



The Natural and Built Environment Departmental Newsletter

Seasons Greetings!

Welcome to our Christmas issue of the Natural and Built Environment Department's newsletter. In this issue we celebrate some of our staff and students' successes this year.

We wish the best of the seasons greetings to all our readers and look forward to hearing from you in the new year.

If you would like to contribute to the next publication please email L.pointon@shu.ac.uk.



Above: Identifying plankton, collected by trawl.

Below: Shane York and Tom Wragg receiving their awards.



Mediterranean Expedition, 2014

Environment and Geography students explored the coastal and littoral ecology in Istria, Croatia, during the October block week. A mixture of guided tours by local conservation staff, lab work at the Pula Aquarium and project work by the students, made for a packed schedule of terrestrial and marine surveys (and a lot of pizza).

The week was exhilarating and exhausting, with one student commenting,

"I had an absolutely fantastic time and know that everyone else in the group did as well. I am extremely thankful for the time and effort Douglas, Mike and Rainer have put in to the trip, giving us the opportunity to visit yet another amazing country through this fantastic module and degree. It was sad for it to come to an end, but am extremely happy that it happened; it is an experience I will remember for the rest of my life."



Left: Learning the venomous parts of *Scorpaena scrofa*



Above: Tour of maquis at Kap Kamenjak



Above: Release of rehabilitated turtles.

SHU students achieve national success!!

We are delighted to report that two of our Architecture Technology graduates, Shane York and Tom Wragg, have been awarded the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists prizes for their final year project and report respectively. These are national awards for outstanding student work, and it is unprecedented for students from the same University to win in both categories in the same year. Shane York's

award was for his design project on an Artisan Food School in Millhouses, whilst Tom Wragg's technical report focused on the use of modified timber in external cladding. Both students attended the prestigious CIAT President's Dinner Dance, held in Nottingham on Saturday 29 November 2014,



**Chartered Institute of
Architectural Technologists**
The technology of architecture

A SPIRITED SUCCESS!

A Human Geography student, Robert Jones, has been given the chance to produce the first gin to be distilled in Sheffield in over one hundred years, thanks to a university led bursary scheme.

It was Robert's experience as a barman, and his general passion for gin which sparked his idea to create a gin native to the city. The bursary, which was set up by philanthropists Sir Michael and Lady Morven Heller, gives second year undergraduates the chance to learn something new and unrelated to their course of study.

After he pitched his idea to the

university's Student Financial Support Team, he was successful in securing £1000 which he has used to buy a handmade copper still and a secret mixture of botanicals native to the Peak District.

Robert said: "I was delighted that the panel decided to award me £1000, which was enough to buy the still and equipment for my first batch of gin. I also had some money left over which I spent on a trip to London to visit the 'Ginstitute' - a gin museum run by the people who make Portobello Road Gin."

Robert has secured premises at the Stancill Brewery at Kelham Island



Above: Robert Jones

and hopes to bottle his first batch of gin later this month which will be on sale in Sheffield's Forum Café Bars.

Frontrunner Student Leadership Course

Offered to level 5, 6 & Postgraduate students within the faculty of Development & Society.

The Student Leadership Course is a fully funded 4 day structured programme that aims to develop leadership skills. Email studentleadershipcourse@gmail.com for more information. Course dates 14th-17th April 2015.

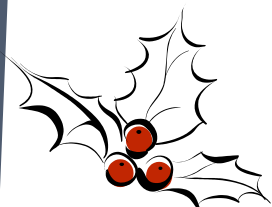
Landscape Institute

Inspiring great places

After a day-long meeting on Friday 14 November, the Landscape Institute has enthusiastically recommended continuing accreditation of our BSc Environmental Conservation course. The LI Professional Review Group also met DNBE environment students from all three years of study; a process that they reported was thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening.

The review meeting also discussed the transfer of this accreditation to the new BSc Environmental Science degree, with the possibility of the first ever dual accreditation under both the LI's Management and Science categories. Watch this space.

