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Staff changes

Maternity Leave

- Jenna Booth (Finance Hub Team Leader) has now started her maternity leave, we all wish Jenna the best for the birth of her pending bundle of joy. Hayley Keatley-Lill will continue as acting Finance Hub Team Leader in Jenna’s absence.

Mover

- Moya Burns Teaching Fellow - Moya is now based in Biological Sciences but will still be teaching some modules for Geography.

A fond farewell

- Virginia Nicolás Perea Research Associate - 31/08/2017 (CLCR) Leaving Do Wednesday 12 July

Welcome to the Department

- Sophie Bricknell Finance Hub Assistant - 10/07/2017
- Hannah Brooking Postdoctoral Researcher - 11/07/2017
- Nigel Fisher Finance Hub Assistant - 11/05/2017
- Kamila Aniagolu Finance Hub Assistant - 31/07/2017
Congratualtions

Research Impact Awards

Professor Susan Page was the winner of the Best International Impact category at the Research Impact Awards on Tuesday 27 June at Stamford Court.

Peatlands are globally important carbon stores that release CO2 into the atmosphere when drained. Globally, 15% of peatlands have been drained, mostly in Europe and SE Asia, and are responsible for 5% of global, human-derived CO2 emissions. Drainage also increases the risk of fire and of flooding.

Professor of Physical Geography Susan Page has, for the past 20 years, focused her research on peatland ecology and carbon dynamics. By developing engagement opportunities with external organisations and businesses, her expertise has been crucial to science-based approaches to peatland management that support the mitigation and management of peat carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

The research has helped countries to calculate their carbon stores and emissions, informing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet international policy commitments.

http://www.researchimpactawards.co.uk/

Safety Champion Award

Gemma Black was awarded the position of University Safety Services ‘Safety Champion’ for the month of June 2017. This award recognises staff who go above and beyond to ensure the safety of staff, students and visitors in the University.

Gemma is the Technical Services Manager for the Geography and Geology Technical Team, but in addition holds a number of safety roles. She is the Building Safety Supervisor for the Bennett building, and Departmental Safety Officer for Geography.

She is also a member of the joint Geography and Geology Safety Committee. Gemma was nominated for this award by a colleague, who said “Over the last year Gemma has worked extremely hard to combine safety handbooks, risk assessment forms, protocols and safety procedures used across the Departments of Geography and Geology as the Technical Teams and Safety Committees merged.”

When told about her award, Gemma said “Safety is a very important part of my daily role; I am surprised to be nominated for this award and thrilled at the same time. It is nice to receive recognition for the work I undertake. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Safety Services team for all of the hard work that they do and for being such a friendly, helpful and approachable team – I know that your support is very much appreciated and valued across the University.”
Congratulations

Festival of Postgraduate Research

Fifty of the University of Leicester’s best research students, selected competitively from our 1,700 member postgraduate research community, presented their cutting edge research to academics, employers, and the public at this year’s Festival of Postgraduate Research on Thursday 29 June 2017.

Alex Hay and Chloe Barnes were selected from Geography to be participants in this year’s festival poster competition. Alex Hay won the prize for ‘Best Poster for the College of Science and Engineering’. Alex’s poster was titled “The influence of complex mountainous topography on aeolian landform development”.

View Alex’s prizewinning poster
View Chloe’s poster

Student Photography Competition Winners

Rosalinde Nicholls (PGR) and Caroline Collins (UG) are the winners of this year’s Geography Student Photography Competition. They will both receive certificates, a book voucher and a canvas of their winning entries, please look out for an email letting you know when you can collect your prizes. Well done both.

Thank you to everyone who entered the photography competition this year, please look out for next years competition poster when you are back for the Autumn term.

Snippets

Dr Katy Bennett is an academic contributor on a recently successful ESRC IAA KE Dialogues grant with the OU and Oxford that runs from July 1st to the end of September - ‘Understanding and Communicating Migration through the Arts’. In July she visited London to work with Year 8 school children on Migration and Everyday Multiculture at the Migration Museum Project http://www.migrationmuseum.org/
Events - Graduation Reception

Central marquee, Tuesday 11 July

The Graduation ceremony took place on Tuesday 11th July at 11am, afterwards students and staff were invited to attend the reception in the central marquee.

After refreshments prizes were awarded as follows:

Best Physical Geography Dissertation: Andrew Knell
Best Human Geography Dissertation: Esther Chidowe
Best BA Overall Exam Performance: Esther Chidowe
Final Year Student of Merit: Ethan Bonthron & Nikita Patel
Greatest Contribution to the Department: Emily Cannell, Tim Westby & Rachel Wyles

View University graduation video
Events

Past

- **PhD picnic in the park** - Geography held a lunchtime picnic in the park for staff and Postgraduate Research students on Tuesday 20 June at Victoria Park. Picnic blankets and the frisbee were out in full force. Next picnic scheduled for August.

- **Katy Bennett** was a guest speaker at the International New Town Day 2017: ‘New Towns as Cities of Comings and Goings’ in Milton Keynes organised by the International New Town Institute and The Academy of Urbanism to mark the 50th anniversary of the city.

