FALMER/SUMMER 2004

What is Mass Destruction? Julian Perry Robinson discusses WMD research at Sussex/Beyond Beijing: Chinese property developer Zhang Xin talks about her time at Sussex/Talking politics with Peter Hain, Welsh Secretary and Leader of the House of Commons/A day in the life of John Gilkes, CEO of Roffey Park
I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce the new look Falmer, the University’s magazine. Those of you who have received Falmer over the years will, no doubt, quickly notice the changes to the publication, both in its content and its design. In response to your comments, Falmer now includes more University news and features that we hope will be of interest to you. This issue also reflects the University’s new visual identity, which I hope you will agree encapsulates a sense of Sussex and our campus.

In line with the University’s founding principles of innovation and excellence, the new visual identity aims to celebrate the spirit of Sussex, re-shaped for the 21st century. In the competitive world in which we now work, we need an identity that shows we are forward-looking and confident. The new visual identity is based on the vision and values of the University. It is a statement of what we aspire to be as a leading centre for teaching and research: pioneering, creative, international, engaging and challenging.

These are exciting times for the University. As has been reported in previous issues of Falmer, recent developments at Sussex reflect our continued commitment to excellence and innovation. We have taken a fresh look at how we work together, with new schools and departments, and new curriculum offerings. Our campus also continues to grow with new buildings and plans for development. All these changes aim to ensure that Sussex remains a flexible and adaptive institution that responds effectively to the fundamental changes currently taking place in higher education.

With government support to HE dwindling, universities are increasingly relying on alumni support to provide scholarships and bursaries to the brightest and most talented students, regardless of their financial situation. At Sussex, we have recently appointed a new Development Director, Dominic Tickell, to implement a fundraising strategy which will set the University on course for a secure and bright future. As a former Sussex student, you are an important part of Sussex’s past. I hope you will also welcome the opportunity to become more involved with your University, by helping us shape its future.

Finally, thank you to the thousands of you who have taken the time to complete and return the Alumni Questionnaire 2004. We have had an overwhelming response to this mailing, and have, therefore, been unable to complete and return the Alumni Questionnaire 2004. I do hope you will enjoy reading this latest issue of the new look Falmer. Please do send your comments and contributions for future issues to my colleagues in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at alumni@sussex.ac.uk

With best wishes,

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor
Lighting the way to early cancer detection

A team of Sussex scientists have pioneered a system for detecting cancer in the early stages, without putting patients through painful exploratory procedures. The detection works by beaming ultra-violet light at a patient and analysing the information reflected. This information, known as luminescence, reveals a spectrum of colours that separates healthy and cancerous tissue. The results show whether the light has hit healthy or abnormal cells, long before any damage becomes visible to the eye.

Dr Natalia Beloff, a lecturer in software engineering, is carrying out computer simulations to improve the basic system ready for manufacture. Her research will radically improve the sensitivity of the receiver detecting luminescence. “The earlier cancer is detected, the better chance a patient has of recovery,” said Natalia. “We hope that within a few years clinics across the country may be able to use the photocathode device to help save lives.” Natalia’s findings will speed the development of the device by avoiding costly and time-consuming laboratory testing. She said: “In recent years, my colleagues at Sussex have improved photocathode detector performance by up to 20 times previous capabilities, significantly outperforming all other devices available in the world.”

The latest research builds on breakthroughs by Sussex cathode theorist Dr Stuart Harmer and experimental scientist Dr Thomas Piddington, focused on whether the mother was left- or right-handed. “We wanted to look at past this issue of left- or right-hand dominance,” said Professor Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS. “With some other research into the left cradling bias in terms of right hemisphere specializations, we published in the January issue of Developmental Science.”

Left cradling contributes to better bonding experience

Research by Sussex psychologists Victoria Bourne and Dr Brenda Todd indicates that left cradling is the best way for a mother to communicate and respond to a baby’s behaviour, such as tears, laughter or big yawns. The position directs important infant responses to the right side of the baby. “The right side of the brain, the hemisphere used for emotional response,” explains Dr Todd. “Left-sided cradling provides an advantage in the bonding process by giving the mother the fastest intuitive access to the baby’s emotional and physical requirements.”

“The different sides of the brain do different things. For most people, the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body and helps to process emotions. Our findings suggest that, for mothers with this typical brain organisation, left cradling is the best position for interpreting a baby’s well-being. The right hemisphere of the brain has also shown to be better than the left at tasks needing external attention,” Victoria explained.

A popular myth for the occurrence of right-handedness is a belief focused on whether the mother was left or right-handed. Victoria said: “We wanted to look past this issue of left- or right-hand dominance. Assumption.” Large-scale studies where handedness measures were made showed that when the left-hand of a mother and the right-hand of the baby matched, left-handed women also cradle on the left side.

Previous research showed that a bias of 70 to 85 per cent of women and girls cradle babies to the left. The Sussex team carried out a two- part experiment with more than 30 undergraduates to assess the idea of a link between right hemisphere emotional response and left cradling. First, each student was observed picking up a life-like, baby-sized doll, a type used as a newborn substitute in midwifery training. Next, each student was asked to look at a selection of facial images designed to reveal whether they use the right or left side of the brain for processing emotions. “The results for women were very clear. The way a woman cradles a child is governed by which hemisphere of her brain is processing the stimuli she receives from the baby,” Victoria said. “There was no similar difference for the male volunteers. One possibility is that it is only in women that bias becomes common. We adopt this method of communication with their newborn. Brenda and I plan to further explore this line of research, particularly to look at the role of socialisation on how the brain processes information.”

Victoria and Brenda’s paper, ‘When left means right: an explanation of the left cradling bias in terms of right hemisphere specialisations’, was published in the January issue of Developmental Science.

BSMS is number one choice for students

Places at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) are among the most sought after in the UK, according to a league table with more than 1.4 applicants for every place on its five-year programme, according to The Guardian. Last year 997 people applied for one of the 128 places but this year that figure has almost doubled. A large selection of applications were received for the 2006/07 admissions panel, comprising a member of the BSMS staff, a local GP and another healthcare professional such as a nurse or junior doctor.

Dr John Kay, Admissions Tutor, explained: “We work really hard to find students who have not only demonstrated academic excellence, but are also committed to caring for others, work well as a team, appreciate others’ points of view and have the potential to accept responsibility and communicate effectively.”

This refreshing interview stance received much praise and appreciation from the first-ever BSMS intake who started last October. Hazera Begum, from St Albans, Hertfordshire was impressed with her interview: “The interview was relaxed and I was really well received and warm and welcoming compared to all my other interviews – we were treated as individuals.”

Professor Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS, added: “I am very proud of all our first intake of students. It is a very exciting time for me and for the University of Brighton’s Centre for Research in Innovation Management (CENRM). It is named after SPRU’s founding director, Professor Christopher Freeman. The Freeman Centre houses more than 60 researchers and some 200 postgraduate students, making it one of the largest and most advanced bodies of scientific work in the UK. The Centre is the new home for the University of Brighton Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU), launched by which hemisphere of her brain is processing the stimuli she receives from the baby, and an expansion of SPRU’s academic and industrial work in technology policy along with the launch of a new undergraduate BSc in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

Lord Sainsbury opens new research centre

Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation, officially opened the new Freeman Centre on campus. The £19 million state-of-the-art building is the new home for the University’s research team SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research Unit, and for the University of Brighton’s Centre for Research in Innovation Management (CENRM). It is named after SPRU’s founding director, Professor Christopher Freeman.

