Research Boosts Morale For Single Adopters

Research commissioned by the Department of Health and carried out by Morag Oween, a Research Fellow at Sussex, has shown that that parish of society - the single mum - can sometimes make the best adoptive parent.

Morag's study 'Adoption by Single People' followed the fortunes of 48 children placed with 30 single parents - 28 mums and 2 dads. She found that the vast majority took to their adoptive homes with gusto - "all the children said they had found the adoption experience good and satisfying, and they did not feel stigmatised by being in a one-parent family."

Some adoption agencies and local authorities, in keeping with the rest of society, were shown by the survey to be prejudiced against single parents, seeing them as a 'second best' option. Bearing in mind that nearly one in six of the children waiting for adoption in 1994 were still waiting for a home two years later the question of whether there is a 'second-best' option could be raised.

Indeed, the study highlights areas in which single people can be the best option for adopted children. In addition to girls who wish to be placed with women because of damaging relationships they have had with male members of their family, many of the children - who all had special needs - required special one-to-one parenting, and benefited from the simpler decision-making processes and consistency that one parent could offer.

The participants in the study were from varied social backgrounds, and took on children with a range of special needs, from cultural requirements to learning and behavioural problems. Many of them continued to work, but all of them made considerable adjustments in their lifestyles, such as cutting their working hours. Again, as Morag points out, those parents who have been traditionally excluded by adoption agencies had special attributes they could bring to this process - "Women over 40 have often achieved their career goals and may feel more confident about taking time out to look after children than women in their 20s and 30s." Similarly, they are more likely to be solvent and to have established support networks to help with childcare needs.

According to Morag, "many people have an out-of-date expectation of how stringent adoption criteria are." In the 1960s it was felt that children must be put with a 'normal' two-parent family, and adoptive parents were judged on their marital relationship. Now it is more common to judge adoptive parents by how likely they are to bond with a child. As Morag says - "People should be, and are now starting to, look for a person who can care for kids. The rest is subsidiary."

A Quantum Leap In Funding

The Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics has been awarded £1.2 million grant from the EPSRC to study the physics of cold atoms.

Professor Ed Hinds and his team, who were involved in the recent near-attainment of BEC, or absolute zero, have been awarded the EPSRC grant to help fund their study of the theoretical and experimental implications of cold-atom physics. The Centre is studying the possibility of using atoms in measuring instruments as light is used now. Currently, light can be bounced off mirrors to create laser-based measuring instruments, but Ed is hoping to 'bounce atoms off atom mirrors,' to create 'enormously, spectacularly sensitive measuring equipment.' As well as building instruments which will be able to measure previously unquantifiable forces such as gravity, Ed is hoping to work towards the building of a quantum computer "which could solve problems ordinary computers can't, like factoring large numbers." This could revolutionise the way national records are catalogued and kept.
Mark Edward Lewis

Many of you will, by now, have heard the tragic news of the death of Mark Lewis, 2nd Year French major in the School of European Studies.

The School is holding a Memorial Gathering to remember Mark and to share thoughts of him on Tuesday 24 November 1998 at 1.15 pm in the Meeting House.

All those who knew Mark are welcome to attend, although we appreciate that those of his fellow students who are on their Year Abroad may not be able to come. However, if any of you would like to send in your memories of Mark, or any short anecdotes or thoughts that you would like to share, or indeed if any of you would like to participate in the Gathering, through a reading, poem, piece of music or otherwise, please contact Jenny Money in the first instance, and as soon as possible, on (tel) 01273 678004, (fax) 01273 877285, (email) J.Money@sussex.ac.uk, or c/o School of European Studies, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN.

Women Into Computing

Pictured above are some of the participants in the second Women Into Computing workshop organised by COGS. The individual workshops, which ran over two days, centred around the themes of Artificial Life, Human Computer Interaction and Morphing Techniques. There were also parallel programmes for accompanying teachers including, in response to popular demand, a ‘hands-on’ period. The teachers worked with Alan Morris who designed media, a programme which allows schools or museums to produce relatively simple kiosk-style presentations. The workshop involved 16 schools from Sussex and the home counties.

Poetry Please

The winner of the 1998 Robin Lee Poetry Competition this year was Catherine Smith, a member of staff in CCE. Catherine’s poem is reproduced below. Details of the competition will be printed in next week’s Bulletin along with the runner-up entry ‘My Mother’s House’ by Androula Pistolas, a postgraduate student in USIE.

UNCLE AUBREY

Uncle Aubrey is dying. On the line pummelled by sheet-steel winds night clothes bluster and bulge.

Talk to him, cheer him up says Olwyn so I tell him I have played on the moor and seen hawks plunging at mice.

Hands pared to bone, he rubs knuckles and remembers dead cousins dead drunk at Christmas.

His head is too heavy for his neck and his eyes yellow with sickness too clotted to take me in.

He is dying in Welsh. It is part of me singing somewhere in my blood voices of sickness and rain.

