

Geography Newsletter

for former students



Department of Geography, University College London

No 15 Spring 2004

Welcome to our Second Century

This year's Newsletter builds on the success of our Centenary year celebrations in 2003, especially the contacts we made with many of our former students.

At the Centennial Reunion, many said that 'we must do this more often'. We won't wait for another hundred years, but experience suggests that occasional 'special events' are most popular. As you will read below, there is likely to be another departmental landmark in 2006, and we certainly plan to invite you then to help inaugurate the new building.

A popular occasion is the 'Year Reunion', like the 1963 get-together last March. If the department can help, let us know ... and you don't have to wait forty years! More recent graduates would be very welcome, not least to help us keep up-to-date in advising today's students about the 'after-life'. What about five years on from 1999 or 2000; ten years from 1994/1995, or twenty from 1984/1985...?

Another outcome of the past year has been the flood of correspondence we have received by letters and e-mails. We summarise some of the messages from past students on page 5/6. The Newsletter should really contain more material from you, so drop us a note at anytime. If it is easier to do so, use the e-mail address: contacts@geog.ucl.ac.uk

This edition is being distributed as widely as possible, with *UCL People*, to round off the Centennial celebrations. I hope you might like to receive future annual copies. If so, please return the form on page 8.

Peter Wood
March 2004

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Centenary Reunion

A highlight of the Centennial Year was the reunion of UCL Geography alumni on Friday 20 June. The department at 26 Bedford Way was almost under siege for the 'Open Afternoon'. The oldest visitors had graduated before the World War II, and many more had been at UCL in the 1940s and '50s. Our extensive collection of year photographs attracted a lot of interest, as well as displays of the department's current activities.

Over 250 joined the party for tea in the UCL South Cloister. Across Gower Street, the Cruciform Building (former University College Hospital) lecture theatre was well filled for Hugh Clout's



Centennial Lecture, with all four Heads of Department since 1966 in attendance; Bill Mead, Ron Cooke, Richard Munton and Peter Wood. Jim Johnson and Karl Sinnhuber were also there, as former staff, as well as most of our Emeriti: Eric Brown, Hugh Prince, Gerald Manners, John Adams and Andrew Warren.



Hugh deployed a welter of revealing photographs from the past century to highlight key events in the department's history. Drawing on the research for his Centennial History, he talked about the personalities of the early years and the era of HC Darby, showing how the department had grown and diversified, not least as it has moved and expanded its variety of locations. In his vote of thanks, Richard Munton reflected on the importance of adapting to change as new opportunities arise, and raised the possibility of the department being reunited on the main College site within a few years (see more, page 3).

Peter Wood suggested that, even



Bill Mead, Peter Wood and Grace Hatcher ('40).

though those present had been at UCL over many generations of students, they would find much in common from their experience, both then and since. This seemed to be amply confirmed by the convivial atmosphere over supper in the Jeremy Bentham Room (former Upper Refectory). Many old acquaintances were renewed, and new ones established. There was a common call for future reunions not to be delayed for another 100 years.



One of the pleasures was to hear about the variety of ways UCL geographers now earn their living. There were people successfully running small businesses, in the music and entertainment world, the media, publishing, the Civil Service, planning and economic development, housing administration, finance, and business consultancy, not to mention teaching and university research. Also, plenty of the 'actively retired', a significant group these days, many still pursuing their geographical curiosity after over forty years. Most short-term graduate career surveys miss all this, as do many modern attitudes to the value of



the university experience itself.

1963 Reunited

We got to meet a lot of our former students last year. As well as the Centenary gatherings, the Year of 1963 had its own memorable 40th Anniversary reunion on 21st March, organised by Bill Bower. Fourteen met up to look around the Department on the Friday afternoon, and were greeted by Richard Munton and Peter Wood, who also explained some of the intricacies of modern UCL life. The highlight, however, was the presence of Bill Mead, Eric Brown and Hugh Prince, resulting in much delighted reminiscing. Lunch in College on Saturday (the day the anti-war



demonstration assembled outside in Gower Street) attracted 24 graduates and guests, about 40 in all, going on well into a sunny afternoon. On the Sunday, a dozen stalwarts recreated the famous Chiltern excursion, walking from Great Missenden to Wavenden, where they

Launching the Second Century: Bring on the Pearson Building!

