Science & Heritage Research Cluster on “Cultural Encounters and Explorations: Conservation’s Catch-22”. The cluster involves specialists in conservation, museums, cultural heritage, materials science, engineering, anthropology, haptics and virtual technology.

Our long-established tradition of world-wide fieldwork shows no sign of flagging. Among many other projects, Sue Hamilton undertook another successful field season on Rapa Nui with results that attracted a great deal of attention in the press. Kris Lockyer brought the final field season of his AHRC-funded Noviodunum project to a successful conclusion and David Wengrow led a team of 30 UCL students, mainly undergraduates, to excavate at the important site of Tel Bet Yerah (Khirbet Kerak) on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel. They worked with local archaeologists, led by Dr Raphael Greenberg (Tel Aviv University), to investigate the origins of urban life in the Jordan Valley during the Early Bronze Age (with a particular focus on interregional connections between this region and the Caucasus), as well as the early spread of Islam during the Umayyad Caliphate.

Several scholarly events take place at the Institute every week so it is only possible to pick out the highlights. The International Centre for Chinese Heritage and Archaeology (ICCHA), our joint enterprise with the School of Archaeology and Museology at the University of Peking, continues to maintain a high profile. Under its auspices Dr Shan, Director General of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, P.R. China visited the Institute on 19 February 2009 and gave a lecture on Chinese cultural heritage which was chaired by the UCL Provost. The ICCHA also organized a conference on “Sharing Archaeology” in Beijing in November 2008, fulfilling one of Peter Ucko’s very last wishes before he died.

The CHAT (Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory) conference 2008 (“Heritage CHAT”) was held at UCL in November 2008, a joint venture with English Heritage and Atkins Heritage, while a major conference on early iron metallurgy across the world, “The World of Iron”, organized by Jane Humphris, Xander Veldhuizen and Thilo Rehren of the Institute, supported by major commercial sponsorship, was held in February at the Natural History Museum. Nor was the Darwin Bicentenary neglected, with a seminar series on Darwin’s influence in Archaeology and Anthropology organized by James Steele. The conference on “Writing as Material Practice: Substance, Surface and Meaning”, organized by Kathryn Piquette and Ruth Whitehouse, winner of this year’s Institute conference award, took place in May; it attracted interdisciplinary and international participation and generated considerable enthusiasm. The Institute’s Kenyon Lecture was given by Professor Yuval Goren, Tel Aviv University, on “International Exchange in the Eastern Mediterranean: Food and Ships, Sealing-Wax and Kings as seen Under the Petrographic Microscope”.

The most moving event of the year though was not an academic one. On 14 May 2009 we facilitated the repatriation of Australian Indigenous Human Remains. The remains had been held at the Institute since their transfer from a Cheshire auction house. A Ngarrindjeri delegation (Mr Major Sumner and Mr George Trevorrow) collected the remains and held smoking ceremonies in traditional dress, within the Institute building and then out in Gordon Square, which cannot have seen too many occasions as extraordinary as this one.

The saddest occurrence of the year was Ben Sampihire’s death in Ecuador in February 2009. Ben had completed his PhD at the Institute in 2008 under my supervision and had moved on to work in primate conservation. While volunteering on a primate reserve he was shot by a local landowner who supposedly mistook him for a burglar. Ben was a wonderful young man and his loss is a tragic one.

I finished last year’s report noting that the financial future in British academia looked grim but we were in a strong position to cope. This year the outlook appears even darker but thanks to the ability, commitment and dynamism of its staff and students the Institute continues to flourish and is well placed to meet the future.

The Institute’s primary research groups

The coordinators of each of the Institute’s five primary research groups report on their group’s activities during the 2008/2009 academic year.

The Environment and Culture Research Group

Coordinator: Arlene Rosen

Deputy Coordinator: Ignacio de la Torre

Student Coordinators: Brenna Hassett and Anke Cross Marsh

The Environment and Culture Research Group provides a link for staff, research students and honorary members of the Institute whose research concerns past interactions between people and the environments they occupied. Several members of the group also participate in the activities of the AHRC Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity which is directed by James Steele (see report on pages 10–11).

Research

Research Group members are involved in research around the world. Several members continue to work with the Çatalhöyük Research Project. Simon Hillson is a joint coordinator of the Çatalhöyük human remains team with Clark Larsen of Ohio State University. They completed the first human remains database for the Neolithic collections from the site, which involved a complete reassessment of all the material and constitutes an important resource for their future research work. He also developed an entirely new dental pathology database. Emmy Bocaege collected dental impressions for her PhD project from the Çatalhöyük children’s remains and she has been working on them since the field season. In addition, Emmy and Morag McBride (an MSc student) have been cataloguing the teeth from James Mellaart’s excavations which came to the Institute from storage at the Natural History Museum.

Simon Hillson also had a field season in July–August 2008 for his Astypalaea project (including the world’s largest children’s cemetery, see this issue of Archaeology International, pages 17–21). In April 2009, he gave a poster presentation of his work on dental caries in Peruvian material from the Ilo Valley in southern Peru.

Andrew Garrard and his colleague Corine Yazbeck (Lebanese University) had their last season of excavations at the Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic cave site of Moghr el Ahwal in the Qadisha Valley of northern Lebanon in summer 2008. Since that time, they have been working on the analysis of the finds, including a detailed study of the faunal and human remains by Yvonne Edwards at UCL. For further details see http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/project/qadisha/

Ignacio De La Torre continued excavations at the Upper Palaeolithic site of Buendia in Cuenca (central Spain), conducted surveys in the Middle
Pleistocene area of Mieso (Ethiopia), excavated two Oldowan and Acheulean Bed II sites in Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania), and also continued collaborating with Spanish colleagues in a Middle and Upper Palaeolithic project in the Pre-Pyrenees of Lleida (Catalunya).

Roxana Ferlinci conducted work and publication on an Armenian Mass grave in the Near East as well as continuing investigations of sharp force trauma. She is also involved in the exhumation and identification of victims of the Spanish Civil War and Franco’s regime.

