Ben Ball OBE

Staff in the Career Development Unit (CDU) are celebrating the news that Ben Ball, careers psychologist and CDU’s Associate Director, is to be honoured with an OBE for services to careers guidance.

Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex and Vice-Chairman of the University’s Council, will present the award next week at a small ceremony in the Meeting House.

Ben (pictured left) is well respected in the careers profession for his rare combination of work - both locally and nationally - as a researcher, writer and practitioner. “His contributions to the theory and practice of careers guidance and management, especially in the higher education world, have been considerable,” said CDU’s Director, Carolyn Morris.

Ben has worked in the CDU for more than ten years and before that was head of the Careers Counselling Service at Brighton Polytechnic (now the University of Brighton). He holds a MA in Education from Sussex and has been involved with several research projects at the Institute of Employment Studies (IES).

Ben is highly regarded in his profession as the author of a number of books, including Careers Counselling in Practice, a core textbook on all career-guidance courses. He has also carried out a number of government-funded evaluation studies.

What makes his many achievements so astonishing is that Ben has suffered for the last 14 years from a rare brain cancer. "His courage and professionalism throughout has been remarkable and I feel privileged to have worked alongside him during this time,” said Bridget Millmore, one of Ben’s colleagues in the CDU.

Is there a doctor in the Random House?

Key figures from the worlds of publishing, music, mathematics and environmental politics will be collecting honorary degrees at the summer graduation ceremony on 11 July.

They will join some 1,600 students, plus family and friends, for the ceremony at the Brighton Centre, where University Chancellor, Lord Attenborough, will confer the awards.

Gail Re buck (pictured right), chief executive of the UK’s largest publishing company, the Random House Group, will become a Doctor of Letters.

For Ms Re buck, a Sussex alumna and a member of the University’s Court, the event will be a novel experience. “I didn’t go to my own graduation in 1974,” she recalled. “It just wasn’t the thing you did in those days.”

Ms Re buck, who was awarded an Alumni Fellowship earlier this year, said that her four years of studying Intellectual History at Sussex were “incredibly exciting” and that the University’s interdisciplinary teaching style had had a long-lasting effect on her career.

“If I hadn’t gone to Sussex, I don’t think I would have got into publishing,” she said. “I run a creative company and I found the Sussex system encouraged creativity through treating individuals as such.”

Internationally renowned composer Jonathan Harvey, who lives in Lewes, professed to being “touched” at the award of his Doctor of Music honorary degree.

Professor Harvey (pictured right) taught music at the University for 18 years, before leaving in 1995 to devote more time to composition. “I have so many fond memories of Sussex,” he said.

“I came to Sussex from Southampton University and it was a liberation for me. Southampton had an excellent music department, but it was quite strict in its approach. Here I was able to meet students from other disciplines and hear different ideas.”

Eminent mathematician John Ball will collect the degree of Doctor of Science. Professor Ball, who was a research student at Sussex from 1969 to 1972 and now holds a chair in Natural Philosophy at Oxford University, said: “I am delighted to receive this award from the university that taught me so much.”

“When I came here, Professor David Edmunds’ research programme on non-linear partial differential equations attracted me to the subject and I was lucky to become David’s student.”

Green campaigner Jonathan Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth and now a director of Forum for the Future, said that he felt “very honoured” to be offered the degree of Doctor of Laws.

He added, “I much admire the constant pursuit of excellence at Sussex, particularly in my own areas of interest (environment and development), and I am delighted at the prospect of being more closely connected with the University in the future.”
Teaching Awards 2000

Three members of faculty are to receive awards in recognition of their excellent teaching.

The annual Alumni Society Teaching Awards scheme, now in its fourth year, is open to all academics at Sussex who teach courses or supervise higher degrees.

Shortlisted nominees prepare a portfolio of evidence for consideration by a judging panel, which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith. This year’s panel, while impressed by the achievements and sustained commitment of all those on the shortlist, chose Rodney Hillman, Jon Mitchell and James Peyton-Jones as the winners for 2000.

