Honour for Margaret Sharp

Congratulations to Margaret Sharp on her elevation to the peerage announced in last month's Honours List. Margaret has been working at the University since October 1981. She joined SPRU in 1984 and has since published extensively in two areas: on developments in biotechnology and on European policies to promote science, technology and innovation.

Outside her University activities Margaret has, throughout the last 18 years, been deeply involved with politics, standing as candidate first for the SDP and subsequently for the Liberal Democrats in Guildford. She has also played an active part in developing policy for the Party. Her appointment as a working peer for the Liberal Democrats is in recognition of these contributions and of her potential usefulness to the Party in the Upper House as a spokesperson on economic and science and technology issues.

Given her background at SPRU and her active role in Save British Science, Margaret also sees herself as having a particular brief to speak on behalf of the higher education research community. "I am of course honoured and delighted to have been given this opportunity to serve in Parliament," says Margaret. "It will be a period of fundamental change as we move towards establishing a democratically elected Upper House. It will be a fascinating time to be there and I look forward to playing an active part in developments."

Summer Graduation Ceremonies

This year's Summer Graduation Ceremonies will mark a return to Sussex for three former members of staff, each of whom will be receiving an honorary degree at the morning ceremony. The recently departed Vice-Chancellor, Gordon Conway, will return from New York, where he has taken up his post as President of the Rockefeller Foundation. He is to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Of more distant memory are Dr Paul Nurse, the Director General of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and Professor Barry Supple, Director of the Leverhulme Trust. Paul Nurse, one of the most celebrated biologists of his generation, was at Sussex between 1979 and 1984 when he was a Research Fellow in BIOLS working on the study of genes which regulate the cell cycle in fission yeast and higher organisms. He will receive the degree of Doctor of Science. Economic Historian, Barry Supple, who will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, came to Sussex as a lecturer in the early 1960s. He was subsequently appointed Professor of Economic and Social History and during his time here he twice held the office of Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

At the afternoon ceremony the honorary degree of Doctor of Music will be conferred on Andrew Davis, one of Britain's leading conductors, and Dr Jessica Rawson will receive the degree of Doctor of Letters. Dr Rawson is Warden of Merton College Oxford and has twice given the Annual Barlow Lecture here at Sussex.

The graduation ceremonies are being held later than usual this year, on Tuesday 28 July. This is not, as has been cruelly alleged, due to administrative error but to the fact that our accustomed slot was unavailable due to an (extremely) long-standing booking of the Brighton Centre by another organisation. However, despite the fact that the holiday season will be getting underway, more than 1500 graduands, together with their families and friends are expected to attend the ceremonies which will be held at 10.15 am and at 3 pm. The music this year will be provided by members of the Dorothy Stringer High School First Orchestra.

Risking skin cancer to raise money for the British Heart Foundation, a mixed team from the MRC Cell Mutation Unit and BIOLS successfully endured the rigors of the 1998 London to Brighton cycle ride. The team of 15, dressed in custom-designed 'T' shirts, an elegant turquoise with the Cell Cycle logo on front and back, comprised one conjugal tandem and 13 individual bikes. Teamwork was excellent, although it is alleged that the tandem, powered by the thought of ice creams to come, and with its greater aerodynamic efficiency, provided more than its fair share of slipstreaming opportunities for the rest of the team.
News from the University Council

— some of the main items considered by the meeting of the University Council on 3 July

Medical School

The Council had a full and wide-ranging discussion on the potential benefits and possible drawbacks of the University embarking upon a Medical School venture. It concluded that the project should be subject to further development work between now and the outcome of the Government’s comprehensive spending review after which any national competition for a medical school might be expected. It also agreed that such development work would be undertaken in full recognition of the need to protect the overall financial position of the University and of the units within it.

School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science

The Council received a further report from Pro-Vice-Chancellor Roberts, the Budgetary Officer for CPES, on progress in reaching a balanced budget for the School. It noted that the projected deficit for the current year has reduced from £K432 to £K383, that a small surplus of £K6 is predicted for the next financial year; that urgent attention needs to be given to the appointment of new faculty, especially in the Environmental Science Subject Group and further work is required on the attribution of costs within the three subject groups in the School.

The Council also considered the associated issue of how the cumulative deficit of the School should be dealt with. After some discussion it agreed that a residual deficit of £K100 should be left with CPES to maintain pressure for cost reduction and good house-keeping, that £K500 should be taken from balances of other units, shared on the basis of turnover, with CPES bearing its share of this amount and that the central reserves, including the pension fund reserve should be merged and £1M charged thereto.