When you walk into the College Quadrangle from Gower Street, facing the Portico, the building on the left, currently occupied by the Department of Computer Science, is known as the Pearson Building. From 2006, this will be the home for over half of Geography's activities. The computer-based remote sensing, geographical information science and environmental modelling work currently in Chandler House, near King's Cross, will be moved there, with a new Institute for Spatial Information Science, and Environment Institute. Masters teaching will be transferred from Remax House, and the Environmental Change Research Centre and some other staff will also move from Bedford Way. UCL has allocated around £6 million of 'Science Research Infrastructure' funding to carry out the work. Geography will continue to occupy Bedford Way for the foreseeable future, and there are also plans to improve its facilities, especially for undergraduate teaching. As well as giving a fillip to our research and teaching, the Pearson Building will reunite many of Geography's scattered activities back in the centre of UCL, from which we were temporarily decanted in 1979!



1948 Field Class in the Isle of Man

Among the many additions to our archive last year was this group picture (below) of 31 students and 3 staff (including Arthur Smailes and Emrys Jones) on the 1948 UCL Geography Isle of Man fieldclass.

It was sent to us (annotated with the names of everyone in the group!) by **Sheila Caldwell (nee Cane)** who went on to teach in England, Nigeria, Malawi and finally in Scotland where she also became a headteacher, and still



Spot the former member of staff: Centennial Dinner

The hundred guests at the Centennial Dinner at the Royal Geographical Society on Friday 12th September 2003 included many former colleagues from across Britain and the world, including Australia and Canada, as well as current staff in the department. The new UCL Provost, Professor Malcolm Grant and his wife Christine, were Guests of Honour, with Professor Sir Ronald and Barbara Cooke. Ron is not only the recently retired President of the Royal Geographical Society and Vice Chancellor of the University of York, but was also a student, Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer, Reader, Professor and Head of Department at UCL. How many other former (and current!) members of staff can you identify?



Sir Malcolm Grant - Provost, and his wife Christine.



Information from you

We should like the Newsletter in future to contain more information about the life and experiences of former students of all vintages. Given their natural hesitancy, we would especially encourage those who have graduated over the past ten years! This year we have heard from a lot of you. Here is a summary of those we have managed to get into writing. Please let us have further information and, if you agree, we can then pass on the information in future Newsletters. If it is convenient use our alumnus email address: contacts@geog.ucl.ac.uk

were met at the Rising Sun by Bill and Eric: see Philip Lund's photograph below.

Brian Fullerton ('50) After academic career at Universities of Glasgow and Newcastle, now retired and living in Rothbury, Northumberland.

Elizabeth Rodger ('53) trained as a librarian at UCL and worked in the Bodleian, Oxford, Yale University Library, and Glasgow, before becoming University Librarian at the University of Sussex. She lives in Lewes and in busy retirement.

Brian Berry ('55) Brian is, of course, one of the most influential American geographers of his generation, and is currently at the University of Texas at Dallas as Lloyd Viel Regental Professor of Political Economy. After hearing about the Centenary, he visited the department in June, and spent the day talking about recent and planned developments. He also reminisced about his time at UCL, including the influence on his ideas of Brian Law (who, sadly, died in December).

Clare Cooper Marcus ('55) is recently retired Professor Emerita in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. She moved away from Geography, but her work has been mainly concerned with people's use of designed environments. She is author of many books and papers and has received many awards for her work.