Dorian Fuller joined Suzhou Museum excavations in April 2008 at Neolithic Caotaxishan to undertake archaeobotanical sampling on an early preserved paddy field system and associated occupation of c.4200 BC, and continued laboratory research on rice domestication traits. He also undertook flotation and sieving as part of excavation of Holocene cave deposits in Gibraltar.

Arlene Rosen conducted research on Natufian adaptations and plant resource selection with changing climatic conditions, involving ongoing phytolith analyses of archaeological deposits at the sites of Eynan, el-Wad, Raqefet, and Hilazon Tahtit in Israel. She also continued investigations into environmental, agricultural, and social change in Neolithic China (Yiluo River catchment, Henan) through the geoarchaeology of landscape change, and phytolith analyses of on-site archaeological deposits.

Ken Thomas continued with research into the later prehistory of northwestern Pakistan and prehistoric human coastal ecology in the Mediterranean (with fieldwork in Sicily and Cyprus).

Matt Pope has continued work on the Early Upper Palaeolithic site of Beedings in West Sussex. Dating results now demonstrate that the fissure system containing EUP and an early Middle Palaeolithic assemblage were both sealed by 31000 years BP. A further review of Neanderthal archaeology, including excavations leading to the relocation of the Oldbury “rock shelter” site, was also undertaken across south east England.

Richard Macphail is conducting micromorphological studies of Upper Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Romano-British, Roman, Saxon and Medieval rural and urban sites in the UK. He also is working on pit house villages in British Columbia, Canada, three sites in France (including Protohistoric Lattes and Late Antique Tarquimpol), eight late prehistoric sites in Vestfold, Norway, Upper Pleistocene sites with Acheulian-like hand axes along the Imjin River basin, Korea, and has begun investigations of 3rd millennium Byblos, Lebanon.

Michèle Wollstonecroft has been team archaeobotanist in renewed investigations by Professor Nuno Bicho (University of the Algarve) of Cabeco da Amoreira, one of the remaining Mesolithic middens in the Muge Valley, Portugal. She has also joined Ignacio de la Torre and his team, as archaeobotanist on the excavations of Buendia, an Upper Palaeolithic rock shelter in central Spain.

Honorary members of the group have also been busy with research. Caroline Grigon completed a report: “Animal management in the early Pottery Neolithic of Tell Nebi Mend” which is awaiting publication in a monograph edited by Peter Parr, to be published by the Council for British Research in the Levant. She completed the identification of a large quantity of mammalian remains from Bronze and Iron Age levels of the same site, Tell Nebi Mend, Syria and is starting on the analysis of these remains.

Ann Kendall’s current research in the context of the Cusichaca Trust’s work in Peru includes archaeological and cartographic investigations of the evolution and importance of the pre-Hispanic terrace systems of the highlands of Peru in the face of current climate change. She is also investigating the development of Andean civilization and whether the emergence of terrace-based food security in the central highlands is a heritage appropriate for restoration and redevelopment projects in today’s climate. This concept has wide replication potential for other highland areas with terrace systems globally.

Seminars
The group has organized lunchtime gatherings with research presentations by student members and also visiting speakers. Professor Steven Rosen (Archaeological Division, Ben Gurion University) gave a lecture on “Rockshelters in the Negev: Pastoralism and Environment in the Desert”; Professor Douglas Kennett (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Oregon) presented on “Environmental and Human Consequences of a Major Cosmic Impact (both in November 2008)” while Dr Evangelia Ioannidou from the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, gave a presentation on “Early Bronze Age economy at the Southern Black Sea”.

A team from the Atapuerca Project visited the UK in a joint collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology’s Boxgrove Project and the Environment and Culture Research Group at the end of January 2009. The group hosted a Special Palaeolithic Seminar on the latest results from the excavations at Atapuerca, Burgos, latest thoughts on the Sima del Elefante mandible, the Acheulian assemblages, and some very interesting work on stone tool use-wear traces.

The Material Culture and Data Science Research Group
Coordinator: Thilo Rehren
Deputy Coordinator: Ethan Cochrane
Student Coordinators: Louise Isles and Miljana Radivojevic

The Material Culture and Data Science Research Group brings together staff, research students and honorary members of the Institute who are interested in the analysis of archaeological materials, particularly by instrumental and quantitative methods, within broader archaeological frameworks. It aims to apply these methods to archaeological questions by generating data that are independent of, and complementary to, traditional archaeological methods of enquiry. A major focus is the study of ancient technologies by analysing the form and composition of artefacts, raw materials and waste products, and through experimental studies. We aim to optimize the productivity of the Institute’s substantial human and technical resources in this field of research, and to promote the understanding of science-based archaeological information as an essential component of material culture. One way to achieve this is for the group to facilitate cooperation in projects being developed by the Institute’s other research groups, and for its individual members to contribute to group research in addition to their own projects.

Research projects
Most of our research is done collaboratively, with colleagues in the Institute and with external partners. This year I highlight the diversity of our research. Following last year’s focus on research by current staff I am now looking at the even broader range of the work of the nearly thirty student members in our Research Group.

The largest group works in the Near and Middle East, with interests ranging from pigment and bead production in Neolithic Çatalhöyük to Bronze Age metallurgy in Syria and early iron production in Turkey, to ceramic production in Cyprus and neo-Assyria, and on to houses and household organization in the Levant, to
A major cluster emerges in China, reflecting the strong links which the Institute has developed over the years with colleagues and institutions there. At present, four of our student members work on materials from China, including zinc metal production, cast iron smelting, the organization of bronze production, and the earliest glazed ceramics. This strong presence of Chinese students, of course, is a direct reflection of the Institute’s involvement in ICCHA (see report on page 11), and the very generous funding we receive for these studentships from the Kwoks’ SHKP Foundation in Hong Kong.

The third cluster emerges in Africa, particularly its eastern parts; here, interests range from ceramic production in Sudan to iron smelting in Rwanda and Kenya, and to copper smelting in southern Africa; to this we can now add a further student who started last autumn, focusing on early iron smelting in Tanzania. It is particularly pleasing to see that two of these students are from the region where they work, and are building on our existing contacts there with former IoA students.

