

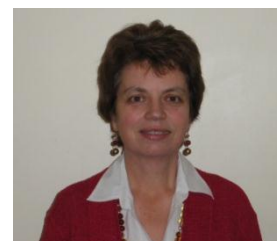
# Department of Education Newsletter

Issue 9 Spring 2013

## Welcome to the Final Newsletter from the Department of Education

Happy New Year and welcome back from the Autumn term and Christmas break. This edition celebrates a number of new ventures for the Department. The Department, along with the University, will be celebrating '50 years of Education at York'. Staff and students, past and present are invited to participate in the celebrations throughout 2013. Further information is included in the Newsletter and up to date details can be found on the website at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/education/>. At the same time, the University of York Science Education Group will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. This academic year the Department launched the new Psychology in Education Research Centre (PERC), provided opportunities for student visits to and from the Buryat State University in the Russian Federation, and the York Science Education Group (UYSEG) supported the professional development of science educators from Nanjing in China. In addition, the Department experienced success in the most recent National Student Survey. Thank you to all who participated and supported the activities.

**Professor Judith Bennett, Head of Department**



## Final Newsletter from the Department of Education

The Newsletter was introduced in Autumn 2010 in order to share with staff, students and the wider community the wide-ranging activities of the Department. To this end the Newsletter has been a success. We now find that items typically included in the Newsletter are being disseminated elsewhere, as and when they happen – website news and events, email, intranet, research newsletter... The important thing is the Newsletter has served its purpose and the Department now has a higher profile than before and an effective means of communicating to a diverse audience. Thank you for your support. A special thank you to Helen Parker for her work liaising with staff, gathering items and producing the newsletter. Please continue to send news and events items along with photographs to Helen Parker and to the University Magazine, as and when they happen.

## Department News

### Launch of the Psychology in Education Research Centre (PERC)

**The Department of Education celebrated the launch of the Psychology in Education Research Centre (PERC) on 14th November.**

The event was well attended by colleagues from a variety of departments within the University, and from a range of external agencies, including York and North Yorkshire Local Authorities, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), and members of the White Rose University Consortium, amongst others.



The launch opened with a warm welcome from Professor Judith Bennett, Head of Department. This was followed by an engaging introduction to the new centre by Professor Rob Klassen, Director of PERC.

The five current members of PERC were introduced, and mention was made of their respective research interests. One of the key objectives of the centre in the coming months is to secure accreditation by the British Psychological Society for the new undergraduate BSc Psychology in Education course, scheduled to run from October 2013.

One of the highlights of the occasion was an inspiring and thought-provoking presentation given by the guest speaker, Professor Neil Mercer, University of Cambridge, entitled The importance of applying psychology to educational challenges.

The members of PERC are excited by the wide-ranging interest already being shown by potential collaborators and by prospective students to the University. It is our hope that PERC will go from strength to strength as a centre for excellence in applied research and teaching.

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## Professional Development for Chinese Science Teachers

In September 2012 the Vice-Chancellor welcomed a group of 28 science educators from China to the university. The group included science teachers from both primary and secondary schools in Nanjing together with teacher educators and representatives of the China Association for Science and Technology and the China Association of Children's Science Instructors. They had come to York for two weeks of professional development led by the University of York Science Education Group (UYSEG).

This visit was part of a developing partnership between the Department of Education at York and the Research Centre for Learning Science, Southeast University, Nanjing. UYSEG has an international reputation for innovative curriculum development which has had a real impact on practice in the UK and beyond. The research-informed programme gave the teachers new strategies and approaches to improve their students' learning in science.

