Eye-Spying Professor Scoops Top Award

From scallop’s eyes to night time skies, Professor Mike Land’s work has spanned a generation of innovation.

Now Mike’s achievements have been internationally acknowledged, as he is the first Sussex academic to win the Rank Prize for Optoelectronics. The prestigious prize, of which only four are awarded internationally every year, was given to Mike in recognition of the many revelations he has made about vision in the animal kingdom. After making the breakthrough discovery in 1965 that scallops have no lenses, but see through concave mirror systems, Mike became interested in how it was possible for organisms to have organic, non-metallic mirrors as part of their biology. This led to his studying the eyes of many other insects and sea-creatures, and his main interests until the 1990s involved the compound eye-systems of deep sea shrimps, and the vision-led behaviour of flies. Mike found that there is only around a 50th of a second separating what a fly sees and the action it takes based upon what it has seen.

In a strange turn of events, Mike’s groundbreaking research led to an astronomical innovation. An astronomer in America saw an article about the mirror-eyes of the scallop and designed an X-ray telescope based on the same principle. His invention has contributed towards our understanding of astronomy as well as helping to improve computer systems by creating microchips which can be made with X-rays rather than light. More recently, Mike’s research has led him further up the evolutionary scale, with a device to monitor the eye-to-action movements of humans. He says this research "may have implications for things where we need to use hand-eye co-ordination.... maybe I could advise the England cricket team!"

The prize, which was presented by Lord Dearing, is lucrative as well as academically impressive. In addition to a commemorative plaque "which I shall put on my wall to frighten Deans with," Mike was awarded a personal cheque for £30,000. Let's hope his hand-eye co-ordination is excellent, as he will soon be whizzing around the campus in his new sports car.

Special Ceremony for Chancellor’s Installation

Lord Attenborough is to be formally installed as University Chancellor at a special ceremony to be held at the Gardner Centre at 11.15 am on Thursday 28 January. Lord Attenborough will be the fourth Chancellor of the University. To mark the occasion of his installation, Lord Attenborough has nominated three distinguished guests to receive the honorary degrees of Doctor of Letters. They are: author and film and theatre director, Bryan Forbes, Michael Stern, former Headmaster of Waterford Kamhlaba Secondary School in Swaziland and actor Sir Ian Holm.

Staff and students of the University are most welcome to attend this event but places are limited so please apply early. Tickets are available from Margaret Fenner on ext 3836, email M.A.Fenner@sussex.ac.uk or drop into the undergraduate office in Sussex House.

Following the installation of the new Chancellor, the first of the winter graduation ceremonies will take place in the Gardner Centre on the afternoon of Thursday 28 January. Due to the high demand from students wishing to receive their degrees in person this year, the winter graduation ceremonies are to be held over two days, on Friday there will be two further ceremonies, the first at 11.15 and the second at 3.00 pm. These will be followed in the evening by a special Awards Ceremony for certificate and diploma students.

Dance and Movement Festival see back page for details
News from the University Council

- some of the main items considered by the University Council at its meeting on 16 December:

University Governance

In response to a suggestion from its Chairman, the Council agreed to set up a small sub-committee to review the current arrangements for governance in the University. Its terms of reference are to consider:

- whether the size and composition of Council enables it to discharge its responsibilities effectively and efficiently
- how the Council should fulfil the role of reviewing the overall performance of the University and its own effectiveness as a governing body
- the number, composition and terms of reference of sub-committees of Council
- the presentation of business to Council

The group will be chaired by The Pro-Chancellor, Sir David Davies; Mr T G Coghlin and Mr J S Younger are to serve as the other lay members of the Group and Professor B R Martin and Dr J Dearlove will serve as the academic members.

Financial Statements for 1997-98

The Council received the Financial Statements for 1997-98 and noted that the University had achieved a modest surplus of £7,173, which was significantly better than forecast. However, although encouraging, the surplus was still less than 1% of turnover and was therefore well below the HEFCE guideline figure of 3%. It was noted that the University’s level of net current assets was relatively low but that these would be significantly enhanced once the final £M5 of the borrowing programme had been drawn down. A tighter system of credit control had resulted in a fall in the level of debtors from £M6.4 to £M4.1

Budgetary Mechanism for 1999-2000

The Council approved recommendations from the Planning and Resources Committee on the structure of price bands, including the insertion of an additional band between the semi-laboratory and laboratory price band, bringing the total to five. The Council also agreed price bands for certain individual subjects and approved recommendations concerning the annual planning cycle and year-on-year budgetary stability.

