Honorary degrees for Pinter and Fraser

Lady Antonia Fraser, the biographer and historian, and her husband, playwright Harold Pinter, are both to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at the Summer Graduation Ceremony on 17th July.

Lady Antonia (pictured below) and Mr. Pinter have both visited the University on previous occasions. During one visit, Mr. Pinter gave a reading of a new piece of work and took part in a question and discussion session. More recently, Lady Antonia gave a lecture on the reactions to war of women leaders from Boadicea to Margaret Thatcher.

Another DLitt will be awarded to Professor Serge Moscovici, Director of l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales in Paris.

Professor Charles Kuen Koo, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Professor Hans Triebel, Professor of Analysis at the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena will both be awarded the degree of Doctor of Science.

Applications reach all-time high

Applications for admission to undergraduate courses have reached an all-time high. Applications through UCAS for entry last year showed an increase of more than 12 per cent over the previous year, but the rate has now increased still further, with a 20 per cent increase in applications for 1990.

Signing the statement of Intent (from left): Paul Doe, Area Manager of the Housing Corporation; Anthony Lafort, Chairman of the Kelsey Housing Association; the Vice-Chancellor; Tehm Framrose, member of the Housing Committee, Brighton Borough Council; and David Fordham, Senior Manager of Banque Paribas.

Work begins soon on more student accommodation

A statement of intent was signed on 10th April which will lead to new student accommodation. The accommodation project will involve the University, Kelsey Housing Association, the Housing Corporation and Brighton Borough Council in one of the first such collaborative ventures. Work on the project will begin in early June.

The new development will consist of 60 five-bedroomed houses at the north end of the campus; the houses will be built in yellow and red brick around landscaped courtyards and some will be designed specifically to allow wheelchair access.

The scheme is being financed with initial grants from the Housing Corporation and the University and with additional support from Brighton Council and Kelsey. The first 30 houses will be ready for occupation in October 1991 and the rest will be completed during 1992.

The Kelsey scheme will provide 300 student bedrooms which, as the Vice-Chancellor remarked at the signing, "represents the biggest expansion in campus housing for more than 15 years and will complement other schemes as part of the University's planned growth of the University over the next few years."

Sir Leslie also said that, "hand in hand with our academic developments, we are determined that we should provide the appropriate social and welfare facilities."

Another development with the Bradford Northern Housing Association for a further 262 bedrooms received planning consent (subject to minor details) from Brighton on 11th April.
The Brighton Festival at the Gardner

Celebration of Eastern Europe

This year's Brighton Festival has a distinctly Eastern European theme. Artists, writers, musicians and companies from Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany will be visiting Britain — many for the first time. 1990 has seen some of the greatest changes in the history of Europe, with poets, playwrights and musicians all playing key roles. The Gardner offers a unique opportunity for Western audiences to witness contemporary Eastern European cultural expression first-hand, alongside Eastern European performances by established British artists.

The Festival kicks off at the Gardner with the British premiere of Russian poet Marina Tsveteva's Phaedra in a newly-commissioned translation by Michael Glenny from Thursday, 3rd to Sunday, 6th May. The Actors Touring Company presents this tense, thrilling and deeply personal reworking of the Greek legend of Phaedra's lust for Hippolytus by one of the greatest Russian poets of this century. A tangled triangle of surging emotion and illicit passion, ATC's production is spare, striking, cruel and gripping.

Long-time favourites of both the Gardner and Brighton Festival, the Chillingirian String Quartet (pictured right) present their regular Summer Series of four Sunday concerts at 4pm from 6th to 27th May, each preceded by an introductory talk by Michael Hall. Featuring the works of Dvorak, Martinu, Ariaga, Mansuryan and Schubert, the Quartet will be joined for two of their concerts by guest artists Duncan McTier on double bass and Karine Georgian on 'cello. Those booking for all four concerts before the end of April can take advantage of the special Four-For-The-Price-of-Three offer on ticket prices.

The British premiere of one of the exceptional phenomena of theatre life — Drak Theatre — takes place on 9th May. Recognised as one of the key figures in the European avant garde this outstanding Czechoslovakian company combines human performers with puppets in powerful, dynamic form. With strong appeal to a wide age range, including children, Drak presents The Mill of Kavela (9th and 10th), the Nordic legend of the evil Lady of the Ice Mountain, and The Bartered Bride (11th and 12th), one of the greatest Czech legends set in a circus arena with actors, dancers, musicians and puppets.

