

DGES at the Top of the Class!



Picture: Vince Jones

The winners of Aberystwyth University's 3rd Annual Student-Led Teaching Awards, as nominated by students, were announced at a glitzy ceremony in May 2014... and Geography and Earth Sciences were definitely the star performers!

The DGES results were:

Outstanding Teaching of the Year:

WINNER – Dr Tom Holt
HIGHLY COMMENDED – Dr Carina Fearnley

Postgraduate Teacher of the Year:

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Greg Thomas

Student Representative of the Year:

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Will Atkinson (*3rd year BSc Geography*)

Personal Tutor of the Year:

WINNER – Dr Kevin Grove
HIGHLY COMMENDED – Dr Andrew Thomas

Support Staff of the Year:

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Andrew Brown and Marguerite Hughes

Department of the Year:

Geography and Earth Sciences



Picture: Vince Jones



Gwobrau Dysgu dan Arweiniad Myfyrwyr
Student Led Teaching Awards

Grace Burton, Education officer, Aberystwyth University Students' Union said: "The awards are very hotly contested, and there were some incredibly touching nominations submitted by students; this demonstrates the huge impact that staff have on the student experience."

Professor John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience said: "I'd like to congratulate all of the winners and nominees at this year's Student-Led Teaching Awards. It's a great pleasure to see our students voting for whom they feel are the star performers when it comes to teaching and inspiring them."

**Thank you to our students
for the nominations!**

NEWS



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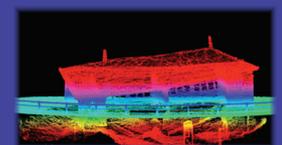
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Edited by Cerys Jones and Sarah Jones

It is a real pleasure to introduce the Department of Geography and Earth Science's newsletter for 2015. The newsletter provides you with an introduction to the world-leading teaching and research undertaken by the Department's staff, and shows some of the varied and exciting experiences that our students are having in lecture theatres, practical classes and out in the field.

We, as a Department, are celebrating our centenary in 2017 and this makes it a particularly exciting time to be joining us. We are very proud of the fact that we were one of the very first Departments of Geography to be formed in the UK and, indeed, worldwide. We have planned a series of events to celebrate the major contributions that we have made to the disciplines of Geography, Environmental Earth Science and Environmental Science over the years. The centenary is also witnessing considerable investment in the Department's teaching spaces, including our lectures and laboratories, as well as our communal spaces, and through scholarships.

Another source of excitement comes from the continued efforts being made by our researchers to understand and solve the key challenges facing both humanity and the natural world. There are several new research projects being undertaken by our staff this year, which are examining, among other things: the impacts of climate change on glaciers and ice sheets; people's understandings of extreme weather events; the impacts of globalisation on communities throughout the world; ways of reducing the impact of pollution on ecosystems and habitats.

The standard of staff research was recognised in the 2014 research excellence framework (REF) assessment. DGES retained its crown as the best Geography department in Wales and is in the top 10 in the UK with regard to research power. DGES also performed extremely well in relation to the overall impact of its research, with 100% being classified as having either outstanding or very considerable impact in terms of reach and significance.

Part of the significance of this research, of course, is that it helps to inform the modules that we teach as part of our various courses. First-year modules, such as Climate Change, The Atmosphere and the Water Cycle, Global Environmental Issues, and Power, Place and Development, seek to understand some of the key themes being studied in some of our most prominent research projects. More specialised modules in the second and third years focus in more detail on issues such as Sustainability and Resilience, Geohazards, and Governing Uncertain Futures. In all of these modules, our teaching staff provide our students with expert analysis of the challenges facing the world, as well as guidance on potential practical solutions for these challenges.

Some of the key developments in our teaching portfolio this year include the restructuring of our undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, the launch of an inter-disciplinary degree in Social Science (drawing on modules from Human Geography, International Politics, History and Psychology) and the launch of Master's scheme focusing on River Basin Dynamics. These schemes provide our students with a balance of academic knowledges, practical skills and a clear route to a range of interesting, worthwhile and well-paid careers.

The newsletter provides you with a flavour of what the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences has to offer. You can get hold of further information by contacting one of our recruitment team, by visiting the Department's website or by visiting the Department on an Open Day. We will be very pleased to welcome you and show you what we have to offer.

Professor Rhys Jones, Head of Department

Undergraduate Experiences

Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth offers fantastic opportunities for students to explore our World by studying abroad, spending a year in employment, gaining summer work experience, conducting exciting research, or go on an adventure just for the joy of it!

Operation Wallacea

Sam Johnson,

2nd year, BSc Geography

Over the summer I spent four weeks in South Africa with Operation Wallacea on my second expedition with the company, thanks to the DGES Travel Award. For the first 3 weeks the purpose of the trip was to offer my help as a research assistant aiding the company in collecting valuable data which they could pass on to the game park to help control elephant impacts on the ecosystem. Specifically, my work involved conducting bird point counts every morning which had been randomly chosen throughout the park, followed by a habitat assessment in each of these zones. The habitat assessment focussed on a variety of areas including tree species type, grass volume and impact of elephants. Following this we would have a series of lectures and discussions on the current problems facing South Africa and its conservation, one of the most interesting ideas being a nature corridor allowing animals to freely migrate between the currently scattered parks around the Kwa-Zulu Natal region. In the final week I took part in a series of Megafauna snorkels in Sodwana Bay and completed a reef ecology lecture course which concentrated on issues facing the iSimangaliso Wetlands Park and the huge problem of overfishing worldwide.

Academically, I have been introduced to field techniques and learnt how to conduct first hand research within a challenging environment. It was interesting to find out how key the Kwa-Zulu Natal region is to the future of conservation in South Africa and just how hard it is to consider the needs of humans without severely impacting the wild ecosystems found there. Furthermore, the reef ecology course allowed me to build knowledge specific to that area which I could add and compare to the ecology of Indo-Pacific reefs which I have studied before.

Personally, I tested myself in many ways, overcame fears and tried new things. Getting in the way of a herd of elephants, getting caught in a snare, getting injected in an African hospital and swimming with Whale Sharks and Dolphins are just a few of the highlights and memories I will take away from another intense but exciting experience.



Completing a habitat assessment

Snorkel team heading out

Close encounter with the park's elephants

Geography Career Champions

Re-live the Experience Competition

The 'Re-live the Experience Competition' was successfully launched by the Institute of Geography, History, Politics and Psychology in 2014. This competition was open to all undergraduate students from all four departments and required students to submit a report based on a period of work experience. In addition, finalists gave a presentation on their experiences in front of their fellow students, staff and a judging panel of careers and employability experts.

The response from DGES students was fantastic last year; indeed the winner came from this department!