Catherine Smith

Rolls Royce Designs Engine for ‘Double Decker’ Aircraft

The team at the Rolls-Royce Aero-Thermal Systems Centre have secured another five years of funding from their sponsors to continue research into the internal systems of jet engines. In a letter to the centre, describing how the research is providing “a valuable insight for our work on the Trent 900 for the Airbus A3XX” (the long range double-decker aircraft), Rolls-Royce’s Chief Engineer of Fluid Systems says, “Please pass on my sincere thanks to all the academic staff and technicians for their good work.” The Director of the Centre commented that the recent success of their research was “due to the novel design of the rigs, the first rate technicians and the hard work of the researchers in the Centre.”

The Centre houses five major high speed research ‘rigs’, three of them powered by a modified 3000 hp turbo-prop gas turbine - “the thing which sometimes makes a bit of noise.” A ‘rig’ is a pile of apparatus used to do engineering experiments and, thanks to the power of modern computers, they are becoming more sophisticated and more representative of real engines. One of these rigs contains the high speed central core of the new RR Trent engine, a modified version of which might one day be used to power the planned Airbus A3XX. Such an aeroplane could be as much as twice the size of today’s jet planes (600 tons), and would be so roomy that people could walk about and go to shops and other facilities on board. The work being done here at Sussex could make air travel more accessible, and everyone at the Centre is especially proud that their work will make aeroplanes safer, more efficient - and therefore more environmentally friendly.
USIS Untangles The Web

The new academic year brought with it this time round a new look Sussex website, completely restructured and redesigned to make it easier to find information about the University - wherever and whoever you are.

USIS, the team with responsibility for the University website, commissioned local newmedia firm Keymedia to come up with a fresh look and feel for the site. At the same time USIS devised a new system of menus, based on information for different kind of users - potential research collaborators, conference visitors and alumni, for example - and information about different aspects of the University.

Coinciding with the new structure and design are a number of new developments on the website:

- An online teaching timetable enables students (and lecturers) to check when and where their classes are.
- Electronic copies of exam papers from the past three years can now be searched online and printed out.
- The phone and email directory has also been updated: and you can now look people up by their first name, job title and even telephone extension.
- This year, for the first time, the postgraduate prospectus on the web includes downloadable application forms for potential students.

The coming academic year will see further developments on the web. The amount of information available - both for internal and external users - will continue to increase. Staffing Services pages are due to go online soon, with details of salary scales and conditions of service. USIS will be developing new ways of putting committee documents and minutes on the web, and also putting together a set of recommended standards for people who "own" web pages at Sussex, to ensure that the content never becomes too old or irrelevant.

Increasingly, if you want to know what's going on at Sussex, the web page is the place to look. Check it out on http://www.sussex.ac.uk.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext. 3812. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS Home Page under Research.

Lilly Diabetes Care has clinical science research grants for investigation into diabetes. Deadline 13 November 1998.


Department of Health are funding proposals which aim to implement Information and Communication Technologies to support healthcare in both the managerial and clinical sectors. Deadline 4 December 1998.

Research on Autism is being developed by the National Institutes of Health. They are interested in investigations which may lead to treatments, and priority areas are the analysis of brain mechanics and genetics. No deadline.

World Cancer Research Fund have three-year research grants up to a total of £100,000 to resource the connection between nutrition and the causes and prevention of cancer. Deadline 18 December 1998.

HIV research is being pioneered by the US National Institutes of Health. Proposals should address the potential role of the central nervous system as a store for the virus. Final submission deadline 11 December 1998.


Drug Addiction and its relationship to genetics is a research area funded by the US National Institute on Drug Abuse. Can one identify genetic variations more susceptible to narcotic dependence? Letter of Intent must be in 28 December 1998.

Leprosy and Tuberculosis are diseases which the Heiser Programme wishes to investigate. Funding proposals for postdoctoral fellowships and research has a deadline of 1 February 1998.

The Horticultural Development Council invites proposals for research into cost-effective methods of bulb and flower production. 18 December 1998 deadline.

Bridging The Divide

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) is organising a cutting edge national conference with a focus on business to be held at Sussex on 18 - 19 January 1999. Bridging the Divide will explore the roles and innovative nature of partnerships between training and learning providers, employers and employees in both emerging and ongoing collaborative employee development schemes at the end of the 20th century. The project team is inviting applications for leading conference workshops. Contact the team for details on Tel: (877)7289, Fax: 678848 or email vspooner@central.sussex.ac.uk.
Noticeboard

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 9 November
12.30 pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Tom Steele (Glasgow University), European Popular Education and the Origins of Academic Specialism. D310.

2.00 pm International Relations and Politics: Ed Keane (School of Oriental and African Studies), The languages of modern international political theory. D310.

4.00 pm Centre for Mathematical Analysis Seminar: R Douglas (Reading), Applications of optimal mass transfer problems to the semiguestroequations. 2A2 PEVI.

4.00 pm Sociology and Social Psychology Graduate Faculty Seminar: Monica Greco (Goldsmith College), Psychosomatic medicine as a research problem. D310.


5.00 pm Women's Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Prof Maureen Pagduan (University of the Philippines) - Title to be confirmed. D610.

Tuesday 10 November
2.15 pm Sussex European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar, Prof Per Magnus Wijkman (Federation of Swedish Industries), The EU in 2010: Economic Superpower or Confused Giant, A71, SEI.

