BRIGHTON HONOURS GEOFF

GEOFF LOCKWOOD, retiring Registrar & Secretary, celebrated his 60th birthday last Friday at the Brighton Centre where he received an honorary degree from the University of Brighton.

Geoff is the first member of either University to receive such an award from the other and, in his presentation speech David House, Brighton's Deputy Director, paid tribute to Geoff's contribution to Sussex. "Looking in from outside we have admired over a long period the grasp of the whole University that Geoff has had. (He) has also had a sense of the long term needs of his university and a finely tuned understanding of its direction." His contribution to higher education has also extended beyond Sussex and David House emphasised his scholarship and writing and his role in linking the University of Sussex with the region, national and international developments. "The list of his interests and achievements here is too long to recite; but what shines through is his belief that universities do not exist in isolation, but that they must serve their local and national communities."

Presenting him for the degree of Doctor of Laws, David House described Geoff as "a distinguished founder member of the University of Sussex whose high reputation has spread far beyond Sussex; an enlightened and challenging thinker and writer on higher education and a longstanding and constructive friend of this University."

Geoff will become a Doctor of Laws twice over this year. In the summer he will receive the honorary degree at our summer graduation ceremony to be held on 16 July.

Smart-cards for pacemaker patients

Electronic smart-cards holding medical records are to be issued to 100 local pacemaker patients in a pilot scheme at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. The smart-cards, developed at the University, have potentially life-saving significance for patients who collapse and need instant treatment.

Richard Vincent, cardiac specialist and Director of the Trafford Centre for Medical Research at Sussex, will issue the cards, which cost £5 each and are no bigger than an ordinary credit card, to the sample of patients this month. He seeks to establish whether or not there are definite benefits to carrying the cards, and whether patients remember to keep them on their person.

A pacemaker is a small battery-powered device inserted in the body which sends an electric current to the heart to make it pump properly. All pacemaker patients across Europe already carry a 10" piece of cardboard recording their medical details. These details are crucial information for doctors if a pacemaker patient arrives at a hospital in an emergency. But the existing card is cumbersome, flimsy and time-consuming to update.

"The smart-card, on the other hand, is compact, durable and easy to carry," said Jon Lewis, engineer on the Sussex smart-card project. "Each time a patient comes to a clinic, the doctor can add new information directly from a computer. In the future, information could be downloaded from another hospital at the touch of a button. Most importantly, the card will soon be able to carry the patient's electrocardiogram. Having this information instantly available could make a critical difference to the treatment given."

The only problem with smart-cards at the moment is that very few hospitals are equipped with the electronic readers needed to access information on the card. But the readers are easy to use, and at £200 they are not expensive compared to much medical technology. So if Professor Vincent's pilot study is successful, a national scheme could be on the cards in the future.

"The use of smart cards opens up a new world of recording, reading and sharing the information essential for good medical care," Professor Vincent concludes. "The data they contain can be detailed, safe and easily accessed by different members of the health care team."
Support for Publishing on the Web

A self-help group has been set up for those on campus interested in publishing on the World Wide Web, and providing web-based services. The group's first act has been to set up an e-mail list. The sort of topics which we hope the list will cover include page design, HTML, forms, authoring tools, search engines and Sussex specific issues. The group may also arrange to set up workshops and training courses as requirements emerge. Contact Roger Discombe (e-mail: R.J.Discombe@sussex.ac.uk) if you wish to join the email list.

Library News

BIDS databases

Two new databases covering engineering, applied science and technology are available from the Library's BIDS Compendex. The databases, which list periodicals, reports, conference proceedings and some abstracts of articles, are accessible from any networked PC on campus. If you would like to use either of the databases, Compendex Plus or Ei-Page One, please register at the Library General Enquiries Desk or at the Computing Services Reception Desk.

Photographic Society

The Photographic Society, with over 45 members ranging from freshers to faculty, is holding an exhibition of its members' work on Wednesday 21 February, 5.30-9.30pm in Mandela Hall, Falmer House. Everyone is invited. The Society, run by undergraduates Tracey Herald and Charlie Graves-Tamvakis, offers members 24 hour darkroom access, free chemicals and equipment, hire of good quality cameras, day trips and full training. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tracey or Charlie on 623538, or use the Photosoc pigeon hole in Falmer House.