Dr. Douglas Fraser



The Natural and Built Environment Department's Employers Fair

The Department held another hugely successful Employers' Fair on 28 October. This industry focused event is designed as an opportunity for employers across the whole range of our Department's disciplines to analyse and discuss graduate opportunities and employability skills with all our students, irrespective of their year of study. It brought together leading employers and professional body representatives in an action-packed day of displays and serious debate to engage students with the career opportunities available to them. This year, 45 companies and 500 students were there to see Louise Brooke-Smith, the first President of RICS to attend our event, sharing



her experiences of developing a career within the property and planning sectors in what is now a global industry. Louise is also an alumna of our university and had special praise for the quality of the professional education offered here in DNBE.

Below: Employers Fair



NBE Employment Adviser can support all students!

Myth - you need to know what career you want to have an appointment with your employment adviser.

Fact - your employment adviser can help *all students at any stage* regardless of how focussed you are on a particular career. I can help you explore options and apply for all types of opportunities including part time work, summer work, voluntary work, placements and graduate jobs & schemes.

I mainly help with:

Exploring and finding opportunities that interest you - advertised and unadvertised, creating or improving your CV, covering letter or LinkedIn profile, completing application forms, preparing for interviews and assessment centres and understanding what employers are looking for.

Some feedback from previous students:

"Thank you for all of your help, I wouldn't have progressed passed the first stage without it". *Geography&Planning student.*

"Thanks for your help before the assessment centre - it really did help and reassure me". *Building Surveying student.*

"I received fantastic advice, not only on how to structure my CV, but also on what to look for and write about in job applications". *Environmental Conservation student.*

"I have no doubt that the help you gave me with my CV aided me in getting the interview in the first place, so thank you". *Quantity Surveying student.*

To make an appointment with your Employment Adviser, Laura Kerley, please visit the Owen 4 helpdesk (or phone 225 4267).



Left: Laura Kerley your employment advisor.

Norfolk Park Orienteering

During induction week BSc Geography students visited Norfolk Park and competed in the park orienteering course. The winning team was: Robert Crossley, Niall Ibbotson, Patrick Buchan and Tom Potter. The runners up were: Ellena Bailey, Laura Straw, Molly Stanley, Sam Wells and Felix Barr. Well done to all who participated and to those who chose the gentler past time of tea in the park café.

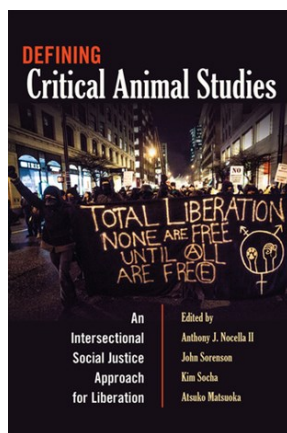
The Royal Geographical Society visit Sheffield Hallam University

The Royal Geographical Society visited Sheffield Hallam University to deliver their Geography Ambassador's training scheme. Ten students took part in the session which enabled them to develop the necessary skills to enthuse the next generation to study geography. Last year's students dropped by towards the end of the session to share their experiences and successes. Our students will now visit secondary schools to spread the word about the benefits of studying geography.

Student Geography Society

The Geography Society has had a successful start to the academic year with a record number of members. The society has arranged a host of events including film nights, socials and guest lectures. The lecture series has included visits from Prof Martin Jones on local development geographies; Prof John Wainwright spoke on the challenges of scale when investigating hydrology and land use change in semi-arid regions; Rachael Maskill presented an inspiring talk on the challenges of remedial work to restore the Peak District's bare peatlands; and Dr Phillippa Pearson presented on the challenges of investigating pollution in the water industry with an insight into careers in the water industry.

New Book Release: Defining Critical Animal Studies (2014)



DNBE lecturer, Dr. Richard White has co-authored a book chapter for *Defining Critical Animal Studies*, which was published earlier this year.

It's the first book to define the philosophical and practical parameters of critical animal studies (CAS); a concept which is proving increasingly influential across a diverse range of academic disciplines (not least geography, economics, history, politics) and activist communities. In opposing all systems of domination and

authoritarianism, CAS presents animal liberation as part of a wider social justice movement that intersects with other movements for positive change.

