

Department of Educational Studies Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn 2010

Welcome to the Department of Educational Studies Newsletter

I would like to welcome you to the new academic year and to our second Departmental newsletter. I hope everyone reading this had an enjoyable summer. Since the publication of our first newsletter, a lot has been happening. As you will see later in the newsletter we have welcomed seven new members of staff to the Department, our largest ever increase in staffing. In welcoming our new members of staff, the Department is also wishing Nick McGuinn and Phil Horsfall all the very best as they retire.

The Department has had excellent news about its teaching: our PGCE programme has been awarded the top grade of 'outstanding' by Ofsted and our UG programme has done very well on the recent National Student Survey. Congratulations to Paul Wakeling on his award of 'Supervisor of the Year'.

There is lots more for you to read about in this newsletter, so I will finish now by wishing you all the best for a happy and successful academic year.

Judith Bennett, Head of Department



Department News

"Outstanding" Student Receives Fulbright Scholarship

Emily Fisher has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to participate in the Summer Institute for Outstanding European Students in the USA. Emily is a second year student pursuing a BA in Educational Studies. Emily was selected from hundreds of education students in the UK and will be joined by other students from Germany, Spain, and France on the programme. The Summer Institute offers participants the opportunity to learn about the US systems of primary, secondary and higher education and engaged in cross-cultural exchange through coursework, educational travel, and group community service activities. Dr Gillian Hampden-Thompson, Director of Undergraduate Studies, said: "This is not only a wonderful opportunity for Emily but it is also a real honour for the department to have a member of our academic community recognized by the Fulbright Commission".

Festival of Education at King's Manor

Undergraduate students from the Department of Educational Studies participated in a pioneering volunteering and enrichment programme in the Summer term. Our students undertook work in a range of educational community settings and produced a number of valuable education outcomes for young people, schools and community partners. Each project team was asked to produce a sustainable set of resources for their respective community partners, including activity packs, lesson plans and teaching and learning materials.



The project work was presented at a well-attended Festival of Education held at King's Manor where it was clear that our students had gained immensely from their experiences, in terms of their knowledge about

education, as well as project management, team work and time management skills. Projects included Living History at the Yorkshire Farming Museum, Developing Communication Skills at Applefields School, Creative Writing at York Museums Trust, and Promoting Engagement through Cooking at St. Lawrence's School.

Undergraduate Dissertation Prize made possible by former student

The *Jones Empirical Dissertation Prize*, to be awarded for the first time in 2011, will recognise outstanding research by undergraduate students in the field of education. The annual award of £250 has been made possible by a generous gift from an alumnus of the University of York and the Department of Educational Studies. "We are extremely grateful to the former student who made this annual award possible. It provides a wonderful opportunity for the department to recognise outstanding education research."

Dr Gillian Hampden-Thompson, Director of Undergraduate Programmes

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Research Students in Educational Studies

The introduction of the online application process has contributed to a marked increase in the number and diversity of international research students in the Department of Educational Studies. These now include students from Canada, China, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the Seychelles, Taiwan, the United States, and Vietnam.



Professor Chris Kyriacou, the PhD Programme Leader and students are shown here relaxing with coffee from Saudi Arabia and baklava (traditional pastries from the Eastern Mediterranean).

Lord Browne's review of HE funding and student finance

Paul Wakeling appeared at a public hearing of Lord Browne's Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance at the University of Leicester. He spoke and answered questions about access to and participation in postgraduate study, his major research interest.

The [Browne Review](#) report has now been published. Please click the link to read it.

York Graduation in Beijing 17 April 2010

Kheng Suan Chew was one of twenty-seven students in Educational Studies to be awarded their degrees at the recent Graduation Ceremony in Beijing in

April 2010. Suan, who works in the Faculty of Arts at the Hong Kong Baptist University, was the only student at the ceremony to be awarded a PhD.



Suan is shown here with Professor Judith Bennett, Head of the Department of Educational Studies

Civic Engagement

The Department of Educational Studies organised a seminar on civic engagement on 18 June 2010, funded by the Society for Educational Studies. The themes of the conference were online and other forms of civic engagement, international dimensions of citizenship education (with particular illustrations of case studies in Kenya and Japan) and the nature and impact of schools and initial teacher education programmes of citizenship education.