Undergraduate Medical School

In the light of the recent HEFCE consultation document outlining the criteria and timetable for the award of medical school places, the Council agreed that the University should signify an intention to bid for places in January, without any final commitment. It was agreed that if the submission date for an actual bid fell before the next scheduled meeting of the Council, it would be necessary to hold a special meeting and that the Senate would have an opportunity to discuss the proposal before any decision was taken. The Vice-Chancellor stressed that any proposal concerning a medical school must safeguard the financial position of the University, include strong links with other teaching activities within the University and reinforce postgraduate/research activities in medical and related areas.

Primary PGCE

The Council approved the proposal that the Primary PGCE course should be withdrawn with effect from the end of the current academic year. It noted the closure with considerable regret and members paid tribute to a long-established and pioneering course.

Future Use of Falmer House

The Council approved a proposal that Falmer House should be developed into a Student Services Building, subject to a successful bid for 50% HEFCE support under the ‘Poor Estates Initiative’ and to the University finding matching funds. If the necessary funding is secured, the building will be refurbished to house a wide range of student and staffing services.

Traffic Management

In the light of a report on traffic management by the Buildings and Services Director, the Council agreed that the present one-way system should continue indefinitely and that proposals should be developed for making the scheme permanent - including the possibility of adapting the system so that it would not be necessary to use the North-South Road. The Council also noted that a meeting had been arranged with the Highways Agency to discuss the installation of traffic lights at the Knights Gate roundabout.

Council Committee on Terms and Conditions of Employment

The Council agreed that, subject to final agreement by the trade unions, staff who are at present paid on a weekly basis should be paid on a monthly basis as soon as can be practically arranged. It also agreed that fees should be waived for employees with full-time appointments lasting at least a year who are enrolled on part-time courses at the University. However, further consideration is to be given to fees for courses in CCE and the Sussex Language Institute.

Chair Appointments

The Council approved reports from the Standing Committee on Career Progress and Titles which recommended that Dr Charles Abraham be promoted to a Professorship in Social Psychology and Dr Ted Tapper be promoted to a Professorship in Politics, both with effect from 1 January 1999.

The Student Law Body Annual Dinner was an opportunity for students and academics to ditch debating in favour of their dancing shoes. The event was enlivened by a speech from special guest, MP Tony Baldry, who was himself at Sussex in the 1960s. As well as a dinner and party, the evening included a prize-giving ceremony. Prizes were awarded to Catherine Ripley, Sinaid Boden, Elizabeth Bradley, Michael Roques and Richard York. “The Student Law Body are proud and honoured to have organised what has proved to be a very enjoyable evening,” said President, Okan Demirkiran, “it is always nice to spend time with fellow law students at a dinner rather than in the lecture hall.”

Charles Le May, a partner in the Lewes law firm of Wynne Baxter Godfree, presents a cheque to Meryll Dean, Acting Director of the Centre for Legal Studies. Since 1989 the firm has sponsored an annual Public Lecture on matters of legal importance. This has attracted many distinguished speakers and continues to be an important event in the Sussex law calender.

Martin Allen (Dome, Milheam & Haddock), Meryll Dean (Acting Director of CLS), Okan Demirkiran (President of Student Law Body), Tony Baldry (MP for Banbury)
Christmas Competitions

A bottle of bubbly was awarded to Alister Scott for his entry in the caption competition (see right). We were so impressed by some of the entries that we also chose two runners up: Harriet Cox’s “When they said chauffeur-driven I thought they meant Mercedes” and also Alison Field’s “Norman, Norman, give us your answer do.” A big thank you to all who entered.

The winner of the family ticket for The Wind in the Willows was Janet French who got all five answers correct:

1/ Who was the illustrator of Wind in the Willows? Answer: Arthur Rackham

2/ When was the book published? (a) 1890; (b) 1908; (c) 1932 Answer: b

3/ “The young man gives [Wind in the Willows] to the girl with whom he is in love, and if she does not like it, asks her to return his letters. The older man tries it on his nephew, and alters his will accordingly.” Who said that?
(a) Ezra Pound; (b) A A Milne; (c) T S Eliot. Answer: b

4/ For whom did Kenneth Grahame write Wind in the Willows? Answer: his son Alisdair

5/ Who wrote the acclaimed adaptation of Wind in the Willows for the National Theatre? (a) Alan Bennett; (b) Mark Ravenhill; (c) Alan Ayckbourn. Answer: a

Music Students Help Smash World Record

Three Sussex music students were part of a 3,503 strong orchestra - the largest ever - playing their way into the record books to raise money for cancer victims.

