

EGS Newsletter

ISSUE 6

1ST OCTOBER 2007



Congratulations...

- Congratulations to the following staff who have recently been appointed to senior positions:
 - Professor Kevin Taylor - the title speaks for itself
 - Stuart Marsden and Craig Young - appointed as Readers in the Department
 - Dawn Nicholson and Mark Langan - appointed as Senior Learning and Teaching Fellows for the Faculty
- Emma Shaw was invited to give two symposium presentations at the 17th International Congress of Arachnology in Brazil in August on the importance of sensory hairs in ballooning dispersal in spiders and the impact of herbicides on spider predatory behaviour. This has also resulted in Emma being elected to be the UK representative for the International Society for Arachnology and invited to be on the organising committee for the 25th European Colloquium of Arachnology in Crete in 2009.

British Ecological Society Conference

Mark Langan, Emma Shaw and Liam Dyson (a 2nd year undergraduate) attended the British Ecological Society conference in Glasgow at the beginning of September. Liam worked with Mark and Emma on a presentation for the Education session of the conference titled 'Perceptions of Ecology in Higher Education'. Liam presented over half of the talk himself and should be praised for all the hard work and commitment that he showed both during the preparation and presentation of his views. He gave a very coherent and in places funny presentation that was well received by all attending the session. Well done Liam.



Mark, Liam, Emma and Jaime Martin (an ex-PhD student who was Liam's lecturer at Myerscough before he came here)

Nancy Talks To Geologists

Nancy Dise was guest speaker at both the Manchester Geological Society President's Dinner and the Open University Geological Society Annual Symposium (held in Lancaster) this summer. For both, she was invited to give an 'Earth Systems' perspective to groups which had traditionally shown a more strictly geological focus. With a very heightened awareness of the issue of climate change amongst these groups, the talks generated quite a bit of interest and discussion. Complex biospheric feedbacks, like sulphur deposition suppressing greenhouse gas emission through shifting microbial populations, were used to illustrate the complexity of the Earth system, and how we sometimes are hit with surprises when we push these systems too far!

Human Geography Conferences

- Jon Binnie is presenting a paper titled 'Still 'Merely Cultural'? The Economic, Social and Political Geographies of Sexualities' at the International Geographical Union conference 'Cultural Approaches in Economic, Social and Political Geographies', Buenos Aires 9th-11th October.
- Tim Edensor, Steve Millington and Bethan Evans attended a conference on 'Urban Wildscapes' at Sheffield University 7th September 2007. Tim gave a paper titled 'Industrial Ruins: Spaces of Play and Pleasure'.
- Steve Millington and Bethan Evans attended a workshop on 'Children's Participation in Research Processes: Putting Theory into Practice' held at the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law, University of Liverpool 10th-12th September 2007.
- Bethan Evans was invited to speak at a Society for Educational Studies seminar on 'Performative Health and Body Pedagogies: Every Child Matters?' at Loughborough University, 10th September, 2007. She gave a paper titled 'Doing more good than harm - every child matters? The absent presence of children's bodies in (anti)obesity policy'.
- Steve Millington and Bethan Evans presented a conference paper titled 'Safe Risk: Intergenerational Geographies of Informal Outdoor Play' at the First International Conference of Geographies of Children, Youth and Families on the 17th-18th September at the University of Reading.
- Bethan Evans attended a conference on 'Bodies of Evidence: Fat across Disciplines', at the University of Cambridge, 19th-20th September 2007.
- Steve Millington will be presenting a seminar paper jointly written with Tim Edensor called 'This is our City: branding football and the myths of locality' on Wed 3rd Oct at 4pm at the University of Manchester.

Wetlands conference in Estonia



Nancy Dise and James Rothwell have just returned from a conference on 'Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control' (WETPOL) held at the University of Tartu in Estonia. Conference topics included biogeochemical processes in wetlands, heavy metal pollution in wetlands, hydrological and ecological processes and the restoration of degraded wetlands. The conference was split into plenary and parallel sessions. Nancy gave a keynote presentation on the impact of atmospheric deposition of reactive sulphur and nitrogen on methane emission from wetlands. James gave a talk on the release of lead from contaminated peatlands and presented a novel approach for modelling lead export from peatland catchments in the Peak District.

After the symposium, an optional two-day tour of Estonian wetlands was organised. Nancy and James joined approximately 40 other delegates on the tour. One of the stops was the Nigula Nature Reserve. This reserve consists of swamp forests occupied by wild boars, bears and wolves and an extensive raised bog with over 300 pools that often reach 5m depth. A wooden walkway crosses the bog, but with heavy rainfall this walkway became extremely slippery and waterlogged in places. James had to rescue Nancy from near death on numerous occasions! Although all the tour attendees got soaked in the heavy rain, spirits were high. WETPOL 2007 was a great symposium and the combination of keynote talks, varied parallel sessions and field visits exposed delegates to a wide spectrum of issues in wetland science.

EGS Seminars

The EGS seminar series will start again on 16th October, kicking off with Callum Thomas. Seminars take place from 1-2pm, with lunch and refreshments from 12.30pm. All of October's seminars will take place in John Dalton East, Room E0.05. Each month's newsletter will list the seminars for that month; the full seminar series list will be available in early October.

October's seminars:

- 16/10 Prof Callum Thomas
(MMU, CATE)
What will it be this summer - Blackpool or Bali? The sustainability challenge for aviation.
- 23/10 Dr Nissa Finney
(University of Manchester)
Dissecting diversity: cutting through myths of race, migration and segregation.
- 30/10 Andy Berkeley (MMU, EGS)
Microfossil assemblage development in tropical intertidal environments.

Staff Profile

Ros Howell



Hobbies:

Cooking, gardening, reading, playing the piano, DIY (in the sense of 'Don't Involve Yourself'), socialising, going on holidays. When do I find time for it all?

Favourite Football Team: Liverpool. It did used to be Arsenal, but after 35 years perhaps I am finally becoming a northerner. Or perhaps I'm just fickle?

Favourite music:

The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Joe Cocker, Bruce Springsteen, Bach, Sibelius, Prokofiev, Strauss (Richard not Johann), Abba, Nancy Griffiths

Favourite films

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Badlands, The Go-Between, Atonement (but I haven't quite got round to seeing that yet).

Claims to fame

Once upon a time, many years ago, I was awarded the Whinfield prize for chemistry. (There is a free gift for anybody who can tell me who Whinfield was). In the same year I was awarded the BP prize for industrial chemistry. When asked by one of their top brass what I was going to spend the prize money on, I told him truthfully that some of it would pay the rent, and I would donate the rest to the International Marxist Group. (Don't worry, I have since seen the light). Oh, and in that same eventful year, ICI asked me if I would go and work for them. I told them that, whilst I would happily come and clean their floors, I would not help them make their nasty, horrid, smelly chemicals. Enough said.

Publications

Brearely, F. Q., Scholes, J. D., Press, M. C. & Palfner, G. (2007) How does light and phosphorus fertilisation affect the growth and ectomycorrhizal community of two contrasting dipterocarp species? *Plant Ecology* 192 237-249

Nicholson, D. T. 2007. Evaluación del riesgo de meteorización progresiva y colapso de los taludes rocosos. In: C. L. Jimeno (ed). *Ingeniería del Terreno*, Ingeoter 9, Madrid, 195-244.

(translation: Evaluating the risks of progressive weathering and collapse of rock slopes)

Linton, P.E., Shotbolt, L. and Thomas, A.D. (In press). Microbial communities in long-term heavy metal contaminated ombrotrophic peats. *Water, Air & Soil Pollution*. DOI: 10.1007/s11270-007-9468-z