Lord Attenborough does the honours

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies marked the anniversary yesterday (27 January) of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau with the award of an honorary doctorate to the chairman of its support group, Max Kochmann. After the graduation ceremony, Lord Attenborough opened the Centre’s new archive and research unit in the Library.

The occasion also coincided with the annual Holocaust Memorial Day in Germany. Prime Minister Tony Blair announced on Wednesday that from 2001 the UK will join Germany in marking 27 January every year with a day of remembrance.

Mr Kochmann, who was a refugee from Nazi oppression in the 1930s, said: "Like many others, I see the idea of a Holocaust Memorial Day as an opportunity to encourage education and understanding of the factors, prejudice and racism that caused these developments to succeed."

"But the day should be for remembering all people who have been victims of oppression because they are 'different', wherever it is happening in the world. That's the lesson learned from the Holocaust and that lesson will continue."

Lord Attenborough presented honorary degrees at this week's graduation ceremonies to three other people who are closely associated with the University:

Humphrey Spencer was one of the first participants in the Mass-Observation project, taking photographs of Bolton in Lancashire during the late 1930s. The Gardner Arts Centre hosted his first one-man photographic exhibition, Worktown, in 1977.

Sussex folklorist Bob Copper is renowned for his songs and tales from rural downland villages. He has written many books about the county, including A Song for Every Season and Bob Copper's Sussex. "It's extremely gratifying to receive this degree", said Bob. "I am not an academic type."

Dr George Poste was born in Polegate. An internationally recognised expert in genetics and cancer, he was until recently Chief Science and Technology Officer at SmithKline Beecham.

Hastings man gets the Hollywood treatment

A special preview of Lord Attenborough's latest film, Grey Owl, will take place at the Gardner Arts Centre on 10 February.

Tickets are still available for the event, which starts at 7.15pm with a buffet meal and wine, followed by a screening of Grey Owl in the auditorium.

Afterwards, Lord Attenborough will discuss the making of the film he directed and co-produced. Grey Owl is the extraordinary story of Archie Belaney, a man born in Hastings in 1888 who went on to fool the world into believing he was a native North American. Fascinated by the Indian way of life as a boy, he emigrated to Canada in 1906 and lived among the Ojibwa tribe in the wilderness of Temagami, Ontario, claiming to be Grey Owl, the son of an Apache mother and a Scottish fur-trader father.

He went on to write four inspiring best-sellers about his way of life and even toured the UK in full Indian regalia to give lectures about conservation. It was during a tour in 1937 that his relatives in Hastings recognised him as being their own Archie Belaney and his true identity was exposed. He died a year later from exhaustion.

Among those who attended a Grey Owl talk during the 1930s in Leicester was the young Richard Attenborough. The memory came back to him more than 50 years later and he realised it was an ideal subject for a film. "It's a wonderful story, a great adventure", he said. "Here is somebody who, 60 years ago, believed passionately in the care and custodianship of the planet.

The film, which stars Hollywood heartthrob Pierce Brosnan, will go on general release in the spring.

The screening has been organised by the Chancellor's Society to boost funds for the Jubilee Scholarships, which help young people with severe physical disabilities in East and West Sussex to study for university entrance.

To date, 85 grants have been made to more than 60 young people. Due to rising student numbers, a substantial injection of cash is now needed to keep the scheme alive. An appeal target of £250,000 has been set, of which £140,000 has been raised.

• Tickets for the film preview (including a buffet meal and wine) cost £25 and are available from the Gardner Arts Centre box office on 01273 685861.
The changing face of Brighton

Throughout the summer and autumn of 1996, groups of volunteers all over the UK were to be found attentively scanning the landscape, pencils and clipboards in hand. Land Use – UK mobilised 1,400 schools and 50,000 people to survey the way we use our land. They were repeating an exercise that first took place in the 1930s and again in the 1960s.

"The experience had a profound educational impact on the students involved and the results of the survey form a major contribution to the nation’s environmental database", said Rex Walford, who co-ordinated the 1990s survey. "The project has demonstrated the incomparable value of fieldwork and geography in a properly rounded education."

