SOCIOLOGY

Sociology, the latest subject to be assessed at Sussex under the new scheme of quality assessment, has been accorded the maximum score in each of the core aspects of provision. A score of 4, which is the highest awarded, denotes a "full contribution to meeting objectives. Aims met." The aspects assessed are:

- curriculum design, content and organisation
- teaching, learning and assessment
- student progression and achievement
- student support and guidance
- learning resources
- quality assurance and enhancement

Responding to the outcome of this highly successful assessment, John Dearlove, the Dean of SOC and Subject Dean for Sociology comments, "The assessment reflects well on the subject group in general, which has been committed to, and innovative in, teaching. It reflects especially well on the energy and enthusiasm of the Subject Chair, Pete Saunders. It is also important to stress that elements of assessment involve many colleagues working in other parts of the University, including the Library, the Computing Service and the whole pattern of welfare support."

"My worst Christmas was when I was seven and wanted a pair of binoculars - but all I got was a little electronic thing that gave you sums to do."
Sam Curney, Students' Union President

"When I was only a small mule my grandmother took me aside to give me her only memento of Grandfather Digby. I opened the box to find wrapped up inside a carefully folded moleskin waistcoat - all that remained of dear old Digger."
The Mole

"When I was ten my grandparents gave me a clothes brush and a shoe horn that hung on a little plaque on the wall in the shape of an imitation horse's head. Mum agreed that they'd bought it in the local 99p shop the day before Christmas."
Jim Guild, Administration

As someone who's interested in kitsch, the things I look forward to most at Christmas are the presents I don't want at all. My current favourite unwanted present is a selection of scented Christmas cards. When I put them up last year people started sniffling and looking at me as if I'd changed my aftershave. They smell of foul mint candy."
Bob Benewick, Dean of EAM

"My aunt gave me a Kings and Queens of England poster to brighten up my room when I was a teenager. I had to put it on the wall for a whole year before it could mysteriously disappear."
Gilian Harrison, Strictly Ginger from the USSU Shop

Every week the SpUDS mountain bikers pull on their lycra and set off across the Downs. The club gives members a chance to ride with like-minded people in an atmosphere that is challenging without being intimidating. If you'd like to join SpUDS or receive further information, contact Nick Herbert on 558738, or email: baph65@sussex.ac.uk. See page 3 for their Sunday Recipe

Yuill have to grin and bear it

THE LAST PRESENT BENEATH the tree looks suspiciously like the Gameboy of your dreams. You unwrap the box with bated breath – only to discover six scented soaps from granny. What do you do? Smile sweetly, of course. At least they're not as ghastly as those socks that grandad gave you.

COGS scientists Nicola Yuill and Robin Banerjee have discovered that children as young as four years old know why to smile when given dire presents. The team discovered that between 37% and 69% of four to six-year-olds knew how to regulate their expressions to avoid hurting people's feelings. Unfortunately, between 95% and 100% of adults forget that nobody likes socks for Christmas.

What are the University's most unwanted Christmas presents? Bulletin decided to investigate —
European Union re-thinks trade policy

The European Commission is funding Sussex economist, Peter Holmes, to investigate a controversial area of EU trade policy. Peter has been awarded 42,000 ecus to help the EU rethink its stance on anti-dumping policy.

Every year the EU imposes anti-dumping duties on several dozen imported products which are judged to have been ‘dumped’ in the EU. This means that they have been sold at what is considered to be unfairly low prices. Aggrieved domestic producers who claim to have been injured by such imports can complain to the European Commission. Critics (who include the British government and some senior Commission figures) say that the Commission has given in to the complaints too easily in the past. Defenders of the system say it is the only defence against firms able to to take advantage of subsidies or protected market conditions at home.

“A number of things have changed recently in the political economy of trade policy,” says Peter. The arrival of new member states such as Sweden with a more free trade orientation has tilted the balance of power inside the EU. In 1994 the Community adopted a new anti-dumping code which commits the EU to examining all aspects of ‘Community Interest’ in complaint cases.

Peter Holmes’ report is expected to offer suggestions to the Commission on how such examinations might be carried out. He is working on this project with DPhil student Jeremy Kempton and some graduate student part-timers.

Peter has just been invited to Stockholm to discuss his report with the Swedish Government.

NEW FACES
Tim Palmer, AFRAS
Tim Palmer, new arrival in AFRAS, couldn’t think of anything interesting to say about himself that would be printable in Bulletin – an interesting admission in itself. Tim drove down to Sussex from Edinburgh the day after finishing his Geography MSc dissertation. He made it here in time for Monday morning’s teaching, although he did run out of petrol on the M25. For a geographer, Tim’s travels haven’t taken him far – he longs to see Africa but so far he’s only made it to Corfu.

