

Department of Education Newsletter

Issue 4 Summer 2011

Welcome to the Department of Education Newsletter

Welcome back! I hope you had a good break over the Easter vacation.

On behalf of the Department, I would like to welcome new members of staff, Kath Armstrong, Poppy Nash and Julia Key. Please see the section on 'Staff changes in the Department' for more information.

I would also like to congratulate Bethanie Lord on being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to visit the USA this Summer. These scholarships are very competitive, so Bethanie has done really well.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for the summer term.



Department News

Baroness Estelle Morris visits the department

Baroness Estelle Morris visited the Department of Education on 10 February to meet staff and find out more about the work of the Department. During the visit, she met members of the Department's three research centres, Centre for Innovation and Research in Science Education, Centre for Language Learning Research, and the Centre for Research on Education and Social Justice. This provided an opportunity to find out more about the research and development work the Department does that has a particular impact in schools. The Department is involved in the development of wide ranging funded research and development work that clarifies understanding and is influencing practice in the UK and elsewhere. This work includes: 'Young people, violence and schools', 'Dyslexia', 'Autism', 'Literacy across the curriculum', 'A repository of instruments for researching second language learning', 'Researching the impact of the National STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering and Maths) Centre', 'Relating modern chemistry to real life applications' and '21st Century Science', a GCSE science curriculum for all.

The visit highlighted synergies between the work of the Department of Education and the Institute of Effective Education, and will result in closer links and working relationships in the future.

Prestigious prize for Education undergraduate student

Bethanie Lord, a 2nd year BA in Language and Literature student, has won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to attend the Summer Institute in Washington. The focus of the Summer Institute is on 21st Century Education and on introducing scholars from all over the world to the development and organisation of education in North America. The Institute offers participants the opportunity to learn about different systems of education, to work with young people in North American schools, to build international networks with young scholars and established academics, and to travel in North America. Bethanie was selected

from hundreds of Education students in the UK and her securing a place on the programme is a great honour for the Department.

Celebrating all-round talent in the department



Congratulations to our first year PhD student, Erdem AKBAS. His paper entitled 'Are they discussing in the same way?: Interactional Metadiscourse in Turkish Writers' Texts' has been accepted for the International PRISEAL (Publishing and Presenting Research Internationally: Issues for Speakers of English as an Additional Language) Conference to be held in Poland in June 2011. He will be joining Professor Ken Hyland of the University of Hong Kong and Professor John Swales of the University of Michigan who are world renowned researchers in Academic Written Discourse.

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Erdem is also a very talented chess player and has entered several national and international chess competitions. He won the first prize in the competition held in York in January 2011, Doncaster (Feb 2011), Blackpool (Mar 2011). He was also a winner of the Nottingham Rapidplay (Jan 2011), Manchester Rapidplay (Mar 2011) and Victoria Gardens Blitz Chess Tournament (Mar 2011).

Showcasing the Volunteering and Enrichment programme

The Undergraduate Volunteering and Enrichment programme will be showcased at the annual Teaching and Learning conference in May 2011. The showcase will involve a presentation of the V & E programme, which has been described as an 'innovative' and 'pioneering' initiative. Undergraduate Education students will be presenting their own work and the ways in which the V & E programme facilitated a deeper engagement with and understanding of educational theories and concepts they are studying for their degrees. Five student teams have volunteered to formally present their projects to an academic audience: Living history; Community cohesion; Education and literature; Special educational needs; Re-engaging disaffected pupils.

Festival of Education

The 2nd annual Festival of Education takes place on Tuesday 28th June 2011 (Berrick Saul Building). The Festival is a culmination of the 1st year volunteering and enrichment programme, at which students formally present their work to senior members of the University, their peers and members of the Department. The formal presentations are followed by a wine reception and an opportunity to chat with students about their

projects. The Festival was a very successful event last year and we would love to see many more members of the Department join us for this year's celebration!

Department Links with the University of Ulan Ude

Amanda Naylor and Nick McGuinn have secured international seedcorn funding to visit the University of Ulan Ude in the Buryat Republic of the Russian Federation. The aim of the visit is to prepare the ground for a meeting between English in Education and English students from the University of York with their counterparts in Ulan Ude. The two groups of students, who have been communicating by Skype, email and Facebook, will be working together in August 2011 on a series of joint workshops exploring the relevance of Shakespeare's King Lear to contemporary society. The project has secured external funding from the Oxford Russia Association. This is intended to support student travel in the Russian Federation.

