Tanya Sarne, founder and creative director of Ghost, tells us of her inspiration behind the highly successful brand/Silver lining: Dr Dominic Kniveton debates why the causes and effects of climate change remain unclear/In the spotlight: Merfyn Jones talks to Falmer/Reform and renewal: Professor Alan Mayhew discusses challenges faced by former Soviet republics.
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Once again, welcome to the University of Sussex’s magazine, bringing you closer to the latest developments on campus.

The last issue of Falmer reported on The Times Higher Education Supplement’s world ranking of universities, where Sussex was placed in the top 10 in the UK, the top 20 in Europe and the top 60 in the world. I am now delighted to be able to tell you that this standing has been recently corroborated by The Guardian newspaper’s league table. This new ranking reflects the high quality of the research and teaching conducted at Sussex, and is a further testament to our commitment to academic excellence.

Building on this success, the past 12 months have seen an influx of fresh skills and talent at Sussex, with the recruitment of impressive new faculty across all Schools, as part of a sustained three-year recruitment campaign. Investing in new scholarly posts is a key component of the University’s strategy for excellence, and I am confident that the new appointments will help secure a bright future for Sussex.

As well as attracting top-tier faculty, we must also continue to engage the best students from around the world. The latest figures are certainly encouraging, with more than a 50 per cent increase in the number of applications at Sussex over the past three years. I am confident that our new portfolio of degree programmes will be attractive to the new generation of students.

And true to our proud commitment to widening participation, the University is putting in place new financial support schemes in order to undertake more outreach work to help improve progression to higher education across all social groups, and to enhance the provision of scholarships and bursaries for students from non-traditional backgrounds. As part of these schemes, from 2006, Sussex will be reinvesting more than 20 per cent of the new fee income in student support.

I am proud to lead a university which is enjoying great success and is also ambitious for the success of future generations of Sussex academics and students. We will depend on you, the University’s alumni and friends, to help us achieve our aspirations. Together, we can accomplish our ambition for Sussex. I do hope we can count on your help and support.

With best wishes,

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor
Sussex scientist makes MRSA treatment breakthrough

A groundbreaking new treatment to combat the hospital killer bug MRSA, which is estimated to cause up to 5,000 deaths a year in Britain, is being developed by a University of Sussex scientist.

Philip Parsons, a professor of organic chemistry, has devised a simple ‘one-pot’ method to make a synthetic version of a natural antibiotic, lactonamycin, which could be used to treat infected patients.

He has received a £280,000 grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council towards developing a series of lactonamycin-like substances. ‘The most important thing hospitals can do to fight MRSA is to improve ward cleanliness,’ Professor Parsons explained. ‘But we still need new antibiotics to combat the bug when it arises. We know that lactonamycin, a naturally occurring antibiotic, can kill MRSA, but it has not been available as a drug therapy, partly due to its novelty and complexity. We are looking at a simple way to synthesise the antibiotic and its compounds, which could also be highly effective in the fight against infection.’

The search for new antibiotics active against ‘super bugs’ such as MRSA is of paramount importance because of the increasing problems faced by hospitals in treating drug-resistant bacterial infections. Government figures estimate that up to 100,000 people catch an infection in UK hospitals every year, with the elderly and the very young most at risk of complications and death.

Research has shown that lactonamycin, an extract of the bacteria Streptomyces rishi, is active against MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus).

Naturally occurring chemicals, such as lactonamycin, often have complex molecular structures and are difficult to synthesise because the process usually involves many chemical steps. Professor Parsons has discovered a ‘one-pot’ method – known as cascade reaction – during which several reactions take place at once.

‘This is a very exciting discovery,’ Professor Parsons said. ‘It will be important not just for producing lactonamycin, but for making other compounds, natural products and drug substances more efficiently.’

Psychologist proposes model to reduce prejudice

From anti-Semitism to Islamophobia, from the fear of terrorism to hostility towards asylum seekers, conflict between different cultural groups continues to be an alarming feature of the 21st century.

While governments and policy makers struggle to address these issues, a Sussex social psychologist has revisited 20 years of research on intergroup relationships and has produced an effective positive model of how to reduce prejudice.

Professor Rupert Brown, together with Professor Miles Hewstone of the University of Oxford, argues that to bring about a change in the attitudes of conflicting groups, members of those groups need to be brought together in a way that makes them appreciate each other’s different social identities.

‘Some policy approaches might make a point of not drawing attention to ethnicity or other group differences,’ Professor Brown said. ‘But we believe that a crucial part of successful intergroup contact is helping individuals to maintain them.’

They have tested their theory with experiments and field studies in settings as wide-ranging as Catholic-Protestant relations in Northern Ireland; attitudes between different nationalities in Europe; Muslims and Hindus in Bangladesh; and young children’s attitudes towards peers who are Afro-Caribbean, Asian or white.

What needs to happen is that they are reminded about each other’s cultural background, so that they can make a connection between the peers they have met and all others from similar backgrounds,’ Professor Brown explained.

‘These types of beneficial intergroup contact cannot resolve all the issues of intergroup conflict, but can make a real contribution to its reduction,’ he added. An academic paper by the two professors on intergroup contact has won the 2005 Gordon Allport Prize, awarded by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for the best paper on intergroup relations. It is published in Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, 2005.
The Universities of Sussex and Brighton are to receive a government grant of £3.75 million in recognition of their excellence in creativity, design and innovation.

The funding will be used to develop creative approaches to teaching and learning and to set up two ‘creativity zones’ – one for each of the universities.

The zones will be places where undergraduate and postgraduate students from a wide range of disciplines can meet to swap ideas and explore new approaches in environments equipped with state-of-the-art computer technology and software.

For example, engineering and product design students could be encouraged to experiment with narrative devices used by creative writing students to come up with designs, while creative writing students may adopt design morphology (thinking in shapes) to develop storylines.

Commenting on the ambitions for the project, Professor Peter Childs, convenor in product design at Sussex and the project’s director, said: ‘We are delighted with this grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Both Sussex and Brighton have already proved their creative excellence in several areas, including engineering, creative writing, music composition and advanced technology. The centre will enable the rolling out of innovative learning experiences across the universities and encourage a move away from the ubiquitous PowerPoint presentation.’

The two universities decided to submit a joint bid, as they have already proved to be successful collaborators for degree programmes such as automotive engineering.

The ‘creativity zones’, which will involve refurbishing existing buildings ready for use by July 2006, will benefit more than 1,000 students pursuing degrees on a wide diversity of subjects, from artificial intelligence to history of art and product design. An early emphasis will be on the application of creative methods to design mechanical components and technology-based products such as cordless hand tools and fluid seals.

The grant is one of 75 being awarded to higher education institutions this year by HEFCE to create Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs). Universities and HE colleges were invited to propose CETLs in any subject, group of subjects, or teaching and learning areas where they could show evidence of distinctive excellence.

The bid from Sussex and Brighton was to create a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Creativity. ‘This provides the opportunity to define creativity as the central tenet of the University of Sussex,’ added Professor Childs.
In February of this year the President of Botswana, His Excellency Festus Mogae (IDS 1969), returned to the Institute of Development Studies and the University of Sussex to meet development researchers and deliver a public lecture to a standing-room-only crowd at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School lecture theatre.

President Mogae opened his lecture by praising academics at IDS and Sussex for giving him the knowledge to take part in Botswana’s development. He outlined Botswana’s journey from being one of the world’s poorest nations to its current standing as one of Africa’s recognised ‘success stories’ and praised its education and health systems. Yet, the President acknowledged how much work still needs to be done to combat HIV, which has seen people’s life expectancy cut by a decade. ‘Whether it’s 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 40 per cent of people with HIV – it’s too much,’ he said, adding a plea for ‘all humanity’ to help fight the virus.

During question time, the audience interrogated the President on a wide range of issues, from the controversial relocation of bushman tribes to the diversification of the economy away from the diamond trade.

Elected President of Botswana in 1998, Festus Mogae has also served as Vice-President and Minister of Finance and Development in government, and is a member of the Botswana Democratic Party. His career to date has also included terms of service with the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

Students applying to the University of Sussex for 2006 will benefit from a range of bursaries and scholarships to help with the cost of their studies.

The Office for Fair Access (OFFA) – the public body that promotes access to Higher Education for all – has confirmed that the University of Sussex will be allowed to charge £3,000 per year for ‘home’ (UK and EU) entrants to full-time undergraduate programmes from 2006. Students will not have to pay these fees upfront, but can choose instead to defer payment until they are graduates, and are working and earning more than £15,000 per year.

OFFA’s approval depended on the University putting in place new financial support schemes for students from less well-off backgrounds and undertaking more outreach work to help improve progression to higher education across all social groups. The University’s package of targeted bursaries and scholarships, which will supplement non-repayable annual maintenance grants of up to £2,700 on offer to many students, has now been agreed by OFFA.

The main elements of this package are: Sussex Bursary – £1,000 per year for all students whose family income is £15,000 a year or less; Chancellor’s Scholarship – £1,000 per year for 200 students whose family income is less than £24,000 a year. Selection will favour those with no family background of higher education, or those who can demonstrate a special need or merit.