Finally, a large group of students works on European material, from the world’s earliest known copper smelting (in the Balkans), to Bronze Age glass in the eastern Mediterranean, to Roman and medieval silver metallurgy, to medieval pewter (a tin-lead alloy), and research in conservation of various materials (including American silver).

I would love to go into more detail for at least some of these projects (and refer the reader to the Papers of the Institute of Archaeology, our postgraduate student journal, for some of their work); but space only permits me to highlight that this strong group of research students very much reflects the Institute’s unique position in world archaeology, and in particular in archaeological science.

Development of the Wolfson Archaeological Science Laboratories

The Wolfson Labs continue to attract postgraduate students and visiting scholars for their excellent range of analytical facilities. Last year, I reported on UCL’s investment in a new Electron Microprobe, which is now well established and producing crucial data. Following a further grant from UCL we were able to install a Cathodoluminescence detector on the microprobe. Alice Hunt, a current PhD student, is using this to explore its potential for provenancing ceramics, particularly by looking at the unique signals from quartz grains which are a frequent component of ancient ceramics.

The portable X-ray fluorescence instrument mentioned in my last report has now arrived and already seen serious action, from China to South Africa, and from London’s museums to collections in Serbia, Cyprus and Syria. It is not replacing full quantitative analysis in the Wolfson Labs, but facilitates our selection of samples in the field, and to minimize unnecessary sampling. Even as a teaching tool it helps us to demonstrate the principles of X-ray fluorescence, and to quickly check the composition of materials under investigation.

Conferences and publications

What is the point of doing research, often at great cost and using irreplaceable archaeological material, if it is then not published? Why do we strive to improve the Institute’s research and teaching, if we don’t talk about it? Thus, going to conferences, organizing workshops and meetings, and publishing are crucial aspects of our daily life. Among the conferences relevant for our research group I want to mention in particular the 10th biennial European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics, organized jointly by us and the British Museum. This three-day event attracted nearly 100 scholars and students from across Europe, but also Asia, Africa and the Americas, and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our own work in this field. EMAC10 was followed by another major topical meeting, the seventh conference on the Beginnings of the Use of Metals and Alloys. BUMA VII was organized by Sharada Srinivasan, an Institute alumna, at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore and attracted most scholars working on Asian archaeometallurgy, from eastern Europe to the Pacific region. BUMA was first established by Professors Maddin and Ko from Harvard and Beijing, respectively, in 1981. During BUMA VII, their joint chairmanship was handed over to Professors Jianjun Mei (Beijing) and myself, reflecting the growing involvement of the Institute in Asian archaeology and metallurgy. Jianjun and I were happy to have the proceedings of BUMA VI, published by Archetype, out in time for the Bangalore meeting. Having covered ceramics and metals, there remained glass as the key material of interest in archaeology. Accordingly, the 17th meeting of the International Association for the History of Glass took place in Thessaloniki, again with a good representation of the Institute, making it the third major meeting last year in as many weeks.

The Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group

Coordinators: Todd Whitelaw and Cyprian Broodbank

Deputy Coordinator: Andrew Gardner

Student Coordinators: Elisa Perego and Claudia Zehrt

The Social and Cultural Dynamics Research Group brings together staff, postgraduate students and honorary members of the Institute whose primary interest is in anthropological and sociological approaches to the study of past societies. Its members share the common aim of studying the dynamics of material culture systems comparatively, cutting across the regional and chronological boundaries that have traditionally divided archaeology.

The 2008–2009 year saw changes in the coordination of the Group. Cyprian Broodbank was appointed the new coordinator from January 2009 after the previous coordinator Todd Whitelaw went on research leave to take up the position of Knossos Curatorial Fellow, British School at Athens.

Susanna Harris, a former Institute PhD student, joined the Institute and the Research Group with a three year British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship for research into “Cloth Cultures in Prehistoric Europe”; see this issue of Archaeology International, pages 22–26.

Research projects

The Group has a wide spread of ongoing major research projects spread across Africa, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Mesoamerica, the Aegean, Italy and the UK. These all involve collaborative research with colleagues from other institutions. Nearly all have a major fieldwork component and regularly involve undergraduate, MA and PhD Institute students. Many graduate members of the group organize their own field projects.

In the UK, Andrew Gardner focused on writing up the 2008 season of excavation of a large storage building within the Roman fortress at Caerleon, South Wales in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Cardiff; see this issue of Archaeology International, pages 47–51.

In the Aegean Cyprian Broodbank directed a study season of the Kythera Island Project in the summer of 2009. Andrew Bevan’s Antikythera Survey Project also had a short closing-down season in 2009 where it completed all outstanding artefact study and passed on
finds to the local archaeological service. On Crete, Todd Whitelaw conducted a study season in July-September 2009 of “The Knossos Urban Landscape Project”, co-directed with his Greek colleagues, M. Bredaki and A. Vasilakis.

Ruth Whitehouse and Sue Hamilton have commenced writing-up their “Tavoliere-Gargano Prehistory Project”, to be published as a multi-volume monograph with Accordia. Other ongoing research in Italy included the final museum visits of the “The social context of Etruscan literacy 800–500 BC” project, which is co-directed by Ruth Whitehouse and John Wilkins, with Kathryn Lomas as Research Fellow.

Group members also continued to be active in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Elizabeth Graham’s ongoing “Lamanai Archaeological Project, Belize” focuses on a Mayan urban centre and is directed jointly with Scott Simmons, University of North Carolina, Wilmington. The 2009 field season focused on Lamanai’s raised field agriculture. José Oliver’s “Macorix Archaeological Project in Dominican Republic” received a grant from the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA to conduct the project in combination with their field school. Additionally, José Oliver and Jorge Ulloa Hung (archaeologist of the Museo del Hombre Dominicano) conducted a preliminary, feasibility survey of key archaeological Pre-Columbian and contact period sites in the Sierra SEPtenTnional. The aim is to organize a joint IoA–MHD research project aimed at investigating native Macorix and Taínó identities and ethnicities.