Rodney Hillman, Lecturer in English, is one of the longest-serving members of faculty at Sussex, where the English degree has a reputation for the prominence that it gives to critical theory. Rodney, on the other hand, emphasises close reading of the texts he teaches. The energy and enthusiasm with which Rodney transmits his extensive knowledge of these texts brings an overwhelmingly positive response from students, who also appreciate Rodney’s pastoral care for their work and development as individuals. “They all need criticism, so that they can learn to develop through self-criticism,” he says. “But they all need encouragement, so that they can learn to trust their own abilities and value their own work. I try to get the balance right between criticism and encouragement.”

“I would, in some sense, liken the ‘Rodney experience’ to going to the gym,” confirms Stuart Anderson, a second-year undergraduate. “It will cause a degree of pain and fatigue, despite the fact that it is healthy – but when it is over, it makes one feel invigorated and revitalised.”

Dr Jon Mitchell, aged 31, took his first degree at Sussex. He returned as a Lecturer in Social Anthropology three years ago but has already made a big impact: “I have been keen to involve myself at all levels of the teaching and learning process, from curriculum design and course planning to teaching itself, and audit,” he says.

The judging panel praised Jon in particular for his commitment to curriculum development, at both national and institutional levels. As well as being a committee member for an HEFCE-sponsored project on new forms of writing in social anthropology, he recently chaired a review of course content and teaching methods for first-year anthropology students at Sussex.

Rodney Hillman
Jon Mitchell
James Peyton-Jones

It is on first-year teaching that Jon has made his greatest impact. He believes that all students – even at introductory levels – are capable of understanding the most difficult material. “The more one asks students to do,” he says, “the more they will achieve, providing the tasks are properly organised and explained to them.”

Dr James Peyton-Jones, a Senior Lecturer in Computer & Control Engineering, was also commended by the judging panel for his innovative teaching methods. “My fundamental aim in teaching is to involve students in a learning experience which will capture their imagination, with substantial hands-on experience, live demonstrations and participatory lectures,” he says.

For example, James breaks up his lectures with short hands-on tasks to test if students really understand the topic just presented. He also structures all laboratory exercises to build on each other and on recently taught lecture material, in sequence. And in courses that are assessed by examination, he provides students with a series of graduated questions (up to exam standard) in self-paced worksheets.

The result of these innovative teaching methods is a high level of support from students and colleagues. “Your enthusiasm is infectious,” commented one student in written feedback. “Exercises during the lecture helped me see if I had a clear understanding of the material being taught,” wrote another. And one put it more simply: “Best lecturer ever!”

Letters

Dear Editor,

I have followed with great interest the plans for a football stadium in Falmer, as well as the concerns of local residents about road and traffic developments, football crowds and hooliganism.

At the Albion’s temporary home at Withdean, the club has largely succeeded in preventing supporters from driving their cars into the network of some 50-60 streets that surround the stadium. Given that there are only two main access points to Falmer village, it will be very simple to implement such a policy for the new stadium. The stadium will be positioned well away from the village, in the place of obsolete Brighton University buildings.

Withdean residents who initially opposed the Albion’s move to their area have publicly stated how impressed they have been with supporter behaviour. The area surrounding the stadium is, according to one local resident, more litter-free on Saturday evenings than Saturday mornings, thanks to the club’s litter collection team.

It is important that ‘NIMBYist’ scare stories are answered. Their ultimate effect, if believed by local decision-makers, will be to ruin a golden chance for the area to have a sporting and educational facility of which we can be truly proud, and in the process they will kill Sussex’s only professional football club.