The University will be reinvesting more than 20 per cent of the new fee income it will receive from 2006 in these new student support schemes, which will add to our existing range of: Subject scholarships/awards – competitive scholarships based on academic promise and/or high entry grades, worth around £1,000 a year;
During the Easter vacation this year, 35 second-year undergraduates escaped to a sunnier climate by spending a week in Portugal on the first overseas field course run by the department of Biology and Environmental Science.

‘It is probably one of the most distinctive new offerings coming out of our curriculum review,’ explained Dr Libby John, head of department. ‘The students had a wonderful time, as did the faculty who attended, and we will definitely be going again.’

The group travelled extensively in the Setúbal peninsula just south of Lisbon, where the relatively warm climate means that there is plenty of biological activity at that time of year. ‘It is also a wonderful area for studying geology and past environments,’ said Dr John.

The trip gave the undergraduates a chance to study field biology in a hands-on way. They visited a number of local habitats such as sand dunes, salt marshes and ancient fossil reefs and were able to study plant and animal adaptations to some of these environments.

Each student engaged in a three-day research project and gave a presentation on it at the end of the trip.

‘For me, as head of department, it was great to get to know 35 of our students and spend some time with them, and it will greatly enhance our teaching interactions with those students from now on,’ added Dr John. ‘We all learned a lot from the students and each other, as well as from being in a wonderful environment.’

For the first time, the University of Sussex has teamed up with Glyndebourne to offer Sussex alumni, staff and students the opportunity to enjoy the unique Glyndebourne experience, while mingling and swapping campus experiences at one of the best known opera houses in the world.

Glyndebourne has allocated over 80 per cent of the tickets exclusively to Sussex alumni, staff and students for the special performance of the new opera Tangier Tattoo, which will be given its world premiere as part of Glyndebourne on Tour this autumn.

Tickets for this exciting Sussex event will be just £25. This will also help subsidise a student ticket in order to be able to offer as many students as possible this fantastic opportunity. Further details on how to book are available online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

If you are unable to attend, but would still like to buy a ticket for a Sussex student, we would also like to hear from you.

Tangier Tattoo, an operatic thriller, is a vibrant and melodic work with a cinematic story line full of romance and adventure that will engage and enthral adults of all ages. Set in a volatile contemporary atmosphere where east meets west, Tangier Tattoo explores what happens when a man believes in romantic love too much, and a woman not enough.

Tangiers, the crossroads of civilisation, where the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic Ocean, provides the environment for this political mystery to unfold. A young backpacking Englishman, Nick, meets Nadine, a young American, and they become caught in a drug feud outside a café in which two European dealers are gunned down. The bag containing the money for the deal ends up in their possession and they decide that they are going to have the time of their lives. In a Moroccan hotel Nadine reveals a mysterious tattoo to Nick – the female half of a tattoo representing ‘perfect love’...

To purchase a ticket, call: 01273 813813.

Photography: Mike Hoban/Simon Laundon
**Tanya Sarne** (AFRAS 1964) is founder and creative director of Ghost, a unique and highly successful British fashion label. Winner of a clutch of awards for design and export, she was also one of the inspirations – with her daughter – for Eddy and Saffy in *Absolutely Fabulous*.

Tanya Sarne has created a unique brand of women’s fashion which, like denim, occupies a niche in many women’s wardrobes because it can be worn anywhere: to work, in bed, on the beach or to the Oscars. Indeed, Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts and Nicole Kidman are among the celebrities who wear Ghost.

The hallmark of Ghost clothing is its soft silhouette and delicate colours, and what makes Ghost unique is that Tanya has developed her own exclusive production process to create these fluid fabrics, which still allows the garments to be machine washable.

‘I never planned to build up a business – not in my wildest dreams. But I arrived back in England in the mid-seventies after a disastrous marriage (to the pop star/film director Mike Sarne), with two children and no job.’

Before she went to Sussex, Tanya had done quite a bit of modelling and had always loved clothes and fashion. Disenchanted with high street fashion and with a budget that didn’t allow for designer clothes, she looked in vain for clothes that would fit her lifestyle as an active and busy young mother: clothes that had style but were comfortable and machine washable.

She had ideas, but no experience in fashion design. Then she bumped into another mother who was a trained pattern cutter; someone who could give life to her ideas.

‘I had no technical ability but I have a very good visual sense and I can bring the finished product together. A designer can give me the most wonderful-looking sketch, the pattern cutter does a perfect pattern from it, the machinist sews up the pieces – and it doesn’t work. It doesn’t do anything for a woman and that is the point where I make it work. When it is finished, a piece might bear little resemblance to how the designer originally imagined it but I need to know that it will fit and flatter. It is an instinct and it does seem to be my talent.’

It is on that instinct that the success of Ghost has been built.

‘Ghost? I didn’t want to call the company my name as I really don’t see myself as a “designer” like McQueen or Galliano, so I called it Ghost because it enabled me to work with different designers – and my father, a journalist, used to do a lot of ghost writing.’

The design team at Ghost is small: one woman develops fabrics, embroideries and textures, and there is a main designer and a contributing designer. Tanya has just brought in two young graduates: one is a brilliant designer of prints, the other does wonderful embroideries with oxidised metals and silver. Because Ghost designs are copied so heavily, she and her team are constantly having to evolve and reinvent.

‘The first designer I worked with (I happened to spot her sketches in a PR Office and I stole her away from her Italian boss!) brought me this grey cloth which her Italian company couldn’t make work. It was raw woven viscose and when wet, it has no strength. My luck – from naivety – was that we made up some samples and put them in my washing machine. They came out far too small – we had no idea about shrinkage – but we had a new fabric and the Americans just loved it. It breathed, it was light, it fitted everywhere, was very flattering and very sensuous. It was wonderful to handle and no one had seen anything quite like it, so I got these huge orders, which I then had to produce. To begin with I didn’t know how to work the material any more than the Italians; but they gave up and I persevered. I’ve always liked a challenge; it’s not just the money. Actually, it’s the challenge of making a lot of women happy.’

Vicose is a generic term like cotton or wool and is halfway between natural and synthetic. It comes from compressed soft wood; from shrubs which are specially grown, mainly in America. The material used to be called rayon in Britain (it still is in America) and was associated with a rather unattractive fabric just after the war. ‘I don’t think they realised at that time just how versatile a fabric viscose was and how many different things you could do with it. Everything in our showroom has a viscose base. Like wool or cotton, there are a million different qualities: you can have fine wool suits or big chunky wool sweaters. You can have
cashmere, angora – the permutations are endless.' Unfortunately, rayon’s poor reputation meant the last British rayon factory closed in the early seventies. Tanya’s yarn is woven in Italy.

The other unique feature of Ghost designs is their colour, something in which Tanya takes a very personal interest. ‘Colour is a really important part of the process and I have painted literally thousands of colours. It’s a wonderful way to relax. I do four collections a year and we do 10 colours per collection so that is 40 colours a year – and there are just five primary colours. I intend to publish a book of colours one day, which will more than rival Pantone!’

She says she learned a lot about business at Sussex – and indeed Tanya does seem to have been fairly enterprising during her student years. She took on a flat, became a landlady to students, provided them with meals and charged them an all-in price for food and lodgings. ‘I’m not sure I was allowed to do it but I didn’t have any money, apart from the student grant, which I didn’t consider sufficient.’

After that, she and her partner bought a houseboat in Shoreham, with ten rooms, and did the same thing on a grander scale. However, she insists that, fundamentally, her time at Sussex was about learning. ‘The main point about university for anybody is training the brain. The brain is like another muscle; it needs training, it needs flexing, it needs to work. I would never have been able to find out about VAT or the many different areas of business if I hadn’t had research training at Sussex.

I am very proud of my degree; Sussex didn’t give it to me as an act of charity, so I must have known something.’

Despite her success, Tanya is keen not to be thought of as just an entrepreneur and says she is split absolutely down the middle between her business and creative sides. ‘I think if I had a really shrewd business brain I would have made a lot of money by now and my company would be huge. Generally, I think, the more mass-market the industry gets the more shark-like it becomes. There are people who’ve made millions through pretty sharp dealing – but I am not one of those. I am actually very proud that I have kept my integrity; that I am self-financed; that I haven’t sold out and that I’ve always been incredibly honest. I think that is one of the reasons why I’ve kept my business – by not being a shark.’

Today, the fashion industry is hugely competitive and it is therefore very difficult to make money from only selling clothes. So Ghost has expanded into other areas, most notably perfume – though Tanya would like to move the company into knitwear and accessories such as shoes and bags, too. Outside the clothes, the perfume is what interests Tanya most; she was delighted that someone recognised that Ghost was a good name for perfume. She works with ‘an excellent perfume company’ and is extremely proud that together they have built a very successful business. In Tanya’s opinion, more people probably now associate the name Ghost with perfume than with clothes. ‘I’ve particularly enjoyed working with perfume as I discovered that I have a very good nose – and to discover that you have a new talent in your fifties is exciting.’

Tanya is now 60 and Ghost is in its 22nd year, so what are her plans for the future? ‘What I am trying to do is build up Ghost as a brand name because, ultimately, that is where the value of the business will be. I now have a grandson and a daughter in America getting married. I haven’t seen India or China and I haven’t written my book yet. So, yes, I do have to start thinking about the future.’