John Hutton (B.Sc. Econ; '56) Worked first in Whitehall, and then in economic research in Australasia and Papua and New Guinea and Uganda. He taught at the Manchester Business School and later in a wide range of roles in management training. Now in active retirement in Henley on Thames.

Shirley Westwood (nee Munday) ('58) Has had a full and enjoyable career in teaching. She came to the Centenary Reunion Dinner and met 14 of her year!

Tony O'Carroll ('62) has had two careers, mainly in Canada, in teaching and municipal planning. He has vivid memories of his time at UCL, including the teaching of Clifford Darby, Eric Brown, Tony French, Bill Mead, Jim Johnson and Tony Chandler, and meeting Frank Carter at the LSE with his ability to swear fluently in Serbo-Croat.

Vivien Newbury (nee Northcott) (B.Sc Econ. '64) Worked first as a historical researcher in BBC TV and then as a lecturer. She joined the RAF in 1968 as an Education Officer, retiring as a Squadron Leader in 1990. After travelling widely, her last posting was at the Bigg in Hill Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre, and she now lives in Tunbridge Wells.

David Gilling ('64) Career as teacher in Yorkshire and Shropshire, and is now a part-time Education Tutor at the University of Keele.

Norah Laurie (nee Tomlinson) ('69) Taught for 11 years and, after marrying, played county tennis and squash in Oxfordshire. Also lived in Scotland and been involved in Tennis Sports Development work and charity fundraising, and leisure and learning-based work with disabled people.

Penny Perberdy ('70) worked in planning in Manchester and Aberdeen. In 1975 married **Eamon Murphy (also '70)**. Eamon taught until he moved into offshore engineering after 1974. After this they lived in Athens, Doha, Tripoli, Aberdeen, Singapore, Moscow and Paris, while also raising five children. Eamon worked in oil industry operations, and Penny continued as a landscape architect. They now live in, and work from Buckinghamshire.

Michael Bromfield ('70) After teaching in Australia, Michael returned to England in 1978 and founded Casterbridge Tours, which has now evolved into one of the world's leading educational tour operators, mainly for the US market. In 2002, it was the first travel company to receive the Queen's

Award for Enterprise. Casterbridge has recently launched Casterbridge School Tours and Great Walks of the World, offering programmes for the UK market. Michael currently has homes in Somerset, Switzerland and Vancouver. For more, see: <http://www.casterbridge-tours.com/>

Wendy Carter (nee Slaughter) ('72) After paying tennis on the international circuit, Wendy taught Geography for five years. She then took an MSc and move into environmental consultancy. She now operates a company in the corporate events/tourism sector, including 'Gentle Cycling Tours' based in Aston Clinton (www.capital-sport.co.uk).

Laura Hirst ('74) Laura has lived in Spain, Argentina, Germany and Australia, as well as the UK, teaching Geography and English as a foreign language. She changed career in the 1990s and is now working in Poole, Dorset, to improve the sustainability of travel patterns through the Government's 'Business Travel Plans' planning initiative.

Christopher Baker ('76) Chris settled in California after graduating, working in San Francisco as a professional travel writer, photographer and lecturer, specializing in the Caribbean and Cuba. He has written many books, for Lonely Planet, National Geographic, Frommers and Time-Life. His book 'Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling through Castro's Cuba' published by National Geographic, won the 2002 Lowell Thomas 'Travel Book of the Year' award and the North American Travel Journalists Association 2002 Grand Prix award. More details are on <http://www.travelguidebooks.com/>

Jacob Solomon ('79) Lives in Jerusalem, with his wife and two children. He is Head of Humanities at the Anglican International School.

Madeleine Beard ('80) completed a History M.Litt. at Cambridge and has written books on English Landed

Society in the Twentieth Century (1989) and Faith and Fortune (1997). She also paints watercolour icons: see <http://www.watercolouricons.com/>

Felicity Ellacome (nee Newell) ('80) For 16 years worked in the City as a stockbroker and later as a Director in institutional sales for the ABN-AMRO bank. She now has a young son and does voluntary work with children.