The key note presentations were made by Professor Stephen Coleman of Leeds University on 'how various models of citizenship are presented through mass and online media'; and Professor David Kerr of the National Foundation for Educational Research on 'Civic Engagement in and beyond School: Research Approaches and Emerging Findings at National and International Level'.

Other presentations were made by Liz West (Cumbria University), Brian Loader (Sociology Dept, York) and Professor Frank Hardman and Professor Ian Davies (both of the Department of Educational Studies, York).

Staff News

Eureka! Educational Studies scientist honoured

Professor Robin Millar has been named in the Eureka 100 'most important contemporary figures in British science'. The list was in *Eureka*, the monthly science magazine published by *The Times*. Robin was praised for his role in co-ordinating and implementing the recommendations of the Beyond 2000 report into school science.

Paul Wakeling wins 'Supervisor of the Year' award



Many congratulations to Dr Paul Wakeling, who won one of the six 'Supervisor of the Year' awards on 1 July 2010. The 'Supervisor of the Year' awards are organised by the University of York Students' Union, and voted for by students. Paul was commended in particular for the academic support he offered students in the Department. The Department also had a very high number of staff nominated for the awards – eighteen staff in total, continuing the high standard set last year when Dr Vanita Sundaram also won a 'Supervisor of the Year' award.

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Very many congratulations to **Chris Kyriacou** on his promotion to Professor - The news was a great way to end the academic year.

Congratulations to **Martin Braund** who is now Dr Braund. Well done, Martin - this is really great news.

New books!

Two new books from members of the department:

Abrahams, I. (2010). *Practical Work in Secondary Science: A minds-on approach*. London: Continuum (Pub. 18 Nov 2010)

Szczepek Reed, B. (2010). *Analysing Conversation: An Introduction to Prosody*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan (Pub. 15 Oct 2010)

Student Education Society



Welcome back to the department everyone! The Student Education Society, is a key part of the Department of Educational Studies, we aim to advise, help, and promote opportunities and events, and maintain a key link between staff and students. Over the summer, numerous members of the Student Education Society took part in summer schools, UK based and some in the USA.

Our advice and our society is broadening in many ways since our last update in the Summer Newsletter. As a society, we designed and now have our departmental hoodies - there are a few extra if anyone is interested (please contact lc639). Furthermore, we organised an end of year departmental BBQ which both staff and students attended to celebrate the successes of the department for 2009/10.

This year, the society continues to grow, we aim to run a welfare

session for all students (look out for the posters around the department) and also, we will be organising regular academic events such as guest speakers. To keep up to date firstly join our Facebook page (search for York University Educational Studies). Or e-mail the Chair, Laura Calsela on (lc639). Or turn up at our meetings throughout each term!

Visitors to Educational Studies



Dr Linda Ronnie from the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town, visited the Department in September to work with Paul Wakeling on a project comparing the motivations and educational backgrounds of MBA students in South Africa and the UK. Linda has research interests in access to higher education, particularly for adult 'returners' which are complementary to Paul's interests in access to postgraduate study. Twenty two interviews were undertaken with MBA students in the two countries and the results will be written up for publication. The link was made possible with funding from the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and follows a string of other links between the Department and South African universities.

Professor Yu Wei

Professor Yu Wei, who received an honorary degree in Educational Studies at the Beijing Graduation Ceremony in April 2010, will be visiting the department in October, meeting with the Head of

Department, members of CIRSE and the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Yu Wei has a long and distinguished career in science and in education. She obtained her first degree in Electronic Engineering from Nanjing College of Science, gained her doctorate in electronics and then rose rapidly to become President of the Southeast University. From this background in science, Professor Wei went on to be Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education, Vice-Chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation, and Vice-Chairperson of the China Association for Science and Technology.

In the field of science education, Professor Wei chaired the Revision Committee of the National Standards in Science, which resulted in all children in China studying science from an early age in primary schools, and is well known for introducing enquiry-based learning in science education in China through her programme 'Learning by Doing'.