The Freeman Centre houses more than 60 researchers and some 200 postgraduate students, making it one of the largest and most advanced centres of science policy, innovation and technology research in the world. The Freeman Centre includes: exploring new sources of energy and energy management; health and medical technologies; systems of scientific and technological innovation in a globalising world; benchmarking and improving the environmental performance of industry.

The opening was followed by a three-day international conference on innovation dedicated to the late Professor Keith Pavitt, a key figure in the development of SPRU, who died aged 65. Professor Pavitt’s research spanned economics, management and science and technology policy, and the conference was organised around the major themes of his work.

New book sheds light on Tolkien’s ‘Middle Earth’

The revived fascination for Tolkien, particularly with screen versions of his epic tales of elves and dwarves receiving global attention, drew a response to Sussex psychologist Dr Brian Bates. Brian, whose latest book, The Real Middle Earth, explores the historical evidence for how ‘fantasy’ was and remains relevant for the people of Anglo-Saxon England, regards the interest as a backlash to our more scientifically driven, rational age. “Our huge interest in fantasy books and films confirms our hunger to re-connect with the imaginative part of our mind,” he says. “To ignore it, or relegate it merely to the realm of entertainment, is a kind of collective madness. Tolkien derived his stories from an age in which everything is coloured by people’s creative imagination – the very thing business leaders say is desperately needed today. Science brings us great benefits, but our health and happiness depends on our being able to balance the high stress, information driven life with a more human-centred perspective.”

Brian refers to the latest historical and archaeological research in providing evidence that our ancestors of 2,000 years ago saw the same issues that concern us today – hopes, fears, love, anxiety, luck and individual destiny – in vivid images. They viewed the world as a magical place populated by spirits and demons. Dragons slumbered under hills, dwarves forged magical weapons and real castles were built in the form of burial mounds, chalices of rock figures (such as the mysterious Long Man of Wilmington in East Sussex), place names, and even the days of the week, which are named after spirits from Anglo-Saxon life.

Brian, who is also author of the best-selling novel The Way of Wyrd (Turning the name of the people from Anglo-Saxon England gave to the deep meaning of life), is recognised as the world’s foremost expert on the psychology of life in ancient Anglo-Saxon England. His academic work focuses on bringing together insights of ancient tribal traditions with leading-edge research in psychology and the mind sciences.

Gold star for Sussex PGCE

Inspectors have given a gold star to providers of teacher training at Sussex, after the biggest inspection of the University’s PGCE programme for more than ten years. Nine schools and universities were inspected on behalf of the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) were on campus last November and also visited ten of the University’s partnerships schools.

SUMMER 2004
Nobel Prize winner returns to open Genome Centre

Nobel Prize winner and director of Cancer Research UK Sir Paul Nurse returned to the University of Sussex to officially open the Genome Damage and Stability Centre in October 2003. Sir Paul, a research fellow in biological sciences at Sussex during the 1980s, was awarded the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine in 2001 for his work on cell cycle control in cancer. He was joined by the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Smale, the Genome Centre’s director, Professor Tony Carr, and its chairman, Professor Alan Lehmann, for a tour of the new £5.75 million building, which was funded by the Joint Infrastructure Fund and the Wolfson Foundation.

The centre already houses ten research groups, who are investigating the links between DNA damage and cancer. It has so far received five major grants from the Medical Research Council, together with project grants from the Cancer Research Fund, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health and the Welcome Trust, among others. The total research grant income is approximately £2 million per annum and currently supports approximately 80 researchers and support staff. Four of the research groups are continuing Sir Paul’s original investigations into how simple microorganisms such as fission yeast can contribute to our understanding of the development of cancer.

Professor Carr, one of Sir Paul’s former DPhil students, said: “There is a pleasing symmetry to Sir Paul Nurse returning to the University to open a research centre dedicated to fundamental cancer research and directed by one of his first Sussex DPhil students.”

Sussex professor wins national teaching award

Professor Imogen Taylor, Head of Social Work and Social Care, is one of 20 university teachers nationwide to receive the prestigious National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) award this year. “I am really pleased, not just for myself, but for the benefits this will bring to the University of Sussex,” she said. The winners of the NTFS were selected from 81 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England and Northern Ireland. The criteria used to select both the nominees and winners included the nominees’ ability to influence and inspire their students, to inspire their colleagues in teaching and to influence the teaching profession as a whole. “Imogen has made a considerable difference to the climate for learning and teaching at Sussex, as well as being an important player on the national and international stage,” said Dr. Mary Stuart, Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Imogen joined Sussex in 2001. She had previously taught at the Universities of Bristol and Toronto, where she first developed an interest in teaching professionals. Her 1997 book, Developing, Learning in Professional Education, challenged the assumption that professional and higher education were the same and explored more innovative approaches, such as problem-based learning. She argues that, instead of learning primarily through conventional seminars and lectures, students studying for professional degrees should start with case studies that present problems for them to solve, learning how to learn in a way that will continue to be useful in professional practice.

Imogen was presented with a cheque for £50,000 at an award ceremony in July and will be using the money to develop new degree programmes in social work. She plans to spend most of the award on developing inter-professional education at Sussex.

New Conference Centre opens

Sussex’s conference facilities have been given a brand-new makeover. Located on the third floor of Bramber House, the new non-residential centre will allow multifunctional, flexible use of space for a range of events. The refurbished facilities include a suite of eight stylish conference rooms, ranging in capacity from 10 to 250 people and the contemporary design of the centre incorporates state-of-the-art technology. From July, with the expansion of the Lewes Court residence providing new accommodation, 250 on-campus bedrooms will be available for delegates. For bookings, please email conferences@sussex.ac.uk.

University plays host to Commonwealth visitors

Ministers and MPs from Commonwealth countries were guests of the University of Sussex in May as part of a visit arranged by the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). Every year, the CPA’s UK branch, based in Westminster, invites fellow branches to visit the UK as part of the Association’s mission to promote parliamentary democracy. The two-week May visit is one of highlights of a calendar of seminars and other events. This year, Brighton & Hove played host to a delegation of MPs, ministers and speakers from countries including Australia, Canada, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, St Lucia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Uganda. The day-long campus visits to Sussex formed part of the two-week tour and included presentations by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, on funding in higher education, and the Regional Development Manager, Sharon Phillips, on the University’s business links and initiatives.

During the day delegates also toured the campus and met students, particularly those from the visiting countries represented.
Beyond Beijing

Sussex alumna Zhang Xin (SOC 1988) is one of China’s most successful property developers. Along with her husband Pan Shiyi, also an established name in the real estate industry, she is co-founder of Beijing-based property developers SOHO China, a company which aims to “provide innovative living spaces and create fashionable lifestyles for people who appreciate the finer things in life.” She recently won the 2004 Mont Blanc Arts Patronage Award, in recognition of her efforts to promote the development of contemporary architecture in Asia.

