



# Geography Newsletter

## for former students

No 18 Summer 2009

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### Three generations of UCL Geographers



The UCL Degree Ceremony, September 2008 saw Emily Haynes receive her Geography Degree, 24 years after her father, Mark, in 1984, and no less than 60 years after her grandmother, Joyce Norton (née McNeill), in 1948!

### Into a New Era?

#### This Newsletter focuses on news from you.

We receive many alumni messages, and it seemed a good idea to pass some of them on to give a flavour of what UCL Geographers have been doing over the years, grouped by decades, starting with Alan Haugh below. I hope it will encourage more messages, further contacts, and even more reunions to report in future editions!

Departmental events receive a briefer overview than in recent years. After the upheavals of the 2003 Centenary, major relocations, staff retirements and new appointments, things have been rather quieter. For the national Research Assessment Exercise, in which we have always been in the top grade, UCL remained a top three department in the number of staff undertaking 'world leading' and 'internationally excellent' research. Over half of these were aged under 40 in 2008, contrasting with UCL Geography's 'mature' profile in the past.

**Keep up to date** with us through our website, with its active news pages: <http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/> including *Alumni News*, which welcomes your continuing contributions.

Also, do contact us at any time, through our *Former Students* email address: [contacts@geog.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:contacts@geog.ucl.ac.uk)

*Peter Wood.*

1950s

### Alan Haugh: 1955

I was at UCL when **H.C. Darby** was the sole Professor and Head of Department, and staff included **Brown, Mead, Coppock, Packard, Sinnhuber and Prince**. We were all housed, with a few research students and the drawing office staff, on the top two floors of Foster Court. I then took the UCL Postgraduate Surveying Diploma, joined the Colonial Service and was posted to Nigeria. After an 18 month contract tour, I returned to take the Diploma in Photogrammetry and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. Following Nigerian independence, I lectured in Surveying and Photogram-



metry in Nigeria, and then returned to teach at the Polytechnic of East London. Seven years later, I returned to practical surveying by joining **BP Exploration**, giving ample opportunity to see many parts of the world at someone else's expense! I stayed with the company for 23 years, 19 as Chief Surveyor, until compulsory retirement in 1992. Throughout this period our group of surveyors and cartographers provided critical geographical information to support BP's worldwide exploration operations. Contact was kept with UCL as an external examiner in Photogrammetry and Surveying, and through Anne Oxenham, Geography's long serving Map Curator, who had been a member of the BP Cartographic staff.

continued overleaf...

## Community participation in South African and Indian cities



**Charlotte Lemanski** has been carrying out research on community-level political participation in South African cities. She has received financial support from the Royal Geographical Society and the British Academy, and is also being funded by the British Council to develop comparative studies with Indian experts in Mumbai.

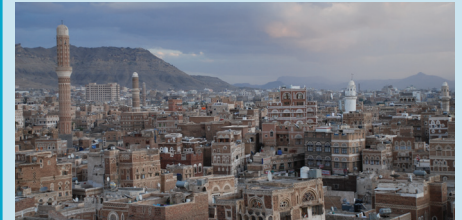
Left: Lack of drainage infrastructure in an un-authorised colony in Delhi.



Above: Lunch-time rice, Hyderabad, India.

## Developing GIS in

**Paul Densham** has been working in Yemen on a project for the National Information Center, carrying out feasibility studies into the establishment of an Information Unit for decision-making support with an associated Geographical Information Systems Unit. He carried out interviews, and a web-based survey among key government ministers and agencies, NGOs and the private sector, to establish the availability of data and the needs for such systems. Paul has also been advising the Kuwait Institute



Old City, Sana'a, Yemen.

1950s

### **Alan Haugh: 1955** (continued)

With other former BP staff, we established a small consultancy providing geophysical and geodetic surveying to the oil industry. This expanded to become part of the **RPS environmental consultancy group**. I therefore continued to travel, working for smaller oil companies lacking in-house surveying expertise, and now concentrate on home based consultancy, chiefly for BG.

There has been a huge technological revolution in surveying over 50 years. Astronomy, plane table surveying and theodolite traversing and triangulation have been supplanted by universal GPS positioning and laser scanning. Maps are now drafted wholly automatically. Surveying and cartography have been absorbed into the new profession of **Geographical Information Technology**, processing huge volumes of data from satellite imagery, 3-D seismic acquisition and laser scanning.

