

# Department of Educational Studies Newsletter

Issue 1 Summer 2010

## Welcome to the Department of Educational Studies Newsletter

Welcome back to the Department at the start of the Summer term 2010. I hope you had a good Easter.

There are a number of excellent features in this issue including: Ofsted inspection success for our PGCE programme, our Spring Research School, news from the Education Society, a report from a member of staff who has run a marathon, information about what is going on this term, and much more.

This welcome is being written from a hotel room in Beijing in China, where I and several other members of staff are waiting in Beijing as our flights home have been cancelled. Like many other people, we have been caught up in the aftermath of the eruption of Mount Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland. I hope that, by the time you are reading this, everyone is safely home.

This is the first issue to be published of the University of York, Department of Educational Studies Newsletter. We would welcome your participation in communicating and sharing information with staff, students and alumni.

**Judith Bennett, Head of Department of Educational Studies**



## Department News

### Ofsted

#### Successful Ofsted inspection for the Department of Educational Studies PGCE programme

You will know by now that our PGCE course has achieved the top grade – Grade 1: Outstanding – following our Ofsted inspection in March.

Congratulations to all the team for their efforts ensuring that the University of York retain the highest standard of achievement for this programme and the experience of its trainees.

The partnership comprises over 50 secondary schools and there are 132 trainees on the course. The Inspectors focused on the overall effectiveness of the training in supporting high quality outcomes for trainees and the capacity of the partnership to bring about further improvements.

The key strengths were identified as: the trainees' outstanding professional skills; the highly coherent training programme, built on excellent communication across the partnership; the outstanding commitment of all involved in the partnership; the excellent use of

resources which responds sharply to trainees' needs and the provider's outstanding capacity to improve, as evidenced through maintaining high quality outcomes for trainees.

If Teacher Training is something you may wish to pursue please check-out our web pages in the first instance; [www.york.ac.uk/pgce](http://www.york.ac.uk/pgce)

### Spring School

CRESJ played host to a truly International Spring School during April, welcoming delegates of more than twenty different nationalities from three continents. The event, on the theme of Comparative Educational Pathways, was jointly organised by Gillian Hampden-Thompson, Vanita Sundaram and Paul Wakeling, with support from the Educ8 Group, of which Paul is a member.

Funded by the ESRC, the event was intended to foster international networking and collaboration among doctoral and early-career researchers.

working on educational and social transitions. Keynote speakers included Professor David P. Baker of Penn State, who spoke on "The Schooled Society: How the Quiet Educational Revolution Transforms Life Transitions" and Professor Sue Heath, Southampton who talked about "Divergent Educational Pathways and Changing Transitions to Adulthood". Delegates presented papers, proposed 'burning issues' for discussion and worked on group-based research proposals which were presented – and judged! – on the final day. The delegates got to see some of the city too: some more than most as the Icelandic volcano kept them here longer than expected!



# Department of Educational Studies Newsletter

## Student Education Society



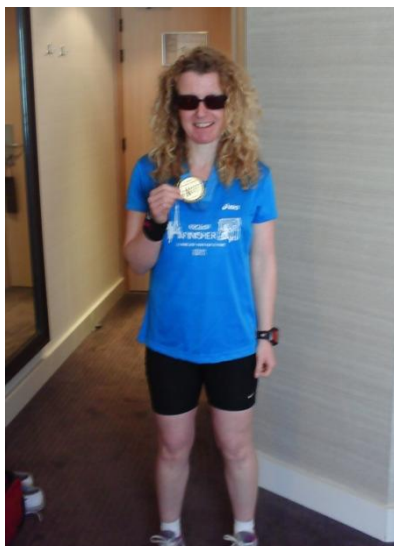
The Student Education Society, is a key part of the Department of Educational Studies, it is run by a group of students covering all years, on all courses. Our most important job is to maintain the link between the department and students. As we are a small but growing department we want to help build, encourage and maintain social and professional opportunities. We are also here to help; from advice on module choices, or YSIS to any bigger problems you may encounter.

Between us we have covered most modules, many of us are involved in YSIS and the York Award, and some are also reps for the Board of Studies and DIRC.

We have lots of experience about opportunities within Education in and around the University, so do contact us with any questions. In the past we have organised referencing workshops and various talks on options after University, so let us know what interests you. We are currently organising a regular welfare drop in session, hoodies for the department, ratifying the society and some more exciting events!

There are many ways to contact us, firstly join our Facebook page (search for York University Educational Studies). Here you can raise questions and problems but (perhaps more importantly) also receive updates on socials and events in the department: Or e-mail the chair, Laura Calsela on (lc639). Or just turn up at our meetings which happen at various points through each term!