SOHO China conducts its operations through majority-owned project subsidiaries, each of which manages a single real estate project. It has developed and is currently developing several large-scale, avant-garde projects, including SOHO New Town, Commune by the Great Wall and Jianwai SOHO in Beijing, in addition to Bono Canal Village on Hainan Island. With keen eye tracking the trends in the real estate market as well as an efficient and international management team, every SOHO China project has succeeded in winning critical acclaim from a diverse clientele.

Since their marriage in 1994 and the founding of SOHO China in 1995, Zhang Xin and her husband have worked closely together and provided the leadership that led to the achievements of the company. Projects undertaken by SOHO China have benefited from Pan Shiyi’s experience, strategic vision and market savvy, as well as relationships he has developed in the real estate industry.

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Talking politics

By the time he came to Sussex, Peter Hain (Politics and IR 1973) was already a renowned political activist. Three decades later, as Welsh Secretary and Leader of the House of Commons, he is one of the rising ministers of the Labour Government.

Waking up in the middle of the night, at age 10, to learn that your political parents are being jailed for putting up anti-apartheid posters, or to find security police ransacking through your personal belongings are hardly the childhood memories one would associate with a Cabinet Minister. And, yet, these are some of Peter Hain’s most vivid recollections of his upbringing in South Africa.

‘From a very early age, I realised that my upbringing was very different to that of my school friends. They had black servants. We had black friends. And of course their families had quite normal privileged lives, whereas we were normally stratified, ‘he recalls. ‘His parents’ increasing involvement in the opposition to Apartheid forced Peter’s family to flee to London when he was only 16.

Once in Britain, the young South African would resume his parents’ struggle against racial discrimination in his homeland. Still in his twenties, Peter quickly sprang to prominence as a teenager and apartheid campaigner, leading protests that first heavily disrupted the Springboks rugby tour, and subsequently stopped the South African cricket tour to Britain in 1970.

This active stance against Apartheid would cost him dearly. In 1975, while he was a PhD student at Sussex, he was framed by the South African security services for a bank robbery in South West London, a charge of which he was later acquitted. Despite the devastating impact this episode had on his studies, Peter’s time at Sussex would be marked by a far more positive experience. For it was on the Falmer campus where his political vision began to take shape.

‘Sussex played quite an important part in my political evolution because during my time there I became more and more convinced that I wanted to be a member of the Labour party. I had always been a socialist, and therefore the Labour party was the place for me. I was always a political activist, but I hadn’t had the chance to read the theory and the history until I came to Sussex, so the reading I did there was very valuable,’ he explains.

‘And to this day, Peter is proud of the political centre-left vision he developed whilst at Sussex. ‘I am a libertarian socialist committed to social justice, equal opportunities and personal liberty. I believe in a pluralist democracy; hence, devolution of power to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, London – and in future, the English regions,’ he says.

Having played a leading role in the campaign to secure a ‘Yes’ vote in the 1997 devolution referendum in Wales, the Welsh Secretary remains a passionate advocate of devolution and its impact on the Welsh people. ‘Devolution has brought self-pride. People know that decisions now are made in schools, in hospitals and pretty much all that matters in their daily lives are made in Wales. By devolving power, we have brought decision-making closer to the people, and made government more efficient, more effective and more accountable,’ he explains. And key to the success of devolution, Peter argues, is partnership with the British state, not isolation or independence. ‘I think devolution has buried separatism. The doctrine of separation is an anachronism, and redundant in the modern age. The Welsh and the Scottish nationalists have done worse since devolution than they did before; and I think we’ve pulled the rug from under their feet because most people in Wales and Scotland want more control over their lives, but they don’t want independence. I think this is what this is all about. And there is nothing wrong in celebrating national achievement, a common culture and a sense of national pride and identity,’ he says.

‘Opinion polls show that Welsh people have a sense of fluid identity, of being both Welsh and British,’ he adds.

‘Yet, in a country as remarkably diverse as Britain, the definition of ‘Britishness’ and ‘British identity’ is mired in controversy as the dichotomy between the British and the national survived in the 1990s. But what I find is that most people talk to don’t want that surface. All they want is an honest debate with hard questions put to whoever they are talking to, whether the Labour, Tory or some other party. And they just get a fog of spin from a media that seems incapable of debate,’ Peter explains.

And as he answers these questions with characteristic enthusiasm and charisma, one can but identify similarities with Tony Blair. ‘It’s hardly surprising, then, that he’s been tipped by some in the left as a future prime minister.’

The CV

Born Nairobi, Kenya on February 26, 1950

Education

Pretoria Boys High School, South Africa
Queen Mary College, London University
University of Sussex

Political career

MP for Neath since 1991
Minister for the Welsh Office, 1997–99
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth, 1999–01
Minister for Energy at DTI, 2001
Minister for Europe, June 2001
Secretary of State for Wales, October 2002
Leader of the House of Commons, June 2003

Achievements

One of the founding members of the Anti-Nazi League in the 1970s
Chairman of the Stop the Seventy Tour campaign which successfully stopped the South African cricket tour to Britain
Pioneered non-violent direct action tactics that produced the first victory for anti-apartheid protests

The CV

Talking politics

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A day in the life of John Gilkes

John Gilkes (MAPS 1968) is CEO of Roffey Park, an internationally acclaimed executive education provider that is recognised for its innovative approaches to learning. Here John gives us an insight into his challenging role and explains how his time at Sussex helped prepare him for the working world.

Space to meet, think and develop is the marketing strapline of Roffey Park’s new conference facilities. With an impervious forty acres of land in the picturesque setting of St. Leonard’s Forest, just outside Horsham, this leading executive education institution certainly lives up to its promise. For John Gilkes, who was appointed Chief Executive of the organisation in August last year, the beautiful natural setting offers a welcome change to the daily commuting grind of London.

Founded in 1946, Roffey Park, which is a charitable trust, is one of the longest established executive education providers in the UK. With a focus on leadership, people management, personal effectiveness, and human resources, its aim is to help people and organisations realise their full potential. It offers a variety of services, including bespoke development and consultancy, open qualification programmes and a wide range of conferences and seminars. Two of its key programmes are its Executive MBA and its MSc in People and Organisational Development, both of which are accredited by the University of Sussex.

Roffey Park is an unusually innovative organisation and one that John refers to as a “niche-player” in the executive education market. With around seventy members of staff, this relatively small establishment has maintained a healthy position in a fiercely competitive market dominated by larger business schools such as London and Warwick. Above all, it owes its success to its innovative learning methodology.

Whilst many large business schools still follow a traditional approach to learning, Roffey Park has been at the forefront of a people-centred form of study, which encourages self-managed learning. It has pioneered a successful formula that depends on small groups with high staff/student ratios, learning sets facilitated by experienced professionals, and peer assessment. Students are also required to design their own learning contracts, which not only highlights the truly innovative nature of Roffey Park, but also ensures that each individual has his or her programme of study tailored to meet specific individual needs. We start working with people from where they are, rather than having a curriculum-based approach, allowing people to bring in issues of their own organisations,” explains John.

“We believe this provides a much richer learning environment than the more traditional case studies in less than 50 years.”