Looking back, I am still very grateful for the Department's part in launching my career. Much has changed in surveying, but there are still exciting prospects in the newer Geographic Information Technology!

### **Peter Rowbotham: 1959**

**Among those at a recent Alumni Reunion was Peter Rowbotham a 1959 Geography graduate who was revisiting the college for the first time in 50 years.**

Like many contemporaries, Peter had planned to go into teaching, but **journalism** beckoned and he learned his trade in Fleet Street, initially with Reuters. His report-writing then led to a twice-weekly publication covering international metals markets, specialising in **minerals and mining**. He later launched a new journal, *'Industrial Minerals'*, and had spells with other business publishing groups. In the early 1970s Peter became a partner in a publishing venture focussed at first mainly on **world shipping**. This grew into a major business publisher, with a consultancy arm based in London's Docklands close to Canary Wharf. Peter, by then joint managing director, retired in 1996. His time at UCL is remembered with some affection. He recalls the "class of '59" was quite small, with only 25 or so students, and women outnumbering men.

Among other contacts from the 1940s and 1950s:

**Mona Cole (née Boden): '46, Phyllis Banks (née Olsen): '50, K.J. Green: '50, Clare Cooper Marcus: '55.**

### **Bardic Return**

#### **Clive Woosnam: 1960**

Clive travelled from Australia in 2007 to attend the 50th Anniversary reunion of the 1957 entrants to UCL Geography (see the 2008 Newsletter). In 2008 he received the **Medal of the Order of Australia**, 'For service to the community through roles with cultural and musical societies, and to education.' The reunion inspired him to Bardic utterances, the first at the College lunch. The second, see right, reflects on the reunion. For full versions of both, see: <http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/about-the-department/news/>



#### **Peter Nixon: 1967**

Peter went on to the UCL School of Environmental Studies (as the Bartlett was then called), taking a **Town Planning** Diploma in 1972 and emigrating to **New Zealand** in 1975 – "...where I found the climate and the lifestyle seemed to suit me! I have had an interesting and varied career in **environmental planning** in New Zealand, and am now semi-retired, although still doing a bit of lecturing from time to time to keep the brain cells active. I attended the **UCL Student's Reunion** with the Provost, Malcolm

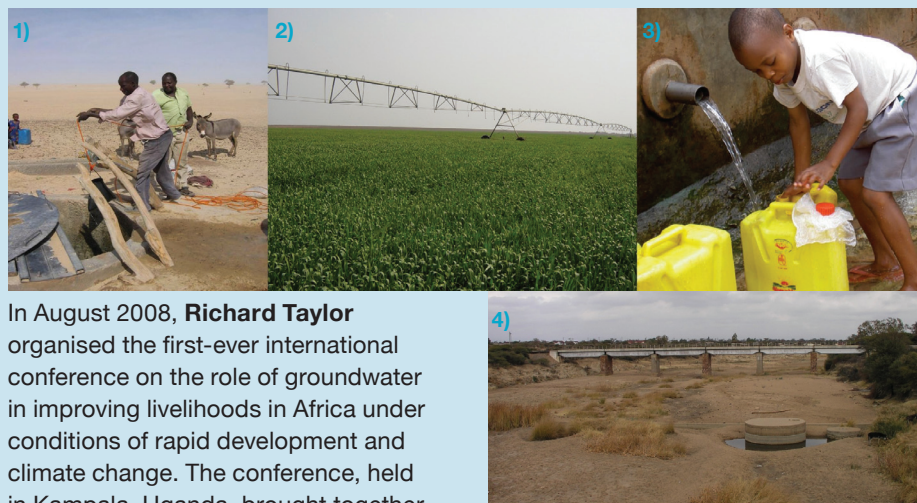
## Yemen and Kuwait

for Scientific Research on a GIS-based School Atlas and spatial decision support systems for school planning.



Dress shop, Souk, Sana'a.