Sue Hamilton was awarded a grant from the Abbey Research and Collaboration Award scheme for her Easter Island “Rapa Nui Landscapes of Construction Project”. The four-week January/February 2009 field season (co-directed with Colin Richards, University of Manchester) included an excavation at Punta Pau, the quarry that provided the enormous red scoria statue hats, and a survey of parts of the coastline to locate archaeological features including canoe ramps and paved route ways down to the sea. The finding of a road along which the statue hats were rolled out of the quarry attracted much publicity in the international press. The project involves Institute colleagues and has collaborations with the University of Chile, Santiago, the University of the Highlands and Islands, UK and the University of Bournemouth.

The development of new projects in Africa by Group members continues. Andrew Reid, having spent his sabbatical in Uganda last year, is writing up his research for the “Patterns of African Statehood Project”. Ceri Ashley commenced two major field case studies on the theme of migration in sub-Saharan Africa in line with the research goals of her British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship. These case studies are of the 19th century migration of BaTawana into Ngamiland, Botswana, and of the colonization and settlement of Lake Victoria and its islands in Uganda (2500BP–present); see this issue of *Archaeology International*, pages 36–41.

James Steele continues to co-ordinate the “Hand to Mouth Project”, an EC-funded project on the evolution of speech and tool use, with colleagues from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Parma, the French institutions of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, and the University of Southampton. This is now in its final phase with the majority of its case studies now completed.

**Publications**

In addition to c.20 journal articles and c.25 chapters in books/conference proceedings, four edited books and three edited journals published by members of the group, José Oliver produced the book *Caiciques & Cemi Idols. The web spun by Taíno Rulers between Hispaniola and Puerto Rico*, published by the University of Alabama Press in 2009.

**Conferences and lectures**

Members presented a large number of papers at conferences and workshops. These include Todd Whitelaw’s presentation with M. Bredaki and A. Vasilakis of “The Knossos Urban Landscape Project” at *Archaeological Ergo Stín Kriti* conference in Crete in November 2008 and for the Summer lecture series of the INSTAP East Crete Study Centre in Pachaea Ammos, Crete in June 2009, also his presentation of the Project at the British Academy *Evolving Communities* event in London in November 2008.

Elizabeth Graham and colleagues presented papers on “Terminal Classic Ahk’utu’ Moulded-carved Vases from Altun Ha, Belize” and “The Manufacture and Meaning of Effigy Censers from Lamanai, Belize” at the 16th European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics, in September in London. Elizabeth Graham also spoke on her Lamanai project to the *American Geophysical Union (AGU) Joint Assembly* 2009, Toronto, Ontario, in May 2009, to the Canadian Archaeological Association meeting, Peterborough, Ontario, in May 2009 and to the 106th Meeting of the Association of American Archaeologists (AAA), November–December 2008, Washington, D.C. She also presented a paper on “What’s so Sacred about the Everyday?” to the *Archaeologies of the Everyday* conference in Sheffield in June 2008 and another on “Warfare and the Faces of Tribute” at the London *Motezuma II Symposium* in March 2009.

Several members also attended the *Theoretical Archaeology Group* meeting in Southampton in December 2008. Ulrike Sommer presented the paper “Competing in Cannibalism with the Iroquois – Barbarians in German antiquarian discourse of the mid-nineteenth century”. Elisa Perego spoke on “Becoming Human Again: Urns as bodies in pre-Roman Italy” and “Fire and Ground: Bi-ritualism in pre-Roman Veneto (Italy)”. Andrew Gardner attended the 74th *Annual Society for American Archaeology* meeting in Atlanta in April 2009 and presented the paper “Discipline and Discord: the paradoxical lifeworld of soldiers in Roman armies” At the same meeting José Oliver was a discussant and presented a paper in the symposium *Recent Research in South Central Puerto Rico*.

The Group was represented at the *Roman Archaeology Conference/Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference* at Ann Arbor, University of Michigan in April 2009. Andrew Gardner presented a paper on “Rethinking the Roman Military.” He also presented the paper “Exploring Isca: new excavations at Caerleon Roman fortress” at the Archaeology Festival in Cardiff, February 2009.

In September 2008, Wang Tao presented a paper at a conference on *Archaeology and Knowledge Production and Circulation in International Archaeological Sites in Pompeii, Italy*.

The group co-sponsored (with the Complex and Literate Societies Group) the wine reception for the Institute of Archaeology 2009 Annual Conference, on *Writing as Material Practice: surface, substance and medium*, organized by Ruth Whitehouse and Kathryn Piquette.

Several members of the Group were invited to give prestigious lectures and participate in workshops. Sue Hamilton gave an invited keynote lecture on “Sensory Fieldwork” and was a discussant at the Nordic Graduate School Forum on *Excavation and Theory*, held at the Swedish School in Athens in October 2008. José Oliver presented an invited paper on “The Making of Chiefs: Evolving Political–Religious Power in Ancient Caribbean” at Yale University in May 2009. Cyprian Broodbank gave an invited lecture on “The Minoans of Kythera Revisited”, at Zagreb University in April 2009 and while there also gave a public lecture on “Before Odyssey: the origins of the Mediterranean”. In May 2009, he was also invited to give a public lecture on “The Making of the Mediterranean” to celebrate the centenary of the Department of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Uppsala, Sweden.
Andrew Gardner gave a paper on "Entertainment and Empire: a critical engagement with Roman-themed strategy games" at a workshop on Greek and Roman Games in the Computer Age, held at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway in February 2009 and more recently gave a lecture on "Exploring Later Roman Caerleon" as part of the Rome in Bloombury seminar series.

Lastly, Elizabeth Graham presented the Joan Vastokis Distinguished Lecture in Art and Archaeology at Trent University, Ontario, Canada on 21st September 2009 with a paper entitled "Everyone Knows What a Dragon Looks Like: imagery and meaning in the 16th-century Maya-Spanish encounter".