Julia Newton ('84) went into accountancy, at first with KPMG and for the past 12 years in the NHS, currently in Sheffield. She still travels widely when she can, most recently including Australia and Iceland.

Pippa Reeve (nee Getvol dse n) ('88) has lived in Switzerland since 2002, with her husband and three young children.

Emma Gorbey ('90) is now a Geography teacher in Dubai, after three years in Hong Kong. She was President of Geog. Soc and, like many others, recalls the fun of student life, mentioning in particular **Bridget Jones**, **Tracey Jones**, and **Jon Bannister**.

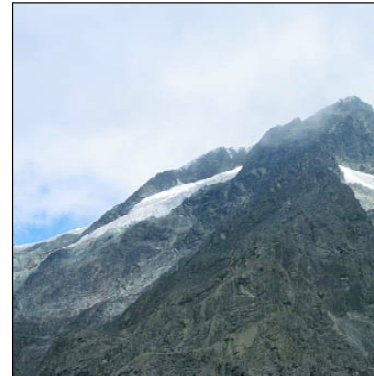
Zoe Freeman ('95) After graduating, Zoe travelled widely, including to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. She is now responsible for client relations in education, public sector and commercial recruitment and course advertising for The Guardian. Living in London, she and her partner have travelled widely, including Mauritius, Brazil, Tunisia, Cuba and Goa.

Stuart Dick ('99) was commissioned from Sandhurst in 2000, and is now a Captain in the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He has served in Germany, Canada, Poland, Kosovo and Iraq.

Barbara Smyth ('99) works in the Home Office with the Drugs Strategy Directorate.

Daniel Hawkins ('00) Worked in Boston for an inward investment agency for a year, and returned to take an MSc in Regional and Urban Planning at the LSE. He then got married to an American and worked for a further year as consultant to an economic development agency in Philadelphia on high technology and entrepreneurial initiatives. Last August, he moved back to the UK and is now working for London First, with the inward investment agency for the Thames Gateway.

Joe Pringle ('01) After graduating Joe went off to the Wakatobi National Park in south-east Sulawesi, Indonesia, as a summer marine research assistant, diving on the coral reefs and trekking through the forest. She hopes to continue professionally in the field of land management and conservation in the tropics after completing a Masters in Conservation Biology at the University of Queensland.



The UCL-Rwenzori Centenary Expedition

Probably the most ambitious of last year's projects was the staff-student expedition, with Makerere University, Uganda, to the magnificent snow-capped mountains of the Rwenzori Highlands on the Uganda/Congo border. The team, which included participation from the University of Innsbruck and the Uganda Water Resources Management Department, was led by Richard Taylor from UCL, with Neil Rose, from the ECRC, and UCL undergraduates Lucinda Mileham, Virginia Panizzo and Adinah Shackleton. Financial support came from various sources, including the Department, the College, the University, and the RGS, as well as from Ugandan sponsors.

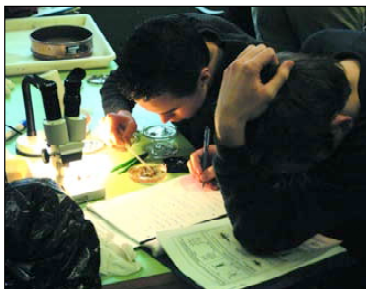
The purpose of the 10-day trek was to observe the extent of the Rwenzori glaciers, which appeared to have receded by more than 300 m in the last decade. This is of concern because of its poten-

tial impact on the water resources and ecology of the Rwenzori Mountains, and also on the livelihood of surrounding communities. The team recorded the first measurements of ice thickness, to aid understanding of the volume of water stored in the glaciers. These revealed a less than 20 cm layer of light snow on top of ice, with little dense snow between, suggesting that very little ice is now accumulating. Measurements of streamflow were taken throughout the Rwenzori Mountains National Park, allowing estimates to be made of the relative contribution of different water sources to the alpine streamflow, using natural chemical tracers. Historical records also allow assessment of whether the total amount or seasonality of streamflow has changed in response to the retreat of the glaciers. Recent flash floods suggest that such events have become more frequent. Such records are very limited, however, and there is a need to establish meteorological stations in the Park. To assess whether the observed glacier changes are short- or long-term, 10 sediments cores from three lakes were