Having recently invested over six million pounds in transforming its facilities, Roffey Park has created an ideal retreat from the pressures of daily life. To accentuate its location in an area of outstanding natural beauty, it has brought the outdoors inside by allocating names such as Oak, Ash and Birch to its tranquil meeting rooms and ensuring that each room has an impressive view with ready access to the scenic grounds.

For John, who previously worked in industrial locations such as London and Sheffield, the importance of an aesthetically pleasing workplace is something he cannot stress enough. He believes it is something that young graduates fail to take into account when choosing a vocation. “One of the aspects that students leaving university do not consider as much as they might are the lifestyle implications of their chosen career,” he says.

Despite the peaceful atmosphere, John has a challenging role. Much of his time is spent marketing the organisation. “I think I have a huge part to play in enhancing our reputation and spreading the word about our special expertise,” he says. “Many days involve meeting potential customers. We invite people here to let them see firsthand what we offer and to discuss whether we can be of some assistance to them.”

The backing of Sussex University, which sends in external examiners to assess the Masters programmes, helps ensure Roffey Park attracts managers from high-calibre companies all over the world, such as American Express, Allied Domecq and SmithKline Beecham.

The fact that John is working in partnership with Sussex thirty years after graduating should come as no surprise, judging by his reluctance to leave the University as a student. Having completed both a BSc and an MSc in physics, followed by a PhD, he was the archetypal perennial student. “It was a delight for me to leave Sussex, that would be absolutely true,” he says. “I was stretching the parental purse somewhat in having five years of investment at the University but I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.” Although he decided against a career in physics, John maintains that Sussex prepared him well for the world of business.

As the Chief Executive of an organisation that specialises in executive education, it is imperative he displays good leadership qualities, something he started learning at Sussex: “The learning discipline within a scientific degree stands you very good stead within management,” he explains. “I find the critical and analytical skills it taught me very useful.” He also claims that his role as Chairman of the Sports Federation in 1972, a memory he recalls fondly and an experience he describes as “stimulating and developmental,” played an important part in moulding him into the leader he is today.

For more information about Roffey Park, please contact: Sheila Dale on 01293 851644 or email sheila.dale@roffeypark.com

One of the aspects that students leaving university do not consider as much as they might are the lifestyle implications of their chosen career.

The war room–like atmosphere of a trading floor can be great fun; the vocabulary used is the kind stuff your parents encourage you to go to university to forget. Given all the shouting and verbal abuse, it can be intimidating. Fortunately, I spent a couple of years at Sussex training Shaolin Kung Fu under Sifu Matt Gross. I find implementing the Five-Point Palm Exploding Heart Technique often helps swing a losing argument in my favour.

So far I’ve been lucky and it’s been a great experience but it’s not something to do forever and the possibility of returning to academia is always tempting. Saying that, city life is not too dissimilar from my days studying at Sussex – lots of deadlines, lots of drinking and err... lots more drinking.

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WMD: What is Mass Destruction?

Sussex Senior Fellow Julian P. Robinson is an internationally acclaimed expert on weapons of mass destruction (WMD), a subject on which he has published or presented some 420 papers and monographs since 1967. He has served as an advisor or consultant to a variety of national and international organizations, including the World Health Organization and other UN departments, the Red Cross and the Commission of the European Communities. Here Professor Robinson outlines the history of WMD research at Sussex and questions the conceptual ambiguity of weapons of mass destruction.
Yet it was the Security Council of the United Nations that, during the first years of its existence, introduced WMD as a technical term. In order to promote “international peace and security,” the UN Charter required “the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments,” and for this, the first step had to be a differentiation of weapons into categories needing different treatment. Thus it was, in 1948, that one part of the UN machinery was assigned “conventional weapons” and another part “weapons of mass destruction,” the latter being defined after much negotiation as that which, with the exception of nuclear, CBW and radiological weapons, as well as any future weapons “comparable in destructive effect.” Over the decades since, the Security Council has come to prefer mechanisms other than armament regulation for its international peace efforts, which has left that old technical term largely functionless, save in rhetoric.

That rhetoric, however, can and has served several purposes, not all of them benign. Take the current inter-governmental efforts to prevent CBW weapons from spreading across any further around the world. Entirely laudable, one may think, especially since the governments most vigorous in their advocacy have themselves renounced CBW weapons by joining the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention and are not, therefore, expecting preferential treatment of the kind that the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty accords to their retention of nuclear weapons. Yet, it is with the rhetoric of WMD that these governments are beating the drum for their counter-proliferation efforts, including their continuing support of the 1972 and 1993 CBW disarmament treaties. Not all CBW weapons, however, can massively destroy life. Presenting the two CBW treaties as anti-WMD measures, therefore, risks promoting opportunistic claims that the treaties cover only chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. The WMD rhetoric may, in other words, conceal pressure to legitimise those toxic or infectious weapons that can inflict, not multitudinous death, but chemical madness or narcotics, debilitating disease, or other incapacitation from which subsequent recovery is more likely than not. The WMD rhetoric distracts us from this possibility even though the two treaties are clear in their condemnation of it. The photograph on page 12 illustrates the problem.

It shows a huge Luftwaffe bomb being manhandled by US forces in occupied Germany: a weapon unquestionably of chemical warfare, but in filling it is not the Tabun or other nerve-gas that would have made it a WMD. The filling is instead a chemical incapacitant, in this case a tear gas.

One may go still further in discerning perniciousness in this rhetoric. Is not the notion of WMD now becoming so pervasive that it is countervailing one of the fundamental precepts of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict: the principle of discrimination between combatant and non-combatant, and the consequent illegality of weapons or methods of warfare that are liable to have indiscriminate effects?

Today’s preoccupation with the unacceptable nature of WMD belittles that ancient principle and offers a sound alternative that distracts attention away from the non-nuclear, non-CBW, non-radiological means and methods that can be just as indiscriminate in their effects but which have somehow become an acceptable component of arsenals. When Archbishop Lang characterised as “weapons of mass destruction” the conventional aircraft bombs that destroyed Guernica in 1937, he could not have anticipated the damage that his expression would later cause. In the public discourse now evident on the acceptability of weapons, it seems almost as though the principle of discrimination has disappeared. Treating CBW weapons primarily as weapons of mass destruction, or otherwise allowing the expression to remain clearly in our thinking is almost to ratify that disappearance. Do we really want warfare that destroys non-combatants to the deliberate extent that we have seen in Rwanda, in Bosnia and in more recent conflicts to become acceptable, so long as WMD are not used?

It’s no secret that like other charities, universities are increasingly turning to independent donors for support. Indeed, in May of this year a task force chaired by Eric Thomas, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, delivered a report to the Department of Education and Skills entitled Increasing Voluntary Giving to Higher Education. The task force saw advantages in universities receiving funds from this kind, not least because this source enables the universities to set their own priorities. Furthermore, their evidence points to the fact that university donors do not regard this kind of giving as a burden.

