



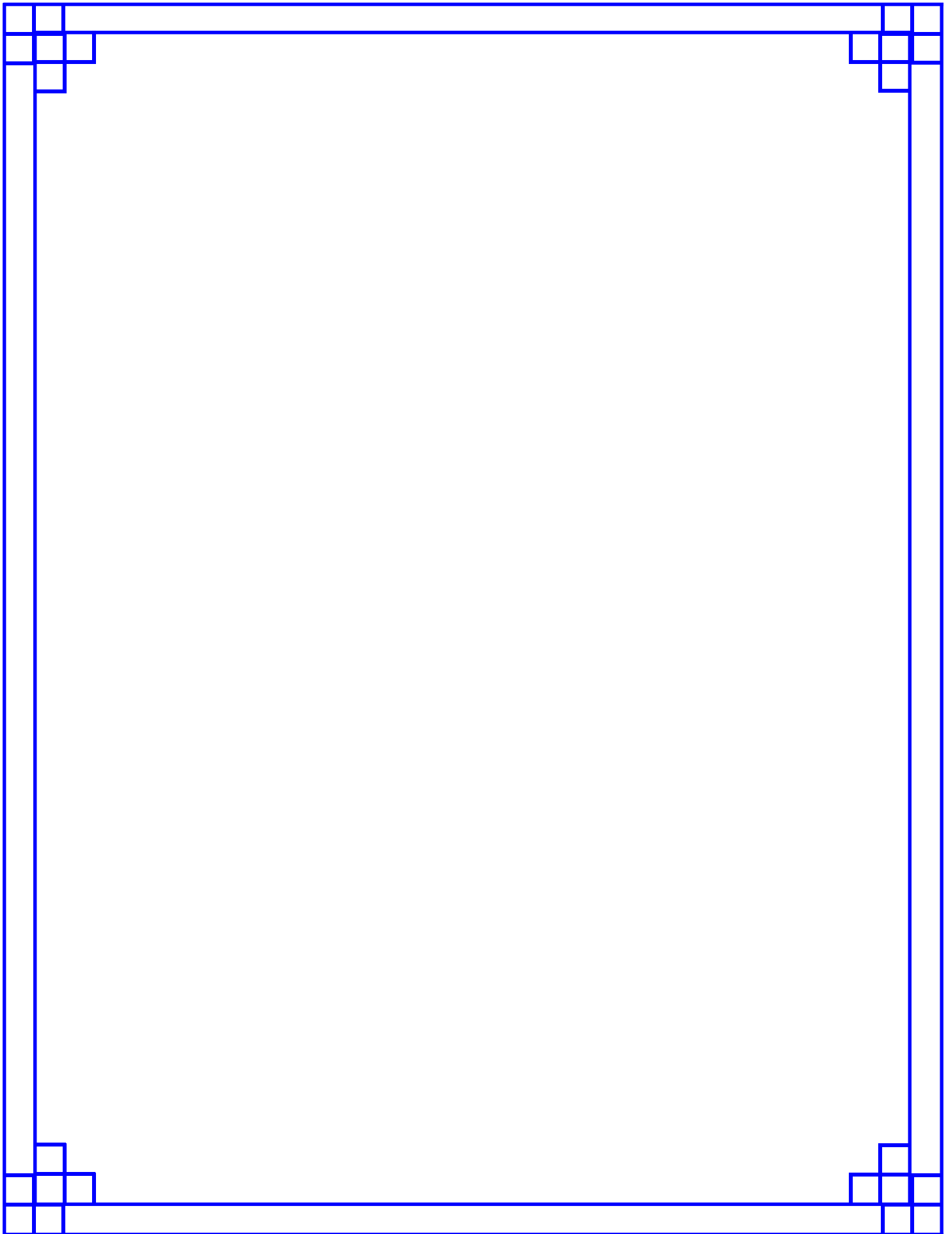
Commonwealth Geographical Bureau

*Newsletter No. 36
2010*



Flooding in Pakistan, 2010



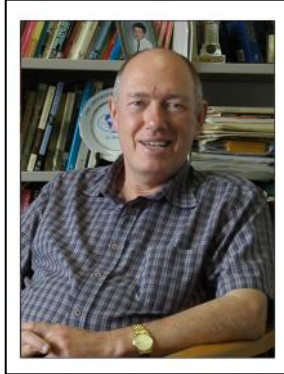


**2010 Commonwealth Geographical Bureau Newsletter
No.36**

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Message from the President



Dear CGB members

I very much hope that 2010 has been a successful year for you, for your colleagues and for your Geography departments. It has been a difficult year generally with the global financial recession, but I hope you have survived reasonably intact and that you are able to continue delivering good geographical education to your students. Indeed, the ramifications of the recession provide an interesting study of the significance of globalisation for courses in economic geography.

