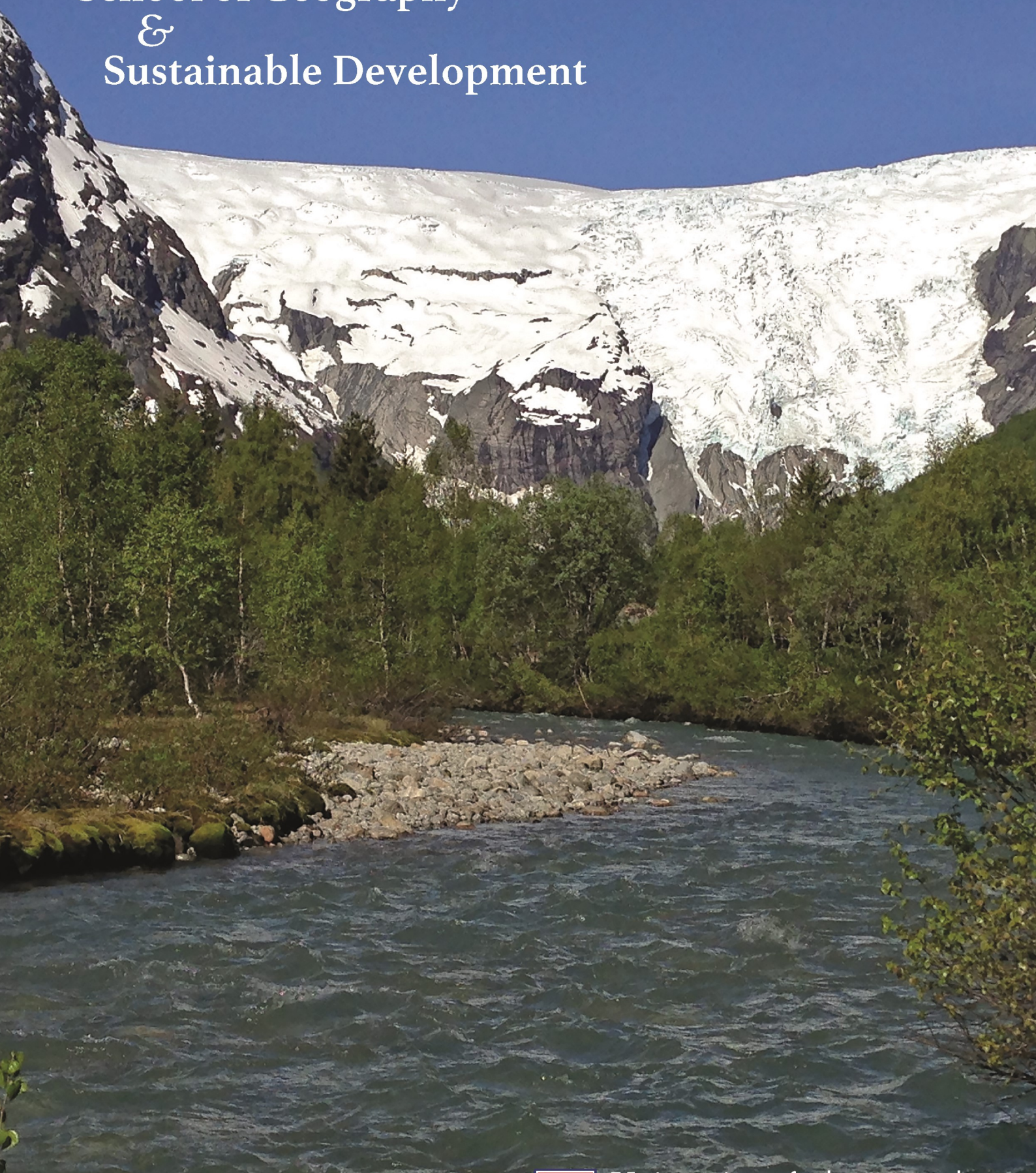


the magazine of the
School of Geography
&
Sustainable Development

Issue 1
Semester 2 - 2016/17



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St Andrews

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Welcome: Head of School Professor Bill Austin

Welcome to the first issue of the School of Geography & Sustainable Development's magazine. As a new School we want to keep you up-to-date with our news, and are keen to reconnect with our alumni, friends and colleagues here and across the world. The magazine will be published each semester, with a different focus for each issue. This semester we have exciting news to share from the School's Physical Geography staff. Issue One highlights several new developments in this area of the discipline at St Andrews.

Having worked at St Andrews since 1999, I have seen first-hand the value that our wider community brings to the School. Not only do we have wonderful staff and students working here in St Andrews, but we are also fortunate to have dedicated networks of supporters across the world. Alumni like Mr Tony Edwards help us realise our dreams: Tony's foresight and generosity in supporting the Bell-Edwards Centre for Geographical Data Visualisation and Analysis means that a new generation of St Andrews students will be able to use state-of-the-art computing tools for cutting-edge research across the geographical sciences.

