Editorial

The past twelve months have seen important changes in the Department as new colleagues have moved into post. They were presented in the last issue and their photographs are shown on page 8. The incoming first-year is the biggest ever, with 138 single and joint-honours geographers having registered. In the summer of 2001, Anne Oxenham and Chris Cromarty will retire: the place will just not be the same without them!

Professor Jacquie Burgess gave her inaugural lecture, entitled ‘Representing Nature: cultural geographies of environmental change’ on 10 February 2000, and a year later Professor Linda McDowell delivered her inaugural on ‘Working Lives: gender, identity and employment change’ (8 February 2001). In January 2001 we welcomed a new lecturer, Helene Burningham, to teach physical geography in place of Nick Clifford who has moved to a Readership at the University of Nottingham.

Reunion 2000

Braving the storms and the petrol crisis, a small group of former students joined members of staff past and present for an informal reception in the Maconochie Room on Friday 15 September. As the rain lashed down, the thunder roared and the lightning flashed, they nibbled, drank and caught up on news. An enjoyable time was had by all, with some proceeding to the events of the UCL Reunion Weekend later that evening and on the Saturday, when the splendidly refurbished Cruciform Building (the former University College Hospital) figured strongly on the programme of events.

People

Helen e B urni ng h am joined the Department in the New Year as lecturer in physical geography. She took her first degree in combined science at Lancaster (with a year at Oregon State
University) and then researched for her DPhil. on the Morphogenesis of County Donegal estuaries, at the University of Ulster. During 2000 she was project officer for the Tay Estuary Forum (Dundee), which is a voluntary partnership seeking to achieve wise and sustainable use of the Tay Estuary and adjacent coastline.

Frank Carter. Many congratulations to Frank, whose lectures on Eastern Europe will be remembered fondly by many UCL students, on the award of his fourth research doctorate. This was awarded by the University of Zagreb for a thesis on ‘The development of settlement and population up to 1900 on Hvar Island, central Dalmatia, Croatia’, and follows Frank’s research doctorates from the University of London, the Charles University Prague, and the Jagiellonian University Cracow, on urban, industrial and commercial themes in Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Claire Dwyer. Claire spent five weeks in India before Christmas 2000 as part of her research project, ‘Commodity Culture and South Asian Transnationality’, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. She visited Bombay/Mumbai, Delhi and Jaipur, conducting interviews with British-Indian clothing manufacturing companies and designers. She also made contacts with members of the Tata Institute of Social Science Research and of the Geography Department, University of Mumbai with whom she hopes to develop future research.

Andrew Warren. Andrew is spending the academic session 2000-2001 in Sweden where he holds the Royal Professorship at the University of Lund, having been appointed by the King of Sweden. Many colleagues at Lund are old friends of the Geography Department at UCL, so it is no surprise that Andrew is having an excellent and productive time.

Chris the Camera Retires

Chris Cromarty

Dr Claire Dwyer

Anne the Maps Retires

Tony French writes: When asked to write a few words about Anne Oxenham’s retirement, I was as despairing as delighted. How can one put into ‘a few words’ one’s appreciation of a dear friend and valued colleague of some four decades? Perhaps a conversation with a group of alumni from a wide range of years at a departmental reunion was most telling. When asked who they most remembered from their undergraduate years, they all agreed that it was Anne. The disciplinarian of the maproom, the person who not only knew the answer to every problem students met working in the department, but also went to great lengths to help resolve them, the comforter who stood with her tin of sweets at the entrance to every exam in the department to encourage the victims (invigilators got one as well if they were lucky). I recall a student arriving for a final exam, on the verge of hysteria having witnessed a Tube suicide on her way; it was Anne who calmed her, gave her a swift shot of brandy and sent her in with the instruction ‘Think of nothing but the paper, until you come out.’ The student got her best grades in that paper!