Complex and Literate Societies Research Group
Coordinator: Andrew Reynolds
Deputy Coordinator: Kevin MacDonald
Student Coordinator: Andrew Agate

The Institute’s Complex and Literate Societies Research Group provides a forum for academic staff, postdoctoral scholars, research students and honorary members of staff to engage in the cross-fertilization of ideas and collaborative activities. The Group also hosts a range of seminar series and visiting academics. The academic year 2008–2009 saw considerable activity across the globe, as well as in the Institute, ranging from research projects, publications, conferences, seminars and a steady stream of visiting scholars.

Research Projects
Tim Williams visited the Surkhut Valley, Western Nepal for a two-week planning mission in November 2008, to discuss developing capacity building programmes in archaeological recording and site management for the Nepali Government Department of Archaeology and Tribhuvan University (Department of Archaeology). A project is to be based around the internationally important 12th–14th century site of Kakre Bihar (Buddhist temple complex) and associated medieval valley landscape, located on the western Silk Roads connecting Tibet and northern India.

Continuing research at Merv, Turkmenistan, Tim Williams was awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant for a project – “Exploring the Silk Roads from the Oxus to Merv”. The May 2009 fieldwalking programme conducted by Steve Markofsky (PhD student) in the Northern Murghab Delta is described in this issue of Archaeology International.

Group events
A one-day workshop entitled “Speed-dating with Death” was held in November 2008 and focused on current research by staff and research students in the Group on mortuary behaviour. The informal discussion groups established by Group members – the Phenomenology Group, the Theory Discussion Group and the Architecture Discussion Group – all continued to meet frequently, holding sessions based on agreed texts. Ceri Ashley, along with students from other research groups, continued to organize regular “African Peoples and Pasts” seminars throughout the autumn and spring terms. Elizabeth Graham and Patrice Bonnafoux’s “Mesoamerican Study Group” maintained a schedule of monthly meetings.

Further information about the Merv project is available at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/merv

Andrew Reynolds’ British Academy Funded project “Pattern and Process in the medieval settlement of the Alava Plain”, was concluded with a fourth field season in the Spanish Basque Country in the summer of 2009 with extensive open area excavations which revealed structures and deposits ranging from the 5th to the 11th century. The project is a collaborative venture with the University of the Basque Country, where post-excavation analyses are currently being concluded.

In 2009 Kris Lockyear undertook the final major field season of the AHRC funded project exploring the landscape and settlement archaeology of ancient Noviodunum, Romania, in collaboration with colleagues from the universities of Cambridge and Southampton. The academic year ending in 2009 also saw Sue Harrington and Martin Welch complete the research phase of their Leverhulme funded project "Beyond the Tribal Hidage", exploring in detail the nature of burial and settlement in southern England in the Early Anglo-Saxon period.

Julia Shaw continues to pursue research ventures in India, in the Narmada Valley (in collaboration with the British Museum and the Madhya Pradesh State Archaeology Department) and Nepal, in the Surkhur Valley (with Cambridge University).

David Wengrow led a team of thirty-five UCL students to the site of Tel Bet Yerah, in northern Israel, where their work shed new light both on the Early Bronze Age and Early Islamic periods (reported in this issue of Archaeology International, pages 31–35). David also received funding from the Leverhulme Trust to begin a new collaboration with the University of Oxford's Research Laboratory for Archaeology, which will use chronometric dating methods to refine our understanding of early state formation in Egypt.

Publications
David Wengrow's recent publications include a new single-author book: What Makes Civilization: The Ancient Near East and the Future of the West (Oxford University Press, 2010), which investigates connections between ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, and critically addresses the significance of the ancient Near East for modern concepts of "civilization". With Andrew Bevan, he also co-edited Cultures of Commodity Branding (Left Coast Press, 2010). This volume, which arises from an Institute of Archaeology conference held in 2008, looks at the phenomenon of branding from a comparative perspective, with contributions from archaeologists and anthropologists. Joe Flatman was guest editor for a volume of Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites published in 2009 focusing on "Conserving Marine Cultural Heritage", while his book Ships and Shipping in Medieval Manuscripts was published by the British Library Press and the University of Chicago Press, also in 2009. Andrew Reynolds published several books in 2009, including Anglo-Saxon Deviant Burial Customs (Oxford University Press), Reflections: 50 Years of Medieval Archaeology 1957–2007 (edited with Roberta Gilchrist, Maney Publishing) and The emergence of Anglo-Saxon judicial practice: the message of the galloways (Aberdeen). Andrew also edited "The Archaeology of Buildings”, World Archaeology 41:3. Roger Matthews has completed the final monograph publication of Project Paphlagonia, At Empires’ Edge, co-edited with Claudia Glazt and now in proof stage. He has completed, also with Claudia Glazt, a detailed study of the historical geography of north Anatolia in the Hittite period, to be published in Anatolian Studies for 2009. Kevin MacDonald took over Co-Editorship of the journal Azania, re-defining and re-launching the journal with Routledge publishers.

Conferences and seminars
Tim Williams participated in several events including Medieval culture of Turkmenistan, an international conference in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 1–3 October, 2008, where he chaired a session on Islamic archaeology in Central Asia. Later
the same month Tim presented a paper on “Sultan Kala, Mārv, Turkmenistan: The organization of space in the early Islamic city” to a meeting of the Historians of Islamic Art Association international symposium in Philadelphia entitled Spaces & Visions. During the academic year Tim also presented a research seminar at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands on “Urban archaeology: why don’t we really use the data from stratigraphic excavation?” Corinna Riva delivered a range of papers at international meetings, including “‘Villanovan’ movements between the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic?” in a session on “Migrations and Large-scale Movements in the Ancient Mediterranean” (paper and session organizer) at the AIAC Congress in Rome in September 2008, and “Connectivity and Shifting Identities in the North Tyrrhenian Sea”, in a wider discussion of “Material Connections: Mobility, Materiality and Mediterranean Identities”, at the EAA annual meeting in Malta later the same month. Corinna also presented papers in Copenhagen, Glasgow, Jerusalem and Oxford during the academic year. Andrew Reynolds presented seminar papers on various aspects of early medieval landscape archaeology in Aberdeen, Frankfurt, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester, Oxford, Oviedo, Padova and Vitoria.