The School spans three sites in St Andrews: the Irvine Building, the United College, and the Observatory. I always enjoy visiting colleagues and students at the Observatory, close to the Transition vegetable gardens and sports fields, and believe that green spaces benefit us beyond measure. I am therefore pleased to announce that the School plans to plant new woodland to both offset our carbon emissions and to create a new environment for learning, teaching and engagement with the natural world. This new woodland initiative has been made possible thanks to a bequest from the late Rev. Brian Tucker's estate, given in memory of his son, the late Jeremy Tucker, who died before completing his PhD in Geography in the 1990s. Further details about how to support the scheme are included in this magazine.

Despite the changes of recent years, it is also worth noting our remarkable continuity of location as a School. For example, Professor Elspeth Graham, who has just celebrated her 35th year here, once again works in the United College Building office she first occupied as a junior Lecturer. We thank Elspeth, the School's first female Professor, for her loyal service and inspired teaching and research in the field of population and health geography.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome several new members of academic staff to the School, including four Professors: Hill Kulu, Keith Bennett, Doug Benn and Nina

Laurie; and three Lecturers: Tobias Börger, Tom Cowton and Katherine Ellsworth-Krebs. We also warmly welcome Research Fellows Dr Joe Todd, Dr Elena Lo Giudice Cappelli, Dr Benet Reid, Dr Heidi Sevestre, Dr Jen Remnant, Dr Vendela Kempe Lagerholm, and Dr Julia Mikolai. We hope you will be very happy here.

The School continues to receive recognition for excellence in research and teaching. In the most recent evaluation of research (REF2014), we were the top Geography department in Scotland, among the top five in the UK and ranked highest in the UK for the excellence of our research impact. The strength and diversity of our national and international research collaborations is excellent and underpins our philosophy of research-led teaching. That teaching also continues to be highly ranked; first in the UK by the *Guardian* in 2016 and consistently in the top four (*The Times/The Sunday Times University Guide 2017*). We therefore continue to attract excellent staff and students from all over the world.

But this is not a time to rest on laurels: we have just restructured our Sustainable Development programme ahead of the new academic year, and continue to work closely with the School President to offer the best possible opportunities for students. I am therefore delighted to announce that for the first time, all compulsory undergraduate field courses are to become free of charge to students, thanks to the generous support of the Principal's Office and our ongoing fundraising efforts.

As alumni and friends of the School of Geography & Sustainable Development, you remain a vital part of our community. 2018 marks the tenth anniversary of the first graduating cohort in Sustainable Development, and we look forward to welcoming alumni from across the world back to St Andrews for the tenth anniversary celebrations next year. We are always keen to hear from our friends, so please do get in touch by letter, phone, email – or Facebook message!

With best wishes and thanks for your friendship.



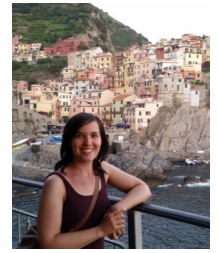
Professor Bill Austin
Head of School



The School is pleased to welcome the following staff during the last year. With a PhD from the University of Helsinki, **Professor Hill Kulu** joins us from the University of Liverpool, where he was Professor of Demography and Quantitative Geography.



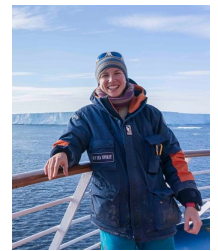
Dr Julia Mikolai moved from Liverpool to St Andrews in January 2017 to work on the PartnerLife project with Professor Hill Kulu. The project focuses on short- and long-term consequences of union dissolution on men's and women's housing in the UK. She is looking forward to making friends here in St Andrews.



Professor Keith Bennett is our new Professor of Environmental Change. A graduate of the University of Cambridge, Keith was appointed Professor at Uppsala University in Sweden, and between 2007 and 2015 was Professor of Late-Quaternary Environmental Change at Queen's University Belfast.



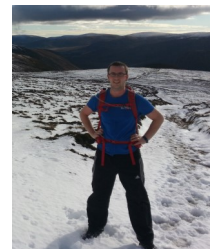
Dr Heïdi Sevestre is a Research Fellow in Glaciology working with Professor Doug Benn on glacier dynamics. She came to Scotland in May 2016, after completing her PhD at UNIS in Svalbard. Heïdi is looking forward to bagging Munros with fellow hikers from the School!



Dr Tobias Börger started as Lecturer in Environmental and Development Economics in August 2016 after working at Plymouth Marine Laboratory. In the past Tobias spent time researching in China and still has a vivid interest in environmental economics research in East Asia. He lives in Cupar.



Dr Joe Todd joined the SGSD's glaciology group in September 2016, having recently finished his PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. A St Andrews Geography alumnus, he's now working with Professor Doug Benn building computer models to investigate ice/ocean interactions. Do not feed.