News

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Are members of staff happy with the training and development they have received since starting work with the University? Could provision of training and staff development be improved in any way and, if so, how? To try to answer these questions a pilot project has been set up to see how the principles of Investors in People, an initiative of the Department for Education and Employment, might be applied to the University as a means of improving our staff development processes in a way which involves all members of staff.

Investors in People aims to encourage employers of all sizes and types to improve their performance by linking the training and development of their employees to their organisation's objectives. The IIP initiative encourages organisations to work towards a National Standard for Effective Investment in People. To meet the standard and to be awarded IIP status, the organisation has to achieve the following:

- public commitment from the top of the organisation to develop all employees to achieve objectives;
- regular reviews of the training and development needs of all employees;
- action to train and develop individuals on recruitment and throughout their employment;

- evaluation of the investment in training and development to assess achievement and to improve future effectiveness.

A large number of universities have now been awarded Investors in People status, either for parts of the university, or, in one instance, for the whole university. At Sussex the pilot project will look at the current staff development provision in three units in the university – the School of Cultural and Community Studies, Catering and the Computing Service. It will be overseen by a Project Team chaired by Brian Short, the Dean of CCS and the other members are Graham Curry of Catering, John Latimer of the Computing Service, John Knight as a nominee of the trade unions, Andrew Hood the staff Development officer and Adrian McAllister, the Personnel Officer.

The views of members of staff of these three units will be sought through surveys and interviews. The views of members of staff in the rest of the University on the availability and effectiveness of staff training and development are invited through this article and will be fed into the project. If you have any comments, either on your own experience of the University’s provisions for staff development or on the application of the Investors in People standards set out above, please contact Helen Scott, Personnel Office, Sussex House.

Croatia Appeal – Children First

The 1995 Meeting House Christmas Appeal has raised over £1200 so far for Children First, a Croatian charity. Children First offers humanitarian aid such as food vouchers, fuel, shelter repairs and insulation to refugees in war-torn former Yugoslavia. Two years ago, a group of students made the University's initial contact with Children First when they took a convoy of food and medical supplies to Croatia, where they met the Children First director, Blanka Segovic.

The Appeal's total sum to date has been raised from campus collections, individual contributions, a carol service with mulled wine and Chamber Choir and University Philharmonia concerts. Appeal coordinator Barbara Barber wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to the Appeal which will remain open until the end of February.

In the August 1995 census, there were 70,000 registered refugees in Croatia plus an unknown number living in the countryside. Most survive in bad housing or have built their own crude shelters. Temperatures dropped to -20°C this winter. Children First has helped the following refugees:

- Kukavica Latij. Refugees from Sarajevo. Three children live with grandparents. Their father died on a battlefield. Mother lives in Switzerland and children have lost all contact with her. Only income is grandfather's pension.

If you would like to contribute to Children First, please send donations to Barbara Barber at the Meeting House, ext 8217. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The Meeting House Appeal 1995’.
SPACED OUT IN ALABAMA

Until now, spacecraft have had to rely on expensive batteries, fuel cells and solar panels for their power. But this is about to change with the launch of the 75th shuttle on 22 February. A satellite will be tethered to the space shuttle Columbia, and the movement of the 12.5 mile wire tether through the earth’s magnetic field could generate over 6000 volts of electricity. Tethering two objects together in space has many potential uses. Not only can tethers equip spacecraft to generate their own electricity, but if tethered systems are rotated they could generate their own artificial gravity.

Paul Gough of the Sussex Space Science Centre will be playing a major role in this unique tethered flight. He is a co-investigator in the Shuttle Particle Return Electron Experiment, an experiment designed to measure the interactions between waves and particles in the near-earth environment. An electron gun located in the satellite will fire streams of electrons into the natural plasma surrounding the satellite. The interactions between this artificial electron beam and electric particles in space will be studied for at least ten days during the two week mission.