In Spring Term 2009 Rachael Sparks presented a paper on “Re-writing the script: decoding the textual experience in the Bronze Age Levant” at the Institute of Archaeology Annual Conference Writing as Material Practice and delivered a further contribution on “Object handling in the classroom” at another Institute-based event on Object-based learning. David Wengrow gave invited lectures at the universities of Princeton, Harvard, California (Los Angeles), New York (Abu Dhabi), Heidelberg, and Halle (Max Planck Institute). Together with Professor Mike Rowlands (UCL, Anthropology) he also co-organized the session “Civilization: a reintroduction” at the Association of Social Anthropologists conference in Bristol. Kevin MacDonald organized a Trans-Saharan Network Meeting in Autumn Term 2009 which resulted in a stimulating day of papers and discussion.

The Institute of Archaeology/British Museum Medieval Seminar programme was launched in October 2008, with the inaugural lecture of a new prestigious annual series. The Sir David Wilson Lecture in Medieval Studies was delivered by Professor Chris Wickham, Oxford University, with the event, held jointly with the Earlier Middle Ages seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, attracting an audience of over 100.

Visiting speakers and researchers
The Group hosted a range of visiting academics during the academic year, with highlights including presentations on “Shifting river courses and ancient Mesopotamian settlement patterns on the flood plains of south Iraq”, by Ja’afar Abdulhusein of Al-Qadissiyah University, Iraq, ‘Monstrous Fishes and ‘Bones of No Small Bigness’: New Approaches to Cetacean Zooarchaeology and Medieval Whaling” by Dr Vicki Szabo, Associate Professor, Western Carolina University, and “In Tune with the Elements: Sri Lanka and the Art of the Environment” by Dr SinhaRaja Tammita, Delgoda. Further notable seminars included Professor Neil Price, Aberdeen, on “Holy islands, sacred stones: ritual landscapes of the White Sea Sámi in the first millennium and beyond” and Dr Juan Antonio Quiros Castillo, Vitoria, on “Early medieval settlement in Spain”. Dr Jose Carlos Sanchez Pardo joined the Institute as a postdoctoral researcher working on the relationships between churches and settlements in the early middle ages, while Jesús Fernández Fernández, Oviedo, visited for the purposes of research for three months between April and June 2009.

Research and publication
Staff and student members of the research group have continued to carry out and participate in exciting research projects, producing a range of resources and publications. The student members of the research group have been particularly proactive in presenting and publishing their research in a range of forums.

Elisabeth Pye continued to work with the Çatalhöyük Research Project, leading the conservation team, together with research student Duygu Camurcuoğlu Cleere. Their work is described in this issue of Archaeology International, pages 42–46.

Beverley Butler’s research on the concept of Palestinian archival memory has produced a number of conference papers and publications, including an article in Archival Science. Anastasia Sakellariadi’s study of the changing dynamics of public and private in Greek heritage legislation, presented at conferences in London and Jamaica, was published in Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites. Brian Hole and Gabriel Moshenska gave a presentation at a research group meeting, followed by a debate, on the topic of Archaeology: the Pagan Threat, and published corresponding comment articles in Current Archaeology and Antiquity.

Sarah Dhanjal and Gabriel Moshenska carried out a number of small-scale training excavations for London schools, including the fourth year of fieldwork with the students of Hendon School, and a dig at the nearby Church Farmhouse Museum, in conjunction with the Hendon and District Archaeological Society. One of these projects, at Bruswood School, Chesham, was featured in the Guardian education supplement.

Several research group members were involved in the founding of an international postgraduate group, the Histories of Archaeology Research Network (HARN). Amara Thurston, Will Carruthers, Gabriel Moshenska and James Doeser were amongst the small group involved in the founding of the network, which has since grown in size and begun to produce a wide variety of publications, including a regular series in the Antiquity project gallery. Regular meetings have been held at the Institute, as well as at Birkbeck, Cambridge and the Society of Antiquaries.

Meetings and seminars
The 2008 meeting of the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory coordinators. In December 2008 Suzanne Keene retired as Reader in Material Culture and Museum Studies, a post taken up in January 2009 by Paul Basu, formerly of the University of Sussex.

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eritage studies at the Institute of Archaeology is a broad and inclusive group encompassing elements of the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. The Heritage Studies Research Group brings together staff and students with a wide range of research foci and skills, and a shared interest in the management, conservation, presentation and study of cultural property. Our research, fieldwork, practice and outreach work is spread across the world, and brings together a wide range of collaborators and stakeholders.

In September 2008 Elisabeth Pye completed her three year term as research group coordinator and Tim Schadla-Hall was elected coordinator, with Theano Moussouri and Renata Peters as deputy

The Heritage Studies Research Group
Coordinator: Tim Schadla-Hall
Deputy Coordinators: Theano Moussouri and Renata Peters
Student Coordinator: Niki Savvides
The Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity (CECD)
Director: James Steele

The CECD is working to define a new evolutionary science of cultural dynamics, with the aim of understanding past and present human cultural diversity. This science will provide a theoretical and methodological framework for the analysis of interdependencies of languages, social systems, material culture, and demography. Our scientific programme focuses at the theoretical level on processes of cultural variation, inheritance, selection, and drift. Our methodological contributions facilitate characterization of the operation of such processes in concrete instances. Our empirical contributions involve the compilation and analysis of archaeological, ethnographic and historical datasets that exemplify these processes. Archaeology is the most-represented discipline among the Centre’s projects and staff, but the contributions from social and biological anthropology and from linguistics are fundamental to the success of our mission.