For members of staff, it was always Anne that we first turned to, not just for maps, but for anything practical to be done. She was a regular on Easter field classes and I can recall many an evening in the local pub, with Anne and the other participants. But a very personal memory for me is the time an operation landed me in UCH for six weeks; of all departmental friends and colleagues who came across Gower Street to cheer me up, no-one came...
more frequently than Anne or did more to maintain my morale. At the academic level, her work, her carefully nurtured relations with the other leading map curators of the country, especially in government departments, built up the department’s outstanding collection. For me this was vital; for most of my time, cartographic material about the Soviet Union was under wraps, by the defence and security bodies of both sides. With Anne’s efforts, we were able to build up one of the three or four best collections, open to the lay public, of maps and atlases on that area in Britain, with the British Library, the RGS and the Bodleian. Anne’s achievements as a map librarian were deservedly honoured recently with an MBE, to the deep pleasure of us all, but her mark in the department has been made in the affection of generation after generation of undergraduates, graduates and staff. Anne, we can’t thank you enough. And how we will miss you!

Andrew Warren writes: I’ve been in the Department almost as long as Anne, and I cannot remember a time when I did not regard her as the absolute centre of the place. "Centre": unflapping, straight-talking; sympathetic to everyone; critical when needed; giving all she’s ever asked for (which is a vast task), and yet more. I was delighted, overjoyed when she got her ‘gong’. I could think of no-one near at hand who deserves it more. Her attention to the students is crucial to the friendly feel of the Department. I have heard countless encomiums from them. I have to laugh when I find Anne hiding away in Room LG15 or wherever, just to have her lunch. There’s a rumour that she has to hide in the recovery room on the first floor at times. This little foible probably says it all: she’s so indisputeable that she can’t escape.

Ron Cooke, Vice-Chancellor, University of York (former Head of Department) writes: ‘Anne the Map Library on the top floor of Foster Court was lined with map chests, filled with teaching sets and specialist maps, and the number of atlas cabinets grew and grew. Anne looked after a thousand other things, including wall maps and cartographic materials and, of course,密切 of us.

When the Department moved to Bedford Way Anne’s domain was established on the Lower Ground Floor and involved two large rooms, since what had been intended to be a student cartography lab soon became a reading room adjacent to the map library. As the years went by, the practice of Geography changed and much less call was made on maps in teaching. However student numbers grew rapidly as did the demand for access to selected books and journals for reading between lectures, rather than walking across to the Science

Hugh Clout writes: I first met Anne in the early 1960s when I was fresher in the old Geography Department in Foster Court. Anne operated the manual slide projector to illustrate Professor H.C. Darby’s charismatic lectures on ‘The Changing English Landscape’ each Friday at 10 a.m. She also controlled the allocation of large-scale maps which were used in maps classes which formed an integral part of the first-year course and accompanied all courses in regional geography (the British Isles, two major sections of Europe, and one other major part of the world) which all Geography undergraduates were required to take. The Map Library on the top floor of Foster Court was lined with map chests, filled with teaching sets and specialist maps, and the number of atlas cabinets grew and grew. Anne looked after a thousand other things, including wall maps and cartographic materials and, of course, looked after us.

Hugh Prince writes: Anne was mildly perplexed by the citation for her MBE ‘for services to archivism’ when everyone knows that what Anne does best is looking after students. From the beginning of the first year, she shows them how to use her vast storehouse of knowledge about maps, gazetteers, atlases, journals, textbooks and other useful information. For one enquirer, she will find a map outlining boundaries of parishes listed in past censuses, for others she will trace sources of early names, provide addresses of geographers in overseas universities and tell them how to find their way to the Royal Geographical Society. She quickly points researchers towards material that they need for essays and dissertations and takes great pains to deal with difficult questions from old scholars. Anne’s strength is that she not only knows where to find relevant information but she remembers the names, faces and a good deal about the lives of hundreds of people who visit the map library every week. She attends to every call for help as an urgent personal request.
Library. Anne’s job gradually changed and managing the reading room and the three photocopiers for student use consumed more of her time, in addition to her sterling work with ailing slide projectors, video machines, overhead projectors and a thousand other things - not to mention sorting the morning post.