## African groundwater and environmental change



In August 2008, **Richard Taylor** organised the first-ever international conference on the role of groundwater in improving livelihoods in Africa under conditions of rapid development and climate change. The conference, held in Kampala, Uganda, brought together more than 300 water scientists, managers and policymakers, including parliamentarians, from 23 countries in Africa and 14 non-African countries. For more details see: <http://www.gwclim.org/>

1) A large-diameter well in Chad, 2) Groundwater-fed irrigation in Zambia, 3) Collection of water from a protected spring in Uganda and 4) Collector well within the seasonally dry riverbed of the River Limpopo, Botswana.

1960s

### Ode to a reunion: Fifty years on

by Clive Woosnam.

*The great reunion: come what may,  
It couldn't be a failure,  
With people coming all the way,  
From US and Australia.*

*We've changed a bit - we're mostly grey,  
We don't think we're so clever,  
We eat less, drink less, get more pay,  
And talk as much as ever.*

*We've knights, tycoons and diplomats,  
Within our ranks these days,  
For geographers wear many hats;  
Careers move many ways.*

*We saw the new department rooms;  
I wondered how I'd cope,  
In subterranean labs like tombs,  
With my own microscope.*

*In our day Latin was required,  
Not chemistry; perhaps,  
It was an age to be desired:  
Our key resource was maps.*

*Reunions only take their place,  
If someone leads the way,  
So many lists and names to trace,  
Give thanks to Tub and Kay!*

**Peter Nixon: 1967** (continued)

*Grant, last year in Auckland, and look forward to more UCL alumni reunions in New Zealand. I remember Eric Brown and Bill Mead as inspiring teachers, and even attending Peter Wood's (very early! – ed.) lectures. I would like any news of other 1967 graduates."*

**Steve Brazier: 1968**

Steve qualified as a **town planner**, working during the last 23 years of his career in Nottingham, becoming Assistant Director of Development. He had suffered from a serious visual impairment for some years, and this influenced his decision to retire in 1998.

*"Feeling the need for a new challenge, I began to **learn German**, which had seemed impossible at school. The need for German friends always to speak English, however, became too much of an embarrassment. After three years studying on my own and with the Open University, I graduated from the University of Nottingham in 2008. **I am now trying to avoid doing anything quite so difficult again!**"*

In October 2008, Steve joined an informal reunion with seven other 1968 Geography graduates, (including Prof. Rick Battarbee), to coincide with a College Alumni Day.

**Ron Barnes: 1969**

After failing his 11+ but, he declares, benefiting from comprehensive education, Ron graduated in 1969, and went on complete his PhD on the long distance transport of air pollution.

He writes, *"I went on to work in the **Cabinet Office**, in a unit advising ministers on environmental pollution, as a very new boy, an awesome experience! After two years, I was head hunted by **Esso** to work in Oxfordshire, where I could own my own horses. In the late 1970s I was **seconded to the UN** to support negotiations for the Convention on Trans Boundary Air Pollution, and survive trial by vodka at the Russian legation. Returning to Esso after this was like **Red Rum giving donkey rides on the beach**, with few challenges. I nevertheless became Principal Environmental Adviser, represented the CBI in shaping EU environmental legislation, got to fly Concorde occasionally, and made an award winning environmental training film. In 1999, when Exxon Mobil had ceased funding environmental activities, I took voluntary redundancy and moved into **residential lettings and specialist consultancy work**. Thank you UCL!"*

Among other contacts from the 1960s: **John Duckenfield: '60, Helen Wilde (née Green): '67, Geoff Wilde: '67.**

## Applied Geographers in Action!

### Michael Bromfield: 1970

Michael is Chairman of **Casterbridge Tours**, specialising in customised group cultural, adventure, sporting and concert tours for schools, universities and clubs.

*"I'm the only genuine applied geographer of the lot of us! We are now neighbours of UC. The company recently purchased a rather grand building in Museum Street, I am not quite sure why, but I have somewhere to stay when the Olympics are on!"*

*Two years ago I bumped into **Bob Turner**, also a 1970 graduate, in a remote Nepalese village close to the Tibetan border. There were only five westerners in the area and he and I were two of them. We got trapped in a freak snowstorm and after three days were helicoptered out. We only live 30 miles apart in the West Country, where Bob is a college administrator, but I did not see him again until earlier this year, when we were both in Kathmandu (again!) with our respective daughters. We finally met up in the UK when we went to see Leonard Cohen in concert in Bournemouth.*