In January, the University of Sussex appointed Dominic Tickell as Development Director, with the job of increasing the University’s income from external sources. Dominic and Marina Pedrenza-Vilano, who was Head of Alumni Relations and is now Deputy Development Director, agreed that this new department of the University should amalgamate with the Alumni team and also be responsible for the University’s Alumni Relations programme. This brings the University in line with most other institutions doing this work. The new Development and Alumni Relations team will be responsible for securing funding for University projects and initiatives which would otherwise go unfunded due to budgetary constraints and priorities will be set by the senior management and ultimately, the University Council, our governing body.

Financial hardship is a reality for many of today’s students, and has added a new dimension to more conventional pressures of exams, essay deadlines and housing problems. The University of Sussex is committed to continue attracting the most talented students irrespective of their background, whilst providing the necessary financial support to those who need it. This is why raising funds for scholarships and bursaries to assist applicants wishing to enter Higher Education and supporting students in financial difficulty are two of Sussex’s fundraising priorities. We hope that as former students who benefited from a Sussex education, you will wish to help us ensure that current Sussex students can achieve their academic potential regardless of their financial situation. Highlighted below are some of the projects that have been made possible in the last twelve months thanks to generous donations from alumni and friends of the University.

New chair in medicine

The Birkbeck Cancer Research Fund has been able to create the Charles Hennisett Foundation Chair (Honorary Consultant) in Elderly Care and Stroke Medicine as a result of generous support from Mr Derek Hennisett and the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust.

First Access Scholarships supported by alumni

SUSAS is actively working to improve the socio-economic and ethnic mix of the University’s students as part of its widening participation strategy. The generosity of former Sussex students has enabled the support of additional access scholarships to assist students who would otherwise be unable to attend university due to financial concerns. Each recipient will be awarded £1,500 on an annual basis to assist with accommodation and living costs. In Bishop, the Widening Participation Officer, says: “I meet many remarkable young people who, though facing multiple barriers, have been determined to achieve at school. These students clearly have the potential to succeed at university but are often prevented from pursuing their ambitions because of financial pressures and fear of debt. The Access Scholarships supported by alumni will ease this financial pressure and allow these young people to realise their ambitions.”

Continued overleaf
Medical School receives £1 million donation from Pfizer
Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) has received a £1 million donation from pharmaceutical company Pfizer (UK).

“The cash injection will make a significant difference to academic activity at the school,” said Professor Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS. “We are in the process of building a multi-million pound scientific research complex and this new grant will provide a welcome boost to both that development as well as underpinning the expansion of emerging research programmes.”

The four key research areas for BSMS are infectious diseases, ageing and elderly care, neuroscience, and cancer and genetics. Professor Ken Miles, Professor of Imaging, said: “Additional funding will accelerate the development of my work, which includes non-invasive imaging techniques for assessing the blood supply to tumours. The more research we can do, the more it will hasten the transition of new anti-vascular cancer treatments from research to clinical practice.”

Dr. Ruth Hargreaves, Medical Manager for Pfizer UK, said: “We are hoping to develop a number of joint initiatives over the years. In particular, we plan to help the students by giving them the opportunity to acquire a variety of business skills, as well as working closely with a selection of scientific research projects.”

Jon Cohen added: “This is a start of a very exciting relationship and it is a real opportunity for us to learn from each other. As part of our wider plans we hope that other companies and organisations will consider the school as a worthwhile recipient in the future.”

Rowing Club back in form thanks to Alumni Grant
The Rowing Club was able to purchase a new boat thanks to an Alumni Grant.

The University of Sussex Rowing Club is new vessel. A ‘Johnannescoased fourriverboat’

Alumni
The University of Sussex
Rowing Club is now
underpinned by the Alumni Grant.

Having both completed Intellectual History degrees at Sussex, Annie Evans (EAM 1996) and Sam Parsons (EAM 1996) decided to leave their stuffy office jobs and step outside into the world of gardening. “I left university with no real thoughts towards professional gardening,” Annie explains. “During that summer I helped to create a garden in the south of France for my boyfriend’s parents and this rekindled my love for plants and working outside. This coincided with an explosion of interest in the industry and I realised that it was possible to turn my passion into a profession.”

In 2002, after studying at the prestigious Capel Manor College, they both gained qualifications in garden design and hard landscaping. They started up their own garden design company, Green City Landscapes (www.greencitylandscapes.co.uk). Last year, they co-designed a silver medal-winning garden in the Sunflower Street section at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2003. In May this year, Green City Landscapes returned to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with a garden entitled ‘SalicAn Environmentally Responsible Garden’. The garden’s design arose as an attempt to demonstrate that these events can be staged without huge amounts of waste being echoed strongly by the RHS. The aim of the design was to produce an elegant and sophisticated garden showcasing Willow as an extremely versatile, sustainable material that leaves no damaging legacy on the environment. Other materials in the garden were recycled and most went on to projects after the show.

In contrast to previous recycled gardens which have been built at RHS shows, Green City Landscapes wanted to create something modern, using woven and most went on to projects after the show. One of the most eye-catching features of the garden was the woven Willow ‘carpet’ that ran up its centre to a living Willow screen. Created by basket weaver/designer Lee Dalby, this unusual treatment of Willow as a surface provided a sensual underfoot experience. The boundaries and furniture were also made from Willow.

Annem and Sam are currently involved in talks with Greenpeace regarding designing a garden for them at next year’s Chelsea Flower Show.

Renaming the Alumni Society
Is the ‘Alumni Society’ a rather dated and old fashioned phrase to refer to our international community of former Sussex students? Many of you seem to think so, and in response to your comments we are considering changing its name to the Alumni Network. We hope that this new name reflects more accurately the nature of our activities and our aim to develop a dynamic and inclusive community of former students. We, of course, welcome your comments and suggestions about the proposed name or alternative suggestions. Please visit the online alumni chat forum (www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni) and have your say in the debate about your Alumni Network.

Green fingers
Sussex alumni take an environmental stance at the Chelsea Flower Show 2004

Congratulations to the winners of the prize draw to spend a weekend in Brighton

Class notes
Email directory
Chat and discussion forum
Famous alumni
Updated benefits and services list

And...The Scrapbook Project, a collection of pictures and related material of Sussex memories over the years. Many of the photographs are of people, places and things that are currently unidentified. If you know who any of them were, or remember what was going on at the time the picture was taken, please email us at alumni@sussex.ac.uk and let us know.

Alumni Questionnaire 2004

Thank you to the thousands of you who have taken the time to complete and return the Alumni Questionnaire 2004. If you currently have a questionnaire in your hands then you should have been able to do so online by visiting the alumni website at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni. The answers to the questionnaire will help us to gain a better understanding of the profile of our alumni, and will be used to improve our alumni programme and services accordingly.

Glorious congratulations to the SUS alumni winners of the prize draw to spend a weekend in Brighton’s 4* Old Ship Hotel and to receive a £50 voucher from the University’s online bookshop. They are Kerrie Alexander (EAM 1995) and Sarah Edwards-Economides (EURO 1997), respectively.

Dr. Ruth Hargreaves, Category Medical Manager, Pfizer and Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS, are thrilled that this new grant will provide a welcome boost to both that development as well as underpinning the expansion of emerging research programmes.

Category Medical
Manager, Pfizer and Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS
Looking at the Manhattan skyline never sleeps the city that Sussex reports.