All the Gardner’s available gallery space is dedicated to one unique Festival exhibition which chronicles the work of Ballet Rambert (4th - 27th May). Designs, sculpture, props, costumes, paintings, production photography and archive material have been meticulously collected to create a special celebration of this exceptional dance company which, under the direction of Richard Alston made a deliberate policy of collaborating with painters and sculptors. The exhibition will include the work of artists such as Bridget Riley, Howard Hodgkin, Richard Smith and Bruce McLean. Details of these and all Gardner Centre activities is available in the new Gardner Centre brochure or by contacting the Box Office on Brighton 685861.

News from the
Mass-Observation
Archive

One hundred thousand photographs have been presented to the Mass-Observation Archive by the cancer research charity, Search 88.

The photographs were all entries to a fund-raising competition organised by Search 88 called 'A Day for Life' which invited people to capture the spirit of the times on just one day: 14th August 1988.

Most of the photographs are postcard size colour prints taken by non-professional photographers from all over the UK and they cover an enormous variety of subjects. Work has not yet begun on sorting and listing the collection.

The photographs will make a valuable addition to the Mass-Observation in the Eighties project which has been collecting written accounts (in the form of diaries and detailed responses to themes suggested by the Archive) since 1981. The project is currently funded by the Nuffield Foundation and is due to continue in its present form until 1991.

The latest Mass-Observation book was published on 23rd April. Wartime Women edited by Dorothy Sheridan, the archivist, is an anthology of writing by and about women selected from the Archive. It is being published by Heinemann in hardback and will cost £14.95. It includes extracts from diaries and personal writing as well as more formal reports written by Mass-Observers during the Second World War. For more information about the Archive, please phone 8157. Visitors are welcome but appointments are necessary for research. The Archive, which is in the main University Library, is open Mondays to Thursdays.

The University Bookshop is marking the publication of Wartime Women with a special window display until 4th May of Mass-Observation publications and other material.

Alternative Workfair

The annual Alternative Workfair, organised by the Students' Union, will be held on Tuesday, 1st May from 11.30 am to 4.30 pm in Mandela Hall. It provides an opportunity for students from all years and courses to gain information about a wide variety of careers outside the more traditional career pattern. The fair, sponsored by Endleigh Insurance Services, will give students a chance to learn about careers in: alternative technology, trades unions, counselling services, alternative education establishments, volunteer organisations, ethical investment, legal organisations, natural health organisations, aid and development, women's organisations. A creche will be available from 11.30 am to 4.30 pm in the Debating Chamber, First Floor, Palmer House.

Fashion Show

Most of the large high street fashion shops, such as Marks & Spencer, Next, British Home Stores and Dorothy Perkins, will be represented at a fashion show to be held in the Refectory, Level 1, on 16th May. Tickets are 75p each in advance or £1 on the door. Doors open at 5.30 pm and the show starts at 6.00 pm. After the show there will be an opportunity to buy the clothes shown at half normal retail prices. The clothes are not seconds but end of run lines. Gate profits will go to Kulukundis House in their fundraising year. Tickets are available from Su Balcombe, Housing Office, Refectory Level 1, (tel. 8220).

Security

Members of staff are advised not to leave money in their offices unless they have access to a safe. Please don't put temptation in other people's way.
FRS for Harry Kroto

Professor Harry Kroto was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society at a meeting of the Society on 15th March. In announcing the award, the Royal Society cited his “spectroscopic studies of the structure of unstable molecules, notably leading to the discovery of cyanopolycytylenes in space. Recent studies of carbon vapour led him to identify new structures, notably the ‘carbon football’—C₆₀.”

New Professors

Miss Jennifer Platt has been promoted to a Professorship in Sociology with effect from 1st October 1989. Dr. T.E. Crow has been appointed to the Chair in the History of Art from 1st July 1990.

