath the waves, only to resurface a little while later further downstream. Seals are very rarely seen in the waters around Sussex, especially this far up an estuary - perhaps this one got confused!

**Richard Charman,**

STONE Project (Sediment Transfer Across the Ouse/Newhaven Estuary)

<http://www.geog.susx.ac.uk/STONE/>



## Geography is going places! Rob followed it to La Paz, Bolivia.

*Rob Manchester, BA student on his year abroad in Chile, travelled to Bolivia*

Two years ago, in an introductory lecture for first year geographers at Sussex, Tony Binns gave the most pro-geography speech I have ever heard (to the point that I began to wonder why other disciplines existed!) and introduced those present to his famous “geography is going places” mug. It was the memory of this maxim that sprang to mind when a geography student here at my year abroad university in Santiago, Chile, invited me to a geography conference in La Paz. Any doubts I may have harboured about geography’s mobility were certainly cast aside as I learned that university geography students from all over Latin America would converge on the highest capital in the world to present and discuss material on the human and physical geography of the continent. I had to go. So, on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, I met with around 20 Chilean fellow geographers in Santiago to embark on the 40-hour coach journey.

The journey was a geography lesson in itself, traversing an array of incredible landscapes in northern Chile. First came the semi-arid transitional zone that separates Santiago from the Atacama Desert. The parched and rather dour scrubland of this region is punctuated with sporadic flashes of deep, rich green, where irrigation waters from rivers sourced in the Andes aid the cultivation of exotic fruits such as papaya, and for grapes, used for the production of Chile’s national drink, “pisco”, a type of brandy. On arrival at the periphery of the desert, my English “green and pleasant land” sensibilities were severely tested, as I witnessed a landscape of striking desolation – over a thousand miles of lifeless, rocky emptiness, where in many parts, no rain has ever been recorded, making it the driest desert on earth. However, beneath the surface lies the explanation for the surprisingly prominent human presence here. After the 1879-1883 War of the Pacific in which Chile annexed a chunk of Bolivian territory to what corresponds to a large proportion of the desert, huge reserves of minerals were discovered (primarily nitrates, and then later, copper), giving rise to a massive economic boom. This facilitated substantial waves of internal immigration to the region, and consequently urbanization, chiefly in the coastal towns of Iquique, Antofagasta and Arica (because of the importance of ports in the exportation of primary products).

From Arica, the most northerly town in Chile situated on the border with Peru, we began the ascent towards the border with Bolivia. The change in altitude marked a change in landscape to the “altiplano” of the Lauca National Park – the whites of snow-capped volcanoes and salt flats, the greens of abundant mosses, and the pinks of flamingos on deep-blue lakes, amid the wandering of llamas and vicuñas. Once into Bolivia, what struck me most was the obvious (but easily forgotten) fact that political borders are human constructs, altering not the physical nature of the landscape, but very much influencing its cultural significance. Bolivia belongs to the “Andean” group of Latin American countries (along with Peru and Ecuador), countries that reflect the strong influence of the mountainous topography and climate, factors which deterred significant European immigration (unlike in “the Southern Cone” of the continent - Argentina,

Uruguay and Chile), leaving a relatively undiluted indigenous presence.



*Chile’s Parque Nacional Lauca*

Therefore, in the altiplano of Bolivia, one noticed many tiny, rural roadside settlements, indicating that the altiplano is very much a part of economic and cultural life. In contrast, just over the border, in the altiplano of highly urbanised and westernised Chile, the landscape is given national park status, as a type of wilderness area (a western concept in itself, from the USA) completely disassociated from the economic and cultural life of the country.



*Broken down in the Bolivian Atiplano!*

La Paz is simply impossible. Impossible to believe the city’s setting amongst the steep topography of the Andes. Impossible to cross the chaotic roads and nearly impossible to find enough oxygen in the paper-thin air of 12,400 feet above sea level. Furthermore, it was also

impossible to believe (and frankly undesirable to enter!) the crash-pad accommodation to find around 80 geography students from many different countries getting to know each other, chiefly through the singing of pro-geography chants, of which the Brazilians were undoubtedly the best!