The most remarkable thing about ‘Anne the Maps’ is that she is always there, the first port of call for many visitors to the Department (with enquiries about maps, atlases and much else) and the ever-helpful point of contact and advice for students. Anne has great concern for her “troops” and has done wonderful work over the years by listening to those with any kind of personal problem and offering a helping hand or word of advice. She is enormously proud of students’ efforts, remarking year after year that “there’s some beautiful work here” as the annual crop of dissertations and the ever-growing harvest of coursepapers is gathered in - all having to be dated stamped and recorded by Anne, needless to say. She is equally attentive to the well-being of her colleagues, asking “Is everything all right?”, if one looks a bit down, and better still suggesting “Can I get you a cup of coffee?” (In the old days it used to be an aspirin as well, but now such things are under lock and key.)

For a number of years Anne used to escape from Bedford Way for a week at Eastertime to accompany John Salt and myself on the regular field class to Paris which I know she enjoyed greatly. She was most certainly not just the necessary female member of staff to help cope with a large mixed party. She participated fully in all the academic sessions in ministries, planning offices and the Sorbonne. She always wrote copious notes as presentations were given by distinguished speakers, and was a wonderful stimulus for some of the more lethargic third years. Many students were convinced that she was taking a part-time degree on top of a more than full-time job! Anne has come to love Paris and I know that she has visited the city with friends in recent years. She also enjoys London and its history, belonging to a number of associations which offer lectures and visits. Her range of contacts on anything to do with London is phenomenal and her knowledge of historic maps of London was invaluable to me when I edited an historical atlas of the city some years back. But of course, Anne’s real love is the calm of South-West England, where friends and family offer a haven of peace away from the punishing rush and tumble of UCL.

Anne has always been an early bird, reaching the Department soon after seven each morning, to avoid as much traffic as possible, and staying late for the same reason. Our paths often cross about 7.30 as she strides out to buy a strong black coffee to start the day and I approach my office with some trepidation since a batch of over-night e-mails always confronts a Dean. I shall miss Anne’s tap on my door and friendly greeting those mornings when we have not met outside the building. Indeed, we shall all miss Anne. We all have a host of things to thank her for. Her kindliness, willingness and ability to cope with virtually any unanticipated task (or potential crisis) has made all our lives easier on numerous occasions. We were all delighted when she was awarded an MBE in the Millennium Honours List.

Thank you Anne, for everything. On behalf of staff and students, present and past, I wish you every happiness in your retirement. Do come back to see “the shed” and its inhabitants whenever you can. You will always be most welcome.

**UCL at the Association of American Geographers**

Pittsburgh, transformed from a violent, grimy steel town into a bright modern city, provided spacious accommodation for the world’s largest gathering of geographers. No fewer than 13 members of the UCL department participated and made leading contributions to well-attended sessions. Nick Clifford discussed the use of fluvial geomorphology in planning river restoration. Jon French predicted changes in a small estuary by means of a high-resolution simulation model. Andrew Warren asked why we need to know about soil erosion in the Sahel and Henny Osbahr analysed livelihood strategies in a dry region in south-western Niger. Richard Goodall reviewed conflicting attitudes towards “the professional” in the management of UK charity shops. Divya Tolia examined iconographies of identity for the British South Asian Diaspora. Claire Dwyer, Suman Prinjha and Phil Crang explained how British Asian business mobilised transnational oral connections in the manufacture and marketing of food and fashion goods. Richard Dennis traced the movement of young professional women into...
apartments in downtown Toronto, 1900-30. Matthew Gandy examined the rise from 1969 to 1972 of a radical Puerto Rican organization in New York City to gain improvements in housing and health care. Kevin Collins proposed methods for testing the usefulness of qualitative research in shaping environmental policy. Charlotte Fry showed how studies based on participant observation are applied to collaborative governance in a London borough. The conference was enlivened by our youthful presence. Many good discussions continued outside the session and excursions were made to galleries, museums and restaurants downtown.

Hugh Prince.

UCL

Tunisia: Dr Khalid Koser and some of the third year students.

**Geographers in Tunisia**

Ray Harris writes:

In November 1999 a group of 27 geographers and three staff left London for a field class in Tunisia. The destination was Sousse on the east coast of the country and the objective was to study change and continuity in what is known as the Sahel zone, the area of Tunisia between the arid south and the wetter north. The Sahel zone has approximately 300mm rainfall each year and so agriculture is marginal, as are the many activities associated with agriculture.