*Last night I also went to see Australia vs. the Barbarians at Wembley with **Ray Massey** (1970) who has recently retired*

*from life as a Town Planner."*

<http://www.casterbridgetours.co.uk/>

### Christopher Baker: 1976

Since relocating to **California** in 1980 I have been a **professional travel writer**, photographer, and lecturer, and after many years writing about adventure travel now specialize in the **Caribbean and Latin America**, with a particular focus on Cuba. My many books include 'Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro's Cuba,' one of five for National Geographic. I also escort tours for National Geographic Expeditions. When not travelling, I live in Palm Springs and promote myself through my website!



<http://www.travelguidebooks.com>,

<http://www.cubatravelexpert.com>

### Sue Marsh (née Clapperton), Steve Marsh: 1973

My husband Steve and I are both former geography students of UCL, graduating in 1973. Sadly somehow we have escaped the alumni net, and it is only now as our son has finished his degree also in Geography at UCL that we realise what we have been missing!

### Meeting 1976 Alumni

The Editor reports that he joined a most enjoyable BSc. (Econ) reunion lunch in early October 2008 with **Nigel Thomas**, a celebrated city fund manager who advises UCL on investment strategy; **Jeremy Thompson**, who is Head of Syndication at ABN Amro; **Tim Kingham**, a media buyer and entrepreneur; and **Daphne Capel**, who has very recently started a new text messaging venture with another of the lunchers, **Alan Campbell**. He is a freelance copywriter and author, with a recent book on 'The Crash of 2009,' which he describes as, "a sort of left-field, but right wing view of the state we seem to be in."

Earlier in the year Jeremy, Daphne and Alan joined other UCL alumni at a city lunch hosted by Nigel Thomas for the UCL Provost, Malcolm Grant, which discussed the alumni role in helping to fund future research and development at the Alma Mater.

Among other contacts from the 1970s: **Margaret Bryant: '70, Gerald Hawkins: '70, Derek Sutton: '71, Katherine Coleman MBE: '74, Rosemary Black: '77, Mark Hayward: '77, June le Count (née Gibbons): '77, Jillian Russell: '77, Max Locatelli: '79, Amanda Poole: '79.**

### Adrian Day: 1980

After UCL I took up a graduate traineeship in marketing, and moved to **design and communications consulting** in the mid-



eighties, gaining an MBA at Middlesex University in 1987.

Since then I've held consulting and management positions with a number of brand consultancies, including Siegel & Gale, Uffindell West and Landor. I'm currently Managing Director of FHD, a corporate branding and reporting consultancy, part of a US marketing services firm, Omnicom. I've worked on some great international projects, involving travel around the world, but I've always been based close to UCL. My current office is in Holborn and I walk past Bedford Way most mornings! I live in north London with my wife Liz

and children, Alex, 15 and Rebecca, 12. I still watch Spurs regularly... and we still can't win the League. I'm still in touch with a few other geographers from that great year of 1980!

### John Miller: 1980

John sends 'just a brief resumé.' *"I did an MSc in Transport at Imperial College, inspired by John Adams, and worked as a transport planner with a consultancy in London until 1983, when I started working on projects abroad.*

*Since 1990 I have been an independent transport economist, and work on projects around the world. I live partly in Warsaw, Poland, which is my professional base, and Tarifa, Spain, where my windsurfing and photographic interests are based."*

<http://www.jmiller.org>,

<http://jmiller.republika.pl>,

[http://ajm\\_photography.republika.pl](http://ajm_photography.republika.pl)

### Dr Andy Moffat: 1980

Andy Moffat received his PhD at UCL in 1980 and is currently Head of the **Forestry Commission Centre for Forestry and Climate Change**.

He began his employment with the Soil Survey of England and Wales between 1979 and 1985, and then became a pedologist in the Forestry Commission Research Division, responsible for research on land reclamation and soil sustainability. From 1997 he was Head of the Commission's Environmental Research Branch and later of the Environmental and Human Sciences Division. He is now **Visiting Professor** in the School of Human and Environmental Sciences at the University of Reading.