Congratulations to Re-live the Experience Winner 2014:

Daniela Pietras, 3rd year BSc Physical Geography

Work experience: Receptionist at a campsite in France

This Easter I won the 'Relive the experience' competition through writing a 1,000 word report about my work experience and, after being shortlisted, giving a 10 minute presentation. I presented my work experience as a receptionist that I undertook last summer on a French campsite. During the 4 months, I did the check-in and check-out of customers, answered mail and phone calls, worked as a waitress at the bar, organised staff timetables and counted tills. Working abroad allowed me to improve my French as well as my organisational and multi-tasking skills. Furthermore, through customer complaints, I learnt how to deal with problems and have become more patient. At first, I was scared to enter the competition because I thought my story might not be interesting enough. However, I would encourage every student to do the same as it is a great way to get to know students from other departments, their experiences as well as to find out about vacancies. In addition, I was able to pay for all my dissertation equipment with the prize money from the competition. Hence, it is a good way to fund your research projects or potential travel plans too.

Betsan Ellis-Williams, 3rd year BSc Geography

Re-live the Experience Runner-up 2014

Work Experience: Volunteer teacher in ACJ Primary School, Cape Town, South Africa

I organised this placement through the organisation Global Vision International, and a short interview over the phone was needed with one of the project managers in South Africa to secure my place. I worked for a fortnight teaching English, Maths, Sports and aspects of Geography. I also conducted after school fun sessions with another volunteer. The funding for the school was very limited therefore the lack of staff meant having to teach a class of up to 60 children by splitting them in to groups.



This experience has had a great impact on my career path, and I am certain that I would love to do more travelling after university. There are also many job opportunities with geographical companies such as GVI, as a project co-ordinator. It also helped with my academic choices when thinking of what to do for my dissertation in my third year. It is now clear to me that I have a greater interest in human geography, especially in themes such as culture, language and the relationship between people, space and nature.

I would urge other students to do some volunteering. It is not just work experience, but vital life experience which helped me gain confidence in myself, and have a better outlook on life.

Angharad Evans, BSc Geography graduate 2014

Re-live the Experience Finalist 2014

Work experience: Classroom observations at Newtown High School and St. Michael's Primary School, Kerry

Although my work experience seems fairly simple, going 'back to school' for a few weeks, it was invaluable to me as it confirmed my career aspirations and gave me a real idea of what the career would involve. This experience definitely changed my thoughts about being a teacher. Prior to this experience, I had only seen school, teaching and experienced lessons from a student's point of view. However, this opportunity was invaluable in showing me exactly what being a teacher involves and has made me even more excited about becoming a teacher in the future.

Furthermore, having done that period of work experience, I had the knowledge and confidence to speak about different school issues in my interview for a place on a PGCE Teaching in Secondary Geography course. It got me a place on the course and one step further along the path to the career I have always wanted – a career as a Geography teacher.



Top 3 Competition winners with the judges. L to R: Siân Furlong-Davies, Head of Careers Services (judge); Alun Jones, Chief Executive of Menter a Busnes (judge); Neil Glasser, Institute director (judge); Daniel Pietras, Geography (Winner); Maciej Blasiak, International Politics, and Betsan Ellis-Williams, Geography (Runners-up)



Finalists with the judges. Back L to R: Maciej Blasiak, International Politics (Runner-up); Alun Jones, Chief Executive of Menter a Busnes (judge); Neil Glasser (judge); Mary Wright, International Politics (finalist); Angharad Evans, Geography (finalist). Front L to R: Siân Furlong-Davies, Head of Careers Services (judge); Lauren Barrat, History (finalist); Betsan Ellis-Williams, Geography (Runner-up); and, Daniel Pietras, Geography (Winner)



Communicating Geography

National Science and Engineering Week

The students of DGES were busy once again with the 2014 National Science and Engineering Week. The theme for this year's three-day event was 'Explore the Future', which attracted over 1,300 school pupils, teachers and members of the public from across Wales and beyond. Through the students' hard work, creativity and inspirational genius, DGES succeeded in having six stands and helped make it the 'best Science Fair yet'. The Geography interactive exhibitions taught visitors about the changing climate, glacier flow, flooding, volcanic hazards and earthquakes. One of the comments from our feedback sums it all up; "it was brilliant".

The National Science and Engineering Week is organised by the University's Widening Participation team and the DGES contribution was co-ordinated by Drs Cerys Jones and Carina Fearnley (who would like to thank the dozens of DGES volunteers for their enthusiasm and hard work!).



Geography Ambassador

Gareth Williams
Physical Geography graduate and
current Postgraduate Student

Royal Geographical Society
with IBG
Advancing geography
and geographical learning

As a Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Ambassador, my role is to try to encourage secondary school pupils to undertake Geography as an A level or as an undergraduate degree. I have a passion for geography, especially the Quaternary sciences, and I try to convey this during school visits. One element I focus on is the amazing fieldwork opportunities, e.g. New Zealand, and seeing the world.

In the third year of my degree at DGES, I had the privilege of going to Penweddig School, Aberystwyth, to talk to Year 13 pupils about the possibility of doing a geography degree at university. Although I dreaded the thought of speaking in front of a group, I tried to make it an engaging session with beautiful photos of my travels and outlined the career opportunities for geographers. Also, I included an interactive session where the pupils were disaster risk managers and got them to think about how they would deal with tsunamis, volcanoes and earthquakes (thank you to Dr Carina Fearnley for the inspiration from her second year Geohazards module!). The best group won "I Love Geography" pencils. The session was engaging and fun as the teacher's feedback was positive – and giving out "I love Geography" pencils worked a treat! This was a great experience, as it not only gave me presentation experience outside of university, but also helped me to gain confidence in public speaking.



Hitch-hiking in Montenegro

Hitch-hiking is most certainly the best way of travelling – adventures which may happen during such a journey are usually better than those in books or movies. This summer I hitch-hiked across the Balkans with my friend, and Montenegro was one of the most amazing countries we have ever visited!

We started in the town of Kotor at the shores of incredible Bay of Kotor, where villages are built in to the overhanging limestone cliffs. We continued our journey by hitchhiking to the old orthodox monastery of Ostrog built in the solid rock at the top of the mountain. We spent a night there with pilgrims who came to pray near the tomb of Saint Basil of Ostrog, the founder of the monastery. Ostrog made a very big impression on both of us.

The next day brought us to Durmitor National Park where we slept in a wooden shed in the mountains. The Durmitor Mountains are one of the lesser-known regions of Europe, but they are incredibly beautiful – majestic, rocky summits partially covered with moss and fog. We climbed one of the mountains – Savin Kuk (2313 m). It was extremely exhausting, because that mountain is really steep... but the view from the top was worth it! There is one astonishing thing about Montenegro – Mountains are everywhere, and each road has got spectacular locations; they snake through slopes and valleys, bend around the hills, sometimes they resemble big, asphalt rivers.

After visiting Durmitor we got a lift to Tara Canyon, which is the deepest river canyon in Europe. It was amazing, just sitting on the edge of a bridge and looking at the turquoise river flowing below. However, it was frightening too because the bridge trembled each time a car passed. After relaxing on Tara we got a lift to Piva Lake, where we slept in the monastery of Ostrog one more time. Our journey came to an end on the coast, where we spent a lovely few days making new friends, listening to their stories of hidden gold in the mountains (in fact, one of our new friends was working for a Russian millionaire who is searching for that 'hidden gold!'). That's exactly why I love hitch-hiking so much – it will take you to the most unexpected places and give you the most unique experiences!



