LINGUISTICS
Scores Highly on Quality

Linguistics, the first subject to be assessed at Sussex under the new scheme of quality assessment, has scored very highly, achieving 22 points out of a maximum of 24.

The practice of grading departments as excellent, satisfactory and unsatisfactory has now been discontinued and, instead, assessment concentrates on six core aspects of provision each of which attracts a grade on a scale of 1 to 4. Linguistics was awarded the highest grade, signifying a full contribution to meeting objectives in four aspects. These are: teaching, learning and assessment, student progression and achievement, student support and guidance and learning resources. In the other two, curriculum design, content and organisation and quality assurance and enhancement, it was awarded the second highest grade denoting a substantial contribution to meeting objectives. A full report based on the assessment visit is expected next month.

HUMPTY DUMPTY AND THE ENGLISH QUESTION

Riddles and Meanings

University Public Lecture
Norman Vance Professor of English
Professorial Lecture
Tuesday 21 November at 6.15 pm
Molecular Sciences
Lecture Theatre
ALL WELCOME

The study of riddles, of which Humpty Dumpty is an example, raises fundamental questions about representation and interpretation. Riddle solving is often associated with mystery and power, and Professor Vance will consider riddles in relation to the interplay between Britain and Ireland.

FLOWER POWER

Growing prize-winning chrysanthemums takes more than green fingers. For the last 30 years of his life, Mike Trott, the VC's gardener, has refused to take a day of holiday between February and November. From the moment they're planted to the day of the show, his flowers need daily 5-star treatment. This year at the National Chrysanthemum Society annual show in London, the painstaking care paid off when Mike walked away with three prestigious prizes. He was placed third overall out of 200 competitors, and won first prize for best vase of single sprays and for best charm chrysanthemum. "I had no sleep at all the night before the show," says Mike. "You work all night, checking every bloom, every petal, making them perfect. When the winners are announced the adrenaline is awful. You feel as though you want Beta Blockers. It’s serious all right." Mike is a man truly obsessed. "It’s a search for perfection," he says. "I could never give it up now."

University Christmas Card

The University Christmas card will be on sale shortly from the Bookshop and Students' Union Shop. Bulk orders may be made through the Information Office, Room 230, Sussex House, ext 3766.
Prices: £2.50 for 10; £5.75 for 25; £11.50 for 50 and £21.00 for 100.
Rocket Launch in Alaska

PAUL GOUGH of the Engineering Space Centre is thawing out after his role in an Alaskan rocket launch. Paul joined an international team at the Poker Flat Rocket Range, Fairbanks, Alaska, for the launch of the OEDIPUS-C on 6 November.

OEDIPUS-C travelled through an active display of the aurora borealis or Northern Lights. The lights of the aurora borealis are formed when electrons, accelerating through space, collide with the earth’s upper atmosphere. A television screen lights up in exactly the same way as it is hit by streams of electrons. The aurora borealis poses problems for satellites, interfering with their signals. The data collected by OEDIPUS-C will help scientists understand both the borealis itself and its effects on satellite communications.

OEDIPUS-C’s scientific instruments were divided into two separate sections connected by a 1200 metre tether and aligned precisely with the earth’s magnetic field. The tether system provided the first simultaneous measurements of auroral processes on the same magnetic field line. It yielded over ten minutes of measurements, compared with only milliseconds of previously recorded data. “All of the many systems worked 100%,” said Paul, “and this short 20 minute flight has left us with a rich dataset and many months of scientific interpretation.” The Sussex Space Science Centre designed and provided some of the project’s software and hardware, including the post-flight data analysis software.

Forthcoming Sussex space experiments include an instrument manifested to fly on shuttle STS-75 early in 1996, the four European Space Agency Cluster spacecraft scheduled for summer 1996, and the CIS lead international Mars-96 mission to Mars in October 1996.

NEW FACES

Gavin Phillipson, CLS

Gavin Phillipson, new lecturer in law, is overjoyed to be here after his two year stint in London's legal rat-race. “I didn’t like the machismo lifestyle of who could put in the longest hours. As a trainee in a law firm you’re the bottom of the heap and you have to do as you’re told. Here authority is exercised informally and by consent, and you can be much more autonomous.” His training at Misson de Reyda did give Gavin his first taste of fame however. He became a media celeb almost as soon as he arrived, serving the writ on the Daily Mirror for its Diana-in-the-gym snaps.

Gavin is that rare breed of lecturer, the kind who doesn’t find his workload astronomical. He’s enjoying the novel experience of living in a laid-back student house where there’s time to talk and drink coffee. A bit of a demon on the dance-floor, he’s just joined the campus Ballroom and Latin dance clubs. He plays the trombone, sings in the Chamber choir and is looking for partners on the tennis court. His research focuses on civil liberties, particularly the right to freedom of expression and its conflict with other rights like privacy.

