ROLLS ROYCE BOOSTS JET ENGINE RESEARCH

A major new research contract has been awarded to the University’s Thermo-Fluid Mechanics Research Centre (TPMRC) by Rolls Royce.

The Centre’s research team is delighted with the latest agreement, which takes the continuous working arrangement between Rolls Royce and Sussex to well over 25 years. Furthermore, as Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Bayley explained, the difficult financial climate affecting both industry and academe makes this new contract doubly welcome.

The magnitude and range of the three year research programme, he said, illustrated the company’s recognition of TPMRC as its designated centre for air systems research.

Much design effort goes in to determining the stresses affecting those components of the jet engine which do not directly handle the main throughput of air, as well as the temperatures those components attain under the widely varying operating conditions. “The special contribution of TPMRC to engine development over these past 25 years,” said Professor Bayley, “has been in helping to acquire the knowledge by which these temperatures may be accurately predicted.

“A question naturally arises as to how a specialist research company can apparently be successful,” he added, “and yet extend over such a long period of time: surely all the problems should have been resolved by now.”

Yet, as Professor Bayley explained, engineering, like most things in the “real world”, is evolutionary with few sharp discontinuities. “Our understanding of the design problems increases gradually, as do the demands put on designers. Thus, in the 1960s for jet engines speed and power were all; it was the age of Concorde. Now fuel efficiency and range are the key requirements.

“It is said of economics that the

JAPAN IN THE NEWS

Japanese students at Sussex will soon be able to keep up-to-date with news from home thanks to one of Japan’s top newspaper companies.

With the number of Japanese students enrolled at the University now at a record high, the offer of a complimentary daily copy of the Asahi Shimbun is particularly timely. The newspaper, which is amongst Japan’s best-selling quality dailies, is expected to be available in the Library within the next few weeks.

The London director of the Asahi Shimbun International Ltd. decided to make this generous donation in view of Sussex’s burgeoning Japanese connections. A total of 43 Japanese students — including undergraduates, postgraduates and visiting and exchange students — are currently studying at the University compared with 17 in 1989 and 34 last year.

Sussex now has a number of exchange agreements and research collaborations with Japanese universities including the prestigious Kyoto University and the International Christian University in Tokyo.

In addition, an agreement has recently been reached between the Science Schools at Sussex and the Science Faculty at Shizuoka University and a Sussex postgraduate and a postdoctoral student are now at Shizuoka.

There are also plans to introduce Japanese Studies courses at Sussex at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Officer for East Asian Relations Miranda Bonham-Carter said the University was delighted with its growing Japanese connections. “We believe that the contributions the two countries can make to one another will be invaluable,” she said.
£4 MILLION RESEARCH CENTRE BEGINS WORK

Sussex research team has set itself one of the ultimate challenges in science — to unravel the workings of the human brain.

Based primarily in newly refurbished laboratories within the School of Biological Sciences (BIOLS), the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience came into existence this term to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms of the nervous system.

Over the next four years, the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) will be providing £4 million worth of funding, in recognition of the need for the United Kingdom to invest in neuroscience, not only for academic reasons but for humanitarian and environmental ones, too.

Competition for the SERC Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) was strong, with applications being made by several universities with existing strengths in neuroscience, including Cambridge. According to Professor Michael O’Shea (pictured here), Director of the new centre, Sussex’s success resulted from its reputation for interdisciplinary work on the nervous system. ‘The breadth of the research here, from the behavioural studies of learning through to molecular and cellular work has made Sussex unique,’ he said.

The new research will be both a continuation and expansion of earlier work. ‘The funding will make a great difference,’ said Professor O’Shea. ‘We will be building upon our existing strengths but growing, too.’

Scientists working in the IRC are focusing on the nervous systems of simple invertebrate organisms. As Professor O’Shea explained, ‘There are no fundamental differences between the molecular and cellular components of the nervous system of simple organisms and those of humans. Rather, it seems that those differences that exist arise from the number of components.’ By using simple organisms as model systems, fundamental questions regarding brain activity could be addressed in a much more direct way, he said.

