Former Student Becomes South African President

Thabo Mbeki, a Sussex alumnus, will be sworn in as the new President of South Africa on June 16 following the success of the ANC in the recent election.

Mr Mbeki was the first black South African student at Sussex. Under his influence the University was swept by a wave of anti-apartheid activity which he himself credited with helping to prevent the execution of Nelson Mandela and other prominent ANC activists. He led a headline-grabbing march from Brighton to the House of Commons in protest at the imprisonment of his father, Govan, and other members of the ANC, which put the issue on the nation's agenda.

Mr Mbeki was at the University from 1962 - 66, following a BA in Economics with an MA in African Studies. In 1995 the University awarded Mr Mbeki with an honorary doctorate in a moving ceremony where Lord Attenborough paid tribute to his "charm, humour and sweet reason". Mr Mbeki's university friends always knew he would achieve great things. Lesley Garner, a contemporary, said that "even then, we knew there was more to Thabo than charm." Mr Mbeki is now poised on the edge of achieving great things as South Africa's new President.

Sussex Cricketers Take a Run up to Success

A pioneering partnership between Sussex University and Sussex County Cricket Club is set to secure the future of the county's young cricketers.

The unique scheme, which is being piloted this year by first-year geography student Giles Haywood (pictured right), aims to enable young players to study for a degree at the same time as they pursue a professional career in cricket. In order to play professionally, aspiring cricketers are often forced to make a choice between their sport and their education. If they get injured, or fail to make the grade as a professional player, they may be left with little to fall back on. The Sussex scheme allows players to successfully field this difficult choice.

Students who take advantage of the partnership benefit from financial support from The Sussex Federation of Young Cricketers. The University also undertakes to be as flexible as possible in helping students to juggle their cricketing and academic commitments. Giles was able to play for England on a tour of New Zealand earlier in the year which lasted six weeks. He took work with him, and caught up with seminars he had missed when he got back. Under the terms of the scheme, it would also be possible to reschedule academic commitments if they clashed with a county match.

According to Giles, "The scheme was a great opportunity, which came along just at the right time for me. I would love my future to involve playing cricket, but I have always enjoyed geography, and carrying on with my studying will give me a wide field of choice for a future career."

Elizabeth Stewart, who is co-ordinating the Sussex arm of the scheme, stresses that students have to make the grade in their exams as well as their cricket before they can be admitted. "Giles has excellent time management skills - when his friends were going out after school, he was practising at nets. An ability to juggle commitments is one of the things we look for in a Sussex student."

Tony Pigott, Chief Executive of the Club, is very enthusiastic about the scheme: "It's a wonderful opportunity to prove that higher education and a professional cricketing career are not mutually exclusive. It's a relationship we are sure will prosper and flourish."

Summer Graduation

Over 1500 students and their families will gather in the Brighton Centre on 13 July for this summer's graduation ceremonies. Students from EURO, EAM, CCS, CCE CPES and ENGG will graduate at the morning ceremony which starts at 10.15 am. Those from SOC, AFRAS, CLS, COGS, BIOLS, SMS and Roffey Park will graduate at the afternoon ceremony starting at 3.00 pm.

In the morning, the honorary degree of Doctor of Science will be awarded to Professor Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Professor of Atomic and Molecular Physics at the Collège de France in Paris. Professor Cohen-Tannoudji has made major contributions to the understanding of the interactions between atoms and light and was the co-laureate of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Physics. At the afternoon ceremony, the honorary graduand will be Dr George H Poste, the Chief Science and Technology Officer at SmithKline Beecham and an internationally-recognised expert in genetics and cancer.
Careers Success at Sussex - From White House Big-Wig to Gallic Scramble

Sussex students are holding their own in a market where competition for jobs is becoming increasingly fierce. The latest figures from the Career Development Unit show that employment rates are soaring, with only 3.6% of undergraduates and 1.3% of postgraduates from 1998 still out of work.

Graduates from COGS and ENCG have the highest rates of employment, with both schools totalling over 70%. Sussex also boasts a large percentage of students who go on to further study, with nearly 24% of CPES students going on to take a higher degree. And for those who already have higher degrees, the future is even brighter - 85% of working postgraduates are in managerial or professional roles.

One Applied Policy Studies graduate can even name the White House as her workplace - she's the First Lady's staff assistant.

As CDU's Director, Carolyn Morris, points out, "It's the individual stories rather than the percentages which form the true picture. Sussex students go into careers which are diverse, creative, and very international - the postgraduates in particular are working all over the world. The survey testifies to a fascinating and impressive range of career directions, from producers at the BBC to one graduate working at a Zoological museum."

Every student needs a helping hand onto the fast track, however, and CDU has organised a Jobsday with the Student Employment Office which will give just that. A full-day's feast of employment opportunities, the Jobsday promises something for everyone, with 45 organisations on hand to offer ideas - and jobs - to work-hungry students.

Blue-chip companies like Arthur Andersen, Logica and American Express will be mixing with smaller scale employers from the Sussex region. The French Employment Service will also be there to offer advice about working in France and mainland Europe generally. They will have actual vacancies on offer, so come early to avoid the Gallic-bound scramble.

