Law students benefit from barrister’s bequest

A protest about government policy on tuition fees by about 30 people prevented Wednesday’s Chancellors Society Dinner from taking place. The dinner was being held to raise money to fund scholarships for disabled young people in East and West Sussex. It has now been postponed until a later date.

Lawyer Cherie Booth QC had accepted Lord Attenborough’s personal invitation to be guest speaker at the event. She had been due to talk about the challenges facing women who go into professional careers today and has kindly agreed to do so when the dinner is rescheduled.

The occasion was an opportunity to commemorate Mrs Helena Normanton QC, the first woman to practise at the English Bar, and to mark the opening of the School of Legal Studies, which has benefited from a bequest that Mrs Normanton left to the University. Income from the Normanton bequest is being used to support founding scholarships in the new School, which was formed in August this year.

In her will, Mrs Normanton left £20,000-worth of shares in a trust to her niece Elsie Cannon, who died in January 1999. The share portfolio, by now valued in excess of £400,000, then passed to Sussex. Mrs Normanton’s will records that her bequest to the University was made “in gratitude for all that Brighton did to educate me”.

Research by postgraduate student Jo Workman has revealed that Helena Normanton moved to Brighton in 1886, when she was four, and attended York Place school (now Varmean) from the age of 14. Jo, who has just finished an MA in Contemporary History at Sussex, discovered that Mrs Normanton initially trained as a teacher. She was not admitted as a member of the Middle Temple until 1919, by which time she was in her late 30s. In 1922 she was called to the Bar and was the first woman to practise as a barrister, notably in the Old Bailey.

Although she lived in Bloomsbury with her husband, accountant Gavin Clark, Mrs Normanton maintained her links with the Brighton area. In 1956 a fund was established to create a new University in Sussex. Helena Normanton was the first recorded donor to the fund, with a gift made to Brighton’s Director of Education at the time, William Stone.

She died in October 1957 and is buried with her husband in Ovingdean churchyard. Today her only surviving relatives are distant cousins, who live in Sussex. “The barrister was a very, very strong woman”, said 79-year-old Mrs Sybil Foard, who lives in Hove. “She attracted a lot of attention wherever she went. Helena was a social commentator of her time and has paved the way for thousands of women to have a right to stand at the Bar.”

Jo Workman agrees: “Helena had a strong desire to see women recognised as individuals who had an equal right with men to actively participate in all facets of life. She invested an enormous amount of energy in working to remove prejudices against women.”

Sussex student’s poetry prize

Sarah Wardle, a DPhil student in HUMS, has won the 1999 Geoffrey Dearmer Prize – Poetry Review’s award for new poet of the year. She received the prize and gave a reading at the Poetry Cafe in London on Wednesday (17 November). The annual prize was instigated in 1997 in honour of the WWI poet and the Poetry Society’s oldest member, Geoffrey Dearmer.

Sarah submitted 15 poems for the competition. Sheenagh Pugh, who was this year’s judge, said: “The control of form was impressive, as was the humour and lack of self-obsession... more important still is the fact that the language lives, it’s sparky and feisty; it always runs rather than plodding and now and then... it flies.”

Continued on page 2.

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Sussex student’s poetry prize

Continued from front page.

Sarah gained a first in English at Sussex, after which she took an MA, and has recently started her doctorate on form and tradition in contemporary poetry. In the future she plans to combine teaching with writing.

Arcadia

As if a country kitchen were where we sat and you wore a smock, and I an apron, as I rocked a newborn asleep in his cot, while through the door came laughter from our other children, and this table, instead of papers and books, held a jug of ale and a weekly wage, while the scent of baked ham spread as it cooked, and with one hand I stirred in onion and sage, I caught you lift your straggling thoughts over a fence, your face framed offguard, gazing fields away, as you herded your words into a sentence, your eyes brown and deep as the soil’s clay.

Sarah Wardle

The Pulse triumphs again

It’s official - the Pulse is the Best Student Magazine in the country. It has beaten off a strong shortlist of university magazines at Oxford, York and Liverpool John Moores to take top prize in the NUS/Independent National Student Journalism Awards.