Yours faithfully,
Matthew Costin – MA in International Relations

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VC's Voice

The end of the academic year is a good time to reflect on the role of prizes and awards in higher education. There is some ambiguity in our attitudes to student achievement. On the one hand, as an institution we devote a huge amount of time each year to the careful classification of honours degrees; but on the other hand, we have tended to downplay individual performance. In the last two years, however, at graduation ceremonies I have highlighted some of the most striking student achievements, and at the July graduation ceremonies this year we will note and celebrate the award of prizes for particular distinction. Serious questions are being asked nationally about the degree classification system. Does it make sense to spend so much effort on deciding which students get upper seconds and which lower seconds? An upper second may be the minimum requirement to be considered for many postgraduate programmes, but it is only the first stage of a selection process that uses much more detailed information, gleaned from references and transcripts, about the academic performance of the applicant. Newspaper league tables may treat the percentage of 'good' degrees that a university awards as some measure of its success, but employers are more sophisticated and look at degree class in relation to the university's entry standards and the curriculum followed by the student as well as the individual characteristics of the job applicant. The problems of classifying the degrees of students who have studied abroad are perhaps the clearest indication of the inherent difficulties of the system. How does a 'tres bien' from Grenoble translate into a Sussex grade? What a fundamentally uninteresting question! The graduate who has been to Sussex and Grenoble should be able to display both achievements in their own terms. The way forward might be to abandon the classification of degrees, and use transcripts, supplemented by information about relative performance, as a much richer source of information about academic achievement. Exceptional performance could still be recognised by a 'first class' or 'distinction' degree. Sadly, any attempt these days to move to a more sensible system of classifying student achievement has to face the political reality that the abolition of degree classes would be treated by the Daily Mail as 'dumbing down', and that the government may be more sensitive to the prejudices of the Daily Mail than to rational argument. Change may be impossible before the next General Election.

Moody teenagers light up

Psychologists Dr Barbara Lloyd and Dr Kevin Lucas are the authors of the year's 'outstanding paper' in the journal Health Education. Their article on cigarette smoking among young people has won the pair a Literati Club Award for Excellence 2000.

"Adults use food, alcohol and drugs (including cigarettes), to control and change their moods," says Barbara, a Senior Research Fellow in SOC. "So it's hardly surprising that adolescents do too."

Barbara and Kevin, a Visiting Research Fellow in Health and Social Psychology, conducted a study of over 3,500 secondary school pupils in East Sussex. They analysed both quantitative and qualitative data from the pupils and related their findings to previously published studies about the links between smoking and how people cope with stress.

Barbara says the results raise the possibility that smokers perceive more stress in their lives than non-smokers and use different coping strategies. 'They make less use of what we call 'problem-focused coping strategies', such as talking to people or looking in books for information, and more use of 'cathartic

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-Everest@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research website http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS home page, under Research.

Don't forget that the British Academy is inviting applications from established mid-career scholars for two-year Research Readships and one-year Senior Research Fellowships. The awards are designed to allow the successful candidates to undertake/complete an approved programme of sustained research, while relieved of their normal teaching and administrative commitments. Applicants are normally expected to be under 55. Deadline: 31 July 2000

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has recently issued two new calls for funding of up to £40,000:

- Engaging and involving young people in local governance: What is their involvement in democratic processes; how are their views incorporated, and what impact do they have? Deadline: 4 September 2000
- Understanding the black and minority ethnic voluntary and community sectors: Experience of discrimination, social inclusion, roles of local black organisations, diversity of the sector. Deadline: 29 September 2000

The EPSRC wishes to encourage collaborations between mathematicians and engineers working in the multidisciplinary area of computational mathematics as applied to engineering problems. Applications are invited for project grants, research networks, visiting fellowships, workshops and symposia. Deadline: 30 September 2000

The Nuffield Foundation is inviting applications for awards to newly appointed lecturers in science, engineering and mathematics. The awards are for up to £5,000 and will assist new lecturers to develop innovative research projects during the early stages of their independent research careers. The awards can be used to provide for small items of equipment, occasional research or technical assistance, or contribute towards travel. Deadline: 3 October 2000