Dr Katherine Ellsworth-Krebs took up the post of Lecturer in Sustainable Development in 2017. A graduate of this School, Katherine helped set up Transition University of St Andrews, part of the University focussed on engagement and practical sustainability.



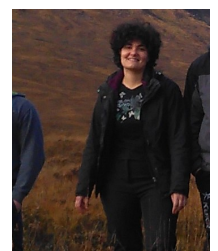
Dr Vendela Kempe Lagerholm joined us in December 2016. Alongside Professor Keith Bennett, she will set up a new laboratory to analyse ancient DNA from plant remains. Vendela has worked at Stockholm University and the Swedish Museum of Natural History, and moved here with her husband and two children.



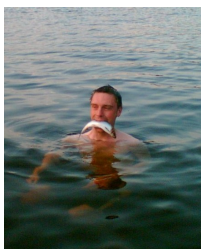
Dr Tom Cowton is the School's new Lecturer in Glaciology. He arrived in St Andrews in September 2016 after completing his PhD at the University of Edinburgh and working as a post-doctoral researcher with the Universities of Edinburgh and Sheffield. Tom lives in Ceres with his wife Esther.



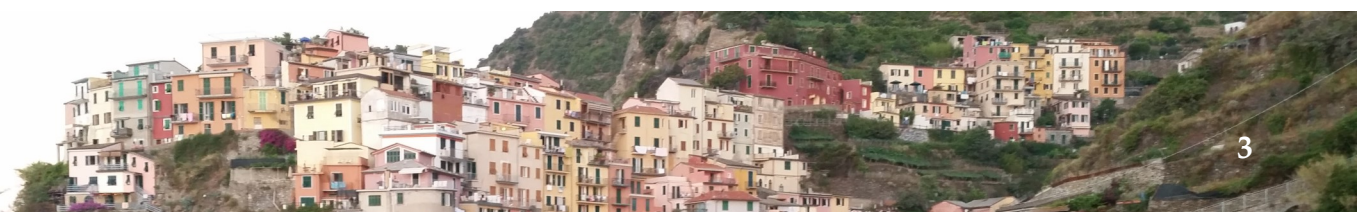
Dr Elena Lo Giudice Cappelli is a Research Fellow, having received her PhD from Germany's Kiel University. She works with Professor Bill Austin studying Blue Carbon and the coastal ocean's role in the production, transport and storage of carbon. She has also set up the SGSD knitting group—new members welcome!



Dr Benet Reid works with Professor Nina Laurie researching international health volunteering. He is currently preparing articles on social science analyses of philosophical rhetoric, and on emotions in bureaucratic healthcare discourse. Benet lives in Auchtermuchty.



Interdisciplinary researcher **Jen Remnant** joins us from Newcastle University, where she studied for her PhD in social science. A keen rower, Jen is studying the history of coastal rowing and communities. When not at her desk, she can usually be found up a mountain or in a boat.



Professors in Profile: Professor Nina Laurie

People's lives matter deeply to Professor Nina Laurie. As a critical human geographer her working life has been dedicated to exploring the relationships between development, politics and culture across the world, and she has lived and worked in New Zealand, Canada, the USA, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. In February 2016 Nina became the School's newest female Professor when she joined us as Professor of Geography and Development.



Nina moved to St Andrews from Newcastle University, where she had worked for more than 20 years in roles including Professor of Development and the Environment and founding Director of the Centre for Latin American Studies. Nina gained her MA from Canada's McGill University and her PhD from University College London.

'We carry into new spaces where and what has gone before'. This has been Nina's rallying cry, the idea that underpins her work in the diverse communities of Peru, Nepal, and the UK. Nina first went to Peru as an international volunteer at the time of the Peruvian civil war in the 1980s, and later returned to undertake her PhD research part-time whilst working at the British School in Lima. At weekends and evenings she interviewed poor women in Lima's shanty towns and indigenous peoples in the Apurímac city of Andahuaylas, bringing unflagging dedication to her study of their everyday lives and social and political activism.



Peru is Nina's second home, where she learned to drive in a lemon-yellow Beetle (*below, opposite*) and where her godson Oliver lives. He is the son of her great friends Olga (*below with Nina*) and Isaias Calle, friends she first made as an undergraduate in 1986.



Nina has also worked collaboratively with trafficked women in Nepal, recording their experiences and co-producing material with them to contribute to the drafting process of the country's new constitution. Many trafficked women give birth to children without named fathers, and Nina's collaborative work helped to secure the citizenship rights of these Nepalese young people.

More recently, Nina has brought her love of rowing to inform her studies of the role of coastal rowing clubs in communities in Scotland and the North-East of England. A qualified British Rowing Level 2 coach, Nina is a member of both Tynemouth and St Andrews rowing clubs, and in 2017 will bring out a new book on the history of rowing in Tynemouth with St Andrews co-author Jen Remnant. Nina loves to be both in and on the water; from May to November she can be found, *sans* wetsuit, making her ablutions round Fife's chilly shores.