Nicola Jane Woods, COGS

COGS lecturer Nicola Jane Woods has been hooked on the theatre since she was five years old. Her grandmother was an usherette who’d sneak her into every performance. Forform for the days of student standbys, nowadays she goes horse riding. Nicola left school at 16 and worked in London before deciding to continue education. Night school at the Camden Working Men's College provided an unusual route to a BA in Education and English at the Roehampton Institute. After a PhD in Linguistics at Linacre College, Oxford, Nicola spent two years as a researcher in New Zealand. “I’m very pleased to be working somewhere now that does cater well for mature students,” she says. Nicola continues to study the origins and dialects of New Zealand English. Her time down under left another lasting legacy: a secret urge to bungee jump.

CD-ROMS IN THE CLASSROOM

CD-ROM and Internet are the buzzwords of the nineties. If you haven’t got to grips with multimedia or at the very least surfed the Net then you’re way behind the times.

Or so the hype would have us believe. COGS lecturer, Lydia Plowman, has joined forces with a team from the Open University to examine the use of CD-ROMS in the classroom. Over 90% of UK schools now have at least one CD-ROM player, yet little is actually known about their teaching potential. Lydia’s team has been awarded an ESRC grant of nearly £4 million to assess the classroom performance of CD-ROMS. They will observe how children use multimedia materials to establish whether or not a strong storyline assists children’s comprehension.

Traditionally, texts have a linear construction. “Ever since Aristotle,” says Plowman, “we have been taught that stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. Interactive multimedia challenge these ingrained assumptions because they don’t follow a familiar narrative structure. CD-ROM users can stop and start, repeat sequences and alter the direction of the narrative. Given the interactive nature of CD-ROMs, we will consider the best way to structure their content.”

The researchers will investigate a range of multimedia materials ranging from encyclopaedias to computer games. They aim to establish guidelines for designing materials which help people to think and learn more effectively.

Racial Harassment

The University has procedures for dealing with sexual harassment involving members of staff, and has now revised those procedures so that they also cover racial harassment. Racial harassment is here defined as conduct relating to a person’s ethnic origin which is unwelcome to the recipient and which the perpetrator knew or should have known was offensive to the recipient. Racial harassment is unacceptable conduct, and may be grounds for disciplinary action. If you suffer racial harassment, notes on the procedures available to deal with it may be obtained from the Personnel Office.
News and Notices

Staff Development
On Site Courses

There are some places still available on the following courses:

Mentors Briefing Session Wednesday 22 November 1995: 10am to 12.
Safety Training for VDU: Avoiding RSI Tuesday 28 November 1995: 2.30pm to 4pm
Assertiveness Training (non-teaching staff) Friday 8 and Monday 11 December (2-day course): 9.30am to 4.30pm
Appraisal Training (faculty) Tuesday 12 December 1995: 10am to 4pm
Nominations for the above (via Section Heads) to Alison Lyner, ext 3868 by return please.

LETTER to the editor

In his letter published on 3rd November Peter Anning made two comments regarding the recent changes to the exit to the University. I disagree with both. Firstly the changes have not and could not have significantly improved the situation since they did not address the basic problem i.e. the difficulty in getting onto the roundabout when going straight across. The money would have been far better spent installing peak hour traffic lights. Secondly I believe that cars should be encouraged, not discouraged, to use both entry lanes when going straight across the roundabout. The traffic flow rate out of the university would increase which would benefit everyone. It is quite possible for traffic to safely merge into a single lane at the exit to the roundabout.

Dr John Riddington, ENGG

THE SKRIKER

Sussex University Drama Society (SUDS) are performing The Skriker, written by Caryl Churchill, at the Gardner Arts Centre on Wednesday 22 November to Saturday 25 November. The play traces the movements of Josie and Lily, as they are followed through London by a shape-shifting creature from the spirit Underworld. This creature, the Skriker, gains energy from people persuaded to go with it to the Underworld.

At the start of the play, Josie is in an institution for the mentally unstable. She has killed her own baby. As the play develops, the borders between reality and the imagination become blurred. Is the Skriker real? Is Josie’s imagination working to protect her from ‘reality’? Why does Lily start to see the Skriker too?

The Skriker can be seen as a representation of the pressures of society on young people. However, the shape-shifting performed by the Skriker shows that such pressures come from all sides of society and, most importantly, can come from within.