In Scotland Tim became an outdoor addict, mountain-biking, climbing and camping. “Abseiling was completely terrifying,” he says. “I clung onto the rocks all the way down.” Biking, on the other hand, gives Tim his thrills: “you’re almost out of control and that’s such a buzz”. When not risking his life outside, Tim does so in his kitchen, concocting “eye-watering” curries.

Tim is interested in Geographical Information Systems – the use of computer technology to produce and manage information like maps and population data. He’s investigated how access to this information can empower people such as environmental pressure groups.

Gardner Centre Award
On 22 November, Punter magazine voted the Gardner Centre Best Arts Venue in Sussex for 1995. “For 25 years,” Punter stated, “the Gardner has been putting on a vast range of theatre productions, visual arts exhibitions, dance, comedy and music with the aim of bringing the arts to a wide range of people and eroding the barriers between so called high- and low-brow art. It still keeps prices so low that you can see a top international show for only £3 if you’re a student.” Norma Binnie, the Gardner Centre’s general manager, said, “I am delighted that Punter readers believe that the Gardner is the best place to be for good value, all-round entertainment.”

In the Bookshop
Recent publications by Sussex authors all obtainable from Sussex University Bookshop
CLUB CULTURES. Sarah Thornton. Polity Press. £11.95.
CHEMISTRY OF FULLERENES, ADVANCED SERIES IN FULLERENES VOL IV. World Scientific Publishing Co. £38.
THE TUDOR IMAGE by Maurice Howard. The Tate Gallery. £7.95.
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION AND RURAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION. Mark Robinson and Roger C. Riddell. Oxford University Press. £35.
SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP, CURRENT INITIATIVES IN SCHOOL-BASED TEACHER EDUCATION. V. Griffiths and Patricia Owen. P. Chapman £14.95.
A LITTLE EDGE OF DARKNESS, a Boy’s Triumph over Dyslexia, Tanya Faludy and Alexander Faludy. Jessica Kingsley Publishing. £9.95.
THE POLEMICS OF IMAGINATION. Peter Abb’s. Skoob Books Publishing Ltd. £8.95.
FREQUENCY DOMAIN FILTERING STRATEGIES FOR HYBRID OPTICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING by C.R. Chatwin and R.K. Wang. Electronic and Electrical Engineering research studies pattern recognition and image processing series No. 10. £42.

Since the bookshop Christmas catalogue went to press, prices have been reduced on a number of titles by up to 25% while stocks last.
SpUDS Sunday Recipe

Ingredients:
- 1 bike (needs to be capable of enduring rough conditions)
- 1 helmet
- A dash of enthusiasm

Method:
Prepare the bike by applying lubricant to the appropriate moving areas such as chain and rear mech. Apply helmet to the head, securing firmly with adjustable straps.

Arrive at York House at the allotted time (11 am Sundays, 1pm Wednesdays). Climb steadily up to Ditchling Beacon via Stannmer Park.

Hack down the gnarly track following the road. The first section is straight and steep, but slippery and rutted and interrupted by a gate. The next section through Ash Wood is strewn with roots. After this comes a narrow, winding track through woods, punctuated by tight gaps between tree trunks.

Arrive at the bottom elated and probably a little sore. Follow Underhill lane along to Plumpton and ascend the steep tractor track, opposite the old petrol pump, onto Black Cap Hill.

Proceed east along the South Downs Way and descend into Lewes. Obtain refreshments from Safeway, situated close to the bus station. Head back towards Kingston turning off up the white chalk trail to Castle Hill.

Take track to Telscombe Cliffs via Swansborough Hill. Join undercliff walk at Rottingdean and cruise back to Brighton, past the marina and along Madeira Drive.

End the day with tea, toast and bunter at a member’s house.

GREEN NEWS

A Green Christmas
When deciding on your Christmas tree, the best environmental option is either a re-usable synthetic tree or a tree with roots which you plant out. However, if you should decide on a real tree without roots, then please consider recycling. During the first week of next term you can bring your old Christmas trees to a clearly designated area in the Science Car Park between Central Stores and the back of the former AFRC building. The trees will be chipped into small pieces and used as a mulch on the University campus. Any queries, please contact Grounds on ext 3311.

There will also be a recycling point for your old Christmas cards in the Library foyer.

Please support these initiatives, but remember they will only be available during the first week of next term.

