Bournemouth University

CSInsight

October 2008

Stonehenge Riverside Project latest

Graduates form an essential part of the team

Recent Archaeology graduates Michael Purturno, Charlene Steele and Lawrence Shaw, under the direction of Dr Kate Welham, have been a vital part of the current Stonehenge Riverside Project work within Stonehenge. "Charlene and Lawrence, our Surveying Supervisors, have done a fantastic job in support of the recent excavation undertaken by Julian Richards, Mike Pitts and Mike Parker-Pearson, "according to Mark Dover, SRP Data Manager. " Michael's work on the geophysical survey, carried out before excavation began was crucial in confirming the location of Aubrey Hole 7. He was ably supported by current student Martin Bailey" The recent excavations were carried out to examine and retrieve the fragmented human remains from many individuals, placed within the excavated Aubrey Hole by 1930 archaeologists. These were recovered from the excavations carried out in Stonehenge in the early twentieth century. Modern techniques and technology allow further research. In the wider scope of the project, 17 trenches are still underway over the surrounding landscape, with survey, geophysical, finds and environmental contributions by further current and recently graduated Bournemouth Students, Mary-Anne Fairhurst, Chris Fisher, Tanya Gibson, Ellen Gray, Jennie Lancelot, Joanne Lee, Nikki Mcconville, Tamsyn Moreton, Edwin Pearson, and Alice Smith.

Back on the box

Professor Matthew Bennett has recently been seen in an episode of the new BBC series Fossil Detectives Currently airing on BBC2. Professor Bennett appeared in the West and Wales edition. About the series: Fossil Detectives is a brand new eight part series showcasing Britain's amazing wealth of fossil remains. Produced by the prestigious BBC Natural History Unit, the series is fronted by Coast presenter Hermione Cockburn, an Open University specialist with a life long interest in fossils. Hermione is joined by a team of regular Fossil Detectives – world renowned scientist and Britain's number one dinosaur expert Dr Phil Manning; James Wong, a botanist from Kew Gardens, and an expert on the evolution of plants; and Dr Anjana Khatwa, a glacial geologist and the education co-ordinator of Britain's Jurassic Coast.

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The future of tourism on eroding coasts

Research on erosion at Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight

Dr Steve Fletcher from the Centre for Conservation Ecology and Environmental Change presented his research on coastal adaptation to climate change to a joint meeting of the Royal Geographical Society and The Tourism Society, on 1 October 2008. Coastal erosion is thought to affect up to 70% of sandy beaches worldwide, which can create major problems for tourism infrastructure and the safety of visitors to coastal sites. Through the use of a range of examples, Dr Fletcher illustrated the need for the tourism sector to adapt to climate change as well as some of the opportunities that may become available, particularly on eroding coastlines. This meeting was a part of the prestigious 'Environment and Society Forum' series, which gathers influential policy makers, practitioners and academics to discuss contemporary environmental issues facing society.

Dr Steve Fletcher of the Centre for Conservation Ecology and Environmental Change has also recently returned from a visit to Memorial University, in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. Bournemouth University and Memorial have staff and student exchanges.

VMSG Conference

From 4th-6th January, 2009, Bournemouth University will be hosting the annual meeting of the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group (VMSG), a joint specialist group of the Geological Society of London and the Mineralogical Society. It brings together scientists from around the world to discuss the latest research in volcanology and magmatic processes through a series of lecture and poster sessions.

2008/9 Seminar series

The School of Conservation Sciences is delighted to announce that the first speaker on the 2008/9 CS seminar programme will be Dr Julie Gardiner (Wessex Archaeology) who will be discussing life and death on board the Mary Rose, the current research and publication programme for the ship. Dr Gardiner is Reports Manager for Wessex Archaeology, & Series Editor of the Mary Rose publication programme, one of which won the Keith Muckleroy British Archaeological Award.
Dr Gardiner's seminar will be 4-5pm, Tuesday October 14th in CG23. Details on our future speakers will be sent out very shortly.

If it's Tuesday it must be Guanzhaishan...