The Council noted that the University would retain within its central reserves a sum in excess of £K479 and that the University’s commitment to USPAS in respect of pension supplementation in the event of inflation rising above 6% was unchanged. Council agreed to set up a small sub-committee to report to its December meeting on the adequacy of the University’s reserves to meet its commitment to pension supplementation.

Report from Planning & Resources Committee

The Council approved reports from the meetings of the Planning and Resources Committee held on 27 April and 8 June. In addition to the items outlined above, these included the Overall Budget for 1998-99 and Updated Forecast for 1997-98, a Strategy for the Five Year Forecast and a draft code of practice on scientific research integrity. The Council also approved proposals for a package of measures to provide support for South East Asian Students in 1998-99 and a proposed programme of major works, including the principle of exploring the Private Finance Initiative route for a new Children’s Centre building.

Estates Committee

The Council received and approved a report from the Estates Committee which included a report on the recent one-week trial of the pilot project to improve exit time from the campus. It noted that a questionnaire was to be circulated to judge the reaction of campus users, and that the experiment would be repeated later in the year, at a time when a more typical volume of traffic would be using the campus.

Search Committee for the Next Vice-Chancellor

The Council noted progress made by the Search Committee for a new Vice-Chancellor. It noted that, following initial meetings with a number of candidates, further interviews were to be held during the Summer. In order that the successful candidate could take up the post at the earliest possible date, and if plans went well, the Search Committee anticipated asking the Registrar to give notice of special meetings of Senate and Council at an early date in order that a candidate could be recommended to the Council. At the moment it was reserving Wednesday 16 September 1998 for this purpose.

Appointments

Deanships

Professor Russell King is appointed Dean of EURO from 1 September 1998
Professor Charles Goldie is appointed Dean of SMS from 1 August 1998
Dr Rod Bond is appointed Dean of SOC from 1 August 1998.

Professorships

The following were promoted to Professor with effect from 1 July 1998:
Dr Gabriel Barton – Professorship in Theoretical Physics
Dr James Byrne – Professorship in Experimental Physics
Dr Shimon Edelman – Professorship in CSAI
Dr Michael Hutchings – Professorship in Ecology
Dr Timothy Roper – Professorship in Biology
Dr Norman Billingham – Professorship in Chemistry
Dr Larry Trask – Professorship in Linguistics
Dr Charles Humphrey of IDS to Professorial Fellow.

Open day attracts record numbers

More than 4,000 people flocked to the University’s first annual Open Day held on 23 June. The event attracted young people, their parents and teachers from all over the country making it the largest event of its kind the University has ever hosted. The visitors enjoyed a full programme of tours and talks aimed at giving them an opportunity to find out more about courses and facilities at Sussex before university applications are filled in later this year. According to Simon Rigby one of the organisers, “Although the weather could have been better – the rain did put our arrangements under a bit of strain – we were delighted with the high level of interest in the event. Many of the students clearly got a lot out of the day and it confirmed how important Open Days now are in the process of selecting a university.”
**Prinny writes:**

So, as our students sell their textbooks to make a little money to finance their surfing holidays in Cornwall, and our faculty take their fevered limbs to their gites in the Dordogne, how, we ask ourselves, is the enthralling race for the Vice-Chancellorship progressing? I understand that a very exciting potential candidate has expressed a possible interest in perhaps allowing their name to be considered. I’m sworn to absolute secrecy but I would hint at this; they would certainly add a little SPICE to the institution.

What does the future hold for our esteemed University? As an expert in higher education, my views have some considerable force with luminaries in the Government. So, the future is this: the Government will continue to press ahead with expanding HE until we all die of congestive heart failure and collapse over our desks. We can only hope that the end comes swiftly and painlessly.

Talking of swift and painless ends, didn’t England do well in the World Cup? I understand that this minor football tournament was causing many of our colleagues a problem with prioritising their time. How many mark sheets were filled in while the fans glared at the World Cup Encore! programme? How many meetings were rescheduled to pre 1.30 pm? I understand also that the traffic management scheme has been deemed a success – there are still some people on the one-way system left over from early June, glassy-eyed but resigned to passing the same buildings over and over again. It is to be reinstated in October for a further trial period. It may not be such a success in the face of this additional car but in my sedan chair I can always insist on cutting across the managed meadow.