Celebrating the Chinese New Year



MA TESOL students in the Department of Education took part in a volunteering project coordinated by Dr Sabrina Chai (Social Policy) to celebrate the Chinese New Year in February. Visiting several primary schools in the area, our students promoted intercultural understanding by teaching the pupils about traditions and customs associated with the Chinese Year of the Rabbit. The event was reported in the local press.

National Curriculum Review Seminar

Following the recent Government announcement of the National Curriculum review the Science Education Group held a two day seminar on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March in Alcuin. Representatives of the Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry, Society of Biology and the Wellcome Trust joined colleagues from the Education Departments of Durham, Leeds and York Universities. Discussions focused on subject content, progression, procedural and epistemic knowledge. Discussions are continuing using an online forum for participants. The University of York Science Education Group will submit a response to the Government consultation informed by these discussions.

Anne Scott

Twenty First Century Science

The Twenty First Century Science Project is the current GCSE Science project developed within the Centre for Innovation and Research in Science Education (CIRSE). The courses are currently taken by about 20% of the GCSE cohort. Since December 2009 we have been working in partnership with the Nuffield Foundation Curriculum Centre and with the awarding body OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations) to develop new specifications for the GCSE Sciences. In March 2011 these were accredited by OfQual for teaching from September 2011.

Alongside the specification development we have been writing and editing the teaching resources published by Oxford University Press. The first of the textbooks to be printed will be going into schools after the Easter break, with ICT resources following on behind.

Mary Whitehouse

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Student Education Society



York University Education Society

The education society will be working hard this term, to promote an education and charity event on 20 May that all members of the department (staff and students) are invited to. Guest speakers will be giving talks in their area of expertise, in the field of education but not in teaching (for once!). Followed by wine reception and canapés for only £5! With £1 of each ticket going to the charity Help2Educate. The talks start at 5.30pm followed by the wine reception at 6.30pm. This is for a really worthwhile cause as Help2Educate is a small charity that raises money to care for and fund the education of former child labourers in Nepal. They reach the neediest children and give them a brighter future away from poverty. As a result, their Nepali staff visit stone quarries, brick kilns and coal mines to help children working in dangerous and unhealthy environments. This will be a great opportunity to speak to people in really interesting careers from an educational backgrounds, not to be missed!

Tickets will be on sale leading up to the event, so please check your e-mail regularly, or e-mail lc639 to arrange ticket collection.

Hope to see you all there

Research News

Together with Dr. Adél Pásztor (Northumbria University), **Paul Wakeling** has been awarded a small grant by the British Academy for a project entitled "Access to doctoral study: a multi-institutional investigation of participation and non-participation at PhD level".

What's going on! Departmental Seminars

Wednesday 11 May, 1.00 – 2.00 pm
Can learning another language change the way we think? Objects, animals and grammatical gender in Italian users of German as a Second Language

Benedetta Bassetti

Wednesday 8 June, 1.00 - 2.00pm
Implementing teachers' professionalism policies in Mexico: From corporatism to coalitions

Dr Pedro Flores Crespo (IEE)

Wednesday 29 June, 1.00 – 2.00pm
Research problem-solving session "brown bag lunch"

CRESJ Summer Seminar

Wednesday 15 June, 2.00 – 5.30pm, Heslington Hall, H/G17

Principal speaker: Nick Johnson, Research Fellow, The Smith Institute. For further details see <http://www.york.ac.uk/education/research/cresj/seminar/>

External Activities

Science education research seminar in Malta
(From the Times of Malta- Feb 2011)

A seminar to disseminate the findings of research in science education was held recently. The seminar was organised by the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education, in collaboration with the Department of Maths, Science and Technical Education. It was held at the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) in Villa Bighi, Kalkara.

During the seminar, **Prof. Judith Bennett**, from the University of York, delivered a keynote presentation related to context-based approaches to teaching science. Following Prof. Bennett's contribution, six masters graduates at the University of Malta presented

their studies in relation to the latest developments in science education.

On 17th March **Benedetta Bassetti** gave a talk at the Institute of Education as part of the Department of Psychology and Human Development Research Seminar Series. The title was: 'Language and bilingual cognition: Effects of grammatical gender on Italian-German bilingual children and adults'.