The programme tutors for the course were Professor Judith Bennett, Christine Otter, Dr Anne Scott, Dr Elizabeth Swinbank, and Mary Whitehouse from the Department of Education and Joy Parvin, Gayle Pook, Tanya Shields, and Nicky Waller from CIEC in the Department of Chemistry. Between them they have a wide experience in science teaching, education research and curriculum development, and have worked with many teachers both in initial teacher training and in continuing professional development. Logistics and support for the programme were provided by Matt Smelt-Webb's team in the Centre for English Language Teaching in the Department of Education. The participants' evaluations of the programme were very positive and some of the York team made a return visit to Nanjing in November. Joy Parvin and Gayle Pook led a training course for primary science teachers, with a focus on teaching science in context. Anne Scott and Mary Whitehouse made a presentation, *The importance of formative assessment in science education*, at the 2012 International Forum for Science Education, a conference of the China Association for Children's Science Instructors.

## Shakespeare in Siberia

In October, the department hosted two foreign languages students from the Buryat State University in the Russian Federation as a follow up to 2011's Shakespeare in Siberia project. Organised by Nick McGuinn and Amanda Naylor, the Siberian visit involved six University of York students working on classical texts from Buryatian, English and Russian literature in Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat republic.

During their return visit to York, Olga Klimova and Ksenia Popova had an opportunity to meet undergraduates from the Department of Education. They also gave an interview on Radio York and spent a day observing and teaching at Joseph Rowntree School.



<http://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2012/community/siberia-exchange/>



## Writing workshop for undergraduates

The poet and playwright, Paul Mills, ran a writing workshop for the Department's third year undergraduates taking the module Models of Writing. Paul is the Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow in the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York. He has published six collections of poems and his plays have been performed at the National Theatre and the West Yorkshire Playhouse.



# Department of Education Newsletter

## National Student Survey (NSS) results - another 'top ten' performance by the Department of Education

The National Student Survey is completed annually by final year undergraduate students, gathering their views on a number of aspects of their course. The Department was placed joint 7th overall out of all the Education departments in the country and there was strong praise for the quality of support and teaching offered by academic and administrative staff, with students also saying that Department staff genuinely care about what they do, and provide an excellent set of employability and enrichment activities.

Professor Judith Bennett, Head of Department said, 'I think these excellent results are a tribute to all the hard work that has gone into the UG programme in the last five years, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this.'

<http://www.york.ac.uk/education/news-events/news/nss-2012/>

## Visitors to Education



### Belinda Xiang

Hi, this is Belinda from China. It is such an honor that I was accepted as an academic visitor to the Department of Education in the University of York. My six-month stay proves to be extremely colorful and fruitful. I am impressed by the rigorous teaching and researching of the tutors and I quite enjoy the free, friendly and serious atmosphere in seminars and ERG activities. The library provides me with easy access to rich resources which undoubtedly are helpful for my future work and

research, and the on- and off-campus accommodation has exposed me to the diversified culture in the University of York and in York City. Of course, I have travelled a lot during my stay, covering most of the historic cities in the United Kingdom. I have been deeply touched by the brilliant legacy of British history, and fascinated by the marvellous landscapes. I understand the nation, the people, and the language more and better, which will undoubtedly turn out to be invaluable and unforgettable in my life. Finally, my sincere thanks to Dr. Irena Kuzborska, whose kindness helps fulfil my dreams.

### About Belinda

Belinda works as an English lecturer at Hangzhou Dianzi University, in China, mainly teaching four language skills to university students, but also interested in researching students' academic literacy, especially, the acquisition of academic reading.

Belinda's current research project focuses on an investigation of students' metacognitive awareness in second language academic reading and how this awareness could be enhanced to support students' reading comprehension.



### Li Gaofeng

My name is Li Gaofeng and I am now an academic visitor of the Department of Education, the University of York. I was a middle school teacher for eleven years in China. After that, I went into Beijing Normal University and began my graduate learning. At last, I got my Ph.D diploma and became a science education teacher in the college of life sciences of Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an in 2007.

Because the University of York is a famous university and there are some influential science education professors in the world such as Professor Judith Bennett, Dr Martin Braund, I came to York and began to study biology curriculum and teaching in August 2012. The UK is a beautiful country and Englishmen are very enthusiastic, and I enjoy the life in York. Finally, I hope I will come back to China with fruitful results in August 2013.