Geography often stresses spatial variation, but this was all about uniting in one place because (as the maxim of the conference read) "another Latin America is possible". A Latin America that is not ravaged with economic crises (and the associated poverty and unemployment – read Argentina). A Latin America that is not the puppet of US controlled institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (read Brazil, with its spiralling external debts, or Chile with its compliant neo-liberal economy). A Latin America that is not characterised by dangerous political divisions within countries – read Venezuela or Colombia). But, perhaps what underlies all of this is the need for a far more united Latin America. This occurred to me as I wandered around the city and witnessed the graffiti that decorated walls at intervals – graffiti that opposed my adopted country; "No to Chile" it read. This reflects the popular objection (that has since debilitated Bolivia through protests and strikes) of the Bolivian masses to export their substantial reserves of gas through Chile.

The memory of the War of the Pacific lives on. The following quote by the Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez perhaps sheds light on the reasons for the poor inter-country relations on the continent: 'I am convinced that if I had not stayed in Europe, my conception of Latin America would be distinct. Europe taught me first that I was Latin American, because when I went, I only knew Colombia. I had not had the possibility to travel through the rest of Latin America, and as a result I didn't have a geographical conception, nor emotional nor cultural of Latin America. But in the cafés of Paris I met Argentinians, Guatemalans, Bolivians, Brazilians, and I realised that I belong to that world, that I wasn't only Colombian but I was Latin

American'. This highlights the fact that the continent shares a commonality, an identity seen through the language, the religion, the Hispanic structure of the cities and the shared colonial history, but one that is hidden by the lack of opportunities for the people to cross their borders and really get to know their neighbours. For many Chileans in my group, even the relatively affluent ones, it was the first time they had left Chilean soil.



*Football high up in Coroico, sub-tropical Bolivia*

On leaving La Paz, I looked up from my coach seat to read "La Unidad en la Diversidad" (Unity in Diversity) sprayed on the side of a overhead bridge. The conference underlined geography's important role in achieving this through breaking down the borders and barriers to provide that crucial geographical conception that has, like Marquez stresses, stunted the necessary understanding for a more united people across this wonderful continent. As for the actual lectures at the conference - well, I decided to go to sub-tropical Bolivia instead! But that is geography's other strong point – you can use it as an excuse to travel!

**Rob Manchester**  
[rpm20@central.susx.ac.uk](mailto:rpm20@central.susx.ac.uk)

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## Computer Graphics for Geographers

Tame your computer and get it to produce high quality maps and diagrams for your work!

Hazel Lintott, of Geography's Cartographic Unit, will give an illustrated talk to show you the sort of things that can be done using the special programs (Photoshop and Freehand) available on the GRC computers, and on the PCs around campus (using Word):

- label and annotate scanned maps/photographs/diagrams
- use the computer to draw your own maps
- draw diagrams of equipment
- draw cross-sections

All are welcome (*students and staff*) to come to the Geography Resource Centre on either

- Wednesday 14th January 2004, 3.30-4.30
- Wednesday 28th January 2004, 3.30-4.30

No booking required.

**Hazel Lintott**  
[safc5@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:safc5@sussex.ac.uk)

(See also page 12 for details of short demonstrations of facilities in the GRC)



## First Year BA Students Visit Lewes Railway Land

On Saturday 25 October, over 50 first year BA Geographers gathered at Lewes Station, and were led by Dr John Parry onto the adjacent 'Railway Land' – the former station goods yard - for a day's fieldwork.

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust was established by Dr John Parry in 1988, after a successful 3 week public enquiry to save the site from development. Over the ensuing 15 years, the Trust has influenced the educational and conservation of the site, which has attracted several awards, including the Man and Biosphere award from UNEP. The first Junior Management Board for a local nature reserve in England was set up there in 1996 and has grown from strength to strength, meeting in a restored signal box rescued from Uckfield, and opened formally in 1999 by David Dimbleby.

On arrival at the Railway Land, Sussex Geography students initially spent time developing a 'sense of place' through evaluating and sketching the landscape, undertaking a conflict mapping exercise and composing their own Haiku poem, based on their personal experiences of the woodland area. Students then worked in groups to undertake a role-play exercise in which they represented interest groups with different priorities concerning the future development of the Railway Land. In a concluding plenary session, with a back-drop of stunning chalk scenery, John Parry drew together the different issues, viewpoints and perceptions that had developed during the day. The group also discussed the political and ecological reality of the management, ownership and conservation of the

site for multiple users through the dynamic relationship between an NGO such as a local trust and the local authority, in this case Lewes District Council.

Students were unanimous in the view that it had been a most stimulating and thought-provoking day and a worthwhile start to their field studies at Sussex.