Chris Wood continues to break new boundaries

As science adviser to a number of Chinese provincial governments preparing a joint (serial) world heritage nomination on China's 'Danxia' landscapes, Chris Wood from Conservation Sciences spent the summer travelling extensively through south China. This is an area famous for its red sandstone landscapes of densely packed bell-shaped mountains, towering columns, narrow canyons and knife-edge ridges. Similar landscapes are known from other parts of the world (for example, Monument Valley in Colorado, the Bungle Bungles in Australia), but in China they have a particularly distinctive geomorphology, named after the type area of Danxiashan, in northern Guangdong Province.

China's Danxia landscapes are all formed in red 'continental' sedimentary rocks (usually sandstones, conglomerates and marls), which have near-horizontal bedding, and have been broken by a very dense network of fractures (faults and master joints). These geological features have controlled the incision of streams and rivers, dissolution of the carbonate cements holding the sediments together, and gravity collapse of precipitous mountain-sides. In some sites, such as Danxiashan and Chishui (Guizhou Province), the scientific values are further enhanced by primary forest, with high biodiversity values, and in some cases large mammals such as leopards and bears.

Chris Wood has been working on the Danxia project with Chinese scientists and government officials for over one year. Currently nine separate sites in six different provinces (Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangdong, Hunan and Guizhou) are being considered for inclusion in the serial world heritage site nomination, and during August and September he was able to inspect many of these. His work has involved scientific debate with Chinese and international geologists and geomorphologists on exactly what makes 'Danxia' so distinctive at the world scale, assessment of the Outstanding Universal Value of individual sites (a requirement of the World Heritage Convention) and advice on conservation values, site integrity and preparation of management plans.

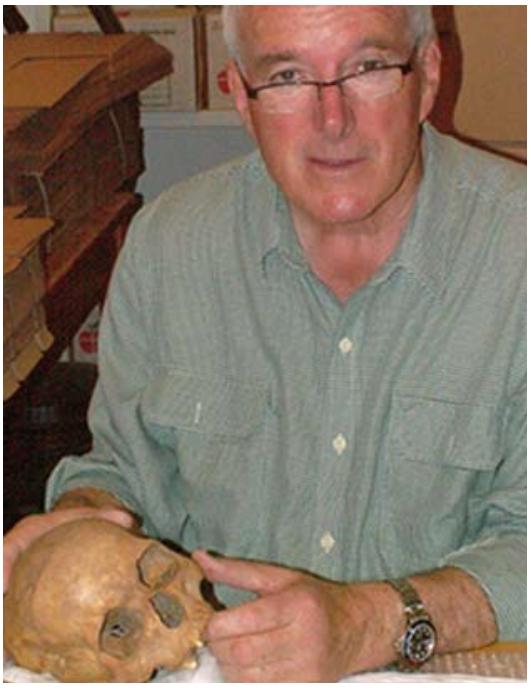
It's your chance to Ask the Dean

ConSci launches a new service

Professor Matthew Bennett, Dean of the School of Conservation Sciences, has just unveiled his new page within the CS website inviting students and staff to put their questions to him.

If there's anything you'd like to know, then this new form will allow you to ask the Dean and also gives the option of allowing you to remain anonymous when the Dean gives his reply. The Dean will publish his comments immediately underneath the submission form and, it is hoped, an archive of these will be built over the coming months. You can view the page, submit your questions and read answers from Professor Bennett online now.

Sign up for the CRANID Masterclass



Professor Richard Wright will lead a masterclass on the estimation of ancestry from crania, demonstrating the theory, practical implementation and interpretation of his CRANID software. The event will be held between the 15th and 17th of December, 2008. CRANID is a computer package that allows estimation of likely ancestry of an unknown cranium. The majority of the course will be practically based in our dedicated osteology laboratory.

More Stonehenge news

The national press have been reporting on investigations carried out by our own Professor Tim Darvill, alongside Professor Geoff Wainwright, which will culminate in a BBC Timewatch programme due to be broadcast on Saturday the 27th of September. The programme explores several new theories on the origins of Stonehenge including the concept that this ancient location was once used as a place of healing.

Their research also suggests that the ring's core of bluestones were erected up to 300 years later than originally claimed.In addition, the pair are preparing to publish an academic report of their excavation, and will announce their findings to their peers next month, in a lecture at London's Society of Antiquaries.