

# Department of Education Newsletter

Issue 3 Spring 2011

## Welcome to the Department of Education Newsletter

### New year, new department, new roles ...

Dear everyone, welcome back, and very best wishes for 2011. I hope it is a good year for you. You will notice some changes in the Department this term.

First, we have a new name. From 1 January 2011, we are now the Department of Education. Our new name better reflects the range of activities offered by the Department and is more consistent with other university Departments of Education, making it easier for people to find us when they are searching for information about York and the Department.

Secondly, there have been some changes to roles held by staff. Gill Hampden-Thomson is taking over as Chair of the Department's Research Committee following Frank Hardman's move to the Institute for Effective Education. Vanita Sundaram has taken over the role of Director of Undergraduate Studies from Gill.

Judith Bennett



## Department News

### Establishing a Digital Repository of Instruments for Research in Language Learning

**Emma Marsden** has been awarded £236,000 from the ESRC to establish a digital repository of instruments used to collect data for research into second language learning and teaching (IRIS). The two year project is in collaboration with Professor Alison Mackey (Co-I, Georgetown University, U.S.), Julie Allinson (Digital Library, University of York), and a wide international network of researchers, journal editors and professional associations. This searchable and sustainable resource will facilitate collaboration and replication, and enhance the scrutiny of research instruments, amongst many other benefits.

### Creating Citizenship Communities

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has awarded a grant of £77k for work on the project 'Creating Citizenship Communities'. The project team emerges from a partnership between the Department of Education, University of York and the northern office of the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). **Gill Hampden Thompson, George Bramley, Ian Davies, Vanita Sundaram and Maria Tsouroufli** will be working with a high profile Advisory Group involving Douglas Archibald (Royal Society of Arts), Tony Breslin (Human Scale Education; Breslin Public Policy Limited), Mark Chater (Citizenship Foundation), Joe Feeney (former member of UK Youth Parliament) and Estelle Morris (former Secretary of State for Education).

The project will develop understanding and practice about, and for, community cohesion by identifying current thinking and practice in schools, exploring young people's perceptions and practice,

and encouraging partnerships to be established between professionals and others.

The project team will complete a literature review, analyse secondary data sets, undertake a survey of schools, explore case studies in contrasting communities and produce a range of high impact learning resources as well as organising high profile events and sustainable structures for continued work in this field.

### School archives to be digitised

**Paul Wakeling** has secured funding from the Digital Library digitisation fund to scan and capture archival material about schooling. A range of resources from The Mount School's archives, held at the Borthwick Institute, will be digitised for use in undergraduate teaching. It is hoped that the images will be available for wider use too. Use of the school's archives has proved popular with undergraduates on the History of Education module. The funding will allow the records to be accessed by students on the much larger second-year module Learning and Society.

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## York Secondary Schools 1900-1985

The Department will host a pull-up display about the York Archaeological Trust's Oral History Project on York Secondary Schools 1900-1985. Transcripts of the interviews have been deposited with the department and can be used by our undergraduates for research purposes. The display will be housed on the first floor landing in Langwith College, 10 January to 10 February.



*An Art Class at Nunthorpe Grammar School in the 1950s.*

A book based on the project was published in October: "The Best Years of Our Lives? Secondary Education in York 1900-1985" by Van Wilson. The book contains a foreword by Dame Janet Baker, who was until a few years ago the Chancellor of the University. Dame Janet was a pupil at York College for Girls. For further details contact [Chris Kyriacou](#).

## Staff News

### New book

**Benedetta Bassetti's** edited book is now out:

Cook, V.J., & Bassetti, B. (2011). *Language and Bilingual Cognition*. Hove, UK: Taylor and Francis.

Congratulations to **Dr Florentina Taylor** who had a successful PhD viva in November.

## Staff Stories



A portrait of **Chris Kyriacou** by local artist Thomas Rimmington formed part of a recent exhibition in Langwith College. The portrait is now owned by the University, and can now be seen in Langwith College Senior Common Room, until it is moved on, at some point, to another location.

### Eric Hawkins – Obituary

Eric Hawkins, Professor Emeritus, CBE, died on 31 October 2010, aged 95. His most enduring legacy is the profound influence he exerted over the teaching of languages in British schools.