While Tunisia gained independence only in 1956, and so is a very young country, it has been settled as a centre of Mediterranean culture since before Roman times. The amphitheatre at El Djem, which is three quarters the size of the Colosseum in Rome and in much better condition, attests to the importance of the Tunisian Sahel in the past. The arrival of Islam soon after the death of the prophet Mohammed has provided a strong influence on the development of the country since the seventh century, an influence which is still strong, visible and audible today.

The geographical work by the student group was focussed primarily on two themes. First, urban form and function through the analysis of the historical development and contemporary environmental problems of the old cities or medinas of Sousse, Kairouan and Monastir. Second, rural development through the examination of traditional olive cultivation alongside active investment in water supplies for more intensive agriculture. These two themes were supported by work on gender, Islam and relationships with the global economy.

Students reacted both positively and inquisitively to the opportunity to study the interactions of the physical environment with human activity in North Africa, and returned to London in the main wiser.

**News on the ‘Cons Course’**

Carolyn Harrison writes:

The successful MSc Conservation Course to which several members of the Geography Department have contributed, notably Andrew Warren, Richard Munton and Julian Thompson, is flourishing and for the first time this year will be wholly administered by the Department. The ‘Cons Course’, as it is affectionately known, continues to attract well qualified applicants from the UK and abroad. Its graduates continue to enter successful careers throughout the world in conservation and the conservation profession.

We have taken the opportunity of the change in administration to fully modularize the teaching programme so that students can benefit from the full range of taught courses now available in the Department’s own substantial graduate programme. Three core modules establish the biological, environmental and institutional basis of nature conservation. Together with two compulsory field classes, based at Blakeney Point, Snowdonia and the Island of Rhum, they constitute the first term’s work. The second term provides a choice of modules drawn from specialist modules such as Managing Nature; Wetlands and Urban Nature Conservation; and a range of modules offered on other MSc programmes. For example, a new module on Environmental Decision Making taught as part of the MSc Public Understanding of Environmental Change builds on research undertaken by staff of the Environment and Society Research Unit for a number of environmental agencies, such as
English Nature and the Environment Agency. Other modules in freshwater and coastal ecology and environmental management developed for the proposed MSc in Aquatic and Coastal Ecosystems will also be made available to students. The Cons Course retains its vocational distinctiveness and provides a rigorous grounding for graduates seeking to develop a research career.

As part of this evolving relationship with other Geography graduate programmes, students and staff on the MSc Public Understanding of Environmental Change joined Cons Course students this year on a group project in Italy. This was led by Andrea Berardi (Royal Holloway College) and examined how a new approach to characterizing environmental attributes and services called ‘Environmental Capital’ could be used to assist in planning and managing the Campo Flegrei Regional Park west of Naples. It was judged to be a great success by all who took part. We look forward to future joint enterprises and to a new generation of MSc Conservation students graduating from the Department.

**Tithe Surveys**

Exploiting the tithe surveys as a source for illuminating the historical geography of 19th-century England has appealed to many members - past and present - of the Department. A suite of theses, articles and books by UCL geographers is now complemented by *Tithe Surveys for Historians* (Phillimore, 2000) by Roger Kain and Hugh Prince, which follows their volume *The Tithe Surveys of England and Wales* (CUP, 1985). Roger and Hugh explain the nature of tithes and the growing conflict between tithe owners and payers in the early 19th century. In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed, establishing a Commission to assess the value of tithes and to apportion amounts among different parcels of land. Payments were converted into annual rental charges which fluctuated in line with crop prices. The authors examine and illustrate the different documents that made up the tithe surveys, and they explain how tithe evidence may be analysed to identify field systems, land use, estates and farms, farming practices, and aspects of rural society.