'Geographical echoes help frame our understandings of where we arrive and what we feel we can do when we get there', says Nina – and we feel that Nina is going to do great and inspiring things during her time with us here in St Andrews.

To find out more about Nina's research please visit:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/gsd/people/ndl3/



Emeritus Professor Colin Ballantyne

In 2015 Professor Colin Ballantyne (*pictured below*) retired from the University after 35 years' service. Appointed Lecturer in Geography in 1980, he took up the post of Senior Lecturer in 1987, was appointed Professor in Physical Geography in 1994, and took on the role of Head of School from 1998 to 2000. Between 2007 and 2012, he was the School's Director of Research. **Professor Bill Austin** and **Dr Charles Warren** reflect on the stellar career of a much-loved colleague.



Colin's record of over 150 published papers plus over 50 chapters in books and field guides is remarkable. The combination of his mountain-orientated research interests and his passion for hillwalking has kept him fit, enabling him not only to climb all the Scottish Munros twice (and many of them three or more times), but to ascend Kilimanjaro (on the summit of which he proposed to Rebecca, his wife!), to climb a good number of Norway's 2000m peaks, and to ascend Mount Elbrus with Chris Bonington. There can be few geographers who have covered more 'mountain miles' or ascended a greater total altitude than Colin.

Colin is not one of those academics who prioritises his research career to the exclusion of all else. In addition to his extensive administrative service in leadership roles, he has always cared deeply about teaching and has carried an above-average teaching load. Through his lecturing, he has inspired generations of students with his uniquely engaging mix of precision, accuracy, clear explanations and idiosyncratic humour. On fieldtrips he is in his element, leading from the front with infectious enthusiasm, and his annual Honours field courses in Norway have been the highlight of many students' degree experience. In his supervision of undergraduate

research, he typically 'went the extra mile', and this resulted in a steady stream of First Class dissertations, several of which formed the basis for co-authored papers.

Colin Ballantyne has loyally served this University and has been one of the key architects of the School's remarkable climb in the excellence rankings of the UK RAE and REF Geography research league tables. The quality and originality of his research work has been recognized in many awards and prizes, including the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's President's Medal (1991), Newbiggin Prize (1992), and Coppock Research Medal (2015); the Saltire Science Medal in Earth Sciences (1996), and the Clough Medal in Earth Sciences (2010). In 2015 he was awarded the Geological Society of London's prestigious Lyell Medal (*pictured below, left, with Professor David Manning, President of the Geological Society*).



Colin has set a remarkable example of an academic life lived to the fullest degree. Following his retirement and his appointment as an Emeritus Professor of the SGSD, there is no sign that he plans to slow down. He continues to contribute actively to teaching and to publish top-flight papers, and is close to completing his much-anticipated *magnum opus*, a book on periglacial geomorphology likely to be the standard text for many years to come. Consequently, there is every likelihood that the community will continue to have the benefit of Colin's insightful research, inspirational teaching and inimitable anecdotes for a good long while.

Professor Bill Austin and Dr Charles Warren

Extract from the [Scottish Geographical Journal](#) 132 (2), 2016



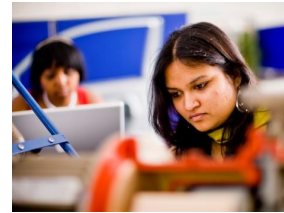
School News

Mapping reveals vast peatlands in the Congo Basin

A previously unmapped peatland complex in central Africa is vulnerable to agriculture and climate change and should be protected, research conducted by Dr Ian Lawson and his team suggests. Covering 145,500km², this discovery in the central Congo Basin confirms the area as the most extensive peatland complex in the tropics. Published in *Nature* and supported by the Natural Environment Research Council, the study was led by the University of Leeds and carried out with the Universities of St Andrews, Edinburgh and Leicester, University College London, and the Université Marien Ngouabi in Brazzaville. Ian, who co-authored the study, said: "It's becoming clear that peat is much more widespread in the tropics than we thought. Protecting peatlands across the globe will need action on many fronts, not least pressure from consumers to ensure agricultural companies act responsibly."

Newton Bhabha Placement Programme 2016—17

The School is very pleased to note that Gunasekaran Kannan (Annamalai University, Chidambaram, India) has been selected for funding by the Indian Government and the British Council to join the Newton Bhabha Placement Programme 2016—17. Guna will work with Professor Bill Austin to study the effects of Ocean Acidification on marine calcifying organisms as part of our School's work within the Scottish Oceans Institute. Welcome to the School Guna!



For more information on the School's research please visit: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/gsd/research/

Awards, Prizes and Achievements

Congratulations to recent graduates Megan Wadin and Neil Cuthill, and current senior honours student Lewis Dowle, who were recognised as Highly Commended Entrants in The Undergraduate Awards 2016, identifying their academic essay work as outstanding at an international level. They were in the top 25 of 5,514 students from 243 universities across 40 countries — we congratulate Megan, Neil and Lewis on this fantastic achievement.