Editors Bonnie Malkin and Jessica Eveleigh received the award at a ceremony at King’s College, London on 13 November. A delighted Melissa Burn, USSU Communications Officer, said: “After all the hard work that has been put in, it was well deserved.” The Pulse was also runner-up for Best Small Budget Student Publication.

This latest success comes after last month’s triumph in the Guardian student media awards, when the Pulse took the Shoestring Award (for excellence on a limited budget) and was shortlisted for Student Magazine of the Year.

In addition, BIOLS student Owen Davis followed his nomination for Guardian Student Photographer of the year by featuring on the NUS/Independent shortlist for Best Student Photographer.

The Postgraduate Study in Sussex Fair

Are you graduating in 2000? Is postgraduate study something you’re considering? Would you be keen to stay in Sussex?

Then come to the Postgraduate Study in Sussex Fair. It’s a great chance to find out more about postgraduate programmes at the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and about how you might fund your postgraduate study.

Just drop in between 12 noon and 2:00pm on Tuesday 23 November to the Terrace Room, Bramber House.

Teaching and Learning Development Fund

The TLDF provides funding for improvements in curriculum design; teaching, learning and assessment methods; skills development, etc.

If you wish to prepare a bid for the next round, contact either Lilla Funge (general enquiries, ext. 8714) or Richard Inskip (multimedia enquiries, ext. 8579) by 3 December. The deadline for bids is 10 December.

Full information is available on the WWW at www.sussex.ac.uk/information_office/bulletin/19nov99
Sex in a changing environment

Some evolutionary biologists have a problem with sex, but mathematical models may help. The problem with sexual reproduction is its high 'cost' compared with other methods; so why is the practice so widespread? Writing in the current issue of Genetics, David Waxman and Joel Peck of the Centre for the Study of Evolution in BIOS present the fruits of a mathematical investigation which show that sex can justify its costs when the environment is changing.

At first sight the most straightforward and economical way of passing on genes to future generations (and therefore achieving fitness in the evolutionary sense) is asexual cloning. Sexual processes and behaviour involve extra effort and decrease the potential number of copies of genes that can be passed on. If the organism has a good set of genes and the environment is constant, there seems to be little to be gained by shuffling the pack; Joel and David have already pointed out (in Nature in 1998) that this situation applies in hostile environments where there are genetic dangers in mating with incoming migrants from more salutary climes. In the harsh north, they say, it pays to be asexual and to keep yourself to yourself.

So, what are the advantages of sex that outweigh the extra cost? Using the best genetic information available, David and Joel modelled environments populated either by sexual hermaphrodites or by asexuals. The sexual hermaphrodites had to divide their resources between 'male effort' and 'female effort' while the asexuals could put all their eggs into one basket. They chose to use hermaphrodites because they most closely resemble asexuals and this type of comparison is particularly appropriate for many plant species. But, they say, their calculations also apply (more or less) to populations with separate sexes.

A most dramatic result emerging from their calculation is that changing the environment brings about an enormous increase in genetic variability. This happens in all populations, but the effect is significantly greater in those which reproduce sexually. Selection favours advantageous new mutations, but sexual reshuffling gives a better chance that these will spread through the population and come together in a variety of new combinations. Their model, unlike previous models, shows that even a low rate of environmental change can produce a large increase in genetic variability in the population. While a modest rate of change can be very damaging to an asexual population, it leaves a sexual population virtually unscathed.

So in a changing world, like the Red Queen we have to keep running to stay in the same place. Global warming promises 'interesting' changes and it looks as if sex is here to stay.

