



LINDSAY STRINGER talks about how meeting royalty and hanging out in gullies is all in a day's work!

After completing a BSc in Physical Geography at the University of Sheffield Lindsay then went on to complete her Msc and PhD. She joined Leeds in 2007 as a member of the Sustainability Research Institute and works as a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Social Sciences. Recently her work has involved attending COP15, the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Cancun last December.

What research are you involved in at the moment? The main project I've been working on recently looked at the concept of managing land for carbon - exploring how different ways of managing the land can help carbon be stored in soil and plants. The project worked along a transect across Southern Africa from Namibia through to Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

What is the best place you have ever done research? In terms of absolute landscape value and because I'm interested in dry land research, going to the Sahara and the Namib desert was just amazing! You've got these huge vast expanses of nothing but sand and it makes you feel really insignificant and small.



Did you always plan to become a lecturer? No I came into it by accident; I did my degree, masters and PhD - I knew what I didn't want to do but not what I wanted to do but realised that I really liked research and meeting students. Lecturing made sense as I get to talk about what really interests me.

What do you like most about your job? I'm interested in the subject and talking to people who are willing to listen and engage in discussions; I do like the travel too because you get to meet such a variety of people such as

government officials and NGO representatives, right down to the poorest people in remote villages. The students contribute their own experiences as well and it's really interesting to find out what they've been up to and discuss ideas with them.

Who's the most interesting person you have met, and why? A personal highlight was meeting the King of Swaziland; it was pretty amazing yet quite scary at the same time. I was staying with the chief in the village and had been scrambling around in gullies doing transect walks and interviews with people when I got told to put a skirt on as we were going to see the king!

It was an impromptu visit; we had to wait outside the Palace for three hours! Eventually a little boy came over to us and said 'The King is ready to see you now'. It suddenly dawned on me that I was going to meet the King of Swaziland and I had no idea what to do. He invited me to sit down to which I replied 'Can I sit on a throne?'- there were 13 to choose from, one for each of his wives! It was obviously an acceptable question to ask a king as he replied 'Yes, I'm going to sit here, you're going to sit next to me'. After talking to the Chief, he then had a chat with me about my work. He was wearing traditional dress and had a cane as a status symbol for ruling the country. He seemed to be genuinely interested in my research and I got the impression that as well as a figurehead for a system, that some would say is unpopular, he was also quite a nice man.

What is the most challenging part of your job? The balance of research and teaching because I really value both of them so much. It's difficult to get away to do the research when you've got teaching duties to do and at the same time you want to share your experiences with the students sufficiently and integrate what is learnt through research into the lectures.

What do you see as the main areas of scientific research in the future? I think food security and sustainable consumption are key issues. There's a lot of emphasis on climate change but climate change is only one problem that we face. There's a danger that by investing too much in climate change, we overlook the broader sustainability issues, we may also undermine our ability to produce food, or our ability to have fuel for example.



EnviroSoc looks for laughter

Last year EnviroSoc raised over £700 at their exclusive comedy night 'Laugh in the Face of Climate Change' and got short listed for a Riley Award. This year the event is taking place on the 1st March with the hope that even more money can be raised – this year the money will go towards helping to save orang-utans.

RocSoc – Takes on Amsterdam

After surviving the stress of exams RocSoc members' wish of a good break was granted in the form of a trip to Amsterdam; a city which is synonymous with chilling out! Whilst there, members were living the high life, visiting attractions such as the Van Gogh Museum and of course the Heineken Museum, with many getting the chance to pull their own pint. There are already calls for a repeat trip next year. A massive thanks to everyone who came and made it such an enjoyable weekend.



SAG – A New Year, A New Committee

SAG has recently run elections to identify new committee members. Its effort to establish and maintain an active student run beehive on campus is ongoing. To help raise the necessary funds SAG have organised a bicycle powered cinema for the 25th March and are looking forward to a benefit gig and a bring and buy table-top sale. Please support their efforts and help bring about a new golden age of beekeeping.

SSN go live

SSN have recently launched their website – www.sustnet.org, which contains a full program of events and related resources.

A trip is currently being planned to an organic farm and centre in Cumbria to meet with local sustainability activists and find out how agriculture can overcome difficulties associated with becoming more sustainable.

For more information or to join the mailing list email: info@sustnet.org.

AAPG is launched in Leeds Uni

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists now has a student chapter at Leeds.

This chapter is both for undergraduates and postgraduates who are interested in a career or further study in petroleum geology, with a series of seminars, workshops and trips.

Membership is free! Contact Faye Wilson (president and 2nd year PhD student) for a form or go to: www.aapg.leeds.ac.uk for more information.