The main research programme consists of a wide range of projects variously being undertaken by the Centre’s PhD, postdoctoral, and staff researchers. Nine of the Centre’s 40 projects (four completed, five active) have been directly funded by the Centre grant; the remainder are either dependent on external funding, or carried forward in PIs’ own research time. By the end of 2009, 18 Centre projects had been designated as “completed” (consistent with their scheduled durations).

Case studies of CECD research
The Phase One and Phase Two Centres have been making very innovative interdisciplinary contributions to the arts and humanities, exemplifying a quantitative and model-driven approach. Following are two concrete examples which exemplify the research which the Phase One and Phase Two Centres have undertaken. Firstly, we have been concerned to explain human evolution – particularly the evolution of language, and of cultural complexity. During Phase Two we have sponsored published work on the archaeology of early modern human behaviour (a 2006 article in Science on the earliest evidence for personal adornment, a 2009 article in Science relating the “Upper Palaeolithic revolution” to large and densely interconnected social networks, and several forthcoming papers on the evidence for speech capabilities in Neanderthals). Secondly, we have been concerned to explain modern cultural and linguistic diversity – its prehistoric roots, and present-day dynamics. In Phase One we published studies of the branching histories of some of the world’s major language families, the branching processes being apparently associated with the spread of farming. In Phase Two we have explored the archaeology of such population expansion episodes; we have also sponsored a review meeting on phylogenetic techniques in cultural and linguistic analysis (forthcoming as a special issue of Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society), and we have sponsored new mathematical and statistical studies of the effects of political and economic variables on the fates of individual languages (with some becoming very widely spoken, and others going extinct).

Theory and method
Most of our work during 2009 has been a continuation of activity initiated or developed earlier in the Phase Two life cycle. Much of this work was reported at two conferences organized by the Centre in 2008 (Demographic Processes and Cultural Change and Cultural and Linguistic Diversity), with the papers edited during 2009 for journal publication (one set appeared in late 2009, and the other is due to appear in 2010). We have meanwhile further explored by simulation the demographic preconditions for the Upper Palaeolithic revolution in cultural complexity. We have continued to explore statistical tests for cultural selection when drift is the null model of turnover dynamics. We have explored further by simulation the use of phylogenetic methods to estimate transmission histories and explored alternative quantitative techniques for diagnosing phylogenetic signal and reticulation in cultural data. We have continued to develop a quantitative understanding of rates of character evolution under selection in cultural phylogenetic trees. We have also implemented new mathematical models of language shift, inspired by ecological competition models and we have begun to analyse linguistic distance measures based on phonological properties.

Empirical work
Again, most of our work during 2009 has been a continuation of activity initiated or developed earlier in the Phase Two life cycle. We are continuing to address human cultural origins, by reconstructing the evolution of the human speech capacity and by imaging the functional neurology of human tool use. We have analysed transmission histories in Indo-European, Austronesian, and American Northwest Coast languages and kinship systems and in late glacial European hunter-gatherer archaeology. We have further analysed the diffusion and diversity of pottery forms in prehistoric Fiji and in the Hittite and Greek states. We are continuing to characterize prehistoric demographic expansions from radiocarbon data and to document the spread of Neolithic animal economies. We are also continuing to analyse the adoption dynamics of modern durable goods.

Capacity-building
The Centre has continued to meet its commitment to facilitate the academic progress of a new generation of researchers. In 2009 three PhDs were awarded for Centre projects. Two of these students have accepted postdoctoral positions with other groups. Four PhD students are continuing work on other Centre projects. All four of the Phase Two grant-funded Postdoctoral researchers have now progressed to or accepted further academic positions, one as a PDRF with the CECD in UCL, two as PDRFs in other research groups, and one as a Lecturer at the University of Glasgow. Among CECD Principal Investigators, Dietrich Stout left UCL for a position at Emory University, USA, in July 2009, and Ethan Cochrane left UCL for a position in Hawaii in December 2009. Both retain their involvement with the CECD and with specific projects under its umbrella.
New research grant income

Two CECD Principal Investigators based at UCL (Ruth Mace and Stephen Shennan) were successful in the 2009 round of the ERC’s extremely competitive Advanced Investigator competition. They secured grants each worth approximately €2M to progress work applying evolutionary theory and methods to (respectively) the anthropology of social norms, and the later prehistoric archaeology of Europe. These awards will further enhance the status and impact of the new evolutionary science of cultural dynamics, which it has been the CECD’s mission to promote.

Dissemination and outreach

The work of the Phase One and Phase Two AHRC Centres at UCL is now also being progressed through two new initiatives, the new “Centre for the Co-evolution of Biology and Culture” at Durham University (co-directed by CECD Principal Investigator Alex Bentley), and the planned new “Centre for Human Evolution” at UCL, to be directed by CECD Principal Investigator Ruth Mace. University support for such initiatives confirms that CECD members are now accepted as leading international authorities on the theory and applications of cultural evolutionary models within archaeology and anthropology. The increasing interest in this work by workers in the life sciences is demonstrated by the acceptance of CECD conference proceedings as special issues of two interdisciplinary journals that are influential in that field. We have again hosted several international visiting scholars working on topics relevant to the Centre’s mission. During 2009, Centre visitors included Dr Jan Apel (University of Gotland); Prof. Blandine Bril (L’Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris); Professor Jonathan Haas (Field Museum, Chicago); Professor Doug Kennett (University of Oregon); Dr Katerina Parstra (Institute for Language and Speech Processing, Athens); Dr Thembli Russell (University of Witwatersrand). The second Centre Summer School is being planned for 2010, and will further disseminate our approach to a new generation of researchers. Our outreach strategy has meanwhile taken us once again to the British Science Festival, and continues to involve us in innovative collaborations with curriculum experts developing materials for school science teachers. A session on Darwin’s theory and the cultural sciences was organized at the Festival. A DVD-based school resource on the biology, physics and evolution of speech is being completed in collaboration with UCL Linguistics, the Institute of Physics and the Nuffield Curriculum Centre. A temporary exhibition “Discover Culture with Darwin” was mounted by

M.Sc. Museum Studies students at the Institute of Archaeology during the second half of 2009, with CECD as the client. The visiting speaker seminar series was organized by the CECD in the Institute of Archaeology in Spring Term 2009, entitled Darwin’s influence in archaeology and anthropology and thematically linked to the Darwin200 anniversaries.