The society is a great way to be more involved in the department; it will give you a great opportunity to develop new skills, friendships and personal strengths. So get involved!



## Staff Stories

### Margaret Hearnden runs the Paris Marathon

4 months of training in rain and blizzards were a good test of endurance for the challenge, as on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April, I entered my first marathon. After 3 hours 59 minutes and 4 seconds I finally became a member of a small (some might say crazy) individuals who have run 26.2 miles. Sunshine, cool breeze, thousands out to support the 32,000 runners, conditions could not have been better. The feeling of running down the Champs Élysées, past the Louvre then out to Versailles is indescribable. So is the point at which you've had enough and you know you still have 8 miles to go. But, knowing you're doing something good for charity (in this case Macmillan) and for yourself, along with knowing you have lots of support, keeps you going through the tiredness and the desire to throw up (particularly when passing the beer stand at mile 23). The finish line was a blur, even now it all seems a bit surreal, but amazing and bizarre as it may sound, I'd do it all again.

#### Margaret

To help Margaret support the MacMillan charity log onto <http://www.justgiving.com/Margaret-Hearnden>

## Design & Technology award for James Pitt

Congratulations to James on his award for Teacher Training Design and Technology at The Design and Technology Association Excellence Awards 2010.

These awards are for teachers, trainers and support staff who have made outstanding contributions to D&T.

## Visitors to Educational Studies

Yoshikazu Ogawa has joined the department from the School of Education at Tohoku University, Japan until September.



'I will work here in York from April to September, 2010 and would like to collaborate with you or to help you make links with my colleagues in Japan. By the time I return home to Japan I would like to be able to show some concrete results of my work (e.g. joint research bids; jointly written articles; non funded research projects).

I am interested in educational systems, and, in this perspective, have conducted research on minority education, teacher education, secondary education curriculum, international student issues, higher education in China, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, United States and so forth. My current research focuses on the effect of Japanese graduate education on international students, education school reform in Asian countries, and teaching work issues in comparative perspective. Please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can build a very positive collaboration between our departments. (yo507@york.ac.uk)

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I am happy to be able to study here during the wonderful spring and summer season. My wife and two sons are with me in York and we are greatly looking forward to learning more about the UK and making friends with the people who live here.

Thank you! Yoshi'

**Dr Damon Cartledge** visited the Department of Educational Studies since mid-March hosted by Professor Frank Hardman. Usually based at the Faculty of Education at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, Dr Cartledge is currently conducting research into the role of universities in improving the scope and practice of technical education. His work whilst based at York, has been in comparing approaches of Australian, UK and Malaysian contexts. The project is founded on UNESCO recommendations on the provision of Technical and Vocational Education in the 21st century. Being based at the University of York has provided excellent access to a wide range of universities and academics in the North-East and Scotland for Damon to conduct his research. Damon leaves York in mid-April to take up an appointment as Visiting Professor at the University of Technology Malaysia, where he will continue his research before returning to Australia to complete the project.

## Research News

### Analysing the work of the National STEM Centre

Judith Bennett, Ian Abrahams, Martin Braund and Fred Lubben, together with Vanya Gallimore in the University Library, will be undertaking a £170,000 research study to assess the impact of the National STEM Centre. The £5m National STEM Centre is funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation and the Department for Children Schools and Families. It opened

earlier this year and houses a collection of curriculum resources, including on-line resources, to help school teachers and lecturers engage young people in those subjects. It aims to raise the profile of science, technology, engineering and maths in schools.

The National STEM Centre represents a significant investment in school education so it is important that its performance is closely monitored to assess its impact in classrooms. Over the next three years, the project will track how educators learn about the Centre, access its resources and use those materials to improve their lessons.

### Teaching and Learning Grant Success

Language and Literature in Education lecturers have been successful in securing a £8,000 grant from the *White Rose Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Enterprise* to develop pupil support packs for 'A' level students studying Shakespeare. The innovative project lead by Amanda Naylor and Nick McGuinn will involve second year *BA Language and Literature in Education* (BALLE) students in the department. The students will work cooperatively in teams and liaise with staff and students in local schools and colleges to develop useful materials to support AS Level English Literature students with their 'A' Level Shakespeare coursework. Students taking the *Teaching Shakespeare* module this autumn will research, write, and produce the materials. For more information about this enterprising project or the *BA Language and Literature in Education* programme, please contact Gillian Hampden-Thompson ([ght501@york.ac.uk](mailto:ght501@york.ac.uk)).

