Lord Attenborough installed as fourth Chancellor

The installation of the Chancellor last Thursday was a significant event in the life of the University. It was also a moving, inspiring and entertaining occasion.

The Gardner Arts Centre was packed with guests and members of the University, including former Vice-Chancellors, Lord Briggs, Sir Leslie Fielding and Sir Denys Wilkinson, who had all gathered for the special ceremony to install Lord Attenborough as the fourth Chancellor of the University of Sussex.

After Rebecca Holyhead, President of the Students' Union, had outlined the nature and purpose of the Installation, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed all those present to the Congregation. He spoke of Richard Attenborough's long and active connection with Sussex, which spans over 30 years and of the "extraordinary energy and vitality" which he brings to everything he does for the University. He cited as just one example, the enthusiasm with which Lord Attenborough undertook his first formal task as Chancellor - conferring the degrees at the summer graduation ceremonies in July. "Those of us who sat on the stage of the Brighton Centre close to where the Chancellor greeted each graduand individually could not fail to notice the extraordinary rapport between the Chancellor and graduands. Their faces lit up as they marched across the stage to shake his hand, and the thousandth was greeted with the same warmth as the first. One young man was moved to pat the Chancellor on the back and say 'you're doing a great job.'"

The music for Thursday's ceremony was provided by the University of Sussex Chamber Orchestra and of the Trinity College of Music Brass Ensemble. Honorary degrees were conferred on Bryan Forbes, Sir Ian Holm and Michael Stern, "A trio," said Lord Attenborough, "who have meant so much in my life." He was, "profoundly honoured by their joint presence and that of their families. "And," he continued, "this memorable day in my life would not be complete without my beloved wife and all my children - two of whom graduated here at Sussex - being amongst those present as well."

In his opening speech, the Vice-Chancellor referred to Lord Attenborough's values: his commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, to equality of opportunity and to human rights and these values were movingly and memorably expressed in the new Chancellor's address to the congregation. He concluded the address with these words: "...I wish to say that our biggest and most important challenge, as we reach the second Millennium, is that of persuading the scornful, the complacent and the disillusioned, that the surest way to a fuller life is not bingo and the lottery but education. Somehow we have to ensure that every parent encourages their children not only to go to school, but to take full advantage of what is on offer. And, there is more and more. Furthermore, we have to make equality of opportunity not only a priority but a reality.

"I passionately believe that there is such a thing as society and we, like the great campaigners of the not so distant past who rescued our children from slavery and then from the pits, the chimneys and the mills, must bring about this revolution. For, make no mistake, that is what is required. Surely, in an age when we can celebrate so many extraordinary achievements, it cannot be beyond our capabilities?"

"Every child is born with curiosity and a latent potential and every child surely deserves to have that potential developed to the full. Each failure to do so not only cruelly handicaps the child but diminishes us all.

"With no small measure of pride, but in all humility, may I, on this occasion offer this great university, to the greatest extent of my ability, my devotion and my service."

Lord Attenborough and his wife Sheila with their children (left) Michael, Charlotte and Jane
Over 550 students, together with their families and friends, gathered in the Gardner Arts Centre last week for the winter graduation ceremonies. The students, most of whom were candidates for masters' degrees or doctorates, received their awards from Lord Attenborough, who was installed as Chancellor at a special ceremony on Thursday 28 January.

Three people closely associated with the University were awarded honorary degrees at the ceremonies. Michael Toynbee, who has been Treasurer of the University since 1987 and has played a very active role in areas such as treasury management, received the degree of Doctor of the University. The honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Norma Binnie, who resigned from her role as General Manager of the Gardner Arts Centre last year. During her time as general manager the Gardner’s reputation as the leading contemporary arts venue in the South East went from strength to strength.

Professor Margaret McGowan, former Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters. Margaret retired from the University in 1997, although she continues as a Research Professor and is currently working on an ambitious interdisciplinary project entitled *The Vision of Rome in Late Renaissance France* to be published later this year.

The graduation ceremonies were followed, on Friday evening, by a Special Award Ceremony for certificate and diploma students attended by over 180 students. Among them was a group of Body Shop employees - pioneers of a ground-breaking partnership between the University and the multinational chain. The students have completed the first, and only, academic course in Advocacy and Empowerment in the UK. The Body Shop is the first company in the country to formally train its employees in the subject of advocacy, a practice which has been popular in US workplaces since the 1960s. The practice of advocacy - representing and supporting people through situations of conflict, especially in work or community situations - has now become widespread in the UK. There are few formal schemes which aim to train people in how to be advocates and the CCE course is the only one in the country to offer certification and an academic approach.