Royal Astronomical Society appointment

Sussex graduate Dr. Kathryn Whaler was elected one of the three secretaries of the Royal Astronomical Society on 9th March. She was an undergraduate in MAPS from 1974-77 and obtained a first class honours degree in Mathematical Physics. Subsequently she obtained a PhD in geophysics at Cambridge and she is now a New Blood Lecturer in the Department of Earth Sciences at Leeds.

Dr. Gene Schulkind

In the morning of Tuesday, 20th March, Dr. Gene Schulkind, formerly a member of the Sussex faculty, died in hospital after a long illness. He had been forced to retire on medical grounds as long ago as 1983, but in the last year or so his condition had deteriorated sharply.

No-one who knew Gene could ever forget him: the very type of the Anglophile American combining fierce integrity in scholarly matters with a positively boisterous eagerness and warmth of approach. He came to Sussex in October 1965 as Lecturer in French. His unusual academic background — he had had, among other things, both a literary and a historical training — was peculiarly appropriate for someone whose enduring concern was with France and the French. Typically, he disregarded our narrow English specialisms, and, faced with the choice of teaching either in literature or in history, chose instead both, becoming our first — and in all probability our only — Reader in French History and Literature. Perhaps his most notable public achievement while at Sussex was his masterly organisation of the great conference and exhibition that marked the 100th anniversary of the Paris Commune.

He was a scrupulous and exacting scholar and tutor, a loyal and enthusiastic colleague, and a man of passionate idealism and rare generosity of spirit. We who knew him mourn his passing.

George Craig

Thermoluminescence is in fashion and funds

One method for studying imperfections in transparent materials is to use thermoluminescence. The basic idea of the technique is that when materials are exposed to radiation, such as X-rays or natural radioactivity, electrons within the sample move to metastable sites. The defect sites may keep the trapped electrons for many thousands of years but when the crystal is heated the electrons escape.

During their subsequent movement to more stable sites, light is emitted. Measurement of the light is extremely sensitive so it is possible to record the radiation history of the material. The method is widely used for health physics monitoring, and in archaeology for dating artefacts.

Here at Sussex, Professor Peter Townsend and Dr. Helen Rendell are in the forefront of using the method to date geological sands and wind blown soils.

Whilst most groups just collect the total light, the Sussex team has tackled the much more challenging problem of measuring the spectrum of the emitted light. This extra information gives a better insight into the physics of the defect interactions and, in practice, failure to record the spectral information can lead to serious errors in interpretation. The present Sussex system is good, but not sensitive enough for current problems. However, help is on the way in the form of a grant of £188,575 from the Science and Engineering Research Council to Professor Townsend, Dr. Rendell and Dr. David Betts to build a totally new Physics spectrometer system.

Additional advice is being provided by another thermoluminescence expert, Professor McKeever of Oklahoma State, who is visiting the group for six months.

Further recognition of the Sussex rating in this field comes with an Acciones Integrales award from the British Council to the Townsend/Rendell team. This latest grant is for a collaborative project on dating of wind blown soils in Spain with members of the Autonoma Universidad de Madrid. This grant will fund field-work, travel between the sites and an extended visit of the Spaniards to use Sussex equipment.

One further thermoluminescence award to Helen Rendell of $6,300 is for a study of Aeolian material from Arizona.

Personal Tutoring

One of the most important functions in the University is that of Personal Tutor, but there are few opportunities for Personal Tutors to meet, to share their experiences and to develop their skills. This term five sessions have been organised in collaboration with the Personal Counsellor, Dr. Michael Burton, to be held during Tuesday lunchtimes between 1 and 2 pm commencing on 8th May. They will take place in the group room on the top floor of Falmer House (south-west corner). Each individual session will focus on one particular aspect of the work of the Personal Tutor.

8th May — Difficulties that students experience with Personal Tutors. Categories of Intervention.

15th May — Basic skills in questioning. Role of Tutor as friend/counsellor/parent.

22nd May — Dealing with academic problems.

29th May — Dealing with special student groups, including issues of disability, race, gender and social class.

5th June — Support for the Personal Tutor. Other aspects of the role.

It is hoped that participants will attend all five sessions, but it is recognised that this may not be possible for some. Further details are available from Sally Church (Room 4A4 Physics Building, ext. 3045). Since places are limited it would be helpful if those planning to attend could let Sally or me know beforehand.

