Sussex in the 21st Century

In October 1996, the Vice-Chancellor published a Bulletin Special entitled Seeking a vision for the University of Sussex. He also established a 21st Century Task Force with terms of reference to consider current School and Subject structures with regard to likely changes in (i) fields of scholarship; (ii) teaching and learning objectives; (iii) research opportunities, (iv) student demand. In the light of these to identify potential academic developments and the structural consequences that would prepare us for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Following considerable consultation in the University of the 21st Century Task Force report and the Vice-Chancellor’s report Seeking a vision for the University of Sussex, the Vice-Chancellor has now produced a report, Sussex in the 21st Century. This has been circulated widely in the University for consideration and comment. A copy can be found on the University’s World Wide Web Page (http://www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/univ.html). The Vice-Chancellor would welcome any comments from members of the University (email: G.R.Conway@sussex.ac.uk) by not later than Friday 23 May 1997. The report and comments received will be discussed at Management Committee on 2 June and thereafter at Senate and Council at the end of this term.

DUTCH ENTERPRISE

Last week COGS held a one day conference for 12 Dutch students who had come to the UK especially to visit the School. The students, all undergraduate finalists from the University of Aalborg, had taken a particular interest in the research into human-computer interaction in COGS. “We saw the interesting research projects at Sussex and decided that we had to come here,” said Tom Nywand, 23, studying Human- Computer Sciences.

Because the students organised the trip themselves, without the assistance of their university, the research fellows in COGS decided to arrange a whole series of talks for them. “We are really quite impressed with how enterprising they have been,” said Frances Aldrich, research fellow. “We are now using this as an opportunity to showcase some of the courses available in the School.” The conference consisted of five talks including one by the Dean, Ben du Boulay. This focused on how computers can be used to train radiologists. “which”, says Ben, “means thinking about the design of computer systems from the point of view of the users.”

Call of the wild

There is more to the elephant than meets the eye, or ear, according to the findings of behavioural ecologist Karen McComb (BIOLS). She has been studying communication networks in African elephants in the Amboseli National Park, in Kenya, and has found that they have the most extensive vocal networks ever recorded in mammals. Using calls that have infrasonic fundamental frequencies, which are too low for the human ear to detect, female elephants are able to communicate with large numbers of specific individuals over long distances.

Female elephants have a complex and fluid social set-up that is based on the interactions of different family units in the population. Consisting of related adult females and their offspring, these family units are very mobile, associating together with closely-allied families in bond groups and forming looser groupings with less closely-allied ones over large ranges. “If you look at elephants, in a purely observational way, they seem to be doing quite complex social things” said Karen. “They are not just sitting there

Music Faculty Public Lecture
Jonathan Harvey
Honorary Professor of Music

WHO IS THE COMPOSER?
Monday 12 May at 4.30pm
Lecture Theatre Arts C133
All welcome

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In Brief

☐ Memorial Concert
A concert in memory of Val McNaughton, who died in February this year, is to be held on Saturday 17 May in the Meeting House at 3pm. Val worked in the library at SPRU from 1971 to 1979 when she left to become a student and read Politics and International Relations in AFRAS until 1982. All her friends and former colleagues are warmly invited to attend.

☐ In the Bookshop
Recent and forthcoming publications by Sussex authors


RICHARD FEYNMAN, A LIFE IN SCIENCE by John Gribbin and Mary Gribbin. Viking £18.

JAPANESE LEGAL SYSTEM: TEXT AND MATERIALS by Meryll Dean. Cavendish, paperback £47.95.

LEAD AND PUBLIC HEALTH by Erik Millstone. Earthscan, June 97, £15.95.


THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION by Christopher Freeman and Luc Soete. Pinter, June 97, paperback £13.99.

☐ Thanks
Sue Straw in the Postgraduate Office would like to thank everyone who sponsored her for the Step out for Starlight Appeal, the charity that grants wishes for seriously ill children. With the generous support she received from friends and colleagues, she raised £109.

☐ Special Music Offer
It’s first come, first served, for 15 free seats at the Gardiner Arts Centre (claim your free seat with this copy of Bulletin at the box office) for the fabulous hip-grinding, throaty, big personality voice of Blues singer Angela Brown. Catch her on Tuesday 13 May at 7.45 pm.

News

Research links within CPES with Glaxo-Wellcome are strong, and each year Glaxo-Wellcome give money for the most outstanding research presentation and for the best poster in organic chemistry. The latest awards were presented to ADRIAN GILL and HELEN GOLDS, both postgraduate students working with Professor Phil Parsons in the chemical laboratories. Adrian is working on the synthesis of the potent immunosuppressant rapamycin for evaluation in transplant surgery and Helen on the chemical synthesis of the tryptophanamine, which are efficacious in the management of rheumatoid arthritis. Their research is sponsored by Glaxo-Wellcome and Ferring Pharmaceuticals respectively.