Dissertations

Each year our third year students are required to produce a dissertation of independent study supported by a member of staff with expertise in their research field. Here, some of our final year students tell you all about their dissertation adventures.

Conquering Glacier Noir

Nathaniel Baurley

3rd year BSc Geography

I recently spent almost 4 weeks of my summer in the south-eastern French Alps, undertaking my dissertation research for my undergraduate degree. My research focussed on a debris-covered glacier, called Glacier Noir, and the effect this debris cover was having on the amount of surface melt that was occurring.

This involved drilling bright orange, wooden dowel stakes into the surface of the glacier (once we had found an area of the glacier where the debris cover was thin enough!) and making daily measurements of the amount of melt that occurred. This, of course, meant walking (or trekking) up to the glacier every day, which was not exactly easy as it was over very rough terrain and took me and my research partner (Joe) about one and a half hours just to get there... then another hour to get back down!

It was worth it, however, for the views and for the lovely weather, which made the trek that bit easier! It also helps that I got very good data!!!

All in all, it was a fantastic trip and an experience I will never forget. It has really given me the research and travelling bug and I would love to do more things like it in the future if I get the opportunity. I also strongly encourage others to do the same, as you will thoroughly enjoy it and create memories you will never forget (I mean just look at the photos!).



The W J Edwards Award

Bill Edwards (1944–2007) was passionately interested in Wales – particularly in community, politics and participation. He was also fascinated by the links between Geography and other disciplines such as Art, History and Literature, as well as the social and physical sciences. As Director of Teaching in Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth and as Dean of Arts, he made a great contribution to improving the experience of students in Aberystwyth.

Surf Señoritas: Gender and the body in surfing

Laura Truelove, 3rd year BSc Geography



Picture: Iestyn Hughes

With the financial aid of a WJ Edward award, I spent the summer conducting research for my dissertation, entitled “A study of gender and ‘the body’ in surfing: the negotiations of being female in the Welsh surfscene”.

I decided to focus on the two main surfing spots to which I had best access and coverage regarding interviewees. Representing the surfing culture of mid Wales is Aberystwyth, as I am a part of the University Surf Club. My second study area and representing south Wales is Llangennith, near Swansea on the Gower peninsula, as I am a member of its all-female surf group – Surf Senioritas. Focusing only on these two places meant that I could research them in depth, gaining richer information than if I were to cover Wales as a whole.

I conducted interviews and focus groups with surfers in both case study areas, alongside a personal diary, which I can draw upon to add an autoethnographic viewpoint to my dissertation. However, finding surfers for interviews proved challenging at times – due to there being no swell!

One of my research highlights was conducting an interview sat on south beach overlooking the Trap. I felt that this location was great in order to spark inspiration and allowed my interviewee to observe and point out parts of the surfscene he spoke about in his interview.

One of my interviewees put me in contact with Linda Sharp, a famous surfer from the 1970's who lives in Aberavon and is considered a British surfing legend. She is often referred to as “the only girl in the curl”, and

I feel her interview will be a significant contribution to my research. As one of the first women to surf in the UK, she will give a new perspective on how the acceptance of women into the world of surfing has changed throughout the years, in both Wales and Britain.

From these many interviews and focus groups I've discovered that issues of gender in surfing is a very complex matter, combined with a range of wider social, economic and political matters. In Aberystwyth, there exists further social issues of local/non-local territorial mentalities, complicated by the presence of surfing students, reflecting notions of masculinity and the absence of femininity from these certain surfscapes. Although surfing is still largely male dominated, its emergence into mainstream culture is said to have feminized the surf world, reflecting what academic literature refers to as “third-wave” or “stealth” feminism (Heywood, 2008). The sexualization of women in the surfing world widens the gap between men and women in surfing, supporting notions of gender dualism and polarity, although my interviews show most surfers in Wales feel this commercial side of surfing exists in a separate dimension which doesn't apply to the reality of surfing the cold waters of Britain.

Heywood, L. (2008). Third-wave feminism, the global economy, and women's surfing: Sport as stealth feminism in girls' surf culture. *Next wave cultures: Feminism, subcultures, activism*, 63-82.



Honouring Bill's love of Wales and his commitment to supporting the academic and personal development of our students, this award is designed to support dissertation or Joint Honours project work which contributes to our understanding of any aspect of the physical and/or human environment of Wales.

Port Pollution

**Sarah Hughes, 3rd year
BSc Physical Geography**



Milford Haven Waterway

Milford Haven Waterway is a commercially and environmentally valuable estuary situated within Pembrokeshire National Park. Marine industrial activity within the estuary significantly increased in the 1960's alongside the development of onshore oil refineries, and there was an associated expansion in infrastructure within the locality.

The W.J. Edwards award I received provided me with financial support for my dissertation research in to the heavy metal pollution of Copper (Cu), Zinc (Zn), Lead (Pb) and Cadmium (Cd) within the commercial port of Milford Haven Waterway through the analysis of macro algae and estuarine sediments.

Twenty sites were selected along the estuary, and 20 sediment samples and macro algae samples were collected at each site. An additional 5 samples were collected from an Aberaeron control site.

Primary interpretation of results has indicated that concentrations of heavy metals in the Milford Haven samples are significantly higher than those of the control site. Lead was the dominant contaminant, with maximum sediment sample concentrations exceeding control samples by up to 8,000 times. In both sediments and macro algae, the order of heavy metal contamination was $Pb > Cu > Zn > Cd$.

Further investigation of results will be undertaken to determine the extent of pollution throughout the estuary, and potential implications for the environment and human health will be quantified.

The Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG) and Natural Resources Wales have requested copies of this study when complete.

Heavy Soils

**Sam Adamson,
3rd year BSc Physical
Geography**

The W.J. Edwards award enabled me to sample soils from four shooting ranges in south Wales to assess the severity as well as spatial distribution of soil heavy metal pollution as a result of direct and deliberate input of shot into soils. Of these four ranges, two were shotgun ranges, and two were air rifle ranges (Quarry Hunters HFT and Treetops Sporting Range). Strict firearm ownership in the United Kingdom has caused air rifle shooting to rapidly become the most popularly practiced form of shooting. However, the majority of literature regarding shooting pollution is based on shotgun and rifle ranges in the United States of America and Scandinavian Countries. This has led to a complete absence of literature regarding air rifles. My dissertation seeks to address this void of academic work in a field that is particularly relevant to the United Kingdom.

As well as assessing soil heavy metal (Lead, Copper and Zinc) contamination, analysis was also conducted to determine the chemical composition of air rifle pellets, identify the level of surface heavy metal pollution (from shotgun and air ranges) that is translated vertically down the soil profile, and assess the potential environmental consequences that result from the detected soil pollution.

It was apparent early during analysis that Copper and Zinc concentrations at all ranges were close enough to background concentrations. However, Lead concentrations at all ranges exceeded thresholds used to determine areas that require further study due to risk of ecological harm and risk to human health.