The CGB community continues to grow, and in 2010 we welcomed the Geography Department at the National University of Samoa (NUS) in Apia, Samoa. It is good to have another member from the Pacific region and we look forward to hearing about geographical teaching, research and other activities from Samoa.

During 2010 our CGB Honorary Treasurer, Professor Nigel Walford, has been working hard in consulting both the Commonwealth Foundation and the CGB Executive Committee on the possible best way to ensure the financial sustainability of the CGB. We hope to be able to present more details on this when we meet at the CGB General Assembly in Cologne in 2012.

The International Geographical Congress will be held in Cologne from 26-30 August 2012. This is a most important date in the geographical calendar as the main Congress happens only once in every four years. During the Congress it has been the practice since the CGB was founded, to hold our CGB General Assembly. The provisional date for this is the morning of Wednesday 29 August. We hope that representatives of many CGB member departments will attend our General Assembly to discuss the work and activities of the CGB since our last General assembly at Tunis in 2008, and to plan for future years. Meanwhile, in late January 2011, I will be travelling to Freetown in Sierra Leone to take part in an important workshop on the role of urban and peri-urban agriculture in food security and household sustainability. This workshop (26-28 January) has been generously supported by the Commonwealth Foundation which is keen to particularly support the participation of women and women's groups in the workshop. I look forward to reporting to you on the

Message from the President (cont'd)

workshop in the future.

Can I please encourage you all to keep us fully informed about your geographical successes - teaching, research, conferences, etc. I hope that during 2011 we can all make good use of our website; <http://www.commonwealth-geography.org/>. So, please send your messages initially to our Hon. Secretary, Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, who will ensure that they are widely publicised: cgb@uwimona.edu.jm

Good luck to you all!

Professor Tony Binns



The Foundation provides annual grants to some 30 Commonwealth Associations of Professionals. Grants are awarded for core expenses, such as the publication of a newsletter and administrative expenses, as well as for specific activities. In addition, the Foundation makes grants to other Commonwealth organisations.

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www.commonwealthfoundation.com

Message from the Honorary Secretary



I begin by thanking those colleagues from across the Commonwealth who have sent information for the Newsletter. Without your news, this communication could not be a reality, so I am pleased that at least one department from each continent is included here. It is interesting to note the depth of the theoretical themes in which Geographers continue to predominate. Some Geographers are working alongside colleagues from other disciplines as part of inter-

disciplinary teams, teaching, researching, or engaging in outreach and advising policy at national and international levels. At the same time, the applied nature of some of the teaching and research in which individual Geographers and departments are involved, demonstrates the valuable contribution that Geography continues to make in dealing with challenges that lie outside of the academy.

The information contained in this Newsletter barely scratches the surface of the true wealth of our combined role in Geography's theoretical, practical and policy-related contribution. I urge those of you who have not contributed information to this Newsletter to send me material that can be posted on the CGB website. It takes time and effort to send summary information, but remember, it is very encouraging to us all to know of the relevant ways in which our subject continues to be applied to theoretical questions and practical issues. So I urge you to share. However small the contribution of your individual department may seem at any one time, in combination, it really does make for very good news!

The role of Newsletter editor has come to me to me this year. I hope that most of you will access it via the web. Some printed copies will be available, especially for those of you who do not have easy access to the web. However, the number in that position is lessening. It has been a major task compiling the email listing. I would ask you please to respond to let me know that you are receiving my emails.

Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope

Message from the Treasurer



The focus of attention during my second full year as Treasurer of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau has been on two issues: trying to raise funding in support of a workshop being organised by the President; and on addressing the long term financial sustainability of the CGB. The workshop has the theme of urban and peri-urban agriculture in developing countries and is being held in Freetown, Sierra Leone in January 2011. After a certain number of trials and tribulations, I am pleased to say that the Commonwealth Foundation was willing to provide a contribution of £2,000 subject to the condition that it should be used to support the participation of the women attending this event.