St Andrew's Day 2016 saw the inaugural meeting of the School's brand-new **Sustainable Development Society** (pictured above) — we look forward to hearing more from the Society in the coming semester.

Emily Ellis, who graduated with a degree in Geography in June, won the Energy Geographies Research Group Dissertation Prize for her work on 'Geographically Weighted Regression of Domestic Heat Demand in Glasgow'. Congratulations to Emily and her supervisor Dr Jed Long!

GRANTS:

We profile recent funding from the Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (**SAGES**); three new projects are set to take off in the School:

Craig Smeaton and **Professor Bill Austin**, in collaboration with the University of Stirling, will investigate the novel concept of a rusty carbon sink in the coastal ocean.

Professor Doug Benn will hold a Symposium on Ice, Climate and Sea Level Rise at St Andrews in May 2017, to raise public awareness of the range and importance of glacier research in Scotland.

The third grant will fund analysis of Amazonian peat samples to facilitate a pilot study into the potential use of biomarkers as indicators of long-term changes in lowland tropical peatland ecosystems. The project is the joint initiative of **Dr Katy Roucoux** and, at the University of Glasgow, Dr Jaime Toney.





Sustainability in Action: New Woodland Planned

The School is pleased to announce its plans to plant new trees in and around St Andrews. Thanks to the generosity of the late Rev Brian Tucker, whose son Jeremy Tucker studied Geography here in the 1990s, we will be able to begin to create a new woodland area for teaching, research and enjoyment for the whole University and wider community.



According to the Woodland Trust, nearly 50% of the ancient woodland that survived until the 1930s has since been lost or damaged by agriculture, development or planting of non-native conifers. The School is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and offsetting its carbon emissions, and by creating a new woodland we will be able to do something very tangible to improve the quality of our local environment. We would like to invite all our friends, colleagues and alumni to sponsor a tree within the woodland so that we can grow Jeremy and Brian's gift to create a really special place.

If you would like to contribute to the School's new woodland, please get in touch using the contact details at the end of this magazine.

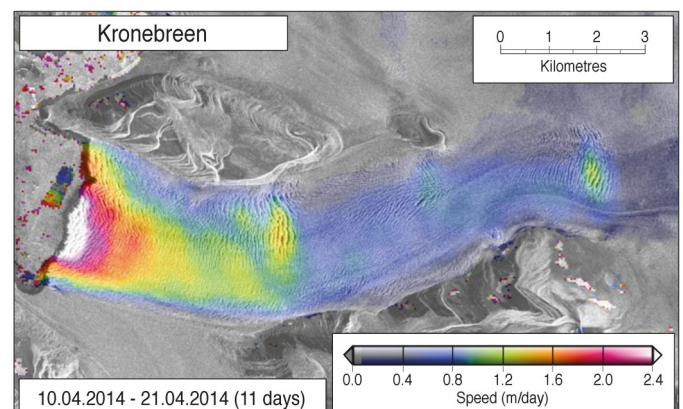
The Bell-Edwards Centre

The Bell-Edwards Centre for Geographical Data Visualisation and Analysis will be a state-of-the-art facility for visualisations and analysis of spatial and temporal data in the School of Geography & Sustainable Development. Geographical research is increasingly reliant on high-resolution satellite imagery and predictive computer models, and the Centre will provide staff and students with the necessary tools and skills to fully exploit these resources. We are hugely grateful to Mr Tony Edwards for his legacy pledge of a six-figure sum to the SGSD to create this vitally important new initiative within the School.

The project is planned in three phases. Phase 1 will establish essential infrastructure and staff with support from the University. Phase 2 will incrementally expand the infrastructure and equipment pool with external funding. Phase 3 will see the expansion in the size and capability of the Centre on the receipt of the legacy.

The first phase includes the construction of specialist research spaces adjacent to the School's existing IT lab in the Irvine Building. Comprising a central computer laboratory and a number of smaller study spaces, we hope this will be accompanied by a new Lectureship in Remote Sensing.

Remote Sensing is the science of obtaining information about objects or areas from a distance, typically by satellite or aircraft. It is a phenomenally common and useful tool; we use Remote Sensing every time we look at Google Earth imagery on our Smartphones. As well as accurately mapping physical landscapes, Remote Sensing can also measure changes in sea levels and ocean surface temperatures, helping us to build up incredibly detailed pictures of environments studied here in the SGSD.



Tracking Kronebreen glacier's motion from space; melting from high-latitude ice sheets contributes to global sea level rise.

Professors in Profile: Professor Doug Benn

Professor Doug Benn literally wrote the book on glaciology.

Co-written with David Evans, his *Glaciers and Glaciation* remains the definitive subject textbook. Essential reading for students worldwide, it covers the basic principles of glaciology and reviews the main theories and ideas behind our understanding of glaciation. A familiar face in St Andrews, in 2016 Doug was appointed Professor of Environmental Change.



accuracy, what will happen to the world's glaciers and ice sheets as the world warms.

