FAB TIME AT SUSSEX SIXTIES REUNION

In 1961, when 52 students became the first to study at the newly founded University of Sussex, they had little to do with the Falmer campus as it is now. With sciences off the curriculum, all tuition took place at 235 Preston Road, Brighton, and the library – comprising a mere 10,000 books – was located in Stanner House. Today, the library has over half a million more books, the campus is large and ever-expanding and science undergraduates proliferate, but for almost 200 of the early students who returned to the University last month, these changes made little difference to their memories of the early days at Sussex.

The reunion was the result of six months’ painstaking detective work by Paul Marsh, Sara Dyer, Kaye Williams and Robin Street in the Alumni and Development Office to locate the surviving former students who graduated from Sussex in 1964 and 1965. During the search, Paul even managed to resurrect two alumni thought to have been long dead, along with former students who have settled in Africa, the United States, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Norway.

Upon arrival at Falmer on Saturday 24 September, many of the former students were apprehensive at the thought of meeting their old colleagues but after initial nerves subsided, reactions were remarkable. According to Paul Marsh, all they wanted to do was talk. “We needn’t have worried about organising activities” he said “they would have been happy locked in a cell with each other for a week.”

After tea, campus tours and a commemorative photograph, the ex-students formed discussion groups with early members of faculty, reflecting on their time at Sussex and remembering the “uniquely stimulating academic atmosphere and beautiful surroundings” that they had all experienced. Later in the evening, dinner was preceded by a reception hosted by Pro-Vice Chancellor Colin Brooks and followed by speakers including University founders Professor David Daiches and Lord Briggs of Lewes, and Roger Daw, one of the ‘original 52’. As the night wore on, everyone ventured into the Grapevine Bar for an authentic 60s disco.

The following day, the founding students were up early and spent the morning shrieking with laughter as they identified each other in archive film footage, before exchanging addresses and departing around lunchtime.

Judging by the many letters received by the Alumni office since the reunion, the event was a tremendous success. Sarah Boston (1962-66) described the weekend as “an extremely enjoyable and curiously emotional experience” whilst Felicity Smart (1962-65), remarked on the “special era whose Zeitgeist remains”. Some of the guests were so impressed that they have decided to finance a SAIL scholarship to help disadvantaged students who might not otherwise be able to share in the Sussex experience.

September’s reunion has set an excellent precedent for future occasions providing both an opportunity to enjoy the past and rediscover the purpose of the University.
Learning Support Unit

The Learning Support Unit was set up at Brighton University last October to support students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. Since then, Trudi Hancock and Liz Storey who run the Unit have responded to 100 referrals, providing educational counselling for students as well as awareness raising workshops for staff and faculty members.

Now, in conjunction with Sussex, the Unit is expanding to offer an integrated Learning Support service between the two universities. New features will include provision of support to hearing impaired and deaf students, a programme of staff development for staff, and the extension of the Unit’s current remit with regard to dyslexia through individual language and maths tuition.

The Unit can be contacted on Brighton 609900.
NEW SEASON AT THE GARDNER

The Autumn programme is packed full of drama, music, and dance. Tonight and tomorrow, 7 and 8 October you can catch the highly-popular Trestle Theatre Company's latest comedy Window Dressing. Showroom dummies join the masked cast as they turn the spotlight on media exploitation and a family's search for truth. More comedy is in store with cross-cultural Tara Arts' adaptation of Molière's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme on 12 October. From Brazil in concert, Hémero Pascoal will line up with 18 musicians to perform on 10 October.

Then from 13 to 15 October the Gardner looks ready to rock with Great Balls of Fire, a musical full of 50s hits from Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, the Everly Brothers and Jerry Lee Lewis, starring Mike Berry as Archie, a diner manager who gives up his job to manage a rock and roll band. The Phoenix Dance Company (pictured right) return to the Gardner on 18 and 19 October to delight audiences with their muscular style and formidable technical ability.

Later in the month there's fast and furious fun and laughter with The Reduced Shakespeare Company's The Complete History of America and The Complete Works of Shakespeare. (WARNING: neither show is recommended for people with heart ailments, back problems, English or History degrees, inner ear disorders or bladder problems!)

A new heating system has been installed in the Gardner so audiences can bask in a warm and rosy glow while they enjoy the new season's line-up.

STUDENT TUTORING & STUDENT MENTORING

The Enterprise Unit is again running these two schemes which were successful last year:

Student Tutoring involves students from any subject working alongside teachers in primary, secondary and special needs schools. This type of support raises pupils' aspirations and motivation and gives students the chance to develop their communication and organisational skills in a practical context. As well as being good fun, tutoring looks impressive on a CV - especially for those considering a teaching career. Tutors are being recruited and trained this term.

Mentoring involves students (or staff) acting as role-models and confidants for fourth year pupils at local schools, including a special needs school and one for physically-handicapped pupils. It aims to raise pupils' motivation and achievement at school and to encourage them to continue in further education. A training session will be held in November.