In the mid 1960's, he set up the York University Language Teaching Centre. It had four main activities: teacher training, production of teaching materials, research into methodology, and actual language teaching ("service courses"). Under Eric's guidance, the LTC rapidly became nationally known as a "centre of excellence". After his retirement in 1979, he devoted his energies to the Language Awareness movement, and published his last paper at the age of 90.

Eric's main concern was always helping children to widen their perspectives beyond the confines which their background can impose upon them. "We are seeking to arm our pupils against fear of the unknown, which breeds prejudice and antagonism. Above all, we want to make our pupils' contacts with language, both their own and that of their neighbours, richer, more interesting, simply more fun."

A fuller obituary can be found at [www.york.ac.uk/education](http://www.york.ac.uk/education)

## Visitors to Educational Studies

### Sabiha Sunar



I joined the Department of Educational Studies at the end of September for one year. I am a PhD student and research assistant at Middle East Technical University, in Turkey. My research area is Science Education and I have conducted research on pre-service science teachers' conceptions on environmental education, their views on Science-Technology-Society issues, doctoral qualifying examinations in higher education and students' questions on an "ask-a-scientist" website so far. I am here to learn about context-based approaches in-depth since my dissertation focuses on the effectiveness of context-based approaches in teaching chemistry to high school students. I have felt that I am in the right place from the time I joined the Department! I enjoy learning about the education system of the UK, going through the Salters' materials, chatting with "experts of context-based approaches" and finding answers to the questions in mind, being able to discuss philosophical perspectives of education and development of doctoral studies of PhD students such as me. I would like to thank all my friends in the Department for such a nice atmosphere and for contributing to my intellectual development. Please do not hesitate to contact me via [ss1055@york.ac.uk](mailto:ss1055@york.ac.uk).

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## Student Education Society



The student society has been busy within the department this term, we have been running welfare sessions, and have also been working through the process to ratify the society hopefully in time for October 2011. Some members of the society have also been looking into volunteering opportunities abroad, two members have been successful in their applications so far! In June 2011, Louise Turner and Sloane Murray will be jetting off to Fiji to volunteer in the local community. The program is run by VESA (Volunteer Eco Students Abroad), who also provide schemes in South America and South Africa. They also work closely with global networks such as UNICEF. Doing various things such as teaching English to children up to the age of 16 as well as more physical things like building rain water catchment tanks to allow villagers have access to fresh, clean and running water. Their team will also be teaching proper health and hygiene workshops and renovating school buildings. The time in Fiji will be spent living with Fijian family where we will be completely embracing the culture, including travelling to school with the children and teaching them English. Reading, writing and clean running water are things which we take for granted on a daily basis. Sloane and Louise will be spending the next six months fundraising to allow them to take this amazing opportunity to help others to have a better lifestyle. If you wish to get involved in a scheme such as this please have a look at: <http://www.vesabroad.com/> Have a great spring term!

## Staff changes in the Department

We say farewell to **Claire Blackmore** who has been working on the PGCE programme and welcome **Claire Etherington** back as PGCE administrator after her maternity leave.

**Dr Pedro Flores Crespo** has joined the IEE as a visiting researcher from 10 January 2011 for a year.

## Research News

Introduction and Training for PURE, the new University Research Information System. **Wednesday 23 February 2011, 1pm – 2pm in Alcuin D017**

This presentation will be given by Rachel Curwen and Sam Gardner from Research and Enterprise where they will introduce the University's new Research Information System, PURE . During this session they will explain the background to the system and take you through the basics of logging in, checking the data already present and adding new data. Training materials and information on who to contact for help will also be given at this session.

**Paul Roberts** has been to Mumbai, to the Tata Institute for Social Sciences, for the final meeting of the UK-India Educational Research Initiative. The project has used an Anglo-Indian network of scholars and HE teaching practitioners to explore inclusivity and internationalisation in Higher Education. The results, soon to be published, should be useful in the context of the University's internationalisation and inclusivity strategies. The event in Mumbai was reported in the local supplement to the Times of India.

**Jan Hardman** is working with CELT on a small-scale research project to evaluate the impact of the Graduate Certificate in ELT on students going on to study for the MATESOL.

