Honorary degrees for Barlow brothers

At a special graduation ceremony on 27 February, brothers Erasmus and Thomas Barlow, retiring Trustees of the Barlow Collection, are each to be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. This is in recognition of the contribution both have made over a number of years to the development and use of the collection in the academic life of the University.

The ceremony, to be held at Swanborough Manor, has been planned to coincide with the annual Barlow Lecture which will take place at the University later in the afternoon. Dr Nicole Rousmaniere from the University of East Anglia will talk about some of the exhibits in the Barlow Collection in her lecture entitled, China in Japan: the aesthetics of the tea bowl. Admission to the lecture, which is at 6pm in Arts A2 Lecture Theatre, is by ticket only, obtainable from Karen Wraith on ext 2257.

Some of the priceless objects on show in the Barlow Gallery which will be open from 4pm before the lecture on 27 February.

Sussex introduces special loan scheme for postgraduates

Sussex, along with 11 of Britain’s other leading research universities, is to introduce a special loan scheme for postgraduate students.

The scheme, which is offered in partnership with the Midland Bank, will make low-cost borrowing available for students working towards higher degrees, many of whom are partly, or fully, self-financed.

The loan scheme has been negotiated by the ’94 group – research-led institutions each with large postgraduate populations. These include the universities of Bath, Durham, East Anglia, Essex, Exeter, Surrey and York, and Birkbeck College and the London School of Economics.

The loan scheme, which will be on offer from October 1997, includes:

- Loans of up to £10,000 towards living expenses and course fees (up to £5,000 for those on one-year courses);
- No repayment of capital or interest until six months after completion of study;
- Repayment period of up to seven years;
- Interest at 1% or 2% over Midland Bank’s base rate (depending on subject).

Postgraduates form, on average, over 25 per cent of the student population of the universities involved in the scheme and together we train over 27,000 higher degree students. "Research-led universities such as Sussex, which have large postgraduate populations, are acutely aware of the financial difficulties faced by many students working towards masters and research degrees," says Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Conway. "We see this scheme as a positive step towards easing the strain and also as an important contribution towards research in the UK, in which postgraduates play such a vital part."

University Public Lecture
Professorial Lecture

William Outhwaite
Professor of Sociology

SOCIAL THEORY AT THE END OF THE CENTURY

Tuesday 25 February
at 6.15 pm
Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre
ALL WELCOME
New premises for Student Employment Office

After several months of building work, the Student Employment Office is now fully operational in new premises. If you are a student looking for work, or if you have employment to offer a student please contact us in our new office:

Student Employment Office,
Top Floor,
Falmer House
Tel: (01273) 678146
Fax: (01273) 678846

In order to get to us please use the stairwell in the south east corner of Falmer House (nearest to Barclays). This can be found past the Students’ Union stationery shop. Those with physical disabilities should ring us on Monday or Friday afternoons after 2pm to arrange for us to come to them.

Don’t use staples to secure packages

The Post Office has reported that stapled envelopes can cause numerous injuries to the hands of their workers. To reduce these injuries, they request senders not to use staples unless absolutely necessary. If staples are used they must be covered with strong tape. Alternatively, the stapled postage should be enclosed inside an outer package sealed with tape.

Similar injuries are occurring on campus and it is suggested that all internal mail envelopes and packages are sealed with tape.

Peter Ballance, University Safety and Radiation Protection Adviser

Housing Workshops

The Students’ Union and Housing Office are holding workshops for students planning to move into private rented accommodation. The workshops to be held on Tuesday 25 February at 6pm in Holland House TV Room and on Wednesday 26 February at 1pm in Room 126 Falmer House, will provide invaluable information, look into the hazards of renting and offer helpful tips on how to avoid and deal with these hazards. For further details contact the Students’ Union Welfare Centre on (67)8152.