"Particles in space interact without ever colliding," Paul explains. "Waves of energy spread out around each particle like ripples. If a particle is moving at a different speed to the wave, the two will not interact. But if they are moving at roughly the same speed, then the particle picks up energy from the wave, just as a surfer will be carried along by sea-waves if he's already paddling at the same speed with which they approach shore."

Particles in space interact all the time, but in a haphazard way that is difficult to measure. By firing artificial electrons into space, Paul will create controlled experimental conditions which will help scientists better understand the complicated natural phenomena like the Aurora Borealis.

The University has designed an innovative 'neural network' programme to interpret the experimental data as it is received from space. Neural networks are software systems which compute information just like a human brain - but take a fraction of the time to do so. Paul will be analysing the incoming information as it arrives at an Alabama space station, adjusting the experiment if he thinks it needs fine-tuning. On an earlier shuttle flight the Sussex neural network actually discovered a new phenomenon - a first for artificial intelligence in space.

In May the Space Science Centre is taking part in the European Space Agency Cluster mission to chart the near-earth environment. Peter Davies of the Space Science Centre has just arrived in French Guiana to make the last checks to the four spacecraft. Then the Space Centre's next stop is Mars. In November of this year, a joint mission with Russian scientists will conduct investigations of the near-Martian environment.

GREEN NEWS

There is growing awareness of how hazardous battery disposal can be for the environment. Battery components like cadmium, mercury and zinc may leach into soil and ground water when landfilled. To try and reduce this pollution, battery manufacturers have cut down on the quantities of pollutants like mercury in their products. Some have developed the technology to recover these components prior to disposal. But although this technology is operational in German and Swiss plants, it is not yet available in the UK.

You can help cut down on battery pollution by using rechargeable batteries wherever possible. When you do dispose of batteries, don't collect them into one place-a concentrated pile of batteries is more likely to cause pollution than single batteries dispersed in ordinary waste. So please just dispose of your batteries with your normal rubbish in the absence of a recycling plant.

For further information please contact Penelope Chapple, Environmental Advisor, ext 8904.
Monday 19 February - Sunday 25 February

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 19 February
12.30pm CCE Seminar: European Funding and Adult Education: Issues and Futures. M. Boice & P. Coare, Arts D310.
2pm Feminism and... Lecture: Feminism and the Doormat: Rebecca West, Grizelrod Pollock, art history and me. L. James, Arts C133.
2pm Palmer Language Group: Some issues in the linguistic prehistory of Europe. R. Coates, Arts D410.
3.30pm Women’s Studies Seminar: Feminist Ethics, Human Rights and International Relations. F. Robinson, Arts C133.
4.15pm Chemistry Colloquium: New Cascade Reactions in Natural Product Synthesis. P. Parsons, MSLT, MOLS.

Tuesday 20 February
1.30pm Psychology Seminar: Incidental learning, tacit knowledge and the design of computer interfaces. E. Churchill (Nottingham), PB2A.
3pm Sussex European Institute Seminar: The Position of the Roma in Hungary. M. Kovats (Southampton), Arts A71.
4.15pm Biochemistry, Genetics & Development Seminar: Signalling through the Rho GTPase/PRK pathway. H. Mellor (Imperial Cancer Research Fund), Biology Lecture Room.
5pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Kinship as subjectivity: the Piro case. P. Gow (Manchester), Arts E419.
5pm International Relations Seminar: Regional Integration in Asia Pacific: APEC, AEC and AFTA. R. Higgett (Warwick), Arts A71.

Wednesday 21 February
1pm IDS Seminar: Alternative Forms of Democracy. R. Laxmich, IDS Room 221.
2pm QUEORY: What is the future of Queer publishing? Speakers include Routledge, Cassell & Scarlett. Arts D440.
4pm Music Colloquium: Anton Webern and the sound of nature. J. Johnson, Music Recital Room, Falmer House 120.
4.30pm History of Art Seminar: Towards a ceramic history. O. Watson, Arts B151.
5pm English Colloquium: Shakespeare and the pornographic ideal. S. Orgel, Arts D630.