Tickets: £5/£3.50 (£1 off conc)

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call Clem Smith, Sussex House (ext 8238)
E.mail: C.J-Smith@sussex.ac.uk

EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME IV RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES:

- BIOTECHNOLOGY: Trans-national projects involving a minimum of 2 EU member states, preferably more. Projects should fit a research task in the following areas of the Work Programme: Area 1 - Cell Factories; Area 2.1 - Sequencing; Area 3.1 - Plant mol. & cell biology; Area 3.2.2 - Animal models; Area 4 - Cell Communication in Neurosciences; Area 5.2 - Transdissease vaccinology; Area 6.1 - Structure/Function Relationships; Area 7.1 - In vitro pharmaco-toxicology; Area 7.2 - Biosafety; Area 7.4 - Biodiversity; Area 8.1 - Infrastructures, Demonstration projects, ethical, legal, social aspects. DEADLINE: 10 January 1996.


- TRAINING AND MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS: Training grants for post-graduates (max 3 years) and post-docs (max 2 years). Eligibility: (i) researchers from another EU member state for project work here - provided they have not spent more than 18 out of the last 24 months in the UK; (ii) UK researchers for project work in other EU member state institutions - same mobility criterion as in (i). NEXT DEADLINE: 15/12/95; FOLLOWING DEADLINE: 15/6/96.

- Advance notice of a call for EU INDUSTRIAL AND MATERIALS TECHNOLOGIES Programme (BRITEUROAM) 15/12/95 - for Trans-national projects involving at least 2 EU states. All areas to be covered. DEADLINE: 17/4/96

- Advance notice of a call for AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES Programme - 15/12/95 - Trans-national projects in the following areas: Area 1 - Integrated Production and Processing chains; Area 4 - Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development; Area 5 - Fisheries and Aquaculture; Area 6 - Demonstration projects, Ethical, Legal & Social aspects. DEADLINE: 15/3/96.

Hitachi Lecture

Rodney Bickerstaffe, elected last week as the next General Secretary of UNISON, will deliver the Fourteenth Hitachi Lecture next Thursday on the controversial relations between pay, jobs and Europe. Is Europe condemned to choose between more jobs which pay less, or good jobs but high levels of unemployment accompanying those jobs? Is it impossible to provide minimum standards and rights in work in economies that encourage growth and good jobs? Britain is divided from its European partners in its response to these dilemmas, Rodney will deliver his own assessment, drawing on his extensive experience in public sector unions. As well as being about to head Britain's largest union, Rodney is a member of the TUC General Council and President of the European Public Services Committee.

University Public Lecture

HITACHI LECTURE

Rodney Bickerstaffe

General Secretary (elect) UNISON

Low Pay, Jobs and Europe

6.15 pm
Thursday 23 November
Terrace Room, Refectory
ALL WELCOME
Monday 20 November — Sunday 26 November

Monday 20 November
1pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Inverse agonists of benzodiazepine receptors and anxiety. D. Duka, Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9).
2pm Falmer Language Group Seminar: English attitudes to language learning: some experimental data. I. Sachdev (Birkbeck), Arts D410.
2pm "Feminism and..." Lecture: Keeping diaries (mine and other people's) - Or, reflections on becoming an archivist. D. Sheridan, Arts D520.
2pm Culcrom Cultural Encounters Film: Sunless, by Chris Marker. Introduced by S. Barber & C. Lupton, Arts A2.
4pm Women's Studies Seminar: Women and Education: Some experiences from Rajastan. S. Rajan, Arts D520.
4.15pm MOLS Chemical Society Colloquium: Touching Molecules with the Atomic Force Microscope. M. Davies (Nottingham), MOLS.

Tuesday 21 November
3pm Sussex European Institute Seminar: The Problem of Success: Czech Republic and Poland. C. Allen, A71 in SEL.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminars: Bone morphogenetic proteins and mesodermal patterning in Xenopus embryos. L. Dale (UCL), Biology Lecture Room.
5pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Anthropologists and Mass-Observation. B. Street, Arts E419.
5pm German Research Colloquium: Fiction into Film: Volker Schlondorff's Reinterpretation of Max Frisch's Novel Homo Faber. D. Berghahn (Oxford Brookes), Arts A71.
5pm American Studies Seminar: Metaphors and Method in Thomas Pynchon. C. Welsh, Arts D722.
6pm International Relations Seminar: British Policy towards Bosnia. J. Little (Wilton Park, ex-CFC Research Dept.), EDB1 121.
7.30pm Institute of Science Technology Talk: Sunlight and skin cancer. C. Arlett (MRCC/CMU), Ancillary Lecture Room Biology.

Wednesday 22 November
11.30am Culcrom Cultural Encounters Seminar: Sunless. Chair: S. Barber, Arts D722.
12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: Making a career in environmental management. P. Chapple (Environmental Advisor), MOLS MS3.
1pm Poverty Research Unit Seminar: Combating Social Exclusion: Urban Social Development in France. C. Canan, IDS Room 221, Coffee provided.
1pm Barlow Collection Talk: China on the Table. C. Clunas, Barlow Gallery, Library.
1.45pm AWISE Talk. Liz Bargh (Opportunity 2000), MAPS1, PB1A1.
2pm QUEORY: The Invisible Black Lesbian - Poetic Politics. V. Mason-John, Arts D640.