He writes, *"I feel extremely fortunate that my current position properly reflects my desire as a school boy to follow a career centred on Geography!"*

## UCL Geographers study made-up stuff

Jason Dittmer joined the UCL staff from the US in 2006. His research is on aspects of popular culture. Here, he explains why this has become an important theme in contemporary human geography.



Blossoming in the geographical literature of late is a renewed engagement with popular culture. Recent work in the department has included such previously taboo topics as nineteenth century 'slum' novels, fashion, science fiction, fascist cinema, and evangelical 'end-of-days' literature. Surely, I can hear you saying, this isn't 'serious' academic work?

I am used to this question! My own research on *Captain America* and other nationalist comic books never fails to raise an amused eyebrow. However, popular culture does matter, mostly because we all dip our toe into this hyper-mediated world at one time or another, even if we pretend not to like it. For most people, popular culture provides the resources they use on a daily basis for understanding the world beyond their immediate experience.

When we think about racism, are we more likely to base our ideas on Shakespeare's *Othello* or on Shilpa Shetty's turn on *Celebrity Big Brother*? In my research, however, I don't view popular culture as a 'problem' to be solved by more enlightened education. To me, it's much more interesting to see how people engage with it to construct particular geographies.



For example, in 2007 my career flashed before my eyes when Captain America was shot and killed in the pages of his own comic book. I was nevertheless impressed by the way this fictional event resonated in the 'real' news media with headlines such as "Come back, Captain, we need you" (*Seattle Times*), "Captain America was us" (*Los Angeles Times*), and "Captain America killed when US needs him" (*Daily Telegraph*).

As these headlines indicate, something bigger was seen to be at work than simply the death of a fictional figure – people around the world read this as

## Captain America, while heading to court, is shot and killed



*The New York Times*, 7 March, 2007.

indicative of the impact of President Bush's policies on the mythology of America – indeed the subsequent storyline was called "Death of the Dream."

These headline-writers clearly thought American mythology was important to national life; we should be glad that UCL geography has now been at the forefront of studying this intersection between geographic fiction and geographic 'reality' for the several decades!

1980s

### Patrick and Alison O'Halloran (née Palmer): 1981

Alison and I have been rambling on to both our sons for years about how great UCL was, and all our lecturers, and what a great department Geography was and obviously still is.

I've recently bumped into folks from my year that I have not seen virtually since I left. For example **Andy Hopkinson** at London Irish, where both our sons train at their Rugby Academy.

During last summer, **Annie Carey**, who lives in Kentish Town had a 51st birthday party and I saw **Janet Matthews**, **Christine Howard** and **Max Locatteli**.

### John Barradell: 1981

John is now Deputy Chief Executive at **Westminster City Council**, responsible for the **built environment**.

### Mike Wood: 1982

Well, I went into the **Entertainments Industry**, joined the **BBC** and then worked as a Recording Engineer for **EMI**. After that, I became a Dubbing Mixer, mixing TV shows. Since 1994, I have been working freelance as a Sound Editor and Dubbing Mixer in Post Production and I have edited soundtracks on over 35 movies....I still keep in touch with a couple of guys from my year, **Dave Jull** and **Dil Davies**. [www.soundeditor.co.uk](http://www.soundeditor.co.uk)

### Liz Chubb: 1987

After 10 years in the **RAF**, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I joined the world of civilian teaching and am now Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form at **Aylesbury High School**. I have done a part-time MSc in Art History at Oxford and my final dissertation was on environmental art. I am still an economic geographer at heart and love teaching A-Level Geography. After doing a recent

Sixth Form seminar on the the Russian Oil and Gas Industry, (Tony French would have been proud of me!) I told the students how much I had enjoyed UCL Geography and thought I'd better get in touch with the alumni website.

### Tim Davis: 1989 (Macalester)

Tim Davis spent a year at UCL in 1989, on the Junior Year Abroad scheme from Macalaster College, Saint Paul, Minnesota. He has just launched his own data analysis consulting business, and is...*"still a big fan of London"*. Most of his UCL class mates graduated in 1990, so he would be interested to hear of any reunion in 2010. [www.TimHDavis.net](http://www.TimHDavis.net)

Among other contacts from the 1980s: **Dr Roza El-Eini: '82**, **Linda Garton: '82**, **Juliet Griffiths (née Mitchell): '82**, **Dr Matthew Edney: '83**, **Julia Newton: '84**, **Helen Jenkins: '86**, **Samantha Johnson '89**.