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-Experet@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 AHRB’s Research Exchange Scheme is designed to promote and support collaboration between researchers in academic departments and colleagues who work in libraries, archives, museums, galleries, theatres, studios or similar environments. Secondments will be for a three-four month period. Deadline 30 November 1999

The NERC is advertising its research grants schemes. Standard grants are for a minimum of £35,000 and provide funding for up to three years; small grants provide between £2,000 and £35,000. Deadlines: standard 1 December 1999; small 1 February 2000

The Royal Society provides grants for scientific research visits to and from the UK. Study visits of between two weeks and six months are offered to the whole of Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. The awards are intended for scientists of at least post-doctoral status and cover accommodation, subsistence and some local travel. Deadline: 1 December 1999

The British Academy’s Visiting Professorships and Fellowships scheme enables overseas distinguished and junior scholars to spend a minimum of two weeks in the United Kingdom to pursue research. The award goes towards the estimated travel and maintenance costs. All arrangements are undertaken by the visitor’s British sponsor. Deadline 31 December 1999

The Royal Society is inviting applications for its University research fellowships. The fellowships provide support for young researchers to work in university departments with the expectation of achieving permanent posts in a UK university or industry within six years. Deadline 7 January 2000

The BBSRC invites applications for its fellowships scheme. There are 10 David Phillips fellowships for active postdoc researchers, six Research Development fellowships for replacement teaching costs, and two professorial fellowships for internationally renowned scientists. Deadline: 15 January 2000

The EPSRC invites proposals for its smart technologies programme. Smart materials are those able to: predictably respond to external stimulation and adaptively respond to environments. For key research areas see RGCO. Awards of £200–£250,000 are encouraged. Deadline 12 February 2000.

Noticeboard

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia
Continued from back page.

Thursday 2 December
4.00pm CPES Colloquium: Stephen Benn (Royal Society of Chemistry), Science and government. Chichester LT.
4.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Mick Dunford, Tony Fielding and Adrian Smith, Comparative research in economic geography. D610.
4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Simon Killcross, The amygdala, emotion and learning. BLR.
5.00pm History Work in Progress: Marcus Wood, Visual rhetoric and the fugitive slave. A155.
5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Ros Eyben (Chief Social Development Advisor, DFID), Development cooperation for a new Millennium. A1.
Friday 3 December
2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Phil Cooke (Cardiff), The scope and limits of regional innovation systems in promoting new technology clusters. EDB 121.
4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: John Murrell, What are we trying to do with MO theory? CHI 3-3R241.
4.00pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: D. Sciana (Sissa), title TBA. Arundel 401.

David Waxman's mathematical investigation shows that sex can justify its costs when the environment is changing.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

During the Autumn term the Bulletin will be produced fortnightly. We will therefore include two weeks' lectures on the back page. Please make sure that you get information to us in time for the copy deadline. Lectures, seminars and colloquia that miss the deadline will be put on the web at www.susx.ac.uk/information_office/bulletin/ which will be updated every Friday.

As the Bulletin is being produced fortnightly there is no room on the back page for small ads. All adverts sent in will now be displayed on the web version. Please try to keep adverts to 20 words or less.

Monday 22 November
11.30am SCOAP Seminar: Chris Vale, Bean in a bottle. BLR.
4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Nick Buck (Essex), Social capital and social exclusion in London. D310.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Chris Davies, Structural studies of phosphoglucone isomerase: an enzyme of glycolysis with cytochrome properties? Arundel LT.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Richard Andrew, Very early origin of lateralisation. Biology Lecture Room.
5.00pm Women's Studies RIP Seminar: Claire Langhamer, Stepping out with the young set: Young women's leisure in England 1920-1960. A71.

Tuesday 23 November
12.30pm Centre for Life History Research Seminar: Jenny Simmons, Contested identities and the Alsace experience in World War II. Library Seminar Room.
2.15pm SEI Research in Progress Seminar: Alasdair Young, The adoption of European foreign economic policy. A71.
4.15pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Peter Parker (Kent), Deceptive dialogues: Participatory performances of development in the Hindu Kush. C233.
5.00pm Media Studies Graduate Seminar: Yvonne Tasker (UEA), 'This is a man': Authorship, women filmmakers and feminist film studies. EDB 125.
5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Monica Lowenberg, The educational experiences of German-Jewish teenagers in Germany and Britain during the 1930s. A155.

