Major Research Centre for Sussex!

The Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) has announced that the first Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) in biological sciences is to be located at Sussex. There was intense competition from universities for three new research centres, the main competitors for the Centre in Cellular and Molecular Studies of Simple Nervous Systems being Sussex and Cambridge.

The research centre will involve funding by the SERC of approximately £5 million over an initial six-year period. It will be headed by Professor Michael O'Shea, who will move to Sussex from Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, with a team of six core members from Sussex: Paul Benjamin, Richard Andrew, Jonathan Bacon, Mike Land, Thomas Collett and Julian Burke.

This truly interdisciplinary team of Biochemists, Developmental Biologists and Neurobiologists will also involve other members of staff from BIOLS and MOLS.

Work on simple nervous systems is already well-established at Sussex where research integrates physiology and behaviour with a strong programme of molecular biology. The IRC will have two main goals:

(i) to reach a fundamental understanding of how nervous systems work,

and

(ii) to produce important benefits for agrochemical and pharmaceutical industries, e.g. more efficient, less environmentally-harmful, insecticides.

The essential problem is to understand how information flows through the nervous system. The linking thread is an interest in understanding how the cellular and molecular machinery of the nervous system develops and interacts in such a way as to produce its remarkable properties, namely its ability to analyse sensory information, to generate specific behaviours and to learn and store information. The core facilities of the IRC will provide the appropriate technology to each of the projects as required.

In at the start

The Vice-Chancellor (pictured right) in at the start of building operations for the new student housing development by the Kelsey Housing Association which will provide 60 five-bedroom houses. Work starts soon on a further development, by the Bradford and Northern Housing Association.

In all, additional accommodation for nearly 600 students will be built within three years on land adjoining East Slope and the Park Village.
Disciplinary Panel

The Disciplinary Panel, consisting of four faculty members and two student members, met on 1st June, 1990, to consider a case of alleged indiscipline.

A second-year student in MOLS was found guilty by the Panel of conduct seriously prejudicial to good order and discipline in the University in that he used abusive and aggressive behaviour towards another student during the Spring and Summer Terms 1990. The student was reprimanded by the Chairperson of the Panel and fined £50.

Harassment: University Discipline

This term four hearings of the Discipline Panel have heard complaints by female students against male students. The Panel found one case not proven, and the other three students were found guilty of harassment. In one case no penalty was imposed; one student was fined £50 and the other £500.

The University is determined that all students should be able to study and live without suffering vexatious interference in their lives, and is prepared to use the disciplinary process to help bring this about.

Dr. M.H. Ford-Smith
Chairperson of Senate Discipline Committee

News from the Gardner Centre

Celebration of dance

Dance fans should head straight for the Gardner Centre during July when a range of activity is on offer.

The Arthur Sullivan Society presents the closing concert of the 1990 Sullivan Festival to take place at the Centre on Sunday, 1st July, at 6 pm. As well as performances of various dance arrangements of Sullivan's music, the evening will include the first complete danced performance of his ballet L'ile Enchantee since 1864. The dancers are drawn from a variety of Brighton companies, accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble directed by Max Morris.

Thursday, 5th July, brings the chance to catch up with the dance company everyone is talking about, when Adventures in Motion Pictures present their latest show Go Overboard. Ret-}

Letters to the Editor

Mike Lewis' letter (Bulletin 15.5.90) certainly generated a good deal of discussion. I did sympathise with many of the sentiments expressed in the letters of response but also found them to be largely unconstructive.

As someone who usually cycles to the University I can well understand Mike's point of view. Our lifestyles enable us to avoid car ownership but we do suffer at the hands of motorists. Let's face it, cars, lorries and motorbikes are noisy, smelly, dirty and dangerous as well as consuming and wasteful of valuable resources.

Unfortunately, as readers pointed out, the car is relatively convenient (providing there is space to drive and park it), cheap and particularly enabling for women.

At the same time, however, we need to recognise that in the not so long term, private car ownership will have to undergo a radical transformation. A number of governments have already recognised this and are beginning to introduce more appropriate infrastructural changes. I find that most car owners I have spoken to would be happy to relinquish personal ownership given a viable alternative.

It seems to me that the University must develop a forward-looking environmental strategy which does give disincentives to personal car travel to and from the campus. In the first instance, may I suggest serious consideration of the car sharing scheme as proposed in the Students Union's Green Green Paper, together with active campaigning by the University for improvements in public transport (the time of the last train from Brighton springs to mind). Perhaps hitch-hiking points in and off campus could be somehow formalised and car owners be given official 'pick-up stickers'. I am not sure of the precise solutions, but I am sure individuals will have to make some sort of sacrifice for the collective interest.