The International Centre for Chinese Heritage and Archaeology (ICCHA)

Director: Thilo Rehren

The ICCHA is a joint enterprise between the School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University in Beijing, and the UCL Institute of Archaeology here in London. First established in 2003 with considerable support from the Simon Li foundation, it is one of the many enduring initiatives of Peter Ucko, and one he worked for until his very last days. Among its main aims is to strengthen the mutual knowledge of archaeology and heritage in China and the West, in terms of factual knowledge as well as methods for its study, management, preservation and presentation to the wider public. Apart from a steering committee representing the two partner institutions, ICCHA has no formal membership; it addresses the growing community at the Institute of people with an academic or cultural interest in China. This year, we have about a dozen Chinese postgraduate students at the Institute, mostly from mainland China, but also from Taiwan and Hong Kong, and several more whose research is focused on China in one way or another.

ICCHA’s initiatives can be summarized under three headings: student-centred activities, research projects, and exchange and outreach. The first two in particular sometimes overlap, for instance when doctoral students are involved in joint research projects. During term time, our students organize the monthly China Night, with up-to-date presentations of research by staff and students, or indeed visitors. In addition, they organize their own Study Group to support each other, and help new students to adjust to academic life in the UK. China Night topics this year included “Radiocarbon Dating and Precise Archaeological Chronology: A Case Study in Central Plain of China from Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age” by Dr Zhang Hai, a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute, “Trade, Local Taste: Chinese ceramics in late proto-historic Island Southeast Asia” by PhD student Kuang-jen Chang, and “Differences and Relations: An Ongoing Technological study on the Hanzhong Bronze, Southwest China” by Kunlong Chen, a visiting doctoral student from USTB.

Major research projects of the Institute in China include work on early rice domestication and the study of the bronze weapons of the Terracotta Army. Both projects benefit greatly from the involvement of doctoral students from China who are at the Institute thanks to three-year studentships. ICCHA, the UCL Institute of Archaeology, and the students are all extremely grateful for the generous support of the SHKP-Kwoks Foundation in Hong Kong, which is currently supporting six doctoral students from mainland China, and has recently announced their intention to support another three beginning in 2009.

Finally, ICCHA regularly organizes and hosts visits by delegations from Chinese heritage and archaeology institutions, facilitating visits to relevant institutions and sites in the UK. In April, we hosted a delegation from the Beijing Institute of Cultural Relics who spent ten days in the UK, and in May we welcomed 17 Vice-Directors of Provincial Archaeological Institutes from across China. Another regular feature of ICCHA is the organization of international conferences in Beijing. In 2006, Peter Ucko organized a conference on Teaching of Archaeological Field Techniques, the proceedings of which have since been published by Saffron Press as a book (From Concepts of the Past to Practical Strategies; the teaching of archaeological field techniques; P Ucko, Qin Ling and Jane Hubert, eds). Following Peter’s untimely death in June 2007, Peter Stone from Newcastle University kindly agreed to organize the next conference, under the title Sharing Archaeology, which took place in November 2008.

Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA)

Director: Dominic Perring

The Centre for Applied Archaeology, which incorporates Archaeology South-East, formerly the Field Archaeology Unit has had a difficult year. The Centre undertakes much of its work on behalf of the construction industry, which pays for archaeological studies in order to inform planning decisions and to record historic landscapes at risk of being destroyed by new development. Like most archaeological contractors we have been badly affected by the recession in the UK construction industry: there is less work to do, and there is fierce price competition between the surviving
consultancies. Sadly this resulted in eight redundancies within the core team, at the culmination of a protracted and stressful reorganization exercise. In these circumstances it has been difficult to sustain our wider commitments to teaching and applied research: it is simply not possible to find opportunities for student placements and internships at times when permanent jobs are at risk.

Following on from this reorganization the CAA has, however, succeeded in winning sufficient work to sustain a core team of 45 specialist staff. This, in turn, has allowed the Centre to continue in its support for the Institute of Archaeology. This has involved contributing some £150,000 to offset losses elsewhere within the Institute, as well as funding research students, providing teaching support (notably in the summer field school at West Dean), and generating research opportunities and materials through our ongoing fieldwork programme. Highlights of this programme have included:

- The recovery of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic flint assemblages, apparently including late Neanderthal material (Late Middle Palaeolithic), from a fissure site at Beedings in West Sussex (see report in Archaeology International 11, 2007/2008).

- The launching of a community archaeology project (funded by the Beacon Bursary) based on the study of the early Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Whitehawk Camp near Brighton.

- The investigation of a possible Neolithic flint mine found during the construction of a new football stadium at Falmer, Brighton.

- The discovery of a timber trackway, dated c.6000 BP, associated with the wetland landscape of the Thames estuary in advance of the construction of new prison buildings at Belmarsh in Woolwich. This is the earliest known timber structure within the region and further study of the chronology and character of the palaeoenvironmental evidence is now underway.

The CAA continues to develop its heritage management services and is currently providing expert advice on heritage policy and strategy to the Council of Europe (baseline monitoring of the Grenada Convention, with the Paul Drury Partnership), the DCMS (policy review on UK’s current approach to World Heritage), English Heritage (Hadrian’s Wall Management Plan), the CBA (survey of data relevant to ethnic diversity in the archaeology workforce) and others.

One of the consequences of the slackening in the pace of commercial development in the UK is that it has been possible to redirect efforts into publishing and disseminating the results of the work undertaken during the boom years. In addition to launching a new monograph series (with a series of reports due to emerge next year) this has involved publishing all of the “grey literature” reports on-line, for which see: http://www.archaeologiese.co.uk/04-Projects/ReportPDFs.asp
All the overseas projects depend on collaboration with local archaeologists and with the relevant antiquities services, museums or universities. Several of them also involve collaboration with other UK universities, museums and other organizations.