The CGB's finances have been relatively stable over the course of the last year, with the main expenses relating to charges for the website, but the President and Treasurer have discussed the issue of how to secure a long term stable future for the organisation that would potentially include a regular source of income to enable it to develop and grow its activities. The Treasurer met with a representative of the Commonwealth Foundation in June 2010, who kindly provided information about how other similar organisations associated with the Commonwealth Foundation raise funds independently. The Foundation itself is unwilling to be the sole provider of funding. Following this meeting, the Treasurer produced a briefing paper that was circulated to the Committee and replies were received from most members. It would be premature to distribute this to the wider membership at this stage, although the intention is to summarise these responses and circulate them within the Committee early in 2011. Ultimately we would put a proposal to the next Annual General Meeting in 2012.

So concludes my second year as Treasurer of the CGB, which sees us seeking to put the finances of the organisation on a more secure footing so that the range of our activities can be expanded and enhanced. I look forward to serving the Bureau over the remaining year of my tenure.

Professor Nigel Walford

Members of the CGB Committee of Management 2008-2012

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News from Geographers

Australia University of Adelaide

Geography became a fully fledged department in 1951. Currently, Environment and Population is located in the School of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. It teaches a full range of undergraduate courses and has over 50 postgraduate research students. The main areas of research activity focus on climate and environmental change (Professor Nick Harvey, Emeritus Professor Martin Williams, Dr. John Tibby, Dr. Douglas Bardsley, Dr. Melissa Nursey-Bray); housing and regional development (Professor Andrew Beer, Dr. Debbie Faulkner and Dr. Emma Baker) and population, migration and ageing (Professor Graeme Hugo, Dr. Dianne Rudd and Dr. Yan Tan). Dr. Jennifer Bonham works on urbanisation, Dr. Rachel Nanson on fluvial geomorphology, Dr. Jungho Suh on economic geography, Dr. Thomas Wanner on gender and economic development and Dr. Julie Franzon on social applications of geographical information systems.

The department currently has several Australian Research Council grants on topics such as Circular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, Obesity Among Baby Boomers, and Climate Change and Migration in China. There is a strong focus on applied as well as more theoretically based research with several large grants being held from federal and state government agencies, especially in the areas of climate change, housing, regional development, agro-ecological risk management, coastal management, social and environmental impact assessment, refugees and spatial impact of migration. Internationally funded projects include a study of Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific, International Migration in China, Indonesia and India, Climate Change in Australia, HIV and Migration in the ASEAN Region and Governance and Cooperation and International Migration in ASEAN.

The discipline maintains strong linkages with state and federal government and staff members are involved in policy development including areas of coastal management, regional development, housing, ageing, social inclusion, population, international migration, development assistance and national data collection and analysis. There is a network of former students across a range of government departments. Traditionally, strong linkages have been maintained with Geography in South Australian schools and the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia. www.hss.adelaide.edu.au/ges/

Contact: Dr. Dianne Rudd (Head), dianne.rudd@adelaide.edu.au

News from Geographers

Canada Queen's University, Ontario

There is growing and vibrant geographical community at Queen's University who are studying aspects of the relationship between migration, diaspora, neoliberalism and urbanization in the Caribbean and wider Commonwealth.

Dr. Beverley Mullings, continued to develop her research on the implications of the emerging 'diaspora option' within development policy circles. Her research in 2010 generated two articles: Mullings, B. 2011. Diaspora Strategies, skilled migrants and human capital enhancement in Jamaica. *Global Networks* 11 (1):24-42, and Mullings 2011. Governmentality, Diaspora Assemblages and the Ongoing Challenge of 'Development'. *Antipode*:1-26. Elements of her research were also presented to the Department of Geography at York University and at the 2010 meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington DC. In 2010, doctoral candidate Kay-Ann Williams was busy conducting interviews with Jamaicans in Toronto as part of her study on the relationship between labour market access for new immigrants and transnational civic engagement. Doctoral Candidate, Alex Lovell also continued to research Jamaica's Diaspora Strategy and the Ethnic Food Trade. In 2010, doctoral candidate from the University of the West Indies - Soyini Ashby, spent nine months at Queen's geography department as a visiting scholar through the Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarship Program. Soyini is currently writing a dissertation on the construction of regional identities across language barriers in the Caribbean. Finally, Masters candidate, Mikhail Bullard has also been an active contributor to Queen's geography where he is currently examining the impact of brain drain on the Bahamas and the developmental opportunities that policies promoting brain circulation offer.

