HONORARY DEGREE FOR DAVID FROST

Broadcaster and author, Sir David Frost; the Director of the V & A, Elizabeth Esteve-Coll and novelist Anita Desai are among those to be awarded honorary degrees at this summer’s graduation ceremonies.

Also to receive honorary degrees are Sussex alumnus, Peter Jonas, formerly Director of the English National Opera and currently General Director of the Bavarian State Opera; distinguished scientist Salvador Moncada and leading academics Professor Sir Richard Southwood and Professor Stuart Hall.

1994 is a landmark year for the Sussex graduation ceremony. Thirty years ago, in 1964, the first students graduated from the University – 39 of them attended what was presumably a fairly short ceremony held in Falmer House. This year, 30 years on, over 1,000 students, together with their families and friends, are expected to attend the ceremonies at the Brighton Centre on 12 July to collect their degrees in person.

Pictured above is a group of students from Maastricht Teacher Training College, together with their hosts, on their recent exchange visit with the Sussex Primary PGCE course. During the exchange, the Dutch students spent some time teaching in local schools and were very struck, according to PGCE Director Viv Griffiths, by the formality of the English system – in Maastricht uniforms are unheard of and all teachers are addressed by their forenames.

PUBLIC LECTURE

Benedict du Boulay
Professor of Artificial Intelligence
Professorial Lecture

MACHINES AS TEACHERS

Tuesday 1 March
at 6.00 pm

Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre

All welcome
What the papers say...

Research by Dr Katz (COGS) into why jokes make us laugh may save the career of many of Britain's ailing comedians. Dr Katz believes the answer lies in the particular response of brain cells to stimuli (Daily Telegraph, 13 February). He has constructed a simple model of neurons to test this and he used the model to analyse one of the funniest exchanges between two of the Marx Brothers:

Chico: 'The garbage man is here'
Groucho: 'Tell him we don't want any'

The essence of the joke, according to Dr Katz, lies within the incongruity and timing of Groucho's response.

Gavin Ashenden and Raglan Hay-Will (University Anglican and Roman Catholic Chaplains) have written to The Times about recent squabbling in the media over the relative merits of the two denominations (8 February): 'It is foolish nonsense to suppose that either religious community is in considerably better health than the other,' they argue. 'What is worse than nonsense, what becomes dangerous, is when religious partisanship flourishes and drains our community of the few resources we have to heal an already divided society'. The letter continues: 'One of the more extraordinary phenomena of recent decades has been the intelligent and sympathetic rapprochement of Anglican and Catholic communities.'

The recent cold weather has not prevented Britain's frogs and toads emerging from their cozy winter hibernation. Despite not having eaten for months their main appetite is not for food, according to Dr Trevor Beebee (BIOLS), but for a partner (Daily Mail, 12 February). Toads set the pace in this quest for a mate migrating 'further than frogs with thousands of them crossing a stretch of road over one or two nights. They are very vulnerable to being hit by vehicles', adds Dr Beebee 'although voluntary groups of people will be out in the dark helping them across the road.'

Remembering the War through Women's Eyes

Forget the Channel Tunnel, Sussex is making its own links with France thanks to two research students. On Saturday 19 March, Margaretta Jolly and Karen Adler are inviting women to join them on a day trip to Dieppe in order to explore wartime memory. They intend to look behind the official versions of the 'home front' and the French Resistance, using memories of women who were there as well as those handed down to subsequent generations. Making links across time, they will ask how the experiences of that time affect the relationships between the generations. It is hoped that participants will be able to meet up for lunch in Dieppe with members of the local French peace movement, as well as fit in time for some shopping.

Prior booking by 12 March essential. For further details, contact Margaretta tel: 502486 or Karen 621872.

John Brooke-Rhodes

John Brooke-Rhodes, Assistant Grounds Superintendent, sadly lost his brave fight against the sudden onset of cancer, and died at his home on campus, aged 49, on the evening of Thursday 17 February 1994. John had been employed in the Grounds Section of the Estates Division for nearly 22 years and, having been promoted Assistant Grounds Superintendent in 1983, was destined for higher things had not his illness forced his early retirement last Christmas. His fortitude and bravery in his fight against his illness characterised John, and he will be remembered with respect and affection throughout the campus as a doughty and articulate champion of workers' rights who brought to the negotiating table an essential element of common-sense. However, within the Estates Division he will also be remembered as a skilled groundsman and able manager, the archetypal 'poacher turned gamekeeper' whose abilities will be sadly missed.

I am sure everyone who came across John in either of his roles will join me in offering his wife, Jean, and daughter, Ramona, our deepest condolences in their sad loss.

Roger Bailey, Estates Manager and Chief Engineer
ACCESS AROUND CAMPUS

The Estates Manager, Roger Bailey, responds to the article by Anna Barnes, VP (Welfare) Students’ Union, (Bulletin, 11 February 1994) about access for people with disabilities.

The University is committed to the improvement of access around the Campus for all people with physical disabilities, and has been for over 20 years. The Estates Division established a close working relationship with the Kulukundis Group, and looks forward to doing likewise with the Disability Action Group. However, certain inaccuracies in Anna Barnes article do not assist either in that or in maintaining the excellent relationship that has been established with English Heritage.

Aside from the provision of specialised residential accommodation for disabled students, in recent years the University has spent over £100,000 on improvements in access, the production of a Braille Campus Map and, in 1991, the commissioning of a survey of the whole of the campus by surveyors to the Spastics Society whose report now forms the basic programme for ongoing improvements. This year alone the Estates Division will be creating a tactile path through Falmer House Courtyard for the partially sighted (listed building consent granted), tactile warning strips in each direction before the steps in Fulton Court (consent not required), the access ramp to the Computing Centre, and improvements to access through the multiplicity of fire doors in the Arts building complex. At the same time it is trying to ensure that a further £105,000 is made available for more improvements over the next seven years.

The Computing Service access ramp has both planning permission and listed building consent, is funded, and only requires the approval of the Buildings Committee (23 February) to certain design changes before work commences. The refurbishment plans for Falmer House have always included the conversion of one of the existing service lifts into a passenger lift, and a bridge at third floor level between the two parts of the north wing, and these proposals have been favourably received by English Heritage.

The purpose of listing is to preserve the architectural heritage, not to prevent adaptation or improving access. Indeed, English Heritage is as committed as the University to improving access for those with disabilities as the following letter demonstrates.

“English Heritage are always anxious to see access for the disabled, properly arranged. Our concern is not to preserve all listed buildings exactly as they are now for eternity, but only to ensure that all alterations and modifications do not damage the special architectural interest that the buildings have. Any alterations which do not damage that interest must, by definition, be acceptable. The vast majority of disabled access proposals come within the latter category . . .

Provision of disabled access can be a problem in historic buildings but usually only because insufficient thought has been given to solutions. In modern buildings like those at the University it is usually quite simple to arrange and is something English Heritage welcomes. After all, we wish everyone to enjoy historic buildings and to learn from them.”

The University supports the objectives of the Disability Action Group to improve access around the campus for people with disabilities but not at the expense of accuracy or the undermining of equally important relationships. It is therefore hoped the foregoing removes any misconceptions that might have arisen from Anna Barnes’ article.

LANGUAGE CENTRE

The Language Centre is again offering three day intensive courses in French, German and Spanish in preparation for the oral and listening parts of the ‘A’ level examination. The courses are on 11, 12 and 13 April. Contact Alex van Westen, ext 8006. Deadline for applications: 11 March.

The Language Centre is looking for work placements for trainee secretaries from the University of Paris for 8 weeks from 18 July to 9 September this summer. The trainees will be housed on campus and no payment is required from organisations offering a placement. Placements are wanted in all types of private and public companies, service organisations and administrations in Brighton, Hove, Lewes and on campus.

Contact Margaret Khidhayir, ext. 8006.

Profile

Name: Ted Nakhle
Appearance: Mechanically sound but bodywork needs attention
Job Title: Planning Officer
Job Description: Foretelling the future, devising at least three strategies before breakfast each day, reading letters from the Funding Council without falling asleep or laughing, and attending more meetings than are humanly possible.

Importance to the University: Keeping the Sportcentre solvent.
Would rather be (at University): In the Sportcentre playing Racket-ball.
Would rather be (outside University): Definitely.
Most likely to say: “Roll on early retirement.”
Least likely to say: “Happy days are here again!”
Most ridiculous pastime: Spending lunchtimes in the sauna with the Registrar.
Favourite methods of deceiving/stalling funding bodies/superiors/colleagues: Using very long sentences, crammed with sub-clauses (and parentheses), overflowing with jargon, abbreviations and as many student numbers as possible, that go on and on remorselessly until the point at issue has been completely obscured.
Favourite feature of University: The Superannuation Office
Least favourite feature of University: His own office.
Monday 28 February – Sunday 6 March

**Wednesday 2 March**
1pm IIDS Seminar Series: Easternisation? On the Global Diffusion of the Japanese Corporate Model (if there is one). R. Kaplinsky, Room 221, IIDS.
2pm QUERYS Seminar: The Politics of Sex Education. R. Thomson, Arts D70.
4pm Applied Maths & Numerical Analysis Seminar: Finite Element Approximation of Transport of Reactive Solutes in Porous Media. J. Barrett (Imperial College), PB1A3, MAPS I.
5pm English Graduate Colloquium: From Sires to Silence: Homer and Some Moderns. J. Lane, Arts D630.