**Tony Binns**

[J.A.Binns@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:J.A.Binns@sussex.ac.uk)

For more information on Lewes Railway Land. See <http://www.lewes.gov.uk/visit/natreserves.htm>  
Chris Drury, the land artist, is to create a reed bed in the Railway Land next year. See - <http://www.chrisdrury.co.uk/current.htm>



*Caption competition picture 2 (See page 2)*



In mid-September the Beaches At Risk project team, seen above posing in 1<sup>st</sup> XIV style, met for a two-day conference at the Université du Littoral in Dunkirk. No conference is complete without a fieldtrip and we spent a day inspecting rockfalls at Cap-Gris-Nez, picnicking in the palaeodunes of Wissant and marvelling at the sediment plumes in Wissant Bay.

*(Where's Edward Competition! Our host Professor Edward Anthony, who is the University's Vice President for Research, was unable to join us for the photo but has been cleverly inserted by digital wizardry – can you spot him?)*

**Cherith Moses** [fafa1@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:fafa1@sussex.ac.uk)

*Caption competition: picture 3 (See page 2)*

## Seychelles trip studies rare bat species

**Helen Burgess**, Year 3 student, returned from the Seychelles field trip with some unique photos of an endangered species of bat:

'On our fieldtrip to the Seychelles earlier this year, fellow student Nick Lee and I made a study of the extremely rare Seychelles sheath-tailed bat (*Coleura seychellensis*). The only known remaining population of this species is on the island of Silhouette and very little is known about them. We carried out an observational study over the week of our stay and made a total population count of just 32 bats.

ARKive is an initiative of the The Wildscreen Trust (<http://www.wildscreen.org.uk/>) whose aim is to find and catalogue records of globally endangered species which until now have been kept in specialist or private collections. Information about these species is now accessible to the public through the website and can be used for scientific or educational use. It's described as a 21st century Noah's Ark.



I came across ARKive while doing research for my field report and noticed they were looking for information on these bats, so I sent off my photos which have just recently been used on the website. It seems our encounters with enormous land crabs in the forest, the cuts and grazes acquired from crawling through the bat cave in the pitch black, the 5am starts and the hiking through torrential tropical storms all paid off!! These guys have got the recognition they need if they are to have a chance of survival. It was a real privilege getting to work with a species that has a global population of just 32 - and we got to see them all. It was a truly amazing experience and something I shall never forget.'

**Helen Burgess**

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For more information and to see Helen's other pictures, visit:

<http://www.arkive.org/species/speciesOverview.do?id=5219>

## New books.....

**Richard Black's** new book, jointly written with Howard White from IDS, provides a critical appraisal of the target of halving global poverty by 2015, and assesses the constraints that exist and the implications for policy. Richard did an interview publicizing the book on the local radio station Bright FM, broadcast throughout mid-Sussex in December.

*Black, Richard & White, Howard: Targeting development:critical perspectives on the Millennium Development Goals. Routledge, 2003.*

**Russell King**, in a report jointly written with Sussex DPhil students Nic Mai and Mirela Dalipaj for the Fabian Society and Oxfam, argues that Britain needs to set up new legal ways to allow into the country low-skilled workers within a "managed migration" policy, with a choice between regularising or criminalising migrants living in Britain. The report, based on detailed interviews with Albanians living clandestinely in Britain, was reviewed in the Guardian – see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/guaradianpolitics/story/0,3605,1086662,00.html>

*Dalipaj, Mirela: Exploding the Migration Myths: analysis and recommendations for the European Union, the UK and*

**Brian Short's** joint publication is described by Miles Ogborn, University of London, as "a landmark volume which stands as the first work of historical geography to cover the whole span of the twentieth century. Through the analysis of broad patterns of change and the close scrutiny of particular spaces the contributors draw out the contours of British modernity since 1900 and demonstrates the vitality of contemporary historical geography."

*Short, Brian, Gilbert, David & Matless, David (eds): Geographies of British Modernity: Space and Society in the Twentieth Century . Blackwell RGS-IBG book series 2003.*

### News from the Cartographic Unit

An additional facility for Geography staff has now been installed in the Cartographic Unit (C174). An A4 scanner has been provided exclusively for staff use, connected to a Dell PC. Slides, 35mm film and negatives as well as all types of opaque images can be scanned at this work-station. The interface is easy to use, but Hazel Lintott is happy to give a hand and to explain how it works.