Brian Smith

Teaching and Learning Coordinator

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Through your columns might I ask how ‘The University’ (whatever that actually is) is able to reconcile its new green image (Annual Report, recycled paper, Outstanding Natural Beauty, etc.) and its recent underfunding (the 5.1 per cent ‘extra’ for next year) with the imminent plans to build a new road across previously unspoilt land and to create yet another new entrance to the site?

To quote the only other journal I read with as much care — we should be told'.

Yours, etc.

S.D. Carter
Speech by the Vice-Chancellor to the University Court on 16th March, 1990

Your Grace and Chancellor,

Such has been the pace of events, it seems only the other month that the Court was last assembled in this Meeting House. The impression is no doubt heightened by my advancing years; certainly these days, not only Professors but University Chancellors look younger — Your Grace naturally no exception. But also the University has been moving quite fast, and seems likely to be moving yet faster in the year ahead, and very much in the right direction.

I shall be brief. I have clear views on issues such as UFC funding, student loans, and the University Commissioners. But I shall concentrate this year on our own internal scene, rather than on national and international affairs. And I shall divide my remarks into four categories: something old and something new, something borrowed and something blue.

By something old, I refer back to matters foreshadowed when I had the honour to address the Court in March 1989, and which have since emerged more fully into the light of day.

The University has decided to introduce a modular and highly modernised curriculum. Courses are at this moment being restructured into one-year modules, to start in September 1992. Students will have greater ease of movement between courses. They will be able to come and go at one-year intervals between Sussex and other HE institutions, at home and abroad, transferring their modular credits as they go. This change will not only assist the greater mobility of the traditional student, but will also allow mature students and professional people who are better served by short, sharp spells of study. The curriculum itself has also undergone, and will continue to undergo, modernisation and streamlining, both to sustain high academic standards and to meet student and employer demand. New Majors have been introduced — including new combined honours offered, for example, in Science and Management Studies. A highly topical new degree in Ecology and Conservation is to be introduced in October; another, in Geography and Environmental Studies, will be launched next year. Both will tie in with the intended environmental strategy of the University, to which I shall refer later.

Access arrangements have been extended, in collaboration with local colleges, and a vigorous policy pursued on admissions, with striking success, for which the team concerned deserve full credit. This time last year, applications were up by 12 per cent over the year before; this time round, they are up a further 20 per cent — to a number not bettered at Sussex for over 20 years. We have a full house, and expect to keep one, despite the onset of the much heralded demography trough. Our tradition of forms of access has been recognised by the award of a contract by the Training Agency to head a regional consortium looking into the use of non-standard admissions criteria, including experiential leaning.

Research in the University continues to flourish, although in an increasingly competitive national environment, where last year we ranked 15th out of 56, in the UFC’s Research Selectivity Exercise. We remain in the first division, with the great majority of units across the University assessed as having attained national and international levels of excellence. But Sussex will have to work hard to narrow the gap with Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial; and to draw ahead of the big civic universities who are hard at our heels. Our traditionally high income from research must be sustained, and if possible enlarged.

University governance has been further adapted to the new needs and changing external environment of the University, notably in regard to the system of decanal selection. A coherent and purposeful management team is now in place to support the Vice-Chancellor in his capacities as the University’s Chief Executive (answerable to the Council), and as the Public Accounting Officer (answerable for the University’s finances to Parliament). We are in the process of implementing another national requirement, through the introduction of a system of staff appraisal, for which the necessary training and administrative support is now in place.

I am sure that as a Board we will be glad to hear that our co-operation with Brighton Polytechnic has developed steadily over the past year. Certain engineering courses have been homogenised and the first graduates from the joint Polytechnic/University MSc courses received their degrees from the Polytechnic Director and myself at the Winter ceremony in January. A further step in our collaborative programme is the new postgraduate diploma in Art History to be taught between the University, the Polytechnic and the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. I pay tribute to my opposite number at the Polytechnic, Professor Geoffrey Hall, CBE, who will shortly be retiring; and look forward to carrying the inter-institutional relationships further forward with his successor.

