



WELCOME TO LEEP - LEEP is the new student newsletter from the School of Earth and Environment. Each month during term time we will bring you news on society events to get involved in, School initiatives and the ongoing research that makes SEE one of the leading academic centres in the country. LEEP is part of the School Engagement Project aiming to help make you feel a part of this dynamic School and is produced by Student Engagement Ambassadors working on the project. If you have any comments, views or ideas please get in touch via email at leep@leeds.ac.uk.

JEFF PEAKALL: on Speedos, gorillas & racing hospital beds

Jeff Peakall is a Reader in Sedimentology and has worked at the University for many years. His popularity amongst SEE students is evident in the formation of the 'Jeff Peakall Appreciation Society'. This makes him the ideal person to interview for this first issue of LEEP. Imogen Beal spoke to Jeff to find out more about his work and interests.

How long have you been at Leeds? 19 years - I first came here as a PhD student and I have never quite managed to leave.

What is your current research on? In the main it is deep-marine stuff, I do a lot with the NERC (Natural Environment Research Council) submarine - I get to take their AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle) out and about in the Black Sea which is lots of fun. I do a huge amount of things; anything from nuclear waste management to submarine systems, I have just started working with an atmospheric scientist on West African monsoons. Another piece of research I'm doing which is suitably bizarre is that I'm currently working for Speedo International measuring swimsuit materials to find out which are the fastest!

What is the best place you have ever done research? My personal favourite would still be the American West I suppose, places like Nevada. Though I did get to spend a month in Bangladesh which was very fun, it was pretty amazing, we were miles from anywhere.

What to date is the funniest thing that has ever happened in one of your lectures? My personal favourite has to be during a lecture in Roger Stevens. The front row was empty, I was busy writing, I looked up and there was a gorilla! It was unbelievable! The gorilla ran in one side and out the other, I never heard anymore and I never heard what it was doing or who it was. It was surreal, I was thinking - 'I'm working too hard'. The rest of the lecture was bound to be an anti climax!

Did you always want to be a lecturer? No! Does anyone plan on becoming a lecturer? I don't really know what I wanted to do; I was never a man with a firm idea, although I think if I'd ever had any talent I'd have liked to have done something on the stage. But obviously I was rubbish.



Jeff 'aboard' the NERC AUV

What was the highlight of your university days? Can I say the summers? Working on an American summer camp and travelling down the Eastern Seaboard was pretty great. If I had to pick something during term time it would have to be when I organised rag week. I was on the Union Committee when we organised a bed race - borrowing the beds from the local hospital. We had to ask permission from the police, but at the last minute they said no. Obviously we ran it anyway! The police suggested that if I ever did anything like that again I'd be arrested!

We all saw you on Coast this summer; how many programmes have you been on and which one was the best? I would have to say one - Coast! I'm not famous like Paul Wignall - I have multi-channel TV at home which means that if I channel surf, Paul is on every night! Maybe you should interview him next; I'd be interested to know his answer to that question.

We have heard that you receive some pretty interesting feedback at the end of your modules. What were some of the best? I quite liked "Jeff for England manager and supreme dictator of the world" and one which quite simply said "you're a lot better than any of my Geography lecturers"!

Finally, we hear there is a facebook page dedicated to you? Yes, I don't have facebook but my PhD students have shown me the Jeff Peakall Appreciation Society group page - very amusing!



RocSoc go to...Whitby: Thanks to everyone who came to Whitby we had a fantastic time, exploring its seaside charm, mini golf, Cathedral, and delicious fish 'n' chips! The outside sumo wrestling was a massive success with almost professional performances from Will Jones and Ed Fox. Good work by the freshers who tackled the president in a sumo suit and graffitied his face! Congratulations to Lara Rhyd's group who won the scavenger hunt with innovative tactics and to Simon Cleere's group who won the quiz, hope you found it an educational experience and now know a little more about your lectures! The fossil hunt yielded no life changing discoveries but a lovely ammonite was found by Daniel Sharpe. The evening antics were great with Ed Richardson showing us yet again how it's done, and the fashion gurus Jade Roland and Heather Thexton showcasing their bin bag fashion. Overall it was a great success.