‘When I came into the business, in the early 1980s, women were trying to compete in a man’s world by wearing pinstriped suits. I allowed them to express their femininity and their individuality and over the years a lot of those women have told me how I changed their lives. That is so satisfying. Ultimately, it’s what makes it all worthwhile.’
There is a conspiracy theory expressed in certain circles that the international prominence of the climate change issue can be traced back to Margaret Thatcher’s BSc in chemistry. The story goes that in order to make a name for herself in the international arena, the then Prime Minister was advised by Sir Crispin Tickell to champion the issue of climate change, because in any political discussion of the subject she would be able to proverbially wipe the floor with her fellow leaders of state due to her scientific credentials. This, of course, nicely coincided with a Conservative party hell-bent on destroying the National Union of Miners, whom it held responsible for overthrowing Edward Heath’s government, and a nuclear industry looking for a rationale for large public money subsidies. Now, leaving aside the obvious wild assumption implicit in this story—that a BSc in chemistry somehow equates with any level of scientific acumen—it does at least highlight the varied agendas that groups or individuals involved in climate change are accused of holding.

Another group with supposed vested interests is climate change scientists. The logic here dictates that you should never trust a climate scientist’s predictions of the future because if he or she were to say that there was nothing to fear from future climate change it would ensure that little (if any) funding was made available for their ongoing research. So let me start by saying to all those potential funders out there that climate change is nothing like the millennium bug. It is occurring and will continue to do so. As for the future, we are likely to all burn in a fiery inferno as the runaway greenhouse effect takes hold, unless someone gives me a lot of research funding, a huge computer and extensive travel funds (as I’ve heard that tropical desert islands are most at risk from rising sea levels and I want to see them before they disappear). Ignoring my sarcastic tone, you, of course, might reply that why, after nearly a quarter of a century of climate research, the best I can come up with (and I’m not alone here, for it was one of the conclusions of the recent Meteorological Office conference on dangerous climate change) is a request for more research funding. The reason is primarily that climate change is a highly uncertain subject. There is inherent uncertainty in future emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols, held as responsible for putting the brakes on the greenhouse gas effect, but most of all there are uncertainties in the way the climate responds to future and past changes in atmospheric composition. Add to this uncertainty how other components of the climate system such as the oceans, biosphere and cryosphere (everything of snow and ice) will respond to change and then feedback into climate and you can...
see why uncertainty is synonymous with climate change research.

The level of uncertainty in climate change science should not be underestimated. For nearly 15 years I have been involved in what might appear to be the relatively straightforward task of monitoring global rainfall. Rainfall, besides its fundamental role as a provider of fresh water, is climatically important since the process of rainfall formation releases large amounts of energy as the latent heat of condensation. This energy flux contributes to the redistribution of energy from the equator to the poles, making the Earth more hospitable than it would otherwise be. The standard way of measuring rainfall is to use a glorified bucket, the rain gauge or, if you are feeling particularly flash, a surface-based radar. Unfortunately, however, for the majority of the Earth’s surface we do not have any of these measurements. The answer to this has been to explore the use of satellite data to measure rainfall. At their simplest, satellites allow the viewer to see clouds – and clouds produce rain. Some satellites even take measurements that see through clouds. Throw in a bit of radiative transfer physics and in principle you should be able to measure rainfall anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, in practice it doesn’t work out to be so straightforward. You know from personal experience that rainfall varies over timescales of seconds and distances of tens of metres. This puts considerable, and currently impossible, strain on any measurement system needing to view the whole of the Earth at these scales. Additionally, the radiation measured at the satellite is not only affected by rainfall, but by non-precipitating cloud particles and the surface. These contributions are difficult to disentangle from the contributions of the actual rainfall itself. Thus, we can still only have in the order of 50-100 per cent confidence in estimates of the global rainfall patterns, even on a monthly timescale.

Uncertainty is also widespread in our understanding of climate processes. For a long time there has been the idea that changes in solar activity, such as solar flares and geomagnetic storms, can cause large changes in the Earth’s weather. For instance, at the end of the 18th century there was a strong statistical correlation between sunspots (cool patches on the sun) and Indian Ocean cyclones (noticed from the variation in the number of shipwrecks over time). Unfortunately, radiatively there is not enough energy from these solar variations to produce large terrestrial climate/atmospheric changes. Thus, the consensus from the climate community was that such statistical relationships were merely coincidense. In the case of the Indian Ocean cyclones, this view was reinforced by the reversal of the correlation between sunspots and cyclones over time. However, the idea that there may be some amplification mechanism in the atmosphere that is responsible for converting variations in solar activity into changes in the terrestrial climate has remained and, in the last 10 years, a lot of research has focused on apparent solar-related changes in cloud cover. Two theories have been proposed as amplification mechanisms involved in solar-induced cloud changes. The first one is the direct influence of galactic cosmic rays on levels of ionisation in the atmosphere and the second involves the role of high energy particles on the Global Atmospheric Electric Circuit. As with rainfall measurements, satellite data provide a global view of cloud cover and this has allowed changes in clouds to be examined at varying temporal and spatial scales. Research at Sussex’ has examined whether changes in clouds coincide with variations in solar activity and solar-related phenomena are consistent with theoretical expectations of the distribution of cloud changes. For example, according to a relatively simple theory of how the Global Atmospheric Electric Circuit behaves, solar-related high energy particle-driven changes in fair weather current densities should be inversely related to each other at lower and higher latitudes. Recent research has shown some evidence of this. However, the biggest changes in clouds appear to occur over the poles, where the ability of satellite data to distinguish cold clouds from cold surfaces is at its lowest.

The last major area of uncertainty in climate change science and, consequently, also a subject of research at Sussex, is climate modelling. Climate models present the only viable way of attributing past climate change to different forcings and exploring possible future climate scenarios. Traditionally, in the UK, universities do not get involved in attributing climate change to different forcings such as increases in greenhouse gases; instead, they focus on the use of climate models to understand climate processes and predict future climate impacts. At Sussex, both global and regional climate models are in use, with particular emphasis on the climate of southern Africa. In terms of understanding the climate, models are currently being used to try and determine atmospheric and oceanic controls of extremes of daily rainfall by propagating idealised sea surface temperature anomalies in model runs and seeing what effect they have on the climate of southern Africa. Future climate scenarios have also been developed to explore the climate change impact on water and natural resources of the Okavango river basin in south-west Africa. A recent European Union project, in which Sussex linked up with institutes from Botswana, Namibia and Angola, looked at likely impacts of future development activities such as water abstraction and hydroelectric schemes and climate change. It came to the conclusion that the largest hydrological and ecological impacts on the Okavango Delta, a vast inland wetland in Botswana, would be caused by climate change, with over 40 per cent losses in seasonally flooded swamps.

So where does this all leave us? Well, firstly climate change is beset with uncertainty and always will be. This is good news for climate change research scientists, though maybe not for those seeking straightforward answers. Secondly, if Margaret Thatcher thought she could take over the world with a BSc in chemistry, imagine what she could have done with an MA in gender studies.
In the spotlight

Merfyn Jones (ENGAM 1965) is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Bangor. A well-known and prolific historian, he has made numerous television documentaries and has been awarded a BAFTA Award for his outstanding contribution to history on television.

What were the main influences from your time at Sussex and have they helped shape your life and career to date?
There were at least two important influences on me, both to do with the ethos of the University. The first was the nature of the curricula and the fact that we studied a breadth of subjects. I majored in history but I also did literature and philosophy courses, so it equipped me with a very broad education and range of knowledge which I still find lacking in the British university system. I worry that even today, people can graduate from a British university without ever having read a novel or a poem.

The second important influence was the intensive tutorial system. I had come from a small rural village in North Wales and at Sussex I found it wonderful to sit down regularly with a tutor for an hour and read out an essay. The discipline of constantly writing essays is something for which I’ve been eternally grateful, because it means I can work under pressure. It’s a valuable and transferable skill.

What do you think are the main challenges faced by British universities in the 21st century?
One of the greatest challenges is the stress that academics are now under. Basically, the same number of academics are teaching four or five times as many students. In addition, there is the requirement that academics now do regular published research. This puts a lot of pressure on them – and they are poorly remunerated compared to other industries which employ people of similar capabilities. A big challenge for British universities will be the ability to attract the best people from across the world to come and work with them. We’ve succeeded so far because we are excellent institutions, but financial investment will become an ever greater problem.

Then there is the changed nature of the student body. From about seven per cent of the cohort going to university when I went to Sussex, now it is over one-third rising to 50 per cent in some areas. Inevitably, this brings different expectations on those students and on the range of skills they have, and is a big challenge for universities, which are now charged quite properly with widening access and participation. There is a great appetite to do this but universities can’t solve the immense social problems of the age. It is not entirely the fault of higher education that there are excluded groups; there are social and economic issues and government policies that affect this issue too.

How do you think the student experience has changed since your days at Sussex?
Although lots of academics in British universities still teach relatively small groups, the student experience today – at least in some subjects – is of groups of 300-400 people receiving an extremely sophisticated lecture, with PowerPoint presentations, audio-
visual, web links and so on. And we’re moving more and more in that direction.

One huge change for students – and it does affect their university experience – is that so many of them need to work, not just in the vacations but during term time. Inevitably, this affects the learning process and causes considerable pressures for them. However, at its core, I’m not sure the student experience has changed that much; it’s still higher education and an opportunity to get acquainted with very exciting knowledge.