'Quarry' is an area of the range often used for target placement



'Treetops Range' is the zero range of treetops air rifle range



'Quarry Range' is the zero range of quarry hunters air rifle range



'Taff 2' is the concrete structure where the trap operator would sit. He/she would operate a machine that flings the clays where my bag is, the shooters would fire at the targets from the other side of the concrete block

Awards and Societies

Every year there is a range of awards to fund travelling, learning and for our students to experience life abroad as well as in the UK. In addition, there are a number of societies and events within Geography and Earth Sciences and across Aberystwyth University. These all mean that there are plenty of opportunities for our students to make new friends and develop valuable skills.

Photographic and Film Competition 2014

Discover, Engage, Excite, Inspire

This is what we, as a department, believe Geography and Earth Sciences are all about. For this year's competition, we wanted our students to show us what these things mean to them in terms of Geography and Earth Science, either using a photograph or, new for 2014, by creating a short film. There were four categories:

Discover – Finding that something different, something that someone else just may never have found, or an image that expresses the joys of discovery.

Engage – Show people engaging directly with Geography and Earth Sciences, or images that will engage people.

Excite – Exciting images that show just how amazing Geography and Earth Sciences is!

Inspire – Images that inspire you in your study, and would inspire others to study Geography and Earth Sciences.

Images could be of fieldtrips undertaken as a part of their studies or adventures from anywhere around the World! Film entries could incorporate one or more of the themes above.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Best Overall Photograph - £50 Amazon voucher

Best Overall Film - £50 Amazon Voucher

Best entry in each category - £30 Amazon voucher

Magdalena Chmura - Discover Winner

Photograph location: Blagaj Tekija (the only Dervish monastery in Europe), Bosnia and Herzegovina



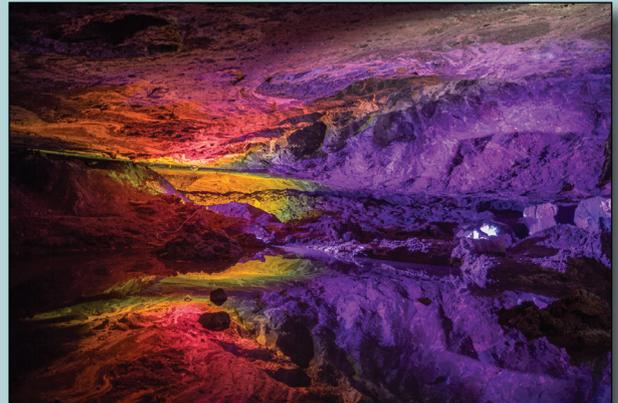
Bethany Foscett – Excite Winner

Photograph location: Dachstein Salzkammergut region, Austria



Bethany Foscett – Inspire Winner

Photograph location: Salzwelten subterranean salt lake, Hallstatt, Austria



Mel Jones - Engage Winner

Photograph location: Famine memorial in Dublin, Ireland



Rob Green - Overall Winner

Photograph location: Derwentwater, Lake District

This picture portrays the stunning landscape which makes up the Lake District – from towering mountain to shimmering lakes – providing a playground of inspiration for any Geographer



Jamie Howe - Film Winner

Film Title: *Aberystwyth University - Environmental Earth Science 3rd Year Field Trip - Ireland*
The 3rd Year Environmental Earth Scientists venture on their final field trip of their course; a trip to Ireland to assess past and present mining techniques and their impacts on the surrounding environment. Watch the film on 'YouTube'.



Travel Awards

Every year the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences offers up to 13 travel awards worth up to £400 each to students looking to explore the world. Here are some of the stories from those who made it back!

Charlotte Rennie – BA Human Geography, studied the South West of the USA

I spent 4 weeks completing a round trip starting and ending in L.A. During the most part we stayed in rural locations where I exhausted the full potential of awesome landscapes such as the Yosemite and Arches National Parks and Lake Powell. In the cities, I engaged in an eclectic mix of activities: partying in Vegas, discovering some phenomenal culinary cuisine in San Francisco, exploring the Mexican music scene in Los Angeles and cycling the coastline of San Diego.



Views from Sunrise hike in Bryce Canyon

This summer's travelling has enabled me to complete archival research on local histories of political resistance to underpin my dissertation. Both the materials and environment I was able to access facilitated a truly phenomenal experience. With a rich, politically-diverse history of human rights relations, the South West of the United States in particular proved to be an ideal location to not only study this topic but also engage physically with the environment that fanned the flames of protest. The new challenge of travelling has been invigorating, allowing me to access skills I haven't used before, pushing me to unlock an ever greater understanding and appreciation of global diversity.

A massive thank you to Aberystwyth University and the Gareth Thomas Travel scheme for their incredible generosity in enabling me to experience something truly unforgettable.



Beautiful coastline of Big Sur, home to a large colony of elephant seals

Edward Tonkin – BSc Geography, conquered the Alps

I used the Gareth Thomas Travel Award to learn new skills and also to fund my dissertation research. Both Mike Stuart, who assisted me and is now a Masters Student, and I went on the Conville Alpine course in Chamonix in the Rhône-Alpes region in south-eastern France. This course gave me a basic understanding of Alpine Mountaineering, covering glacier travel to Alpine climbing.



Mike and I on the summit of Aiguille de la Glière, Chamonix

Using skills from the Conville course, I then conducted my undergraduate dissertation research in Switzerland on the Morteratsch Glacier. This involved accessing the glacier, walking up part of it and traversing it to collect samples of organic matter from within Cryoconite holes. These samples form the basis for my dissertation, entitled 'Altitudinal Variation in Organic Matter within Cryoconite Holes on the Morteratsch Glacier, Switzerland'.



Descending one of the ladders to the Mer de Glace as part of the Conville Course

In addition to completing my dissertation research, I hope to use my newly-gained climbing experience and knowledge within the university's Mountaineering Club. I also hope to return to the Alps next year to learn more and take part in some more Alpine Mountaineering.

Meghan Edwards - BSc Geography, stood on the roof of Africa

The Geography Department offers a travel scholarship of £400, which I was lucky enough to gain. This helped greatly towards the costs of my charity Kilimanjaro climb, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime holiday to Zanzibar Spice Island and 2-day Safari. Kilimanjaro is the highest point you can reach without technical equipment and life supporting facilities. As such, it is a major challenge which requires high quality clothing and boots etc., which are impossible to buy on a student budget. In addition to these costs, the money donated by DGES was put towards my vaccinations, kit list and it also helped with my travel insurance.

The climb itself taught me a lot about myself, and improved my confidence to go out into my year in industry with a refreshed view on my capabilities. Walking through a range of environments was amazing, and to see a totally different culture at work did a lot for my geography glasses. I loved the views of the glaciers and seeing the impact of tourism on the local people. Conservation was a huge aspect of the Kili National park, and made me think about how it's different to the UK. I found it interesting to learn Swahili from the guides, and experience life as a minority; it made me think about how your identity changes depending on your environment.



A post-climb holiday in Zanzibar, our visit to Prison Island

After climbing the mountain, we went on Safari and also visited the cultural areas of Zanzibar, went swimming with wild dolphins and sea turtles, and met giant tortoises.

I implore you all to travel as much as you can, as not everything can be learnt from books! So, I leave with a quote I now firmly believe; 'The world is like a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.'