Although Professor O’Shea

continued opposite

£1 MILLION TO DEVELOP WORK-RELATED SKILLS

A project designed to encourage students in higher education to develop work-related skills will get underway at Sussex later this academic year. It has now been confirmed that the University is to receive almost £1 million worth of funding from the Training Agency after being selected to participate in its programme of Enterprise in Higher Education.

The scheme, which was first launched almost four years ago by the Secretary of State for Employment, aims to ensure that every person seeking a higher education qualification is able to develop competencies and aptitudes relevant to the work–place.

Particular emphasis at Sussex will be placed on the opportunities generated by placements and project work carried out in conjunction with employers on or off the campus. Staff training is seen as a key element in the programme so as to enable relevant enterprise skills to be developed in students and there will also be changes to the existing curriculum.

The programme, which will be officially launched in the Spring Term, will be controlled and co-ordinated by the newly-formed Sussex Enterprise Unit, under the directorship of Dr. Ian Duncan, of AFRAS, and with Ben Ball, of the Careers Advisory Service, and Staff Development Officer Andrew Hood as deputy directors. “Schools will shortly be receiving details of the opportunities which will exist from the next academic year,” said Dr. Duncan.

During its first year of operation, the Unit’s main aims are to complete a comprehensive database of employers; to forge closer links with local firms; to undertake a baseline audit of existing activities within the University; to assess the demand amongst students for work-related projects; and also to institute a wide programme of staff development.

A total expenditure of almost £2 million is expected over a five year period which includes contributions from outside employers to the value of nearly £0.7 million.
and his colleagues are excited by the task ahead of them, they are also realistic enough to admit that the ultimate goal of explaining, in scientific terms, the emergent property of human consciousness, may remain permanently out of reach. 'Although human consciousness must have an explanation in the laws of physics, chemistry and biology, the explanation may not be understandable.

'The human brain does have a large number of components, but it does not have an infinite number of them,' explained Professor O'Shea. 'Consequently, there could be a practical problem in that the brain simply may not have the capacity to understand itself.'

Nevertheless, the research efforts of the IRC are expected to have important implications for human health, in particular with regard to diseases of the central nervous system.

Environmental benefits are also anticipated as a spin-off from the research. 'Some of the organisms we are using as model systems are also close relatives of pest species some of which are carriers of parasitic diseases which cause much misery in the world,' said Professor O'Shea. Consequently, the IRC's findings could help the agrochemical industry to develop a selective and environmentally safe pesticide.

As well as being a research centre the IRC will also have an important educational role. Sussex was the first university in this country to offer an undergraduate degree in Neurobiology and this programme will be strengthened with the establishment of the Centre.

Courses will be offered for DPhil students to enable them to gain a broad training in a wide variety of molecular and cellular techniques and such courses may also be useful for scientists from industry wishing to re-train.

☐ NO. 25 BUS

The No. 25 bus service to the University has been revised in response to passenger requests. There are now more stops, more journeys and later buses.

New timetables have been distributed around the University, but if you haven't yet got a copy, please contact the Information Office, Sussex House (tel. 8209).

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Some of those who received Fellowships pictured with the Chairman of the Society: from left, Tony Baldry MP, Adrian Mugridge, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Briggs, Dr. Lesley Cook, John Spiers, Gavin Henderson, Olivia Lichtenstein and Professor Roger Blin-Stoyle.

HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

Brighton Festival director Gavin Henderson was among those presented with an Honorary Fellowship Award by the University of Sussex Society recently.

It was the first time that the Society — to which all former Sussex students are eligible to join — has presented Fellowships. They were made as a 'thank-you' to people who had served the University or local community in some way.

Others who received Fellowships included Asa (now Lord) Briggs, the University's Vice-Chancellor from 1967 to 1976 and his most recent successor Sir Leslie Fielding; Pro-Chancellor Sir Richard Attenborough; the University's first Student Union President, Adrian Mugridge, and Tony Baldry MP, a Sussex graduate. The presentations were made at the Society’s London Club meeting by another former Sussex student, John Spiers, who is Chairman of Brighton Health Authority and the Society's Chairman.