As a historian and broadcaster, how do you feel about the increasing popularisation of history in the media?
I see nothing wrong with popularising history as long as it is good history. But history is a controversial subject; there’s no such thing as the finished version. It’s always work in progress and therefore some TV historians attract controversy because history is about interpretation as well as about accessing the facts – whatever they may be. A historian should not just write learned tomes but should connect with a wider audience because history should help inform and enlighten the culture generally.

There is certainly no necessary connection between popularisation and loosening one’s grip on proper standards of academic thoroughness. There is absolutely no reason why you can’t do both.

You have been a great advocate for promoting awareness of Welsh history and culture. What are the main developments you would like to see to widen this awareness?
There is a need for us to have a national conversation within the UK, in which we better appreciate the history (and not just history but the culture and political structures too) of the other parts of the UK. I think there is great ignorance in England about Wales but then, within England, there is great ignorance about the English regions.

We need to think of these islands (and much of Europe) as having a common history. In different ways, we have all shared in the great European movements of ideas – and wars – and we come out of them with contrasting cultures and experiences. I would like to have that national conversation and I think Welsh devolution helps with that. I was a great advocate of devolution but I now think that the newly created Welsh institutions need to mature.

For an unabridged version of the interview with Merfyn Jones, please visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

JOB FILE

Sean Phelan (ENGG 1977)
Founder and chairman of Multimap.com

I think that even when I was studying engineering at Sussex at the end of the 1970s I expected to launch a hi-tech start-up; it was in my blood and in my genes. I ended up following a very typical career path for an entrepreneur, though with absolutely no forward planning or realisation at the time that I was doing so.

After Sussex I went straight into work as a programmer, and spent the 1980s designing, building and debugging computer networks around the world, working around the edges of the early internet. After nine years as a techie, I did an MBA at the Theseus Institute in France, and from there went into consulting, first at the Yankee Group and then in the technology convergence practice of KPMG.

In 1995, after five years of consulting work, my entrepreneurial yearnings were getting increasingly strong. That was a time of rapid telecoms liberalisation in Europe, and like many others, I had been toying with ideas about low-price international phone services. However, I’ve also been a keen sailor all my adult life and I knew that Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receivers were getting smaller and cheaper, and I knew from my consulting work that the uptake of second generation (GSM) phones was growing rapidly. So when Netscape went public in mid-1995 – the first successful public launch of a dot-com – I had a vision of combining GPS location, GSM phones and the world wide web to create a pocket device that would tell us where we are and what is around us. I started Multimap.com at the end of 1995 and the first version went live in early 1997 with maps on phones and on the web. Although the original vision was maps on phones, it was the web that really took off. I built up the company on my own for several years before raising £1.8 million in 1999, after which we grew very fast. Unlike most dot-coms, we have never had to downsize or lay off staff – today the company is made up of 60 people with offices in London, Boston and Sydney. And, if you look at 3G Vodafone Live phones and click on “Find and Seek”, you will see that the original vision from 1995 has finally been realised.
Reform and renewal in Central and Eastern Europe

Alan Mayhew is Jean Monnet Professor and Professorial Fellow at the Sussex European Institute in the School of Social and Cultural Studies at the University of Sussex. A leading expert in economic policy, transition and integration in Central and Eastern Europe, he is an advisor to the various governments of countries in the region, including Poland, Croatia and Lithuania. Here, Professor Mayhew discusses some of the challenges faced by former Soviet republics in their transition to democracy and economic reform.
The first Polish European Commissioner, Professor Danuta Hübner, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Chancellor of the University in a moving ceremony at the February graduation. Professor Hübner is just one of several leaders in Central and Eastern Europe who conducted research at the University of Sussex in the 1970s and 80s.

It is over 15 years since the first free Polish election, which led to the creation of a democratically elected government after 40 years of Communist rule. Much of the rest of Central Europe followed suit in a series of popular uprisings which toppled one undemocratic regime after another. These changes marked a key turning point in European history and for a whole generation it was the fulfilment of years of struggle against illegitimate government.

The Communist system was at an end morally and economically, and its leaders had no policy remedies to satisfy their citizens beyond the reform-socialism of the late 1980s that simply served to undermine the system itself. Most of the changes which took place happened peacefully. This was tragically not the case in Yugoslavia and not totally so in the Baltic states, as recent Lithuanian history shows.

In Central Europe the new democratic systems which followed these revolutions have generally proved their capacity to provide a quality of government which, if not always ideal, has been considered satisfactory by the citizens. However, in some states, especially those that emerged from the break-up of the Soviet Union (outside the Baltic States), elected governments were captured by powerful groups, sometimes stemming from the previous system. These then provided a situation in which corruption could flourish and where the welfare of the average citizen was sacrificed for the benefit of these groups, which accumulated huge wealth.

As the ‘Orange Revolution’ in Ukraine and the ‘Rose Revolution’ in Georgia demonstrate, in certain circumstances, citizens are no longer prepared to support corrupt regimes which hold out no promises of a better life for the average family. Citizens demand the establishment of fair and open government. The new regimes in Ukraine and Georgia were elected to eliminate corruption and to establish such government. And the process of democratisation continues to spread in the region.

These democratic revolutions were underpinned by economic reform through the establishment of a market economy. In general, the more thorough the reform and the sooner it was undertaken, the more rapidly the countries recovered from the transition recession. Research tends to show that slow and uncertain reform is associated with higher costs and frequently the need to restart reforms when they have stalled. In the states created out of the former Soviet Union (but not the Baltics), reform seems to have been slower and more patchy.

Institutional reforms have frequently been more difficult than the economic reforms, though clearly the two are linked. Liberalising prices is an easy measure to implement, although it can cause short-term problems and requires competitive markets to be successful. However, adjusting existing institutions to the needs of the market economy, or creating new institutions, will usually produce significant opposition amongst the stakeholders. Institutions also need to gain acceptance from citizens and this can be a very long process.

Reforming governments need firm anchors for their reforms to avoid them being rolled back by special interests. The anchor which has proved most successful in Central and Eastern Europe has been accession to the European Union. In the pre-accession period, governments of the new member states frequently cited their EU obligations to fend off attempts to undo their reforms.

The conditions set by the EU for accession – the so-called Copenhagen criteria – are not very precise. They do allow the EU, however, to ensure both that its fundamental values concerning democracy, human rights and the rule of law are respected and that economic reform has progressed fast enough and thoroughly enough that the country can join the EU without creating major problems.

Although the conditions are not precise, they are monitored in great detail by the European Commission which writes an annual report card on each applicant country. These reports have an impact well beyond EU accession, as they are used by international finance markets as indicators of country risk. Governments are therefore very keen to ensure that the reports are positive.

The promise of accession thus became the EU’s primary weapon to ensure peace and stability in its neighbourhood and at the same time was the principal anchor for governments in the economic transition. The new member states in Central Europe made enormous efforts to satisfy the conditions for
membership and in so doing became favoured locations for foreign direct investment (FDI), which is essential to speed the economic transition and pursue catch-up growth. It was offered to the countries of former Yugoslavia once the wars ended and has played a very significant part in the achievement of stabilising this region and in getting it back on the path to development. Strangely, it has not been offered to the countries of Eastern Europe in the context of European Neighbourhood Policy, no doubt because of the fear that this might have upset the French referendum on the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty. However, here too the countries that have agreed ‘Action Plans’ with the EU (Ukraine and Moldova) will almost certainly be given a perspective of accession when they have implemented some of the measures in those Plans (and when the Constitutional Treaty has been successfully ratified).

One of the main lessons from the transition to democracy and the market economy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is that success depends on the ‘quality’ of the people and especially the young people. It is no accident that the average age of leading politicians and business people in the region is a good 10 or 20 years less than in Western Europe. It is a sad fact that older generations brought up in a totally different political and economic environment have had to be sacrificed, to some extent, in the transition. But dynamic, entrepreneurial and well-trained young people have driven the revolution forward.

Since 1990, Sussex has received a stream of these young people from the region in many different disciplines. The Sussex European Institute, in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, has trained around 30 postgraduate students annually, many of whom are now in responsible positions in government or business. It is a great pleasure for staff to work together with such highly motivated students. At the same time, academics from Sussex have advised governments in the region in the vital areas of economic reform and institutional change.

In this way, Sussex continues its long tradition of working with future leaders of states in transition. Professor Hübner’s honorary doctorate is evidence of the Sussex contribution to change in the past and the present. May it remain a major contributor in the future.
Development

Previous and current donors to the University of Sussex gave a fantastic response to a telephone fundraising campaign the University ran last April.

Alumni were contacted by a team of specially trained students who talked to them about the University and the way their support is helping Sussex students. The calllers also enjoyed the chance to talk to alumni and compare experiences of their time at Sussex.

With the increasing need to raise funds from philanthropic sources to provide enough financial support to those talented students most in need, the Development and Alumni Relations Office will be establishing a regular annual giving programme in order to increase contributions to The Sussex Fund. With this aim in mind, the University has just appointed a new Annual Fund Officer, Kevin Davies, who will be responsible for developing the programme. As part of this, we will be making contact with all our alumni with the hope of generating funds for student scholarships based on merit and need. We hope we can count on your support.