Thank you DGES for giving me the experiences that changed me – it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance.



Day 2, and already above the clouds



Reached the peak, the roof of Africa. Totally exhausted and crippled by altitude sickness but SO proud of the whole team



Last day – Post-climb team celebration with Kilimanjaro in the background

William Hingley - BSc Geography, investigated Nuclear energy policy

The DGES Travel Award took me to some pretty cool places and allowed me to conduct my research into the nuclear energy policy differences between the UK and France, including: London, Strasbourg, Oxford, and via Skype to Canada!

I aimed to interview as many policymakers, researchers and media outlets as possible to get a reliable picture of the issues surrounding this pertinent topic. Not only did I get to interview some world-leaders in their respective fields, but I got to explore some of the most influential political landscapes in the world – most notably, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, London, and the European Parliament, Strasbourg.

This independent travel and data collection consolidated my career aspirations and developed my respect for debate, particularly with such controversial issues!



Interviewing ex Secretary of State for Energy and Climate, Chris Huhne – a definite highlight!



Inside the European Parliament – no sign of UKIP...

Heather Bell – BSc Physical Geography, studied in Stockholm

This summer I was awarded with the Gareth Thomas Travel Award, a DGES scholarship which helped with the cost of travelling to the Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society (ACCESS) and Arctic Resilience Report (ARR) Summer School in Stockholm, Sweden.

Throughout my degree I focussed on polar science, taking the modules Process Glaciology, Arctic Marine Geology (UNIS), Arctic Hydrology and Climate Change (UNIS), and completing a glaciology based dissertation towards my BSc; I was also lucky enough to be able to take part in the Erasmus scheme to Svalbard in 2013. This summer school appealed to me in particular because I had previously studied the physical geography of the Arctic and here was a platform to discuss the economy and society of the Arctic under the effects of climate change.

The summer school provided me with an opportunity to focus on different aspects of Arctic climate change; changes in the economic sectors of shipping, tourism, fisheries and oil and gas exploitation and governance. Experts gave insights into recent developments, and we synthesised our results using different tools like marine spatial planning, resilience assessment and indicators. At the end of the week my group and I presented our results to a group of experts at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

The Gareth Thomas Travel Award has allowed me to pursue a topic I am fascinated by, and motivated me to carry on to an MSc in 2015!



Some of the students and me (second from the right top row) outside the Stockholm Resilience Centre



Written by
Jack Hemsworth and Caitlin Cusack
on behalf of the GeogSoc

Hello from GeogSoc!

We are one of the largest societies on campus and continue to grow year after year. Last year was one of our most successful yet as we shall explain...

We had a number of careers events to give us all a sense of what awaits us after our time here at Aberystwyth. Speakers from Natural Resources Wales and environmental consultants LDA Design provided us with an insight into the 'real world'. These wouldn't be possible if we didn't have a great relationship with the departmental staff, and this relationship is something we hope to develop more!

Last year we also had a number of firsts! We fully established our weekly 5-a-side football games, which we call GeogFoc, as well as entering a Geography team into the Rugby 7s tournament here in Aberystwyth. Our team, Geohazards, did extremely well for our first time out, just narrowly losing out in our cup final. But we'll be back this year stronger than ever! We've also hosted a number of quizzes for charities and hope to continue fundraising this year.



GeogSoc Rugby 7s team. Picture: Melissa Elizabeth Sarson

We've had a number of brilliant themes for our weekly Tuesday-night pub-crawls, including families, pub golf, around the world and Ghostbusters. We also continued our rivalry with the History society with two giant joint socials. We had a number of amazing trips including our annual trip to Borth Animalarium as well as an extremely messy afternoon paintballing.

Overall it was an amazing year and we've been trying to keep up the good work this year! Here's how it's going...

We've had a busy start to semester one this year, with lots of socials and a trip. We've been able to welcome plenty of new faces to the society and we've seen some brilliant fancy dress. Each theme has brought an array of costumes, last week we even had Thomas the Tank Engine come around town with us!

The society has been keeping active through GeogFoc and GeogJog (GeogSoc's football and sports sub-societies). Recently our GeogFoc players welcomed the lecturers for a more competitive game. The game offered spectators 40 minutes of intense viewing. It's always difficult to admit defeat, but we'd like to congratulate our lecturers on such a close win. The final score was 2-1 to the lecturers... but we definitely need a rematch!

GeogJog is new to the society this year and offers something for everyone. The group gets together to play a different sport each week in a casual environment. Some of the sports we've had a go at are Rounders, Kickball, Rugby (which left us all pretty muddy!) and we've even been swimming! It's all about having a bit of fun with old and new friends!

If you would like to get involved please join our Facebook page (Aber GeogSoc 2013-14) and follow us on twitter (@GeogSocAber).

WE ARE GEOGSOC - ONE OF ABER UNI'S BIGGEST SOCIETIES!
WE'RE THE FIRST PORT OF CALL BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS. WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY FOR SOCIALS, AS WELL AS DOING TRIPS LOCALLY AND ACROSS WALES AND OFFERING TONS OF EDUCATIONAL HELP. NO MATTER WHAT YOU STUDY, WE'LL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS!

MEET THE COMMITTEE

 FIONA CAMPBELL PRESIDENT	 DAN COLSON VICE PRESIDENT	 JOSH BAILEY SECRETARY
 PETE CHENNELLS SOCIAL SEC	 JACK HEMSWORTH SOCIAL SEC	 CARLY JACKSON EDUCATION OFFICER
 CAITLIN CUSACK TREASURER	 HANNAH POLL PUBLICITY OFFICER	 SAM LLOYD TRIPS & SAFETY

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT FOR ONE OF ABER'S BIGGEST SOCIALS!
FIND US ON FACEBOOK AS ABER GEOGSOC 14/15, AND FOLLOW OUR TWITTER @GEOGSOCABER



GeogSoc end of year dinner, Constitution Hill.
Picture: Eddie Whitehead Photography

Postgraduate News

From postgraduate study to graduate experiences, once you have your undergraduate degree in Geography and Earth Sciences, the world's your oyster!

During my time at DGES, I did not have an 'ideal' job or career path planned. My aspirations were always more open: to apply my Geography degree to a role within the environmental sector. Since graduating in July 2014, I have begun working in BWB Consulting, a multi-disciplinary consultancy. I am in the Environment Group, primarily providing environmental advice and engineering solutions to ensure land is suitable for development.

Despite only working in the sector for a short period of time, I am able to appreciate the value of a Geography degree and its transferable skills. At present, much of my time is spent writing reports, drawing on independent research, data presentation and result analysis. Site visits give the opportunity to visualise and further understand environmental processes, much like fieldwork. I also frequently use GIS plus many bespoke industry software packages.

Having applied for a range of graduate jobs and internships, there are a number of lessons I have learnt. Succinctly summarising these is difficult; instead I would like to echo two pieces of advice provided during my time at Aberystwyth. Firstly, work experience is hugely important. Whilst relevant industry experience is useful and should be noted on application forms, companies may note valuable skills in seemingly unrelated scenarios. Consequently, discussing a range of experiences, rather than solely focusing on those which appear to be most relevant, is key. Secondly, do not be afraid to submit speculative job or internship applications. Organisations may have opportunities in addition to those advertised or keep details on record for the future.