Former Wimbledon Champion Virginia Wade returned to the University last month to officially open the new Gallery Bar in the SportCentre. Virginia, a former student and honorary graduate of Sussex, is pictured above (right) with Ian Thole, the Director of Sport.
SUSSEX SCIENTISTS TO ORGANISE ROYAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON HEARING

Three Sussex scientists have been invited to organise an international conference on hearing for the Royal Society. Experts from all over the world will be attending the two-day conference at the Society’s London headquarters next month to discuss ‘The Auditory Processing of Complex Sounds’.

The conference topic was suggested by Bob Carlyon, a Royal Society University Research Fellow, Professor of Experimental Psychology Chris Darwin, and Professor of Biology Ian Russell, who is also a Professor of the Royal Society. Each year the Royal Society invites proposals for its ‘International Discussions’ with several being selected to be held. ‘It is quite a prestigious thing so we are delighted our idea was chosen,’ said Dr. Carlyon.

Speakers at the conference, which is being financed by the Royal Society with a contribution from B & W Loud Speakers, will cover a range of disciplines and will include several music specialists.

Dr. Carlyon and Professor Russell will, themselves, be giving lectures.

MINISTER VISITS ICAPE

Michael Fallon, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, visited the University on 4 November to observe and discuss the work of the Institute of Continuing and Professional Education’s well-known school-based PGCE courses.

The visit took place in the context of prospective changes in government policy on teacher training. Mr. Fallon met faculty and students, as well as representatives from schools in East and West Sussex with which the University is in partnership.

A measure of the success of the Sussex PGCE is that while Sussex has UFC targets of 110 for its Secondary PGCE course and 60 for its Primary PGCE course, actual recruitment this year was 151 and 65 respectively.

- Oathall Community College in Haywards Heath opened at half-term to welcome 52 students from the University’s Postgraduate Certificate in Education course. The two-day course on lesson-planning and classroom management was run by a team of Oathall teachers. All seven subject groups were represented. Practising and student teachers valued the opportunity to relate theory to practice.

NEW FROM THE GARDNER CENTRE

Nicholas Parsons at the Gardner

Love him or loathe him, Nicholas Parsons’ talents have made him a household name for over 30 years. The former host of TV’s Sale of the Century will present ‘An Evening of Nonsense’ at the Gardner Centre this Friday (22 November).

The new show, launched at the Edinburgh Festival, won him rave reviews and many new fans. The evening of Nonsense will range from the remarkable verse of Edward Lear, to a satirical and humorous look at the nonsense in our own lives. Clever characterisations and stories poke fun at British attitudes, institutions and foibles in an evening’s entertainment that should not be missed — the show starts at 7.45 pm and is for one night only.

Anne Burrell

NEW FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Book Drop — this long awaited facility is now available. An especially designed letterbox is situated by the entrance for disabled users at the north end of the Library, adjacent to the IDS building. It will be available for the return of borrowed Library materials from closing time until half an hour before the Library opens again. Items returned in this way will be processed as though they had been returned at the immediately preceding closing time. The book drop facility is NOT available while the Library is open.

PUBLIC LECTURE

Charles Elliott, Professor of Mathematics — Interfaces, Dynamical Minimization and Phase Transformations

Tomorrow (21 November) at 6.30 pm, Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre. Admission free.

CHRISTMAS

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The University Carol Service by Candlelight will take place in the Meeting House on Sunday, 8 December at 6 pm. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

For students, employees and friends Thursday, 19 December

Falmer Bar — Hot House

5.30pm to midnight

Tickets: £1.50 on the door, £1.00 in advance, to include buffet, raffle and disco. Tickets available in most buildings (see posters).

CATERING SERVICE

CHRISTMAS MENUS

Christmas lunch in the Scramble Monday and Wednesday, 9 and 11 December. 12.15-2.15 pm

At 1989 prices: roast turkey with stuffed bacon roll, bread sauce, garden peas and roast potatoes — £3.00; homemade Christmas pudding and rum sauce — 70p. (A limited number of tables can be reserved for large parties.)