How the funds are spent
With the imminent introduction of top-up fees from 2006, the University aims to enhance the provision of funding available to students, thus ensuring that they receive the necessary financial support to enable them to maximise their full potential.

Money raised for The Sussex Fund will be used to increase the support available to students on campus via new access scholarships, bursaries and hardship funding.

Members of the disbursement committee deciding how contributions are spent include Professor John Dearlove, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who chairs the committee, and senior members of staff, alumni and Students’ Union representatives. Details on how donations are being spent will be reported regularly in Falmer.

How to contribute to the Sussex Fund
If you would like to make a gift to The Sussex Fund, or would like further information, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0) 1273 678258 or email: alumni@sussex.ac.uk

The Development and Alumni Relations team would like to thank all alumni who have contributed to The Sussex Fund for their generous support.

As a student, I am very aware of the financial difficulties that some students face while at university, so to me the phonathon was a great way to contribute towards helping students. It was a very positive experience and was fantastic to talk to so many alumni who still care and feel connected to Sussex. It made me realise that I’d definitely want to keep in touch once I’ve graduated and give something back to the University.’

Caroline Tomes, second year sociology student

The Sussex Fund
Investing in the future

The Sussex Fund is one of the key ways in which the University raises funds to support student scholarships, hardship bursaries, library acquisitions, improvements to campus and support for student activities. Your generosity can help us maintain excellence, attract the best students and enhance their teaching and learning environment.

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS. Thank you.

Name
Address
Postcode

I wish to make a donation of (please tick):
£25  £50  £100  £250  £500  Other amount £

HOW TO GIVE
Online at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni
By cheque, made payable to University of Sussex
By credit card: Mastercard, Visa or Switch

Card number
Expiry date  Issue number (Switch only)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (UK taxpayers only)
I would like the University of Sussex to reclaim tax on this donation. I pay at least as much in income tax or capital gains tax as the amount the University will reclaim (currently 28p for every £1 given).

Signature
Date

I would like to receive a legacy information brochure (please tick).

Thank you for your support.
Please return your completed donation form to:
Development and Alumni Relations, University of Sussex, Bramber House, Freepost (BR 380), Brighton BN1 1ZZ.

‘As a student, I am very aware of the financial difficulties that some students face while at university, so to me the phonathon was a great way to contribute towards helping students. It was a very positive experience and was fantastic to talk to so many alumni who still care and feel connected to Sussex. It made me realise that I’d definitely want to keep in touch once I’ve graduated and give something back to the University.’

Caroline Tomes, second year sociology student
A gift in your will can help the future of Sussex

From the outset the University of Sussex was different. Its striking location and architecture, its interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research, and its social engagement and international outlook set it apart. Now in its fifth decade it is an institution of national and international importance and maintains a unique vitality and enthusiasm.

But in a time of significant change in higher education, Sussex cannot stand still. The University has to be ready for new challenges and opportunities so that Sussex alumni can continue to make a difference both to society and to individual lives. To do that, it needs the support of friends who recognise that it has a vital role to play – regionally, nationally and internationally – in the years ahead.

A gift in your will can live on in perpetuity, making a real difference to the lives of many new generations of Sussex students. It really is simple to do, costs nothing now and whether your gift is large or small, it is an enduring way to honour and support an institution that has made an impact on your life and on the lives of many others, both in the UK and around the world.

Audrey Gates is currently undertaking postgraduate research in life history at Sussex and has decided to leave a gift in her will to the University. As Audrey says, ‘making a will provokes thought, not just about people who have been important in one’s life, but also one’s own past achievements, challenges and enjoyments and the inspiration for them. I am a retired social worker and Sussex has been an inspiration for me. I’ve decided to leave a legacy to Sussex because I feel its work is life enhancing. I shall be happy knowing that my bequest will help another older disabled student to enjoy the pleasures of research.’

“ I’ve decided to leave a legacy to Sussex because I feel its work is life enhancing. I shall be happy knowing that my bequest will help another older disabled student to enjoy the pleasures of research.”

To find out more about making a gift in your will to Sussex, please request a free legacy information brochure by ticking the box on the reply form on the previous page (page 15), ensuring that you have filled in your name and address. Alternatively, please call the Development and Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0) 1273 876574 or email: alumni@sussex.ac.uk
Sussex sounds of the sixties

The recently released CD, Ice Man, by the group Ice has been compiled by Mo Foster (MAPS 1964), Glyn James (ENGAM 1962) and John Carter (MAPS 1964). It brings together the nostalgic sounds of the 1960s at the University of Sussex, including three tracks recorded in the debating chamber in Falmer House and is an absolute must for all sixties completists.

In 1967 and 1968, Ice were a much-touted but slightly mysterious recording band, constantly on the radio, but seldom seen on television and never live. The group was a descendant of the original University of Sussex group, The Baskervilles, formed in the early sixties by Alan Kauffman (MAPS 1962), Brian Davis (MAPS 1963), Grant Serpell (MAPS 1962), Kris Johnson (ENGAM 1962) and Glyn James. As many will recall, the sixties were an exciting time to be making music and the scene at Sussex was no exception. The ‘University Hop’ regularly saw visitors dropping by to perform, including Paul Simon and Marianne Faithful, and acts to top the bill at the University dances included Eric Clapton, David Bowie and Pink Floyd.

Due to academic pressures, band members came and went and The Baskervilles later became James Jonson inc. and, later still, Russels Clump (named after a clump of trees on the Sussex campus). Ice was the following version of the band, which went on to record singles and regular live sessions on the radio. By this stage, Glyn and Grant had been joined by Lynton Naiff (MAPS 1963), John Carter and Steve Turner. Ice played an enormous variety of music born from the fact that the band members came from differing musical backgrounds: Grant and Lynton were heavily influenced by jazz, John and Glyn had choral training and Steve played spare, soul-based guitar.

Although the band were very serious about Ice, they unfortunately broke up because they could not get from the publishers or the record company the terms and conditions necessary for them to sustain and develop the band. So to produce the Ice Man CD nearly 40 years on has been a very poignant and memorable project for all those involved. Ice Man is available from Angel Air Records at: www.angelair.co.uk

In memoriam

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

**Staff**
- Professor Charles Cooper (EAPS 1986)
- Rev Dr Sergei Hackel (SOC 1964)
- Dr Eric Peeling (EAPS 1975)
- Alison Northrop (SOC 1996)
- Kevin Tandy (LAW 1997)
- James F Thornley OBE (AFRAS 1982)

**Alumni**
- Eunice Aubrey (née Wale) (ENGAM 1962)
- Barbara Balchin (MAPS 1963)
- George Blazyca (MAPS 1962)
- Barbara J Bryson (MAPS 1967)
- Anna Hackel (née Clarke) (ARTS 1974)
- Marjorie Kingsland (EURO 1962)

In response to suggestions from readers, we have now included submitted obituaries online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

Alumni Study Awards

The University is very proud that so many students go on from undergraduate to postgraduate study at Sussex, and from masters level to doctoral research. The University has therefore decided to reward that loyalty by introducing Alumni Study Awards. This scheme gives practical expression to how much the University values alumni loyalty. Awards for alumni entering postgraduate studies have a value of approximately 10 per cent of fees and are available to fully self-financing students. They will be awarded as a cash sum at the beginning of the spring term.

Full details of the Alumni Study Awards, eligibility conditions and other aspects of the scheme are available online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumnistudyawards
The second World Trade Center collapse

In August last year, architect Derek Jones built two full-scale 110-storey skyscrapers entirely out of wooden blocks. When the mammoth task was complete, he realised his constructions were almost exact replicas of the World Trade Center towers. So, along with a journalist, he invited a friend who had lost a relative in the September 11th attacks to sit inside the towers with him. Then, with the three of them still inside, he knocked the towers down.

The journalist, Wagner James Au, panicked when he lost sight of the horizon. ‘You want to run to a window and leap out, if only to get clear of the turmoil,’ he reported of how it felt to be inside a collapsing building. ‘But in an instant, there simply is no window to jump from. Or even a floor on which to run.’ The sound of clattering wood surrounded them like machine-gun fire. As the towers fell, time seemed to slow to a crawl. Then, the whole world crashed to a halt.

All of this is true. None of this is real. Derek was in his apartment in Chicago. James Au was in his office in San Francisco. The buildings themselves were in the Olive district of an entirely virtual world called Second Life. The towers, which had taken just a day to build, were the largest constructions Second Life had ever seen. When they fell, the world crashed. Every player was ejected.

Mankind has always dreamed of magical kingdoms where the self could rest and be refurbished. Heaven, Shangri-La, Oz; places over the rainbow where life could be renewed, and all loss made good. Now, thanks to computer technology, we have materialised a new kind of heaven; perfected worlds where human beings can finally move in and take up residence. Each week, worldwide, over 27 million people – more than passed through US immigration at Ellis Island throughout the whole of the 20th century – abandon our reality for virtual worlds, in the same way Americans once abandoned old Europe. This time, though, the new worlds are empty except for us, and shaped entirely to our desires.