SAG makes a buzz: The Sustainability Action Group (SAG) applied for funding from the Leeds for Life Foundation in order to be able to fund training in beekeeping and subsequently set up and manage a beehive on campus.

In July 2010, a group of 11 of us descended on Idle Beekeepers for our 10 hours of training. Straight away we were togged up in full beekeeping gear and in the midst of a cloud of grumpy bees. The training continued in this wonderfully interactive and enjoyable way and we were stuffed full of information about queen bees, swarming, bee diseases, hive maintenance, beekeeping tools and the amazing vibrating drones, to name but a few. The week culminated in us constructing frames for the hives and extracting honey from one of the beekeepers' hives and we all got a jar to take home as a (very short-lived) souvenir. The remaining grant is being put towards building the hives, hopefully in the biodiversity garden by the SEE building in February when the bees come out of hibernation. However, more funds are needed to complete the project so please support any future cake sales!!



SSN's Sustainable Way of Thinking: The **Sustainability Study Network** was created last year; its aim is to provide a sounding board for the main sustainability issues affecting our world. I got a chance to talk to its founder Andrew Gibson and to ask him what it is all about.

Why did you set up SSN? *'I always had that feeling that you come to university to study and work but I liked the idea of talking through things with my mates. The existing societies were focused more on the social side or you had the green political interest groups that were more action orientated. I thought I saw a gap there for people who wanted to study and talk from an academic point of view.'* And so the network was born. Built from the ground up, discussing the environmental problems that affect all aspects of our lives, SSN quickly gathered followers from both students and staff alike. Before long, seminars were set up that encouraged the idea of free thinking on poverty, development and the impacts of future climate change on policy.

Who is SSN for? *'SSN isn't only for sustainability students', he assures me 'the more people that come the more things we can discuss'. There is a need to join together and break down the divides that build up between our degrees. 'For instance a business student could come to our meetings - through talking to different people we can broaden all our perceptions'.*

Weekly meetings are an informal affair, like a group of friends discussing the footy or who just got kicked out of X Factor, except the discussion here is very much environmental. There is even time for a few cold ones at Old Bar.

So if you're interested in your course and would like to talk to similar minded people joining the SSN would be a step in the right direction and you will meet some great people on the way.



EnviroSoc have a laugh for charity: EnviroSoc are the departmental society for environment students within the School of Earth & Environment. We are a sociable bunch of people who all care about the world we live in. We have regular socials, organise day trips and talks relevant to environment students. Earlier this year, we held a comedy show fundraiser for WWF which was shortlisted for "Best Event" at the Riley Awards. We were the only departmental society in this category.

2011 promises to be a great year with lots of events already organised, including talks from The Environment Agency and Friends of the Earth, as well as 'Laugh in the Face of Climate Change 2011'. It costs only £15 to join for lifetime membership which gives you discounts at our events and 4 special discount cards worth at least £10 that save you money all over Leeds!

SEG go for gold: is the newly formed Leeds University student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists. Its purpose is to help those interested in the ore and mineral industry gain valuable industry knowledge. Their first trip was in May to Tyndrum, Scotland, where they investigated gold mineralization and learnt prospecting techniques. The trip was a great success including practising panning skills in the Crom Alt Burn (with mixed success) and learning about the varying concentrations of gold deposits; visiting Scotgold Resources, a working geology office and viewing their modern GIS software and visiting the Connonish Gold localities. The group looked at the drill cores and walked some way into the adit to examine the mineralization underground. They were impressed by how the company planned to minimise the footprint of their operation within The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The final day was spent taking samples of placer gold grains at Alt Kinglass for later analysis back in Leeds.