Christmas lunch and dinner in the Private Dining Rooms

Available from 2 to 19 December. Three courses (each with choice of dishes), coffee with mince pie, and glass of port. Lunch £9.50 + VAT; evening £11.00 + VAT.

Food made to order

The Refectory can make food suitable for Christmas parties, e.g. mince pies — £2.20 dozen; Quiche Lorraine, savoury flans, ham & egg flans — £2.90 each; chocolate Yule logs £2.70 each. At least four days’ notice needed for large orders; all orders to be placed by 13 December.

To reserve a table or place orders, ring Pat or Jennifer on 8221.

CALLING ALL ANIMAL LOVERS

Please spare a thought for less fortunate pets this Christmas. The Refectory porters will again be collecting non-perishable pet foods (no money, please) for donation to a pet charity.

4
SUSSEX HISTORIAN EILEEN YOE

recently attended the first-ever Women's Studies conference to be held in

China.

Dr. Yeo, who travelled to China under the Baring Exchange Scheme, was the only Westerner at the two-week long conference at Tianjin Normal University. The other participants included teachers and university academics from all over China.

The current 'Open Door Phase' has enabled a more open discussion of the realities of women's lives both in the present and past. As Dr. Yeo explained, such a debate would have been difficult until recently. 'Women's Studies are a new and very rapidly developing area in China — not simply in the universities, but also outside academia in the Women's Federation, for example.'

During the conference, Dr. Yeo was asked to give several lectures on feminism, women's role and modernisation in the West. However, she discovered that the delegates were anxious to use every spare moment to learn about the progress of Women's Studies in the West. Consequently, she held what she described as a 'seemingly unending' series of unofficial seminars and meetings with groups of women, which had rather embarrassing results. 'Once, so many people came to my room in Tianjin that the bed on which they sat collapsed,' Dr. Yeo recalled.

Despite the growth of Women's Studies in China, scholars are hampered by what Dr. Yeo describes as a 'real book shortage' with even standard works being unavailable. The Tianjin group was, therefore, overjoyed when she presented it with about £300 worth of key primary and secondary texts in Western Women's Studies.

Not only is Dr. Yeo keen to encourage a more adequate book provision in China but so, too, is she eager to see more works by Chinese writers available in this country. 'I found that Chinese scholars had been writing prolifically on ancient and modern Chinese women's experience but that the books remain virtually unknown in the West because they have not been translated into English.'

She is hoping that exchanges will continue and has invited Min Dung Chao (Tianjin) and Qi Wen Ying (Peking), both of whom have written books comparing feminism East and West, to take part in the Conference in December 1992 sponsored by the Sussex History Subject Group which will be the main British event commemorating 'Mary Wollstonecraft and 200 Years of Feminist Theory and Practice'.

The Sussex History Subject Group has taken part in a pioneering exchange scheme with China since 1984. First funded by the British Council, the project is now financed by the Baring Foundation. It enables Sussex historians to visit Chinese universities and Chinese historians to come to Sussex to catch up on books published in the West.

AFRC Postgraduate Research Studentships 1992-93: A limited number of two types of studentships are offered: Research Studentships for a three-year period of research training and education; and Co-operative Research Studentships for joint supervision by an academic and an employee of an industrial organisation. Closing date: 30.11.91.

The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation 1992: Closing date: 31.1.92.

Henry Fellowships 1992-93: These fellowships consist of an assured place for which separate application is unnecessary, and provide a maintenance grant of US$11,000, travel grant of £600, tuition fees and health insurance. (Fellows may not be candidates for a degree of the American university, except in special circumstances.)

Daiwa Scholarships 1992: Five scholarships, tenable for two years, will be awarded to enable outstanding young UK graduates to acquire a lasting knowledge of Japanese life and culture and of spoken and written Japanese. Closing date: 17.1.92.