When applying for jobs in the environmental sector I found two websites to be particularly useful, namely: <http://www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs> – this site has useful search options and it is possible to refine your criteria according to location, entrance level etc. <http://www.changeagents.org.uk/> – a site specifically aimed at providing graduate placements

Name: Heather Griffiths

Degree at DGES, Aberystwyth University: BSc Geography (F800)
Graduating Degree Class: First Class Honours
Year of Graduation: 2014
Current post: Graduate Consultant within the Environment Group of BWB Consulting



Name: Sara Louise Jones

Degree at DGES, Aberystwyth University: BSc Physical Geography (F840)
Graduating Degree Class: First Class Honours
Year of Graduation: 2013
Current post: Environmental Advisor at CELSA Steel UK



Having spent the best three years at Aberystwyth University, studying my favourite subject in the beautiful setting of the Welsh seaside town, I was certain I wanted to work within the environmental sector so that I was able to apply all of the academic knowledge I had gained. To achieve this, I knew that work experience within this field would be essential. Following graduation, I secured an internship with the National Trust working alongside Environmental Practices Advisers to baseline the organisation's environmental aspects and impacts in order to implement an Environmental Management System. This was a fantastic opportunity as I was lucky enough to visit impressive stately homes in London and the South East, whilst gaining invaluable experience of environmental management within a large organisation.

Following my internship, I sent my CV to a local recruitment agency, which led me to my current position. I currently work as an Environmental Advisor at CELSA Steel UK, part of the CELSA Group. At CELSA Steel UK, we manufacture approximately 1 million tonnes of finished steel product for major construction projects, such as the London Olympics and Crossrail. The process involves the recycling of steel scrap in an Electric Arc Furnace. As the Environmental Advisor, I undertake the monitoring and reporting of all environmental parameters to ensure compliance against emission limits defined under Environmental Permitting Regulations. I also maintain the Environmental Management System to ISO 14001 standard, undertake environmental walkabouts and contribute to environmental meetings to track the environmental performance of the company.

My degree provided an invaluable grounding in environmental issues and the importance of environmental management. My dissertation focused on the legacy of copper smelting in regards to the fate and impact of increased trace elements in the environment. I also specialised in environmental geochemistry and palaeoenvironmental change in my third year. Although I had a great appreciation for the need to manage energy use and industrial emissions, I had a lot to learn about environmental legislation and permits within industry. The transition from university to the workplace was challenging and I am continuously learning. I have achieved so much since starting work in the environmental sector and my job satisfaction is never ending. My advice to anyone who wishes to begin a career in environmental management would be to specialise in third year, have a clear idea of the job you want, show your passion for the importance of environmental management and be ambitious – nothing is too big or frightening, even working in a massive steelworks!

Exploring Ghana –

Amber Tarry

Current postgraduate student and BA Human Geography graduate

Just before completing my BA Human Geography degree at Aberystwyth in 2014, I was informed that I had been lucky enough to be selected to receive a Gareth Thomas Travel Scholarship Award. The aim of the award is to provide students with the opportunity to explore the world, whilst creating new experiences that will provide both personal and academic development. I had my heart set on travelling to Ghana, perhaps mostly because my granddad is Ghanaian, yet I myself had never experienced life in Africa and knew very little about Ghanaian culture prior to my trip. Furthermore, as a Human Geographer, I felt that Ghana had a lot to offer in terms of exploring how some of the theory relevant to my academic studies was actually practiced in real life, such as ideas surrounding religion in Africa.

Whilst in Ghana, most of my time was spent volunteering in two different institutions. Every morning I taught English to a class of around thirty girls in a local village school – a school that was run completely by volunteers. In the afternoons I worked in a local orphanage, playing with and helping to take care of young Ghanaian children that had no families of their own. In my free time, I explored some of the key cultural sites of Ghana – such as the cultural market in the capital, Accra. I also spent lots of time talking to the local people and learning about their lives – Ghanaian people are extremely friendly, and everyone had a story that they were delighted to share.

Through participating in a volunteering program in Ghana, I have gained many academic and personal benefits. As mentioned earlier, academically it allowed me to see how the theory I learned in lectures was applied in real life; for example, a large part of the Ghanaian population were Muslim. As an undergraduate, I had taken the 'World Regional Islam' module and I was able to talk to many different Muslims about the way they interpret and practice their religion, and compare that with the academic literature that I had previously read.

I don't think that words can describe the personal benefits that I gained from my time in Ghana; hands down, it was the most incredible experience of my life! It opened my eyes to a completely different way of living. Despite being aware of the standard and quality of life in Africa before my trip, on reflection I can now say that I did not quite understand exactly what it was like until I had experienced it for myself. I met many charming people that I will never forget.



This was taken on my first day working in the Orphanage. I changed my first nappy and gave my first baby a bottle on my very first day – quite an achievement!

DGES launches a new MSc in River System Dynamics and Management

The MSc in River System Dynamics and Management is a new course that provides students with an opportunity to develop their understanding of hydrology and fluvial geomorphology. It will be taught by world-class experts and will engage with cutting-edge research and contemporary approaches to river management.

The course features a diverse range of modules that aim to equip students with knowledge of contemporary river management approaches and techniques. Students will: identify causes of erosion and sedimentation instability in river catchments and the approaches that can be applied to manage these problems; develop expertise in managing and manipulating large GIS and remote sensing datasets; apply industry-standard numerical modelling software to simulate river system dynamics; evaluate the management actions required to achieve the principles of drainage-basin scale water management as outlined in the Water Framework Directive; learn how to extend flood records and, gain experience in field-based data collection.

This new MSc will equip students with advanced theoretical and practical understanding of hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, water quality, numerical modelling, contemporary river management, and GIS and remote sensing. The specialist and transferable skills that they will develop will open doors to a range of career opportunities. In particular, the course will equip students with skills to pursue a career in environmental consultancy, insurance or governmental environmental management or, alternatively, provide students with the skills required for future doctoral research.

For more information, contact postgraduate-iges@aber.ac.uk

Conference Successes

Joanna Matthews, PhD candidate

Joanna Matthews won the prize for the best paper presented at the Peter Wolf Early Career Hydrologists' Event (run by the British Hydrological Society) in June 2014. Her paper was entitled "Investigating the trigger mechanisms for suspended sediment "red events" in the Brecon Beacons".

Robert MacKinnon, PhD candidate

In September 2014, Robert MacKinnon was announced as the first recipient of the Mike Stammers' New Researcher Award. Rob won the award for his paper entitled 'The Maintenance of Flows as Threatening and Threatened with the Water-world: Hydraulic Modelling, Tool-power, and the Becoming of Power-tools' in the Centre for Port and Maritime History 2014 Conference at Liverpool.

Congratulations!



Climate Change Conference

A recent graduate and a student from DGES secured funding from the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) to present their work at the 2014 Annual Climate Symposium, which was held this week in Darmstadt, Germany.