"Dreamt about it enough," says Beckon. The city sits within reach of the bright lights of the Financial District River and further downtown a cruise like fireflies across the Hudson the night in a krypton green, ferries beckoning. The city was instrumental in her decision to

"After graduating I realised that I hadn’t expected," she says. “It’s of great advantage when building a career in a competitive industry. You can always rely on the following summer to take a Sussex University production up to the Edinburgh Festival.”

"In 1985, JMS retired from teaching and administration but continued to talk about and research. He wrote the highly influential book The Major Transitions in Evolution (1995) with Eörs Szathmáry, and what he called “the birdwatchers’ version,” a journalist at Wired called The Origins of Life (1999). Another major focus was his work with Noel Smith on the bacterium causing tuberculosis in cattle and badgers. Unsurprisingly, JMS was showered with honours. These included the Animal Prize and the 2001 Kyoto Prize. I suspect that a far greater award was the genuine affection he inspired. As an undergraduate said to me yesterday, and talking about JMS, he had “retired” two decades ago, “he was such a lovely man.” My colleagues and I are feeling keenly the loss of such a dear friend, whose enthusiasm and current and curious enlivened discussions, whether in the office, in the field, or in the pub. To our despair, we can no longer do so. But our memories – and JMS’s prodigious output of publications – will continue to inspire us, and many biologists around the world.

In Memoriam

The Alumni Society regrets to report the death of the following people and extends its sympathy to their family and friends.

Professor John Maynard Smith, Emeritus Professor of Biology, passed away peacefully on 19 April, aged 84. His Colleague David Harper in the Centre of Study of Evolution (Life Sci) pays tribute to one of the world’s greatest evolutionary biologists: although born in London, JMS spent much of his youth on and around Exmoor, where he developed a passion for natural history. He was less happy at Eton College, but this was where he developed his other two abiding passions: mathematics and Darwinism.

He then read engineering at Trinity College, Cambridge, and joined the Communist Party. But when the Second World War broke out in 1939, JMI got a job in the factory by attempting to join the army. He was rejected because of his poor eyesight and told to finish his engineering degree, which he then applied to military aircraft design.

After the war, deciding (in his own words) “that aeroplanes were noisy and old-fashioned,” he entered University College London to study zoology. There he studied fruit-fly genetics under J.B.S. Haldane, another apostle of naturalism. In 1965, JMS became the founding Dean of the School of Biological Sciences at Sussex. JMS helped to illuminate so many areas of biology that it is hard to know where to begin. He introduced the idea of an “evolutionary stable strategy,” a strategy that, once common, cannot be bettered by alternatives. This work has completely revolutionised the way biologists think about behavioural evolution, and game theory is now one of the most commonly used tools in evolutionary biology.

Like his mentor, Haldane, JMS was deeply committed to making evolutionary ideas accessible to a wide audience. His “Little Penguin,” The Theory of Evolution (1958, 10th edition 1995, 1997), was one of the most read books at school.

For others who have settled close ties with a lot of friends I made back at Sussex, several of whom are even making the trek out here for my wedding in the fall. “

Sussex’s US exchange programmes are valuable experiences for personal growth and development. Fifty minutes from New York is New Brunswick, a sleepy Jersey town home to Rutgers University – a key exchange college with Sussex. After the bright lights of New York City, arriving in New Brunswick is like being transported back in time. Houses with extended wooden porches line the roads, cars pass through once every hour, and the whole experience is eerily quiet on a springtime Sunday afternoon.

In a corner diner, Sarah Harris and Emma Jamieson, third year students from Sussex University on a year abroad, order an English breakfast as they recover from the night before. “Brighton to New Brunswick is a huge change,” Sarah reflects. “This is an old fashioned English colonial city. Luckily New York is only a short train ride away.”

The opportunity to study in America adds a new dimension to the Sussex experience. “The teaching method is not structured and disciplined compared to back home,” Sarah remarks.

As the only two Sussex students at Rutgers, both have noticed elements of themselves that may not otherwise have come to surface. “Leaving one university and landing in another 3000 miles away, people have no pre-conception of who you were before,” she remembers.

Everywhere you go you are curious about the British appearance and culture from internet arranged social activities and business networking to speed dating. “When I returned to Sussex this summer I was surprised at how different to what she discovered on the previous summer,” she says.

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Events and reunions

University Chancellor celebrates 80th birthday
Stars of stage and screen gathered at Sussex last September to celebrate the 80th birthday of the University Chancellor, Lord Attenborough. The theme of the party was based on the Chancellor’s directorial debut, Oh! What a Lovely War, a film which he shot in Brighton and for which he recruited Sussex students as extras. The partygoers included many high-profile faces, such as the Chancellor’s brother, Sir David Attenborough, Sir Ben Kingsley, Edward Fox, Angela Thorne and other members of the film’s cast. After the meal, the Chancellor was presented with a birthday cake which was an intricate replica of the West Pier as it was during the First World War. The occasion was also a fund-raising event, aimed at collecting donations for the Sussex Fund, which supports students from low-income and under-represented backgrounds. Thanks to a very generous gift of £5,000 from Ben Kingsley, the event raised £15,000 which will be used to support student welfare, access bursaries and hardship grants.

Alumni Events

Alumni activity overseas remains as strong as ever, with small gatherings and reunions taking place in every continent. To find out what events are coming up in your area, please visit the alumni website at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni. If there isn’t an alumni group in your country yet and you would like to set one up, let us know by emailing us at alumni@sussex.ac.uk.

Switzerland

The past twelve months have been a very busy period for the Swiss Alumni Group, with many gatherings and reunions taking place all around the country. The varied list of events includes a function at the Swiss embassy in Brussels, where alumni learned how to transfer innovation from university research into the economy, a visit to the Palexpo Philipe Museum of Watchmaking and an informal gathering in Basel. The highlight of the year was the group’s Annual Dinner, which was held in a magnificent 16th-century hall in Geneva. Planning for this year’s dinner, which will take place in Basel, is already underway. Those interested in attending can book a place by contacting the Alumni Relations team.

Cypriot

The Cyprus Alumni Group organised a dinner for new Sussex students before the beginning of the academic year. The entertaining evening provided a great opportunity for students to find out about university life, Sussex and living in Brighton is like.

Japan

For yet another year running, the alumni group in Japan organised an orientation session for new Sussex students. This annual event has become one of the most successful features of the group’s activities, as it assembles large numbers of alumni students and members of their families.

Mexico

Alumni in Mexico got together to enjoy an early Christmas meal in December last year. The organiser of the event, Rafael Perez Perez had already organised a pre-dinner draw to find the best aerocde and photographer of the Sussex experience. The winners of the competition were Dulce Sotelo (COGS 1992), Hector Parker (SPRU 2001), respectively. To read the anecdote and view the winning picture, please visit our website.

Belgium

Following what has now become a well-established tradition, alumni in Brussels welcomed a group of thirty students from the Sussex European Institute. Many of the alumni present at the event gave a presentation of career opportunities in the Belgium capital and the tips and outs of working and living in Brussels.