1990s

**Clare Gillsater (née Fitzsimmons): 1991**

After graduating, I spent 7 years in Brussels at the **European Commission**, working on education and youth policy, in particular arts education and learning programmes for the Roma and other minorities, and set up a voluntary service programme for young people. Then two years in Vienna at the **Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe**. After this I moved to Washington DC, because of my husband's job, and worked on Roma issues at the World Bank. We moved to Sweden after that, as he works for the Swedish government, then to Tunisia, and are currently living in New York. I am taking some time out to take care of our two small girls and we have another baby on the way.



It's my job to identify, develop, implement and now communicate innovative 'business/nature partnerships' around Europe. In Hungary, for example, we're working with a power station to burn invasive shrubs from the Tisza floodplains for 'green' electricity. Income received by the local landowners, farmers and municipality is then re-invested into restoring grassland and native forest species, and also into a new 3-year rotation of fast-growing willows. In three years, these will be sold as biomass too, so that the area under grassland/forest grows ever bigger. By last winter more than forty people were working on the scheme, a new management company has been set up, and new life has been breathed into quite a poor village. We also re-introduced water buffalos to graze and improve the grasslands, and beavers to restore the wetland dynamics. The floodplains are now fast approaching their former ecological glory.

**Charlie Avis: 1991**

After various environmental/development jobs (starting with research for Andrew Warren the summer after graduation!) in Africa, South-East Asia, Ireland and the UK, I've been with **WWF International** for 10 years, based mainly in Hungary. Right now I'm leader of a pan-European programme 'One Europe More Nature,' which attempts (and is now succeeding!) to marry economic and nature conservation interests, harmonising business with nature in seven European countries plus Morocco.



Other initiatives feature supermarkets, brick companies, tourism operators, farmers, etc. Wherever we go, we believe we can find an innovative solution which will benefit both people and nature, and also make business sense to entrepreneurs and investors. I'm now increasingly focussing on connecting 'green' investors to such on-the-ground opportunities.

Anyone interested in these business/nature arrangements, please contact me at: **Charlie.avis@gmail.com**, **www.panda.org/europe/**

**Keith Leung: 1998 BSc Environmental Geography/1999 MSc Remote Sensing**

Since 1998, I have been working as a **natural catastrophe analyst** for a reinsurance broker in the city. I have recently put a research partnership together between my company and my former tutor, Prof. Mark Maslin's, **UCL Environment Institute**.

**Owen Gibbons: 1999**

I'm at **WWF-UK** working as their **Campaign Manager on Climate Change and Energy**. I've been here for nearly 2 years having worked at Amnesty International for a few years before that. It's certainly interesting to be back with the subject of climate change after our 1st year course on Environmental Change! I deal more with the public communications side of things, but it's impossible to avoid the dire warnings from the scientific community! Have a look at **www.timetolead.eu** and **www.wwf.org.uk/getonboard**

**Tang T. Heng: 1999**

After UCL, I returned home to Singapore where I taught Geography in secondary schools for a few years before transferring to Singapore's Ministry of Education. I then left for New York to pursue a MA in International Educational Development at Columbia. I am now working in New York as an **instructional designer** and plan to return to Asia at some point.

Among other contacts from the 1990s: **Rachel Hall (née Knight): '91**, **Jason Rich: '92**, **Sarah Nicholls: '95**.

2000s

**Sarah Sammons: 2000**

After graduating I went to work at the **BBC** in their drama department, working on a variety of shows, including *Eastenders*, *Born and Bred*, the *Shakespeare retold series* and many more. I enjoyed my time there, but left after 5 years and have recently retrained as a **teacher** at Kingston University.



After a spell at The Russell School in Petersham (Richmond), teaching a Year 5 Class, I secured a job in September 2009, at Colet Court, the prep. school attached to St. Paul's Boy's School in

Barnes. I will be a Year 4 Class Teacher, but also teaching Year 6 Geography, where they have proper Geography lessons! In 2009 I am also again very close to UCL, undertaking a part-time MA in ICT in Education at the Institute of Education. Unfortunately, I only keep in touch with one other Geographer from UCL, **Tom Annear**, but it would be great to have more Geography events.