Matt North, who is a recent Geography graduate and is now a technical assistant at the Department, and ERASMUS student Salim Lamine, secured funding as 'early career scientists' to attend the conference.

The main focus of the conference was the development of science-based climate information, and how the latest technologies can be used to monitor the extent of climate change.

Matt and Salim gave presentations on their research – in a conference of nearly 500 participants from 50 countries worldwide! Moreover, they got the opportunity to listen to lectures by key figures in the climate change debate, including Michel J.P. Jarraud (Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization), Thomas Stocker (Chair of Working Group One of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and David Carlson (Director of the World Climate Research Programme).

Departmental News

As one of the largest Geography departments in the UK we have plenty of news to share, and here are just a few selected highlights of our teaching and research successes.



The Past is the Key to the Future...

In September 2014, Drs Sarah Davies, Cerys Jones and Marie-Jeanne Royer had the privilege of being asked to participate in the events surrounding the launch of the online digital versions of the diaries of Mr William Bulkeley. The two-day event invited school children and the general public to enjoy a dramatization of the diaries played by actors of 'Cwmni Pendraw', accompanied by music from the period. After the performance, Sarah and Cerys presented a talk about research on historical weather and climate by the Climate Change Consortium of Wales (C3W), including the use of diaries, tree rings and seashells to reconstruct past weather.

Mr Bulkeley's diaries are one of Wales' most important sources in identifying past weather events as they are relatively early and cover an interesting period of quite variable conditions in the 18th century. The 1740 winter is regarded as the coldest on record and it occurred after a period of relative warmth during the 1730s. The consistent way Mr Bulkeley recorded the daily weather in his diaries and the fact that he rarely travelled means that we have a reliable and continuous record – it is said that not a day went by without Mr Bulkeley faithfully recording which way the wind blew!

Looking at past weather through diaries is a complex undertaking but very rewarding as it allows you to put that event into a context. Now that the transcription is freely available on the web, it makes this process much easier... and faster. Not only do we find out about what the weather was, but we can also find out how people perceived that event, what effects it had on the local area and what responses were put in place. Combining various proxy data then allows us to reinforce our knowledge of weather events and the social responses surrounding them. However, a question that often comes up with people working with written archives is: what will be the archives of the future – who will replace Mr Bulkeley?

Images and full transcriptions of the diaries are available at: bulkeleydiaries.bangor.ac.uk/

Vince (C3W outreach officer) produced a short film of the event which is now available online <http://vimeo.com/107412330>.



Climate Change Consortium of Wales
Consortiwm Newid Hinsawdd Cymru

Picture: Vince Jones/C3W

Research in the Spotlight

Happy 20th Anniversary to the Centre for Glaciology!

The Centre for Glaciology research hub at DGES celebrated its 20th Anniversary in September 2014. All the original members of the Centre were present: Julian Dowdeswell, the founding director and now Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge; Martin Siegert, now Co-Director of the Grantham Institute at Imperial College; Giles Brown, Bristol University; Robert Whittington (retired) and, of course, the current Centre's director Bryn Hubbard. Celebrations commenced with a walk up Cadair Idris, followed by dinner in the Arts Centre attended by 50 people, comprising current and former staff, PhD and Masters students. Julian and Martin both gave after-dinner speeches about their time in Aberystwyth and how Glaciology has evolved into a mainstream discipline.



From the Old to the New...

GLOBAL-RURAL Project

Professor Michael Woods and Dr Jesse Heley have started a major new project funded by the European Research Council. GLOBAL-RURAL examines how globalization impacts on rural areas and the responses of rural communities, covering a range of issues from trade and migration to responses to climate change and food security. The 5-year projects case studies in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, Tanzania and Wales, as well as an in-depth study of 'everyday globalization' in Newtown, Wales. Find out more about the research on the project blog, <http://globalruralproject.wordpress.com>, or follow @globalrural on Twitter.

Aberystwyth Prom Shelter Laser Scan

The Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics Research Group made the headlines with their 3D laser scan of the shelter on Aberystwyth Prom, showing the damage caused by the January 2014 storms.

BBC News Wales

Professor Neil Glasser, Professor Michael Hambrey and DGES Honorary Fellow Dr John Smellie received media attention from BBC News Wales for their involvement in a paper published in Nature Climate Change. Their research studied the changes in glaciers over the last 10,000 years around the Antarctic Peninsula.

Professor Glasser said that the ice-core data from a glacier on James Ross Island "will become far smaller [over the next 200 years] than at any point over the last 10,000 years."



BBC Radio Wales

Professor John Grattan and Dr Carina Fearnley contributed to the BBC Radio Wales programme 'Science Café'. The programme focused on the science of volcanoes: what happens during an eruption and how good have efforts to forecast them become? It also discussed the ancient Welsh volcanic landscapes.