## Professor Andy Tolmie

Professor Andy Tolmie (University of London, Institute of Education) gave the first invited speaker seminar at the newly created Psychology in Education Research Centre. Professor Tolmie's talk looked at recent research on the teaching and learning of science in schools.



Left to Right: Dr Kathryn Asbury, Professor Andy Tolmie, Professor Rob Klassen, and Dr Claudine Bowyer-Crane

## Research News

Members of our new research centre – PERC – were recently awarded £800 for their symposium submission to the 2013 Annual meeting of the British Psychological society. The submission, titled "Psychological Research that transforms educational practice" was nominated for the award by the North East of England branch of the BPS. The symposium includes research presentations by Kathryn Asbury, Claudine Bowyer, Rob Klassen and Poppy Nash.

**Paul Wakeling** has been invited to be a Commissioning Panel Member for this year's ESRC Research Seminar Competition.

# Department of Education Newsletter



**Chris Kyriacou and Ian Davies** held discussions about citizenship education with the following Japanese colleagues during their visit to York in December: Professor Yoshiharu Toda (Chiba University), Dr. Tomoko Miura (Chiba) and Dr. Noboru Tanaka (Osaka Ohtani ).

**Rob Klassen, Kathryn Asbury and Claudine Bowyer-Crane** have successfully bid to the University's External Engagement Award scheme and have been awarded £20,000 for a project 'Developing tools to predict teacher effectiveness'. The project will start in January 2013.

## Publications

Cook, V. J., **Bassetti**, B. and Vaid, J. (2012) The writing system at play. In Cook, V. J., Bassetti, B. and Vaid, J. (eds.) Writing systems at play. Special issue. Writing Systems Research, 4(2), 120-121.

Cook, V. J., **Bassetti**, B. and Vaid, J. (Eds.) (2012) Writing systems at play. Special Issue. Writing Systems Research, 4(2).

Durksen, T. L., & **Klassen**, R. M. (2012). Pre-service teachers' weekly commitment and engagement during a final practicum: A longitudinal mixed methods study. *Educational and Child Psychology*, 29, 32-46.

Mitchell, R., Myles, F., **Marsden**, E. (2013) Second Language Learning Theories. Oxford: Taylor & Francis.

**Olive**, S. 'A great tradition?: Shakespeare in the National Curriculum'. *Alluvium*. 2.1

**Olive**, S. 'Peer Gynt at Bergen's Den Nationale Scene: Conventional or Controversial?' *The Drama Review*. 217. 57:1.

## Recent Presentations

Robin Millar gave a talk 'Towards a research-informed teaching sequence for energy' at the Summit on the Teaching and Learning of Energy, Michigan State University (15-17 December 2012)

At the Association for Science Education Conference, University of Reading (3-5 Jan. 2013), Robin Millar gave the following talks:

- **A good question? Developing and using good questions** (with Mary Whitehouse & Carol Davonport):
- **Embedding assessment in your teaching** (with Mary Whitehouse)
- **Planning for learning: York Science** (with Mary Whitehouse):

Rob Klassen gave a keynote talk titled "Five reasons why educational psychologists should pay attention to teacher motivation" at the British Psychological Society Division of Educational and Child Psychology, 11 January.

## What's going on!

### Departmental Seminars

A/D017 – All welcome

Wednesday, 30 January, 1.00-2.00  
**Effects of spelling on pronunciation in learners of English as a Foreign Language**

*Benedetta Bassetti, Centre for Language Learning Research*

Wednesday, 27 February, 1.00-2.00  
**Funding postgraduate study: postgraduate voices and choices**  
*Paul Wakeling, Centre for Research on Education in Social Justice*

Wednesday, 13 March, 1.00 - 2.00  
**Making, viewing and reviewing Shakespeare: lessons for theatre and education practice from the British Library's Theatre Archive Project**

*Sarah Olive, Centre for Research on Education in Social Justice*

## Centre for Language Learning Research Seminar

### What IS Applied Linguistics?

Professor Paul Meara (Swansea University)

**Thurs 28th February, 3:15 - 4:15** in the **ARRC Auditorium**.

## IEE Conference 2013

### Getting evidence-based practices to work

In March 2013 (21 and 22), the Institute for Effective Education will host its second conference, here at the University. The conference will focus on how to better use research evidence in both education practice and policy making. This is central to the challenge of raising standards for all children and, in the current financial climate, essential in making sure resources are spent in the most effective way.