The area around Brighton was surveyed in 138 kilometre squares. It covers the Sussex coast centred on Brighton and Hove, extending westwards to Shoreham harbour and the Adur valley and eastwards to Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs.

Surveying was co-ordinated by the Brighton branch of the Geographical Association under the direction of Dr Tony Binns, Senior Lecturer in Geography at Sussex. He dispatched 108 unsuspecting first-year undergraduates across the area, and they completed 64 grid squares in a single day.

More than 200 students from schools in Brighton, Hove, Lewes and Shoreham also collected data for the survey. They included 10 A level students from the Old Grammar School in Lewes, who walked the fields above Kingston and mapped them according to how the land was being used.

"We concluded that the land use fitted the relief and that there was some set-aside land", said Elizabeth Williams, head of geography. "Kingston had spread since the 1960s and some fields had amalgamated. Also there was very good marking of footpaths which implies heavy tourist use. I think it gave pupils a real feel for the local area and showed how land use really fits in with physical geography."

"No other area in the country has all three maps. It’s been a great achievement, really. I can’t believe we’ve done it."

Once the survey work was complete, research fellow Sarah Cormac took on the unenviable job of moderating and checking the data. University cartographer Susan Rowlands then began the painstaking task of turning 138 hand-coloured squares into one digitised map and liaising with the Ordnance Survey on its publication.

The colour-coded map, which was launched at a geographers’ conference on campus earlier this month, shows residential areas, industry, countryside, farmland and public institutions. It provides a unique snapshot of the area in 1996 and is the only sheet covered by Land Use – UK to be published. "No other area in the country has all three maps", said Tony. "It’s been a great achievement, really. I can’t believe we’ve done it."

A comparative study of the three maps reveals some remarkable changes in the Brighton area since the 1930s. Undoubtedly the most striking change is the considerable growth in housing. "The urban area grew at a rapid pace between the 1930s and 1960s", said Tony. "The coastal strip became a continuous built-up area."

The new map also demonstrates the striking differences in terms of transport and the relentless expansion of the road system in the area. Tony pointed out that, while three local railway lines have disappeared, the Adur flyover and the Brighton and Hove bypass didn’t even exist in the 1960s.

- Single copies of the map are available from Susan Rowlands in the Geography Laboratory (Arts C174), price £7.00 plus £1.50 p&p. For teaching sets and single copies, contact Latitude, tel. 01707 663090.
Students coming and going

A first-year student in AFRAS has just returned from a six-week trip to an orphanage in Romania – her third visit in as many years.

Jennifer Richards was one of five volunteers from the Romania Challenge Appeal who set off for Siret in December. They took presents for the orphanage’s 520 residents, many of whom are terminally ill.

The conditions at the home are grim and there is only one carer for every 30 children. “A lot of people think I’m mad,” said Jennifer. “But you get more pleasure helping these children than you can possibly imagine. It’s the best thing I have ever done and certainly makes you grow up.”

The 19-year-old, who is studying Geography with Development Studies, hopes to get a job in humanitarian aid when she graduates.

Erika Alfaro Galago, a Mexican DPhil student at SPRU, has been awarded the prestigious Luis Donaldo Colosio Fellowship to study for a year from January 2000 at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) at Laxenburg, Austria.

Erika’s research on the political economy of joint ventures relates in particular to telecommunications development in Mexico.

Sussex scientist turns his hand to art

A new exhibition in London, Invisible Body, has drawn together the worlds of art and medicine. It pairs 12 contemporary artists with 12 specialists in medical science, to examine the role that medicine plays in contemporary culture. The artwork pictured right is the result of one of the partnerships, between Dr Robert Whittle, a developmental geneticist in BIOLS, and artist Julia Wilson.

Robert’s collaboration with Julia is their response to the work of Anna Dumitriu (a Brighton-based artist) who is influenced, according to Robert, by “ideas of immortality and has a fascination with the ‘invisibility’ of microscopic structures like the detail of human skin”. Robert’s focus was on heritability and biological continuity, which is his area of interest in developmental genetics.