Richard's chapter, "*Challenging Systems of Domination From Below*" is rooted in anarchist praxis, and draws particular attention to the wonderful work of the French anarchist-geographer Élisée Reclus (1830-1905). Ultimately, the message is one of empowerment, responsibility and beauty: a world of non-violence, justice and empowerment will not be created by others, but by the actions and attitudes of (extra-)ordinary people: the likes of you and I for example.

The book should be available in the library. There is also a Facebook Fan Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Defining-Critical-Animal-Studies/346505362118620> which may be of interest. If anybody reading this would like to discuss the content or ideas further, please get in touch!

richard.white@shu.ac.uk

Rome Field Trip



Roman Colosseum

Second year architecture students recently had a great time visiting Rome as part of their cultural context module. During the three day visit we stayed in Trastevere and in addition to eating and drinking we studied three distinct historical and architectural periods:

The Classical City looking at the Roman Forum and Colosseum, The Renaissance City looking at St. Peter's Basilica and other Baroque church architecture and The Modern City from Mussolini's EUR to Renzo Piano's Parco della Musica. The students took time to focus on architectural drawing techniques and hand drawing with the impressive surroundings inspiring some great work.

Right: Student and staff Group Photo.



Right: Rome Sketches.



Launch of Student Support Fund Provides Timely Financial Boost

A new Student Support fund is available to support students in DNBE who find themselves experiencing financial hardship. Financial emergencies can arise for all sorts of reasons. You may find yourself having to pay for unexpected expenses. Or perhaps there has been a delay in receiving money you had expected. You might find yourself thinking you will be forced to give up your studies because of financial reasons. We also understand that anxieties regarding income can have a detrimental impact on your studies. So, where possible, we'd like to help alleviate some of that anxiety for you during your time with us as a student.

To be eligible, you must:

- study one of NBE's courses. Please contact your faculty to find out if your course is eligible.
- Be a fully enrolled UK or "home" fee status student studying at undergraduate level and have received your first maintenance loan instalment (unless you receive benefits over the summer).

If eligible, you may be awarded anything from **£100 to £1,000**. Please note the fund is limited and subject to means testing.

For more information on eligibility and to download an application form, go to:

<https://students.shu.ac.uk/shuspacecontent/finance/get-additional-financial-help>

For additional guidance, contact Student Financial Support by telephone on 0114 225 2184 or by e-mail at sfs@shu.ac.uk

For an informal chat about the scheme, contact Angela Maye-Banbury, Student Engagement Lead : a.maye-banbury@shu.ac.uk

More National Success!

Rowena Machon (MSc Environmental Management) has been awarded the runner-up prize in the prestigious 2014 national competition for the Royal Geographical Society (incorporating the Institute of British Geographers) Planning & Environment Group's postgraduate dissertation prize. Rowena's research project investigated "The Application of Environmental Education Theory to Encouraging Recycling within Small and Medium Enterprises".



Your lecturers are in demand!

Some institutions see teaching as a 'second class pursuit' after research. Here in DNBE we're proud to be a teaching-focussed department, and we are all here because we enjoy teaching. But our teaching needs to be informed by the latest developments. So, when not stood in front of you lecturing, we engage in a range of professional and scholarly pursuits to keep connected to our fields of knowledge. Scholarly activity is important for all Higher Education institutions, and is driven by the need for our work to be acknowledged by our peers across the sector.

DNBE staff are often asked to share their research at international conferences or invited to give talks at other Universities on their personal research interests. For example Luke Bennett has been invited to give five talks about his work to researchers at the Universities of Sheffield, Warwick and Newcastle, and at Queen Mary and University College in London. Jenny Fortune recently

presented a paper entitled 'Gender, sustainability and the built environment' at the 17th conference of 'Built Environment and Sustainable Development' (MACDES) in Havana, Cuba. At the start of November, Dr Andrew Jobling was invited to participate in a conference at University College London organised by the Peru Support Group, and attended by Peruvian and British academics, representatives of development NGOs, and Members of Parliament, to explore how British policy and aid could support the more democratic management of natural resources in Peru.

As staff develop their own research and learn from others in their field, they can then feed this expertise back into their teaching here at SHU.

