Earth Sciences Alumni Careers Events

February 2011

The Earth Sciences Alumni Careers Event took place on the 3rd of February. The event was well received and attended. The participants had the opportunity to hear from a panel of our alumni, ask questions and network with them.

Earth Sciences Alumni Forum Biographies:

Lyndsey Douglas, Curatorial Assistant, Natural History Museum

Since graduating from UCL I have been a volunteer and then an employee at The Natural History Museum. Subsequent to volunteering on a project in Micropalaeontology I was offered a 6 month temporary contract as an Imaging Technician. My main responsibility was to use photo imaging technology to create images of fossil Ostracods, then to prepare the illustrations for archive in digital format. My contract was extended for 6 months and I am currently a Curatorial Assistant working to undertake the rapid delivery of Foraminiferal citation records for the Rapid Data Entry Project into the NHM collection management database.

Stuart McLaren, Principal Environmental Consultant, Atkins

I graduated from UCL in 2004 with a Degree (BSc) in Geology; Worked in the City for a finance company for 4 months as a project manager. This was a stop gap while I found a geology related career. I then started at a midsized environmental consultant in Cambridgeshire (Arcadis) as an environmental consultant spending much time in first 18 months on site across the UK - primarily supervising site investigations involving drilling and installation of groundwater wells. I then progressed from site engineer via risk assessment team to remediation programme manager of a UK wide portfolio of sites (for Total UK) in 3 year period. I then moved to Atkins where I am project manager (Principal Consultant) for a wide range of projects with a focus on site investigation, risk assessment and remediation (landfill beneath residential estates, former gasworks, fuel spills beneath residential properties etc). I also co-lead the land quality team in London and am actively engaged in business development across the east of England, London and South East.

Dr Emma Passmore, Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow, at the British Museum.

I graduated from UCL with a 1st class MSci Geology degree in 2004. I then completed my PhD research, University of Edinburgh, ‘Feeding large eruptions: crystallisation, mixing and degassing in Icelandic magma chambers’ from 2004-09. From 2007 I worked as a Gas Geochemist, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory where I monitored CO2 and SO2 emissions and mapped new lava flows from Kilauea volcano. From 2007-2008, I worked as a Research Associate: SEM support, University of Edinburgh, where I operated and maintained a Scanning Electron Microscope. From 2008-2010, I worked as the Curator, for the UCL Geology Collections, when I maintained, exhibited and provided access to the Geology teaching collections. In 2010 I became a Freelance Consultant, registered self-employed, ‘Assessing the local, regional and historical significance of diverse museum collections’. From 2010 until 2013, I will work as the Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow, at the British Museum. In this role I provide material analyses and interpretation for other museum departments and conduct independent research projects.
Dr Susanna Jenkins, Volcanic Hazard Specialist, Cambridge Architectural Research/University of Cambridge

I completed my doctorate in volcanology a couple of years back at Macquarie University in Sydney and am currently working with the University of Cambridge and a private Cambridge research consultancy on a number of research projects concerned with volcanic risk.

Interesting projects include working with the Italian Civil Protection to revise their emergency management plans for Vesuvius and Campi Flegrei volcanoes, developing low-cost tools and methodologies for volcanic risk assessment and mitigation in developing countries (Philippines and Cape Verde) and working with a consortium to further volcanic vulnerability assessment for volcanoes in the French Caribbean. I also do some lecturing and am involved in writing research proposals and project deliverables.

Dr Claire Cousins, Astrobiology Post-doctoral Researcher, UCL/Birkbeck Centre for Planetary Sciences

After completing my undergraduate degree in Geology at Cardiff University, I undertook my PhD in Astrobiology at University College London, supervised by Dr. Ian Crawford, Prof. John Ward, and Dr. Adrian Jones. This work was highly multidisciplinary, and focused on utilising volcanic environments in Iceland, Svalbard, and Antarctica as Martian analogues. These environments were explored regarding their microbial diversity, biosignatures, and habitability. In addition, I am also involved in the scientific development of the Panoramic Camera instrument on board the European Space Agencies rover, a role which enabled me to test planetary instrumentation in Svalbard as part of the Arctic Mars Analogue Svalbard Expedition in 2009 and 2010.

I am currently working as a postdoctoral researcher in the UCL/Birkbeck Centre for Planetary Sciences and as a member of John Ward’s molecular microbiology group. This research is funded by the Leverhulme Trust, and will investigate subglacial volcanoes as a habitat for life, with the aim to apply this knowledge to the search for life on Mars.

Caminee Shrimanker, MSc Petroleum Geoscience, Royal Holloway, University of London

After completing my MSci in Geology at UCL in 2008, I started work at a petroleum consultancy in Oxford called Neftex. I spent 2 years there working as a Technical Assistant. I left this job in September 2010 to go back to university. I am currently studying at Royal Holloway doing a MSc in Petroleum Geoscience.

I am in the process of applying for graduate schemes at energy companies for when I finish my MSc in September 2011.