Penelope Chapple
Environmental Adviser

Bacon causes buzz in Konstanz
Sussex neuroscientist Jonathan Bacon gave the British Council Science and Society Lecture on 28 November in the German town of Konstanz. Jonathan discussed fruit fly genetics, asking the question: “From Insects and Man: are there common rules for the development of simple and complex body structures?” The answer, Jonathan argued, was yes, though reaching this conclusion out loud in German was no mean feat, he said afterwards.

Memorial for Ken Saro-Wiwa
On 22 November Chris Abuk organised a memorial ceremony to mourn the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight compatriots. Their executions represent a gross violation of human rights by the Nigerian government; a petition protesting these executions is available in AFRAS School Office. Ralph Grillo introduced the ceremony which included readings (by Marc Williams, Chris Abuk, Denise de Caires Narain, Tondi Ings, Chizom Ekeh and Mayenne Udo) from Saro-Wiwa’s collection of short stories, A Forest of Flowers and from his novel, Soza Boy. These readings were a poignant testimony to the values that Saro-Wiwa stood for.

Thanks to Chris Abuk for organising the event and to all those who made it such a powerful occasion.

Next term’s Bulletin will run a series of articles on sports clubs across campus. If you would like your club to be featured, especially if you have good action pictures, please contact Bulletin, Room 230 Sussex House, ext 8209, email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
For more information, call Mylene Powell in the Research Office, ext 3812 (mornings only), email:M.G.Powell@sussex.ac.uk

FORESIGHT CHALLENGE COMPETITION: The Office of Science and Technology invites collaborative partnerships to bid for challenge funds. The ultimate objective is to increase wealth creation or the quality of life by implementing Foresight priorities. The objective of the Challenge is consistent with the 1993 White Paper on Science, Engineering and Technology and the Technology Foresight Programme. Closing date: June 1996.

UK/BELGIUM ACADEMIC RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROGRAMME: to promote the development of scientific and cultural cooperation between higher education and public sector research institution on both sides. Closing date: 15 January 1996.

UK/FRANCE ACADEMIC RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROGRAMME: to encourage the establishment of collaborative projects, limited in time and with clear objectives, between research groups from each side. Closing date: 15 January 1996.

CANADIAN STUDIES
The Canadian Government/Foundation for Canadian Studies (UK) offer grants of up to £10,000 p.a. for the development of Canadian studies in British universities through scholarship, symposia, public lectures, programme delivery, professional academic activities, publication of proceedings and links with Canadian academics.

In 1995 Sussex received £3,650 to assist with the development of Canadian-related activities. Anyone wishing to apply for funds in the 1996 grant application should write directly to Annis May Timpson, EAM, Arts B, ext. 2107, outlining their project. Applications must be received by 22 December 1995.
Monday 11 December
1pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Parsing of ambigious sentences. J. Henssra, Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9).
2pm Feminism and... Lecture: Feminism and death and dying - a sociologist's perspective. G. Howarth, Arts D/520.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Mechanisms of Echo Location in Bats. I. Russell, Biology Lecture Room.

Tuesday 12 December

Wednesday 13 December
1pm Barlow Collection Talk: Bronzes in the Barlow, C. Clunas, Barlow Gallery, Library.
1pm Poverty Research Unit Seminar: Urban NGOs and their Role in Development (with reference to Bombay). V. Desai, IDS Room 221, Coffee provided.

Thursday 14 December
1.15pm Lunchtime Recital: Composers' Concert: new pieces by Wig and Pig composers. Palmer House, Recital Room.
4pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: An implicit theory of aesthetics. A. Reber, Biology Lecture Room.
5pm Social and Political Thought Seminar: In Extremis? Hobson's Short Twentieth Century. G. Elliot (Brighton), Arts D/610.
5pm French Research Seminar: The monster in the mirror: anatomical advances and changing views of the self in the late 18th century. V. Griseshaber (UCL), Arts B254.

Friday 15 December
4pm Chemical Physics Seminar Programme: STM modification of adsorbates on semiconductor surfaces. P. Beton (Nottingham), MS3.

Meeting House

Lunchtime Recital
1.20pm, Tue 12 Dec, Charles Macdonald (Organ).

Choir Concert

Windows Course
Windows Applications on the PC
Tuesdays 7-9pm for 8 weeks
A few places still remain on this course which includes training on Windows, Word for Windows & Excel. Course commences 9 Jan. Cost £55 (£40). For further information contact Stephanie Gilpin in CCE on 678527.

Monday 11 December — Sunday 17 December

St Lucia Celebrations
Join students from Gothenburg University in celebration of the feast of St Lucia on Thursday 13 Dec at 6pm in the Grapevine Bar, Refectory Building. There will be a candle-lit procession followed by traditional Swedish carols. Mulled wine on sale. Children most welcome.