The orchestra was conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, and managed to belt out its pieces for seven minutes and thirty seconds. This beat the previous record of a five minute long session played by 2,212 musicians, held by the Kent Music School.

The three budding string-musicians were Joanna Burke, Liz Murray and Rachel Thomas. According to Liz, who took part in a similar event two years ago, the day was a huge success. "This time it was really successful - considering the huge number of people, the age range and the different levels of talent, we did really well," she said.

Sir Simon, who claimed the "unique performance took my breath away," received praise in return from Liz, who said he was "really lovely - very good with the little kids, but still really professional." The celebrated conductor kept his disparate orchestra together despite the fact that, as Liz points out, "when one end of the orchestra had played something the sound had become delayed by the time it reached the other end, so we had to watch out for our cues rather than listen out for them."

The event was staged by Music for Youth to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care, and Sir Simon commented "it gives me great pleasure to think that the sponsorship money raised will enable more people to benefit from the special service which Marie Curie provides."

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, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFDUN on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research or LISIS Home Page, under Research.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is seeking proposals for research on young people. Two priority areas: perceptions and needs of young people with multiple disadvantages; and the role of the family in assisting young people to adulthood. Deadline: 24 March 1999

NERC are inviting applications for the third round of the urban regeneration and the environment programme. Key topics: urban ecology; atmospheric science; science-based archaeology (not an exclusive list). Deadline: 4 March 1999

The British Lung Foundation invites applications for project grants and Trevor Clay memorial grants. Grants may be made for clinical, laboratory and epidemiological research into all aspects of lung disease. Deadline: 24 February 1999

Woods Hole Marine Lab invites applications from graduate students for eight week internships at NASA centres. Proposals should explore global scale issues about the planet earth. Deadline: 1 March 1999

The US National Institutes of Health invites proposals on biobehavioural pain research. Aim of the research is to develop biobehavioural interventions to manage/predict pain. Research is needed in areas such as the neuroanatomical pathways and the neuro physiological mechanisms in pain. No deadline.

The Department of Health invites outline proposals for research on human resources issues in the NHS. Funds of around £2.5 million over 5 years are available. Applications to focus on the following areas: staff involvement in reshaping the NHS; organisational development/performance and lifelong learning; labour utilisation; pay, reward, employment practice and equal opportunities. Deadline: 8 February 1999

The ESRC and Glaxo Wellcome invite proposals in combinatorial and solid phase chemistry. The intention is to foster close links between academia and industry. For a list of key research areas see RCCO. No deadline.

The US National Institutes of Health invites research proposals addressing the problem of recidivism among people convicted of drinking and driving offences. Deadline 18 March 1999

Monica Alonso

It is with great sadness that we have to inform University members of the death of Monica Alonso, Spanish Tutor, who taught at the Sussex Language Institute and would have taught, from the beginning of this term, in the School of European Studies. Monica died in a car accident in Spain during the Christmas holiday.
**Noticeboard**

**Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia**

**Monday 11 January**
1.00 pm **EP Lunchtime Seminar:** George Mather, Explaining the Ouchi Illusion. Biology Lecture Room.

4.00 pm **Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar:** Alan Buckingham, The Underclass: re-conceptualising the arguments. D310.

**Tuesday 12 January**
4.00 pm **COGS Seminar:** David Bimler, Is the colour plane curved? A 4D model of colour space. COGS 5C11

5.00 pm **Social Anthropology:** Caroline Osella (SOAS), Seepage of divinised power through social, spiritual and bodily boundaries: some aspects of spirit possession in Kerala, South India. C219.

**Wednesday 13 January**
12.30 pm **Environmental Science Seminar:** Damages to inland waters - a catchment perspective. Dr Peter Blomqvist, University of Uppsala, Sweden. All welcome.

2.00 - 5.30 pm **Italian Day:** Contemporary Italian Cinema: Nanni Moretti. A2.

