

Professors David Bates and Miri Rubin together with delegates and PG students take a break during the AHRC academic workshop studying the cult of St William of Norwich



Child murder investigated by CEAS

The Centre for East Anglian Studies (CEAS) has been investigating the 12th century murder of a Norwich child.

The centre hosted the first workshop of Prof Miri Rubin's Arts and Humanities Research Council project devoted to the 1144 murder of the boy saint William of Norwich.

The project aims to shed new light on a very difficult episode in Norwich's history - a killing that was later to acquire the reputation as being the first supposed ritual murder anywhere by Jews of a Christian child.

Scholars from around the world, as well as from UEA, engaged in discussions with the

aim of producing a new edition of Thomas of Monmouth's controversial 12th century account of the Passio of the murdered child.

It is hoped that this will lead to a deeper understanding of how the events acquired their place in the global context of the turbulent and too often tragic history of relations between Jews and Christians.

The first day's meetings, on September 3, were held on campus and the second were hosted by Norwich cathedral in the Prior's Hall.

Science community saddened by death of Chris Lamb

The international scientific community has been greatly saddened by the sudden death of Prof Chris Lamb CBE FRS, director of the John Innes Centre.

Chris Lamb was one of the world's leading and most influential plant biologists. He made seminal contributions to scientific knowledge and combined this with exceptionally highly respected leadership of renowned plant science research centres - initially as founder of the plant biology department at the Salk Institute, California and, for the past decade, as director of the John Innes Centre, an Institute of BBSRC.

A major legacy of his is the talent he spotted, recruited and mentored. He found ways to continue to stretch and reward those around him and delighted in sharpening the critical thinking skills of co-workers. He continued to manage his own research group alongside his duties as director.

From the 1980s, Chris pioneered research in the molecular mechanisms that underlie how plants defend themselves against attack by pathogens. His research has not only contributed to our understanding of how

economically important crops can be protected from disease but has also established new conceptual frameworks that have been adopted by scientists in other fields. He remains one of the world's most highly cited researchers in plant science.

Trevor Davies, pro-vice-chancellor for Research, Enterprise and Engagement, said: "Chris was a central figure in the development of the science and enterprise vision for the Norwich Research Park. His death is a terrible loss to NRP as well as to the John Innes Centre and to plant science.

"He was an outstanding scientist who made enormous contributions to our understanding of plants.

"He did this through the innovative thinking and imagination in his own personal research, his gift in bringing out the best in those who worked closely with him, and his inspirational leadership of the John Innes Centre, one of the very top plant science research centres in the world."

He is survived by his wife, Jane, and their children Catherine, William and Donald. He had recently become a grandfather to Sadie.

New STEMNet post appointed



A new STEMNet brokerage coordinator for Norfolk has been appointed within SCL.

Angela Carpenter has taken on the role, with responsibility to engage and work with primary and secondary schools

across Norfolk, to enrich and enhance their participation in activities focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Based in the Blackdale building, Angela will research a comprehensive portfolio of events and activities for schools, and broker the relationships between the schools and activity providers. She will work closely with colleagues across the university, such as Aimhigher Norfolk, CUE East and Admissions and Outreach, to deliver the very best programme of support possible to the schools.

Literacy and Development

Literacy researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world have gathered on campus for a conference organised by the cross-school EDU/DEV Literacy and Development Group.

The conference, held from September 1-3 and opened by the Vice Chancellor Prof Edward Acton, discussed topics including the role literacy education can play in transforming gender inequalities, and what the links are between literacy, illiteracy and social justice.

The event was sponsored by the British Academy and UNESCO, and the university's Alumnae Fund also provided bursaries for 20 UEA students to attend. Speakers included Prof Lynn Mario Menezes de Souza from the University of Sao Paulo, who explored an indigenous group's experiences in Brazil in relation to government literacy programmes, and Prof Suresh Canagarajah from Pennsylvania State University, who discussed a 'novice' writer's interactions with the editorial team of an academic journal. Meanwhile Sabine Kube from UNESCO gave an overview of the progress of the UN Literacy Decade.

New blood for choir

The UEA Choir, Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra are looking for new talent with a recruitment drive for staff and students.

UEA Choir is around 100 strong and made up from students and staff as well as members of the wider community. The Chamber Choir is a smaller ensemble which may be of interest to more experienced singers and the Symphony Orchestra is always on the look out for competent players.

Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Sarah on x2450, s.gore@uea.ac.uk.