RSPCA collection
There will be a collection of pet food to help feed animals over Christmas. A tin or two or even a packet of food for the Cats and Dogs would be most appreciated. All go to the RSPCA. Collection points are sited at the Refectory and MOLS.

Stop Smoking Meeting
Wed 17 Jan, 5.30pm (Health Centre Patients only)
Would you like to stop smoking? Remember that smoking 10 a day takes nearly £10 a week out of your grant. If you are thinking of quitting for 1996, please come to this meeting.

TEFL Teacher Training
Places still available on TEFL introductory course, 18 - 22 Dec (full-time). Contact Linda Gunn, EFL, Secretary, Language Centre, Room A125, tel: 678006 x2175.

Charity Christmas Challenge
6pm, Wed 13 Dec at the Sports Centre
Spectators welcome to the University's Christmas Challenge in aid of the Sussex Cancer treatment Fund. Mulled wine, mince pies, raffle etc. If you would like to help by selling raffle tickets, please contact Karen Danster, Sports Centre, x3947.

University Christmas Party
Thu 21 December, 5.30 until midnight
Falmer Bar & the Hothouse
Admission £2
Includes disco, raffle, buffet
Tickets from p.vincent@sussex.ac.uk

UNISON Christmas Party
12-2.30pm, Mon 18 Dec
Terrace Room, Refectory Building
Drinks and mince pies

Language Courses
Beginners classes in:
Spanish
Thu 12.30 from 11 Jan
German
Mon 6.30 from 8 Jan
Italian
Thu 6.30 from 11 Jan
Contact Alex x8006, Language Centre (also, Mandarin).

Small Ads

ACCOMMODATION WAANTED: in Lewes area or between Lewes & Tunbridge Wells. Furnished flat or house, 2 bedrooms, for 6 months, Jan - July or Feb - Aug 96. Canadian academic couple.
Tel: 478776 (evs).


FLAT TO LET: from mid-Jan. Short lets up to 3 months. Double bedroom, stylishly furnished, balcony on Brighton seafront. Rent incl all bills £120pw. Tel: Norma Binney 542736 or x4257.


LOST: In Refectory, Level One. A dark green, blackwatch tartan peaked cap. Enormous sentimental importance. Please return to Peter Hignell at the Library or tel: x3452, email: P.C.Hignell@sussex.ac.uk.

MATHS TUTITION: from maths tutor with experience in teaching & individual tuition. Tel: Paul Courtney on 556699.

CARE FOR SALE: Quick sale! Rover 216GLi, 5 door, H-reg, all electric, 43,000 miles, vg condition. Full service history. Owner going abroad. £4400. Tel: 01903 813888.

SAXOPHONE FOR SALE: Eutne Alto, mint condition, beautiful instrument. £460 ono. Tel: Anna 208673.

CARE FOR SALE: Peugeot 205XL. E-reg, dark blue, vg condition, low mileage, removable stereo, excellent service history, new MOT, brakes, exhaust, taxed until 2/96. Selling because leaving country. £1700. Tel: x8982, email: yonner@ccg.susx.ac.uk.

HOUSE WANTED: for new member of academic staff from 1 Jan. 3/4 bedroom, unfurnished, long lease, within easy drive of Univ. Tel: 01841 748 0610 (evs) or 0171 612 6629 (days), email: f.leach@ioe.ac.uk.

CAMERA FOR SALE: Nikon FE with Nikkor 35mm lens, with lens hood, filters and carrying case. £300. Tel: Lesley 0171 326 1096.

Bulletin
This is the last Bulletin of term. The first Bulletin of next term will be issued on 12 January. Copy date for news, details of events, letters and small ads is 5 January. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
In recent years the University has grown in many ways. Increasing student numbers coupled with more efficient use of resources has resulted in percentage growth in the grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England that are well above the national average. We have used these extra funds to hire new faculty in anticipation of the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise, to invest in new research developments and to improve our infrastructure.

We have become used to annual growth in the size of our budgets and the availability of funds for new activities. However, all the signs are that our budgets will become increasingly tight in the next few years. We will have to work hard, and with considerable skill and ingenuity, if we are to continue to improve our finances and achieve our goals in research and teaching.

In last week's Budget, the Government announced a continuing programme of so-called "efficiency gains". For 1996/1997 and 1997/1998, the cut will be 3% in each year and 2% in 1998/1999. For the time being the "T" money, i.e., that related to teaching, is not being tied to the Quality Assessment Exercise, but the Government has indicated its wishes to make this connection. Subjects with higher scores in the exercise are likely to receive higher levels of funding.