4.00 pm **Music Research Seminar:** Dr Daniel Grimley (Cambridge), Modernism, Closure and Nielsen's Fifth Symphony. Recital Room 120 Falmer House.

**Thursday 14 January**
1.45 pm **CLS Research Seminar:** Roger Cotterrell (Queen Mary and Westfield), Interpreting Legal Ideas Sociologically: Some Durkheimian Reflections. D310.

4.00 pm **CPES Colloquium:** Paul Roche, Death of the Dinosaurs. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

4.00 pm **Geography Research Seminar:** Paul Waley, (Leeds) Social dynamics and ideological flows: landscape, waterways and social context in Japan. D340.

5.00 pm **History Work-in-Progress Seminar:** Blair Worden, The Levellers in history and memory, c. 1660 - 1960. A155.

**Friday 15 January**
2.00 pm **SPRU Seminar:** Mike Parker, Has New Labour Saved the Coal Industry? EDB Lecture Room.

**Small Ads**

**WANTED:** After-school childminder to look after a 4+ year-old boy from 12:30 - 5:30pm Monday-Friday. Rates of pay to be negotiable. Please ring Hong Wei on ext. 2556, or email h.wei@sussex.ac.uk

**Dance and Movement Festival**

**16 and 17 January 1999**

As part of the Active for Life Campaign the University will be holding a Dance and Movement Festival. A full two day programme of activities will include: Aerobics masterclass; Latin American and Rock'n'Roll; Tai Chi, Yoga, Creative and Contemporary Dance. Bookings can be made from 5 January onward. Contact Karen Dunster ext 3947, or email K.Dunster@sussex.ac.uk, or ask at the Sportcentre Reception. Only £2 for one day or £3 for both days. Places will be limited for some classes so advance booking is recommended.

**Saturday 16 January**

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**Sunday 17 January**

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**FOR SALE:** Notebook IBM Dauphin DTR-1 486, 80 Mb, 1.2 kg, black/white, LaTeX, Windows, only £300. E-mail: mafb7; phone: 3081.

**FOR SALE:** TV set 14", remote control, very good condition, £45. Stereo £35. E-mail: mafb7; phone: 3081.

**FOR SALE:** Nissan Sunny, A reg, MOT Nov. 1999, TAX March 1999, 55,000 miles only, very good condition, PSH, £485. Call Ashwani 682855.

**TO LET:** large room in large house near The Level to share with professional owner and two cats. £260 pcm plus bills. Available from Feb 1999. Would suit postgrad/staff/faculty. Bn 699461

**FOR SALE:** 2 bed house in Hanover Area - £74,950. Please tel: 591543 (eves.) for details.

**FOR SALE:** Ford Orion 1.6i Ghia, C Reg, Red, Fuel Injection, electric windows & mirrors, sunroof, radio cassette with four speakers. Tax/MOT to Oct 99. Very good condition & clean; one owner since new. £850. Contact David Stevenson on 3025 (internal) or 678800 daytime.

**TO LET:** One bedroom holiday flat in Lewes, available until end of March except for Feb 2-9. Any dates within this period considered. No bills, payphone, electricity and linen included, £120 per week. Tel: 476813 or email mboice@sussexuniv.u-net.com.uk.

**FOR SALE:** In line skates: sizes 6d&9 (£25 ono); size 5 (£12 ono). Used only once. E.Mail: V.Frost@sussex.ac.uk or tel: Vicky Frost ext 8923.

**Miscellaneous**

**OPEN LANGUAGE COURSES** begin Monday, 11 January. Sign on NOW for:-
- Latin for special purposes
- German and Spanish beginners
- French elementary

Also short courses in Russian, Italian and Japanese. Contact the Open Course Assistant ext. 2016 or A132.

**BRIDGE CLUB** - I am hoping to start a Bridge Club affiliated to the EBU. Tuition provided, experienced players or beginners welcome. Come and register your interest at the Societies Fair or email: hduj3@central.sussex.ac.uk or contact Brian Ping in EURO.

**THANK YOU:** to all friends and colleagues in Sussex House for the generous Christmas gift received by Peter the Sussex House porter and Jean in the tea bar.

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - STOP SMOKING!** Small, friendly group to help you quit, starting Wednesday Jan 13 at 3.30 pm in the Health Centre, with Nurse Val.

**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.