Sabiha Sunar joined the Department as a Guest Researcher at the end of September for one year. Sabiha's research area is Science Education.



In brief

Free LFA Course Entitlement for Year 1 Undergraduate Students

For further details please go to http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/lfa/courses/year1_entitlement.htm

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A day in the life of a Head of Department

When I was asked if I would write something about a day in the life of the Head of Department, my first thought was that there's no such thing as a 'typical' day in my life! One thing I discovered fairly soon after taking on the role of Head of Department is that the planned day and the experienced day can be very different, as much of the job involves dealing with things that come your way – some of which can be quite unexpected. So I thought I would write about two contrasting Mondays to give you a feel for the variety in a job which is certainly never boring!

Monday 21 June

Today is the longest day, and my diary certainly looks like it will rise to the occasion. I'm usually at work by 8.00am – I like an early start as it gives me a quiet hour in the office – and it means I can park my car (though I must make the effort to cycle more often now the weather is nice, I keep telling myself.) I start by having a chat with Ian Davies the Department's Chair of the Board of Studies, to check all is OK for our Boards of Examiners' meetings over the next two weeks. It's good to know that so many students in the Department have done so well. Then I meet with Margaret Hearnden to talk about the increase in numbers next year on the course she leads – our MA in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages. Next, it's 'Alcuin coffee' – we always meet for coffee on Mondays to keep up with news. And someone usually brings cakes to celebrate birthday. Today it's luxury chocolate biscuits, which cheers people up on a Monday. Someone tells me Brenda left them in the general office for us as she isn't able to come to coffee. After coffee, I go to a meeting at the National Science

Learning Centre about possible links with universities in South Africa. A quick trip across campus takes me to the termly meeting for Heads of Social Science departments. Then it's back to my office for supervision meetings with two of my PhD students, Nahieli and Rachael. Finally, there's a meeting of the interview panel for our new Lecturer in English in Education to produce a shortlist of candidates for interview. Just as I am locking my office door to set off for home, Brenda tells me that the chocolate biscuits she left in the general office for a meeting tomorrow have disappeared ... Hmm ... I think I know where they went.

Monday 5 July

Today I am giving a lecture at an international science education conference in Poland. It's all rather scary as there will be about 200 people in the audience, from over 40 countries in total. The last week of term was such a rush that I don't really feel as organised as I would like to be. I keep waking up thinking about those last minute 'tweaks' I can give the talk. I've got to be at the conference centre in the morning to drop off my Powerpoint slides – which is probably a good thing as it means I can't do any more 'tweaking'. (I am a self-confessed compulsive tweaker of talks and teaching sessions.) However, the first task is to find the conference centre without a map! Happily, it's only about 15 minutes' walk from the hotel, and quite easy to find. The lecture seems to go well – I managed to talk for exactly the 45 minutes I was given, the technology all worked, people laughed at the jokes (or they laughed, and I hope it was at the jokes), and no-one asked me any questions I couldn't answer at the end. Phew!

Staff changes in the Department

Welcome to the 10 new members of staff who have joined the department since our last newsletter.

Maria Tsouroufli joined us in July as a Senior Research Fellow. **Sarah Olive** joined us on 1 October as Lecturer in English in Education.

Dr Benedetta Bassetti, Dr Beatrice Szczepek Reed, Lecturers and **Dr Florentina Taylor**, Teaching Fellow all joined the department in September on the MA TESOL programme.

Catherine Shawyer and **Suzi Bewell** also joined us at the beginning of September to lead the English and Modern Foreign Languages PGCE programmes respectively.

Additionally, the Department is very pleased to have **Amanda Naylor** continue her work with the Department, now as a part-time lecturer in English in Education.

We say farewell to **Nick McGuinn**, English Lecturer across all three programmes (higher degree, PGCE and undergraduate) and **Phil Horsfall**, MFL Lecturer and wish them well as they retire. Also to **Yoshikazu Ogawa** who came to the department from Tohoku University, Japan as an academic visitor in April for six months.