The funds to support research, the "R" money is already tied in this way through the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Next April we will be submitting our research assessment documents for review. The gradings will be known at the end of 1996 and will determine the 1997/1998 budget. I hope we can retain our standing in the top rank of UK research universities, but this is not likely to result directly in substantial increases in funds. The "R" money is also subject to the 3% efficiency gain and, as we are all aware, every other university has been investing heavily with a view to increasing their RAE. We need high grades because this will confirm our status as a research university and improve our chances of gaining research grants and contracts, and make us more attractive for postgraduate students.

There is little likelihood of an increase in full-time undergraduates in the future. The challenge we face is how to gain more income in this situation. Six possible sources are open to us:

1. Part-Time Students.

There is no cap on the numbers we can take and this is unlikely to change. At Sussex we have a long and distinguished history of encouraging mature students and a highly successful experience of continuing education in the region. We should continue, through the Centre for Continuing Education, to expand our part-time award-bearing courses. But it is imperative we mainstream our part-time provision by opening more opportunities for part-time students to take courses on our "regular" degree programmes. This process has begun in some schools and Dr Fred Gray is carrying out a survey of further possibilities. I would urge the Academic Development Committees in each School to examine the feasibility of adjustments to current programmes and make the necessary proposals to the Academic Audit Committee.

2. Post-Graduate Students

There is also no cap on the numbers of postgraduate research students. Our high research ratings should be attractive to postgraduate students. But by comparison with our competitors we are not doing as well as we should. Even more worrying, the number of recruits has fallen in the past two years. We need to redouble our efforts. This should be a priority task for our Directors of GRCs. The new postgraduate facilities in the "Arts" buildings should be attractive. We are planning new dedicated postgraduate residences. There is a need also for better publicity targeted at recruiting from undergraduate programmes at other universities.
3. Overseas Students.

There is no limit on the numbers of overseas students we can take, providing they are suitably qualified. Undergraduate students from the European Union count as home students and so fall within our home student limits. But European Union PG taught and research, and UG and PG students from outside the European Union earn us extra fees. In recent years we have seen a steady increase in overseas students, but it falls short of our targets. Each School should have faculty with special responsibilities for recruitment and welfare. The International Office under Philip Baker will be recruiting UG students at International Fairs. For overseas PGT and PGR the most productive strategy is to build academic links with overseas universities. We have growing linkages with East Asian universities and with South Africa, coordinated by committees under the chair of Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Tony McCaffery. Our South African programme is being led by Dr Mick Johnson of AFRAS. There is also a considerable potential for attracting former V and E students back to postgraduate study. One idea is for GRCs to mail brochures to students at around Christmas in the academic year after they were at Sussex. Professor Rupert Wilkinson and Sara Dyer coordinate our North American programmes and Beatrice Merrick, our European programmes.


We do well, although unevenly, at gaining grants from the Research Councils. We are less good, however, at getting the full indirect costs. This element is crucial, not only for supporting the costs of the research, but to provide funds for new research developments. The Research Office under John Farrant can provide advice. A second priority is to increase our grants from the European Union. Currently we have bids for grants totalling some £30 million. The success rate is not very high but even a marginal improvement will bring a considerable increase in funds. Clem Smith in the Research Office can provide expert advice. Finally, we need to increase our research contracts from industries and government departments. In the South East the pharmaceutical industry, high quality engineering, software and multimedia companies are well represented. Education, health and social services also provide opportunities. Numerous national schemes are available including ROPA, LINK, and the teaching company schemes.

5. Consultancies.

We have recently produced a revised policy to cover private and university consultancies. The intention of the policy is to encourage consultancies in such a way as to benefit both the individual and the university. Advice on how to construct consultancy agreements to maximise benefits can be obtained from the Research Office.

6. Development Funds.

We have a very active Alumni and Development Office under Robin Street and Sara Dyer. The annual phonathons are bringing in significant funds for appeals such as those targeted at disabled and disadvantaged students. The Office also has been particularly successful in supporting the fundraising efforts of the German-Jewish Centre, raising over £140,000 for an archive and studentships. This experience can now be used to support other well-defined developments. Alumnus groups are now active here and overseas and we are planning a large fundraising campaign.

I hope that these brief notes have provided ideas and a stimulus for new income raising activities. The University’s targets are laid out in the University Plan, which was distributed in the Bulletin two weeks ago. If each school were to increase its income by 10% a year from each of the six revenue streams I have identified, we would be on track to meet the targets of our plan and hence be better able to provide a better physical, social and intellectual environment for staff and students alike.

December 1995