The group has also initiated a regular get together where alumni can meet up in a relaxed environment. The first event was held at the Mezzo bar in the heart of Brussels and proved a great success. For further information on future events in the area, please contact the group co-ordinator through the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

Class of ‘79

25th Anniversary Reunion

18th and 19th September 2004

Come and join us for an entertaining weekend down memory lane.

All welcome.

For further details and to book your place, please visit www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni.

Forthcoming Professorial Lectures at Sussex

October 19th 2004

Saul Dubow, Professor of History

(Titel to be confirmed)

November 9th 2004

Trevor Beebee, Professor of Molecular Ecology

‘Genes, populations and wildlife conservation’

November 30th 2004

Michael Ramsay, Professor of Environmental Science

‘Sampling the environment: certainty from uncertainty’

Professorial Lectures are open to all.

To RSVP please contact Sue Hepburn in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at S.J.Hepburn@sussex.ac.uk or on 01273 877488.

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Sussex People

Your favourite pages: who is doing what and where?

60s

60s Anne Radford (MAPS 1963) runs her own management consultancy company in London and is willing to offer Sussex graduates a 10% discount for various workshops that her company runs. Information can be found at: www.annefredd.co.uk/Pagefiles/events.htm To claim their discount, alumni should contact Anne directly at: editor@iapractioner.com

60s Richard Sobsby (MAPS 1964) is Technical Director at Hydraulics Research Wallingford, a firm specialising in finding solutions to rivers, estuaries and the sea. A few years ago he wrote a book, Dynamics of Marine Sands, which is widely used in university teaching of oceanography and civil engineering. In 2003, he was made a Visiting Professor at Oxford University.

60s Claire Ballantyne de Rose (EURO 1967) has spent the last 20 years travelling the world taking photos of women affected by war. Her collection of photos was published in April 2003 in her book, Women and War.

60s As founder of Cycle for Children (www.cycleforchildren.co.uk), Nigel D. Penney (MOLS 1969) helps raise money for all aspects of children’s well-being. He spends his time organising sports events and other fundraisers for the foundation.

60s Those of you who remember the Jazz Trio will be interested to learn that John Morton ‘Nick’ Nicholas (MAPS 1963), Grant Serpell (MAPS 1962) and Kolo Foster (MAPS 1964) have produced an album with Angel Air Records, entitled Affinity.

70s

70s With nearly three decades of experience working for non-profit organisations, Catherine Clark (BOLS 1970) is now Director of Development for RESPOND. Before taking up the post in 1995, she managed a battered women’s shelter.

70s Karamjit S. Gill (SCIENCE 1971) is Professor of Human Centred Systems and Founding Director of the SEAKE Centre and Brighton Innovation. He is also Honorary Professor of Human Centred Systems at the University of Urbino, Italy.

70s Henry Kent (MOLS 1971) is living in New York as a working scientist. He still loves to loud, wailing guitar and he still annoys the neighbours.

70s Martyn Cornel (ENGAM 1972) won the title of Beer Writer of the Year at the annual British Guild of Beer Writers awards dinner for his book, Beer: The Story of the Pint.

70s Maria Harper (née Green) (AFRAS 1979) is now a self-employed homeopath and specialist in autism and infertility treatment. She recently spent a year training as a Reiki Master. She would love to hear from anyone who did Anthropology via the Development and Alumni Relations Office (alumni@sussex.ac.uk).

70s After graduating, Jonathan Edwards (SOCI 1987) moved to Thessaloniki, where she married Yiannis Economides (ENG 1967) in 1982. After being taught Greek by her mother-in-law, she is now enjoying her role as British Consul for the region. Yiannis is also enjoying his success as Chairman of Egnatia Odos SA, a Greek project management company.

70s With nearly three decades of experience working for non-profit organisations, Catherine Clark (BOLS 1970) is now Director of Development for RESPOND. Before taking up the post in 1995, she managed a battered women’s shelter.

70s Karamjit S. Gill (SCIENCE 1971) is Professor of Human Centred Systems and Founding Director of the SEAKE Centre and Brighton Innovation. He is also Honorary Professor of Human Centred Systems at the University of Urbino, Italy.

70s Henry Kent (MOLS 1971) is living in New York as a working scientist. He still loves to loud, wailing guitar and he still annoys the neighbours.

70s Martyn Cornel (ENGAM 1972) won the title of Beer Writer of the Year at the annual British Guild of Beer Writers awards dinner for his book, Beer: The Story of the Pint.

70s Maria Harper (née Green) (AFRAS 1979) is now a self-employed homeopath and specialist in autism and infertility treatment. She recently spent a year training as a Reiki Master. She would love to hear from anyone who did Anthropology via the Development and Alumni Relations Office (alumni@sussex.ac.uk).

70s After graduating, Jonathan Edwards (SOCI 1987) moved to Thessaloniki, where she married Yiannis Economides (ENG 1967) in 1982. After being taught Greek by her mother-in-law, she is now enjoying her role as British Consul for the region. Yiannis is also enjoying his success as Chairman of Egnatia Odos SA, a Greek project management company.
Congratulations to Eduardo Palomar Lever
After living in Paris for three years, he has now returned to his consulting firm. He can be contacted at eduardo_palomarlever@thecity.com.

Jad Adams
Congratulations to Salman Sayyid
After 17 years teaching at the University of Sussex, he has now retired. He can be contacted at salman_sayyid@thecity.com.

Jennifer E. Terry
Kammy Fehrenbacher
Roger Penney
Eccy de Jonge
Benjamin Mayer-Foulkes
Pablo Dopico
After spending the summer in New York, they have returned to their respective cities. They can be contacted at their respective mobile numbers.

Beth Partin
In her recently published book, "Blinded by Sunlight: Emerging from the Shadow of Saddam’s Iraq," she explores the experiences of those who lived under Saddam’s oppressive reign with his personal account of his time as a political prisoner.

Diana Hicks (SPRU-GRC 1984) has been named as the new Chair of the School of Public Policy in Georgia Tech’s Ivan Alan College.

Congratulations to Ted Millburn (CCS 1970) who has been awarded CBE in the New Year’s Honours List 2004 for services to community education and youth work.

After 17 years teaching at the University of Jos in Nigeria, Peter J. Warren (CCS 1970) is now a senior lecturer at the University of Guadalajara. He is interested in knowing of Sussex students who might be interested in this position.

Jad Adams (CCS 1973) has published "Hiduous Absentism: A History of the Devil in a Bottle." The book boldly combines the art, literature, science and social history of the nineteenth century to produce a study of a drink which was once symbolic of the high points of art and the depths of degeneration.

80s

80s Benjamin Mayer-Foulkes (EURO 1986) is the founding director of the Institute of Critical Studies in Mexico, which offers two postgraduate programmes in Critical Theory and Psychoanalytic Discourse (Freud-Lacan). He is interested in knowing of Sussex graduates in Critical Theory and related fields worldwide. He can be contacted via the Development and Alumni Relations Office (alumni@sussex.ac.uk).


80s Beth Parlin (EURO 1982) published a short novel called "Miragryphy" in 1998, which is available on Amazon. She is currently working on a screen play.

80s Graham Lee (BIDLS 1980) has recently published a book entitled "Leadership Coaching: From Personal Insight to Organisational Performance," in which he argues that business coaching needs to engage with personal and business issues.