The Wellcome Trust is inviting further applications under the functional genomics development initiative. Applications will be considered in three areas: The development and maintenance of databases, high-level data analysis tools, and search engines able to handle data from disparate sources; collections of resource materials with direct relevance to post-genomic research; short visits to promote the sharing of technologies. No deadline.
**Noticeboard**

**News in brief**
The Student Employment Office and the USIS team have joined forces and set up a new scheme designed to improve the quality of the Sussex Website and to assist Sussex students looking for a career in internet development. The scheme allows students to apply for USIS 'accredited' status. They will work closely with the USIS team, following guidelines to ensure all new pages look good, download quickly and are accessible to all audiences. Sections of the University who wish to update their web pages can contact the Student Employment Office (SEO) and request a USIS 'accredited' web developer. Potential employers wishing to update their web presence should contact SEO on (67)8146. Any students who would like to become USIS 'accredited' should email usis@sussex.ac.uk.

**Teaching timetable on the web:** From August 2000 the teaching timetable will be available on the web only. It will be updated daily and will be available externally (not restricted to the campus network only), providing a reliable and up-to-date resource. It can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/soo/teaching/.

**Sportcentre**
The Sportcentre would like to thank all those who took part in the recent Charity Sports Night, which raised £431.18 for the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital. Congratulations to the winning team, 'The Uni Brighton All Stars'.

**Vacation classes**
- Pilates on Mondays from 12.00-1.00pm. Five-week course commencing 3 July. Staff and students – £11.25, public – £13.75.
- Circuits on Mondays from 6.00-7.00pm. Commencing 3 July. Staff and students – £15.50 per session, public – £25.
- Body Conditioning on Wednesdays from 7.00-8.00pm. Commencing 3 July. Staff and students – £15.50 per session, public – £25.
- Ballet on Saturdays from 10.30am to 12 noon. Commencing 1 July. Staff and students – £25.25 per session, public – £25.75.

**Basketball Camp with the Brighton Bears**
Ages 12-18 years. Sunday 6 to Friday 11 August. Professional coaches and 'Bears' team members offering top-quality coaching. Residential places – £196, non-residential – £79.
To book on any of the above courses contact the Sportcentre reception on (67)8228.

**Queer About Campus project**
Queer About Campus is a joint project between Sussex and Brighton Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Societies and Brighton Our Story. It is funded by the East Sussex, Brighton & Hove Health Authority, and aims to produce a history of gay and lesbian life at both universities.
We want to go as far back as we can, and are interested in hearing from anyone who has been connected with the Universities, whether as teaching staff, non-teaching staff or as a student.
If you have any information please contact Linda on 207757, Tom on 382892, email queeraboutcampus@hotmail.com or write to Queer About Campus, LGBT Group, Falmer House. For further information visit the website at http://1.1am.light.

**Vacation opening hours**
Catering
During the vacation the following catering outlets will be open from Monday to Friday:
- Coffee Shop – 8.30am to 4.30pm serving tea, coffee, hot and cold snacks, ice creams, home-made cakes, etc.
- The Bolthole Express – 9.00am to 4.30pm serving hot and cold drinks, filled baguettes, pastries, pizza, etc.
- Downs Restaurant (Level 1) – 12noon to 2.00pm serving soup, vegetarian dishes, salads, hot meals, home-made puddings, etc.
- Baguette Express – 9.00am to 4.30pm serving filled baguettes, pastries, pizza, etc.

**Library**
The Library will be open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 9.00am to 5.30pm Tuesday - 9.00am to 7.30pm Saturday and Sunday – closed
* Open from 9.00am – 7.30pm on the following Thursdays: 20 and 27 July; 3, 10, 17 and 24 August
** The Library will be open on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October.
There will be no book borrowing on 28 and 31 July, and there may be interruptions to some services in late July and early August during installation of the new Library system.