Wednesday 24 November
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Jude Howell, Manufacturing civil society from the outside: Some dilemmas and challenges. Room 221.
2.00pm Ralph Blumenau (USA), Were most Germans Hitler's Willing Executions? a talk on Daniel Goldhagen's controversial book. A5.
2.00pm Music Graduate Research Seminar: Martin Butler and Cindy Oswin, Making a better place: Creating an opera from scratch. Recital room, Falmer House.
4.00pm CMAIA Colloquium: B. Davies (KCL), Spectral instability — are eigenvalues important? PEV1-1A1.

Thursday 25 November
11.30am Economics Faculty/Graduate Seminar: Fred Phelan, Impact of changes in unemployment insurance policies on the duration of insured unemployment in Atlantic Canada. D310.
4.00pm CPES Colloquium: Jeff Leigh, Nitrogen, the world's biggest fix. Chichester LT.
4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Graham Schafer, title TBA. BLR.
5.00pm History Work in Progress: Jude Purvis, (Portsmouth), Emily Parkhurst: a leader of women. A155.
5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Alan Winters, Trade policy and poverty. A1.

Friday 26 November
10.00am–5.00pm Migration Centre/SEI Workshop: Free movement after enlargement: East-West migration and emerging cross-border labour markets. A71.
2.15pm SPRU Seminar: Jacky Swan (Warwick Business School), Fads in knowledge management. EDB 121.
4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: J. Gale (Imperial), Towards the first principles simulation of complex materials. CHI 3R241.
4.00pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Y. Wu (QMWB), Stellar pulsations. Arundel 401.
4.30pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Alison Stone (Cambridge), Hegel on the difference between philosophy and science. A155.

Monday 29 November
11.30am SCOAP and Chemical Physics Joint Seminar: Ben Whittaker (Leeds), Ion imaging studies of small molecules: photodissociation and Coulomb explosion. BLR.
2.00pm Falmer Language Group: Harald Clahsen (Essex), Compounding and inflection in language impairment. A155.
4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Nick Gane (London Guildhall University), Max Weber and contemporary social theory. D310.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Ruth Campbell (UCL), Cortical basis of hearing by eye. BLR.
5.00pm Women's Studies RIP Seminar: Susan Hayward (Exeter), Simone Signoret. A71.

Tuesday 30 November
2.15pm SEI Research in Progress Seminar: Helen Wallace, The domestication of Europe: Contrasting experiences of EU membership and non-membership. A71.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Heidi Lane (FMJ, Basel), Modulation of p27Kip1/Cdk2 complex formation through ErbB2 receptor signalling in BT474 breast tumour cells: relationship between receptor overexpression and growth dependency. BLT.
5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Eva Kolinsky (Wolverhampton), Living in Germany: Experiences and identities of Turks and Jews in Germany, 1945 to the present. A155.

Wednesday 1 December
1.00pm Environmental Research Seminar: Mike Evans (AstraZeneca), Chemical persistence, fate and degradation. Chichester LT.
2.00pm Music Graduate Research Seminar: Ekaterini Karamessini, Le petit prince: From story to opera. Recital room, Falmer House.
2.00pm SPRU Seminar: Mohsin Khan (NISTADS), Indian technology policy and its influence on technology development focusing on information technology. Room 2A3, Mantell Building.
2.00pm Queery Seminar: Vincent Quinn, From 'Dear Jane' to 'Queer Jane': Austen and queer theory. A71.
5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Richard Godden (Keele), Deathly allegories: William Faulkner's A Fable and the permanent arms economy. D640.

Thursday 2 December
11.30 Economics Faculty/Graduate Seminar: Explaining the excess volatility of capital flows. D310.
12.30 Inorganic Discussion Group: Martyn Coles, title TBA. Mike Hill, Approaches to electronically unsaturated transition metal alkyls. CHI 3R143.

Continued on page 3.

Bulletin

The next issue of the Bulletin will be out on Friday 3 December. The copy deadline for that issue will be 1.00pm on Friday 26 November.
Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.