Robert and Julia started working together in June 1999, exchanging an enormous range of ideas and information as well as novel artwork. Robert said, “We became interested in the difference between heritability and immortality, about the transition between intimacy and clinical ultrastructure as one examines a body at increasing magnification.”

The pair have several pieces of art on display in the exhibition. Whilst working together they found far more themes and imagery than they could use, and are now hoping to pursue these ideas in further collaborations.

• The Invisible Body exhibition, which is being held at the Whiteleys Shopping Centre in London W2, runs until 13 February 2000. It is a Wellcome Trust Sci-Art project and is accompanied by a range of events offering opportunities for lively debate and discussion. For further information about the exhibition contact Whiteleys Customer Services on 0171 229 8841 or visit their website at www.whiteleys.com.

Christopher Saunders

It is with deep regret that the University reports the death of Christopher Saunders on 13 January. Christopher was a professorial fellow in the former Centre for Contemporary European Studies and latterly an honorary fellow in SPRU.

Christopher was always ready to use his deep knowledge of both East and West European economies to benefit the University’s research activities and especially to give generous help to graduate students.

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 Website: http://research.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS home page, under Research.

The British Academy is inviting applications under its post-doctoral fellowship scheme. Awards are designed to enable young scholars (under the age of 30) to obtain three years experience of research and teaching in a university environment. Deadline: 29 February 2000

The Royal Society is inviting applications through its international programme that provides grants for scientific research visits to and from the UK. Study visits are for visits between seven days and three months; joint project grants provide funding for over two years for exchange visits to take place. No deadline for study visits but 1 March for joint projects.

The Lloyds Tercentenary Foundation is inviting applications for its postdoctoral research fellowships. The fellowships are tenable for two years and must be in the following categories: engineering; medicine and healthcare; safety or environmental studies; and science and technology. Deadline: 24 March 2000

The ARHB is inviting applications for its research leave scheme. The award relieves scholars of teaching and administrative responsibilities in order to bring a research project to completion. Awards are for three or four months. Deadline: 31 March 2000

The EPSRC is inviting applications for interdisciplinary research networks at the materials/chemistry interface. Networks should be encouraging the transfer of ideas, methodologies and scientific insights between the two disciplines. Each network will receive up to £60,000 to cover operating and admin costs. Deadline: 31 March 2000

The PPARC Industrial Programme Support Scheme (PIPS) supports the development of long-term collaborations between UK researchers and UK industry, with the aims of: encouraging a two-way transfer of skills and know-how; and supporting an internally-competitive, UK industrial base in the fields of astronomy, space and particle physics. Four deadlines a year. Next deadline: 1 July 2000

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has identified its new priorities for 2000. Calls for proposals include: reconciling environmental and social concerns; culture makes communities; race equality; older people; welfare provision; drug and alcohol issues; parenting. For specific and deadlines contact the RGCO or www.jrf.org.uk.
Noticeboard

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Due to limited space, lectures, seminars and colloquia for the week beginning Monday 31 January are listed in the Bulletin on the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/information/officenewsbulletin

Monday 31 January
2.00pm Falmer Language Group: Andrew McCrum, A sociolinguistic study of pejorative words beginning ‘DU’ and ‘SL’. A155.
4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Angela Rogers (KCL), Between living and dying: Decisions not to treat following a stroke. D310.
4.00pm SCOAP Seminar: Alastair Sinclair (NPI), TBA. PEV 1A2.
4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Andrew Parker (Oxford), Structural colours in animals: Extant and extinct. BLR.
5.00pm Women's Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Alex Shepard, Manhood, credit and patriarchy in early modern England, c.1530-1640. A71.

Tuesday 1 February
2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Jeremy Kempton (SEI/Rowe & Maw), Rules and discretion in EU anti-dumping policy. A71.
4.00pm American Studies Seminar: Stephen Fender, The silent majority: Reported voices of black and white sharecroppers in the 1930s. A71.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Ian Hickson (John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford), Role of RecQ family helicases in the maintenance of genome stability. BLT.
5.00pm Media Studies Graduate Seminar: Mark Jancovich, Cult fictions: Cult movies, subcultural capital and the production of cultural distinctions. EDB 125.
5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Ernst M. Stein (Berlin), The development of Jewish communities in Germany, 1945-2000. A155.
6.00pm Lavinia Byrne, Coming alive in cyberspace. The Meeting House.