**England, France and the USA**

After the death of Sir Henry Clifford Darby in 1992, a set of twelve chapters on the methodology of historical geography were discovered among his papers. These seem to have been written in the 1950s and 1960s when HCD was Head of Department at UCL. It was the wish of Lady Eva Darby and others that these chapters should be published as a book. Hugh Prince, Hugh Clout, Michael Williams (Oxford) and the late Terry Coppock (Edinburgh) agreed to edit the chapters and to write explanatory and contextual commentaries for the three countries discussed. The chapters are entitled 'The Geography behind History', 'Past Geographies', 'The History behind Geography', and 'The Historical Element in Geography', grouped by area - England, France and the United States. They are preceded by a short Prologue and an introductory chapter showing how Darby’s essays relate to his career and thinking about the relations of geography and history. The book, to be published by Exeter University Press, concludes with a brief Epilogue evaluating Darby’s work in the light of subsequent developments in historical geography, and a list of his publications.
Fifty Years On

Bill Mead writes:
It was ‘half a century on’ when a group of the 1950 student intake met in August 2000 at a Buckinghamshire Inn for a celebratory lunch. They were joined by Eric Brown and Bill Mead, both of whom also entered the Department about the same time. All of the former students who attended, now retired of course, had kept regularly in touch with each other throughout the years as well as with contemporaries who were now scattered round the world. There was much gossip about families and friends, about developments in the Department, but above all about memories from the Montpellier field trip of 1950. It has been an unforgettable occasion – the first post-war continental excursion. There were revelations of student experiences unknown to staff and of staff experiences unknown to students. Are frogs still put in beds of women students? Do staff ever have to eat oysters when being entertained by a distinguished foreign host – and have to suffer the indignity of noisily spitting out a maritime millipede hiding beneath a succulent fish? And are women students still likely to find themselves brushing their teeth next to male staff when they share mixed ablutions? Or are Auberges de Jeunesse better equipped with toilets these days?

The 1950 students graduated in 1953. Fifty years after, in 2003, they hope to meet together again. In 2003, the Department will also celebrate the centenary of the re-establishment of Geography at UCL when Lionel Lyde became Professor.

Recent Doctorates

2000 has been a bumper year for doctorates in the Department.

Rima Bartlett: Sacred spaces of Hawaii.
Tracey Bedford: Consumption, identity and ethics: cultural process in ethical consumerism.
Darren Bhattachary: Space and territorial structure: a study of regional change in Columbia.
Emma Durham: Palaeoceanography: climatic records in deep sea sediments
Alastair Graham: Irrigation monitoring with SAR data.
Hairani Haji Mohamed Ali Maricar: Migration, development and segmentation of workers in Brunei Darussalam.
Simon Maxwell: Discounted knowledge: public understanding of air quality and health.
Simon Pinnegar: Creating time spaces for the Millennium: technology and the nature of progress through a study of the Earth Centre.
Patrick Rioual: Diatom assemblages and water chemistry of lakes in the French Massif Central.
Su-Min Shen: Coastal erosion hazards in Taiwan.
Nadezhda Solovi: A palaeoecological study of Holocene environmental change in a small upland lake in the Kola Peninsula, Russia.
Handong Yang: Trace metal budgets and critical loads for freshwaters.

Professor Terry Coppock, FBA,

1921-2000

Terry died in Edinburgh on 28 June. He joined the Department in 1950 as part of the new team assembled by Professor H.C. Darby, including Bill Mead and Eric Brown. After military service and a civil service career, he obtained his BA and MA degrees at Cambridge prior to coming to London. His early research focused on economic geography and especially agricultural geography, with his London PhD (1960) being on land-use change in the Chilterns. Completing his thesis was delayed by the notorious ‘Foster Court fire’ which destroyed many of his research documents. After an especially productive phase (with books on land use and on London completed, and his first agricultural atlas in active preparation) he spent 1963-64 teaching at Ibadan (Nigeria) and travelling and researching in southern Africa. He was duly awarded a Readership at UCL. Some of us will recall his lecture courses on the British Isles and on Economic Geography. In 1965 he moved to the Ogilvie Chair in Edinburgh.

Terry’s career spanned three complementary fields. First came his vast body of work in agricultural geography. During the 1960s and 1970s he was the voice of British geography in MAFF, the DoE and the Scottish Office, being regularly consulted about rural and land-use
matters. Then came work on recreation and public policy which emerged in part from his Tourism and Recreation Research Unit at Edinburgh but also from his membership of many official committees dealing with land use, national parks and recreation. Terry’s third field was computer mapping and GIS where, once again, he was a pioneer. He developed the first computer-based system in recreation studies and long