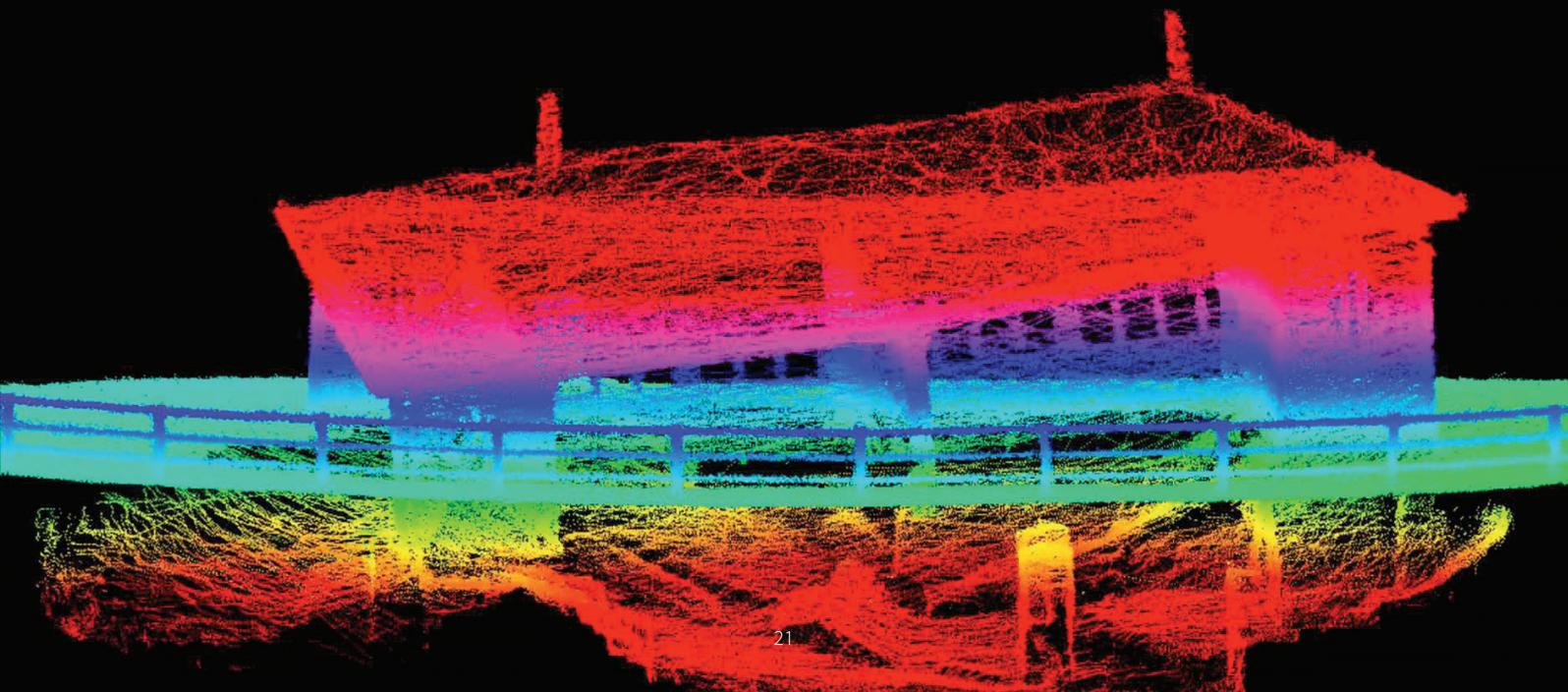


Countryfile

Dr Bill Perkins and his postgraduate student Emma featured in BBC One's Countryfile on the Cambrian Mountains – Wales' best kept secret. In this episode, Bill and Emma discussed the supposed health benefits of the spring water emerging at Llanwrtyd Wells.



A 3D laser scan of the shelter on Aberystwyth Prom



Day in the Life of...

Dr Tom Holt

Outstanding Teaching Winner 2014



Gwobrau Dysgu dan Arweiniad Myfyrwyr
Student Led Teaching Awards

What's your title?

Lecturer in Physical Geography

What's your area of expertise?

I am a glaciologist who uses remote sensing data and techniques to assess changes to the cryosphere, focusing on the structural and dynamic evolution of ice sheets, ice shelves and stand-alone glaciers in Antarctica, Greenland, and other High-Arctic environments.

What's your job like?

Exciting, varied, challenging, and often hectic! I'm surrounded by great colleagues and friends, and I get to teach some fantastic students. It's incredibly rewarding seeing them progress from their first year through to graduation, and then out into the real world! It's a two-way process, as well. I leave each session having learnt something new from the students, which I'm sure many of them don't realise! I try to keep my lectures, workshops, assignments, etc. varied as it keeps both me and the students on our toes.



What's a typical day like?

Most days I'll spend a bit of time preparing or delivering teaching material, particularly during term-time, but it varies day-to-day and week-to-week. Some days are full of lectures, practical classes and tutorials. Others are a little less hectic which frees up time for research, writing papers, reviewing manuscripts and grant proposals, for example.

What's fun?

Fieldwork classes are particularly fun. It's such a key component of any geography degree, and it's certainly the highlight for staff and students!

What's challenging?

The workload is challenging – not the type of work, but the sheer amount of it. It doesn't stop. But that's part and parcel of the job, and I'm most productive when I have a lot of things on my agenda (and regular tea breaks help!).

What's your advice to students?

Ask questions. Listen to answers. Make up your own mind.

To find out more, Tom's full interview can be found at: <http://rockheadsciences.com/holt-glaciologist/> or follow him @tom_holt

Dr Tom Holt receiving his award



On the Bookshelf:

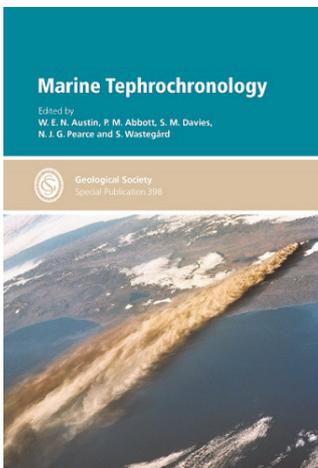


Article in Nature

Dr Andy Mitchell has helped sample and identify microbial life in an Antarctic subglacial lake. Dr Mitchell and colleagues on the WISSARD project (www.wissard.org) have been investigating microbial life forms in Subglacial Lake Whillans after a successful drilling project in 2013, which saw scientists drill through 800 metres of glacial ice to reach the lake, and collect the first ever water samples from such an environment. Their research has recently been published in Nature in a paper entitled 'A microbial ecosystem beneath the West Antarctic ice sheet'.

Marine Tephrochronology

Edited by W. E. N. Austin, P. M. Abbott, S. M. Davies, N. J. G. Pearce and S. Wastegård



This Geological Society Special Publication includes articles presenting recent advances in marine tephrochronological studies and outlines innovative techniques in geochemical fingerprinting, stratigraphy and the understanding of depositional processes. In addition to being co-edited by Professor Nick Pearce, featured articles include those written by Professor Nick Pearce and PhD candidate Catherine Martin-Jones.

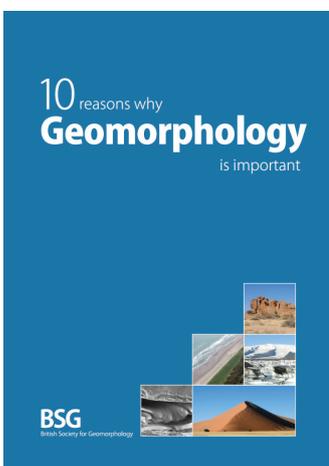
It represents a significant resource for the palaeoceanographic community at a time when marine tephrochronology is being more widely recognized. It will also serve as a valuable reference to a much wider community of Earth scientists, climate

scientists and archaeologists, particularly in highlighting the role of tephra studies in stratigraphy and regional/extra-regional correlations, as well as in tracing the long-term history of regional and global volcanism in the deep-sea archive.

10 reasons why Geomorphology is important

Stephen Tooth and Heather Viles

Despite the demonstrable importance of geomorphology, the terms 'geomorphology' and 'geomorphologist' are probably not very well understood. In part, this is because geomorphology does not exist as a stand-alone university discipline, typically having its roots within Geography, Earth Science or Geology departments. The aim of this booklet, co-written by Professor Stephen Tooth for the British Society for Geomorphology, is to introduce the term 'geomorphology' to a non-specialist audience and to illustrate a selection of key principles that underpin the discipline. This is achieved by highlighting ten key points that any citizen should know about geomorphology. These ten points are not exhaustive but are simply intended to indicate why geomorphology should be viewed as an eclectic but coherent, vibrant, innovative and relevant science.



New Staff

Catherine Cottrell is a newly appointed lecturer in human geography in DGES. Catherine graduated with a BSc in International Business and Business Management from Florida State University in 2005. She earned her MA (2006) in International Relations at the University of Miami (FL) supported by a research assistantship in the European Union Center of Excellence think tank.

In 2013 she earned her PhD from the University of South Carolina under the advisement of Dr Caroline Nagel. Her PhD thesis research project, entitled "Youth Citizenship, Civic Education, and Spaces of Belonging in Tallinn, Estonia," was funded by a US National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant and a US Department of Education Foreign Language Area Studies fellowship. While working towards her PhD Catherine worked as an Instructor of Record for undergraduate modules and as a graduate research assistant.

Her previous post was at University of South Carolina where she was employed as an adjunct professor.