Other publications in the Department included Katherine McKittricks two papers: 'Science Quarrels Sculpture: The Politics of Reading Sarah Baartman.' *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature—A Special Issue: Sculpture*, 43:2 (June 2010): 113-130; and (in conversation with Carole Boyce Davies), 'Intellectual Life: Carole Boyce Davies's *Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones*.' *MaComere: The Journal of the Association of Caribbean Writers and Scholars*, (April 2010). Dr. McKittricks also gave a number of talks at Universities in Canada and the USA on gender issues, black cultures and the city.

News from Geographers

Canada Brandon University, Manitoba

Brandon University's Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies (ADES) programme is changing the emergency management field in Canada. The ADES degree is designed to combine social and physical disasters within a liberal arts education framework. ADES is producing new professionals with a broad scope of practice and wide-ranging knowledge.

Emergency management is the development and implementation of policies and processes to help reduce risks, prepare communities, respond to hazard impacts and recover from the consequences. Unlike the past options of transitioning to emergency management from a traditional first response or military background, ADES offers students the opportunity to learn about and experience all aspects of managing how our communities deal with disasters.

The New Path to Emergency Management

Brandon University began offering a four year degree programme in 2001 and has graduated both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science students in Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies. ADES is attracting students from across Canada and around the world. Undergraduate students, seeing the potential for a career in emergency management or taking ADES courses to complement their studies in other social and physical sciences, are filling our classes. It is also popular as a second degree with students looking for ways to stand out in an increasingly competitive employment market.

The Faculty is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team, currently headed by a Geographer, Associate Professor Balfour Spence. Other members of the faculty are: Brian Kayes (director of Emergency Management for the City of Brandon).

The applied aspects of the ADES program come through in four main ways:

- Use of the Emergency Operations Lab (EOL) – a classroom based on a modern Emergency Operation Centres used by local and provincial governments. The EOL has hardware and software to familiarize students with these environments and their usage.
- Practical assignments based on tasks common in professional practice—students are asked to prepare policy style documents, emergency plans, presentations and other assignments that prepare them for the tasks they will face on the job.

News from Geographers (Brandon University cont'd)



Client-focused projects for final practicum – all ADES majors complete a ‘client based’ emergency management project.

The final course is a Disaster and Emergency Practicum. It is designed to connect the student with a community, business or agency as a ‘client’ in order to understand the goals, structure and functions of the ‘client’ and how they fit into the larger emergency management system. Identify, comprehend and apply relevant emergency management related concepts and skills.

Career Opportunities

Emergency management is a growing profession and Brandon University is leading the way. Prior to the inception of the ADES programme in 2001 it was rare to see position vacancy advertisements that included a university requirement in this field. ADES graduates are working in many aspects of emergency management and related areas, such as natural resources and health, with local governments, with Provincial governments as well as the national level. The Federal government has hired ADES graduates to work in Public Safety Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the National Energy Board (which regulates the oil industry). There are also ADES graduates serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, International agencies such as the Red Cross, non-government organizations that engage in disaster response are also potential employers, the industrial and private sector.

News from Geographers

Guyana University of Guyana

The result of a merger between the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and the Environmental Studies Unit, Faculty of Natural Sciences, since its inception in 2005, the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES), has been involved in teaching and research. SEES offers undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies, Geography, Human Geography, and Economic Geography. During the 2009/2010 academic year, there were approximately 105 undergraduate students (75 Environmental Studies; 25 Geography; and 5 Double Major).

In 2009, SEES launched its Post Graduate Diploma programme in Urban Planning and Management, with nine registered students. The Programme was run in collaboration with Anton de Kom University of Suriname, University of the West Indies, and University of Amsterdam. SEES is currently working to develop further postgraduate programmes, including Master of Science degrees in areas such as Natural Hazards and Disaster Management in the Caribbean and Environmental Management and a Diploma programme in Education for Sustainable Development.

To support and complement its teaching, SEES staff members are actively involved in interdisciplinary research in areas such as environmental education and environmental health. Additionally, over the past five years, under-



SEES Students' Award Ceremony

graduate students in geography and environmental studies have produced exemplary research projects exploring a range of issues pertinent to the Guyana context, including, coastal flooding, environmental health, climate change and mangrove degradation.

News from Geographers

SEES: Consultancy, Public Awareness and Education Activities

The School is actively involved in consultancy, community education and outreach activities. Consultancies in diverse areas including environmental health, environmental impact assessment, land use planning and environmental education have been undertaken. Additionally, SEES offers technical assistance to and partners with various agencies such as the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), Hydro-meteorological Department, Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) and the Guyana Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), and supports the Government of Guyana in the development and implementation of environmental policy.