Another successful CCE student at the ceremony was Ana Achucarro who received a Diploma in Landscape Studies. Ana first heard about the course when a friend showed her an advert in her local paper and encouraged her to apply. Undertaking a diploma course has been hard work for Ana. She is a parent of four, one of whom has special needs, but she pronounced it well worth the effort. "In fact, I feel a brilliant sense of achievement," she said. "Also one of the great joys of the course was the fact that it was multidisciplinary - the element of science and geology in the course filled a real gap in my
Excellent results for Maths and Statistics

There was cause of celebration in SMS last week when Maths and Statistics was awarded an impressive 23 points by the Quality Assurance Agency review panel.

For the benefit of those (increasingly rare) members of the University who are unacquainted with the workings of the Quality Assurance Agency, its reviews are the higher education equivalent of school Ofsted inspections, and are part of a nationwide government inspection of university education that will eventually include every subject at every institution. The assessment is a thorough process, examining the quality of the student experience. It involves a team of five reviewers coming to the University for four days to observe lectures, interview students, faculty and support staff, examine course handouts and inspect reams of documentation. The review is rated on a four point scale for six different aspects of teaching.

The grades awarded to Mathematics and Statistics are:
- curriculum content and organisation 4
- teaching, learning and assessment 3
- student progression and achievement 4
- student support and guidance 4
- learning resources 4
- quality management and enhancement 4

The review panel gave oral feedback at the end of the inspection and among its commendations were:
- high quality teaching and some very high quality learning, especially the workshops and exercise classes
- the high level of attainment of students in the final year of the programmes
- the employment record of graduates
- the excellent relations between staff and students and the exceptional level of support from the school administrative and secretarial staff

Receiving the news of the outcome of the inspection, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith commented, “These QAA scores are very important for Mathematics and Statistics and will help it in attracting students. It is also important for the University because they are used increasingly widely in league tables and elsewhere as indicators of an institution’s performance. I am grateful to the Dean, faculty, staff for achieving these excellent results.”

background.” Undaunted by the further work involved, Ana has now enrolled on the part-time degree in Landscape Studies -together with half her fellow students from the Diploma course.

Those receiving Postgraduate Diplomas at the ceremony included members of staff, Richard Price, Staff Welfare Officer, who received a postgraduate diploma in Counselling and Sherry Fardman, convener of Social Sciences in CCE. Sherry, who received a Postgraduate Diploma in Continuing Education is pictured (above) together with her husband, Vice-Chancellor, Alasdair Smith.

An additional feature of the evening ceremony was the presentation of the Alumni Society Fellowships. The Fellowships are awarded for services to the University, to the community or to distinguished alumni. This year’s recipients were Michael Hawkins, recently retired Director of Student Services; David Kenelly, who has worked in the library for over 30 years, in recognition of his services to staff and students, and to alumni Brian Davies, Chief Executive of the Nationwide Building Society and Tez Quirke, Clerk to the Governors of Wye College and Vice-Chair of the Alumni Society.

The evening culminated in the presentation of the Whistler Prize for the best student essay in the fields of local or natural history, geology or archaeology. This year the prize was won by Diana Mortimer for her essay on Research Design for a Field Survey of a Rural Parish based on Firle in East Sussex.

Andrea Murray adjusting the attire of fellow graduate Carleen Pickard who both received their Masters in Anthropology and Development
Noticeboard

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 8 February
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Mike Boice, Who are the students? D310.
1.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Roland Baddeley, Optimal forgetting in man and machine. BLR.
4.00pm Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics Seminar: Derrick Crothers (Queen’s University Belfast), Wannier above and below threshold ionisation. PEV2A1.
4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Jennifer Platt, Women in the British sociological labour market 1945-95. D310.
4.00pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: L. Parnovskiy, Trace identities and applications. Room 2A2, PEVI.
4.30 pm Neuroscience Seminar: Karen Nilsen and Ian Russell, Swings, ballet and party poopers: amplification and compression in the Cochlea. BLR.
5.00pm Women’s Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Niamh Moore, The place of home in ecofeminist politics. D610.
5.30pm European Institute Lecture: William Butler (Cambridge), TBA. C133.
7.00pm Music Lecture: Jonathan Harvey, Composing life after death. Debating Chamber, Palmer House (63, conc e2).