Halloween in the Lakes

3rd year student Chris Donaldson shares his memories of the Blencathra field trip with 1st Year student Shauna Rees. The first year Blencathra fieldtrip is a rite of passage that all environmental scientists have to take. The time in the Lake District involves sketching maps, taking water and sediment samples and learning to work as part of a team. *As a third year student myself I remember my own feelings, a mixed bag of excitement and nerves. Looking back now, those three days over the Halloween weekend, were one of the best experiences I had in my first year.*

I talked to Shauna Rees, a first year who recently got back from the very same trip, to ask her about her experiences.

What were your first thoughts? Well when we were told about it I remember my first thought, 'they're taking away my first Halloween weekend!' ... but it was really fun and we made the most of it.

So what exactly did get up to? We took the bus up on Friday. That was a long trip! And for the rest of the weekend we were pretty much worked to the bone! No it was quite fun actually. We took water samples from a local river on Saturday, to explore the effects of lead contamination from an open mine and on Sunday we just literally put our waders on and dug: trying to get sediment samples at varying depths to take back to the lab with us. We completed our experiments last week back here in Leeds.

What was the best thing about the trip? Halloween definitely! We all got dressed up on the Sunday night, and had a big party. I had full-face paint on, the lot! On the fieldwork side I liked digging around in the river. I have never really had the chance to don my waders and get stuck in before.

What did you think of the accommodation? It had everything, classrooms, computers, a library and even a laboratory. I was pleasantly surprised. I did hear rumours it used to be an old mental asylum though, which kind of freaked me out.

I remember hearing that too. I always thought that the lecturers made it up and were having a right laugh at us.

Are there any tips you would give students going on the Blencathra fieldtrip for the first time? Take your own waterproofs!

I ended up wearing a waterproof coat that came down to my knees!

If you had the option, would you do it again? Definitely. It was a great way to meet people. By just sitting at the bar you got to know what people were really like. *She's right. Spending a couple of days in an isolated hostel and freezing your butts off in a river together is a perfect setting for building lasting relationships. It's one of the perks of the course.*



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*A Leeds for Life
Opportunity*

Want to understand what's distinctive about your University of Leeds education and have the skills to be prepared for job interviews and future work?

Help is at hand in the form of a University initiative - Leeds for Life (LfL), which is all about preparing you for your future. It will help you recognise the value of **everything** you do at university and show you how to put this across, clearly and confidently, to potential employers.

LfL gives you access to hundreds of ready-made opportunities to develop the essential skills you will need to enter the world of work. It gives you the opportunity to hear from and meet employers and former students via the website or at networking events. There's even a Foundation that will fund you if you want to seek out a new challenge, encounter new places or make a positive difference to the lives of other people.

LfL also offers you an electronic filing system for your own personal development including recording of your personal tutor meetings, looking at your own achievements throughout each year and building up really useful info for creating your CV. It is a great resource to have when filling in those really difficult job applications and trying to find examples to demonstrate your skills and attributes. Take a look today and see how useful it can be for you and your studies. View it at Leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk

EXAMS BRING A CHALLENGING START TO THE NEW YEAR

Here are our top tips to help you prepare

Everybody has their own approach to revision and if it works for you then stick with it and don't try to reinvent the wheel. For others who are not getting the grades they would like maybe it is time to review your method and take a fresh look at your revision techniques.

BE REALISTIC – it is Christmas and there are many distractions. Factor the fun and festivities into your revision plan. How many people are really going to put 2 hours of revision in on the 25th!

BE ORGANISED – once the exam timetables are available make a note of when and where your exams are. Check these with your friends and relevant module leaders. This will ensure you are not having a last minute panic about where you should be and when.

KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED – how many questions are you answering? What style is expected? Attend any revision sessions and find out as much as you can before planning your revision schedule.

KNOW YOUR STUDY TECHNIQUE AND PLAN – Invest some time in planning a revision timetable. Consider how you study best. Are you somebody that studies in short bursts of brain power?, if so give yourself a couple of hours a day and allocate time accordingly. Be aware of the frequency of your exams, if they are close together you will be studying 2 topics at the same time, so again allocate specific sessions to each subject.