In these brave new virtual worlds, in accelerated time and with accelerated ease, you can become anything you please: deep-sea diver; fashionista; architect; hot-air-balloon tour guide; embedded virtual-world journalist for a virtual magazine. You can rent a duplex, to shelter from the virtual rain. You can build houses, make and sell works of art, work, get married, divorce, and die. Through the electronic looking glass, in these new utopias, you can’t physically hurt other people; but you can offend them.

After the twin towers had fallen a second, virtual, time, architect Derek Jones and his friends logged back in to Second Life. By then, the collapse was complete. Standing among the rubble, James Au asked the friend who had lost a relative in the first collapse how it had felt to be inside the second time. ‘It was closure for me,’ he said. ‘I wanted to know just what he went through. How it would have felt for him. Second Life allows me to do that and live to tell the tale.’

In the rubble of the towers, a virtual crowd began to form. Then the crowd began to argue. Some were fascinated by the spectacle. Others were furious at such insensitive reenactment. Later, the argument spilled onto the Second Life bulletin boards. ‘It’s unfortunate that in a place where no physical harm can come to us, we still find ways to hurt each other,’ wrote Ananda Sandgrain, a Manhattan resident in her first life. The event was ‘tasteless’, David Cartier thought, and James Au’s coverage was ‘sensationalist and exploitative’.

Others disagreed. ‘If you didn’t like what was going on, then you could just go elsewhere,’ Rising Shadow wrote. ‘We share a multicultural world of diverse ideas,’ added Kohne Kato. ‘For our own sanity, we must be tolerant. This is just a game,’ said Brad Lupis.

‘Yet another one who just doesn’t get it,’ Grim Lupis (no relation) replied. ‘This is just a game.
to you. To others, it’s something completely different.’

This year, Second Life residents constructed hundreds of 9-11 memorials. Most avoided controversy; they built virtual memorial gardens, or virtual memorial plaques, or virtual memorial statues of New York firemen raising a virtual stars and stripes. But one resident, Sexy Casanova, bit the bullet, and constructed a much more detailed replica of the World Trade Center. Perhaps crucially for his popularity ratings, he didn’t knock them down. Even so, many residents took a while to accept the new buildings. ‘At first I thought it was morbid,’ Olympia Reebus said about the towers’ third incarnation. ‘But now I realise it’s a way to “never forget”.’

Throughout millennia, mankind has dreamed alone. Cinema brightened our dreams with a lightbulb, so everyone could see. Now, suddenly, in our virtual worlds, we are able to share and inhabit each others’ dreams. But wherever human beings share things, fights break out, and our virtual worlds are no exception. In moments like the second World Trade Center crash, the intended utopia descends into yet another struggle over right and wrong.

‘I have a question,’ Emericus Phaeton writes in the final 9-11 comment on the Second Life bulletin board. ‘When does Third Life come out so we can escape our Second one?’


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In March 2005, Sachiko Okumura (IDS 1990) received the first Alumni Award from the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alasdair Smith, during his visit to Japan. This award will be given annually to recognise outstanding alumni contribution to the University of Sussex.

Sachiko has led the Japanese Sussex Alumni Association in Tokyo since 1997. Under her leadership the group has gone from strength to strength and although the success of the group has been dependent upon the energy and enthusiasm of several volunteers, Sachiko’s determination and commitment have been instrumental. Over the years, both Sachiko and fellow alumni have offered a tremendous amount of support to both prospective and returning Japanese students, as well as to the international recruitment efforts in Japan.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office would like to take this opportunity to thank all alumni volunteers, both in the UK and overseas, who provide invaluable help to the University in many different ways.

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Do your sporting days at Sussex seem like a distant dream? Do you ever wonder what your fellow teammates are doing now?

The Students’ Union and Sussexsport are keen to take alumni involvement in sport at Sussex to a higher level. Whilst there are already alumni sporting events at the University, they would like to encourage more people to return to campus and get involved.

One of the most legendary of these events is held on FA Cup Final day each year. Alumni from the men’s football teams across the years (some from as far back as the early 70s) return to campus and their old stomping grounds to join the current crop of student athletes for a six-a-side competition.

March 2005 saw the current rugby cohort given a lesson in old school rugby by former Sussex players and hockey team alumni are due to join forces with this year’s student team on the annual pilgrimage to Purley.

Given the success of these and other events, USSU Sport and Sussexsport are set to embark on an ambitious alumni sports programme, which will eventually lead to an amalgamation of all alumni sports events into one colossal alumni sports weekend sometime in 2008. The new format will see the introduction of netball, hockey and basketball to the current programme, and there are talks of coinciding the event with the annual Sports Awards Dinner.

If you are interested in finding out more or have contacts with members of your old teams, please pass on your details to CJ Lee, Sports Development Manager, at c.j.lee@sussex.ac.uk
Events and reunions

Events on campus
An exciting programme of public lectures is planned for the autumn and spring terms 2005/2006, with leading academics speaking at Sussex. Details on the subjects of the lectures will be published on the University’s website in due course: www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/news/diary
The lectures are free and open to all. For further details and to RSVP please contact Sue Hepburn on +44 (0) 1273 877488 or email: s.j.hepburn@sussex.ac.uk

5 October 2005
9th Marie Jahoda Annual Lecture (SPRU)
Professor Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Advisor, DFID

18 October 2005 Professorial Lecture
Richard Black, Professor of Human Geography

27 October 2005 British Academy Lecture
Pippa Skotnes, Professor of Art History

2 November 2005 South Downs Health NHS Trust Annual Discourse
Sir Crispin Tickell, Chancellor of the University of Kent

8 November 2005 Professorial Lecture
Brian Short, Professor of Geography

16 November 2005 BSMS Inaugural Lecture
Professor Helen Smith, Chair of Primary Care

24 November 2005 Martin Wright Lecture
Mark Mazower, Professor of History

29 November 2005 Professorial Lecture
Lindsay Smith, Professor of English

24 January 2006 Professorial Lecture
Judy Sebba, Professor of Education

21 February 2006 Professorial Lecture
Sue Hartley, Professor of Ecology

7 March 2006 Professorial Lecture
Paul Gough, Professor of Space Science

Strengthening links in East Asia
The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, Professor Alasdair Smith, visited China and Japan earlier this year with representatives from the International and Study Abroad Office to help strengthen Sussex’s contacts with alumni, universities and organisations such as the British Council.

Meeting alumni was an important feature of the trip. In Beijing, Shanghai and Tokyo, the Vice-Chancellor hosted receptions at which alumni spoke about their time at Sussex and its influence on their careers. In the Chinese capital, Zhang Xin (SOC 1988) spoke about her first impressions of Sussex. In Shanghai, Wang Ye (IDS 1999) recalled the friendly support of her tutors and commented on the importance of building links with institutions in China. Following these events, alumni were keen to discuss developing a closer network among themselves and with Sussex.

The Vice-Chancellor also attended a reception in Osaka, where alumni have formed a new group and launched a website in support of Sussex’s alumni activities. Commenting on the visit, Professor Smith said, ‘Sussex enjoys a high reputation abroad for which our alumni are a major contributory factor because of the positions they occupy and the direct involvement several of them have in promoting the University. It was a great pleasure to be able to recognise their efforts during this trip.’

25th anniversary reunion
17 and 18 September 2005
1980 freshers

There has been a lot of interest in this year’s reunion and arrangements for the weekend are well under way. The programme for the event will provisionally include:

Welcome lunch with ‘dutch courage’ • Mix, mingle and meet up with old friends • 1980 reunion photo • Campus tours led by current students • Discussion session with Sussex faculty • Buffet supper followed by a disco in Falmer bar

Overnight accommodation is available on campus.

If you started your studies at Sussex in 1980, we do hope you will join us for an entertaining trip down memory lane. Partners and alumni from the same era, but from other intakes, are also very welcome to attend.

If you have not yet booked or are interested in finding out more, please contact Sue Hepburn at: s.j.hepburn@sussex.ac.uk or on +44 (0) 1273 877488 as soon as possible, as places are limited.

Dates for your diary
Upcoming 25th anniversary reunions:
1981 freshers
16 and 17 September 2006
1982 freshers
15 and 16 September 2007

New alumni group in Paris
In June of this year, Sussex alumni in Paris got together as a group for the first time for a social evening with the aim of establishing a permanent Sussex alumni group in the French capital. There has been a lot of interest from alumni keen to be involved, and there has already been a collaboration with the Oxbridge alumni society in Paris, when Sussex alumni joined them for an enactment of Romeo and Juliet in the Shakespeare garden. For further information please email: alumni@sussex.ac.uk

IDS Reunion
Last April IDS celebrated its fourth alumni reunion, centred around the theme ‘Security or insecurity: changing states and debates in development’. Staff, students, friends and alumni from around the globe took part in this special celebration. The event was extremely well received, especially from alumni, who appreciated the opportunity to revisit IDS and reconnect with old friends, as well as to make new acquaintances and take part in an intellectually stimulating programme.

To read more about the reunion, see the Alumni and Friends website at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumninews
Sussex people
Your favourite pages: who is doing what and where?

60s
Andrew Nunn (MAPS 1962) is an associate director of the MRC Clinical Trials Unit and has recently been involved in a clinical trial in Zambia which demonstrated that deaths in children with HIV could be almost halved by administering a cheap antibiotic. He is currently working on the development of microbicides to protect vulnerable women from HIV infection.