With the Cartographic Unit now staffed on a part-time basis, scanning facilities will remain available to staff every day of the week, even when Hazel is not in, or when she is tied up with other, urgent tasks. See Evelyn if you need access to the room on a day it is unstaffed.

Scans at A3, or images that require more advanced manipulation will still be dealt with by Hazel Lintott. The PC connected to the scanner is also used part-time by a member of faculty, so please call extension 2329 first to check it's OK to come down to use the scanner.

**Hazel Lintott**

[saft5@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:safc5@sussex.ac.uk)

### Geography Allotment

A small but perfectly formed group of staff and students have taken on a plot on the hillside behind Brighthelm hall of residence, and with the muscles of Monty Dom Kniveton are starting to dig it over, meeting most Wednesdays from 1pm on. More helpers are welcome and come the summer we hope to impress you all with a cornucopia of organic produce.

For more information contact Evelyn Dodds -

[saft9@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:safc9@sussex.ac.uk)

### Would you accept a lift from this man?

In his spare time Tim Cane, the department's Specialist Teaching Technician, operates an independent off-road motorsport team funded by his own engineering company "Fandango Offroading". Tim has in the past won the British Offroading Championship and has attracted sponsorship from several international companies in Britain, USA and Sweden. This has enabled him to build a specialist vehicle to compete in the UROC Pro-National Rockcrawling Series in Farmington, New Mexico, over the Christmas period. Despite damaging his buggy on the first day (and breaking 2 ribs!). Tim came in a highly respectable 19th in a field of over 50 competitors.

**Tim Cane**

[kafk2@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:kafk2@sussex.ac.uk)



*Caption competition: pictures 4 (above) and 5 (below left)*



### Sussex geographer on University Challenge

Well done **Andy Clay**, BA Geography Year 3, and his colleagues on the University Challenge Sussex team, who won the first round of the competition. Don't mention drainage basins, though.

In the second round, broadcast on January 5<sup>th</sup>, they were narrowly beaten by Magdalen College, Oxford. Congratulations to Andy (who answered some crucial questions, including one on earthquakes - not bad for a human geographer) and the rest of the team.

## Former student news

### Alex Bolland (Geography with French (EURO) 1996-2000)



I graduated from Sussex University in 2000 wondering

how I could possibly incorporate both the Geography and French elements of my degree into a job. I had always chosen the more 'European' and 'Economic' modules in Geography where we frequently went over the EU's Structural Funds (Objective 1, 2, 3, Community Initiatives – Interreg, Leader... etc – sound familiar?). It wasn't until I started working that I began to understand what these programmes really did at ground level.

When I first graduated, I was very fortunate to be able to work with Mick Dunford on a project he set up under the Interreg IIA programme – the Rives-Manche Economic Observatory. Interreg is funded through the European Regional Development Fund and aims to increase cooperation between countries of the EU which share a border. East Sussex could therefore apply for funds to develop projects with the bordering part of Northern France. Projects are often about exchanging best practice and information and raising awareness about the neighbouring country. This particular project aimed to provide comparable economic information on the cross-border area raising awareness about the economy on the other side of the Channel.

Once this project finished, I was appointed as Interreg Officer, based at East Sussex County Council, in Lewes. So having worked on an Interreg funded project, my role now is to advise and support other organisations wishing to develop projects and apply for the funding available. It is quite a varied job, involving projects from fields such as culture, environment, transport, citizenship, tourism etc. A large part of my role is helping organisations in East Sussex find partner organisations that they can work with

in northern France. Other aspects include raising awareness of the Interreg programme, providing technical advice and translation in cross-border meetings, and assisting the programme's Technical Secretariat in France and the Government Office for the South East to appraise submitted projects. The best part of my job is being able to travel regularly, albeit to the not so sunny regions of northern France!

**Alex Bolland**

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[www.interreg3.com](http://www.interreg3.com)

(NB: The Geography Department has involvement in some Interreg projects eg BAR & RIMEW)

### Amber Sorrell (EURO, BA Geography with French 1996-2000)

Upon graduation, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do. All I knew was that I had had enough of studying for the time being! I had an interest in regeneration and after a completely unrelated 9-5 job, landed a job as a Project Development Officer with Groundwork Caerphilly, an environmental regeneration charity. I am working on a programme, developing a former colliery tip-site in the South Wales valleys into a community park. It is a partnership project with the local authority and the communities and has received funding from amongst others: ERDF, Millennium Commission and the Arts Council. I create opportunities for community involvement in the development of the park, promote the project, and put together a programme of activities, festivals and community based environmental improvement projects. I also coordinate community consultation linked to the development of the park. I get to do a variety of activities; one minute I can be up to my knees in mud planting trees with school children, the next I am at conferences and putting together funding bids for the project. I would however, like to return to university to do a post-grad course now that I have a clearer idea of the direction I wish to go in.