BE CALM AND CONFIDENT – Have confidence in your abilities – if you feel you have done enough don't let others make you panic at the last minute. Remain calm and you will then stay focused.

If you really do not know where to start with revision and find exams difficult then why not visit the skills@library pages where there are loads of useful tips and exercises on improving your exam techniques. They can be found at:

<http://skills.library.leeds.ac.uk>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR.....

There are some exciting events planned for the New Year offering you the opportunity to learn more about your School and what goes on within Earth and Environment. February offers 'SEE PRESENTS', an event for students and staff showcasing the research and facilities within the School. There will be the opportunity to talk to PhD students about their research, hear from the Research Institutes about their work and find out more about the student groups and societies that you can become involved in. This event will include a guided tour of the new SEE building giving you the opportunity to see the amazing facilities and resources

supporting the important work of researchers within the School. 2011 also sees the first event in the **Undergrad Seminar Series** being launched in the School. These seminars will be based upon areas of general interest to all students within the school and are aimed at an undergraduate audience. This first event, organised and run with the support of EnviroSoc, will be from The Environment Agency who will talk about their work and how they deal with environmental incidents – all are welcome so keep a look out for the confirmed date.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS GUIDE

Look out for email updates from leep@leeds.ac.uk about events that may be of interest to you

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
Sustainability Seminar: Dr Ioan Fazey, St Andrews Vulnerability, maladaptation and desire in the Solomon Islands	26-01-11 4-5.15pm	Roger Stevens Lecture Theatre 16
Earth Science Seminar: Mike Krom, SEE The Eastern Mediterranean: A natural laboratory for global environmental processes	27-01-11 4-5pm	Rm: 8.119 Earth and Environment
Geophysics Seminar: Dr Randell Stephenson, University of Aberdeen The Palaeozoic and younger tectonic history of north eastern Canada northernmost Greenland and how it is related to sedimentary basin and crustal architecture	28-01-11 4-5pm	Rm: 8.119 Earth and Environment
*SEE PRESENTS: An event exploring SEE the building, its research & facilities	07-02-11 4-6.30pm	SEE Reception
Sustainability Seminar: Halina Ward, Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development The implications of ISO 26000 for transnational democracy and global governance	09-02-11 4-5.15pm	Rm: 8.119 Earth and Environment
CiPEG/Earth Science Joint Seminar: Prof Patrick Corbett, Herriot Watt Well testing in carbonate reservoirs	17-02-11 4pm	Rm: 8.119 Earth and Environment
Sustainability Seminar: Claire Quinn and Elisabeth Simelton Perceptions of rainfall and non-linear relationships of vulnerability to drought	23-02-11 4-5.15pm	Rm 8.119 Earth and Environment
Undergraduate Seminar Series: The Environment Agency Dealing with Contamination and Pollution	28-02-11 4-5.30pm	Rm: 8.119 Earth and Environment

***The 'SEE PRESENTS' building tour event is free but due to a limit on numbers able to attend tickets are required. Contact leep@leeds.ac.uk to book your place NOW.**

YOUR SEE SCHOOL REP REPORTS

Hey I'm Georgina and I'm your undergraduate representative for SEE. I sit on various committees including School Learning and Teaching Committee, Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee, Faculty Admissions and Widening Participation Committee, The Better University Forum and The Senate. I also organise recruitment for course representatives and the Student Staff Forum.

At all of these meetings I'm there to represent you and your ideas to make sure that the School of Earth and Environment has the best opportunities. I will always email you outlining the relevant points that come out of any meeting so you know what's going on and am open to suggestions, issues, comments or ideas.

You can email me at any time, I always reply quickly, or, stop me if you see me, I'm always happy to talk.

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Have any comments, news or recommendations for LEEP? Email leep@leeds.ac.uk