If you are interested in participating in either scheme or know anyone who would be, please contact: Tessa Gooderson, Student Enterprise Officer, Arts D422, tel: 67(8543).

In Brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call Louise Vincent in the Research Office, ext 3761, Email S.Vincent@sussex.

BRITISH ACADEMY: pending the Humanities Research Board coming into full operation, the currency of the 1993-94 Guide is extended to December 1994, but schemes and closing dates may change thereafter.

BRITISH ACADEMY Research Leave Scheme: to allow scholars a short period of leave to complete a project. Register now for details when received. Closing date 31 December.

CIBA CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS 1995/96, for research by established academics in chemistry, biochemistry and biology at a continental European university, for 4 to 12 months, at the rate of £15k a year. Closing date 1 November 94.

CIBA AWARDS FOR COLLABORATION IN EUROPE 1994-96, for short visits to stimulate new collaboration between research groups in chemistry, biochemistry and biology, £1,500 a year for two years. Closing date 1 November 94.

SCIENCE LECTURERS: Nuffield Foundation start-up awards of up to £4000 for those newly appointed. Closing date 15 November.

NUFFIELD FOUNDATION SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, to allow full-time pursuit of research for a limited period. Closing date 30 November.

LINK: new programmes on Advanced and hygienic food manufacture; Photonics; and Integration in design and construction.

NHS MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATORS DATABASE: forms available for registration.
What's on...

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- Monday 10 October
  12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: What Adults Do With Their Learning: Issues from an LEA Research Project. Ms V. McGivney, Refectory Level One, Room A.
  4.00pm Women's Studies Research-In-Progress Seminar: Representing Illegitimacy in Victorian Culture. Dr J. Taylor, Arts A183.
  4.15pm MOLS Colloquium Programme: A Chemical Fungus Foray. Prof. J. N. Murrell and Dr. J. R. Hanson, MSIT, MOLS.
  4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar Series: Visual Processing Underlying Object Recognition in Flies. Mr. D. O'Carroll (Cambridge), Biology Lecture Room.

- Tuesday 11 October.
  4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminars: Interleukin-1 receptors; signal transduction and mechanisms involved in the regulation of gene expression in inflammation. Dr. K. Ray (Glaxo R&D Ltd.), Biology Lecture Theatre.

- Wednesday 12 October
  2.00pm Query Seminar: Gaying Warhol. Ms. M. Merck, Arts D722.

- Thursday 13 October
  5.00pm Social and Political Thought Lectures: Contemporary Cultural Anamnesis. Mr. P. Connerton, Arts D630.

Sussex Archaeological Society

- Saturday 15 October

British/Nigerian Association

- Saturday 15 October

CCE Saturday Schools - 22 Oct

The Archaeology of London. The fascinating story of a city's survival despite wars, disease, fires and financial disasters.

Eighteenth Century Venetian Art. A day school to mark the autumn exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

Stress and Time Management. Always under Pressure? Never have enough time? Feeling tense? An investigation into stress, its causes, effects and how to cope with it.

All the above £15/ reduced £10/ minimum £4

Venue: University. Enrol with CCE on 678527.

Computing Service


- First Level
  Excel Spreadsheet. A spreadsheet allows you to investigate data. This session gives an introduction to Excel which is the spreadsheet on the Computing Service's Nimbus PCs. Knowledge of Windows required. One half-day session. Fee £2.00.

- Second Level
  Advanced Word for Windows: Tables and Graphs. This session is for those who are familiar with Word for Windows and now wish to include numerical data in their work. First Level experience required. One half-day session. Fee £1.00.

UNIX Intermediate Workshop. This course is for those who wish to learn more about using a UNIX system, especially SOLX1. Attendance of UNIX Introductory Workshop required. Up to four 90 minute sessions. Fee £2.00

Venue: Computing Centre Training Room. For dates and times of all the above and for further details contact ext. 8090.

Meeting House Events

- Party for New Students
  All interested in Chaplaincy activities welcome. Thur 13 October. Refreshments 7pm.

- Tai Chi
  Relaxation through an ancient Chinese self-defence discipline. Every Thur, 7pm with Peter Dixon.

- Lunchtime Recital
  Tues 11 October: Charles Macdonald - Organ.

- Meeting House Choir
  Rehearsals every Tues 4.30pm and Sun 10.30am. Contact Caroline Burdon-Cooper, Meeting House Room 2
  For further details of the above and of weekly services and Meeting House Groups contact ext. 8217.

Miscellaneous

Tree Dressing Celebration. On 17 & 18 November, University of Sussex staff are invited to join an expeditionary trek to Stanner Park for a workshop by local sculptor Walter Bailey. You can join for an hour or a whole day and its free! Contact Sue Rigby at the Gardener Centre on 8551.

Barn Dance in aid of The Children's Society. Dance to the Kewsey Band on Fri 21 October 8.00 - 11.30pm at the Corn Exchange, Lewes. £5.00 adults, £3.50 under 16s. Tickets available from the Information Office, Sussex House. Contact ext. 3766.

