



Prof. Peter Holmes

Department of Geography

Overview

The Department of Geography continued to grow its student numbers significantly on both the Main Campus in Bloemfontein and the Qwaqwa Campus. While undergraduate teaching demanded considerable input from academic staff, postgraduate teaching and supervision was not left behind. Published research outputs and conference attendance reflect departmental inputs in the increasingly important area of research. The department continued to align itself with the strategic aims of the university.

A highlight of 2007 was the creation of a new postgraduate study facility in the Geography building on the Main Campus with ten individual cubicles for honours, masters and doctoral students. All of these were equipped with network points and computers. In addition, secure locker space was made available to postgraduate students. The idea behind this considerable capital investment on the part of the department is to encourage postgraduate students to base themselves within the department, thereby promoting a culture of research.

The numbers of postgraduate students remained positive, with five doctoral students (including one from Malawi), 11 masters and 14 honours students registered across the two campuses in 2007. The honours students again attended the annual Student Conference which preceded the conference of the Society of South African Geographers in Port Elizabeth.

The Geographical Information Systems (GIS) laboratory, under the direction of Dr Charles Barker, was further expanded, bringing the number of GIS-dedicated computers to 35. The laboratory continues to run, under license and direct purchase, the latest and most up-to-date GIS software. Interactive on-screen teaching ensures optimal interaction between instructor and student. GIS is increasingly perceived by students as a potential career direction, and the department's GIS resources are fully engaged, with limited capacity for expansion.

International visitors to the department included Prof. Margaret Marker from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom (UK). She and Prof. Peter Holmes, Departmental Chairperson, visited the ULCO quarry and cement works in the Northern Cape to investigate limestone tufas. This visit was followed by a second, consecutive annual visit by Dr Giles Wiggs, also from the University of Oxford. Dr Wiggs is an expert on

aeolian sediment transfer and is a principal collaborator on a National Research Fund (NRF) initiative into environmental change in the western Free State under the leadership of Prof. Holmes. Drs Mark Bateman from the University of Sheffield in the UK and Andrew Carr from the University of Leicester in the UK, also visited the Main Campus. They undertook fieldwork on coastal dune evolution in the southern and eastern Cape as part of an ongoing research initiative with Prof. Holmes. After this the trio attended the biennial conference of the Southern African Society for Quaternary Research (SASQUA) in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal.

Profs Holmes and Visser presented papers at international and local conferences during the year. Prof. Holmes attended the XVII INQUA Congress in Cairns, Australia where he presented a paper and was co-author of two other presentations. The abstracts were published in *Quaternary International* (2007) volumes 167-168. He also presented a paper and was co-author of two others at the biennial conference of SASQUA in Howick,



Honours students Mr Tshapo Moselesele (left) and Ms Molalao Rabumbulu investigating wind erosion and wind-blown dunes near Florisbad in the Free State province.

KwaZulu-Natal. Prof. Visser presented papers at international conferences in Ghent in Belgium, Amsterdam in the Netherlands and at the biennial conference of the Society of South African Geographers in Port Elizabeth. Mrs Tobeka Mehlomakhulu also attended the conference of the Society of South African Geographers and presented a paper.

Community service continued to manifest itself in terms of Prof. Willie van Zyl and Mr Alex Adjei's tourism training initiative. Prof. Visser continued to serve as a member of the Standards Generating Body for Geography. He was also elected as President of the Society of South African Geographers. Both the Qwaqwa Campus and the Main Campus were actively involved in hosting Geography learners from various Free State and Northern Cape high schools.

Dr Hennie Claassen was re-elected as subject head on the Qwaqwa Campus. Mr Pululu Mahasa took over a vacancy on the Qwaqwa Campus on a contract basis. Prof. Van Zyl was seconded to a management position on the Qwaqwa Campus.

On the Main Campus in Bloemfontein, Mr Gijsbert Hoogendoorn was appointed to a one-year contract position, thus helping to relieve the teaching load which resulted from a large increase in the number of first-year students. Ms Eldalize Kruger continued to carry the responsibility for environmental management courses, an important facet of the department's academic profile.