Doug manages a team of world-class glaciologists in the School: lecturer Dr Tom Cowton and postdoctoral research associates Dr Joe Todd and Dr Heidi Sevestre. The team (*below*) are working on how to better predict ice sheet response to different warming scenarios using modelling, partnering with institutes across the world to better understand how ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica will behave in the future.



Together with Professor Adrian Luckman at Swansea University, they have just successfully secured a three-year six-figure grant from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for their CALISMO (Calving Laws in Ice Sheet Models) project. Their challenge is to find the 'missing piece' from the ice sheet modelling jigsaw: how to calculate ice calving in marine-terminating glaciers. Their project partners, including the British Antarctic Survey, the University of Bristol and Penn State University, will use these laws in their models to predict ice sheet behaviour.

The heat is on: the next IPCC report is due in 2020, and CALISMO's results should help shape policy worldwide by providing the most accurate predictions possible for sea level rise between now and 2100. The team will also be sharing their research using GeoBus, working with the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences to reach the next generation, whose lives will undeniably be shaped by climate change. As Doug says, 'we're not just dealing with theoretical possibilities – we want to shape how the world responds to the biggest challenge facing us all: global warming.'

To find out more visit <http://standrewsglaciology.org/>



Doug first came to St Andrews in 1987 to study for his PhD on glacial landforms on Skye, supervised by Professor Colin Ballantyne. Following a three-year postdoc and a sojourn to the University of Aberdeen, 1999 saw Doug appointed Reader at St Andrews, hired at the same time as one Bill Austin. Seven years later the siren call of the Arctic drew Doug north to work at the University Centre in Svalbard

(UNIS), returning to St Andrews sporadically to teach. A three year contract lasted ten years, and it took a professorship to lure him back to St Andrews full time.

Glaciology is one of the world's hot topics. With ice melt at a record high and sea levels on the rise, Doug knows that we're at a fork in the road. If humanity decides on a low-carbon future, the impact of climate change could be mitigated. However, if we continue with our current high-carbon lifestyles, it's clear that extreme consequences follow: sea levels could rise by a metre or more worldwide in the next 80 years. Doug's job is to predict, with the greatest possible degree of



Field Courses

The School offers a huge range of field courses, from half-day excursions around Fife — including Tentsmuir Forest, the Lomond Hills, Largo Law, Hill of Tarvit and Shell Bay — to one-day visits to the Cairngorms National Park and week-long excursions overseas. Here we take a look at two of the School’s annual third-year field courses to Galway and Iceland; the latter set up two years ago to give students the chance to experience an environment uniquely shaped by ice and fire.

The annual third-year field course to Galway, Ireland continues to be a highlight of our human geography students’ Honours experience. The picturesque city of Galway lies on the West Coast of Ireland and has been heralded by the *New York Times* as the country’s ‘most charming city’, holding many accolades, not least the European Capital of Culture 2020. SGSD students have visited the city for over a decade and the trip is now lead by Dr Sharon Leahy. Last year students focused their group research on topics including resistance to residential water levies, threats of flooding in the city, the development of new transport infrastructure and the city’s bid for Capital of Culture status.

Students engaged with city leaders in government and business, academics, artists and community groups. They gained experience in archival work, census analysis, interviewing, survey design and implementation, and participatory research. Their group fieldwork experience provided excellent training for their individual dissertation projects and their weeklong residential stay forged friendships that we hope will last well beyond their time with us in St Andrews. We are looking forward to taking 35 of our present third years to Galway in April 2017 and hope to engage with the varied topics of housing provision, sexual health, urban land use, and cultural challenges in the city.



Southern Iceland is an ideal location for training in physical geography,’ says Dr Richard Streeter, ‘as it is one of the world’s most beautiful and dynamic landscapes.’ Since 2015 Richard has led the School’s Iceland Field Course to Sólheimajökull, an outlet glacier on the south side of the Myrdalsjökull icecap. It’s one of the world’s most dynamic environments, with the caldera of Katla volcano lying under the ice cap 15 km to the north and the now-infamous Eyjafjallajökull close by. Jökullhlaups, dangerous glacial floods caused by volcanic activity under the ice caps, continue to shape this landscape. It’s the perfect

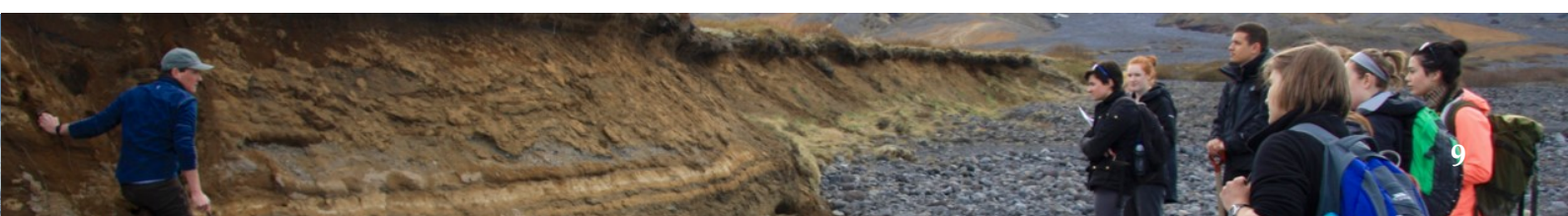


place to study the raw, primary processes of physical geography.