**Thursday 3 March**
12.30pm Gender and Feminist History Seminar: The Women's Movement in China Today: Some Personal Impressions. E. Yeo, Room 303, EDB.
1pm RUPAGIDS Seminar: The Value of 'Women's Projects' in Environmentally Fragile Settings: AKRSP in Northern Areas, Pakistan. S. Joekes, Room 221, IIDS.
4.30pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Schizotypy and the Dimensional Approach to Psychosis. G. Claridge (Oxford), EP3.9, BIOLS.
6pm Meeting House Lecture: Naked in the Garden: Healing Gender Relationships & the Spiritual Quest. The Rev'd Flora Winfield, Quiet Room.

**Friday 4 March**
2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Establishing Legitimacy in High Technology: The Case of Thorp. W. Walker, Room 121, EDB.
4pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Hydrogen-Deficient Planetary Nebulae. R. E. Clegg (Cambridge), PB1A7, MAPS I.
4pm Chemical Physics Seminar: Some Transient Species Observed by Rotational Spectroscopy. Prof. A. C. Legon (Exeter), MS3, MOLS.

**CDU Workshop Programme**
Mock Interviews – 8 Mar, 10am-1pm
Opportunities in Self Employment and Freelancing – 9 Mar, 10am-12pm
Both in Palmer House. Book in advance (£5 returnable deposit). Details from CDU on ext. 8429.

**Philosophy on Floppy**
Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Kant etc. now available on disk. Simply make a list of texts required and take several floppy disks along to Dr Michael Ireland (SOC), Arts E.

**France Day Excursion**
Day excursion to Lille on Sat 25 June. Leave campus 6.30am – return 11.30pm. £17.50 inc. Details from N. Pitman or N. Pullen. Tel: 606261 ext. 4067/4163.

**Miscellaneous**
Luncheon Recitals: Tue 1 March Jo Bruggemeyer (Violin), 1.15pm. Recital Room, Palmer House. Ulrich Heinen (Organ), Chapel.
Sussex Trugs (jazz group) live at the Sports Pavilion every Friday lunchtime during Term.
Watercolours Exhibition by Mick Bensley at Twine House, Lewes. Sat 26 and Sun 27 Feb.

**Small Ads**
FORSALE: Amstrad PC1512 double disk drive (5 1/4”), Colour monitor, keyboard, mouse, Wordperfect software. £100ono. Contact Philip on ext. 3826 or 725569.
FORSALE: 4 Hi-Fi separates: Compact Disc, Amplifier, Tuner & Twin Cassette. Excellent condition. £100. Contact Me on 561040.
FORSALE: Mitsubishi Colt with MOT, 13yrs old, good condition. Bargain. Contact Andras on 699748.
FORSALE: Bedfel Campervan, L reg, 1800cc, new tax and MOT. Clean interior, 4 berth. £1,095. Contact Kaye on ext. 3325.
ROOM TO LET: Large room in quiet flat, share kitchen. £30pw. Suit p/g or mature student. Preston Park area. Contact 505481.
ROOM TO LET: In newly modernised house in Lewes (5 mins BR). £40pw plus bills. Contact Graham Mayhew (CCE) or ring 472153.
ROOM TO LET: From March 5 single room, in tidy, comfortable flat, all amenities. Non smoker. Overlooking private park in central Brighton. £260pcm. Contact ext. 4173 or 683046.
HOLIDAY HOME TO RENT: Double town-house in foothills of Pyrenees nr. Perpignan in S.W. France. Available weeks June 5-12 and June 26-July10 at £100pw. Contact Pref White on ext. 4136.
MASSAGE AVAILABLE: For staff/students in Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre (nr. Health Centre. Mon and Fri 9.30am-

**Bulletin**
The Bulletin appears on Fridays with copy deadline the preceding Friday. We welcome suggestions for news, details of events, letters and small ads. Please send contributions to Pauline O'Reilly (editor), Mike Brooks (features) or Terry O'Donnell (What's On) at the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or Email: bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.