AFTER SUSSEX - WHAT NEXT?

Geoffrey Prior-kendal forde, in his second article for The Bulletin this term, looks at the statistics of first employment of Sussex graduates.

The occupations taken up by graduates are coming under increasingly close scrutiny these days. It is perhaps surprising that the annual publication of this information by H.M.S.O. on behalf of the University Careers Committee began only with 1962 graduates, following an earlier decision by careers advisers in a number of universities to collect data on the broad nature of the first occupations taken up by their graduates.

The university figures are published in a booklet entitled 'First Destination of University Graduates', which now receives widespread public attention, and since the inclusion of a table showing the statistics for individual institutions in 1971, has to some extent been used to judge the relative 'performance' of different universities.

This may be unfortunate, for three reasons, but it is unavoidable given the press interest in the subject. Firstly, each Careers Service collects the information in different ways, making small differences between the various institutions' results of no statistical significance. Secondly, the proportion of graduates whose destinations are 'unknown' varies widely — in 1974 from 1.8% at Edinburgh to 30.8% at Bristol. This is a serious problem at Sussex, where despite strenuous efforts by the Occupational Advisory Service (OAS) the rate of 'unknowns' remains very high.

The OAS very much hopes that current final year students will recognize the importance of this information and will be prepared to complete their questionnaires when the time comes and also that faculty will encourage them to do so.

Thirdly, the figures are published more than a year after they were collected and more than eighteen months after the students concerned graduated, by which time the employment situation has probably changed entirely.

It was because of this delay in publication and the misinterpretation of the figures by the press, with its consequent effect on attitudes particularly in schools, that the Central Services Unit for University and Polytechnic Careers Services (C.S.U.) has begun to publish the figures itself, at a very much earlier date.

Universities submit their figures to the Universities' Statistical Record (U.S.R.) in January, reflecting the position of the previous year's graduates at 31st December. The Sussex figures for those graduates whose destinations were known are shown in the text (back page), and are compared with those for the previous year and with the national statistics for 1974.

The major differences between the Sussex picture and the national one over a number of years has been the very much higher proportion of our students going on to research or further academic study (second only to Oxford), rather fewer going into teacher training (though the national figure dropped to the Sussex level in 1974), a rather higher proportion being in temporary employment and a lower proportion going directly into long term employment.

There is no evidence that Sussex students are at any real disadvantage when applying for jobs because of the nature of the courses which they have taken here. Indeed the high proportions going on to further study is a credit to the calibre of the students. The differences that do occur seem to be largely dependent on the attitude of our graduates. It is undoubtedly true that consistently over the years a greater number of students from this University have continued on back page.

THE BULLETIN AND DIARY OF EVENTS

This is the last BULLETIN of this term. The Information Office would like to thank all those who have contributed items to THE BULLETIN and DIARY OF EVENTS this term.

Reports from Planning Committee, Senate and Council will be published in the first issue next term.

Contributions for THE BULLETIN, which the Information Office will continue publishing fortnightly during term-time, should be sent to JENNIFER PAYNE, INFORMATION OFFICE, SUSSEX HOUSE. (ext. 06-153)

Items for the DIARY OF EVENTS, published weekly during term-time, should reach VERA NOVELLI (06-116) or DEE FRASER (06-184) in the INFORMATION OFFICE, by not later than the Monday afternoon prior to publication.
EASTERN MUSIC

Musical readings for Passiontide and Easter, "The Voice at the Tomb", arranged by John Birks, Julian Ellsray and Stephen Meddow, will take place in the Meeting House Chapel on Sunday, March 14, at 8.00pm. Admission free.
SPACE PHYSICS RESEARCH

Grants totalling approximately £240,000 have been awarded by the Science Research Council over the past two years to Dr. G. Martelli, Reader in Experimental Physics in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, in support of his group's work in Space Physics.

The research programme involves the use of instrumented rockets, ground based observations and the analysis of data from satellite borne equipment. Work is undertaken not only in laboratories at Sussex but also at a rocket range inside the Arctic Circle.

The group's research is mainly concerned with phenomena that occur in the ionosphere, the top layer of the atmosphere, and in the magnetosphere, the cavity within which the Earth's magnetic field is confined.

The group is particularly interested in studying oscillations which occur in the ionospheric and magnetospheric plasma and the way in which these oscillations accelerate plasma particles to very high energies.

A plasma is a gas consisting of equal numbers of positively and negatively charged particles as well as neutral particles.

These phenomena are especially conspicuous at high latitudes and, for this reason, the group will be flying equipment on high altitude sounding rockets to be launched during the winters of 1976/77 and 1977/78 from a Norwegian rocket range on the small island on Andoya, about 300 km north of the Arctic Circle.

The group will also study the phenomena under laboratory conditions in specially built "plasma" machines.

The latest grant of more than £117,000 is in support of the group's participation in the Geostationary Experimental Orbiting Satellite (GEOS) project. GEOS will be launched in mid-1977 by the European Space Agency.

This satellite, which remains above the same point on the Earth's surface, will study plasma waves and particles present in space some 36,000 km from the Earth. Data acquired in this project will be relevant and complementary to the information obtained from sounding rockets.

Together with other groups in France, Holland and Denmark, Sussex is contributing to an experiment which will study wave phenomena in the frequency range 0-77 KHz.

The Sussex group's contribution to this international programme will be the analysis of wave data which it will receive on magnetic tape from the telemetry stations. This information will be processed by a mini computer system and displayed on a sophisticated graphics terminal. The person analyzing the data will be able to do so interactively, that is, by modifying the display as understanding of the data increases.

In addition, a link will be provided to the SRC's Atlas computer laboratory where a microfilm plotter will be used. The facilities of a data pre-processing centre, which is being established by the French National Space Agency in Toulouse, will also be available to the group.

These experiments have a dual aim. On the one hand, there is the obvious objective of improving understanding of the magnetospheric processes.

On the other hand, says Dr. Martelli, we may take the view that nature has provided us, in the magnetosphere, with the theoreticians' dream, namely an unbounded plasma.

This has the important implication that many of the fundamental processes occurring in plasmas, which at the moment are poorly understood, can be studied in the magnetosphere without complications found in using a laboratory machine.

It is hoped that experiments will both further our understanding of the physics of the Earth's environment and at the same time contribute towards the achievement of one of the plasma physicists' primary goals, namely, the understanding of the plasma instabilities which until now have prevented the attainment of controlled thermonuclear reactions.

Dr. Martelli's group consists of one other permanent member of staff, Dr. P. Christiansen, three research fellows, Dr. M. J. Giles, Dr. J. R. W. Hunter and Dr. P. N. Smith, all former D. Phil. Sussex students, and a number of research students.

STRAVINSKY IN THE LIBRARY

Eric Walter White, writer, musicologist and biographer of Igor Stravinsky, has presented to the University Library part of his comprehensive collection of scores and books about the composer.

His gift, which was arranged through the good offices of Professor Donald Mitchell, includes some 20 books published between 1921 and 1975, and 80 scores, full and miniature, together with scores of Stravinsky's vocal and piano arrangements of his own works.

A considerable proportion of these are scarce items which it would not otherwise have been possible to add to the Library's resources.

The other part of Mr. White's collection has been given to the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

An exhibition of Stravinsky items from the gift to Sussex is on view in the University Library this month.

FACULTY INVOLVEMENT

The officers responsible for the activities or services listed below like to maintain registers of members of the University who might be interested in attending discussions on the activities or assisting in the service. If you have an interest you would please write to the person listed.

University Lecturer - Professor L. D. Lerner, Arts.
Official Publications - Acting Information Officer, Sussex House.
Ceremonials - Registrar & Secretary, Sussex House.
Continuing Education - Director of Centre for Continuing Education, E.D.B.
Lecturing to Local Groups etc. - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Undergraduate Admissions - Admissions Officer, Sussex House.
Graduate Admissions - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Representing University on School and College Governing Bodies - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
University Health Service - Director, U.H.S., Refectory Terrapin.
Occupational Advisory Service - Head of O.A.S., Refectory Terrapin.
Community Services - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Sport and Recreation - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Creche - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Catering - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Site Amenities - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Gardner Arts Centre - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Accommodation - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Media Services - The Librarian.
Library - The Librarian, Library.
Bookshop - Bookshop Manager, Library.
Registration Week - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Safety and Environmental Health - Safety Officer, Estates & Maintenance Building.
Service, compared with the year before, rather fewer going to local government and the hospital service, fewer going to industry and more going to commercial employers such as accountancy firms and banks.

In fact about one third went to central and local government and hospitals (35%), another one third to private industry and commerce (37%) and the remainder (28%) to employment in educational institutions, public utilities, publishing and cultural and entertainment organisations. It is of course the public sector jobs which are likely to be most badly affected by the economic position in 1976.

A full statistical report on the first destination of Sussex 1975 graduates and lists showing by subject and school the actual occupations entered by our graduates in both 1975 and 1974 can be obtained by members of the University from the O.A.S. Please telephone Helena Blin-Stoyle on 04-604.

Geoffrey Prior-Wandesforde

SCHOLARSHIPS

* The Government of Malta is inviting applications for a Commonwealth Scholarship tenable from October 1976 at the Royal University of Malta or the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology.

The scholarship is available for graduate/undergraduate courses in Arts, Science, Engineering and Architecture, Dental Surgery and Medicine and Surgery. Applications must be made by March 15 and further details are available from Mr. L.A. Suss, Science Office, Sussex House.

* The RTZ Educational Trust, sponsored by Rio Tinto-Zinc, has instituted the following awards tenable at the Royal School of Mines:

1) RTZ Research Bursary for postgraduate research in some subject connected with the discovery, mining and benneting of minerals. The Bursary, basic value £1,280, will be tenable for one year and renewable normally for a second and third year. Applicants must hold a degree with honours in a subject appropriate to the proposed research.

2) RTZ Advanced Course Bursaries for a full-time postgraduate course of advanced study of one session leading to the award of the Diploma of Membership of the Imperial College (D.I.C) and possibly the MSc degree of London University. The basic value of the bursary is £1,230. Applicants must hold a first degree in a specified subject. Courses offered are Engineering Rock Mechanics, Geophysics, Mineral Exploration, Mineral Process Design, Mineral Production Management.

Applications for the above RTZ awards must be made to Imperial College by March 31. Further details from Mrs. L.A. Suss, Science Office, Sussex House.

* Van den Berghs & Jurgens is to make awards of £500, £250 and £100 during 1976 for the best studies in depth on any current human nutritional problem or attitude.

These can be in the form of either research findings, commentary or essay, previously unpublished, and must be submitted before July 31. Further details from Mr. L.A. Suss, Science Office, Sussex House.

First Destination of University First Degree Graduates

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<td>Teacher Training</td>
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<td>Other Professional Training</td>
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<td>2Employment or Study Arranged But Not Yet Started</td>
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<td>In Temporary Employment</td>
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(Note 1. This category includes overseas students returning home, those who are sponsored by employers while at university and those not available to take up employment for other reasons.

Note 2. This category was discontinued in 1975).

Bio-Energetic workshops

Next term there will be two Bio-Energetic workshops and an Encounters/ Growth weekend with Gestalt Therapy. There will also be an evening group.

Those interested should contact Geoffrey Whitfield in the Meeting House.

(continued from front page...