**Health Centre**
The Health Centre will be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday with appointments from 9.30am – 12noon and 2.00pm – 5.00pm. There will be an emergency only clinic on Saturday mornings between 10.00am and 12noon. For all your healthcare needs contact the studenthealth@sussex.ac.uk.

**Falmer Sports Complex Club Bar**
A wholesome new approach, serving only the healthiest and freshest options.
Open lunchtimes and evenings.
Functions catered for including barbecues.
For more information contact Denise on (67)8230 or (87)7125.

**Do you use BIDS ISI?**
From 31 July 2000 BIDS ISI will be discontinued and the Web of Science (WoS) alone will provide access to the following databases:
- The Arts and Humanities Citation Index
- The Science Citation Index
- The Social Sciences Citation Index
- The Index to Scientific and Technical Proceedings
For more information go to www.sussex.ac.uk/library/elc_res/reminder.

**Small ads**
**TO LET:** Lovely 1/2 bed flat. Suit quiet academic(s) (single or couple), GCH, seaviews, gardens, 5 mins from Brighton station and shops – £600 pcm. Available October. Tel. 205733.
**FOR SALE:** Cane chair, new (cost £125). Single size, with arms, high back and full cushion (green pattern). Ideal conservatory chair. £50 ovno. Tel. (67)8622 or email l.d.nutley@sussex.ac.uk.
**TO LET:** Holiday house in BURNHAM OVERY STAITHES on the north Norfolk coast, four-bed, sleeps 7. Beautiful views and beaches, good base for sailing and bird watching. Tel. 01692 650286.
**NEW HOME WANTED:** For dark grey, 18-month-old, dwarf lop-eared rabbit. Very reluctant to lose her but owner moving to London. Has Hutch and large run. Free to kind, knowledgeable home. Tel. Harriet (67)8209 or email h.d.sector@sussex.ac.uk.
**LIFT NEEDED:** From Worthing. Would anyone be interested in sharing petrol costs with me? Non-driver so unable to offer carshare. Non-smokers please. Please reply to slainh@admin.sussex.ac.uk.
**WANTED:** Childcare/cooking/cleaning offered in exchange for accommodation by young family in Sussex University area. Or any other offer considered. Tel. 40-9422209 or email victor@staff.ubbcuj.ac.uk, msvsotia@yahoo.com.

**FOR SALE:** Casio watch/altimeter (0m to 6000m/1ft. to 19,680ft.) Suitable for climbing and hill walking – £35. Contact Barry Walker on ext. 2715.
**WANTED:** Temporary, single accommodation for lecturer for the November October to December 2000. Please contact Dr Ezquezuel Di Paolo at Ezquezuel.Di-Paolo@gmd.de.
**FOR SALE:** VW Polo 1.3, three door, D reg, 74 000 miles, white, excellent condition, 10 months MOT, five months tax – £845 ono. Tel. on 327876 or email maya@biols.sussex.ac.uk.
**WANTED:** Shared accommodation in central Brighton from September for female postdoc. Tel. Maya on 327876 or email maya@biols.sussex.ac.uk.
**HOUSE WANTED:** By considerate family. Three-bed with garden, for most of August. Prefer exchange with our similar house in Galway. Tel. Regina 00-353-91-520045, Fax 808391 or potts@laio.joac.ac.uk.
**HOUSE FOR RENT:** Large Victorian terraced house near Fieways, close to stations, from August 2000. Rent: for three people at £250 pcm or as single let at £700 pcm on three-month renewable contract. Tel. 565835.
**WANTED:** Social drinkers (more than four units a week) for BIOLS experiment. English speakers with normal or corrected vision. Involves answering questionnaires and simple computer tasks, takes one hour and pays £5. Criteria: Females aged 30-40 and 50-60, males aged 40-60. Contact Pennie Ingram ext. 2796 or email pennie@biols.sussex.ac.uk.

**Bulletin**
This is the last Bulletin of the summer term. The next issue will be out in October.
We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University. Please also keep sending any stories for local and national media.
Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.