Last week the University bid farewell to JAN THOLE, Director of Sport. Jan was the first woman Director of Sport among UK universities and has been a driving force in the development of the service, culminating in the successful bid for lottery money to re-develop the Playing Fields site. On behalf of all her many friends gathered in the Sportcentre to wish her well, the Vice-Chancellor presented Jan with a watercolour of the sports area by local artist Robert Early, together with a collage of photographs. Jan leaves after nearly 25 years at Sussex, to take up an appointment with the Association of Tennis Professionals in London.

To net or not to net
A study of the value of Internet resources to researchers at Sussex has been awarded the Daphne Clark Prize for 1997. Assistant Librarian NELJ JACOBs, is the first winner of the prize which was launched by the national Library & Information Research Group (L&IRG) last year. Philip Payne, Chair of the Group, says they are delighted to award the prize to Neil, "for a timely study, soundly conducted and of practical application and relevance."

His study revealed that researchers welcomed the up-to-dateness of internet resources, the convenience of being able to search for information from one’s own desk, the potential for new ways of publication and serendipity. However, there were concerns about local access, information quality, and lack of time to explore the resources. Academics want tuition and support to be close at hand and delivered at point of need. However, they often felt that they should already have the search skills and this inhibits them from participating in training sessions.
Call of the wild Continued from front page

and communicating with their immediate neighbours.”

Elephants have a low frequency contact call (with a fundamental frequency as low as 14 Hz) that allows them to communicate with great efficiency. Each elephant has its own distinct call, making it possible for Karen to have recorded a library of different individuals’ calls. Using a specially designed speaker, Karen then conducted playback experiments to determine the extent and range of their communications networks.

Repeated tests showed that elephants give positive responses to the playbacks of contact calls of family and bond group members, approaching the direction of the playback and calling back. Whereas on hearing the call of a ‘stranger’ they either ignore the call or become agitated by it. Karen compared these results with long-term demographic records kept on the elephants. “What we found is that the ones they see fairly regularly they tend to ignore and the ones they get bothered by are the ones they don’t see very often.”

These results start to give an indication of the size and complexity of the elephants’ communication networks. In some cases Karen found that an individual may recognise as many as 150 adult females, from distances as far away as 1.5 km. “Such extensive networks of vocal communication have not been empirically demonstrated in any other mammal” said Karen.

Having recently received funding from the BBSRC, Karen plans to return to Amboseli in July to continue her work with elephants. “One of the questions that arises from the work that I have done so far is what allows elephants to have these large communication networks. Some families seem to recognise more individuals than others. So now I am particularly interested in identifying the factors that produce this variation, and contribute to differences in the size of communication networks for elephants and for mammals generally.”

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 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 Sussex Home Page, select ‘For Staff’, ‘Research Funding’.

AEA TECHNOLOGY PROJECT PLACEMENT SCHEME: applications invited. Aims to strengthen the company’s links with universities and offer opportunities to work in a competitive commercial environment. Deadline 23 May.

EPSRC NEXT GENERATION LASER DIODES: to encourage collaboration through an actively co-ordinated research programme into new diode lasers for exploitation in sensing, instrumentation, signal processing, displays and high power applications. Deadline 30 May.

INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIPS 1997: The Royal Society invites applications from scientists in any subject including mathematics and engineering. The aim of the scheme is to enhance communication on science and technology between those in industry and those in universities to the benefit of UK firms, higher education and the individual scientist. Deadline 6 June.

NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMME: applications invited for assistance for scientific collaboration between NATO-country scientists and scientists in Co-operation Partnership countries. No closing date.


NHS NORTH THAMES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: to support both medically and non-medically qualified people who wish to pursue a career in Health Services. Deadline 6 June.

EPSRC OPTOELECTRONICS SYSTEMS INTEGRATION: to promote the investigation of methods leading to significant enhancements in system performance, to enable new system architectures or to reduce system cost, by utilising subsystems which result from major advances in component integration techniques, packaging techniques or design. Deadline 21 July.
Monday 12 May
1pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: Unlearning John Major and other news from the rehab lab. Alan Parkin, Biology Lecture Room.
2pm Particle Physics Seminar: Chaos in general relativity and cosmology. N. Cornish (Damtp), Pevensy Building 2C1.
3pm Analysis Seminar: Ray approach to the theory of wedge elastic waves. V. Krylov (Nottingham), Pevensy Building 2A2.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Robotic and neural simulation of hippocampus and navigation. Neil Burgess (UCL), Biology Lecture Room.