Third-year students spend a week observing first-hand the interaction between glacial and volcanic processes. The field course also provides training in field research design and implementation, preparing students for their final-year dissertation work. Techniques to date glacial recession including tephrochronology and lichenometry are taught ‘in the field’; students also learn biogeographical methods including studying successional lava flows to understand the colonisation of plants on new land. The benefit to student learning is huge: ‘it’s an incredible opportunity, a great chance to put our knowledge into practice’ said one 2016 participant.

This kind of learning cannot be replicated in the lecture theatre, and we are proud to offer courses like these which combine hands-on learning with the chance to visit new and inspiring environments, helping to shape the lives and careers of the next generation of geographers and scientists.

If you would like to support our field courses then please get in touch with us using the details at the end of this magazine.



Geography in Action: Dr Heidi Sevestre

Throughout November and December 2016 St Andrews glaciologist **Dr Heidi Sevestre** (pictured below) has been guiding tours and expanding horizons in the Falklands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula. We catch up with Heidi to find out what life is like at the end of the world.



Working as a lecturer on *MV Sea Spirit*, Heidi shares her expertise in climate science with people from across the world as part of Poseidon Expedition cruises. Leaving from Ushuaia, it takes two days to reach the Antarctic Peninsula via South Georgia, the South Shetlands, and the Falklands. Each cruise gives over a hundred guests the chance to see life at the edge of the world, and Heidi and her team are tasked with bringing everyone to the same level of understanding about this remarkable place.



It's a life of early starts and unpredictable itineraries. Weather and sea conditions dictate the days, which combine activities including landings, short RIB cruises, lectures and discussions. A team of biologists, geologists and glaciologists give talks and lead hikes, peppering expeditions with informal presentations in the field. Emperor, Gentoo, Adélie, Chinstrap and King

penguins, Weddell seals, albatross and Blue, Sei, Fin, Humpback and Minke whales all live around the Peninsula, and Heidi and her team use sightings of them to discuss the impacts of climate change on Antarctica's unusual fauna.

On South Georgia the human landscape is almost as striking as the natural. The remains of the former whaling industry litter the island, with abandoned hangers and huge oil storage drums rusting where they stand. To come all this way for oil and blubber, sacrificing human comfort for the possibility of a better future, never ceases to amaze Heidi. Elephant Island, where Shackleton's men were forced to make camp, is wryly referred to as 'Hell of an Island', its tiny landing space the only flat ground where it's possible to make camp. And at Grytviken, visitors toast Shackleton's grave (below) with a wee dram, celebrating the man who seemingly kept expeditions alive on little more than hope.



One of Heidi's tasks is to teach people to read the dramatic Antarctic landscape. Tabular ice bergs, their vast bulk visible from miles away, are so large that they create their own clouds. Heidi even has her very own, dubbed 'Heidiberg' by guests. The cruises provide ample opportunity for debate, and this chance to communicate directly with the public about climate change has inspired Heidi to do more to inform people about the direct connection between them and the landscapes their lifestyles impact. As well as her work in the SGSD, Heidi has exciting plans to share her knowledge with an even bigger audience in 2017.

Mark our words, this won't be the last you'll be seeing of this knowledgeable and passionate scientist.

You can contact Heidi via the School's website: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/gsd/people/hmcs/



News from graduates and former staff

Congratulations to the School's five newest post-graduates, who were awarded their research degrees in November 2016 in the following fields:

Dr Katarzyna Sila-Nowicka, for her work on the use of GPS trajectories to further understand spatial behaviour.

Dr Annemarie Ernten, for her work on family formation in Scotland, in particular the role of social norms, housing and partnership.

Dr Lorenzo Pergola for his work on understanding the roles and importance of cultural resources in Edinburgh and Dundee.

Dr Annabelle McLaren-Thomson for her work on Small Tourism Businesses in Rural Scotland.

We congratulate **Marion Kuhs** on her MPhil for her work on North Atlantic Marine Tephrochronology.

We congratulate the following **MSc in Sustainable Development** students who graduated in November:

Michael Mueller-Rust, Wing Kei Vicky Tsang, Stefan Knights, Hui Mei Kwong, Agazi Tiemelissan Lemma, Michael Bosscher, Rolf Arnold, Hannah Daniella Castiel, Charity Karungi, Rachel Berryman, Ridwan Bello, Pia Cenig, Nedelina Ivanova, Marjan Jesmi, Orsolya Keri, Yufei Wu, Ainur Zhekenova, and Elena Ashley Emrick-Schmitz.