RAE League Tables

Towards the end of next week, universities should receive notification of the final grant allocations for 1997-98 which will reflect the outcome of the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise. The HEFCE has already announced the new weightings of grades and it is clear from these that the exercise will result in a significant increase in ‘selectivity’ in line with guidance from the government. Departments with grades of 1 and 2 (of which there are none at Sussex) will now attract no grant; grades 3b and 3a are weighted 1 and 1.5 respectively, 4 = 2.25, 5 = 3.375 and 5* = 4.05. According to Badget Officer, Anthony Young, any estimates of how these are likely to affect us can only be very tentative at this stage, but we expect a broadly neutral result, with perhaps a slight increase in grant.

What has been perplexing some readers of Bulletin, and doubtless also many of those who don’t read Bulletin, is how well did we actually do in terms of the league tables which the exercise inevitably spawned? Any confusion is understandable: The Guardian of 20 December, for example, placed Sussex sixth, the Times 11th, the Independent joint 12th, the Telegraph 14th.

The criteria used to construct the different tables varied widely: some used a five-point scale; some a seven point scale with a 5* rated as 7, some. (The Guardian’s for example), were based on the number of departments rated 5* or 5. Some took into account the proportion of research active staff, and others did not.

Now that we know the HEFCE weightings, the soundest way to construct a league table is to base it on each institution’s average weighting. This puts Sussex in 12th place, .002 below Essex. Over 190 institutions took part in the Research Assessment Exercise. Looking at the ‘Top Twenty’ there is a small group, Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College, LSE where almost all research active staff are in 5 and 5* departments. Then comes a cluster of universities, amongst which we number, of universities established in the 1960s, including Warwick, York, Lancaster, Bath and Essex. These are followed by a grouping largely comprised of larger, broadly-based civic universities, including Bristol, Edinburgh and Southampton.

The Top 20 UK research institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Average Weighted Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>5.376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>5.251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London School of Economics</td>
<td>5.095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial College</td>
<td>4.894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University College, London</td>
<td>4.759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Bath</td>
<td>4.582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology</td>
<td>4.544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
<td>4.496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Lancaster</td>
<td>4.473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of York</td>
<td>4.472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Essex</td>
<td>4.411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX</td>
<td>4.409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
<td>4.394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
<td>4.390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Cardiff</td>
<td>4.301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Holloway College, London</td>
<td>4.301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Durham</td>
<td>4.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southampton</td>
<td>4.275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
<td>4.271</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of St. Andrews</td>
<td>4.246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Readers may also be interested to note that, even with a significant weighting for 5*, Sussex comes eighth in the UK in the Humanities and ninth in Science.

Inter-Varsity Competition

Members of the Arguing and Debating Society represented Sussex recently at the Inner Temple Debating Society Inter-Varsity Competition. Thirty university teams competed in animated debates and although Sussex didn’t reach the finals they performed very well indeed according to Sara Jacobson (President of the Society).

The Arguing and Debating Society meets regularly on Wednesdays (see What’s on). You don’t have to be a law student – just enjoy a good argument or you can always sit and listen.

Pictured in the Inner Temple Debating Chamber from l to r: law students: Bob Fage (EAM), Kerry Candy (EURO), Sara Jacobson (EURO) and Elizabeth Bradley (EURO).
The Sussex Musical Theatre Society (SMUTS) is staging Cabaret at the Gardner Arts Centre from 26 February to 1 March. Cabaret is the story of the rise of the Nazis in Berlin, seen through the eyes of an American novelist. The more serious scenes are interspersed with the humour of the Kit Kat Club, a local night club. The main parts are played by Helen Day (AFRAS), Mark Atkins (EAM) and Mungo Williams (EAM).

Directed by Siobhan McGovern (EAM), the show has many exciting features including a revolving stage and more rousing songs than Madonna managed to belt out in Evita.

- Cabaret runs from 26 February to 1 March at the Gardner Arts Centre. Evening performances start at 7.45 pm and there is a Saturday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets are £5 (£3.50 for students).

Ant's eye view

Wood ants take photography very seriously. In fact their survival, and the survival of the nest, depends upon "snapshots". Simon Judd, from the Centre of Neuroscience, has discovered that ants rely upon a unique method of navigation that involves taking several mental "snapshots" of a landmark from varying distances, and then using these later when returning to it to remind themselves how they got there.