Wednesday 2 February
2.00pm Queory Seminar: Glyn Davis (Ripon), Middle of nowhere: The dead heart of Greg Araki's L.A. A71.
4.00pm Centre for South African Studies Seminar: James Manor, Elite perceptions of poverty in South Africa. C337.
5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Lindsay Smith, 'Blue Skies': Photography, film and colour. D 640.

Thursday 3 February
2.15pm SPRU Seminar Series: Saskia Sassan (LSE), TBA. C133.
4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: J. Kevin O'Regan (Univ. Paris 5), Change blindness and a theory of visual experience. BLR.
4.00pm Geography Research Colloquium: Gill Valentine (Sheffield), Doing porridge: Food, social relations and male prisons. D610.
4.00pm Accelerating Adaptation Lecture: Phil Husbands, Evolving brains faster. BLT.
5.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Maurice Howard, The Elizabethan gothic revival. A155.
5.00pm Queering Development Seminar: Susie Jolly, What use is queer theory to gender and development? IDS Room 109.
5.00pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Nigel Stallard (Reading), A sequential design for phase III clinical trials incorporating treatment selection. PEV2A2.

Friday 4 February
4.00pm Physical Chemistry Seminar: J. Plane (UEA), Meteorite chemistry in the upper atmosphere. CH13-3R24.
4.00pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Lee Smolin (Penn State/Imperial), Feedback and pattern formation in galactic discs. Arundel 401.

Small ads

NEEDED: Someone to look after a nine-year-old boy in central Brighton during school holidays. Five hours a day, mornings only. £10 per day. Please contact Sinnet on s.a.o.weber@ids.ac.uk; or pm on 736507.

ROOM TO LET: In family house very close to London Road station. Share kitchen and bathroom. Non-smoker. £55.00 per week incl. Contact Shirley on ext 8851, email S.Holder@sussex.ac.uk or phone 680522.

FOR SALE: Items for sale at web site: www.sussex.ac.uk/Users/sylvank/forsale/

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: Mature student seeks quiet, cheap, long-term accommodation from mid Feb or March. A garden or access to green areas nearby a plus. Contact Catherine at Ldub4.euro@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Bargain – Macintosh Performa 640cd (8MB Memory; HD 350 Mb), perfect condition complete with colour monitor and modem £200.00. Contact Maria or Maria on 682478 or email m.h.b.costa@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Virgin mobile phone, box. Unwanted present. Retail at £100, £10 free calls voucher. Accept £70. Tel. 877182 or e-mail kary@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Two headboards for single beds, pink dralon. Excellent condition £15 the pair. Also 3-piece suite, excellent condition £15. Can deliver. Tel. Christine 502759 or ext. 8678.

For more small ads visit the Bulletin on the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/information/officenewsbulletin

Opportunities for students

Scholarship for summer 2000 to Cornell University, New York

Students are invited to apply for a summer school scholarship at Cornell University’s beautiful campus in upstate New York for the summer 2000. Further details and application form are available from: Mrs. Chris Hogarth in Arts B152. The closing date for completed applications is 22 February 2000.

Overseas Research Students Award Scheme (ORS)

The application forms and further details on the ORS scheme for 2000/01 are now available from the Postgraduate Office, Sussex House.

Any non-EU research student currently holding an offer of a place at Sussex, or any research student currently registered at Sussex, is eligible for a nomination for this award. Please note that the award covers only the difference between 'overseas' fees and 'home' fees and does not include a maintenance element.

The deadline for completed application forms to be returned to the Postgraduate Office is 14 April 2000.

Bulletin

The next issue of the Bulletin will be out on Friday 11 February. The copy deadline for that issue will be 1.00pm on Friday 4 February.

Please see the Information Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.