**Nida El-Helou: 2002 MSc in Public Understanding of Environmental Change**

I am currently managing the only environmental NGO in the Sultanate of Oman. **www.environment.org.om**

**James Butler: 2007 BSc (Econ/Geog)**

I was at UCL at a Deloitte presentation for the Economics Society and was thinking of you guys in Geography. After a Masters at Imperial, I've just joined **Deloitte Consulting** and am now part of the 'Knowledge intensive Business Service world' we learned about a couple of years ago! I have just finished training and am getting stuck into my first project (with the Home Office) which has been really interesting and enjoyable so far.

Among other contacts from the 00's: **Nicola Jones: '03**, **Tom Lloyd: '03**, **Gemma Paolucci: '03**, **Philip Witt: '03**, **Charlie Malyon: '05**, **Simon Harris: '07**.

## Fire monitoring in Southern Africa



A controlled fire at one of the experimental burn plots.

**Philip Lewis** and **Mat Disney** headed a field expedition in October 2008, to monitor carbon release from fires in Kruger National Park, South Africa. The team monitored controlled fires to develop ways of mapping fire occurrence and severity from space, and predict how much carbon is released into the atmosphere. Fire is a key component of the terrestrial carbon and climate cycle, although its effects are currently quite poorly understood.



Helicopter view of the impact of the fire and the surrounding bush.

## Departmental News: Awards and Distinctions

### Richard Munton made Honorary Fellow of UCL

Recognition of his contribution to UCL and to Geography, Richard, who became an Emeritus Professor in 2006, was made an Honorary Fellow of UCL on 17 June 2009, in recognition of his service to the College and to UK Geography. The citation noted his many contributions, nationally and in College, including two periods as Head of Geography. His research in land-use planning, agricultural change and environmental governance also led to his appointment to many government policy-related positions. See: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/fellows09.pdf>

### Nick Mann wins Provost's Teaching Award

Nick Mann, who looks after the Geography Department's Reading Room and Map Room, was one of eleven members of UCL to be awarded the 2009 Provost's Teaching Award for his outstanding contribution to excellence and innovation in teaching. Nick has masterminded a number of projects enhancing the department's teaching, including digitising its maps; creating an 'Online Learning Centre' and the transfer of 125 Geography modules onto Moodle, the College's 'virtual learning' network.



### RGS prizes for UCL student dissertations

Three UCL students won Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) dissertation prizes in 2008, for research on Biogeography, Population Geography, and



Richard receives his Honorary Fellowship from the UCL Provost and President, Professor Malcolm Grant (left) and the Chair of the College Council, Sir Stephen Wall (right).

on Children. Elizabeth Gardner's work was on the ecology of a shingle habitat at Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, Kinnari Chhaya studied second generation Gujaratis in London, and Tom Rutherford examined parenting and children's safety in three Kentish villages.

### Mike Batty, Fellow of the Royal Society

Professor Mike Batty, Director of the UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA), who was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2001 and awarded a CBE in 2004 for 'services to geography,' has been elected as one of 44 new Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) for 2009. As an FRS associated with UCL Geography, Mike joins Professor Rick Battarbee and Professor Sir Alan Wilson, Urban & Regional Systems in CASA.



### "Climate change is the biggest health threat of the 21st Century"

This was the national headline following the publication in May 2009 of a major report on managing the health effects of

climate change, launched jointly by *The Lancet* and UCL, it included a major contribution from the UCL Geography Department and UCL Environment Institute, led by Professor Mark Maslin. According to Professor Anthony Costello (UCL Institute of Global Health), its main message is that, "Climate change is a health issue affecting billions of people, not just an environmental issue about polar bears and deforestation. The impacts will be felt not just in the UK, but all around the world, and not just in some distant future but in our lifetimes and those of our children."

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/media/library/lancetglobalhealth>, <http://press.thelancet.com/climatechangefinal.pdf>

### Ruth Patrick Award to Rick Battarbee

On 28 January 2009, the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography presented Professor Rick Battarbee with the Ruth Patrick Award for outstanding research into the application of aquatic science to environmental problems.