Undergraduate courses today

It became clear from our meetings last year that many former students remain interested in what taking a Geography degree at UCL today actually involves. The detail can be found on the departmental web-site or in its pamphlets. In principle, however, if you have graduated over the past 30 years or more, the simply answer is likely to be, 'basically, much the same as in your time'. We still try to offer as much personal choice as possible across a wide range of topics. Human geography teaching reflects modern developments, for example in cultural geography or GIS, but we still believe in the importance of knowing about real places. So there are expert courses on Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Latin America.



Slapton 1st Year Fieldclass.

Physical geography is taught as process-based environmental science, but there are also courses that draw on Geography's vital ability to combine social and scientific approaches to environmental understanding, in the UK, across the tropics, or even in Russia.

Our motto is 'undergraduate training in a research-based environment', meaning that we encourage the ability to examine and judge evidence and put learning into practice. We want to foster three core qualities. First, **curiosity** about the natural environment and human society, both close to home and across the globe.

This should direct and drive each individual's studies in relation to the opportunities for learning we can offer. Simple curiosity is not enough, however. Students are also expected to develop the **expertise** they need to follow up the questions it may raise. Practical training is the core of each year's work, including information acquisition, analytical and communication skills, developed through tutorials, practicals and fieldwork.

The final purpose is to develop the **independence** required for students to carry out geographical enquiries for themselves. This is best demonstrated through their dissertation, which is now compulsory and takes up a significant proportion of 2/3rd-year work. It usually involves fieldwork, sometimes overseas, including on funded expeditions.

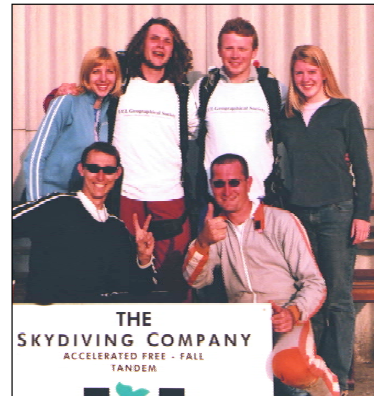
We do not, of course, regard the degree as primarily a preparation for future geographical research. These qualities are an essential requirement for many forms of graduate career. Combined with the wider understanding of the contemporary world offered by a Geography degree, such personal development and training seem increasingly to be appreciated by employers more generally.

Investing in the future of Geography: The Schools Geography Video

As its centenary investment in the future of Geography, the Department, with the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers, has co-funded a 12-minute video for schools aimed at 13-14 year-olds. It conveys the enthusiasm for Geography of school pupils themselves, with contributions from Geography undergraduates, including Matthew Kerlogue from the UCL second year. There is also reference to the skills developed by geographers and the wide range of careers they now take up, from environmental management to the law. The video received a warm welcome from teachers on its 'launch' at the RGS in February. It is being distributed to over 4,500 secondary schools in England and Wales to help encourage

children to chose Geography as one of their GCSE, possibly A Level, and even degree (?) subjects.

Geographical

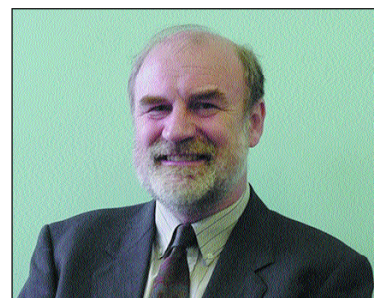


Society Charity Skydive

To celebrate the centenary of the Department, UCL Geog. Soc. arranged a Charity Sky Dive in June. The idea of a mass jump of 100 students had to be dropped (so to speak). But four brave divers, Amy Austin, Tom Munday, Robin Baker and Roz Davies (standing in photo), hoped to raise at least £340 each from sponsorship money for the charity **Action for Children in Conflict**. At the Former Students' reunion, Robin Baker, recent President of Geog Soc., explained the plan, and over £120 was collected during the evening. In total the four raised over £2,200.