Fullbright Awards 1992-93: The following awards are available to British applicants: Fulbright Scholarship Grants to enable postdoctoral lecturers and research scholars to spend a minimum of four months in the USA; Fulbright Visiting Professorship in British History to enable a British scholar to spend 10 mths. at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri. Closing date: 31.12.91; Fulbright Fellowship in Cancer Research to enable a mid-career oncologist to spend a minimum of four months in the USA. Closing date: 1.5.92; Fulbright Louise Buchanan Fellowship to support a scientist or clinician working in the field of Hodgkin's Disease or Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. Closing date: 1.5.92.

Further details of the above from: The Research and Industry Support Unit, Sussex House.
NOTICEBOARD

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FROM THE MEETING HOUSE:

Limbs for the Cambodia Trust

The Cambodian civil war has just ended. One hundred thousand people have been maimed by mines laid by the Khmer Rouge and other factions. They have set out not to kill but to cripple in order to destabilise society. The casualties are of course men, women and children, blown up as they play or work in the fields. Although the war is over, the mines are still there. So many have been planted that about 700 Cambodians still lose limbs each month.

At present Cambodia can only produce 2,500 artificial limbs each year — a pitifully inadequate proportion of the number needed. The limbs cost about £19.00 each. The Cambodia Trust plans to double the number, provide and fit free limbs to Cambodians; extend the prosthetic centre at Calmette Hospital in Phnom Penh to outlying areas; and train a team of nine Cambodians to manage and run the project within five years.

This year’s Meeting House Appeal will go to support this Trust to provide a future for individuals and Cambodian society. Please send donations to: Barbara Barber, Room 3, The Meeting House. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Sussex.

In previous years, students and staff have raised money by carol singing, collecting after campus evening functions, bringing & buying stalls, raffles and by donating mince pies for sale after the Carol Service on 8 December at 6 pm. Collecting tins are available in The Meeting House. Can you help?

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 11 November and is subject to revision.

Teaching Faculty

Lectureship in Philosophy. Full-time, grade A

Other Faculty

Manager of Enterprise Unit, f/t, grade 2/3
Secretarial, Clerical and Related Clerk, RISU, part-time, grade 3

DISCIPLINE

Members and employees of the University are reminded that all students are obliged to abide by the General Provisions of the Ordinance on Student Discipline which says that 'students shall maintain a standard of conduct which is not harmful to the work, good order or good name of the University'.

Under the Ordinance, all University members and employees are required to try to prevent any breach of University discipline and should report any such breach to the Registrar and Secretary. Minor breaches are referred to the appropriate Dean for action while major breaches are referred to a Discipline Panel.

TRANSPORT PROBLEMS?

A local minibus operator has approached the University with the idea of providing a service between Peachean, Woodingdean and the University. Given the difficulties of the normal bus routes from these areas, we would like to assess whether this would be a commercially feasible proposition for the operator. Would any staff member be willing to use such a service regularly, please contact Richard Price, Welfare Office, on ext. 3598 or write to him in Arts B20. The greater the response, the more likely it is that the operator will consider a trial service.

RECENT BOOKS

Recent publications by Sussex authors include:

- The Management of Technological Learning: Lessons from a Biotechnology Company by Mark Dodgson. Water de Gruyter. £32.00.
- Rural Households in Emerging Societies: Technology and Change in Sub-Saharan Africa by Margaret Haswell and Diana Hunt. Berg Publishing. £32.00.
- Educational Innovation and Third World Studies: Case Studies of Changemakers by Keith M. Lewin and Janet S. Stuart. Macmillan. £45.00.

All books obtainable from Sussex University Bookshop

STAFF WELFARE MOVE

Richard Price, Welfare Officer, has moved from Mantell building to Arts B20. His tel. no. remains 3598.

BULLETIN

The BULLETIN is published four times a term. The next issue (and the last for this term) will appear on 11 December. Copy for this issue must be received by Jenny Payne, Internal Communications Officer, Room 220, Sussex House, by no later than noon on Friday, 29 November. If you have any news items or ideas for feature articles, she would be pleased to hear from you (ext. 8208).

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