Finally, a plea for the bicycle. Between 8.30-9.00 am and 4.30-5.00 pm it is just as quick as a car. If it has the right gearing then Coldean Lane is not much more difficult than the Steine — and most importantly you can feel really snug about being environmentally friendly!

Ian Bride
Research Officer, Education Network for Environment and Development

continued on next page
The current debate of car parking fees/reducing the space devoted to the car is a microcosm of several major environmental problems. Do we allow very real social factors to prevent a solution in the common interest? Political and economic considerations will tend to ensure that the social factor wins out and that the sum of individual rationalities will continue to lead to environmental loss. Gill, Marlene and Rita are not selfish if they work here for peanuts only as long as they can bring their cars for free. There are better answers: a fast, cheap town-University public transport system including a distributing, free mini-bus for the campus, tighter control of old ‘bangers’ (or even a ‘command’ that undergraduates living on campus must abstain from bringing a car), are practicable. And don’t underestimate the market. Parking fees would help to ‘solve’ the problem of low pay — those expected to pay for peanuts would stop working here and would have to be paid more, in the end. But in the meantime? Coping with the transition is often the most difficult problem. It can only be solved through organisation and negotiation. We are not very good at that, but not being good is supposed to lead to learning. And learning is to be the essence of university life ... Sonja (Boehmer-Christiansen, SPRU)

I found it very depressing to see the strong dismissal of public transport in the three letters to the Editor (Bulletin, 5/6/90) regarding possible charges for car parking. It may be that some people judge public transport too inconvenient, but I can’t believe that is true for every car-user on campus. The service to the University is excellent, and would be even better if people supported it whenever they could. A properly run public transport system could be even more convenient than private transport, and would certainly be less damaging for the future of the children being ferried around in cars by busy working mothers. As for cycling, the main thing that makes it dangerous is the presence and speed of cars! For people in Brighton who are prepared to cycle, there is a cycle path along part of the A27, which might be improved if more people used it. To ‘conserving natural beauty’ means nothing if people are not prepared to act on it.

Margot Moore

Green light for geography report

The final report of the National Curriculum Geography Working Group, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, was published earlier this month. The unanimous report has been accepted by the Education Secretary, Mr. John MacGregor, and now goes to the National Curriculum Council for consultation.

Environmental geography is given prominent emphasis as the seventh and final attainment target in the report. “Pupils should develop their knowledge and understanding of the use and misuse of natural resources; the quality and vulnerability of different environments; and the possibilities of protecting and managing environments,” the report says.

The six other attainment targets are:
1. Geographical skills
2. The home area and region
3. The United Kingdom within the European Community
4. The wider world
5. Physical geography
6. Human geography

The final report represents a slimmed-down version of the interim report, with a reduction in content and more discretion for teachers to choose areas of study. “Our proposals are designed to make the best use of teachers’ ability and enthusiasm,” Sir Leslie said in a letter to the Education Secretary.

In welcoming the report, Mr. MacGregor said: “A sound knowledge of geography is essential for pupils to develop an informed appreciation and understanding of the world in which they are growing up, and in which they will live and work as adults.”

For each attainment target there are statements of attainment which define 10 levels of attainment specifying what pupils should know, understand and be able to do, appropriate for pupils of different ages and abilities. The report also recommends the ranges of levels of attainment which should apply to pupils at the end of each key stage — at the ages of 7, 11, 14 and 16.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Professor Geoff Oldham, Director of the Science Policy Research Unit, on the award of a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Catering Manager

Philip Gassman has been appointed Catering Manager as from 1st June. He was previously Deputy Catering Manager and has been at the University since 1983.

Astronomy news

Dr. David H. Smith, a research student in the Astronomy Centre from 1977 to 1980, has been awarded a Knight Science Journalism Fellowship to spend a sabbatical year at MIT. The goals of the programme include: “... a deeper knowledge of current issues in science and technology and of their wider social impact.” Dr. Smith is news editor of Sky and Telescope magazine, published at Cambridge, Mass. While at Sussex, Dr. Smith worked with his namesake Dr. Robert Smith on problems relating to interacting binary stars.
Noticeboard

- **VACANCIES**

The Personnel Office has issued the following summary of posts to be filled. Advertisements for these vacancies have been placed in local and, where appropriate, national papers, as well as being circulated to the relevant Section Heads and union representatives for circulation to staff and noticeboards. Copies of these advertisements and further particulars, if available, as well as application forms, are available from the Personnel Office, Room 227, Sussex House. This list was compiled on 19th June and is subject to revision.