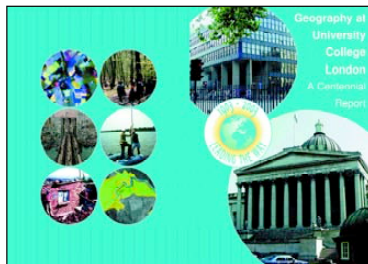
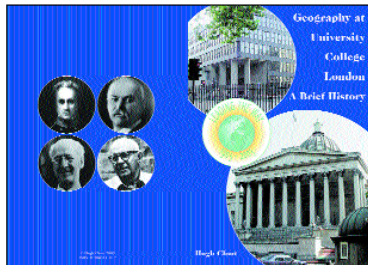
Rick Battarbee at the Palace

Rick Battarbee was one of five UCL staff



among the national 'Pioneers' invited to the Buckingham Palace Reception on 13th October. (Another was geographer Sir Peter Hall, Emeritus Professor of Planning). Pioneers were selected on the basis that they are 'ground-breaking individuals who have changed or contributed something unique to the way we live, or set new examples for others to follow'. As Director of the Environmental Change Research Centre, Rick and his colleagues continue to pioneer new methods for understanding environmental change.

Have you got your Centennial



Publications?

Copies of Hugh Clout's illustrated **Brief History** of Geography at University College, and of the department's **Centennial Report**, focusing on developments in the last forty years, are both available on request. Please send the attached form, including £5.00 to cover postage.

The Departmental Centennial Website contains full details of events during 2003.

www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/centenary/

Major Recent Research Initiatives

Two major current departmental projects are:

Leverhulme Programme on Migration and Citizenship

This €1.7 million Programme involves the UCL Geography Migration Research Unit, including John Salt, Khalid Koser, Claire Dwyer and James Clark, and the Bristol Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship. It includes five projects, which at UCL have so far focused on Migration and Movement among the highly skilled (John Salt) and Migrant Trafficking and Human Smuggling (Khalid Koser, with Ali Ahmed).

The Environmental Change Research Centre takes a lead through Euro-Limpacs

This is a major £12.5 million programme supported by the EU Framework Programme Six. Its purpose is to integrate the research of 37 partners from 17 European countries, plus Canada and Russia, on the effects of climatic change on fragile freshwater ecosystems. It will not only examine direct impacts, but also the indirect effects of global warming through the interaction of climate, pollution and land use. Simon Patrick (MD of ECRC scientific consultancy ENSIS) will be the project co-ordinator and Martin Kernan will coordinate the science programme. There is also a complementary training programme, to be overseen by Heather Binney.

Comings, Goings and Stayings

Audrey Castanha, who has been departmental secretary for the past seven years, responsible for undergraduate admissions and much else, has left to move with her husband to Jersey.

Dr Ben Page, a one-year ESRC Research Fellow last year, now holds the short-term Lectureship made available as a result of Matthew Gandy's 3-year ESRC Research Fellowship.



I should like to receive future annual copies of the UCL Geography **Newsletter for Former Students**
I enclose a **£10.00** subscription.

Please send a copy of the **Brief History** of Geography at UCL
I enclose **£5.00**.

Please send a free copy of the Geography **Centennial Report**

TOTAL COST £

Cheques should be made payable to: **University College**

Please return this form, enclosing the appropriate payment to:

Mrs C. John, Department of Geography, UCL, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Name and year of graduation: _____

Address: _____

