Hold on tight … the end of the first semester is in sight.

Hon Prof Andy Short has just returned from 6 weeks in Brazil working with Antonio Klein from the Coastal Oceangraphy Lab of the Universidade Federal do Santa Catarina, based in the little fishing (and surfing) village of Barra da Lagoa. The trip marks the first of three trips to Brazil Andy will make as part of a three year Brazilian government funded project which includes teaching of a postgraduate short course, working on a number of projects on the coast of Santa Catarina and visiting geoscience/oceanography departments in other Brazilian universities.

As part of this trip Andy also visited his ex-Sydney student Gui Lessa at the Universidade Federal de Bahia in Salvador, spent a week at the Universidade Rio Grande do Norte in Natal and finally the Universidade de Sao Paulo, a city now home to 20 million!

Andy gave a lecture to the coastal geosci students at the UF Santa Catarina – over 150 students many of whom wanted their photo taken with him.

Prof. John Connell chaired a University of Sydney meeting with a delegation of 12 Members of Parliament from the Pacific (three each from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Samoa) who were engaged in an AusAID sponsored Study tour of Climate Change and Management Issues in the region. The Study Tour leader Lord Fakafanua got very excited when he discovered his cousin Sione Halatuituia had got his PhD in the school in 2002 – and promised more students to come...
Visitor from France

Prof. Nathalie Bernardie-Tahir, vice-president for international relations from Limoges University (France) visited our School. With Prof John Connell, Prof. Bernardie-Tahir co-supervise PhD cotutelle candidate Emilie Chevalier. A great opportunity to develop further international exchange with Limoges. Nos remerciements pour votre visite.

Abroad and Back

...Plymouth...

Geocoastal Research Group members Kellie Adlam, Dan Harris, and Ana Vila-Concejo (photo above of our three expat visiting a wave tank) attended the International Coastal Symposium in "sunny" Plymouth, UK. They all presented papers that are now published in the Journal of Coastal Research. http://ics2013.org/

Ana also gave talks is the Universidad de Vigo and the Universidad de Cadiz about her research on infilling of coral reef lagoons; both talks were under the framework of their Campus of Excellence in Marine Science. Muchas gracias y congratulación!

...Vienna...

EGU (European Geosciences Union) General Assembly 2013, held 7-12 April, 2013 in Vienna, was well attended this year: Kara Matthews, Luke Mondy, Christian Heine, and Nicolas Flament. Wir gratulieren!

...Cancun...

Nico Flament was invited speaker that the AGU - Meeting of the Americas in Cancun. Nico presented his recent work on the "Evolution of the subduction-driven, long-wavelength topography of South America since the Jurassic". Tequila!

Bill on TEDx

Bill Pritchard presented is talk on food security at the TEDx Sydney “event” at the Sydney Opera House on 4 May. Bill’s talk is now available to all: http://tedxsydney.com/site/item.cfm?item=6DC220E4C290F6C97F0E31D1E91EFBBB

Kurt on ABC

Kurt was on ABC Radio's AM program Thursday 23 May as an 'expert' urban geographer talking about Sydney's status as a global city and associated inequality in the city. http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2013/s3765418.htm

Kurt was also on ABC Television News on Friday 24th May regarding the same story.
New book on the shelf: In his new book, Prof. John Connell analyses the economic, social, political and environmental changes in small islands through the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Oceans. John examines the shift from agriculture to tourism, the problems of urbanization, and the particular role of migration and remittances, within a culture of migration. He seeks to balance economic challenges with environmental threats, and social changes with the survival of culture. Island at risk is published by Edward Edgar Publishing. Get you copy at: http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry_main.lasso?currency=UK&id=14838

In the Press cont.

Last month a team from our School published a paper using sophisticated data mining and involving training a computer to map, in an unsupervised manner, opal-bearing ground. This month, using his faithful geo pick, a rusty compass, and old fashioned field observations, Patrice Rey explains to the world the genesis of our National Gemstone and why we should go to Mars. http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/taje20/current#

PhD

Laurence Troy has received examiners’ reports on his PhD thesis “Cloaked in green: growth politics and sustainability”. He is to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, subject to minor emendations to his thesis. Right on (soon-to-be) Dr Troy!

Award

Tubtim Tubtim, PhD Cotutelle (Chiang Mai University - University of Sydney), has been awarded a Faculty Postgraduate Research Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement in the School of Geosciences, for her article “Migration to the Countryside: Class Encounters in Peri-urban Chiang Mai, Thailand”, published in Critical Asian Studies in 2012. Congratulations Tubtim!

Talented Students

Audiences were astounded by a group of talented 1st year students presenting their results on slab window formation at the Talented Student Program Showcase this month. The group, lead by 3rd year student volunteer Yvonne Lee and supervised by Dietmar Müller, Sabin Zahirovic and Kara Matthews compared seismic tomography images of Earth’s interior and plate tectonic reconstructions on the surface in order to identify tears and gaps in subducted slabs. Their work has identified potential slab windows not previously discussed in the scientific literature, and will allow for the refinement of existing plate reconstruction models.
Fieldwork in our backyard ...

From Geo.news reporter Dr Kurt Iveson: Groups of students from GEOS2123 The Geography of Cities and Regions have been on several field trips around Sydney during this semester, including a walk around Redfern and Waterloo thinking about housing and gentrification, a trip along the Bankstown line examining multicultural Sydney, a guided tour of several urban artistic and political public spaces, and a day spent looking at the ways that digital information is layered onto the urban landscape.

It’s the first time we’ve run these trips as part of the revamped urban geography offering at second year level. Well done students!

GPlates 1.3

The GPlates development team has released GPlates 1.3! You can download GPlates 1.3, and GPlates-compatible data right here:

http://www.gplates.org/download.html

Congratulation!
And now the Seriously Newsworthy…

Congratulations to Trina Isorena and her husband Efren on the birth of their son Layag in Manila on 2 May. Layag weighed in at 3 kg. Trina will now be taking a few months off before resuming her PhD fieldwork in Mindanao. Mother and son are both well.

Ivy Josefine, Christian and Nina Heine’s 3rd daughter, arrived on 22 May at noon. Mother and baby (3.6 kg/53cm) are healthy, and dad is recovering slowly. Congratulations to all involved and welcome Ivy to the world!

Getting there …. There are three women expecting in the school. Ana is ahead of the pack which good chances to past the line in front with a second boy expected for mid to late July. In the meantime, here is an update >>>> ... all is fine.

Well that’s all from the GEOnews desk. Until next time …