SEG explores deep, deep down

SEG has recently had a change of committee members with Giles McSweeney stepping up to be the new president and Lauren Brown the new vice president.

Chapter members have attended the annual MDSG conference at the Natural History Museum, London, on 'Ore Deposits of Asia' and visited the Boulby Potash Mine in Cleveland, The second deepest mine in Europe at 1400 metres.

March 5th sees SEG attending Leicester's SEG Gold Symposium with talks from our very own Rob Chapman and SEG Members Craig Cooper and Andrea Clark. It should be a great day and offers a chance to meet other SEG chapters and gain contacts in the gold industry. For more information email: leedsuniseg@gmail.com.



LEEP LOOKS AT:

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS - Looking for opportunities to gain more than just a degree at university but not sure where to start? Check out the ideas below

There are plenty of activities both on and off campus that you could be getting involved in to build up your personal and professional skills base and it can be much more fun than working in a supermarket and more useful than watching the latest reality t.v. programme! Here are a few suggestions to get you thinking about expanding your horizons.

The Geology Society: For the geologists among you, why not keep up to date with the latest professional developments and concerns for Geochemists? The Geological Society provides professional accreditation for Geochemists and invites undergraduates and masters students to join as Candidate fellows. The cost is around £15.00 a year, or if you join in your first year, it's £40.00 for four years. <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk>

The Institute of Ecology and Environments: If you're interested in Ecology as a career you might like to know that the Institute of Ecology and Environments (IEEM) provides practical skills training, as well as running professional development programmes and conferences for members. The cost to students is £20.00 a year. www.ieem.net

LUU's Volunteering and Community department offers community based projects for you to try where you can build up a wide range of transferable skills:

<http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/volunteeringandcommunity/>

Green Streets is an environmental project that reduces waste sent to landfill by collecting reusable items that students don't want and redistributing them to local shelters, hostels, charity shops or in free shops organised by volunteers.

<http://www.leaveleedstidy.com/greestreeets>

BCTV: is a volunteering organisation that focuses on conservation initiatives in the UK and abroad. They also offer opportunities aimed specifically at under 25s.

<http://www2.btcv.org.uk>

Leeds for Life: Offers a whole range of opportunities both in the School and across the Campus that will not only be enjoyable and rewarding but also help you build skills that will be invaluable for your future employability. <https://leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/login.aspx>

SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

The first SEE open evening held on 7th February was a great success. Approximately 100 students, as well as staff, came along to explore the building and learn more about what goes on in areas of the building most people don't ever get a chance to see.



Students were able to hear from the research institutes about their research and work, talk to PhD students and staff about research projects and find out more about the different societies and groups that they can get involved with.



All who attended had the freedom to roam and visit places that were of interest to them. The palaeo preparation lab and the Cohen labs proved very popular, as did Jeff Peakall's talk about the rock floor. Many students followed the footprints to hear about SRI's research in Africa; others found the chance to try out the 3D glasses too hard to resist in the 3D visualisation display.



There was a real buzz to the evening and it was clear that all who attended enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the school and chat informally to their lecturers and PhD students.

OUT AND ABOUT: LEEP RECOMMENDS

5 recommendations from LEEP that are free, fun, of interest to your studies and will help you make the most of your time in Leeds.

1

Leeds City Museum: Leeds City Museum is a far cry for the dusty tombs of the past. With fully interactive exhibitions and weekly talks, it's a perfect way to broaden your general knowledge.....and if that sounds too **much** like hard work, there's always the Spiceworld exhibition! And it's free admission – so what are you waiting for? Its just 15 minutes from Campus off Millennium Square. Visit <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/citymuseum/> for more information on opening times and special events.

2

Malham Cove: Get your geology fix with a visit to the 80m high Malham Cove, an ancient limestone waterfall created during the last ice age. If you are travelling by public transport take the train to Skipton and then a bus - they run daily from Skipton train station during the summer, and weekdays during the Winter. Check out www.malhamdale.org.uk and www.yorkshiredales.org.uk for walking and cycling routes and other useful info.

3

Barden Grange: A community based organic food growing project run by Leeds University Union, located at Oxley Residences. Wednesday afternoon and evening sessions are open to anyone and newcomers are always welcome. So go on, join the gardening revolution and get your hands dirty! Visit www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/volunteeringandcommunity/bardongrange/

4

Brimham Rocks: Located in Nidderdale, near to Pateley Bridge, this strange collection of Gritstone formations are great for a walk or even a climb. The views are incredible and it is a great place for a picnic, a browse in the National Trust gift shop of a cuppa from the tea shop. More info is available at www.brimhamrocks.co.uk/index.htm and www.nationaltrust.org.uk gives you help on getting there.