"Sussex students go into careers which are diverse, creative, and very international!"

According to organiser John Ross, "The Jobsday - which offers summer jobs as well as graduate work - will offer the chance to meet potential employers in an informal setting. "From work in finance to careers in France; computing to catering and recruitment agencies to retailing, the Jobsday is where Sussex students should be."

The Sussex Jobsday will take place at the Refectory from 10.00am-4.00pm on Wednesday June 16. Anyone who wants more information can contact John Ross on ext 8429.

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Fundraising Fun for Everyone

Becky Reid bowls a strike to the delight of team members (left to right) Terry O‘Donnell, Alison Field and Andrew Proctor.

Last Thursday the Sportcentre held a charity sports night in aid of the Rockinghorse Appeal (Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children). The event involved teams taking part in some traditional activities such as hockey dribbling, volley ball and skittles, as well as the more adventurous wellyboot throwing and egg-catch. The latter involved team members throwing an egg to each other from as far a distance apart as possible until it broke - usually on the catcher. These events were followed by a less strenuous, but still taxing, general quiz. The night culminated with a barbecue and a raffle with some excellent prizes. The winning team, the Kings Mansions All Stars, were presented with the Jan Thole Charity Trophy. The whole event raised a total of £317.60 for the appeal.

Millennium Bug. When polled many Americans were seeking somewhere isolated to celebrate the Millennium. On a planet with 6 billion people somewhere lonely may be difficult to find!
AFRAS Research Could Regenerate War-Torn Countries

Wars rip through the land in which they are fought, often causing severe damage to fragile environments. The systems which are built up painstakingly over generations for managing land, water and forestry resources may also be decimated when conflict tears people away from their homes. Yet the aftermath of war can provide an opportunity for regeneration; for a new start which avoids the mistakes which were made in the past. Instead of being exploited, there is a chance for resources to be managed more effectively. It is this chance of a new beginning which has inspired Dr Elizabeth Watson and her colleagues in AFRAS to embark on the MARENA project.

The MARENA (Management of Renewable Natural Resources) team will be looking at the way water, land and wildlife are managed in Ethiopia and Mozambique, two countries which have both been ravaged by protracted wars. Crucially, both countries were also ruled under strong, centralised state control. Before the conflict, state institutions were responsible for managing natural resources. Now, responsibility is being devolved to ‘community’ organisations. As Elizabeth explains, "It's very much the idea of moving from a top-down to a bottom-up way of management."

But this process is not as simple as it sounds. The idea of ‘stakeholder participation’ rings with idealism at any time, but it may be even less viable after a war. As Elizabeth points out, "In a post-conflict situation you often have very mixed communities, or communities which have been extremely disrupted. People have been displaced and regrouped, some groups have been driven apart, and there may still be a lot of tension. The idea of 'the community' is really a romantic ideal." This has become apparent in Boran in Ethiopia, where right of access to water wells for herders and their livestock, which was once controlled by community elders, has now become haphazard as the elders have been displaced. And in Mozambique, forests are being damaged by overpopulation as soldiers who staked rebel bases there in the war have now settled and started families.

Despite these problems, it is still empowering for the people who use these resources to have a say in how they are managed. Local people are perhaps more likely to manage resources in a sustainable way, and have pools of knowledge which people from NGOs and governments don't have. Elizabeth and her MARENA colleagues hope to construct a model of the way that all the institutions involved interact, with a view to strengthening indigenous control in a workable way. Their model could well point the way to a totally new sort of management, born out of the ashes of war.

Are you a parent that needs help with childcare costs?

If you are a female undergraduate student aged between 25 and 50 and need help with your childcare costs, you may be eligible for assistance from the Elizabeth Nuffield Educational Fund. You must be a home student, or have been granted refugee status or exceptional leave to remain in the UK; you must have applied for Access Funds and the full Student Loan; your gross household income must be below £16,500 per annum; and your childcare arrangements for children under the age of eight must meet the requirements of The Children Act 1989.

Applications are now open for the next academic year. You need to write a short letter to the Administrator (address below) giving your age; the title, level and duration of your course; and stating that you need help with childcare costs. No other information is required at this stage. Eligible students will be sent an application form which needs to be returned by the middle of September.

Elizabeth Nuffield Educational Fund, 28 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3EG. Tel: 0171 631 0566.

For further information, please contact the Student Advice Centre on 877038 or 678152.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants & Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. 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.

The AHRC has recently announced the second call for its small research grants scheme. Awards of up to £5,000 are available in the arts only. The award is intended to cover the cost of short term research; consumable items; information technology support; and travel and subsistence. Deadline: 31 July 1999.

New 'Partnerships for Public Understanding' awards are now available from the EPSRC. The aim of the awards is to encourage researchers to communicate the challenge and excitement of their work to the wider public. Awards are usually in the range of £10-20k. Example activities are: partnerships with the media; public displays; educational projects; high quality videos; lectures/laboratory open days. Deadline: 11 September 1999.