Our overseas activities have continued to expand. Relations with one of Japan’s very front universities were formalised in the form of a co-operation agreement which I signed in Kyoto last autumn. A task force has been set up on campus to strengthen our links with the Far East as a whole. I shall be revisiting Japan and Korea in May for this purpose. Europe, too, continues to be very much our oyster. The French Ambassador, visiting the campus recently, was prised to discover that as many as one in five of our British undergraduates is embarked on a four-year Euro BA, Euro BSc or Euro BEng course — twice the ratio aimed at for the European Community at large, under the latter’s ERASMUS scheme. We are academically much more involved in Eastern Europe also — an interest underlined by the visit to this campus last summer of the late Academician Andrei Sakharov, on whom I had the pleasure of confering an Honorary Doctorate of Science. We are ready to respond to the growing demand of East Europeans for education and training in the West.

And now Your Grace, I turn to matters new to the Court.

I begin by saluting Admiral Sir Lindsay Byson, our new Chairman of Council, a high office which he combines with that of Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex; just as Your Grace is Chancellor, and also Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex. Happily, this instance, if East is East and West is West, the twain nevertheless do meet, and meet frequently. We are fortunate in the succession to Lord Trafford, whose sudden death last year left the University saddened and diminished. I shall return to Tony Trafford’s memory in a moment.

I take this opportunity to inform the Court of the election of Mr. Neil Robinson as President of the Students’ Union; and to thank Mr. Rosemary Bridger, the outgoing President, for the positive leadership and good sense which she has unfailingly brought to her difficult responsibilities. It has been a pleasure for Mr David Streatfeather, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, to work with Rosemary, and for me personally to do business with Rosemary — most recently on the issue of safety on campus — and we wish her well for the future.

The Court should know that building work will commence in May on the construction, in conjunction with the Kelsey Housing Association, of another 300 student accommodation units on campus; while work on a further 272 units will start in June, with the Bradford and Northern Housing Association.

This development is all the more welcome for the fact that the student body itself is expanding and will I believe continue to do so. My management team has concluded that we should aim to reach the level of 6,000 students within the UFC four-year planning period which will run to 1994. In other words, that we should plan to increase numbers by one third from the level of last year.

I personally would wish to go further at a later date. I consider that we should use the immediately following four-year planning periods to reach 9,000 students (or double last year’s numbers) at the outset of the XXI Century — all this under the slogan “Three by two by 2002". But such a decision is not for now. What the University is required to do this year is to concentrate on the four-year period immediately ahead.

We are not yet certain that expansion by one third by 1994 will be achievable; feasibility studies have still to be completed. Clear-cut proposals will be coming to Senate and Council at the end of the Summer Term. The UFC’s new way of handling our affairs — involving competitive tendering and greater selectivity in research funding — calls for careful analysis and may require some difficult decisions at Sussex.

But expansion is in the air. The long term interests of the University require it. No growth is not an option. Growth includes responding to the training needs of our region. The Court will welcome this, given the growing and projected future shortage of graduates in the economy, and the increasing emphasis on the importance of British universities by both Government and Opposition to help promote a large-scale, long-term enlargement of higher education, for the benefit of all. I shall have much more to say about this next year.

More students — and we have this year already taken in an additional 10 per cent — will mean more faculty — and by this September teaching faculty numbers will have risen to 407. But if we continued on next page
we expand student- and teacher-numbers significantly beyond that, we shall need substantial other facilities, enhanced funding for research, and additional academic endowments. I shall return to this theme later, in connection with fund-raising.

But I will mention now the Trafford Centre for Medical Research, already in being and named in honour of Lord Trafford, who did so much to get it started and to associate more effectively the researchers on our campus and those working in the same fields in our distinguished local hospitals and elsewhere. Medical research is one of the academic areas in the University earmarked for expansion; and an appeal will shortly be launched to give the Trafford Centre the full resources it needs in tackling heart disease, drug addiction, breast cancer, premature age and other afflictions.

As I mentioned earlier, we are now paying much closer attention to environmental issues, as befits the only British university to be located in an area of outstanding natural beauty; and as an institution alert to the preoccupations of society at large. We have a good academic base from which to contribute “Green” diagnosis and prescription, on a scholarly and scientific basis. And we are setting a good practical example: this year’s Annual Report, and Prospectus — the University’s two most important publications — have been printed on recycled paper, as are our regular internal newspapers. A comprehensive “Green” strategy is under elaboration and will be announced later this year.