Aimed at policy makers, practitioners, and consultants, attendees will gain practical knowledge on the use of evidence in education policy; learn about practices and programmes that have been research-proven and are ready to use; and hear from individuals and organisations who implement them. The keynote speakers are Baroness Estelle Morris, Graham Stuart MP, and the Sutton Trust's Lee Elliott Major. Further information is available at [www.york.ac.uk/iee/conference2013](http://www.york.ac.uk/iee/conference2013)

## Staff Changes

In November we welcomed Annemarie McIntyre to CIRSE as project administrator.

Victoria Elliott will join us from 1 March as Lecturer in English Education

# Department of Education Newsletter

## CELT News

### Award-winning support for international students



The English Speaking Union has given this year's President's Award to Chris Copland and Huw Llewelyn-Jones from the Centre for English Language Teaching for their video-based programme, *Access UK*. The Award, conferred by a national judging panel of publishing, English language teaching and design specialists, celebrates the use of technology in the teaching and learning of English, and will be presented at a special ceremony at the House of Lords on 12 February. Developed with the support of a Rapid Response Fund grant and published by Clarity English, the programme prepares international students for situations they face *outside the classroom*. The focus is on language and guidance, with a particular emphasis on the spoken skills and vocabulary needed for practical and social situations.

**The panel commented: 'This is an innovative, multifaceted resource for making everyday life in UK less daunting for international students. Unlike many ELT resources, the developers weren't afraid to use regional accents, and scenarios felt wholly natural.'**

Over the summer, Huw and Chris presented the video project at various conferences, including UK Council for International Student

Advisers, InForm (for international foundation programme providers) and Higher York Electronic Learning Network. A fuller discussion of the project is published in the InForm journal.

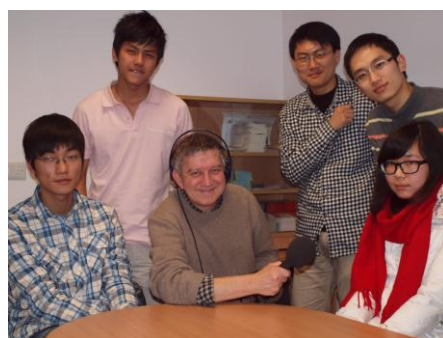
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/inform/Inform-Issue-10.pdf>

They also gave a one day training workshop on *Making Video for Language Learning and Teaching* in the autumn on behalf of the Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, which was attended by colleagues from six universities. In addition to the ESU prize, Huw and Chris have also received a joint Rewarding Excellence award from the university. They are both delighted with the encouragement these votes of confidence have given them for their work on behalf of the Centre.

A demonstration of Access UK can be viewed at:  
<http://www.clarityenglish.com/program/accessuk.php>

### Saying Goodbye again and again

In July this year, Centre for English Language Teaching students from Zhejiang University in China were given the unique opportunity to take part in a radio programme commissioned by BBC Radio 3 about the famous Chinese poet, Xu Zhimo. The idea for the programme came from Andy Cartwright, who was hosting one of the students during their stay in York, and who is also a senior lecturer in the Centre for Research in Media and Cultural



Studies at the University of Sunderland. Andy interviewed the students, who were here to improve their English and visit various University departments, about the poet and his famous poem about Cambridge entitled 'Saying Goodbye to Cambridge'.

Andy dug a little deeper and discovered that Xu Zhimo had studied at Cambridge, had become very heavily influenced by the English romantic poets and, on returning to China, had become one of the most renowned romantic poets of twentieth century Chinese literature. The Radio 3 programme entitled 'Saying Goodbye again and again' was aired on Saturday 30 June 2012 - if you would like to listen to the programme, email [educ18@york.ac.uk](mailto:educ18@york.ac.uk).

### The Future of CELT

Following recommendations of the review conducted on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor between April and November 2012, CELT is to be divided from 1 August 2013, with English for Academic Purposes activity remaining in the Department of Education, while Contract Language Courses will move to the International Relations Office.

### New Staff Member

In January 2013 we welcomed Julia Lancaster to CELT and to the Department. Julia comes to us from the University of Bath to take up a new full-time Tutor post.

### Department of Education

**Tel:** +44(0)1904 323460

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<http://www.york.ac.uk/education/>



# Department of Education Newsletter

## Department of Education Anniversary Events

**In 2013, the Department of Education, University of York celebrates its 50th anniversary.**

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to staff and students past and present, and friends and colleagues near and far, as the Department of Education at the University of York celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Please join with us to celebrate past achievements, recognise current successes and help shape our future. Details of all our celebratory events, and how to get involved, are shown below.

**Thu 21 February: 50 years of Education at York: Public lecture series**

Professor Maggie Snowling (University of Oxford), 'Dyslexia: What we have learned from Family Studies'

**Tue 12 March: 50 years of Education at York: Working with schools**

Charlie Taylor, Chief Executive of the Teaching Agency and the National College for School Leadership, 'Putting theory into policy and policy into practice: Current thinking on managing behaviour in schools'.

**Thu 2 May: 50 years of Education at York: Birthday party**

An opportunity for students, staff, former staff and other invited guests to celebrate the Department's 50th birthday over tea and cakes.

**Wed 15 May: 50 years of Education at York: Public lecture series**

Patrick Spottiswoode, Director, Globe Education

**Tue 2 July: 50 years of Education at York: Academic Workshops**

Exploring the theme of 'Linking research evidence to classroom practice'

**Fri 8 November: 50 years of Education at York: The Education Reunion**

Talks, careers guidance, tours of the campus, a display on the history of the Department, and opportunities to socialise with former and current staff and students. The event will culminate in a debate - 'Can education transform society?'

**Thu 14 November: 50 years of Education at York: Public lecture series**

Baroness Estelle Morris

Further details can be found by following the links above or at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/education/news-events/events/50/>

## Student Charity Event

As an integral part of our community, our students and trainees will also be part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. With the help of student representatives at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, and the support of EdSoc, the student Education Society, our students and trainees will be working together to raise money for a charity or charities that support Education. This is a great opportunity for all of us to work together and a fantastic way to mark our 50th Anniversary.

## Science Education Group: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year marks not only the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University and of the Department of Education, but also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of York Science Education Group (UYSEG). From the initial development of a one-year course in Chemistry for what we would now call Y9, UYSEG's curriculum development work has grown, largely in response to the demands of users in schools and colleges. UYSEG has led the development of two innovative GCSE courses (Salters GCSE Science and Twenty First Century Science), and A-level courses in the three main sciences ([Salters Advanced Chemistry](#), [Salters Horners Advanced Physics](#), and [Salters-Nuffield Advanced Biology](#)). All of these courses aim to set science learning in context, helping students to see how the science ideas they learn are useful in understanding important uses and applications of science, and gaining a clearer sense of the issues which engage scientists and engineers today and the ideas and methods they use to tackle them.

The Chemical Industry Education Centre (CIEC), which is part of UYSEG, also celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. Working mainly with primary teachers and pupils, it aims to enhance the teaching of science at primary school level, and to develop better communication between schools and industry.

UYSEG is planning a celebration event in May to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> birthdays of its two component parts. It will take the form of a seminar looking at developers', sponsors' and users' perspectives and views on the role of curriculum development in enhancing students' experience of science.