The School is engaged in public awareness through the hosting of events such as seminars, lectures, and themed days. Examples over the past years have included the hosting of a workshop to commemorate Earth Day on the theme *Disaster Preparedness: Get Involved Now!*; the organization of a symposium under the theme, “Kick the Carbon Habit! Promoting En-

ergy Conservation in Guyana”, held alongside a school poster competition; participation in the Environmental Protection Agency’s World Environment Day Green Walk; and the hosting of a Climate Change Lecture Series in collaboration with the British High Commission.

SEES People

The SEES is staffed by a Director, Dr. Paulette Bynoe, and six full-time academic staff: Ms. Linda Johnson-Bhola, Ms. Ramona Dabee-Johnson (currently on Sabbatical Leave), Ms. Denise De Souza, Dr. Therese Ferguson, Ms. Shanomae Rose, and Ms. Denise Simmons. There are also five part-time staff: Mr. Jermaine Critchlow, Mr. Oronde Drakes, Ms. Janelle Leitch, Mr. Donald Singh, Ms. Germene Stewart, Dr. Patrick Williams and Ms. Claudette Foo. Staff members have carried out and disseminated research in the areas of global change and Caribbean vulnerability, energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction, and environment and health.

News from Geographers

India University of Baroda

The Department of Geography was established in the year 1952. It runs two parallel undergraduate courses in Science and Arts and post graduate course in Science. These include History of Geographical thought and Research Meth-



odology, Geomorphology, Industrial, Agriculture, Population, Social, Political, Regional Planning and Development, Fluvial Geomorphology, Geography of Health, Geography of Oceans and Urban. There is a good teacher-student ratio so that students receive personal attention which facilitates their learning and growth. The Department offers a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. in Geography.

The department has a good record of research. The main areas are in the geography of health, applied geomorphology and land use, environmental studies, social geography particularly of tribal areas. Research includes projects led by Dr. Bindu Bhatt : Land cover and Land use change analyses of Vadodara Taluka using Remote Sensing and GIS, and by Prof. Jayashree De on Environmental Impacts of landuse change in the Narmada window of the South Gujarat plains: A Study of Narmada- kim interfluve Belt.

The department has an excellent library and computer facilities, a cartography lab and Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System Lab in which the department imparts training to its students. The department is active in conducting conferences, seminars and workshops. It is also actively engaged in popularizing the subject among the school students and the general public regarding the significance of geography by organizing exhibitions, open house, debates and quiz contests.

News from Geographers

Andhra University

The Department of Geography was established in 1972 to offer teaching and research Programmes in Geography. In a very short time it has emerged as a strong discipline in the University and has established a name in the field of Physical Geography. The Department has now acquired the necessary infrastructure facilities for teaching and research. It is gratifying to note that alumni of the Department are employed in prestigious institutions like the National Remote Sensing Agency, Indian space Research organization, Andhra Pradesh state Remote sensing Application centre, Prestigious Corporate Companies like Rolta-India, Satyam, TCS, Infosys, Infotech, IIC, Navionics, Speck Systems etc. and also in several Universities both in the country and abroad.



The Department offers a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Geography as well as an M.Phil. and Ph.D. The post-graduate programme has an annual intake of 32 students. Along with the introduction of GIS and Remote Sensing, the programme has been modernized to meet present demands. The strengths of the department are in Medical Geography and environmental health, the application of remote

sensing and GIS in climatology, geomorphology, land use and disaster management. Graduates of the department with doctoral degrees are employed by national scientific organizations, Survey of India, the National Hydrographic Agency, State Remote Sensing centres, as well as in academia and private industry.



Right: *Participation of Delegates in the Tribal dance during a Medical Geography conference*

News from Geographers

Jamaica The University of the West Indies

Department of Geography and Geology

The department of Geography and Geology continues to offer a B.Sc. and B.A. as well as an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Geography. Research foci are in agricultural geography and the department is always well-represented at the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers that takes place in the USA.

Disaster management is also an area of major interest, especially in response to the varied effects of climate change and recurrent hurricanes and tropical storms. The Marine Geology Unit, of the Department of Geography and Geology, Mona Campus, has focussed over recent years on coastal and shoreline changes. The Jamaican economy is very dependent on coastal and near shore resources for a variety of reasons. The exposure and vulnerability of the coast to inundation (from extreme waves generated by cyclones as well as tsunamis) is a significant challenge to national resilience.