- **Heiko Balzter** has been at the UK Space Conference in Manchester Tuesday 30 May - Thursday 2 June, which was well attended (over 1000 registered participants). The University of Leicester and NCEO both had a stall in the exhibition. The event was a great opportunity to network with UKSA, Innovate UK, the Satellite Applications Catapult and industry.

Upcoming

Following the success of the previous Geography PhD picnic on Victoria Park in June, we would like to hold a School of Geography, Geology and the Environment Picnic for all staff and postgraduate students on Tuesday 15 August, 12.30 - 2.00pm.

Bring along a blanket, some sunglasses, and all work stays in the office! Families, partners and pets especially welcome. You can bring some specific picnic food items, or you can just bring along your packed lunch, and we can all enjoy some (hopefully) nice weather. Anyone feeling particularly frivolous can bring a Frisbee.

Soft drinks will be provided and as always there may be some baked goods. If it gets rained off, we will invade the department or Students Union.

Please meet in the Bennett foyer and we will go from there.

We hope you can make it!
Events

Past

Cupcake Day for Alzheimer’s Society

Geography and Geology’s second annual ‘Cupcake Day’ took place on Monday 12 June and once again the voluntary team of bakers and buyers didn’t disappoint and produced a fantastic spread of beautiful, tasty ‘star bakes’ for sale.

Typically, the eaters also didn’t disappoint either and there was a steady flow throughout the day altogether raising a whopping £120.00 for Alzheimer’s Society.

There were some competitions running on the day, the winners were as follows:

- Guess where the cupcakes are? - Genna Tyrrell (Geography)
- What flavour cupcake is Suranne Jones eating? (Unicorn Sparkles) - Thomas Clements (Geology)
- Guess how many sprinkles? (6000) - Gemma Ollerenshaw (Geology)

Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, donated and ate cakes for a good cause.
Research News

Estimating biomass and carbon more efficiently

PhD student Tom Potter from the Department of Geography has used state-of-the-art mobile LiDAR sensors across multiple and complex forest environments at the Eden Project.

With climate change a pressing issue, measuring carbon in forests and understanding how efficiently carbon is stored is increasingly vital.

Tom set out to further develop a technique to estimate biomass and carbon more efficiently, using state-of-the-art mobile LiDAR sensors across multiple and complex forest environments.

To do this, he took his research and GeoSLAM's ZEB-REVO, a lightweight mobile 3D laser scanner, to the Eden Project in Cornwall, United Kingdom.

Read full article

Satellite data to help map endangered monkey populations on Earth

Universities of Leicester and East Anglia lead research to identify biodiversity through satellite data.

A team of scientists led by the Universities of Leicester and East Anglia are leading research to protect wildlife by using satellite data to identify monkey populations that have declined through hunting.

In a new article, which was featured on the cover of the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution, a working group chaired by Professor Heiko Balzter, from the National Centre for Earth Observation, has looked at ways in which an array of technologies could be used to identify how many species are alive in an area and the risks they may be exposed to.

Read full article

In the Media

• PhD student Chloe Barnes and Professor Heiko Balzter were interviewed by BBCLeicester on Friday 7 April, talking about detecting tree disease.

• Beth Cole was interviewed on BBC2's Victoria Derbyshire programme as part of a news feature on the forest fires in France. The interview is available on BBC iplayer.

• Loretta Lees was interviewed by Time magazine as part of an article on the Grenfell Tower disaster.

http://time.com/4830302/grenfell-tower-london-fire/
Recent Publications


Copernicus Framework for Monitoring Lake Balaton Phytoplankton
Multi-Frequency SAR Applications for Land Cover Classification Within Copernicus Downstream Services
Forest Mapping of the Congo Basin using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)
Remote Sensing for Aboveground Biomass Estimation in Boreal Forests
Top Tweets

June

Top Tweet earned 3,470 impressions
Successful #CupcakeDay at @LeicesterGeog @uniofleicester raising £5 for @AgainstViolence. Some beautiful cakes, will update total raised soon. pic.twitter.com/TATusX7fNW

Top mention earned 544 engagements
jenny pickerill @jennypickerill Jun 20
Excellent outcome secured for staffing crisis in Human Geography @LeicesterGeog. thank you for showing solidarity. speakout.web.usu.org.uk/university-of-

Top media Tweet earned 1,362 impressions
We are here to celebrate the research impact success of @SueSep5 at @uniofleicester Impact Awards. pic.twitter.com/mXkr7NH13uw

Top Follower followed by 3,244 people

July

Top Tweet earned 9,850 impressions
#NERC-funded #postdoc @Leicester using remote sensing to study climate change, wildfire, and forest loss in Siberia. jobs.ac.uk/job/ICW357/post-

Top mention earned 178 engagements
Gavin Brown @estagru Jul 16
We’re looking for Lecturer/Assoc Prof in human geography @LeicesterGeog specializing in geohumanities & geopolitics. le.ac.uk/jobs/external/

Top media Tweet earned 879 impressions
Buffet at the central marquee looking fabulous! #LeicesterGrad17 pic.twitter.com/E5gJOnFVDgL

GeoBlogs @GeoBlogs 6 days ago
Allan Parkinson C Geog/FRS/FRSGS Award winning Teacher/Author/Editor University of Leicester. Chadwick Mission Explorer @ExplorerHQ Head of Geog. @ King’s Ely Junior

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