## What's going on!

### Departmental Seminars

Wednesday 5 May, 13.00-14.00

**Making an impact in the classroom: how can professional development for teachers help?**

*Judith Bennett/Fred Lubben/Martin Braund*

Wednesday 16 June, 13.00-14.00

**Drifters, shifters and grafters: class, gender and finance in postgraduate decision making**

*Paul Wakeling*

Wednesday 30 June, 13.00-14.00

**Transition and Emergencies**

*Frank Hardman and Vanita*

### CRESJ Seminars

"But did it help you get to uni? Reflections on Supplementary Education Services in Western Australia".

Dr. Martin Forsey, School of Social and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia

Tuesday 11 May 2010 at 3pm in Alcuin D017.

### Civic Engagement

On 18 June 2010 the Department of Educational Studies is hosting a free conference on Civic Engagement, supported by the Society for Educational Studies. This one day conference will explore key issues about new technology and citizenship, international developments and community action. Key note speeches will be made by Professor Stephen Coleman (University of Leeds) and Professor David Kerr (National Foundation for Educational Research).

### External Activities

**Judith Bennett** presented Professor Yu Wei with the Degree of Doctor of the University of York at the second University of York Celebration of Achievement and Graduation Ceremony in Beijing on 17 April 2010



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**Vanita Sundaram** and **Paul Wakeling** both spoke at a seminar on 'Educational diversity: difference matters and matters of difference' at Newcastle University on 19 March. Vanita's talk (with Alison Wilde) was called: "'It's just them, not us'. Doing research with children designated as having SEN: identity, agency and voice". Paul's talk was called: "Drifters, shifters and grafters: class and gender in postgraduate decision making".

## Staff changes in the Department

**Dr Ian Abrahams** joined the Department in January as a Lecturer in Science Education.

**Anna Jones** formerly the PGCE Administrator returned to the Department in January after maternity leave as part-time Administrator for the MATEYL programme.

**Yvonne Mason** joined the Department as a part-time Project Administrator in February.

**Holly Teanby** (a University of York Psychology graduate) joined the Department in March as the Undergraduate Administrator.

**Claire Etherington** the PGCE Administrator started maternity leave at the beginning of April.

**Claire Blackmore** is covering the maternity leave of the PGCE Administrator and will be with us until December.

**Dr Maria Tsouroufli** currently at the University of East Anglia will be joining the Department as a Senior Research Fellow on 1 July

**Stephanie de Bourg** joined CELT as Administrative Assistant on 14 April.

## CELT News

### Graduate Certificate in ELT

CELT will be starting this a new programme in July: the programme will run in parallel to the 12-week Pre-Sessional programme. The GCELT is for students going on to MATESOL, who would normally have done a Pre-Sessional.

### Future Plans - EAP

Talks with Meesha Warmington (Psychology) have led to the setting up of obligatory, integrated English/Academic Skills programmes for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Psychology students, starting in October.

### Research

Bill Soden, Chris Copland and Helen Alcelik are moving into the final phase of in-house research around Management students' experience of their taught Masters course and the impact of Pre-Sessional English. They will be presenting and leading a workshop in the annual FELT Teaching and Learning Conference in June.

The World Universities Network is running a research project on African skilled migrants and the extent to which the English language is a factor in several stages of their migration processes. CELT is involved in this and has funding to gather and handle some of the data, with the services of a P/G student.

Paul Roberts will be presenting some of his English-as –an–international-language research results at the annual ELF conference in Vienna in May.

### and finally...

Look out for CELT at the University's Learning and Teaching conference on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Among a total of nine sessions for the whole conference, three feature CELT people. For further information on any of these items please go to <http://www.york.ac.uk/celt/>

## Invitation to Work with the Centre for Lifelong Learning

The Centre for Lifelong Learning provides a dynamic programme of adult evening and day classes which attracts some 800 adult students to the campus from a range of backgrounds, whether they are learning for pleasure or looking to gain accreditation.

The Centre would welcome the opportunity to work with departments, and in particular Postgraduates, to develop new course ideas and teaching opportunities. In return we offer remuneration for teaching time and regular staff development events. If you have any ideas and would like to work with the Centre please call 01904 328473 or email [lifelonglearning@york.ac.uk](mailto:lifelonglearning@york.ac.uk).

### Departmental Newsletter

Deadline for Autumn Issue:  
17 September 2010

### Contact details:

[hp7@york.ac.uk](mailto:hp7@york.ac.uk)  
or [educ18@york.ac.uk](mailto:educ18@york.ac.uk)

### University magazine deadlines:

7 May for June 2010  
4 June for July/August

### Contact details:

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

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