[ambersorrell@hotmail.com](mailto:ambersorrell@hotmail.com)

This newsletter is read by an increasing number of former students, and we're always pleased to hear what they're doing. Please send contributions to [safc9@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:safc9@sussex.ac.uk).

## Postgrad news

### **Charlie Williams** BA (Sussex) 2003

..... didn't like the idea of going out into the real world after graduating from Sussex last summer, and so has come back to start once again. Charlie has recently commenced a DPhil in Physical Geography, drawing upon things learnt during his first degree (even though technically a BA) from physical geography courses such as ECC and CCC.



Charlie's research involves investigating climate variability and change over southern Africa, with particular emphasis on rainfall. Mainly using satellite-derived precipitation data, he is currently searching for especially dry or wet spells over a 10-year period, and then trying to find out what's going on in the atmosphere and oceans at the same time. As in his undergraduate final-year project, sea surface temperature anomalies still feature very highly - there is a well-known link between Indian Ocean (and possibly Atlantic) SSTs and southern African rainfall variability. The overall aim is to feed these dry or wet spells and associated atmospheric teleconnections into the new GCM (Global Climate Model) here at Sussex, in order to look at how southern African rainfall patterns might change in the future.

In the meantime, however, Charlie's main challenge is to convince people that he's not as dull as he sounds!

[C.J.R.Williams@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:C.J.R.Williams@sussex.ac.uk)

### **Tamsin Watt** BSc (Sussex) 2002

.....re-joined us in April this year to begin working on an exciting trans-national project, BAR (Beaches At Risk). Tamsin is one of our very own geography graduates and after working for a consultancy in Sussex she returned to the much missed world of research to begin work as a Research assistant and D.Phil student. Her work on both the project and her own line of research involves looking at the response of beaches to storm events with a special regard for the management issues that affect much of the Sussex coast. This work appealed to her as it addresses important issues of climatic change and sea level rise, focusing upon that important human-environment interface, an area that has been of interest throughout her academic career.

Partnerships with researchers in Northwest France add to the expertise and dynamics of the BAR team as well as improving the language skills of many of its members! Tamsin hopes to conduct part of her research in conjunction with French researchers investigating the susceptibility of certain coastlines to storm attack. This is of particular concern when faced with a future of predicted sea level rise and increased storm activity.

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### **Danny Simatele**

.... took up his post as DPhil student and Geography teaching assistant in September. His research is on urban agriculture (UA) in Zambia, using a case study approach of Lusaka, the capital city. The focus is on the impacts of structural adjustment programmes on urban livelihoods and the sectoral linkages of UA to the peri-urban and rural areas. He holds a BA in geography and English from the University of Zambia, and an M.A. and MPhil in human and economic geography from the University of Göteborg in Sweden.

Danny says "The welcome I was afforded by the members of staff and my fellow postgraduates in the department was absolutely marvellous. The good and friendly environment has encouraged me to work even harder, and I hope to obtain a permanently damaged head (PhD) by the end of 2006!"

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## **Congratulations to...**

**Anastasia Christou**, who successfully attained her DPhil thesis in Geography at her viva voce examination in December. Her topic was "Narratives of Place, Culture and Identity: Second Generation Greek-Americans Return 'Home'", and she was supervised by Russell King.

**Ryan Ibbotson and Laura Stritch** who have received Hockey Bursary awards in association with Lewes Hockey Club & the University Sport Service.

Ryan plays National League hockey with Lewes Hockey Club and has represented the Senior County side for the last 3 years, as well as being an important member of the University 1<sup>st</sup> team.

Laura is one of the key players within Sussex University 1<sup>st</sup> team and was given the most improved player award for the year 2002/2003 BUSA season. She has recently joined the Lewes Hockey Club 1<sup>st</sup> team.