Finally, Your Grace, something new about our image as the first of the New Universities. Notwithstanding the manifest academic distinction apparent to me on my arrival here, I came to suspect that we had not always promoted ourselves as effectively as we could, outside our own academic circles. Or at any rate not to Mr Everyman on his Chatham Omnibus. We have to go beyond the schools and colleges we already know well, to the general public.

For example, some ignorant souls are still surprised to learn that we have a flourishing and respected University science area, believing us to be merely some kind of a liberal arts college. Other equally enlightened individuals believe us to be an intolerant and extreme bastion of revolutionaries, somewhere to the Left of the comrades in Albania and North Korea. If so, I hope that this year’s Chatham College Toast (all I can say is that they must be “darn few, and all dead”). The University of Sussex, as I know it, is first and foremost a community of scholars, who are there to “get on with it”, in study, teaching and research. It is also a humane, pluralist and progressive community, with no corporate party political affiliation; where freedom of speech, of political conviction and of religious observance is respected; and where the increasing liberties won by the citizens of Eastern Europe are daily celebrated.

To address this perplexing phenomenon of image, we are being advised free of charge for a year by a senior executive of Saatchi and Saatchi. His potential role is not to administer “a little bit of powder and a little bit of paint, to make a little girl look like just what she ain’t”. Rather, taking from us the kind of place we are and what we have to offer, Saatchi are helping us to find better ways of putting just that across. We already have an increasingly high media profile — to cite one of several current manifestations, the BBC are televisualing a series of Sunday services from this Chapel during Lent, under the leadership of our University Chaplains. (You are all welcome to join us next Sunday at 9.15 am.)

Your Grace, after the old and the new, I come to something borrowed. I refer to the commodity known as money. Always in short supply, especially at a university. I do not want to launch into a dirge. Happily, Sussex is not in such dire straits as some. Our budget, while in need of major refurbishment to the tune of £8-9 million over the next five years, have not yet fallen down. Present teaching and research can do with more ample means, but continue

nevertheless. We still hold useful if slender reserves; and, as the Treasurer will report to Your Grace, the current account, in the red the year before last to the tune of three quarters of a million pounds, is for the year now ending just about back in the black.

But we are already close to capacity in our present buildings. We cannot expand and prosper without additional funds. The scale of Government funding is not likely to increase significantly in the immediately foreseeable future. Therefore, with Your Grace’s blessing, and that of Council, we shall be launching a series of linked drives over the next 12 to 18 months, with the aim of raising up to £15 million from enterprises and private benefactors. We shall begin with the Trafford Appeal already mentioned, and move on to further appeals for other essential academic and infrastructural purposes. Here too, I shall have more to say next year.

Finally, Your Grace, something blue: in this case the sea and the Royal Naval Reserve. Sussex is to be given the opportunity to establish a University Royal Naval Unit — URNU for short. Most universities have an associated air squadron or other reserve unit which their students can join. Our own undergraduates interested in a service career, or in acquiring service skills, or in pursuing this kind of leisure activity, will now have the chance to do so through a University of Sussex naval unit based at Shoreham; and there is evidence of a keen interest to do so. Our being located on the Channel, the URNU option seems a sensible one for us, and the Chairman and I will be recommending it to Council this afternoon. I do not, however, propose to join myself: I tend to become sea sick — and already get in all the mine sweeping experience I need, as Chairman of Senate.

Chancellor, it remains for me to congratulate the many individual members of the University who have won awards and distinctions over the past year, and whose names appear in the Annual Report, including the OBE conferred in the New Year’s Honours List upon Professor Roger Taylor, Professor of Astronomy and President in office of the Royal Astronomical Society. It also gives me great pleasure to congratulate Harry Kroto on his FRS, announced yesterday — the 15th Professor or Emeritus Professor at Sussex to receive this signal scientific recognition.

I thank Your Grace and the Members of Court here present, for the honour of addressing them on the state of the University. I can assure the Court that all goes well with Sussex. I invite them both to take pride in the University’s past achievements, and to share in my sense of excitement as to the prospects before us.