Mrs Sheila Vrahimis continued to work with large numbers of students in the four-year B.Sc. degree programme, while Mrs Tobeka Mehlomakhulu convened the honours class on the Main Campus.



Prof. Peter Holmes, Departmental Chairperson, attended INQUA XVII in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Behind him is one of the famous Glasshouse Mountains, an exhumed volcanic plug.

Staff

Main Campus:

Professor: Prof. Peter Holmes

Associate Professor: Prof. Gustav Visser

Senior Lecturer: Dr Charles Barker

Lecturers: Mss Eldalize Kruger, Tobeka Mehlomakhulu, Sheila Vrahimis

Professional Officers: Mss Sandra Brits, Liesel Cronjè

Qwaqwa Campus:

Associate Professor: Prof. Willie van Zyl (on secondment in 2007)

Senior Lecturer: Dr Hennie Claassen

Lecturer: Mr Alex Adjei

Junior Lecturer: Mr Pululu Mahasa

Contact details

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Research outputs

Research articles

Carr, A.S., Bateman, M.D. & Holmes, P.J. 2007. Developing a 150 ka luminescence chronology for the barrier dunes of the Western Cape, South Africa. *Quaternary Geochronology* 2: 110-116.

De Villiers, G.D.U.T., Viljoen, M.F. & Booysen, H.J. 2007. Standaard residensiële vloedskadefunksies vir Suid-Afrikaanse toestand. *S.A. Tydskrif vir Natuurwetenskap en Tegnologie* 26(1): 26-36.

Ferreira, S. & Visser, G. 2007. Creating an African Riviera: Revisiting the impact of the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront development in Cape Town. *Urban Forum* 18(3): 227-246.

Holmes, P.J., Bateman, M.D., Carr, A.S. & Marker, M.E. 2007. The place of aeolian coversands in the geomorphic evolution of the southern Cape coast, South Africa. *South African Journal of Geology* 110: 125-136.

Hoogendoorn, G. & Visser, G. 2007. The evolving South African neighbourhood: The case of Westdene, Bloemfontein. *Urban Forum* 18(4): 329-349.

Visser, G. 2007. Homonormalising (white) heterosexual middle-class leisure spaces: The case of white gay men in Bloemfontein, South Africa. *International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations* 7(1): 217-228.

Visser, G. 2007. On citations, rating games and other pesky animals: Which zoo for South African human geography? *South African Geographical Journal* 89(2): 135-144.

Visser, G. 2007. Urban tourism in Bloemfontein: Current dynamics, immediate challenges and future prospects. *Urban Forum* 18(4): 351-370.

Chapters in books

Hoogendoorn, G., Mellett, R. & Visser, G. 2007. Second homes tourism in Africa: Reflections on the South African experience. In *Urban tourism in the developing world: The South African experience*, edited by C.M. Rogerson & G. Visser. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Press. pp. 127-166.

Rogerson, C.M. & Visser, G. 2007. International tourism flows and urban tourism in South Africa. In *Urban tourism in the developing world: The South African experience*, edited by C.M. Rogerson & G. Visser. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Press. pp. 41-56.

Rogerson, C.M. & Visser, G. 2007. Tourism in urban Africa: Setting the scene. In *Urban tourism in the developing world: The South African experience*, edited by C.M. Rogerson & G. Visser. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Press. pp. 1-9.

Rogerson, C.M. & Visser, G. 2007. Tourism research and urban Africa: The South African experience. In *Urban tourism in the developing world: The South African experience*, edited by C.M. Rogerson & G. Visser. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Press. pp. 13-40.

Visser, G. 2007. Festival tourism in urban Africa: Reflections on the South African experience. In *Urban tourism in the developing world: The South African experience*, edited by C.M. Rogerson & G. Visser. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Press. pp. 101-126.

Visser, G. 2007. Gay tourism in South Africa: The Cape Town experience. *Urban tourism in the developing world: The South African experience*, edited by C.M. Rogerson & G. Visser. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Press. pp. 185-203.