Ian Davies gave a key note speech at the conference Rethinking Education for Citizenship in a Global Age on Thursday 17 March 2011 at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. This was conference exploring Slovenian, German, Austrian and English approaches.

Professor Ian Davies gave an invited presentation on "Creating Citizenship Communities" at the Social Science Education in Comparative Perspective seminar, University of Hamburg, Germany. This presentation was in collaboration with Dr Gillian Hampden-Thompson, Dr Maria Tsuroufli, Dr Vanita Sundaram, John Calhoun, and George Bramley from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

Dr Gillian Hampden-Thompson presented a paper on engagement in science on April 12th at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in New Orleans, USA.

On 17-20 March, **Dr Ian Abrahams, Professor Robin Millar and Mary Whitehouse** participated in an invited international symposium on defining and measuring learning outcomes in science, hosted by the Leibniz Institute for Science Education at the University of Kiel in Germany. They presented a paper on 'How learning outcomes in science are specified and measured in the English school system'.

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Professor Robin Millar gave an invited plenary presentation on 'Teaching about the nature of science' at a conference organised by SCORE (Science Community Representing Education) to inform submissions to the current review of the national curriculum, held at the Institute of Physics in London on 21 March.

Nick McGuinn and **Amanda Naylor** gave a paper on their email mentoring project to the research group of the National Association for the Teaching of English at the Knowledge Lab at the Institute of Education in February.

Staff Stories

Congratulations to **Margaret Hearnden** and **Vanita Sundaram** on completing their Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP)

Caroline Moore (CELT) belongs to a Fulford team which organises an annual fundraising coffee morning in aid of St Leonard's Hospice – the event held on Tuesday 15 March raised over £500.00!

St Leonard's Hospice on Tadcaster Road in York is a registered charity caring for people with life-threatening illnesses - often, though not always, cancer. Their skilled and specially-trained staff offer in-patient palliative care in a purpose-built unit and Daycare at the Hospice for people living in their own homes; they are also running a pilot Hospice@Home service. Donations can be made online: <http://www.justgiving.com/stleonardsyork/Donate/>

Staff changes in the Department

We welcome **Kath Armstrong**, who joined us on 11 April as Undergraduate Administrator replacing Holly Teanby who left at the end of March.

We wish Holly well for the future. And welcome back to **Claire Blackmore** who returned on 7 February as Administrator for Graduate Programme Applications.

Poppy Nash (Lecturer in Education) and **Julia Key** (Project Administrator for Emma Marsden's IRIS project) joined the Department on 3 May.

On 1 September **Dr Leah Roberts** will join the department as Chair in Education and **Zoe Handley** will join us as Lecturer in Language Education.

In August we say farewell to **Sabihah Sunar** who joined the Department as a Guest Researcher at the end of September 2010 for one year.

CELT News

We welcome **Lindsay Smalley** back to our administrative staff. Lindsay started on April 11th and is working part-time with us to help with the ever-expanding student numbers on our Pre-Sessional programme. Lindsay's arrival takes the administrative team up to four people.

In February we ran a course for Zhejiang University students for the second time. We hope that this will now be established as a regular event. These high-flyers took every opportunity offered to integrate into local communities and into relevant Departments at the University.

We also ran courses for students from Kobe College and Yamanashi Prefectural College, Japan. The students were with us at the time of the earthquake and Tsunami but seemed to cope reasonably well with the situation, certainly helped by the excellent support systems CELT has built up over the years and by the excellent relationships the Contract Language Course team has established with the two Japanese institutions. The organisers in Japan

have written to express their gratitude to us for the way in which we have handled things.

We have been part of the ongoing process of integrating our 'Open-Access' In-Sessional programme into the University-wide Skills Hub system, whereby our work will be seen in co-ordination with other agencies in the University and accessible via a student-friendly, centralised system.

We are represented on the University's Internationalisation Forum and have helped to prepare a paper looking at a range of practical ways in which the University might implement its current internationalisation strategy. CELT has run a short course for the University's hospitality staff to help them see themselves as participants in the University's international culture.

Sarah Henley is visiting Guatemala in April on a five-week rainforest conservation project.

<http://www.arcasguatemala.com/>



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University magazine deadlines:

July/August 2011: 17 June

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