News from Geographers (The University of the West Indies cont'd)

Some of the research in the Unit is captured in a recently- launched book: Edward Robinson and Shakira Khan, *Physical Impacts by Some Recent Hurricanes on the Coast of Jamaica*. Contributions to Geology UWI Mona #5, published by the Marine Geology Unit, Department of Geography and Geology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica. ISSN 0799-0162, 142 pages, 160 plates, CD in back pocket. Email mgu@uwimona.edu.jm

This comprehensive and well illustrated publication based on some of the applied research being carried out by members and colleagues of the Marine Geology Unit of the University of the West Indies at Mona, is very timely and significant. It is focussed on the study of the physical impacts of several recent tropical cyclones that have devastated Jamaica's south coast. It is written in an engaging, easy to follow style and is, as the title indicates, full of excellent graphics. It should be essential reading for all interests in the coastal zone. It will be of particular value to those with coping and adaptation roles including the many residents at risk, community leaders, planners, engineers, tourism and marine facility managers as well as decision makers and researchers.

Environmental Management Unit

Commencing in 1998, the Environmental Management Unit spent the first ten years of its existence as a unit of the Department of Geography and Geology under the leadership of Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope. A taught M.Sc. degree in Integrated Urban and Rural Environmental Management was launched. Subsequently, a Ph.D. (Environmental Management) and two other M.Sc. degrees were developed – Sustainable Urbanisation; and Disaster Management, which was first delivered in the 2009-10 academic year. By that date the Unit had been relocated to the Institute of Sustainable Development. Research and publications by the Unit included topics on biodiversity and small farming in Jamaica, urban solid waste management, protected areas and community management, disaster risk reduction for the Caribbean and environmental education. In October 2010, Professor Dale Webber became Director of the Environmental Management Unit.

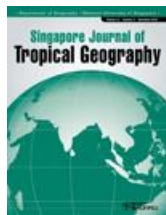
News from Geographers

Singapore The National University, Singapore

Geography and Geographers continue to be prominent at the National University of Singapore. The Department of Geography publishes the highly-respected Journal of Tropical Geography, details of which are below:

Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography

The SJTG INVITES ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS....



For six decades the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography (SJTG)*, and its antecedents, has been a leading international forum for scholarship on tropical environments, localities and their connections. The *SJTG* publishes theoretical and empirical articles and reviews that deal with the physical and human environments of the tropics and development issues from geographical and interrelated disciplinary viewpoints.

We welcome contributions from geography and the broader humanities, social or environmental sciences that advance research on tropical natures, places or interconnections. Papers are subject to peer review and should follow the journal's specified format for submissions <http://www.wiley.com/bw/submit.asp?ref=0129-7619&site=1>

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News from Geographers (The National University, Singapore)

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<http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/sjtg>

News from Geographers

South Africa University of Cape Town

The Environmental and Geographical Science department at the University of Cape Town received a number of accolades this year, including:

- Professor Sue Parnell awarded the Alan Pifer Research Award by UCT
- Dr Gina Ziervogel presented with the Young Fellows Award by UCT
- Dr Ailsa Holloway received UCT Social Responsiveness Award in December 2009
- Lynne Quick's Bronze Medal for the most outstanding MSc in Geography in 2009, Society of South African Geographers
- Kate Vickery's award for best MSc in Geomorphology in 2010 by Southern African Association of Geomorphologists
- Kate Vickery awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for her PhD at UCT and Sheffield
- Prof Meadows elected to position of Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Geographical Union
- Associate Professor Maano Ramutsindela awarded a Harvard Fellowship and distinguished visiting Professorship at Macalester College
- Dr Frank Eckardt elected to position of President-Elect of SAAG

Other news:

Jane Battersby-Lennard presented on Food Security at the World Congress of the International Food Science and Technology, and continued collaboration through the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN) with Canada and SADC countries. She is currently running food security training workshops for participant cities.

Dr. Gina Ziervogel, from the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on "Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation" (SREX). The report will be released in 2012.

News from Geographers

United Kingdom The University of Worcester

Human Geographers Prof Nick Evans, Dr David Storey and Clare Perkins will be presenting papers at the Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian and American Rural Geographers, to be held in Winnipeg and Brandon (Manitoba) in July.

David Storey has been working on the second edition of his book 'Territories'. The book provides an introduction to theories of territoriality, the ways in which ideologies and social practices are manifested in space, and the geographical outcomes of territorial strategies. There is a particular focus on the emergence of nations and state formation. The book highlights the ways in which territorial strategies are utilized in conflicts concerned with socio-political power and identity and how ideologies are transposed onto space. He has recently been carrying out some research in central Europe. His research on sport and identity also continues with a number of publications set to appear in 2011.

Prof Nick Evans and Dr Alan Dixon attended the Anglo-French Symposium on Rural Geography at the University of Essex in July 2010, and presented a paper entitled, "Recent farming change in Ethiopian wetlands: sustainable 'khatastrophe'?". They are currently embarking on research investigating the sustainable development of Khat production in western Ethiopia.

In Physical Geography, Dr Tory Milner has joined the Institute from the University of Stirling. Tory's research interests lie in the interactions between fluvial geomorphology and ecology.

Other News from the Commonwealth



COMMONWEALTH URGED TO ACT ON MIGRATION

Proposals to Commonwealth Heads of Government by Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development

Migration today is recognised as one of the most powerful currents shaping global society. For the Commonwealth of 54 states and 2 billion people, the issue of migration is of extreme importance. Accordingly, the Ramphal Centre has established a Commission to study the relationship between migration and development.

The task of the Commission is to propose that the Commonwealth should “re-connect” on migration by building management capacity in its member states and institutions, by streamlining migration policies in ways that enhance individual freedom without sacrificing collective welfare, by helping migrants to share their successes with their origin and destination communities and by enhancing international cooperation over migration within and beyond the Commonwealth. In addition, this Commission will develop practical policies to assist Governments to promote:

- Better training for officials and better statistics on migration
- Linking up migration and development policies
- Facilitating remittances and engaging expatriate communities
- Establishing a Commonwealth consultative process on migration and encouraging the Commonwealth to speak up in international fora.

The Commission is chaired by the Hon. P J Patterson, former Prime Minister of Jamaica and the other Commissioners are: Mr. Farooq Sobhan, former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and currently President of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute; the Hon. George Vassiliou, former President of Cyprus, Mr. Will Day, Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission, UK; Ms. Jill Iliffe, Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Nurses Federation; Professor John Oucho, Founder and Chair of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre, Nairobi; Professor Brenda Yeoh, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore.

Other News from the Commonwealth

A consolidated plan of action will be based on the recommendations from three reports prepared for the Commission. A meeting of the Commission was held in Cyprus in October 2010, hosted by the Government of Cyprus. Additional meetings are scheduled to take place in Jamaica and the United Kingdom in 2011, in order to develop the proposals for a plan of action that will be transmitted to Commonwealth Governments whose leaders are due to meet in Perth, Western Australia on 28-30 October 2011.

www.ramphalcentre.org



Meeting of the Ramphal Commission, Cyprus, October 2010

The Association of Commonwealth Universities

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is a voluntary society, founded in 1913, which is registered as a Charity and governed by its member institutions through an elected council.

Among its key activities are:

- Assisting members to develop the capacity of their human resources
- Promoting, through several programmes, the movement of academics and administrative staff and of students from one country of the Commonwealth to another.
- Providing information about universities and about issues of relevance to them
- Hosting a higher education management consultancy service
- Organising meetings of various kinds