Visser, G. 2007. The tourism geography of South Africa. In *Tourism Management in South Africa*, edited by R. George. Cape Town: Oxford University Press. pp. 34-52.

Reports

Visser, G. 2007. *On citations, rating games and other pesky animals: Which zoo for South African human geography?* Ad-hoc unsolicited report on NRF ratings and human geography in South Africa to the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Conference contributions

Bateman, M.D., Carr, A.S., Holmes, P.J., Murray-Wallace, C.V. & Roberts, D.L. 2007. Long-term dune evolution on the Southern Cape Coast, South Africa. Paper presented at



Dr Giles Wiggs of the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom (UK) oversees the setting up of equipment to monitor wind erosion on ploughed fields north of Bloemfontein.

the XVII Congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA): The Tropics - Heat Engine of the Quaternary, Cairns, Australia. 28 July - 3 August.

Bateman, M.D., Carr, A.S., Holmes, P.J., Roberts, D.L. & Murray-Wallace, C.V. 2007. Long-term dune evolution on the Southern Cape Coast, South Africa. Paper presented at the Southern African Society for Quaternary Research (SASQUA) XVII Biennial Congress, Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve, Howick, South Africa. 11-13 April.

Carr, A.S., Bateman, M.D., Murray-Wallace, C.V., Holmes, P.J. & Roberts, D.L. 2007. Quaternary sea-level change and coastal geomorphic response, southern Cape. Paper presented at the Southern African Society for Quaternary Research (SASQUA) XVII Biennial Congress, Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve, Howick, South Africa. 11-13 April.

Carr, A.S., Bateman, M.D., Murray-Wallace, C.V., Holmes, P.J. & Roberts, D.L. 2007. Quaternary sea-level changes and coastal geomorphic responses 140-80 ka, Western Cape Province, South Africa. Paper presented at the XVII Congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA): The Tropics - Heat Engine of the Quaternary, Cairns, Australia. 28 July - 3 August.

Ferreira, S.L.A. & Visser, G. 2007. *Creating an African Riviera (V&AW): Meaning of place and ownership.* Paper presented during the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG2007), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. 8-10 July.

Ferreira, S.L.A. & Visser, G. 2007. *Creating an African Riviera: From local regeneration project to global playground.* Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), San Francisco, California, USA. 17-21 April.

Holmes, P.J., Bateman, M.D., Thomas, D.S.G. & Barker, C.H. 2007. A palaeo-aeolian record from pan-fringing lunettes in the Western Free State Pan Field since the last glacial maximum. Paper presented at the Southern African Society

for Quaternary Research (SASQUA) XVII Biennial Congress, Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve, Howick, South Africa. 11-13 April.

Holmes, P.J., Bateman, M.D., Thomas, D.S.G. & Barker, C.H. 2007. A palaeo-aeolian record from pan-fringing lunettes in the Western Free State Panfield, South Africa, since the last glacial maximum. Paper presented at the XVII Congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA): The Tropics - Heat Engine of the Quaternary, Cairns, Australia. 28 July - 3 August.

Mehlomakulu, T. 2007. *Better living conditions in Orangefontein (re)settlement camp near Herschel Village, Sterkspruit: a dream or reality.* Paper presented during the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG2007), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. 8-10 July.

Visser, G. 2007. *Free State Tourism: Current dynamics, immediate challenges and investment prospects.* Paper presented at the Accenta Trade Fair, Ghent, Belgium. 15-23 September.

Visser, G. 2007. *Homonormalising (white) heterosexual leisure spaces: The case of white gays and lesbians in Bloemfontein, South Africa.* Paper presented during the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG2007), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. 8-10 July.

Visser, G. 2007. *Homonormalising (White) heterosexual leisure spaces: The case of white gays and lesbians in Bloemfontein, South Africa.* Paper presented at the Seventh International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations, Amsterdam, Netherlands. 3-6 July.

Visser, G. 2007. *On citations, rating games and other pesky animals: Which zoo for South African Human Geography?* Paper presented during the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG2007), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. 8-10 July.