To **CELT** we welcome **Patricia Mellor**, who will be working with the Chinese University of Hong Kong students and then helping to plan and run our new suite of Pre-Sessional programmes.

We also welcome **Nettie Boivin** and **Ella Tennant**, who will be working on the In-Sessional programme and in particular will be running the new Complementary Integrated English course in Social Policy (Nettie) and Sociology (Ella).

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Research News

What's going on!

Departmental Seminars

Wednesday 3 November, 13.00-14.00

Left to your own devices: Gender, independent learning and dependencies in UK medical education

Maria Tsouroufli

Wednesday 24 November, 13.00-14.00

When do foreign language learners start to learn grammar, and under what circumstances? A study using an artificial language and priming techniques

Emma Marsden

Wednesday 15 December, 13.00-14.00

Schools that make a difference

Judith Bennett, Gill Hampden-Thompson and Fred Lubben

External Activities

Professor Ian Davies of the Department of Educational Studies made a plenary presentation at the European Civic Days conference in Malaga, Spain in May 2010. Ian Davies spoke on 'Education in values for building a European social citizenship'. Other speakers included the Spanish foreign minister, a past president of the European Parliament as well as academics. This conference was hosted by the Spanish government in connection with the Spanish presidency of the European Union. The conference was organised by the Fundación Educativa y Asistencial CIVES.

Professor Chris Kyriacou presented a paper on attitudes towards social pedagogy in schools in England, Norway and Switzerland, at the European Network for the Understanding of Social Pedagogy conference held at the Institute of Education, University of London.

James Pitt visited Russia to lecture and give seminars on Education for Sustainable Development and how this can be integrated into the design and technology curriculum in schools. This built on earlier collaborative work between the University of York, the Ministry of Education of The Russian Federation, and HEIs in Nizhniy Novgorod, Khabarovsk and Komsomol'sk-na-Amure, who hosted the latest visit.

PhD student **Maria Turkenburg** (with PhD students from Sheffield, Leeds and Sheffield-Hallam) organised the first annual White Rose Science Education Network doctoral student conference at the National Science Learning Centre, bringing together a cross-section of science-educators from the North of England.

CELT News

Core Business – it's official!

At the VC's summer visit to Educational Studies, Professor Cantor confirmed that the work of CELT is part of the University's core business. This was welcome news and fits with the ongoing expunging of the word 'support' in connection with CELT's activities.

Autumn Term

This Autumn we are starting our first Complementary Integrated English programmes with the Department of Psychology and the Department of Social Policy & Social Work. Unlike other programmes we run, these two will be run in tandem with colleagues from the aforementioned Departments so that the English Language work integrates smoothly with the rest of students' work.

We are also expecting three teachers from Tupolev Kazan University, Russia. They will be with us for four weeks, learning how to make use of their considerable

expertise and experience to transfer from teaching English literature to teaching English for Academic Purposes. They will also be learning about materials writing for special ELT programmes.

Pakistan Floods – Fundraising Event in CELT for UK Friends of Khwendo Kor - Wednesday 8 September 2010

A big thank you to all those who came along last month to support the fundraising effort for the UK Friends of Khwendo Kor (UKFROK). UKFROK supports the work of Khwendo Kor in Pakistan. Khwendo Kor was founded by a former CELT student, Maryam Bibi. It was good to be able to support Maryam in the charity's vital work with women and children in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan. Women and children have especially suffered during the recent floods. Altogether an amount of £200.14 was raised and delivered to UKFROK's Treasurer. I am hoping to hold a similar event during the autumn term closer to Christmas – **possibly Monday 6 December**.

For more info go to:
<http://www.frok.btik.com/>
<http://justgiving.com/frok-flood-appeal>

Jacqui Chainey

Departmental Newsletter

Deadline for Spring Issue:
10 December 2010

Contact details:

hp7@york.ac.uk

University magazine deadlines:

Jan/Feb 2011: 14 January

Mar/Apr 2011: 25 Feb

Contact details:

magazine@york.ac.uk

Department of Educational Studies

Tel: +44(0)1904 323460

Website:

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