Small Ads

Unless informed otherwise, from Fri 14 Oct all small ads will also be carried on the University of Sussex Information Service (USIS).

FLAT TO LET: One bed flat suitable for a couple. Staff/visiting faculty pref. Available immediately. £70pw. Please contact 474123 (eves).

WANTED: Three bed flat/house in Lewes/ Falmer/ Brighton area with parking facilities. Wanted for 6 mts (15 Jan -15 July) for Visiting Fellow and family. Contact Pat Beeson on ext. 8179.

WANTED: Furnished accommodation for staff member and family (total 4 people) during Nov/Dec. Brighton area preferred. Contact Pam on ext. 2654.

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE: Do you suffer from neck, shoulder, backache or stress? Find out more about this effective method by contacting a qualified, experienced teacher in central Brighton. Contact Claudia Weiss on 693202.


NEED RESEARCH/ADMIN HELP? 1994 Sussex graduate with good Politics & Development Studies degree, available for short/long term research work or similar. Typing/WP 50 wpm, strong clerical/admin/organisation skills - ex-administrator for international medical NGO. Contact Claire Mason on 688533 (eves).

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday of Term with the copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, details of events, letters and small ads, etc. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, ext 8200 or email: bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

The Bulletin is produced and published by the Information Office. Campus photography is by the Photographic and Design Unit and printing is by the University's Printing Unit.
From its foundation, the University of Sussex has aspired not only to be an institution of international and national stature, but to serve and be involved in the local community. The School of Education validated BEd, and then BA programmes, in the former Colleges of Education in Sussex until the early 1980s. This year, the Centre for Continuing Education is celebrating its 25th anniversary; its programmes, offered throughout West and East Sussex, now attract around 9000 students every year and are in the process of being placed within an award-bearing framework. And we have always admitted a high proportion of full time mature students, mostly drawn from the region.

Most Academic Units of the University are involved in regional initiatives. Experience shows that the relationships bring mutual benefits and contribute significantly to our mission to generate innovation, interdisciplinarity and research of a high quality.

One of the most recent initiatives has been the creation of the Academic Corridor in partnership with East Sussex County Council, Brighton Borough Council, Lewes District Council, the University of Brighton, Brighton College of Technology and the Sussex TEC. This fosters a number of initiatives, including a Joint Marketing Unit and a £2 million Innovation Centre to be built in 1995 on our campus. The Corridor is intended to act as a focus for regional development and provide opportunities for technology transfer, contract education and consultancies. Following on from an Innovation in Management event, held in June 1994, the two Universities and Brighton College of Technology hosted a Festival of Innovation from 19-23 September with the aim of forging stronger links with industry, through collaborative R & D, consultancies and short courses.

A further impetus for regional linkages has been the 1992 Education Act which granted corporate status to all FE and Sixth Form Colleges. This has led to a radical and dynamic repositioning of College relationships following their removal from local authority control. The University is now rapidly developing links with sister HE and FE institutions and with other local and regional educational bodies, including the regional Arts Boards and the legal, social work and teaching professions.

Our aim, here, is to meet the educational needs and demands of local people through more flexible patterns of curricular provision, including modular course structures with scope for credit accumulation and transfer, and through programmes providing continuous professional and technical updating.

Such links are also crucial to the University's plans for student recruitment, since economic factors are likely to result in more students going to their local university.
The proposed significant expansion of opportunities for part-time study will also depend mainly on recruitment from within the region. These links offer the prospect of influencing and ensuring improved access to higher education and of expanding provision by the University without imposing greater strain on the physical capacity of the campus.

In June 1993, the Management Committee proposed that the University should be open to approaches from all FE colleges in the region and should explore the possibilities of closer collaboration. Designated members of the Committee were given responsibility for developing links with named colleges. Recent developments have included:

- franchised Foundation Year programmes at Chichester College of Further Education, Lewes Tertiary College and Varndean Sixth Form College,
- Access courses and other CCE programmes provided from Chichester and Worthing, through Crawley to Eastbourne and Hastings,
- validation arrangements with Northbrook College, Crawley College, and the Roffey Park Management Centre where the University validates the MBA,
- formal agreements with the University of Brighton and Crawley College,
- informal collaboration and discussions with the West Sussex (Chichester) Institute of Higher Education, West Dean College and the West Sussex College of Agriculture and Horticulture (Brinsbury College),
- negotiations with Croydon College, one of the largest FE colleges in the country, with a view to Croydon acquiring University College status.

Similar associations are occurring at other leading UK universities; they mirror developments in Europe and overseas. Sussex with its long history of regional involvement is in a good position to play a leading role in developing the kind of high quality educational provision with its current and prospective partners that the region requires if it is to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, and which will be needed to support Sussex's standing as a prosperous, high quality University.

7 October 1994

Gordon Conway and Ted Nakhle