## What's going on!

### Departmental Seminars

Wednesday 2, February, 13.00 – 14.00

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

*Emma Marsden*

Wednesday 16 March, 13.00-14.00

**Strategic identity display in the classroom.**

*Florentina Taylor*

### CLLR Research Seminar Series 2010-2011

**Code-switching in emotional outbursts. An emic perspective**

Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele (Birkbeck College, London)  
Wednesday 19 January, 12.15-1.15 in L116

**Linguistics input and foreign language teaching: What do learners 'take in' during beginning language instruction?**

Dr Rebekah Rast (American University of Paris)  
Thursday 24 February at 12.15-1.15 in L116

**Language proficiency and cultural identity amongst heritage learners of Gujarati in the UK and Singapore.**

Professor Alison Mackey, Sheena Shah (Georgetown University, US); Dr Rita Silver (National Institute of Education, Singapore)  
Thursday 28 April at 12.15-1.15, in AEW/105

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## Spoken language in professional and study settings: What develops and what needs to be developed

Professor Rebecca Hughes  
(University of Nottingham)  
Wednesday 1 June at 12.15-1.15 in  
ATB/056/057

## Language Education Invited Speaker Summer Seminar Series

Wednesday 12.15-1.15 in  
ATB/056/057

Week 7, 8th June

### Raising language teacher trainees' awareness of (mis)understanding and (in) competence in English as a lingua franca.

Rachel Wicaksono (York St John University)

Week 8, 15th June

### Motivation and identity in language learning (TBC)

Dr. Ema Ushoida (University of Warwick)

Week 9, 22nd June

### Eliciting and testing language knowledge from learners: Designing an elicited imitation test with a focus on meaning rather than on form.

Dr. Rosemary Erlam (University of Auckland)

## External Activities

**Paul Wakeling** gave an invited talk at the University of East London on 27 October as part of their Widening Participation for Postgraduates: Research, Policy and Practice conference.

**Paul Wakeling** gave an invited talk, "Widening participation: next steps for postgraduate education" at the 9th Annual Postgraduate Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The conference took place in Westminster, but the presenter was in Heslington due to snow disruption, so delegates in London were treated to a disembodied voice!

## CELT News

This term we have had a group of budding teachers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong: the students have had classes in English and ELT methodology, complemented by visits to local schools to observe classroom practice.

11 of the 12 students taking the Graduate Certificate in ELT programme over the summer received their Certificates at a small award ceremony on December 2nd.

The film-making project, in the hands of **Chris Copland** and **Huw Llewelyn-Jones**, originally intended to supplement the Everyday Speaking and Listening course, has now, thanks to Chris's and Huw's hard work, attracted funding from within and outside the University, with the expectation that the finished product will be published and sold over the Internet. The short films illustrate aspects of University life and provide international students with guidance in how to negotiate both social and transactional situations.

**Jacqui Chainey** has been to Bangladesh on a working holiday, establishing good, friendly contacts with an English medium school in Dhaka, with possible future teacher-training links. Jacqui, together with family, friends and colleagues, held another fundraising event for the UK Friends of KHWENDO KOR on 6 December raising over £200.00. This charity, founded by Maryam Bibi, a former CELT student and alumna of the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, supports the work of KHWENDO KOR in providing education and healthcare to children and women in the northern area of Pakistan. Maryam Bibi received a Human Rights Award on behalf of KHWENDO KOR from the President of Pakistan on 9 December 2010. At a Degree Ceremony in July 2011 the University of York is to award Maryam Bibi, founder and Chief Executive of KHWENDO KOR, with an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of her work for the women in the Tribal Areas and Khyber-Pakhtunwa province of Pakistan. Please visit <http://www.frok.btik.com/> for further information. For more info go to:

<http://justgiving.com/frok-flood-appeal>

### Departmental Newsletter

Deadline for Summer Issue:  
1 April 2011

#### Contact details:

[helen.parker@york.ac.uk](mailto:helen.parker@york.ac.uk)

### University magazine deadlines:

Mar/Apr 2011: 25 Feb

#### Contact details:

[magazine@york.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@york.ac.uk)

### Department of Educational Studies

Tel: +44(0)1904 323460

Website:

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