We extend congratulations to students awarded their **MSc in Sustainable Energy**: Well done **Qiuyu Gaoyan, Polina Kolodynskaja, Anastasia Efimenko, Maria Sidorova, Ksenia Boltenkova, Andrew Tsarkov, Emily Boltryk, Ivan Timonin, and Dinish Nadaraja.**

Well done to Hebe Nicholson, who graduated with an **MRes in Human Geography** with Distinction in the Coursework. We also congratulate our students who achieved their **PG Diploma (Sustainable Energy)**: **Mirabbos Karshiev, Lei Huang** and **Ulviyya Ismaylova.**

If you are interested in a return to St Andrews for post-graduate study you can find out more about the courses on offer on our website: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/gsd/courses/

Thousands of people have studied and taught Geography & Sustainable Development in our School. Geography has been taught at the University for decades, and Sustainable Development is approaching its tenth anniversary as a degree course here. We catch up with a couple of well-kent faces to find out what they've been up to since leaving St Andrews.

Professor Paul Boyle CBE FBA FRSE

Previously Head of the School of Geography and Geosciences, Paul is now President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester. Prior to this he held the post of Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), responsible for a budget of over £200million. A Fellow of the British Academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academy of Social Sciences, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Paul has over 100 peer-reviewed publications to his name, and has been awarded over £50million on 92 research grants. Paul's career has been nothing short of dazzling, and many St Andrews staff and students have fond memories of Paul during his time here, particularly those who



knew him as Warden of Sallies. As Head of School Paul founded the Longitudinal Studies Centre for Scotland, and the Social Dimensions of Health Institute jointly with the University of Dundee. The School is proud to count such an inspiring and dynamic academic among former staff, and we wish Paul all the best at the University of Leicester.

Dr John Walden

John was appointed as a Geography lecturer in 1995. He taught and conducted research in Quaternary environmental reconstruction, climate change and data analysis, and served as an Advisor of Studies, Director of Teaching and Deputy Head of School.

He was also Prince William's personal tutor during his degree at St Andrews. John left academia in 2014 to pursue a long-standing interest in music. He now lives in south-west France, working as a freelance music technology journalist and writing music for film and TV applications. We're a little jealous.

We'd love to hear from alumni and former staff so do get in touch using the details at the end of this magazine to share your news.



The Final Say



We take ten minutes to talk to third-year Abi Whitefield (*right*) about her work as School President for the SGSD.



Hello Abi – could you tell us a little about what the School

President does? It's my job to help staff and students communicate. I have a team of class reps who collate feedback from their classmates, and we present their responses to staff so that important changes can be made and students can contribute directly to shaping their course. The role also involves hosting events to facilitate better communication between staff and students.

What do you want to achieve during the rest of your time as School President? My aims are to try and get problems dealt with as soon as possible. I encourage my class reps to collect feedback often and regularly speak with the Director of Teaching. I've also been involved in setting up the student-staff lunches, which will be rolled out from the beginning of this semester.

What have you enjoyed about being School President? One semester in, and my highlights have included getting to meet a lot of new people through my School residency, and adopting academic children. Having an internship at the Royal

Geographical Society was fantastic as I got to learn a lot about that prestigious organisation, and gained valuable experience in the working world. I also enjoyed being able to explore London—a very different space from St Andrews!

What do you think about the creation of the new School of Geography & Sustainable Development? This is fantastic news. The two Departments already had their own School Presidents, and much of what we do is separate from Earth Sciences. Obviously there still needs to be great communication between the two new Schools as they still will probably share a building and there is some similarity in the courses they offer. I think it offers SGSD the opportunity to have more independence and really shape its future!

Do you have any student updates to share with us? Look out for the new Sustainable Development Society's events this semester! They formed just before Christmas, when their committee was voted in, so I'm keen to support them as they develop and grow.

How do you think a degree from SGSD benefits today's students? I think it equips students with the skills they need to really make a difference in the world. Geography and Sustainable Development are courses which present you with the real issues and give you the tools and knowledge to address these.

Get in touch with Abi on geographypresident@st-andrews.ac.uk or via the School's Facebook page [@StAndrewsDGSD](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsDGSD).



Just for fun

Get in touch if you can tell us **which iconic photograph** is being recreated by Professor Bill Austin and Dr Richard Streeter in this snap—and where exactly they are standing.

Only Connect: What links the Lake District and academic journal *Nature*? *Answer in Issue 2.*

Did you know...? A wall between the USA and Mexico would only be the second-longest wall in the world at 3145 km. The main line of the Great Wall of China is longest at 3460 km.

We're **looking for a title** for this magazine—send in your suggestions using the details below!

This is the first issue of the School of Geography & Sustainable Development's magazine, which will be produced every semester. We'd love to hear from our alumni, friends and former colleagues around the world, so please get in touch using the following details:

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