Having found a new food source, an ant returning to its nest will periodically stop and look back at a salient landmark, committing what it sees to memory. Then, when returning to this site, the ant will try to retrace its steps using these images as templates, continually attempting to match the images it sees with the templates. "It has to learn the appearance of this shape from several different ranges so that it can reliably recognise it over the whole return approach," said Simon.

The only way to get a match is to be standing in the same position where the snapshot was taken originally. Thus, by matching a distant view of the landmark and approaching it, the ant will get closer until the next snapshot matches.

Following from one snapshot to the next the ant will end up back at the food source, almost as if it had followed a trail of bread crumbs. It may seem like an elaborate way of getting about, but in fact it is a highly efficient navigational mechanism, requiring very little of the brains limited processing power in order to function. "All it has to do is wander around until it gets a match and then walk forwards," said Simon.

This mechanism does not require the ant to understand its environment in order to navigate it, and because of this it could help research into artificial intelligence. According to Simon these findings help to explain why a robot with more processing power than an ant cannot navigate nearly as well. "Traditional branches of AI tend to concentrate on complex image processing, which wouldn't be so important in a mechanism like this. It works in a wood ant with a very simple visual system and a very small brain. So hopefully we should be able to apply some of this to artificial systems to improve their navigation."

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylène Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 (mornings only) or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND linked to the Research web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research or USIS Home Page, select 'For Staff', 'Research Funding'.

RIDLEY FELLOWSHIPS: tenable in any faculty from October 1997 for 3 years. Applications invited from graduates, or prospective graduates. Closing date: 7 March.

FULBRIGHT USA SCHOLARSHIPS: applications invited to undertake lecturing or research in the US. Closing date: 14 March.

COMMITTEE FOR THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE: invites applications for two types of grants to support new activities and initiatives aimed at improving the public understanding of science and technology. Closing date: Seed grants - 31 March and 31 October. Development grants - 30 June. SET98 grants - 30 September.

BT 1997 SHORT TERM FELLOWSHIP SCHEME: to carry out a short project (usually 6 weeks) in one of BT's research centres. Closing date: 25 April.

ODA RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON GOOD GOVERNMENT: the components are: Corruption and Democratic Structures. Closing date: 7 March.

SAINSBURY SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS IN PLANT SCIENCE: The Gatsby Charitable Foundation will offer 2 studentships for the 1997 summer vacation. Closing date: 28 February.

INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE - INTEGRATED AEROSPACE MANUFACTURE: 4th call for proposal. Research proposals are invited for any topic relevant to aerospace manufacture. Closing date: 21 March.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 24 February


1pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: Grouping of speech sounds by localisation cues. Chris Darwin, Biology Lecture Room.

2pm Analysis Seminar: Schoolboy versions of the Alexandrov estimate of the Varadhan maximum principle and of Berezansky-Nirenberg symmetry theorems. L.E. Fransen (Bath), room D440.

2pm CulCom - Telling Stories: John Wells in conversation with Andy Medhurst: Telling a funny story. Gardener Centre Theatre.


4.15 pm Waste - an international problem. Prof. R. G. Holmes (BNFL), Molecular Science Lecture Theatre.

5pm Women’s Studies Graduate Division Seminars: Women in Indian cinema. Sangeeta Datta (University of Bombay), room D730.

Tuesday 25 February


12.30pm Sussex Life Histories Research Seminar: Jack Reade, serial interviewee. Roger Laidlaw, University Library Seminar Room 122.

2pm The Idea of European Integration Series: Poles apart? Enlarging the EU by the end of which millennium? Peter Holmes, EDB room 121.

4pm CGGS Seminar: Knowledge, belief and dependence. Muriel Ramachandran, room PB5C11.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Mechanism of action of anti-inflammatory cytokines. Dr Brian Foxwell (Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology), Biology Lecture Theatre.