**Simon Rycroft**, Amelia, and Leon on the birth of Johannes on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

## People People People

### Tony Binns...

*presented:*

- 'Sustainability under threat? The dynamics of environmental change and food production in peri-urban Kano, northern Nigeria', (with doctoral student Roy Maconachie) at the International Conference on 'Local Land Use Strategies in a Globalizing World: Shaping Sustainable Social and Natural Environments', University of Copenhagen, Denmark, August 2003.

- 'Evaluating the progress of community-based development in the Kat River Valley, Eastern Cape, South Africa', paper presented (with Etienne Nel and doctoral student Peter Kyle) at the International Conference on 'The Eastern Cape: historical legacies and new challenges', August 2003, East London, South Africa.

- at the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) International Annual Conference, Royal Geographical Society, London, September, 2003:

1)'Re-evaluating people-environment relationships at the rural-urban interface: How sustainable is the peri-urban interface in Kano, northern Nigeria?', paper presented (with doctoral student R. Maconachie) *and*

2)'The global city in the south: The challenges of globalisation, economic growth and poverty alleviation in South Africa', paper presented (with M.Gibb and E.Nel).

This autumn Tony has given lectures to the Kingston, Brighton, Thanet and High Weald branches of the Geographical Association, and also to Geography Sixth Form conferences in Birmingham (570 students) and Bristol (750 students).

Tony has been awarded Research Grants from:

- 1) the British Academy : for research on 'Evaluating institutional development in South Africa's west coast region' - £4500, July, 2003
- 2) the Nuffield Foundation: for research on, 'Reconstruction and development in post-conflict Sierra Leone: Re-building institutions and rural livelihoods in the Eastern Province'- £6805, November, 2003.

### Richard Black ...

- spoke on a panel in September, 2003, organised by the New Economics Foundation on 'Environmental Refugees', critiquing a new policy document published by NEF.

- attended an international conference organised by DFID and the World Bank in London on 9-10 October, 2003 on 'Migrant remittances'.

- is acting as Special Advisor to the International Development Committee of the House of Commons for their public inquiry on migration and development. The inquiry starts in late November, and is expected to report in early 2004.

- is on the Advisory Board for two external projects: one at the University of Exeter is on 'Transferring Best Practice: the comparative study of refugee programmes with reference to the Palestinian context'; the other is the Leverhulme Programme on Migration and Citizenship, hosted jointly by the Department of Sociology, University of Bristol and the Migration Research Unit, University College London.

- has been appointed as representative of the Royal Geographical Society on the Home Office Advisory Panel on Country Information, a panel which is tasked to review the quality of country information produced to assess asylum claims.



### Tom Browne...

*presented :*

'Teaching GIS using a VLE - local experiences within a generic institutional and national context' at an LTSN-GEES conference on 'Virtual Learning Environments in Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences'. See: <http://www.gees.ac.uk/pastevents/vle03/vleevent.htm>

### Grace Carswell ...

returns to work after her maternity leave to finish off the remainder of her Leverhulme Fellowship. She will be doing this part-time over the next 6 months. Apart from changing nappies, lunching with other mums and discovering the

real meaning of "interrupted sleep". In November she gave the Annual Lecture of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, at the British Academy in London.

### Mick

### Dunford...

was an invited participant in the seminar on 'Rethinking radical spatial approaches', Seminars of the Aegean, Naxos 2003, September 2003.

*Presented:*

- 'Comparative economic performance, inequality and the market-led remaking of Europe', in the Plenary session of the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London, September 2003,

- 'Theorising regional economic performance and the changing territorial division of labour', at the Forum de la régulation 2003, Paris, October 2003,

- 'Le processus de globalisation et ses enjeux géopolitiques', at the conference on Le territoire-acteur et la mondialisation, Chambéry, October 2003.



### Mick Frogley...

recently gave lectures on his research to the McDonald Institute of Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge and to the local branch of the Geographical Association in Brighton.

### Russell King...

*presented:*

- 'Orphan pensioners and migrating grannies: the impact of mass emigration on rural Albania' at a European Science Foundation Network conference on 'Older Migrants in Europe', in York, October, 2003.

- 'Geographies of the Mediterranean' to the International Seminar on Social Sciences of the Mediterranean, Berlin, November 2003.



## Publications

### Grace Carswell

- Carswell, Grace (2003) 'Food crops as cash crops: the case of colonial Kigezi, Uganda' *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 3(4): pp 521-551.
- Carswell, Grace (2003) 'Soil conservation policies in colonial Kigezi, Uganda: successful implementation and an absence of resistance', Chapter in W. Beinart and J. McGregor (eds) *Social history and African environment*, Heinemann and James Currey.