4.00 pm COGS Seminar: Dr Geoffrey Sampson, Demographic correlates of complexity in British speech. COGS SC11.

4.15 pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Prof Robert Liddington (University of Leicester), Crystallographic studies of protein-protein interactions. BLT.

4.30 pm Social and Political Thought Graduate and Faculty Seminar: Beate Jähr, IR and the state of nature: the cultural origins of a ruling ideology. D630.

5.00 pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Yael Navaro-Yashin (Edinburgh University), Rethinking 'ethnic conflict': Turks versus Turks in Cyprus. D722.

5.00 pm Graduate Seminar in Media Studies: Andrew Blake, The end of music? A prelude to 21st Century Sound. D710.

5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Ritchie Robertson (Oxford), What is Jewish about German-Jewish Literature? A155.

Wednesday 11 November
5.00 pm Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art Seminar: Dr Lynn Nead (Birkbeck College), The Rape of the Glances: Men, Women and Streets in Mid-Victorian London. C219.

5.00 pm English Graduate Colloquium: David Marriott (Queen Mary and Westfield), Black Types: Race, Destiny and Nation. D640.

Thursday 12 November
1.00 pm IDS Environment Group Seminar: John Harris (LSE), Ethnography of the State in India. Rm 121.

4.00 pm CPES School Colloquium: Dr Tony Wood (Pfizer UK Ltd), Viagra: its science and its ethics. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

4.00 pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Robin Dunbar (Liverpool), The evolution of the social brain. Biology Lecture Room (EP3.9).

4.00 pm Geography Research Seminar: Dr Mark Bateman (University of Sheffield), Deserts in North-western Europe during the last glacial interglacial transition. D340.

5.00 pm Sussex Development Lecture: David Dyker, Russia: Crisis of Capitalism. A1.

5.00 pm Centre for Stochastic and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Martin Crowder (University of Surrey), Alcohol, random effects and non-normal behaviour. PEV2A2.

5.00 pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Joan Thirsk (St Hilda's College, Oxford), The food history of England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A155.

5.00 pm French Thought Seminar: Alexandre Garcia Duttman (Middlesex), The Resistance of a Poem: Narcy and Derrida. A71.


Friday 13 November
11.30 am Topography, Algebra and Geometry Group: R Corran (Sydney), The word problem for singular braid monoids. 2A1 PEVI.

2.00 pm SPRU Seminar: Prof Wiebe Bijker (University of Maastricht), The Politisation of Technological Culture. EDB Lecture Room.

4.00 pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: Prof Tony Stace, Infra-red photophysics in an ion trap. CHI-3R241 (MS3).

4.30 pm Philosophy Society Lecture: Kate Soper (North London), Rorty: Humanist or Anti-Humanist? Arts A 155.

CDU Info

Please sign up beforehand

Amnesty International - 9 November, 5.30 pm CDU. Presentation on working for Amnesty - who and how they recruit.

RAF Engineering - 10 November, 6.00 pm CDU. Opportunities for engineers in the RAF.

British Antarctic Survey - 11 November, 5.30 pm CDU. Opportunities in 1999 for scientists and engineers.

College of Law - 12 November, 5.30 pm CDU. Their Solicitor and Barrister training courses explained.

Postgrad. Study at Cardiff - Journalism - 16 November, 5.30 pm CDU. Also including media and PR courses.

Racial Electronics - 17 November, 5.30 pm CDU. Graduate jobs for Electronic Engineers and Computer Scientists.

Miscellaneous

CHRIS JOHNSON POETRY PRIZE - Closing date 16 November. Open to any student. First prize £200. Contact Dr Peter Abbs, ext 8548 for further details.

USSU Time Management Workshop - 12 November, 10 am - 1 pm, £3.50. Book at SU Reception.

ROKPA Poverty Awareness Dinner, 11 November, £2.50 students, £3.00 others. Talks and an innovative way of eating your dinner, depending on whether you're drawn out of a hat as 'rich', 'middle class' or 'poor'.

Small Ads

WANTED: Central accommodation from mid-Dec for post-doc starting in Jan - lively and outgoing. Would prefer a room in a shared student-type house, from £55-£60/wk. Email p.jemmer@exeter.ac.uk or phone (work) 01392 263459 or (home) 01392 423564. Ask for Patrick.

TO LET: Pleasant room in quiet Seafront house, share kitchen/bathroom. Railway station 7 mins walk. Part week negotiable. Mature person pref. Tel 01323 891943.

FOR SALE: JVC hi-fi system. 6x CD player, double tape deck with Dolby B FM/AM/MW/LW tuner with 40 presets, 6-16 equaliser, a Bass Ex system, 3-way speakers. V good sound, good condition, bought less than 4 yrs ago, for £380. £150 ono. Call Fabrice on 275799, or email fabrice@cogs.susx.ac.uk.


FOR SALE: Nissan Micra 1.0 1998 (F reg). Red, 66,500 miles. 6 months tax & MOT till March. Sunroof & radio, VGC. Ideal first car. £1,195. Call Sue ext 2884, email s.burnham@sussex.ac.uk.


Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.