5pm German Research Colloquium: World war and Jewish politics: the case of Austria. David Rechter (Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies), room A155.


5pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Children, prostitution and identity in Thailand. Ms. Heather Montgomery, room A71.


Wednesday 26 February

12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: The drugs used to treat Wilson’s disease. Dr Rupert Purchase (Consultant to Univar plc), CPES room MS3.

1pm IDS and Poverty Research Unit Seminar: Beyond workplace: active labour market policies in OECD countries. Peter Robinson (LSE), IDS room 221.

2pm International Relations and Politics Seminar: The party system in the French Fourth Republic. Prof Bruce Graham, EDB room 125.

Thursday 27 February

10.15am Algebra Seminar: The proof of Liu’s identities via modular functions II. R.P. Lewis, AFRC 1D.

12.30pm Postgraduate History and Gender Seminar: ‘No big plans?’ Women’s experience of the professions, 1890-1939. Jessica Cooke, room D730.

4pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: Implicit memory for faces and objects. Vicki Bruce (Stirling), Biology Lecture Room (E.P. 3.9).

4pm Research Seminar in Geography: Creating local business interests: the private sector role in partnership organisations. Andy Wood (Sheffield), room D610.


5pm Social and Political Thought: Feminism and capitalism series: Time competition, capitalism, and women. Jenny Shaw, room D630.


Friday 28 February

2pm SPRU Seminar: Barriers to technology transfer: culture and the limits to regional systems of innovation. Prof Meric S. Gertler (Toronto, currently visiting Oxford), EDB room 121.

4pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Globular clusters: sexy or what? S. Goodwin, room PB1A7.

4.30pm Philosophy Society Meeting: Davidson’s identity crisis. Daniel Hutto (Hertfordshire), room A155.

Miscellaneous

The Debating Society 1.30pm Wednesday 26 February - This house holds that the issue of animal rights is just an emotive issue. There is not a real problem. Room A5.

The Christian Union 6.30pm Thursday 27 February - The X Files and the new superstring: the truth is out there, or is it? Presentation, video and discussion with Jock McGregor. Falmer Bar.

MSF Branch Meeting 1pm Thursday 27 February - MSF branch meeting. Room PB2B13.


The Language Centre

TEFL? 17 - 21 March: Could you teach English as a foreign language? Initial Teacher Training Course for TEFL, a full-time, practical one week course. £110. For more information call Linda Gunn, 8006, at the Language Centre Reception.

The Sports Centre

Children’s Easter Courses Multi Rackets: 2-3 April, 11-14 pm, £15. Trampolining: 10 - 11 April, 2-4 pm, £10.

All courses suitable for 9-14 yrs. Limited places available. For an application form contact Karen Dunster, tel: 678228, ext. 3947, or email: K.Dunster.

The Gardener Arts Centre

Film at the Gardener Monday 24 February 6.30pm The Draughtsman’s Contract (15)

Thursday 27 February 11.30 pm - Seven (18)

Small Ads

TO LET - Self contained patio flat near Preston Circus. Gas central heating. Sait professional person. £75 per week exclusive of bills. Call 700592 after 6.00 pm.

TO LET - Garden flat, 2 bedrooms and gas central heating. Near Preston Circus. Not really suitable for families. £100 per week exclusive of bills. Telephone 700592 after 6:00 pm.

IBM DESKTOP PC, used for two years. 486/50 motherboard, mini-tower case, 210 MbHD, 4MbRAM, SVGA colour monitor, MS Windows 3.11, k/board, mouse, MS Word installed. Plus Epson Stylus 800 mono printer. All manuals, boxes, and original packages. £450. Phone: 79126.


IBM compatible PC, 486DX33, 8MB, 170MB HD, soundcard, SVGA monitor, works perfectly. £350 or near offer. email: marce@cogs.sussex.ac.uk or tel. 327966.

ROOM to let in family house near Seven Dials and Brighton railway station. £45 per week inclusive of bills. Deposit required Non-smoking, postgrad preferred. Telephone 563397.

Bulletin

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