### Russell King

King, Russell, Mai, Nicola, Dalipaj, Mirela: *Exploding the Migration Myths*. The Fabian Society & Oxfam, 2003

### Dom Kniveton

- Kniveton, D.R., Todd, M.C., Sciare, J.S., and Milahopoulos, N., 2003: Variability of atmospheric DMS due to changes in ultraviolet light. *Global Biogeochem. Cycles*, 17(4), 1096-1104. 10.1029/2003GB002033
- Kidd, C., Kniveton, D.R., Todd, M.C., Bellerby, T. 2003: Satellite Rainfall Estimation Using a Combined Passive Microwave and Infrared Algorithm. *Journal of Hydrometeorology*, 4(6), 1088-1104.
- Andersson, L., Gumbrecht, T., Hughes, D., Kniveton, D.R., Ringrose, S., Savenije, H., Todd, M., Wilk, J., and Wolski, P., 2003: Water Flow Dynamics in the Okavango River Basin and Delta - a Prerequisite for the Ecosystems of the Delta. *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*, 28, 1165-1172.

### Alan Lester

Lester, Alan: 'Constructing Colonial Discourse: Britain, South Africa and the Empire in the Nineteenth Century', in A. Blunt and C. McEwan (eds.) *Postcolonial Geographies*, Cassell, London, 2003, 29-45.

## Training sessions for Geography students in the Geography Resource Centre

In addition to the Computer Graphics talks being given by Hazel Lintott (see p. 5), Geography students (and staff) are invited to sign up for short demonstrations of:

- The GRC scanner – easy to use, bookable, and perfect for enhancing your assignments.
- EDINA Digimap – Ordnance Survey data: up-to-date, downloadable, customisable. Allows you to create a map of anywhere in the UK to your own specifications.
- Databases and electronic journals. Want to know how to use Geobase or Science Direct and save a fortune in Inter-Library Loans? Need to do a literature review for your final year project? Realized that you can't always find what you want in a book?

These very short training sessions will be held early in the Spring term. ALL welcome. Contact Evelyn Dodds ([safc9@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:safc9@sussex.ac.uk)) or see the Resource Centre web pages for details.

The next edition of this newsletter will be published in April 2004. Items for inclusion should be sent to – [E.Dodds@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:E.Dodds@sussex.ac.uk).

## UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

### RESEARCH SEMINARS Spring Term 2004

**Mondays at 5.00pm in the Geography Resource Centre (C175)**

#### Monday 12 January:

**Roy Maconachie** (Sussex University)  
Sustainability under threat? : The dynamics of environmental change and food production in peri-urban Kano, northern Nigeria

#### Monday 19 January:

**Kenneth Lynch** (Kingston University),  
Enhancing access to communications Technology (ENACT) for rural marketing of agricultural produce in East Africa.

#### Monday 26 January:

**Duncan McGregor** (Royal Holloway, University of London).  
A co-management approach to sustainable watershed management: peri-urban Kumasi, Ghana

#### Monday 2 February:

**Tanya Bowyer-Bower** (King's College, University of London)  
The political economy of risk and entitlement in resource management in African cities

#### Monday 9 February:

**Julian Murton** (Sussex University)  
What was under the NW margin of the Laurentide Ice Sheet?

#### Monday 16 February:

**Paul Merchant** (Nottingham University)  
Modest exploration: the Geographical Field Group, 1947-1967

#### Monday 23 February:

**Ron Skeldon** (Sussex University)  
Of cul-de-sacs and roundabouts: regions of refuge re-visited

#### Monday 1 March:

**Ben Rogaly** (Sussex University)  
Seasonal work migration: a comparative approach

### People (cont. from p.11) .....

#### Dom Kniveton presented –

- Todd, M.C. and Kniveton, D.R., Cosmic rays and cloud. Royal Meteorological Society Conference, September 2003, Norwich, UK.
- Kniveton D.R. and Layberry R., Satellite based rainfall data and flooding over the Okavango river basin in Southern Africa, 1st ACTIF Workshop: Combination of data from remote sensing for flood forecasting, November, 2003, Bologna, Italy.

**Alan Lester** has been appointed Director of the University's Research Centre for Southern African Studies (see p.3), and External Examiner to the Geography MSc programmes at Queen Mary, University of London.