- **Teaching Faculty**
  Chair in German
  Lectureship in Artificial Intelligence

- **Other Faculty**
  Psychotherapist, part-time
  Assistant Accountant

- **Secretarial, Clerical and Related**
  Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, full-time, grade 5
  Central Service Supervisor, SPRU, f/t, grade 3/4
  Secretary to Research Teams, SPRU, f/t, grade 3
  Secretary, ICAPE, f/t, grade 3
  Clerk, Undergraduate Office, f/t, grade 3
  Recruitment Assistant, Personnel, p/t, grade 3
  Secretary, Personnel, f/t, grade 3
  Sec/Receptionist, Personal Counselling, p/t, grade 3
  Sec/Receptionist, Personal Counselling, p/t, grade 2
  Clerk/Typist, Admissions, f/t, grade 2
  Bookshop, Asst., University Bookshop, f/t, temp., grade 2
  Secretary, Catering Services, f/t, grade 2
  Clerk/Typist, International Office, p/t, grade 2

- **Technical Staff**
  Network Technician, Computing Service, f/t
  General
  Groundsperson, Playing Fields Pavilion, f/t
  Catering Supervisor, Catering Services, f/t
  Teamakers, f/t

- **JOSEPH ROWNTREE MEMORIAL TRUST**

From July 1990, the Trust is changing its name to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and its address to: The Homestead, 40 Water End, York, Y03 6LP.

- **Small ads**

**AVAILABLE** to rent, August, 4 bedroom, modern detached house with sunny garden, Kingston Rd, Lewes. Furnished & fully equipped, 2 bathrooms, washing machine, dishwasher. Lovely downland area with views. 10 mins. Lewes station & University. Tel. ext. 2262 or 475314.

**WANTED:** 1 bedroom flat in Brighton to rent for Lecturer from mid-Sept. Tel. ext. 2197 or 697250. UMBRIA Tuscany border. Large comfortable farmhouse. Sleeps 6/10. Spectacular views. Last minute availability. £300 p.w. Tel. 673440.

OUT OF PRINT Booksearch Service. If you can't find that book, try contacting Berry Harper on Seaford 898316 after 6 pm.


SEAFORD car driver would like to share occasional lifts with another car driver from Seaford. Meriel Price, IDS, Tel. 8270.

FOR SALE: unused personal computer software. 1 copy of each of: Lotus 123 v.2.01 spreadsheet programme, £230; Lotus Freelance Plus v.2.0 graphics presentation package, £240; Ashton Tate Multimate Advantage II wordprocessor, £240. With manuals & keyboard overlays. £690 together, saving £250 on shop prices. A. Eccleston, CCS u/g p/h or 35D East Slope.

**TO LEET, LEWES:** v. comfortable 3 bedroom house, fully carpeted, gch, downstairs cloakroom, furnished or unfurnished. £425 pcm. Please contact Lewes 477165.

TEAPERSON, COGS, to run Snack Bar in Autumn Term. 3 days per wk., 8.30 am to 2 pm, in conjunction with a current student helper. £2.57 per hr. Apply to School Secretary, COGS, Room 4C3 MAPS, tel. 2382.

WANTED: 3-4 bedroom house for visiting fellow for year from August, preferably in Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Hurstpierpoint area. Contact Gill Partridge, SPRU, tel. 8172.

**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE** for staff/student(s). Immaculately kept. Tel., TV, video, washing machine, microwave. Rent £35/43 per wk. depending on room. Refs. preferred. Tel. Simon/Vanessa 603589 (before 1 July) and 606639.

- **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

During the summer vacation much of the second floor of the Library will be rearranged, in particular classes J and K, and adjacent seating. This essential work will provide capacity for the planned expansion of law; any inconvenience which may temporarily result is regretted.

- **TERM DATES 1990-91**

8th October - 14th December
7th January - 15th March
22nd April - 28th June

- **CLOSURE DATES**

The University will be closed for the Late Summer Public and Bank Holiday on Monday, 27th August.

The University will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday from Monday, 24th December to Friday, 28th December and on Monday, 31st December and Tuesday, 1st January.

- **ENDELSLEIGH INSURANCE**

Endleigh Insurance, Palmer House, will open during the vacation on Tuesdays and Thursdays between noon and 2 pm.

- **WEALDEN ARTISTS**

The 2nd exhibition of Wealden Artists will be held at St. George’s Vineyard, Waldron (nr. Heathfield, East Sussex) from 3rd to 9th August. It presents a wide spectrum of work by artists living in the Weald of Sussex and Kent. A proportion of the proceeds will be donated to fund research on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis being undertaken by Dr. Andrew Smith at the University. The exhibition will be open daily from 11 am to 5 pm.

**Bulletin**

This is the last Bulletin of the Summer Term. The Information Office would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the Bulletin during the past term.

Please keep us informed about news events — not only in term-time but during the vacation.

The Bulletin is for the information of staff and students of the University of Sussex. Published by the Information Office. Photographs by the Photographic and Design Unit. Printed by the University of Sussex Printing Unit.

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