Tuesday 13 May
3pm Sussex European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: The origins of good governance in Europe. Why and how was corruption brought under control? Prof. Robert Neild (Cambridge), room A71.
4pm COGS Seminar: Twisted tales: causal complexity dynamics and cognitive scientific explanation. Andy Clark (Washington University) and Michael Wheeler (Oxford), COGS SC11.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: PKR - an RNA-activated protein kinase involved in cellular growth control. Prof Mike Clemens, Biology Lecture Room.
5pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: A paper on the Greek view on Yugoslavia. David Sutton (Oxford), room A71.
5pm German Research Colloquium: Youth in Nazi Germany and experiences as a refugee. Mariianne Elsley (Deddington), room A155.

Wednesday 14 May
2pm International Relations and Politics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Impartiality and global justice. Christien van den Anker, room D630.
3pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Optimal testing for time series models from Lagrange multipliers to regression rank scores. Marc Hallin (Free University of Brussels), Pevensy Building 1A1.
4.30pm Centre for Legal Studies: The development of human rights. Patrick Hanafin, room B335.
4.45pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Synchronisation in a dynamic random field with marginal limit cycles. Priscilla E. Greenwood (University of British Columbia), Pevensy Building 1A1.
5pm English Graduate Colloquium: Orientalism within: "Comfort Women" and questions of ethnicity in modern Japan. Prof. Ted Motohashi (Tokyo Metropolitan University), room D640.

Thursday 15 May
11.30am Economics Faculty/Graduate Seminar: Technological innovations: recessions and booms. F.N. Ortolo-Magne (LSE), room D340.

Monday 12 May - Sunday 18 May

Friday 16 May

SPRU Seminar Programme
Science - A Round Peg In A Square World.
Professor Sir Harry Kroto
Biology Lecture Theatre, 2pm.

CCE Courses

Using Relational Databases
2.15pm Tuesday 13 May and Thursday 15 May - This two-part workshop aims to give you a grounding in the use of Access for managing data.

Unix Workshop
2.15pm Wednesday 14 May - This workshop explores the more powerful features of the Unix shell.

For further information and to book, contact Computing Service Reception, ext. 8090

Gardner

Film at the Gardner
Monday 12 May
7.45pm In Love and War

The Language Centre

Language for Pleasure
30 June - 11 July: Five day summer schools in Japanese, Chinese, German, Spanish, Italian, Czech and French. Plus a French Drama Workshop. £85.
If you are interested in these courses and our weekly courses starting in the Autumn, contact the Open Course Assistant on ext. 8006.

The Chaplaincy

Uncle Albert and the Universe
6pm Thursday 15 May - Russell Stannard, Professor of Physics, Open University, Broadcaster and writer on science and religion. Asa Briggs Hall Falmer University of Brighton.
Also May 11-17 is Christian Aid Week.

Miscellaneous

The New Metaphysical Art
Thursday 15 May - First Performance. Jonathan Harvey (with Charles Conti and Peter Abbs) sound silence word.

Miscellaneous cont.

Environment Week
10 - 18 May - Programme for Brighton and Hove. Almost 50 events to chose from, including butterfly watching, video production and even a jazz funk workshop to make music based on "the environment". A full programme is available from Penelope Chappell, ext. 8904.

Small Ads
FOR SALE: Hoover compact with attachments, good working order £25. Phone ext. 2796 daytime, or 72440 after 6pm.
FOR SALE: Baby upright piano, 7 octave, exc. condition. £300 ono. Call: 678019 (daytime), 669006 (evening/weekend).
ROOM TO LET: Available in house with 5 Sussex undergrads. Newly renovated. TV/VC/R, CH, washer, 2 refrigerators, new furniture, garden, etc. Perfect location near bus and Sainsbury's. Ail available immediately. E43 ps. Tel: 684233, or bfu80@sussex.ac.uk.
PUG COUPLE seek flat, or small house, in Brighton, Lewes or nearby area for house-sitting arrangement, sub-let, or short-term rental. Needed late Mat to mid-July only. Until 21 May email: jkaltenbach@tibc.tula.ru, thereafter J.A.Kaltenbach@sussex.ac.uk.

HOME SITTING: Couple available to house sit from beginning of June. References available. Call Kate ext. 8198, or (01323) 424137.
BEDROOM and sale of house Mon-Fri. Patcham area. Sunny garden, all mod cons, suit n/s, mature woman. Further information contact Sam on ext: 8229.
ORGANICALLY grown plants for sale. Tomato plants at 60p each. Many varieties. Also available at 80p each: aubergine, cucumber, sweet pepper, courgette, marrow, pumpkin and squash. Trish Groves ext. 8237.
FRENCH family (4) would like to rent a house in the Lewes/Brighthelmstone area for 3 weeks from end of July until mid-August. Contact K. Pavit: 473528.
GCSE/A Level English tuition. Experienced tutor offers individually structured programmes to suit all requirements. Contact Kate (01323) 422137, or ext. 8198.
CALORGAS for sale. Three 15kg cylinders for £20 each. Tel: ext. 8067.

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: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.