## 20 Year Reunion of 1988 PhD Geography recruits

Reunions are not just a prerogative of former undergraduates. They can be for postgraduates as well, but research students tend to share a common year of starting rather than completion. In September 1988, fifteen newcomers had arrived in the Geography post-grad room on the first floor at 26 Bedford Way. Twenty years later many met there again, coming from across the UK and as far away as Australia, U.S.A., Israel and western Canada. Messages also

came from former colleagues in Singapore, Costa Rica, Tunisia and Venezuela.

Everyone caught up with each other's news over lunch, and the social programme included a river cruise, a Docklands fieldtrip on the following day, and dinner at the Tate Modern. It turned out to be a brilliant event. Not surprisingly, we all agreed to have another re-union in 10 years.



Those attending included (left to right): William (Bill) Murphy, Tim Allott, Tassilo Herrschel, Giles Wiggs, Tim Forsyth, Lillian Berger, Jane Jacobs, Reuben Ford (bottom), Walter Boettcher and Nir Shamir.

## Staff Promotions

The success of the department's research and teaching staff in recent years was marked by ten further promotions from September 2009:

### Teaching staff:

Richard Dennis, Jon French, and Ann Varley - Professor. Gail Davies and James Kneale - Senior Lecturer. Ben Page and Richard Taylor - Reader.

### Research staff:

Roger Flower - Professorial Research Associate. Helen Bennion and Chris Curtis - Principle Research Associate.

## New Staff Arrivals 2009

### Professor Jennifer Robinson

Professor of Urban Geography at the Open University, to become Professor of Human Geography at UCL. She is author of a much praised recent book, *'Ordinary Cities,'* which examines the urbanisation of the world's population from the point of view of the increasingly dominant numbers of urban poor. Her view challenges the conventional divide between western and 'Third world' cities, and argues for a truly cosmopolitan approach, based on her work in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

### Professor Chronis Tedzakis

Professor of Global Change Palaeoecology in the School of Geography, University of Leeds, to become Professor of Physical Geography at UCL. His research has focused on developing improved terrestrial chronologies for southern Europe, based on pollen records from Portugal and western Greece.



## Obituary

Sad losses of past members of the department include:

### Professor Gerald Manners

His former students will be saddened to hear that Gerald died on 16 February 2009, after a battle with cancer.



He taught the Regional Development of Britain; the Economic Geography of Natural Resources; and the Geography of the USA to generations of students, and continued teaching his final-year option on resources for several years after retiring in 1997.

Outside UCL: he was an influential consultant and government adviser, and this practical experience always informed his teaching. He served the wider community as a member and chair of a number of charitable organisations, receiving an OBE in 2005 for charitable services. Tributes were paid to him from many walks of life at a Memorial Service held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 13 July 2009.

### Professor James (Jim) Johnson

who died in March 2009, taught in the Department from 1954 until 1974, when he became the Foundation Professor of Geography at the University of Lancaster. Jim is remembered fondly for his infectious humour and inspirational teaching. He originally specialised in the historical geography of Ireland, but became better known for work on urban geography.

**Professor Tony Chandler**, who specialised in meteorology and air pollution, and pioneered research into London's urban climate in the early 1960s, died in July 2008, aged 80. From 1956 until 1973 he was Lecturer, Reader and then Professor of Geography at UCL, moving to become Head of Department at the University of Manchester. He was also Master of Birkbeck College, from 1977 to 1979.

Older alumni will also remember **Professor Bill Packard**, who lectured at UCL from 1951 to 1954, before moving to the Australian National University, Canberra, for the rest of his

career. He was last in the Department for Bill Mead's 90th birthday in 2005, sharing his recollections of life in the department well over 50 years ago.

**Professor Mike Barnsley**, who was the department's specialist in remote sensing until he left in 1995 to become Research Professor at the University of Swansea, died in December 2007 at the age of 47. Mike had become highly influential in the field, both nationally and internationally, and continued as a valued collaborator with UCL colleagues. He was also an inspirational teacher, and one of the nicest people imaginable to work with.

**John Sienckiewicz**, who graduated in 1969, died on 14 March 2009 aged 61. John trained as a planner, worked for the Countryside Commission and the Department of the Environment. He was most recently director of the Thames Gateway Strategic Office, and was awarded an OBE in 2003. His wife, Teresa (née Thomas), was a student of the department in the same year as John.