I hope you all have a delightful summer. I shall be busy at the Pavilion having a few alterations done. If you see me clambering around the roof, do stop to wave. I shall ignore you, of course, but I don’t want to deprive you of some small pleasure.

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**LOW PROFILE**

**Name:** Janet Collett

**Job Title:** Lecturer in Genetics in BIOLS and President of the AUT

**Job Description:** a janitor tending traffic in and out of the back door

**Importance to the University:** “telling it like it is”. But she’d rather be pottering around campus on the biggest Estates tractor. Wouldn’t state where.

**Would rather be (outside University):** “a warthog scampering about in a Kenyan wildlife park.”

**Why?** She identifies people as resembling animals, and has decided to be a warthog (metaphorically).

**Perks of the job?** Being blamed, especially for purveying information. Ssh!

**Most likely to say:** “Don’t just complain, do something!”

**Least likely to say:** “What this university needs is another expensive consultancy.”

**Fists annoyed with:** cigarette butts “dropped like confetti” around campus

**Anything bizarre in your ‘fridge’?** She occasionally gets some fruit flies in as pets.

**Hobbies:** trying to set aside at least one lunchtime per week to catch up on the BIOLS gossip

**Not to be confused with:** a member of the Staffing Services office

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**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 or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk.

**The University Challenge Fund:** Seed funding for universities to help turn research into successful business is available through a new Government backed fund (DTI/Wellcome Trust/Gatsby Charitable Foundation). The aim is to bridge the long existing funding gap in the UK at the stage when the results of research are ready to be worked up into a potential commercial development. Deadline for outline bids: 20 October 1998.

**Young People and Families:** The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is commissioning an exercise mapping good practice in working with families where there is domestic violence. Deadline: 31 July 1998.

**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 ‘Teaching & Research’, ‘Research Funding at Sussex’.

**British Academy International:** New grant scheme to support joint activities or projects involving both British scholars and foreign partners. Deadline: 30 September 1998.

**New NATO Science Programme:** Now offers support for scientific collaboration in general science, and in a number of priority areas, between NATO-country scientists and scientists in NATO’s partner countries. Joint applications invited. Deadlines: general science: 1 Feb and 1 July – advanced study institutes, advanced research workshops, 31 March, 15 Aug and 30 Nov – collaborative research grants, linkage grants, expert visits. Priority areas: 15 Jan, 15 May and 15 Sept (all types of activity). Science for Peace: 1 Aug. Science Fellowships: varies from country to country.

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We are sorry to report the following deaths:

**Charlie Tyler,** an electrician in the Estates Division, died on 16 June

**Jenny Pendlebury,** Assistant Librarian who came to Sussex in 1962, died on 25 June. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held later in the year.
Vacation Opening Times

COMPUTING SERVICE: 9 am to 9 pm Mon to Fri, help desk 11 am to 4 pm, closed at weekends

LIBRARY: Mon, Wed – Fri, 9 am to 5.30 pm, Tues 9 am to 7.30 pm, weekends and bank holiday (31 August) closed. The Library will be open for reference only on 5, 12, 19 and 26 July, and 2 and 9 August, from 10 am to 5 pm

Senior Common Room

The SCR has moved to the South end of Level 1, Refectory. Refurbishment will be completed during the summer. In the meantime it is open to members and coffee and newspapers are available.

Public Understanding Awards

New "Partnerships for Public Understanding" awards are being launched by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), to encourage the researchers it supports to communicate the challenge and excitement of their work to a wider public. Funding of £250,000 is available for this pilot initiative, with individual awards ranging from £10,000 to £20,000. Interactive exhibits, media partnerships, videos, public lectures, demonstrations, open days and websites are examples of possible initiatives. Closing date 11 September. For further information contact Geoffrey Moore at EPSRC (tel: 01793 444241, email: geoffrey.moore@epsrc.ac.uk)

Future of Falmer House – your views wanted

Following a successful bid to the HECFE under the 'poor estates' initiative, the University has been awarded a grant of £875,000 towards the costs of major repairs to Falmer House. The work, with a total estimated cost of £1.75 million, is planned to start on site in March 1999 and will include renovation of the external building fabric (in particular the roof and concrete), improvements to the heating system, and rewiring.

A Falmer House Group has been established, chaired by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Tony McCarthy and including Nigel Llewellyn (Dean of Euro), Tony Middleton (Estates Secretary), Catherine Copenhagen (President of the Students' Union), Steve Pavey (Finance Officer and Business Director) and William Salder (Projects Section Manager).