5

Meanwood Valley Trail: Clear the Sunday morning cobwebs with a 7 mile walk through lovely parks and woodland. Starting at Woodhouse Moor (Hyde Park), going through Meanwood Valley and ending at Golden Acre Park. More info: http://www.leeds.gov.uk/fo/fo/fo_53.html

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR.....

FORTHCOMING EVENTS THROUGHOUT MARCH

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
CCEP Seminar: Lucie Middlemiss and David Jenkins: Practices and Energy Use in Fuel Poor Social Housing in the UK: Reflections on a pilot study	1-03-11 1-2pm	Baines Wing SR 1.13
EnviroSoc: LAUGH IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: Fundraising comedy evening including a raffle with some great prizes - help raise money to save Orangutans. Tickets available from Cats or at www.leedstickets.com , £4 in advance or £5 on the door	1-03-11 8.30pm	Stylus Bar - Union
CiPEG/ESSI Seminar: Simon Payne, BP: Details TBC	3-03-11 4-5pm	SEE room: 8.119
IGT Seminar: Warner Marzocchi, INGV Rome: Eruption forecasting and the management of volcanic risk	4-03-11 4-5pm	SEE room: 8.119
RocSoc Trip: Day trip to the Natural History Museum – all welcome. Contact rocsoc@hotmail.co.uk for tickets. £10 for members/£12 for non members.	5-03-11	7am from Parkinson Steps
AAPG Student Chapter: Mathew Jackson, Imperial College London: THE AAPG Distinguished Lecture Tour: From outcrop analogue to flow simulation -Understanding the impact of geologic heterogeneity on hydrocarbon production	7-03-11 4pm	Roger Stevens LT11
SSN Seminar: Tim Foxon, SRI: Transition Pathways for a low carbon electricity system	7-03-11 4pm	Baines Wing SR 1.13
SRI Seminar: Heike Schroeder, Oxford: Global Environmental Politics and Forest Governance	9-03-11 4-5.15pm	Roger Stevens LT16
Africa College Public Lecture: Sir John Beddington: Future of Food and Farming: Feeding 9 billion people sustainably. Bookings essential: email africacollege@leeds.ac.uk please be prompt	10-03-11 12.50 -2pm	Clothworkers Concert Hall
IGT/CiPEG Seminar: Details TBC	11-03-11 4-5pm	SEE room: 8.119
SSN Seminar: Lucie Middlemiss, SRI: People are just naturally selfish aren't they? Understanding why people live in the way they do, and the implications for sustainability	14-03-11 4pm	SEE room: 8.119
ICAS Seminar: Bob Beare, Exeter University: The role of balance in coupling the boundary layer and large scale dynamics	15-03-11 2-3pm	SEE room: 8.119
Leeds for Life Networking Event: the Environment Sector: See below for details	15-03-11 5.15-7.30pm	The ARC, LUU
CAREERS FAIR: North and North East Earth and Environment Careers Fair : For careers or further study. Contact Lisa Beare for further information at l.j.beare@leeds.ac.uk	18-03-11 10-3pm	SEE room: 8.119
IGT Seminar: Ana Ferreira, University of East Anglia: Details TBC	18-03-11 4-5pm	SEE room: 8.119
ICAS Seminar: Rob McKenzie, Lancaster University: Details TBC	22-03-11 2-3pm	SEE room: 8.119
EARTH& ENVIRONMENT MASTERS OPEN DAY register at: www.environment.leeds.ac.uk/see/admissions-and-study/masters-degrees/open-days/	23-03-11	
IGT Seminar: Details TBC	25-03-11 4-5pm	SEE room: 8.119
BICYCLE POWERED CINEMA: BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUS: Be entertained whilst keeping fit and help raise money for the SAG beehive project	25-03-11 5.15pm	Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre

Explore Your Future



North East Earth and Environment Careers Event 2011



There will be an exhibition in the Earth and Environment Building (Room 8.119) where students will have the chance to meet employers and universities offering Postgraduate degrees face to face.

From 1.30pm there will be an informal lunch with refreshments sponsored by BP



For further information please contact Lisa Beare: l.j.beare@leeds.ac.uk
Campus Map: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/campusmap>

Friday 18th March 2011
10am – 3pm
Earth & Environment Building

Faculty of Environment



Leeds for Life Networking Event for THE ENVIRONMENT SECTOR

**MEET ALUMNI AND
OTHER PROFESSIONALS
WORKING IN YOUR FIELD OF INTEREST**

15th March 2011

5.15-7.30pm,

The ARC in LUU

Try out your networking skills and find out how you can use the skills you are developing at University to help with your future career.

Refreshments provided

Sign up on the Careers Centre website at:

<http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk>