HEALTH VISIT: The first South Downs Health NHS Trust Annual Discourse took place on 31 May. The lecture, entitled ‘Decision Making in Mental Health: A Suitable Case for Treatment,’ was given by Professor Alan Maynard, Health Economist at the University of York. He is pictured above talking to Baroness Cumberlege, Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of Health. The lecture, organised jointly by South Downs Health and the University, is seen both as a chance to receive a major piece of work from a national figure in the health service field, and a way of strengthening links between the South Downs Trust and the University.

Robin Lee Poetry Competition 1994

This year’s Robin Lee Poetry Prize has been awarded jointly to Norman Sacuta (postgraduate reading American Studies in EAM) for the best single poem (Death of a Scuba Diver at West Edmonton Mall) and David Hellens for the best entire entry (Punch and Judy, Concrete Under Snow, and Modern Times). David who is currently working in Sussex House, was a former student in EAM 1978–81, and President of the Students’ Union for two years 1981–1983. Honourable mentions go to Kevin Barber, Peter Hignell, James Pollock and Carole Sweeney. See page 2 for two of David Hellens’ poems. Norman Sacuta’s poem will be published in next week’s Bulletin.

Half-time Celebrations For Enterprise Initiative

More than 100 people gathered on Wednesday 1 June to mark the half-way stage of the Enterprise initiative at Sussex. As well as recognising achievements so far, it was a chance to look forward to the remaining two and a half years of funding from the Employment Department and beyond, to the University’s plans for continuing EHE-type developments after completion of the contract, in October 1996.

Faculty, staff, students and representatives from a wide range of external organisations in the region enjoyed displays of current EHE-funded projects, short speeches, and even a reading from the authors of Those That Can’t Do, a poetry anthology produced by English PGCE students with EHE funds. The event was humorously compered by Simon Fanshawe, television and radio presenter and comedian, who was an undergraduate at Sussex in the 1970s.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to two Student Enterprise Projects: a £500 environmental award and trophy (made from recycled plastic!) by British Telecom to Campus Ecology, published by the Green Publishing Collective, and a £200 cheque for an enterprising project from the Southern Region Student Enterprise Network to postgraduate students in the School of English and American Studies for their innovative conference, Looking at the Future, held on campus on 28 May as part of the Brighton Festival programme. Pictured (r to l) are Tim Whiteley, Higher Education Adviser for the Employment Department, presenting the cheque to the conference organisers, Lorraine Slater, Steve Dennett and Peter Morey.
MAry Clark, Italian Subject Group Secretary in EURO, recently won a short story competition in Frontline, a Kent-based political magazine. She entered a satirical story about a political canvasser several months ago, and had completely forgotten about it when the news of her success arrived. Her prize of £100 was presented this week by Giles Brandreth MP.

Former student, David Osbon (MA Music in CCS 1988/90) has been working for his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania and has just received the prestigious Thouron Award which will pay his fees, enable him to pursue his research and write a book on Microtonal music. He is the first musician to receive the award.

The Medical Research Council has approved a joint award under the ROPA (Realising our Potential Award) Scheme, of £99,000 to Dr Lynne Mayne (Trafford Centre for Medical Research) and Dr Julian Burke (Reader in Biochemistry, BiOLS). This is for their ongoing research into Alzheimer’s disease working on the ‘development of neuronal cell lines from normal and Alzheimer’s disease patients.’

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

FOLLOWING ON FROM its Good University Guide, The Times ran a week-long series on ‘Superdons’ (beginning 31 May) which featured 22 of the country’s foremost young academics and included Professor Geoffrey Bennington (EURO) and Dr Homi Bhabha (AFRAS). The 22 short-listed ‘Superdons’ are all said to share two common features: “They are formidable teachers who relish the demands of lecturing and tutoring,” and “are sharply critical of the orthodoxies they have inherited.”

Professor Bennington has won a name “both for his penetrating intellect and the way he infects his students with his own enthusiasm for Jacques Derrida, the French philosopher.” Professor Bennington, who knows Derrida and has written a book about him said: “I think I’ve understood Derrida better than most people writing in English. One thing my students have got from me is a better understanding of Derrida’s work than they have from other critics who have misunderstood him.”

Dr Homi Bhabha, who specialises in post-colonial literary theory, is similarly recognised among the list of ‘Superdons’. He has been described by Terry Eagleton, Professor of English at Oxford, “As one of the West’s most brilliant post-colonial thinkers,” whose aim, “is to put the skids under just about every cherished doctrine of Western Enlightenment.” Dr Bhabha, who has recently been made a Professorial Research Associate at SOAS, is fascinated by colonialism and its effects on culture. “It is the other side,” he said, “the dark side of the Enlightenment.”

REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At its meeting last week, the Management Committee discussed a range of topics, including Quality Assessment and agreed that subject groups not yet assessed or under consideration should now prepare submissions using as much as possible of the material already required under the Academic Audit reviews process.

Discussion of research and graduate education focussed on research funding from the EU, the methodology for the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise, the need to promote external awareness of research at Sussex and the relevance of the research performance indicators.

The Committee also received a paper on Staffing Policies and Procedures and, in discussion of the Estates Strategy noted that, after consultation, a strong preference had been expressed for CCS to move to Essex House in January 1996.

Minutes of the Management Committee meetings are available through Deans’ offices or the Documents Section of the Library.

Robin Lee Poetry Competition 1994

Bulletin is pleased to publish two winning poems by David Hellens.

Punch and Judy

When I shout at her, my own voice shocks me, its closeness, its drilling vibration echoed through my skull.

She just absorbs everything, lets it seep into her skin — my threats, looks, gestures, all vanish through her like face cream. Where does she put all my force, the violence in my voice?

She must have a cold-room in her where my anger’s left to hang, hooked up like frozen meat. Now she’s watching me intently, focussing sheer defiance in her gaze, so when I look her in the eye, she makes me see — not her — but my own face in her pupil’s black, shouting at her even glare, reflected as a fault in her dilated eyes.

Concrete Under Snow

Outside the house the air stung my face in a clean cut silence left by last night’s frost; I came out to watch my father and brother while they cleared the drive of snow.

Their blackened spades stripped off the covering in tall, layered squares, metal shearing on the concrete below then a muffled flump as each spadeful landed in the rose bed, piling gradually over the bare stalks until only their tips blackened the surface of the heaps.

The two figures worked on slowly, ballooned by their overcoats, repeatedly dipping to rasp the stone then whipping their spades aside to fling the nothing weight of snow, methodically digging towards the street where cars sheered past in the slush.

I stripped off one breath-moist glove bent down and ran my fingers across a cleared patch of the concrete its glassy, uneven smoothness bright as pain to my numb fingertips.

The two diggers rested at the gate behind them the ice smeared concrete was glistening wet and opened up like the body of a dark fruit from beneath the whiteness of its skin.
SQUEEZING HEADLINES FROM TROPICAL FRUIT

M OLS is a top-ranked research department. Only a few years ago it was the focus of media attention when ‘Buckyballs’ were discovered. This year it attracted world media attention through very different research.

THE STORY HAD EVERYTHING the tabloids could want: sex, food, exotic locations. Even the chemistry couldn’t put them off when scientists found that the papaya fruit, or pawpaw, contained enzymes that can prevent pregnancy and even cause abortions.

To some people around the world the story wasn’t news. The research arose from a Sri Lankan chemistry student’s anecdotes about the contraceptive practices of some women in his country. Tharmalingam Senthilohan decided to study the effect as part of his DPhil thesis, and found that papaya enzyme becomes hyperactive in the bloodstream, interacting with hormones essential for maintaining a pregnancy.

It quickly turned into light relief for newspaper sub-editors looking for easy headlines. ‘Feeling Fruity’ was a constant, and fairly obvious theme; ‘A Fruit Ripe For Passion’ and ‘Fruit of the Womb’ were a little more imaginative. Newspapers, however, were only one side of the coverage. BBC Breakfast News, Big Breakfast News, Australian Television Channel 9, British Satellite News and Sky News all picked it up, and a Brazilian TV company phoned the Information Office five or six times a day for a week, desperate to set up an interview with Dr Malcolm Topping, the student’s supervisor. Brazil, apparently, is the world’s largest consumer of papaya, and no-one there knew about its effects.

In the end the media coverage was global – the story was reported in Bombay, Costa Rica, Jamaica, South Africa, Australia and Hong Kong, as well as the European and North American newspapers. Confirmation of the anecdotal reports of ‘Papaya Power’ soon began to arrive at the University: Indian women, according to a nurse who had spent years working in remote villages, had been known to make potions from ground papaya seeds in order to cause miscarriage. A Canadian anthropologist noted that although Indian children ate the fruit, adults (both men and women) abstained.

But stranger powers of the papaya also became apparent. The Chief Technologist of the Medical Research Council Laboratories in Kingston, Jamaica wrote to Dr Topping reporting their use of unripe papaya in the treatment of leg ulcers. These ulcers, which commonly complicate cases of sickle cell disease, healed rapidly when treated with papaya; no-one knew why.

One of the first letters to arrive on Dr Topping’s desk came from a woman who had taken the advice of locals whilst on holiday in Kenya. Daily intake of papaya, they told her, would stop ‘holiday tummies’. It worked, apparently. But it also negated the effects of her Hormone Replacement Therapy: menopausal symptoms returned, and it took a month for the HRT to get back on course.

Those more directly affected by the news did not hesitate to find out more. On the morning the story was released, a Bexhill greengrocer telephoned the University to ask whether he should expect more or less demand for papaya in future. The Institute of Food Research and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Bureau demanded a full statement, while the Family Planning Association expressed interest in future developments. Today’s contraceptive pill, they said, came originally from the Mexican yam.

Despite some concerns, the story generally received wide interest without generating moral panic. There were no reports of desperate teenage girls returning from Sainsbury’s with armfuls of tropical fruit. No-one that the Exeter Express and Echo spoke to was planning to start munching papaya before going to bed. People’s habits, sexual or otherwise, are notoriously difficult to change. And in case any readers thought they might revolutionise their contraceptive life, the Daily Mail revealed a frustrating fact: papaya has a calming effect on sexual desire – monks in the Far East eat large quantities of papaya to cool their ardour. ‘Feeling Fruity’, it seems, may not be all you expect.

In Brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call the Research Office on ext 3761 (Louise Vincent) or e-mail L.S.Vincent@sussex.ac.uk.

GLYCOCONJUGATES: Mizutani Foundation for Glycoscience, Tokyo, offers grants of up to £60K a year. Closing date 31 August 94 for year beginning 1 April 95.

HONG KONG JOINT RESEARCH SCHEME, British Council programme for exchange visits over one year, in preparation for longer term collaboration. Applications to be submitted by the Hong Kong institution by 1 August 1994.

COMPUTER NETWORKING in eastern Europe and former USSR may be supported by NATO Science Committee if required as part of a collaborative project.

Isle of Thorns Swimming Pool

THE ISLE OF THORNS swimming pool is not in use this summer but the centre itself is open to students and staff for leisure activities at weekends.

LONDON

BRIGHTON

Members of SPRU have organised a team of 14 people to take part in this year’s London to Brighton Bike Ride. The event aims to raise money for the British Heart Foundation, and the SPRU team have so far raised over £200 through sponsorship. Bulletin would like to wish them, and other University members doing the bike ride, the best of luck over the 58 miles.
What’s on...

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- **Monday 13 June**
  1pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Output Monitoring in the Elderly. S. Hutton, Biology Lecture Room.
  2pm Particle Physics Seminar: String Formation. D. Austin, PB2A1, MAPS I.
  4pm Women’s Studies Research Seminar: Forms of Women’s Organisation Around Consumption in the US, 1900-1940. S. Rowbotham (Manchester). Arts D310.

- **Tuesday 14 June**
  2pm Psychology @ COGS Research-in-Progress Seminar: Understanding of Desire and Intention by Children with Autism. W. Phillips (Institute of Psychiatry). PB3C8, MAPS.
  4pm COGS Seminar: Representationalism Refreshed. A. Clark (COGS and presently a visiting Professor at Washington University), PB5C1, MAPS III.

- **Wednesday 15 June**
  2pm Quercy Seminar: Gaying Warhol. M. Merck, Arts D722.
  2.15pm Composition and Contemporary Musical Research Graduate Colloquium: Tonality Structure and the Listener’s Grasp of Time. R. Adlington, Recital Room, Falmer 120.
  5pm BIOLS Special Lecture: The BIOLS Special Lecture, The Ecology of Memory by Prof. J. Krebs, has been cancelled until further notice.

- **Thursday 16 June**
  1pm IDS RUPAG Seminar: Participation and the World Bank. R. Chalmers, Room 221, IDS.
  2pm Theoretical Physics Seminar: A Cosmological Experiment in Liquid Helium. P. V. McIntlock (Lancaster). PB1A6, MAPS I.
  4.30pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Mechanisms of Visual Attention. S. Tipper (Bangor), Biology Lecture Room.

- **Friday 17 June**
  4pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Big-bang Nucleosynthesis: Constraints on the Mass and Lifetime of the Tau Neutrino. Prof G. Steigman (Ohio). PB1A7, MAPS I.

Computing Centre Courses

- **Windows for University Staff**
  The Computing Service is running a course Introduction to Windows and Word for Windows for University Staff and faculty. 13.15 and 16 June from 6pm to 8.30pm. For further details and a booking form contact Penny Williams (Computing Centre Reception) afternoons only on ext. 8090.

Meeting House Events

- **Luncheon Recital**
  1.15pm John Birch (organ). Tuesday 14 June in the Chapel.

- **Chaplaincy Party**
  7pm Final fling and Chaplaincy Party. Tuesday 14 June. Please bring a dish of party food.

Counselling Workshops

- **Hatha Yoga**
  Yoga and meditation help with stress and relaxation, aiding concentration and improving health, fitness, physical and emotional balance. Thursday lunchtimes 1-2pm. 7 weeks beginning 16 June. £2.50 per class /£17.50 for all 7 sessions. To reserve a place contact Janet Ramsay on ext. 8156 or drop into the new Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre (opposite East Slope Bar).

Research Assistant Wanted

SPRU require a Grade 1B Research Assistant (salary £12,828–£15,186 pro rata) for 3 months starting June/July 1994. To assist with data analysis relating to plant biotechnology research project. Computer skills (EXCEL, SPSS) an advantage. Contact Dr Sandy Thomas on ext. 8179.

Nursery Places

- **Stream Edge School & Nursery**
  1 ft and 1 pt place available now in the Nursery. Based in Lewes (2 mins from County Hall); tiny school, maximum group sizes of 8. An assisted place also available in the Infants Class for child aged 5-8 years (normal fees £60pw ft). Holiday care available. Contact 474123.

Martin Butler Opera

- **Craig’s Progress**
  A new opera from Martin Butler to be performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall, London on Wednesday 29 June. Tickets £14, £12, £10 and £8 with £2 concession. A coach to the event is being organised from the University. Please contact Margot, Music Library. Arts B270 or contact ext. 2171.

Bahá’í Society

The Bahá’í Society invites all to a no-nonsense introduction to a spiritual revolution What is Bahau’? Meeting House, Wednesday 15 June, 7.30pm.

Alexander Technique

Do you suffer from neck, shoulder, backache or stress? Find out more about this effective technique by contacting a qualified, experienced teacher. Contact Claudia on 693202.

Small Ads


**FOR SALE:** IBM XT PC. Best reasonable offer accepted. Phone Carol on ext. 2457 or 3056.

**FOR SALE:** Sharp Word Processor £160. Contact J. v. on 626559.

**CAR FOR SALE:** Volvo 740 GL. Saloon. 1990 white automatic. 2 litre engine. 59,000 miles. Many extras. Beautiful condition. Looks and drives like a new car. £6,500 ono. Contact A. Kocher on 480346.

**HOUSE FOR SALE:** 4/5 bedrooms/2 bathrooms. Through kitchen, dining room, laundry, gardens. Splendid views across B’ton. Close to schools, parks, BR stations for Falmer and London. Offers around £95,000. Contact M. Deuchar on 0223 335711 (day) 0223 324858 (even).

**FLAT TO LET:** 1 bedroom flat to let in Hove near George Street shops and Hove BR and buses. 1 bedroom, kitchen, sitting room and bathroom. Fully furnished. Available from mid-June. £65pw. Contact Frances on ext. 2583 or 478549 (even).

**ROOM/FLAT WANTED:** Female Canadian academic requires furnished accommodation in Brighton area whilst carrying out research during July/August. Prefers small flat, rooms or large room. Contact 677183 for further information.

**CARAVAN TO LET:** Holiday caravan to let (sleeps 4) on spectacular hillside site overlooking the sea at Boulouris, near St Raphael. On the Côte d’Azur. Lovely beaches and walking. £150pw. Contact Sue Bullock on ext. 8361 or 682133 (even) for more details and photos.

Copy deadline for the final Bulletin of the Summer Term is Friday 10 June. Please send contributions to the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.