The NERC Earth Observation Expert Group invites proposals under its Data Assimilation thematic research programme. The aim is to use data assimilation techniques to derive maximum value from remotely sensed atmospheric and oceanographic data which helps to develop the expertise of the UK scientific community in this area. Deadline: 15 September 1999.

The NATO Science Programme has been restructured to direct support towards collaborations between partner countries and NATO-country scientists. The programme is grouped into four sub-programmes: science fellowships; co-operative science and technology; research infrastructure support and science for peace. Contact the RGO for information on specific programmes. Various deadlines.

The ESRC has launched a Research Fellowship Scheme in addition to their research grants scheme. The Fellowships will be available for research in the full range of social and economic sciences and are available to social scientists at all stages of their post-doctoral career. Applications are accepted on an open date basis.

The BBSRC's International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS) offers applicants the opportunity to apply for funds to travel abroad in order to explore the potential of an international linkage and possible funding opportunities. The scheme is open to bids at any time and applications are accepted from current BBSRC grantees and scientists at BBSRC supported institutes.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 14 June
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Paul Armstrong (Birkbeck), Lifelong learning as a cultural phenomenon. D310.

1.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Dora Duka, What do the effects of alcohol on cognition tell us about alcohol abuse? BLR.

5.00pm Women's Studies Research In-Progress Seminar: Sally Bream, Kim Jin, Kay Ishikawa. D610.

Tuesday 15 June

5.00pm CDE Seminar: Thomas Hylland Eriksen (Oslo), Towards a theory of identity politics. C219.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Julius Carlebach, The meaning of German-Jewish Studies. A155.

Wednesday 16 June
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Alex Kirby (BBC Online), Grabbing the headlines - does it really change policy? Room 221.

CDE South Asia Seminar: Jonathan Parry (LSE), Two cheers for reservation: the Satnamis and the steel plant. C337.

Friday 18 June
4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: Richard Tuckett (Birmingham), Vacuum ultraviolet photo-dissociation and photo-ionization spectroscopy using synchrotron radiation. CHI - 3R241.

4.30pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Nick Everitt (East Anglia), The possibility of disembodiment. A155.

Small Ads

TO LET: Room in central Brighton (North Laine) house share. £215 pcm (incl. most bills). Please email: kaprl@sussex.ac.uk or tel: 620201.

Gardner Arts Centre Freebies

The University's music ensemble in residence The Tacet Ensemble will perform on Wednesday 16 June. The Gardner Arts Centre has one free ticket to give away to each of the first 10 readers who turn up at the box office waving a copy of the Bulletin.

SHIATSU (Japanese Therapeutic Massage) now available on Tuesdays at the Sports Centre. Gentle, effective treatment for many ailments, including stress related problems. For more information, please email T.L.Rigby@sussex.ac.uk or tel. Tania on 821035.

FOR SALE: Brand new small fridge, in excellent condition, about £60. Tel. 07887 664790.

FOR SALE: Intel Pentium 200MMX, 256 kB cache, 32 MB RAM, 2G HD, 16X CD-ROM, 15" monitor, 3D Graphics accelerator with 2Mb memory, 16 bit SoundBlaster compatible sound card & speakers - £350. Plus MS-Works and MS-Money Games, walkman & battery charger. Also for sale 28.8kbs modem for £23, 3Com OfficeConnect Network Kit consists of a 4 port hub and 2 network cards for £74. Contact jtl@central.sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 4 rooms in beautiful, spacious house. Fully furnished. 3 min walk from London Road station. Available beginning July to end of September. Tel 247790/247479.

WANTED: Studio flat in central Brighton or around the university area. Contact Ipek Tel 01273 733661.


TO LET: Furnished family house in Kingston, near Lewes. Available immediately - newly decorated. 3-bedroom, 3 reception, study and garden. 3 miles from the University. Good local schools. Couples or families only (not groups). Non-smokers. Telephone: 692005 (office hours) or 483993 (home) or 8536 (internal) for further details.

FOR SALE: Hitachi colour TV, 20 in. 4 system, VGC, £30. Please phone Xin on 246619 or email at x.hu7@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: REM tickets. Two for Earls Court on Wed. 23 June @ £30 each (face value). Simon ext 8118 or e-mail euhf3@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: one room or one bedroom flat/house in Lewes to rent for July and possibly August. House-sitting arrangement would be perfect. Please contact via email bcu47@central.susx.ac.uk.

THEATRE BEYOND WORDS!

Practical work, rest and rejuvenation workshops including yoga, chigong, visualisation, drama games and physical theatre. Two weeks in beautiful 'Calas Rosa' near Gaucin, Andalucia, Spain. Either 30 August - 3 September or 13-17 September 1999. For further details, telephone Siou on 724233.

Miscellaneous

Sussex University Philharmonia Summer Concert: Mozart Symphony No. 41, Fauré Pavane, plus music by Bach and Rossini. Friday 18 June, 7.45 pm, University Meeting House. Tickets £5/£3.50 at Students Union Reception or on the door.

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.