Other News from the Commonwealth

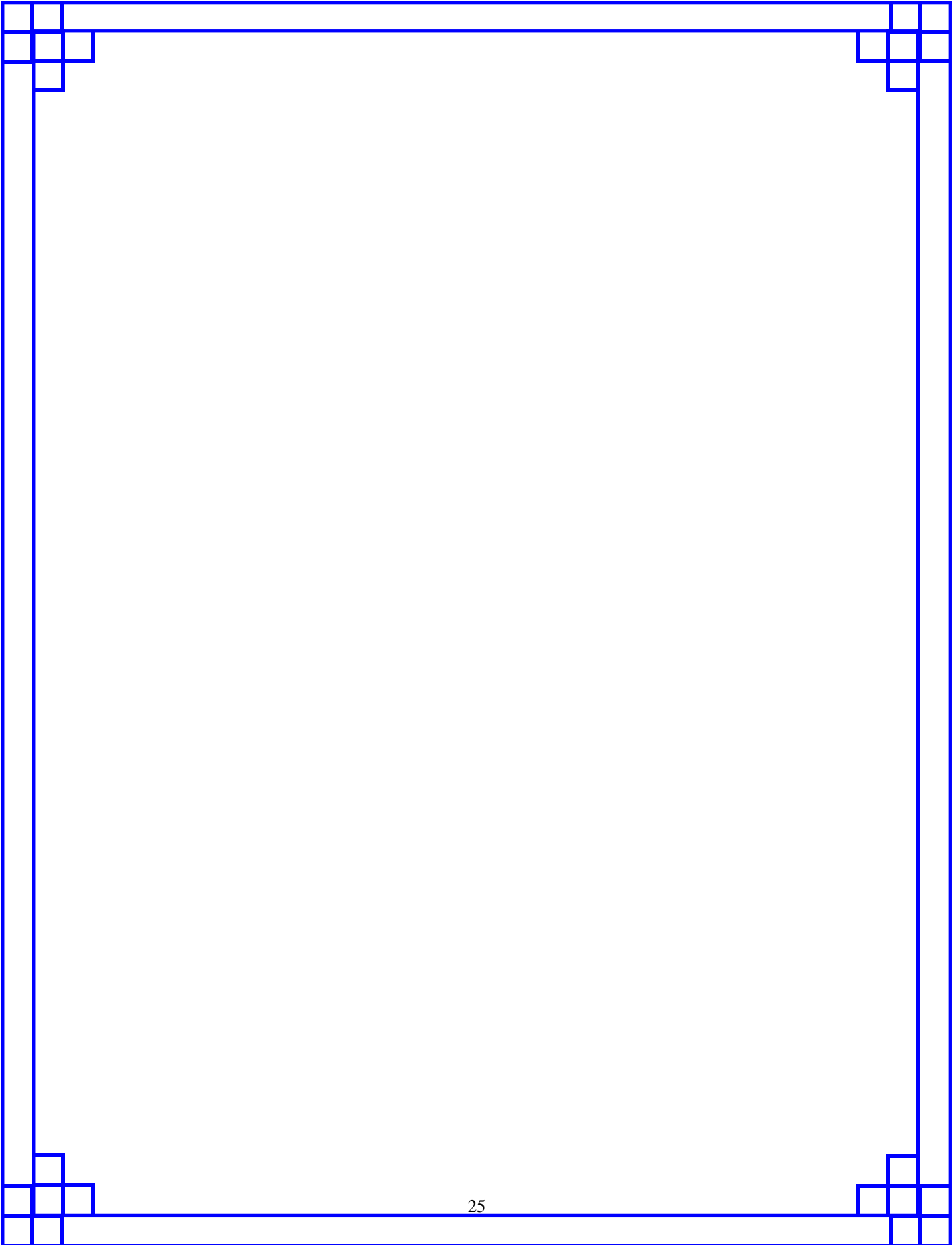
FAO support to the Commonwealth

Migration and Agriculture in pro-poor development strategy

The growing importance of migration and remittances is changing the socio-economic scenario of the agro-rural sector in most developing countries. In particular, labour movement and corresponding changes in relative wages due to migration, and remittance in-flows for family support and other purposes are affecting agricultural production, relative competitiveness of agriculture, as well as social safety net issues which are critical components of pro-poor sustainable food security, poverty reduction, agriculture and rural development strategies.

The Commonwealth includes countries which are both a significant source of inflow and outflow of migrants and remittances. The Commonwealth Foundation, in collaboration with the Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development and in consultation with other international and research bodies, such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Department of International Development, Oxford University and the International Migration Institute (IMI), is engaged in developing pragmatic strategies, aimed at maximising the benefits of cross-border migration for the pro-poor development of Commonwealth states. In this context, FAO, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development is initiating country case studies which will form the basis for pragmatic strategies for the creation of 'an enabling environment' for investment of remittances in the agro-rural sector. The study will focus on generating adequate data, analysis and information necessary for a sound pro-poor development strategy relating to maximizing the opportunities of migration for the member countries of the Commonwealth. The over-arching objective is to develop a strategy relevant to policy or programmatic intervention at national and international level.

The eight case studies are Samoa and the Solomon Islands in the Pacific, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica in the Caribbean, Kenya and Zambia in Africa, and India and Sri Lanka in Asia.





Issues of solid waste management associated with urbanisation
in developing countries

The Commonwealth Geographical Bureau

<http://www.commonwealthgeography.org>

The Newsletter is published once a year and the website is regularly updated.

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