Thursday 22 February
11.30am Economics Seminar: The trade-wage debate in a model with non-traded goods: making room for labour economists in trade theory. S. Robinson (IFPRI), RM 127, IDS.
2pm History and Gender Seminar: Discourses in Gender at the Beijing Conference: the Depoliticization of Feminism. A-M Goetz & S. Badem, Arts D510.
5pm Social & Political Thought Seminar: Problems of Radical Political Economy. A. Sayer (Lancaster), Arts A71.
5pm History Seminar: Jews in the History of Berlin: Berlin in Jewish History. R. Rutup (Berlin), Arts A155.

Thursday 22 February cont.
5pm Geography Research Seminar: Power Corrupts but Opposition Divides: Reflections on Nicaragua, the Sandinistas and the Latin American Search for a Progressive Alternative to Neo-liberalism. E. Brown (Loughborough), Arts D610.
5pm French Seminar: Luc Besson’s Nikita: Woman as transgression or, lost in the realm of the uncanny. S. Hayward (Birmingham), Arts A5.

Friday 23 February
2pm SPRU Seminar: Schumpeter’s theory of innovation and economic growth: long cycles revisited. C. Freeman, EBD Lecture Theatre 121.

Film at the Gardener

Monday 19 February
7.45pm My Crazy Life
Tuesday 20 February
7.45pm Crimson Tide
Sunday 18 February
6pm While You Were Sleeping
9pm Leon

Meeting House

Lunchtime Recital
1.20pm, Tues 20 Feb: Boundstone Community College students, Chapel.

 Pancake Party
6.30pm, Tue 20 Feb: for Shrove Tuesday. All welcome.

Career Development Unit

Briefing Session
10-12pm Thu 22 Feb: Freelancing/Self Employment

Professional Skills
10-4, 30pm Fri 23 Feb: Making Presentations

Action
10-4pm Wed 21 Feb: Assessment Centres. Day session covering the tests, tasks and exercises you will encounter.
All sessions in CDU Seminar Room, Falmer House.

Bookshop Sale
A Sale will begin in the Bookshop on Mon 19 Feb for one week only. All books in the sale will be at half price, with bargains around 50p each.

Rugby Taster
Free Rugby League Taster Session with the London Broncos (in collaboration with Sky Sport). For children, students and staff. At the Playing Fields Pavilion on 21 Feb, 9.30-11.30am. All welcome. Tel: x3950 or 678230.

Small Ads
TUITION WANTED: 2nd year student seeks macro-economics tuition, preferably from p/g. Fees negotiable. Tel: Janaka 692342.

FLAT TO LET: 1 bedroom, garden floor flat; furnished, newly decorated, large rooms, close to Hove centre, BR and sea. Non-smoker, suit faculty or p/g student; £340 pcm excl. bills. Deposit & refs. required. Minimum 6 months. Tel: 722754.

ROOM TO LET: Furnished, in private house, own shower & toilet. £55 pw incl. except phone. Tel: Frances 8048 or 478549 (eves).

EXCHANGE Sought: Belgian student (age 20) would like to spend a few weeks staying with UK family. In exchange offers same for like-minded English student. Tel: x2012, email: mg.giorel@ukx.sussex.

HOUSE/FLAT WANTED: for visiting director of international aid charity (ex IDS) for 2 weeks from 23 May, preferably Lewes, but anywhere close would do. Tel: John Pryor x322 or 477019.

HOUSE TO LET: central Hove, near sea & public transport, 2 bedrooms, all domestic requirements provided - ready to move in. Garage/workspace, warm & comfortable, secluded, peaceful, unusual. Children welcome, non-smokers only. Available end of Feb. £170 pw. Tel: Neil or Jenny 726720.

WORK WANTED: Italian girl, 30, seeks summer job as mother’s help/au pair in Brighton area for any period between mid-July and end-Sept. Must have enough free time for English language course. Excellent references. Tel: Judi 687529 (after 7pm).


Miscellaneous

Car Accident
Did anyone see a vehicle crash into a blue Ford Escort in the Science Car Park on 8/2/96? Tel: Nick 500052, email: kau.09.