Tuesday 9 February
12.30pm Sussex Life History Research Network Seminar: Lunhong Ge (University of Tianjin, China), Life during the cultural revolution in China. Mass Observation Archive.
1.30pm Psychology Research Colloquium: Graham Davey, Why are phylogenetic fear relevant words detected faster than any other types of words? PEV2A1.
2.15pm European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: Adrian Treacher, Whither the EU? reconciling the three ‘Es’ - EMU, Enlargement and ESDI (European Security and Defence Identity). A71, SEL.
4.00pm COGS Seminar: Owen Holland (University of West Of England), Abstract ants, applications and artificial life. COGS 5C11.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Deborah Barnes (Imperial Cancer Research Fund), DNA ligases and mouse models of DNA repair deficiencies. BLT.
5.00pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Nadje Al Ali, Standing on shifting ground: women’s activism and occidentalism in contemporary Egypt. C219.
5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg (London), A Hebrew poem written in medieval Germany. A155.

Wednesday 10 February
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Laurence Pujo (Queen Elizabeth House), Gender and the rice market in Guinea: methodology in investigating the embeddedness of market exchange in gendered institutions. Room 221.
2.00pm Physics and Astronomy Colloquium: Keith Horne (St Andrews), Hunting extra-solar planets by gravitational lensing. PEV1A7.
5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Rod Mengham (Cambridge), Dickensian identity: David Copperfield. D640.

Thursday 11 February
1.45pm CLS Seminar: Carl Stychin (Reading), Reimagined identities? Constitutionalism, sovereignty and nationhood in transition. D310.
4.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Mike Pryke (Open University), Emerging markets as an emergent geography of neo-liberalism? D340.
4.00pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Vincent Walsh (Oxford), Magnetic stimulation studies of visual cognition. BLR.
4.00pm CPES Colloquium: Karol Sikora (Imperial), Why can’t we cure cancer? Chichester Lecture Theatre.
5.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: K Sivaramakrishnan, Geographies of empire: from ‘wild’ to managed landscapes in nineteenth century Bengal. A155.
5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Fiona Leach, Women in the south - what has education done for them? A1.
5.00pm French Seminar: Simon Critchley (Essex), A sense of humour. A71.
5.00pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Mark Broom, Modelling dominance hierarchies using multi-player game theory. PEV2A2.

Friday 12 February
11.30 am Algebra Seminar: R P Lewis, Some inequalities in the theory of partitions. PEVI, ZA1.
2.00pm SPRU Seminar: Jane Gregory (UCL), Holding it all together: popularisation in the Big Bang/ Steady State debate. EDB Lecture Room.
4.30pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Craig Callender (LSE), The direction of time. A155.

Careers Events

Places should be booked in advance at CDU.

Community Service Volunteers - 9 Feb 5.30pm, CDU. Voluntary work locally.

European Commission - 11 Feb 5.30pm, CDU. Explore opportunities for UK and EU nationals to work within the European Commission - routes in, how and when to apply and the work you could be doing.

Miscellaneous

COMPUTING SERVICES

Introduction to Word processing and Windows on Monday 15 February 6.00-9.00. This course is designed for beginners and trains participants to manipulate Windows and start to use WORD 6 for word processing. All courses can be booked in person at Computer Service Reception between 9.00am - 5.00pm. Each course costs £3.00 for members of the University and £20.00 for Non-members.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE: Interested in entering the London to Brighton Bike Ride as part of the University of Sussex Team? Please contact Karen Dunster or Sam Fuller at the Sportcentre on 3947 or 8228.

Small Ads

WANTED: 3rd year SPRU DPhil student requires a room in shared accommodation from the beginning of March. Please contact G. Steyn, phone: (01303) 249 816 or email: g.steyn@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Mitsubishi Colt 1.3 G, 1989 (F), 96,000, £1,100 ono, Excellent runner, good condition, very reliable, Tax March, MOT September. New exhaust & radiator. - call ext. 7218 or e-mail lisa@cogs.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Fiat Uno 1.1 ie, 5-door, 1992 (K), 70,000 miles, 12 months MOT, only two owners, recent full service, growing family forces reluctant sale, £1,400 ono. email: T.L.Farsides@sussex.ac.uk or tel. 699028 evenings.

FOR SALE: 2 Wilson Ultra tennis rackets. VGC. Cost £110 each new, will accept £40 each. Phone Mick, ext 2715 or 558230 after 5.00pm.


FOR SALE: Double-Futon. VGC. £75 ono. Yamaha Electric Organ. Early 1970’s period classic in excellent condition. £300 ono. Please ring 688611 (eves.) or email c.s.j.lees@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Professional or postgraduate non-smoker to share luxury town house in Hove with 2 women. Large double room available. £300 pcm excl. bills. Contact joworkman@hotmail.com

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.