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Wednesday 22 November cont.
2pm CMAIA Colloquium: A phase-field model for diffusion-induced grain boundary motion and discontinuous precipitation in alloys. O. Penrose (Heriot-Watt), MAPS1, PB2A2.
4pm Centre for Composition and Contemporary Music Research: Stravinsky and the Problem of Modernity. J. Powells (Liverpool Institute of HE), Music Recital Room, Falmer House.

Thursday 23 November
11.30am Economics Seminar: Tinker, tailor... intragenerational occupational mobility. C. Dougherty (LSE), Arts D410.
12.30pm History and Gender Seminar: Women, health and diet in the Twentieth Century. L. Merricks, Arts C251.
12.45pm Renaissance Theory & Culture Seminar: Protagonist; Puritans Against Theatre. C. Barber, Arts A106.
1pm Lunchtime Recital: Contemporary music incl. Cage & Ferneyhough. A.Barnford (Voice) & C. Welsh (Flute).
5pm History Seminar: Public Spirit in Manchester c. 1750 - c. 1780. K. Kondo (UCL & University of Tokyo), Arts A115.
5pm French Research Seminar: Theoretical terrorism: a leap or a dance? P. French (UCL) Arts A5.
6.15pm Hitachi Lecture: Low Pay, Jobs & Europe. Rodney Bickerstaffe (Gen. Sec. (elect) UNISON), Refectory Building.

Friday 24 November
2pm Russian Seminar: Chapayev (Russian film on video.) Introduced by B. Williams, Arts A135.
4pm Astronomy Seminar: Large scale structure without N-body simulations: P. Coles (QMW), PB1A7.
4pm Chemical Physics Seminar: New graphite structures and their physical and chemical implications. M. Tuttone, MS3.

Barn Dance
25 November, 8pm, at the Meeting House.
Three piece band and light refreshments. Tickets from Barbara Barber Room 3, Meeting House, £2 in advance or £2.50 on door, incl refreshments.

Miscellaneous

Arguing Society
6pm First meeting. Wed 22 Nov, EDB 121.

Staff Evening at Boots
Boots invites University employees to a special shopping evening at their North Street branch on Wed Dec 6, 6-9pm. 10% off all purchases (with some exceptions) and a prize draw. Entry by invitation only. Invitation cards from the Personnel Office, Room 227, Sussex House.

Small Ads
XMAS ACCOM WANTED: For visiting Australian academic couple. Flat or house 17 Dec - 21 Jan 96 on or near seafront for reasons of allergies. Non-smokers, house-carers. Tel: J. Platt x2446 (sec. 678027), e-mail: J.Platt@sussex.ac.uk, or tel: C. Goldie 0171 975 5218, e-mail: C.M.Goldie@qmp.ac.uk.
FLAT TO LET: Sleeps 2. English Tourist Board highly recommended. Well-equipped. Beautiful garden. Village location. 7 min drive to univ. Short-term lets. Ideal for visiting fac. Tel: Jean Hudson, MOLS, x8136, e-mail: J.Hudson@sussex.ac.uk.
ITALIAN SPEAKER WANTED: for flat-share, £40ps. Tel: 624046.
CAR FOR SALE: Rover 2168i 5-door car. H-reg. silver-beige metallic. Security markings, electric windows/sunroof, stereo, 43 000 miles. Excellent condition. £8250 ono. Tel: Pat Hemworth x2154, e-mail: P.M.Hemworth@sussex.ac.uk.
FOR SALE: Epson Stylus 800 Inkjet Printer (B/W). Good condition, boxed with manual, can be seen working. £130 ono. Tel: 327066, e-mail: marco@coqs.
FOR SALE: Gameboy plus 4 games inc Tetris. £25. Tel: Fenella x733. UNWANTED NEW TOOL: 3/8" drive torque wrench 10-70Nm. New price £22.99, Sale at £15. Tel: x2998.

The Skriker
SUDS present Caryl Churchill's The Skriker Wed 22 - Sat 25 Nov, 7.45pm at the Gardiner Centre Tickets: £5/£3 (£1 off concs.)

Meeting House

Luncheon Recital
1.20pm Charles Macdonald (Organ). Tues 21 November.

Cinema at the Gardner

Monday 20 November
11.30pm In the Realm of the Senses

Sunday 26 November
5.30pm Three Colours: Blue
7.30pm Three Colours: White
9.30pm Three Colours: Red

Tickets: £2.70 (£2.20 for Sussex students with ID and New Friends). The Gardner Centre Cafe is now open on Saturdays.

Bulletin
The Bulletin appears every Friday of term with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, details of events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.