60s
Steve Murray (née Bishop) (BIOLS 1969) will accompany Steve, having earlier worked as a consultant for the World Wildlife Fund in Kuala Lumpur and as a Senior Environmental Planner in Perth.

60s
Since obtaining his DPhil in physics in 1969, Peter Ford (MAPS 1965) has worked for a number of universities in Europe as well as nine years at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Since 1989 Peter has been in the Department of Physics at the University of Bath. He has recently published a book entitled *The Rise of Superconductors*, with his colleague George Saunders.

60s
John Spiers (ENGAM 1965), who is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Studies at the University of London, has been recently appointed as a Visiting Fellow in the Ruskin Programme at Lancaster University. He has also completed the editing for Palgrave McMillan of *Gissing and the City: Cultural Challenge and the Making of Books in Late-Victorian England*, to be published in September.

60s
Having been Principal of a British international school in Kuala Lumpur and recently an educational consultant in Perth, Western Australia, Steve Murray (SOC 1968) is moving to be headmaster of an international school in Belgium. Dee Murray (née Bishop) (BIOLS 1969) will accompany Steve, having earlier worked as a corporate director of Social Services for Tower Hamlets. His team has recently been awarded the ‘UK management team of the year’ by the *Local Government Chronicle*. The borough has also received three stars in the Social Services star ratings (an achievement equivalent to West Ham winning the Premiership!). He, of course, gives the bulk of the credit to his staff, maintaining that it is the people at all levels of the Council that have made the difference.

70s
Ian Wilson (ENGG 1970) is the Corporate Director of Social Services for Tower Hamlets. His team has recently been awarded the ‘UK management team of the year’ by the *Local Government Chronicle*. The borough has also received three stars in the Social Services star ratings (an achievement equivalent to West Ham winning the Premiership!). He, of course, gives the bulk of the credit to his staff, maintaining that it is the people at all levels of the Council that have made the difference.

70s
Hilary Benn (EURO 1971), who has been Secretary of State for International Development since 2003, retained his position in the Cabinet reshuffle in May.

70s
Congratulations to Peter Hain (ARTS 1973) on his appointment as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. This is in addition to his brief as Secretary of State for Wales.

70s
Chris Huxham (MAPS 1973) has been studying business collaborations for 15 years in the University of Strathclyde Business School and the Advanced Institute of Management Research. In collaboration with Siv Vangen, she has pulled together her research in her new book *Managing to Collaborate*, where she explores in detail the nature of collaborations and partnerships between public, commercial and voluntary organisations.

70s
Richard McNeff (ENGAM 1974) has had his novel, *Sybarite Among the Shadows*, published. The novel finds Victor Neuburg and Dylan Thomas setting off for the Surrealist Exhibition. After finding Salvador Dalí and Wyndham Lewis and listening to Andre Breton’s opening speech, they trawl Bohemian London until they meet Aleister Crowley, who is employed by MI5 as part of a plot involving Prince Edward and Wallis Simpson.

70s
Reza Karkia (ENGAM 1974) is currently Executive Director of Academic Affairs at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He also invests his time in public service helping to shape policy and form regulation for both public and private sectors.

70s
Stephen Whittle (AFRAS 1977) was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s honours list for services to Gender Issues. Stephen is head of the Graduate School in the Faculty of Humanities, Law and Social Science at Manchester Metropolitan University. ‘Gender Issues’ is government shorthand for Stephen’s 30 years of involvement with support and campaigning organisations for transgender and transsexual people.

70s
Bernardo Méndez-Lugo (IDS 1979), currently Consul for Trade and Business Promotion at the Consulate General of Mexico in San Francisco, recently came back to campus for the Fourth IDS alumni reunion that took place on April 2005. Commenting on the event, Bernardo said, ‘it was invaluable to revisit a place that holds so much importance in my life and which has shaped my understanding of world development.’
80s

**80s** After teaching English for Economics and for Law at the University of Genova for 16 years, **Barbara Bangs** (EURO 1982) now runs a course of English for Psychology at the University of Parma. Barbara says the course requires careful preparation and study of the terminology, but it is rewarding and inevitably leads to self-analysis.

**80s** Congratulations to **Calestous Juma** (SPRU 1983), director of the Belfer Center’s Science, Technology, and Globalisation project and Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, who has been elected a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. Juma has been elected a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences and has been recently awarded the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR) in recognition of his services to Nigeria.

**80s** Having worked for Unilever and Guinness in West Africa for nearly 40 years, **John Brown** (AFRAS 1986) has recently been awarded the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR) in recognition of his services to Nigeria. After 11 years in Sierra Leone, John was transferred in 1966 to Nigeria, where he and his family remained on and off for 26 years. He is now retired but currently the vice-chairman of the West Africa Business Association.

**80s** **Stephen Jolly** (COGS 1986) has been recently appointed as the Director of External Affairs and Communications at the University of Cambridge. Stephen has previously held a wide range of roles in international corporate communications, with Japanese investment bank Nomura International, HSBC Holdings plc, Coopers & Lybrand and most recently, Regus Group, where he was Group Communications Director responsible for communications across 55 countries.

**80s** **Penelope M Jolley** (BIOLS 1987) has just completed an MSc in Physical Activity, Nutrition and Public Health, and has her own health promotion business based in the West Country.

**80s** **Sir Ronald Sanders** KCMB, KCN (ARTS 1988), former Caribbean Ambassador and now corporate executive, has published **Crumbled Small: The Commonwealth Caribbean in World Politics**. The book is a candid account of the situation of these countries in the international system. As an insider in Caribbean political affairs, Sir Ronald details the serious problems confronting a region whose reality is too often distorted by the postcard images of sunny beaches and rum punches.

**80s** After graduating from Sussex in Biochemistry, **Tiina J Mutru** (BIOLS 1989) obtained an MSc in Nutrition in 1994. For the past 10 years she has worked around Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland) for NGOs, UN and EU organisations and academia in the field of nutrition, food and public health. She recently returned to the UK to work for Unilever.

**90s** **Singer-songwriter Rosie Brown** (CCS 1990) has released the album **Clocks and Clouds**, which has received very good reviews. At their South London studio, Rosie and Austrian guitarist and co-writer Bernd Rest have set up Stück Records, where they recorded and produced their critically acclaimed debut album, **By the Blue**, as well as **Clocks and Clouds**.

**90s** After a 10-year break, **Justin A Fisher** (CCS 1991) has begun writing again and has just been commissioned as a freelance contributor to the international monthly glossy publication, **High Life**. His first piece for the magazine, ‘Members Only’, will be published in July’s issue.

**90s** **Last March Holly North** (CCS 1991) was awarded 3 BAFTAS for leading Culture Online projects Stagework (in the categories Learning and Factual) and Headline History (in Children’s Learning category). Holly is a Development Producer within Culture Online, part of the commissioning team within the UK Government’s Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The project is designed to engage audiences in new ways with culture and the arts, using a range of new technologies.

**90s** Having spent the last two years stationed in Lesotho in Southern Africa as the European Commission’s economic and technical advisor, **Kai Holst Andersen** (AFRAS 1992) is now working in the Directorate-General for External Relations of the Commission in Brussels.
90s  In April 2005 Gillian Stewart (EAM 1992) successfully passed her doctorate viva, thus completing her PhD in International Development from the University of Bristol. Gill is now living in Auckland, New Zealand, working for Oxfam.

90s  James Arnold (ENGG 1993) is now living in France and running his own company helping English people to restore their houses using local French artisans. He is project managing full restorations.

90s  Aled G Jones (EURO 1993) is going to cycle the length of Britain in just 10 days. ‘I had the idea to cycle from Lands End to John O’Groats (the UK ‘End to End’) about four years ago. Aside from the challenge of covering all that distance under my own steam I thought it was a great way to raise some money for a very worthy cause’. He is supporting the Rwenzori Development Foundation which runs development and conservation projects in and around the Rwenzori National Park area of Uganda.

90s  Hans Holsen (ENGAM 1994) spent his junior year abroad at Sussex. He is now acting and doing improvisational comedy in Chicago.

90s  After completing her DPhil in Media and Cultural studies in 2002, Carla Rose Shapiro (MEDIA 1995) received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship. Supported by the Department of History at the University of Toronto, her research will examine representations of the Holocaust and genocide survivors in exhibitions at a number of museums in Canada.

90s  Working as the media and website manager for the rock band Muse (Brit Awards: Best Live Act), Tom Kirk (EAM 1996) is managing/editing DVD footage and filming the band on tour worldwide. Nominated for ‘EMI best website’ work, but was beaten to the gong by…EMI!

90s  Jekabs Zerins (BIOLS 1996) was caught in 2004 in the Tsunami in Sri Lanka. He now runs a small charity helping to build a small town in that country, and also works for a small NGO.

90s  Thomas Clammer (AFRAS 1998) is due to be ordained to the Diaconate of the Church of England on 3rd July and is moving from Cambridge to Gloucester to take up his first clerical post.

90s  After many years of working in television reportages in Greece and Spain, Philippos (Pipos) Vardakas (EURO 1998) is now in the midst of putting together his first creative documentary as a director. The project is about two gypsy communities that share the same language, music and culture but are living divided by political frontiers. Pipos is now based in Barcelona.