80s Congratulations to Nigel Sarjueden (MOLS 1982) who managed to brave the frostiness of Anne Robinson in May 2002 and won "The Weakest Link."


80s Fiona Lesch (EDUCATION 1986) was made Director of the University of Sussex Institute of Education in September 2001 and continued in this capacity until July 2003. She was also the first member of faculty at Sussex to be a recipient of a Chancellor’s Award which was presented to her at the July 2003 graduation.

80s George F Winkler (EURO 1980), exchange student from Georgetown University, is a senior editor at National Geographic Explorer, a classroom magazine for U.S. elementary students. In 2000, he wrote about the linguistic adventure of being an American student at Sussex for National Geographic online. His essay is available online at: www.nationalgeographic.com/rmg/00/06/forum/essay.html.

80s David Lewis Hodgson (SCIENCE 1981) has written a book under his pen-name David Lewis. Entitled The Man Who Invented Hitler, it describes the treatment of Adolf Hitler for hypochondria which was managed by a German psychiatrist named Edmund Forster.

80s Eduardo Palomar Lever (EURO 1996) was married on June 14, 2003 at Jones Beach in Wantagh, New York. They live in New York City.

90s

90s Jennifer E. Terry (CCS 1999), exchange student from Northwestern University in Chicago, met her husband James Terry (SLS 1999) at Sussex and married on July 26th 2002. Their Mill of Honour was Alisss McClean (EC 1999) and the Best Man was Mark Bennett (SLS 1999). They are now living in Denver, Colorado.

90s Caroline Freestone (COGS 1994) has published Diary of a Won Out Housewife, a witty documentary about the roller coaster ride of family life in Britain during the recession of 1992.

90s Sebastian (Bas) Berends (CDE-GRC 1993) is working in the Africa Department on relations with Uganda and Tanzania, he was sent to their embassy in Berlin to work as a second secretary in the Economic and Commercial Section.

90s Eddy de Jonge (ENAM 1994) has recently published Spinzoa and Deep Ecology: challenging traditional approaches to environmentalism (Aldershot: Aldgate, 2004). In May 2002, she was awarded the Spinzoa medal for 'contributions to Spinzoa scholarship.' She would love to hear from anyone who was on her course and can be contacted via the Development and Alumni Relations Office: alumni@sussex.ac.uk.

90s Pablo Dopico (EURO 1997) has recently been appointed Invited Professor of Political Science at the University of Navarre, Spain. He is interested in knowing of Sussex students who might be interested in this position.

90s Congratulations to Massimo Toschi (EURO 1992), whose poem For Whom the Sirens Toll? came second in the International Literary Prize, "A Tale for Peace." The poem is available to read online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni.

90s After living in Paris for three years, Deborah O’Donoghue (EURO 1994) now writes and teaches English in Sussex. Last year she was the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Prize for short story writing.

90s Kummi Fevenhacker (BIDLS 1996), exchange student from Purdue University, Indiana, and Sven Philipp (EURO 1996) were married on June 1, 2003 at Jones Beach in Wantagh, New York. They live in New York City.

90s After spending the summer working in the USA, Cat Hughes (MUSIC 2000) has now returned to Brighton where she has been appointed as a trainee account executive at TW Cat, one of Europe’s leading direct marketing agencies which operates exclusively in the charity and not-for-profit sector.

90s Since graduating last summer, Lucy Parrott (EAM 2000) has been working in the Development and Alumni Relations Office on campus where she has been helping to produce Fairler. She hopes to move to London soon to pursue a career in magazine journalism.
Above a reading room in the library’s Special Collections

Mass-Observation Archive

The Mass-Observation Archive is a social history collection which was founded in 1937 by adventurer and anthropologist Tom Harrisson, poet and journalist Charles Madge and documentary filmmaker Humphrey Jennings. In an attempt to create an "anthropology of ourselves." Today, it is based in Special Collections at the University of Sussex and is regarded as a valuable resource for researchers in measuring social change and gauging popular opinion on a broad range of topics. Our Palmer reporter talks to Sussex alumna Dorothy Sheridan (CIS 1967), Head of Special Collections and Director of the Mass-Observation Archive.

Could you tell me a bit about the archive? The original Mass-Observation was established in 1937 and collected materials and opinions until the mid 1950s. In 1970, it was brought to the University of Sussex where it was set up as a public archive for anybody to use. Then, in 1981, it was re-launched as the Mass-Observation Project. The collection consists of a range of diverse material, such as newspaper articles, documentary photographs, responses to questionnaires and personal papers, including private diaries.

What is interesting about the period Simon was writing about? In particular, the archive has provided a source of historical information for people studying the Second World War, as there is a large amount of material covering this period. When Simon visited our archive, he chose to look at the diaries that had carried on after the war until 1948. So Simon’s book is interesting because it looks at the three years after the war that have been ignored by many researchers.

How did Simon use the archive to research his book? Simon started with a publisher which was a great asset to him, as working in an archive can be expensive and time consuming. With the help of his publisher, he was able to make us an advance which enabled him to make as many photocopies as he liked. Simon’s publisher also paid a couple of ex-students to photocopy extracts for him – we have a number of people attached to us whom we try and set up with researchers who don’t want to visit themselves. Simon came down a few times himself to do background work but he did the actual editing from his photocopies.

What other high-profile authors have used the archive? Angus Calder used the archive to research his book The People’s War, which, although written in the late Sixties, is still regarded as the basic introduction to civilian life during the Second World War. He and I also did an anthology that was used to let people know what was here for people who couldn’t visit the archive themselves. Many of our diaries were also used in the BBC programme Dear Diary, which ran for years.

What sort of people contribute to the archive? During the war, the number of men and women was fairly balanced. Nowadays, more women volunteer, as archive writing is consistent with the type of writing that women do anyway – keeping diaries, keeping photo albums and writing long letters to relatives. The only thing that gives us some hope is that because a lot of men write in email, it’s hard to get schoolchildren and students to contribute because they feel they are already doing lots of writing for their studies. We are currently involved in a development plan to recruit a more diverse group of people. We are trying to give people the opportunity to write something that will be saved in an archive. Most ordinary people don’t have that kind of opportunity.

What would you say the archive’s importance is nationally? It’s unique. There are no other archives that require people to contribute in the present day. We give researchers the opportunity to look at things as they happen. For instance, one book that emerged from our collection studied people’s reactions to the death of Diana. Whilst, due to excessive media coverage, people may be sick of this news, they may find it interesting to look at the individual accounts of people responding to what they read in the media. That kind of longitudinal research is very different. It’s also useful for researchers who are interested in the kind of language people use, or the way in which fashion is changing. It’s fun showing current students what children in the Eighties wrote about because that’s when they were children. It can make a useful period and it’s a good source for teaching because people can relate to it.

Do many students use the archive? Yes, there are a number of courses for which visiting the archive is compulsory. These include the undergraduate course Social Investigation and Mass-Observation, and the postgraduate MA in Life History Research. There also used to be an interested course on food and people’s attitudes to it. We have an ongoing project collecting new autobiographical writing so the students on that course were able to look at things that were hot off the press.