In considering the future uses of Falmer House, the Group agreed to invite proposals with a sound business case, for the long term future use of the building consistent with the University’s strategic aims. Proposals should be submitted to Tony Middleton, Estates Secretary by Friday 24 July 1998.

Tennis Tournament

There will be a mixed doubles tennis tournament on Sunday 19 July from 2pm. Maximum 12 pairs. To enter your team, £3 per pair, phone the Sportcentre on 8228.

Term Dates 1998/99

Autumn Term: 5 October to 11 December
Spring Term: 4 January to 12 March
Summer Term: 19 April to 25 June

Summer Graduation

The Graduation Ceremonies will take place on Tuesday 28 July at the Brighton Centre.

Morning Ceremony

Students from AFAS (GRC CDE), SOC (GRCSS) COGS, SMS, B0LRS, CLS, IDS, USIE, SPUR and Roffey Park MBA will graduate at the morning ceremony at 10.15 am.

Afternoon Ceremony

Those from EAM (GRC HUMS), CCS (GRC in CulCom), CCE, CPES, ENGG, EURO SEI, and the Trafford Centre, will graduate at the afternoon ceremony at 3 pm.

IF YOU CAN HELP AT EITHER OF THE CEREMONIES PLEASE CONTACT PHYLLIS HICKS on 7015.

Prizes for Hispanic Studies

- JOVELLANOS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY PRIZE
- ANTONIO BUERO VALLEJO CIUDAD DE GUADALAJARA PRIZE
- PREMIO JAIME BRUNET

For details of these competitions and entry forms contact Dr James Thompson in EURO.

Small Ads

For Sale: Notebook 486sx, 4MB Memory, 330mb HD, Window 3.1, MS Word 2.0, manual and case, compact size, 170 o.n.o. Contact Kim on 676702.

Free Kittens white/grey (thick fur) and white/ginger, two males need a good home at the end of June or first week of July. Contact 8981 or 551786.


To let: single room. Postgraduate preferred. All mod cons. Lewes Road area. £230 p.c.m. inclusive. Contact 677473.

To LET: room in family home with garden and cat, own telephone. Contact 701553.

For Sale: Toshiba colour notebook, 486 DX, 16 RAM, 500HD, built-in mouse and AC Adaptor, bag, Win97 Office 97, excellent condition 550 o.n.o. Please call 602310.

To LET from September: Victorian 2/3 bedroom house in Springfield Road with garden £695 p.c.m. Contact 297672.

Small Ads continued

For Sale: IBM Thinkpad Pentium colour notebook, built-in soundcard, speakers, mouse, Win 97, Office 97, leather case, fully guaranteed. Excellent condition 700. Call 07970 969 121 or email: REZA1998@aol.com

To Let: 3 bedroom house in Hanover area from end September 1998 for one year 690 p.c.m. Contact 602135.

For Sale: Double Divan 'Airsprung' orthopaedic bed with mattress. Very good condition. £175 o.n.o. Contact Lou on x3129, or 298825, or email louised@central.susx.ac.uk

To LET: pleasant double room in two-bedroom flat, sharing kitchen and bathroom, own telephone if required. £65/wk, including bills. Contact David on 673337.

Painting and decorating (interior and exterior). Mature Student with 12 years' experience. References available. Contact John 698719.

To LET: Room in two-bedroom house in Hove, easy access for bypass and University. Suitable faculty or postgraduates. Available 1 July £55 excl. Call Beryl on 7021.

Reflexology £17.50 per session. Tel Ella on 700542

Painting decorating and floor sanding by mature student with experience. Reasonable rates. Good work. Contact 682639.

Free to a good home/homes: pair of love birds, one lonely female budgie and a female cockatoo. Contact (87)7180.

Room Wanted in non-smoking house in Lewes for 4/5 nights a month. Call 7262.

To LET: self-contained unit (single) in family house, Preston Park area, £75 per week including bills. Contact Katie on 533145.

Bulletin

This is the last Bulletin of this academic year and the last ever that I will produce. I'd like to thank everyone at Sussex for all their help over the years, particularly those in the Information Office for their support and guidance. Sussex is a very special place and I'll miss it so much.

Can I just remind you to continue to send in your news and views – the Information Office can only inform you if you inform them. Have a wonderfully happy and sunny summer break.

Pauline O'Reilly

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