00s  Working as the media and website manager for the rock band Muse (Brit Awards: Best Live Act), Tom Kirk (EAM 1996) is managing/editing DVD footage and filming the band on tour worldwide. Nominated for ‘EMI best website’ work, but was beaten to the gong by…EMI!

00s  Richard Guthrie (SPRU 2001) is now working in Sweden at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute running a research project dealing with chemical and biological warfare issues.

00s  Daniel R Fieller (IRP 2001) is about to be posted to Mozambique where he will be Vice-Consul and Press and Public Affairs Officer in the British High Commission.

00s  Edward Renshaw (MUSIC 2001) founded 6 foot 4 foot Productions in 2005. His company provides sound engineering solutions to fashion and retail labels in London. Edward is also involved in re-mixing/mastering and archiving of third party music and developing a career as a concert guitarist.

00s  Jemma Armstrong (SLS 2002) is taking part in a tough challenge in China to raise funds for five children’s charities. She will trek along 60km of the Great Wall of China over nine days in September. Jemma will find it particularly arduous as she was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in April 2004. She left her post within the Prolific Offenders Team at Sussex Probation and returned to her parents in order to focus on her health and her challenging fundraising project.
Memories of Sussex

Following the success of this section in the previous issue of Falmer, below is a further selection of the memories of Sussex that many of you sent to us through the Alumni Questionnaire 2004.

At the time, the glorious, continuous interaction with other students; in retrospect, the intellectual rigor.

William J Callaway (ENGAM 1962)

The ‘pioneering spirit’. New ideas and the development of new ideals.

Lynne M Taylor (MAPS 1963)

Debates, demonstrations, lively seminars and cutting-edge thinking. Fantastic diversity of people.

Martin H Large (AFRAS 1967)

The green spaces and pools on campus, and looking out to Stanmer Park from the library.

Gillian Saul (CCS 1973)

Three years of academic excellence coupled with international interaction.

Muhammad Y Niazi (ARTS 1981)

Professor John Maynard Smith – a fabulous personality, brilliant lectures.

Paul A Robinson (BIOLS 1984)

Being part of an institution with such a charged radical/political history which reverberates still.

Amanda J Pittman (EAM 1995)

Revising on the library slopes in the sunshine.

Beth M Hasbury (SLS 2000)

As a mature student, the sense of not being discriminated against, and the inclusivity: the underlying feeling that one was part of a centre of excellence.

Barbara J Thomas (ART HISTORY 2000)

Message board

Alumni listed below can be contacted via the Development and Alumni Relations Office at: alumni@sussex.ac.uk

Martin Large (AFRAS 1967) would welcome hearing from any friends not seen since the early 1970s.

Anne Gray (née Bedser) (BIOLS 1968) would love to hear from any of the dozen or so fellow geographers who studied with her in BIOLS.

Peter Holt (ARTS 1971) and Tony Murdoch (SOC 1962), organisers of the Swiss Alumni Group, would like to get back in contact with:

Bettina Muller (SOC 1972)
Joanna Goodrick (EURO 1988)
Vincent Leysen (EURO 1997)
Amand Sabatier (SOC 1999)

They would also like to ask that any alumni interested in the Swiss Alumni Group keep their email details up to date with the Development and Alumni Relations Office and check the Swiss alumni page on the Alumni and Friends website at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumnidirectory

Naomi Hartnel (née Rubin) (CCS 1973) would really like to make contact with Helen Thomas, who studied developmental psychology from 1971 to 1974.

Martin Collett (ENGG 1981) would love to contact Fauzi Ismail (ENG 1981), Mauro Tobin (MAPS 1981) or anyone who remembers him.

Richard Miles (MOLS 1984) is now living in Dubai, UAE. He wishes to contact Karen Kozielski, Andrew Kluth, Peter Christodoulou, Nigel Gotts and Shaun Fletcher from MOLS 1984 and 1987.

Angela Ardington (EDUC 1984) has been living in Sydney for the past 15 years and is married to Ed Sciberras (ARTS 1973). She would love to hear from anyone who remembers her.

David Dallaire (ARTS 1987) wanted to let old friends know that he returned to the US last year after spending 15 years in Japan. He would love to hear from Brunswick Place flatmates.

David Berger (ENGAM 1994) would love to hear from any of his former flatmates and friends. He is currently living in Virginia, USA.

Bookmark

Vichy, Resistance, Liberation. New Perspectives in Wartime France
Edited by Hanna Diamond (ARTS 1986) and Simon Kitson (HISTORY 1992). Published in hardback by BERG in 2005.

Bringing together key international scholars, Vichy, Resistance, Liberation. New Perspectives on Wartime France offers an original insight into this critical period of modern France. The collection pays tribute to the work of Professor Rod Kedward, a Sussex historian who, according to the editors, ‘did so much to shape the British perception of France during his 40 years of teaching and researching at the University of Sussex.’

In seeking to understand war from a social perspective, the contributors focus on individuals and communities. Wars are moments which forever alter the emphasis of social expression, with rumours emerging as a major aspect of daily life. Wars are also periods offering new possibilities to individuals. The various contributors explore the lives of previously little known individuals in Vichy France, emphasise some of the forgotten actors of the period, and uncover new information about women’s experiences in Vichy France.

Vichy, Resistance, Liberation breaks down traditional chronological barriers and moves away from straightforward political history to reflect the current interest in socio-cultural aspects of the Second World War.
1996 – The Sussex Innovation Centre opens its doors to new high-tech start-ups. A venture based at the University of Sussex and backed by a unique partnership of academics and local authorities. The project is viewed as risky, market research isn’t promising, and Brighton isn’t Cambridge.

2000 – After four years perfecting new chemical reagents for the genomics industry, a biology professor leads his company, Genpak, to a back-to-back merger and float on the London Stock Exchange. Wire launches new intelligent internet agent software for the insurance industry and is acquired by one of the world’s largest reinsurance companies. A young researcher from Sussex starts Sigmer to develop new artificial intelligence and database applications; in a few years it will have over 20 employees and a blue-chip client base. A serial internet entrepreneur starts EHBAS and designs a complete system for buying and selling houses online. The Director of the Innovation Centre is named Sussex Businessman of the Year.

2004 – Working with the University, a Sussex PhD student develops an artificial intelligence system for reading news-stories and determining the sentiment. His company Algorithmix is sold to Corpora plc. Golf Punk magazine is launched, a new innovative sports title created by one of the founders of Loaded magazine. Destiny Pharma raises additional investment to take their new anti-bacterial MRSA drug towards clinical trials. Gypsy Gyro, a revolutionary system for ‘motion capture’, achieves first sales in the animation and gaming sector for its developers Animazoo. Evigilator launch their new biometrics software to make cheating impossible during online examinations. The Innovation Centre is named as one of the top two business incubators in the UK. Business Incubator awards.

People tell me I have a great job. Everyday I meet people with new business and technology ideas; my job is to try and choose the best ones and to help them succeed. There are few things in life more satisfying than helping someone achieve their potential. More than 100 new companies have come through the incubation process at the Innovation Centre. As well as the high profile ‘exits’ and rapid growth achievements, we are also proud that over 90 of our companies are still successfully trading in the Brighton area – most of them established by ex-staff or students from the University.

And help them we do. The Centre has a great reputation for providing direct practical support to entrepreneurs. Our business accommodation is superb, but far more important than this, we work with individual directors to develop their ambition, their management understanding, their business model and sales skills. We mentor their strategic vision, introduce professional advisors and assist with raising investment capital. But just as importantly, we introduce proper accounts procedures, sort out banking arrangements, create academic links and introduce them to potential customers. This all happens in an environment which engenders confidence and collaboration, which takes away the isolation of being a lone entrepreneur and allows companies to appear more substantial. The Centre has become a model of best practice for business incubation in the UK and internationally.

In 2003 the Sussex Innovation Centre became a subsidiary of the University of Sussex. This change in ownership, together with the completion of an extension to the incubator, launched a new phase in the Centre’s development. By bringing together the research resources and intellectual property expertise of the University with the entrepreneurship and business development strengths of the Innovation Centre, we can make an even greater impact on the economic development of the region.

Anyone who knows Brighton knows that there is no shortage of new ideas; the city is an inspiration. But finding that combination of unique technology, a great business opportunity, real ambition and entrepreneurial skills is rare. To simply dismiss a good idea because the Managing Director doesn’t have the requisite experience or market knowledge would be to waste an opportunity. We believe that you cannot simply support these businesses, we have to help build them. It is recognising that some ideas are bigger than the individual or company that created them. It is about money, but not exclusively. You need the ambition and the confidence to create an innovative business, not just inventive technology.

As I said earlier, they tell me I have a great job. It is fascinating and very rewarding working with people that are passionate about their new ideas, to work on what’s possible, not just what’s practical. We are always looking for people that share that passion, who would like to help us create and build new businesses.

Mike Herd
Executive Director
Sussex Innovation Centre
mike@sinc.co.uk
www.sinc.co.uk
‘For me, the major advantage of a university education is to train the brain. The brain is like any muscle; it needs flexing; it needs to work. Sussex did an excellent job of providing this training for me.’

Tanya Sarne (AFRAS 1964)
Founder and creative director of Ghost

www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni