A life of diplomacy: Tom Macan reflects upon his 36 years in Diplomatic Service/
Promoting mobility in a globalised world, by Professor Richard Black/Common
treasure: Dr Jonathan Hare tells us about wrestling with his latest scientific ventures/In the spotlight: John Altman talks to Falmer/Make apathy history: Leo Hickman embarks on an experiment in ethical living
Welcome, once again, to the latest edition of Falmor, the University of Sussex magazine.

This year we celebrate the third consecutive increase in student applications at Sussex since the restructuring of the arts curriculum in 2002. In fact, over these three years, applications have gone up by 50 per cent. The continuing rise in student applications has meant yet another year in which we did not go into clearing for any of our mainstream programmes, and in which the academic quality of the intake has risen still higher. The successful curriculum review, together with the opening of new buildings and research centres, reflect our ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation, and our aspiration to continue being recognised as a leading centre for teaching and research.

I have personally taken great pleasure in reporting this good news when meeting alumni and other friends of the University. Over the past twelve months, I have had the opportunity to meet many former students to hear their views about Sussex and to share and discuss with them the future plans and direction of the University. I cannot think of a single meeting which hasn’t been extremely helpful and stimulating, and I am grateful to everyone I have met for their commitment and willingness to assist the University at this critical time.

Alumni play a crucial role in the life of the University – past, present and future. It is, after all, through the work of our graduates that the University makes its greatest contribution to society. As Vice-Chancellor, I take great pride in the successful and fulfilling careers that so many graduates have developed in so many fields and in hearing about the enormous influence that Sussex has played in preparing you for the path you have chosen in life.

I shall look forward with enthusiasm to more fruitful discussions with alumni and friends over the next few months. Of course, it would be a pleasure to welcome you all to one of our many public events, and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to return to campus to take advantage of our recently enhanced Sussex Lectures series. This academic year Sussex is host to a particularly exciting programme of public lectures delivered by highly prominent visiting speakers and leading Sussex academics. I do hope that you will be able to join us at what have become highly popular campus events. The lectures are testament to the breadth and quality of research being conducted at Sussex, while offering the opportunity of engaging in intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking presentations.

I look forward to welcoming you back to campus and to meeting as many of you as possible in the near future.

With best wishes,

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor
**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

### Protecting endangered spider monkey

The University of Sussex is working with local communities in Ecuador to help save one of the world’s rarest species of monkey and the endangered rainforest where it lives.

The brown-headed spider monkey (Ateles fusciceps) is critically endangered, which means that without urgent action to protect the 50 known breeding pairs still in the wild, the species could become extinct. The spider monkey – unusual in that it is exclusively a fruit-eater – is under threat because up to 80 per cent of the dense rainforest that it depends on for food has been destroyed.

**Scientists at the University of Sussex** have launched the PRIMENET Project to tackle the crisis. Its aim is to determine how best to protect the monkey populations, now restricted to rainforest reserves in northwest Ecuador; then educate local communities to continue the work and ensure the spider monkey’s long-term survival.

**Environmental biologist Dr Mika Peck** from the University of Sussex is coordinating the project. He has secured £230,000 funding for the project over three years through the Government-sponsored Darwin Initiative to aid conservation in biodiverse regions around the world. He will also assist, along with colleagues from the geography department, in remote sensing research. This involves analysing satellite data to see where rainforest is at risk from development or logging.

Dr Peck became involved in this project as a result of his previous work on environmental projects in South America and his research into deforestation. He also has a passion for the region where the project will be based – the Los Cedros Biological Reserve in the Ecuadorian Andes, on the doorstep of the spider monkey habitat. This is one of the most beautiful places in the world, he says. ‘It can only be reached by Donkey, trekking for five hours. It is a fairy-tale setting – orchids, hummingbirds, big cats, tapirs, moths the size of dinner plates – and is one of the richest areas for bird species.’

**Protecting all of this, says Dr Peck, is key to the spider monkey campaign. The spider monkey is a “flagship” species. If they are protected then everything else in the surrounding environment is too, and one of the rare biodiversity-rich habitats of the world is preserved.’**

The work will involve: building of a scientific research and education centre at Los Cedros, where locals from a number of indigenous groups will learn how to collect scientific data and monitor monkey populations. Other strands of the project will focus on supporting Conservation International in developing ‘corridors’ to link nature reserves in the region. Teams of scientists will also study the area’s flora and fauna, much of which is still new to science.

In the longer term, the project aims to encourage environmentally-friendly ecotourism, offer sustainable forms of work and income for local people and offset the damage done by logging, mining and hunting – the pursuits largely responsible for destroying the rainforest on which the spider monkey and other species depend.

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### Students begin University’s first foundation degree

The University’s first foundation degree got under way this academic year, with an initial intake of almost 40 students studying at three centres across East Sussex.

**Foundation degrees are vocational qualifications designed and supported by employers to make sure that their needs are met. Core features include flexible entry requirements; a strong emphasis on practical, work-based learning and skills; and guaranteed progression to a full honours degree and/or further professional qualifications.**

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) has led the way for the region where the project will focus on supporting community development in collaboration with the University of Brighton and a range of practitioners and employers in the community and voluntary sector.

The three-year programme includes courses on social exclusion, the characteristics of organisations, the voluntary sector, working with people and international perspectives.

‘The active engagement of local people is seen as a key success factor in bringing about change and civic renewal. In this context it is really important to have people working on the ground who have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to involve and empower local people,’ said Linda Morrice, convener of the new degree.

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### University archive inspires BBC’s Lost Decade series

The Mass-Observation Archive, held at the University of Sussex, has been officially recognised as being of ‘outstanding national and international importance’. The MLA Council, the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives, chose the Mass-Observation Archive alongside 38 other collections around the UK to receive the honour.

The Archive specialises in material about everyday life in Britain, and parts of the collection were used as the basis for a recent BBC series on the ‘lost decade’ of 1945-55, highlighting the secret lives, loves and vices of post-war Britain – an era of change and social uncertainty.

One of the programmes featured in the series, Our Hidden Lives, is based on the best-selling book of the same name by Simon Garfield. It weaves together the diaries of four ordinary people to provide a vivid portrait of a nation coming to terms with the end of the war and a changing world. Garfield researched diaries of real people from the Mass-Observation Archive. Begun in the 1930s, the archive contains diaries, questionnaires and responses written by members of the public, collected and analysed by the Mass-Observation Project, with the aim of producing an ‘anthology of ourselves’.

The Archive was also the source of an even more revealing examination of the nation’s sexual habits and attitudes. Britain’s first sex survey, conducted by Mass-Observation for a Sunday newspaper, revealed a secret world of premarital sex, homosexual experience and infidelity shopping at odds with the supposedly strict moral code of the day and deemed by some to be too explosive to publish.

Little Kinsey, another programme in the Lost Decade series, tells the story of the eponymous survey, so named because it followed in the wake of America’s own sex survey, the Kinsey Report. The candid responses of hundreds of men and women provide an eye-opening alternative view of British sexual behaviour before the ‘permissive’ society.

Little Kinsey director Steve Humphries, who came across the survey while studying for a doctorate at Sussex, commented that ‘The Mass-Observation Archive is a national treasure, providing a unique insight into the lives of ordinary British people in the 20th century and beyond.’

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### Keeping the tradition of mass observation

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Dr Gillian Sebestyen-Forrester, a psychology Research Fellow at the University of Sussex, is using a novel video observation technique to learn more about how gorillas communicate with each other. As part of her research, the visual, tactile and auditory gestures of four individual gorillas were observed with one camera in close-up, while another wide-angle camera observed the responses of other gorillas in the group. She is examining the footage for regular patterns in gorilla gesture behaviour that may reveal complex communication in apes. These patterns may also hold vital clues about early human communication strategies and the evolution of language.

The way to understand the rise of verbal language is to study our closest living relatives – the great apes. Maybe because they share a similar genetic make-up, we assume they may be capable of human-like language, but this anthropomorphistic approach has not been successful in understanding how language evolved. We need to approach communication from the animal's perspective, focusing on non-verbal communication, which both humans and apes use, explains Dr Sebestyen-Forrester.

The video project, involving a group of western lowland gorillas at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent, differs from previous studies in that the observer gets two points of view at once: the perspective of the animal making the gestures, and of the other gorillas with which it is interacting. This sets the signalling used in its unique context and helps to build a clearer picture of the complexities and subtleties of the communication. Different from many past studies, Dr Sebestyen-Forrester is analysing ‘multimodal’ communication. This approach takes into consideration information that can be transferred via different sensory signals (for example: vocalisation, manual gesture, facial expression and body posture). ‘You can’t really analyse a single sensory signal and think that you are getting the whole picture. It’s like facing a burglar with a knife in a hostile posture and assessing the situation based only on their vocal signal saying, “Hey, trust me, I’m not going to hurt you,”’ she says.

Her initial visual observations show that gorillas, like us, constantly use multimodal signals to negotiate complex social networks and have developed communication strategies for keeping order and social hierarchy in their everyday lives.

Dr Sebestyen-Forrester explains, ‘although at this stage the content of what gorillas are saying to one another is out of reach, our ongoing research may help us to find some regularities in gorilla communication and learn how complex communication evolved in humans.’

Video research into gorilla communication

Impossible Geographies of Memory

Mary Agnes Krell, senior lecturer in Digital Media Practice and Theory at the University of Sussex, and former Sussex academic Petra Gemeinboeck, now at the University of Sydney, have collaborated on a digital artwork project which is being exhibited and presented in major art galleries around the world.

Impossible Geographies of Memory is an interactive installation exploring memory as a metaphor for the fluid boundaries between the physical and the virtual. This new work dynamically traces visitors’ actions, mixing them in unexpected ways with memories stolen in the physical and the virtual. Throughout the exhibition space, those memories seep into the present, creating a virtually woven fabric of inhabitants’ traces that grows and evolves over time.

The gallery is threaded with a network of laser beams, coated with video projections and equipped with cameras, its ‘eyes’. The installation encloses the space with a series of implied and shifting landscapes, described and made ‘tangible’ only by beams of light. When these lines are crossed, visitors interrupt the space, leave a visual mark and trigger a fracture through which a virtual space can seep into the physical present. Traces of visitors presence begin to drip and slowly form a spill of memories. Otherwise, it might become very confused pathway along the route.

“We were interested in seeing whether the ant’s motivational state — hungry or sated – might trigger which visual route memories it retrieves,’ says Professor Colett. ‘We found that in exactly the same visual environment, wood ants retrieved memories appropriate to their foodward journey when hungry and to their homeward journey when full.’

Sussex storms Glyndebourne

In October 2005, around 700 Sussex alumni, staff and students enjoyed a unique opportunity to meet socially at the world renowned Glyndebourne opera house for a special performance of the modern operatic thriller Tangier Tattoo. Many alumni also kindly bought tickets for students who may not otherwise have been able to attend the event – something for which the students and the University are very grateful. The event was a great success and Glyndebourne staff were delighted to see so many younger faces at the opera house, which is something they are actively trying to encourage.

This strengthened relationship with Glyndebourne Opera coincides with the development of the performing arts programme at the University of Sussex, in particular the new opera and music theatre course and the theatre studies courses which have expanded to combine existing theoretical study with practical application. The opera course is part of an ongoing collaboration with Glyndebourne Opera who offer students opportunities for engagement with the artistic and professional activities, expertise and facilities of a major international opera company.

Researching the memory patterns of ants

Ants have long been regarded as among the intelligentsia of the insect world for their organisational skills and efficiency. Now scientists are beginning to understand more about the role of memory in their behaviour. Neurobiologists Dr Rob Harris, Dr Natalie Hempiel de Ibarra, Dr Paul Graham and Professor Tom Colett trained individual ants to follow a short foraging route parallel to a black wall. The wood ants, which naturally rely on visual cues, learned that the wall would be on their left when walking towards the food, but on their right when walking home.

In later tests, trained ants were deposited midway along the wall. Unfed ants remembered that, in order to reach food, they had to walk in the direction that placed the wall on their left, whereas previously fed ants walked in the opposite direction. ‘Some ants are known to have surprisingly large memories. For instance, they will remember enough visual landmarks to follow visually guided routes over tens of metres between their nest and a feeding site. One problem with having many memories is that one must be able to retrieve the correct visual memory to begin home, or to reach a food source. We found that in exactly the same visual environment, wood ants retrieved memories appropriate to their foodward journey when hungry and to their homeward journey when full.’

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The next posting – Ambassador to Lithuania – was a relatively recent entrant to the European Union and the British Embassy in Vilnius had just two UK-based officers: the ambassador and his deputy. When Tom arrived, the priority was to build up government institutions, such as the setup of the Public Service Language Centre, originally founded by English and subsequently for teaching other EU languages. A great deal of resource was put into this, particularly to the teaching of the armed forces, who knew only Russian and Lithuanian, neither of which was going to be very useful in NATO or UN operations. By the time Tom left Vilnius, there were as many as seven full-time officers in the British Embassy, and he even recalls having sat in a meeting hearing a Lithuanian minister say to a British Minister of State for Defence, ‘we are now going to give you a briefing in English. Five years previously that would have been unimaginable, because now we were all soldiers.’ Perhaps surprisingly, when asked what single thing Tom would take from his time in Lithuania, he said, ‘my Lithuanian, which is having Mindanga – a national celebration. Summer is very important in northern latitudes and I was standing on a hill looking at this great festival in a natural bowl below where exuberant people were dancing in bright, vibrant colours – something which had been suppressed under the Soviets. It was like a sunflower bursting open.’

Deputy Head of Mission in Lisbon. For me, the key to being a successful diplomat is to understand, and really absorb, the society of whichever foreign country you are a guest in, and if the Diplomatic Service has a unique expertise, it is giving its staff the skills to do this rather quickly.

For over 30 years Tom Macan has used those skills in very different societies and undertaken a wide range of diplomatic and administrative responsibilities. In 1990, after a series of posts in London, Brazil and Bonn, he received the first of a series of senior postings: he was appointed as Deputy Head of Mission in Lisbon. For Tom, sailing in the BVI is a way of relaxation. ‘I recommended a career in the Diplomatic Service? ‘I think that the role of the ambassador, too, is changing. The public service ethos has always been one of the highlights of his time there: ‘I was there when the University was new and different – and very radical. I was President of the Students’ Union in 1967-68. Chairing Executive Committees of the Students’ Union and two difficult general meetings of 1,500 students at the peak of the Vietnam War quickly teaches you how to control a meeting. My major degree was in economics with a very strong element of international relations and development economics. That cross-cutting subjects made it a most useful package. I think Professor Asa Briggs had a useful phrase: “The new map of learning”.

In 1999 Tom was appointed Deputy High Commissioner to India, just at the time when the relationship between the UK and India had emerged from a rather difficult patch and India had embarked upon major economic expansion. In the three years leading up to the launch of a big rural development initiative that Tom experienced one of the highlights of his time there: making a speech to 40,000 people. ‘This was a very important rural extension project because we were talking about irrigation, sanitation, improved crops, water supplies and so on, and these farmers had been working in by bus from hundreds of miles around. I was with the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh and representing the High Commissioner and, I believe again, one will have an opportunity to address 40,000 people live!’

New posting every three years (on average) can put quite a strain on family life, especially if you have children. Tom and his wife made the decision that home should always be in the country in which he was working. That is really important because it’s all part of getting to know the society in which you find yourself. Everything that happens in the media – books, records, pictures, photographs. That is home, and that is how our children have been handled, he explains.

Curiously, integration into a foreign society has been made more difficult with the globalisation of television. When they were living in Portugal in the early 1990s, the only television that could be received was Portuguese. He recalls, ‘it did wonders for everybody’s Portuguese, including our then six-year-old daughter’s’. Simultaneously, in Bonn, Tom watched the two principal German news programmes every night. ‘But this isn’t all work, and the sailing opportunities are a great bonus for someone who once ran the University Sailing Club. One of the highlights of the BVI’s Emancipation Festival is a head-to-head competition between Governor and Chief Minister, skippering traditional island sloops. The two of them are pretty well matched.’

In the 36 years in which he has been in service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seen radical changes both externally and internally. One of the more fundamental for the career diplomat is the way in which postings are made. Back in the 1970s, when Tom was beginning
Promoting mobility in a globalised world

Richard Black, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sussex and Co-Director of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research, argues that extending opportunities for the temporary migration of workers could have a positive effect on the global economy, and addresses several considerations which are vital for the successful implementation of this approach.

Of course, the idea of temporary migration programmes is not new. Through much of the 1960s and 1970s, European countries operated large-scale temporary migration programmes, such as the hortiefleurist schemes in Germany, whilst George W Bush is currently promoting new temporary migration programmes as a modern replacement for the long-standing bracero schemes to bring Mexican agricultural labour to the US.

Yet the idea of temporary migration schemes for unskilled workers far from the UK government’s thinking. Its current consultation document, Making Migration Work for Britain, also mentions this approach, although in common with other countries, the UK tends to view these schemes as a way of reducing unskilled labour shortages, rather than using temporary migration to fill the gap.

The idea of temporary migration schemes for unskilled workers far from the UK tends to view these schemes as a way of reducing unskilled labour shortages, rather than using temporary migration to fill the gap. It is important to note that the benefits could be greater still.

However, one problem with the debate on temporary migration so far is that it has tended to be focused only in the context of labour market needs and anti-immigrant sentiment in the UK, Europe or US, and not in the context of global poverty.

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Common treasure:
Rough science and creative science

Dr Jonathan Hare is a freelance science communicator and is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Sussex. Passionate about making science fun and accessible, as well as improving its understanding, he is part of the BBC’s Rough Science and Hollywood Science teams.

Rough Science takes a team of scientists to unusual and often spectacular locations, setting them the frustrations, joys, surprises and wonder of science and experimentation. The series has been shown during prime-time in the UK and repeated on PBS, BBC World and cable channels in over 90 countries throughout the world. Recently filming the sixth series, Rough Science has become a flagship science programme.

Looking back, however, it seems that I have been a Rough Scientist for much longer than the duration of the TV series. In 1989 I joined the University of Sussex to pursue a PhD. Good fortune also led me to the laboratory of Professor Harry Kroto (later to be a Nobel prize-winner), we were both studying the chemistry between the stars, in the interstellar medium. A few years before, these astrochemical investigations had led Professor Kroto and his colleagues to discover by accident the fullerenes, molecules (C60 – Buckminsterfullerene). C60 turned out to be the head of a family of new carbon cage structures known as the fullerenes.

Initially, my PhD was to study carbon stars; intriguing objects that are pumping out vast amounts of carbon particles and molecules into the universe. Our aim was to make laboratory studies using state-of-the-art lasers and computer systems to try to reproduce and explore the chemicals produced by our own little ‘carbon star’. I was intrigued to see what role, if any, these charismatic fullerenes structures would take in this carbonaceous component of the cosmos. Immersing myself in this new area of research and all this new technology was interesting and inspiring, but I love making and tinkering with things. I longed to be able to go back to basics and take the equipment apart; to start to understand the experiments through personal experience. These high-tech experiments that scientists do are providing exciting glimpses into an ever unfolding universe. But like Galileo pointing his new-fangled telescope to the Moon to discover for the first time its mountains and craters, so these high-tech experiments often provide only a tantalising distant glimpse; they don’t take you directly there. The same occurred with the discovery of C60. A new round world of carbon chemistry had been glimpsed but it was not a route to make useful amounts. To explore the Moon you need a rocket to transport you there. To investigate this new C60 fully we needed some way to make usable quantities.

The breakthrough appeared in 1998; ignored at first by everyone apart from the Sussex team. A German/US team tentatively claimed that they could make large amounts of C60 in what turned out to be a ridiculously simple way. They sparked carbon rods (graphite – essentially the ‘leads’ in pencils) with a large electrical current till they vaporised, making a black soot. When this was done without air – using helium or argon gas instead – they claimed an astonishing (almost astronomical) 10 per cent of the soot material produced was C60. It was too simple.

The equipment that had initially discovered the fullerenes was very high-tech so I suggest that such simple arc equipment could make this beautiful molecule in such large quantities was surely wrong. This was the reason for the group’s tentative claim. The experiments they were suggesting were so simple they could have been done over 200 years ago. As a first year PhD student I was set the task of seeing if there was anything to these claims. Looking back now the experiments all seem very much like Rough Science. It turned out to be true. Working with undergraduate student, Amrit Sarkar, we were able to reproduce the results and develop our own ways to maximise the production. We were producing treasure from a starting material that most people would regard as rubbish or junk: black soot. We wished on a ‘carbon star’ and it came true. It led us into new worlds of science.

The Creative Science Centre

With all the national and global media interest in C60, the Sussex group had a great number of requests for talks and workshops. As a consequence, the Creative Science Centre (CSC) was created and I also began running workshops as part of the growing range of activities for gifted and talented pupils. The Gifted and Talented scheme was set up by David Daniels (Head of Physics at Brighton’s Hove Park School) and myself to explore ‘South Valley’ in the SUS area.

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In many of the arts subjects there is opportunity for discussion and debate quite early on in children’s education. This is hardly the case in the normal formal teaching of science. There just does not seem to be time in the packed curriculum, or else the topics are perceived to be too hard for the children to be able to make that sort of contribution early on. If it happens, it is usually about the social impact of the science, for example, rather than perhaps exploring the meaning or reality of the science itself. At the CSC the children become immersed in the activities, but because we go straight to the heart of the science it often seems to allow for this type of debate, spontaneously.

Recently, we have given Rough Science workshops at the Science Museum and I get hundreds of enquiries from all over the world through the website. I am also working with the Vega Science Trust (Sussex) to explore the use of the Internet to provide workshops and mentoring sessions, swap technical information and know-how to respond to all these requests without having to travel extensively throughout the world. A National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) fellowship was awarded in 2000 has enabled me to research painting, sketching, meditation and creativity in general. I don’t believe that knowledge is really divided up into subjects. Both the artist and the scientist share the need to see things clearly in order to be able to understand and be creative. Science plays such a key and crucial role in human development. I hope that in a small way through the TV series and through my activities at the CSC I can contribute to inspiring and enthusing people of all ages about our common treasure that is science; to discover and uncover both the treasure within them and that which is all around them.

The Vega Science Trust: www.vega.org.uk
The Creative Science Centre: www.creative-science.org.uk
Rough Science: www.open2.net
In the spotlight

John Altman

Winner of both BAFTA and EMMY awards, John Altman (ENGAM 1968) was born with an extraordinary gift of being able to analyse, write and play music from a very early age. By the time he arrived at Sussex in 1968, he had been playing in bands for several years, starting his career as a saxophonist/composer.

When did you first realise you had this extraordinary musical gift?
I guess I realised very young, but of course I took it for granted as it all seemed so easy and I was surrounded by music. My family were rather glamorous bandleaders and when you come home and find Danny Kaye or Judy Garland sitting in the front room, you can’t help being influenced by that. I started composing when I was about six, but luckily, apart from a few early piano lessons, I had no formal music education. I played different instruments but when I was 13 I asked to play the saxophone. My uncle brought one round, showed me where the fingers went and I played a gig the next night. I must have been awful!

But I discovered very young that if you played one instrument in one kind of band, you restricted yourself musically. So I played flute in the folk club, clarinet with Dixieland bands, saxophone with blues bands, saxophone and guitar with rock and roll bands, piano with soul bands, and so on. This meant that all the musical avenues were open to me and I gained a good knowledge of every music scene there was, except for the classical orchestra, which I have never performed with. Oddly enough, however, I later became a guest conductor for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, when I conducted film scores.

You have the reputation of being a very skilled arranger. It’s very difficult explaining exactly what an arranger does. In my case, the classic example is Always Look on the Bright Side of Life, which I arranged. Eric Idle gave me a tape of him strumming guitar and playing a tune. I then orchestrated it, put in the whistling, changed the key – and that’s what people know. I didn’t write the song but orchestration makes the song. You are very conscious of this when you become a pop arranger, which I have been. [He has worked with many artists including Van Morrison (as musical director), Sting and Eric Clapton.] The tune itself might be quite mundane but your arrangement has to grab the listener within the first 30 seconds. Arranging is a tough job and it is often taken for granted.

You have written music for over 50 films – the most recent being the acclaimed television film Mr Harvey Lights a Candle. What attracts you to films?
Music is a key element in film. I scored the tank chase in Golden Eye and in my lectures to film schools I show the film without any music – it’s just a car and a tank driving through the street, knocking things over. It goes on forever and is extremely dull. But add the music to it and it’s a scene transformed. A classic is Janet Leigh driving in Psycho. If you take the sound off, she’s driving a car with a completely blank face; put the music on and you immediately think, ‘oh my God, something’s going to happen!’

The first movie I scored was the result of a Sussex reunion where none of my peers turned up. The only person I knew was somebody I’d met at Sussex when you were there – and how you came to play with Muddy Waters.

There were a lot of music societies and good musicians at the time I was at Sussex and we formed bands. But I’d also made relationships with bands before I arrived, which we booked to play because, very cleverly, my room mate became Social Secretary, so I had a lot of influence on who he should invite down. Actually, I booked the first gig for Led Zeppelin, but they had to pull out because they had a ‘proper’ gig – so they sent us Traffic instead. But it was a fantastic time and some of the people who played at Sussex included Mike Oldfield, Alexis Korner and Jimi Hendrix, and bands like the Who.

The sixties was a great time for interaction. The idea now that somebody like me would be allowed to get up and play with the groups different ways and no one had done that before. It’s still quoted to me as a seminal movie by all kinds of film composers and it won me a BAFTA. I didn’t realise it was such a big deal at the time, but that meeting in Sussex kicked my career off.

You also compose for commercials. Is a different approach required for these?
I don’t really write jingles, more on orchestration – but then of course I did write ‘You can do it when you B&Q it’, so I guess I’m hung by my own admission! Most commercials I write have a filmic conception: rather than being little songs to sell products, they’re story-telling commercials directed by people like Ridley Scott, Alan Parker or John Frankenheimer. Essentially, it’s the same process as scoring a movie.

You talk about the style of the music, where it’s going to be, where it will start and finish, and then you talk about the feel of it and what it is going to add to the images. It’s the same technique as in films – it just that this film is 30 seconds.

And for lovers of trivia, I’ve written quite a few commercials with Salman Rushdie – his lyrics and my music.

Tell us a little about the music scene at Sussex when you were there – and how you came to play with Muddy Waters.

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Forty Years On

Fifty years ago, in autumn 1965, some 700 people headed for the Falmer campus for the first time. We were ‘intake five’ at Sussex, bringing the student population up to 3,000. It was an exciting journey, and one which would fill the next three (or, in many cases, four) years with new challenges, many ups and downs, a host of new friends, and all the varied experiences which go with that time of life. Memories and friendships have lasted well through those 40 years. And perhaps this is the moment to think whether those of us who look back on it with a touch of Basil Fawlty about the one or two are the only ones.

Overall, the thing I’ve liked best is being able to play and contribute authentically in every genre of music. So, for instance, people can be surprised when they hear that I’ve conducted Mozart and played with Little Richard! I’ve conducted. I have to be the only person who has, for instance, people can be surprised when they hear that I’ve conducted and played with him too. One of the band, now an eminent singer, rang me to say that he was surprised when he heard that I was conducting. I’m the only person who has done it. And all that took place in the Crypt at the University of Sussex.

When you come home and find Danny Kaye or Judy Garland sitting in the front room, you can’t help being influenced.

You have a reputation for wonderful birthday parties... Are they usually the result of careful planning or spontaneity? Muddy Waters coming to my twenty-first birthday party. It was quite extraordinary. Similarly, on my twentieth-fifth birthday, a friend who had started playing with Bob Marley rang me to say he and Bob had just arrived in London and was there anything going on. So, of course, I invited them to my party—and they played. More recently, I’ve actually been able to have people like Shakka Kahn and Lionel Richie play, but again, only because they have happened to be around when it’s my birthday. I can’t really claim to have organised things like that but it’s a nice conversation point.

Finally, is there any one area of music that you enjoy most? That’s a good question. I enjoy doing a lot more live work, especially conducting and playing with my two Big Bands. I still love doing films but there is nothing like getting up and playing in front of a live audience. You need that. I stopped for a long time before realising how important it was to me.

That came down is extraordinary. But back then bands were accessible and that’s how I got to play with Muddy Waters—a twenty-first birthday party, without doubt a high point in anyone’s life.

My room mate had booked Muddy to play at the University and this being 1970, there was no chance of him and his band getting any food after 9.00 pm as I invited them all to my party, which was being held in the Crypt afterwards. A lot of my friends had come down from London with their instruments but no one had brought any amplifiers or microphones. Through one of the girls at the party, (a fellow undergraduate) who had been a marshal at Woodstock, a whole load of gear from Muddy’s band was then wheeled out and my friends got up to play. Later, when Muddy and the band came in we started leaving the stage, but he stopped me and said ‘stay and play with us’. So I played with him and at one point all my original band (the one I had joined at 13 with my sax) were playing with him too. One of the band, now an eminent Circuit Court Judge, still says the biggest thrill of his life was playing guitar with Muddy Waters, and Muddy saying to him, ‘Hey, you sound really good’. And all that took place in the Crypt at the University of Sussex.

Development

Developing a strong tradition among alumni to give to their university enables institutions to alleviate student hardship and to encourage students with potential to pursue an academic qualification, regardless of financial considerations. As he explains below, Michael Pattison (ENGAM 1965), Director of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, hopes to encourage his contemporaries to help fund student support within their personal charitable giving.

Student life in the following three years felt like a great adventure. Sussex was attempting to chart a new direction in undergraduate programmes; its faculty was still growing, drafting from many UK universities and from overseas. The first Basil Spence buildings looked fresh and exciting. Open parkland stretched across from the original buildings towards Stanner village. If the University bar’s offerings didn’t feel quite right for refreshment on a warm summer afternoon, the tap and wicked cakes served across the park in the tearooms at Stanner were an excellent, if little known, alternative.

In Brighton & Hove, many first-year undergraduates swarmed into a clutch of more or less down at heel guest houses and small hotels, whose proprietors believed that students would pay the overheads for low season, leaving them to cash in on the then traditional seaside visitors for high summer and perhaps Easter and Christmas. There was more than a touch of Basil Fawlty about the one to which I was allocated, but that memory faded fast during the second year experience of something approaching self-sufficiency, with six of us in apparent splendour on the ground floor of a seafront apartment in Adelaide Crescent. The downside was sleeping three to each (large) bedroom, but the whole set-up made up for that minor inconvenience. The third year seemed a little more serious on a year abroad before returning to finals in a fourth year.

For most of us, money was tight. But we could manage, largely thanks to the now vanished mandatory local authority student grant, paid in addition to the full settlement of tuition fees. Even if only a minimum grant survived the means test, the full maintenance grant provided a template for parental contributions to make a basic standard of living attainable for most of us, topped up by vacation or other earnings as we could organise them.

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 the campus and support for student activities. Your generosity can help us maintain excellence, attract the best students and enhance their teaching and learning environment.

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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).

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Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS. Thank you.

I wish to make a donation of (please tick):

£25 £50 £100 £250 £500 £1000 £2500

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**Alumni news**

**Alumni sports day 2006**

Have you ever thought of reliving that great sporting moment when you scored that all important winning goal, or imagined the thrill of finally getting ‘the man of the match’ award that kept eluding you during your studies? Maybe you simply just wish you could go back and once again enjoy that post match pint and remember some of your best sporting moments at university.

The opportunity is waiting for you. Saturday, 3 June 2006 will be the first official alumni sports day.

We are trying to encourage as many former students as possible to come back and play against our current University teams.

Programmes like this are a highlight of the year for past and present students alike in other universities and feedback from current students and alumni suggests this is a long overdue event at Sussex.

We are keen to hear from individuals who may have lost contact with old team mates and would like to be part of a team and from any groups that still meet up and keep in contact, if only for a game of darts.

Scheduled sports will include:

- men’s and women’s 6-a-side football,
- men’s and women’s rugby 7s, men’s and women’s 7-a-side hockey,
- basketball.

Each competition will take place at the Falmer Sports Complex, opposite the Sports Pavilion, on the main campus. Pro-Vice-Chancellor John Dearlove will be presenting the prizes at a post match ceremony and the day will conclude with a barbecue and social evening at the Grapevine bar in Bramber House.

For further information, to enter a team, or to join a team, please contact: alumni@sussex.sussex.ac.uk

**Calling all former URF members**

University Radio Falmer (URF) would be delighted to hear from former members, presenters, and even listeners. Celebrating its 30th birthday this February, URF has a proud history of broadcasting student news, views and tunes across Sussex campus and into Brighton on 1431am. For the last few years our internet streaming service has also made it possible to listen to URF from anywhere in the world (listen online now to hear current URF presenters at: www.urfonline.com). We will be marking the big 30 in style with a series of events both on campus and in Brighton, and are pleased to invite anyone who was involved with the radio station during their time at Sussex to join us in celebrating this special occasion.

The icing on the birthday cake will be the coming together of long-held plans to relocate the studio from student residences to a shiny new home in the Union building. By doing this, URF will be able to cement the transformation from a society to Student Media, and forge closer links with student clubs and societies, allowing us to provide a much better service for students at Sussex. For details of the birthday celebrations, or to share your memories of URF, please contact: exec@urfonline.com or log on to: www.urfonline.com

**In memoriam**

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

**Presidents**

- Professor François Duchêne

**Pro-Vice-Chancellors**

- Professor Jane Head

**Directors**

- Professor Ian Livesey

**Deans**

- Professor Barbara O’Reilly

**Senior Lecturers**

- Professor Dietrich Retired reader in Primary Education

**Lecturers**

- Emily Silver

**Graduates**

- Emily Silver, URF Secretary/Treasurer

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

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**Alumni**

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Make apathy history

Leo Hickman (ENGAM 1991) is a journalist, author and editor at The Guardian. Embarking on a challenging experiment in ethical living, he has spent 12 months transforming the way he and his family live their lives. Here Leo gives us a glimpse into his thought-provoking journey.

The irony of our Western lifestyle, of course, is that we are blissfully ignorant of the negative impact it has on our neighbours, the environment, and the culture we choose to journey on regardless, blinded by a convenient fog of inertia and apathy. My life is certainly no different.

I can’t get through a day without reading stories about poisonous salmon, deodorants being linked to cancer, or landfill sites reaching full capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful capacity. But I also prefer to switch over to EcoKids or turn to the football results than dwell too long on all that nasty, negative stuff.

Besides, what can ‘little me’ do about it all?

It was against this backdrop that I was set a challenge by The Guardian newspaper. Could I – someone living a typically comfortable and abundant life in a few south London suburbs – take a step back from my daily habits and consumer choices, and try to understand their true impact?

Could I, over the course of a few months, start to lead a more ethical life, in which I reduced, to use a popular axiom, my ‘footprint on the earth’, as well as being a more positive force both to myself and those around me? Could I join the small, but growing, proportion of society striving to live less wastefully, those that, according to the Ethical Consumerism Report 2003, pushed sales of organic food over the £1bn mark, up from £390m in 1999, and which in 2002 spent £19.9bn on a wide range of ethical purchases, from free-range eggs to A-rated energy-efficient appliances?

But I spotted a problem immediately. I was going to need some help; someone to kick my weak knees. I was also quite stuck in line with the three ethical auditors entering our home. The thought, she said, of anyone rummaging through our kitchen cupboards, or asking us what top paper we use, was abhorrent. I agreed, but managed to sign her up with the promise that the experiment may lead me, at the very least, to take more of an interest in how the house got cleaned.

As the auditors left our home, they said that to truly understand the waste problem, I should follow my rubbish from my kitchen bin to the landfill. Few people, they said, know what really happens to their waste, and if they did, it might make us start to change our ways. A little shock and awe seems to be what they are prescribing and so, accompanied by Luke Henry from Lambeth council’s waste management team, I embarked on one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life.

It takes four hours to complete the shift. In this time we collect 12 tonnes of waste from just 20 residential streets. Then it’s a 45-minute drive to the transfer station at Smugglers Way on the banks of the Thames, where it’s all loaded onto barges and floated down the Thames to a landfill site.

Due to the city’s space restrictions, most of London’s waste is dumped in huge holes in the ground across half a dozen sites in surrounding counties. All the rubbish collected at Smugglers, for example, is loaded onto barges and sent to a 100-acre landfill at Mucking in Essex, the destination of 15 per cent of London’s rubbish.

But this site is due to close in 2007 and when the landfills are full, what are we going to do with our waste? Incinerate it? Dump it at sea? Pay another area in the UK (as is already happening) to landfill it for us?

Two days later I am waiting for the huge barge with my rubbish on board to dock at Mucking. ‘The locals don’t like it, of course,’ notes Ian Edwards, the site’s operations manager.

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We climb into Ian’s Land Rover and drive up on to the landfill. I ask how deep the rubbish goes. ‘Oh, about 20 to 30 metres down.’ Transporters bring the containers up onto the landfill, then they dump their contents into cells - areas about the size of a football pitch that are completely sealed over with earth once filled. Buried pipes are then used to pump away the methane that builds up. This is collected at a generator on site and used to produce 23 megawatts of power – enough to power a small town.

‘Once closed in 2007 (because of new European regulations) this site will be totally sealed over with 25m of engineered clay. It will take at least 80 years for any liquid to escape from here and by that time it will be totally inert. You could drink it, it would be so clean.’

After 2007, Ian adds, there will be a rare animal farm on the site, as well as forest walks, picnic areas and a cycle track. ‘We’ve even had Aberdeen Angus here before now, even on some of our reclaimed land before. I wander across to a mound of recently dumped rubbish to take a closer look, stepping on all sorts of items I could have thrown out myself. There are bottles, packets of cornflakes, toys, ties, blackened chicken bones, magazines. What strikes me is how much of what I wouldn’t be recycled. I even find a copy of The Guardian from the week before.

The journey has had the desired effect. I immediately try to reduce the rubbish I throw out, as well as organise my life as much as possible. Perhaps the biggest success is managing to compost at least a quarter of our kitchen waste via the four bins in the kitchen.

Replacing Esme’s disposable nappies with washable cloth ones makes a big difference. And we try not to buy goods wrapped in cardboard and plastic (not always possible), or make a point by taking examples of excessive packaging back to the retailer and demanding that they recycle it. But, honestly, how boring is that?

Living through an experiment that invites constant criticism of your life leaves you vulnerable and raw. At times it seems that there are few highs and many lows – you always seem to feel guilty; it is hard work, and you have to battle against appearing smug and self-righteous.

But I have found that the trick to avoiding the feeling that your life is one drawn-out exercise in self-flagellation is to make sure that you retain a sense of perspective and humour throughout. No, you can’t save the world single-handedly, but you have made more of an effort than you did yesterday.

Besides, I always like to recall one particular benefit to our new lifestyle – we now get to excuse ourselves from doing the much-dreaded weekly supermarket shop ‘on ethical grounds’.

Leo Hickman writes a weekly column for The Guardian on ethical living. He is also the author of A Life Stripped Bare: Tiptoeing Through the Ethical Minefield, and A Good Life: The Guide to Ethical Living (both Guardian Books). To order call 0870 836 0749, or visit: www.guardian.co.uk/bookshop
Events and reunions

The Sussex Lectures spring term 2006

This term the Sussex campus will be host to another interesting and varied series of public lectures given by leading academics from the University of Sussex and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMMS), as well as eminent visiting speakers. In addition, following its successful launch in 2005, the second annual University of Sussex Lecture will be given by Professor Shamit Saggar in London on 16 March 2006. Professor Saggar’s lecture is entitled: The one per cent world: managing the myth of Muslim extremism.

The lectures are free and open to all. For further details and to RSVP, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0)1273 877707 or email: events@sussex.ac.uk

For all the latest information about these and other Sussex events, please visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/events

24 January 2006
Professional Lecture
Judy Sebba, Professor of Education

8 February 2006
BSMS Visiting Professors’ Lecture
Baroness Susan Greenfield, Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University

14 February 2006
Barlow Lecture
Dr Timon Screech, School of Oriental and African Studies

16 February 2006
Centre for Early Modern Studies Lecture
Professor Jim Shapiro, Columbia University

21 February 2006
Professional Lecture
Sue Harley, Professor of Ecology

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

16 March 2006
University of Sussex Lecture, London
Shamit Saggar, Professor of Political Science

30 March 2006
BSMS Inaugural Lecture
Professor Mike Peters, Chair in Applied Psychology

Back on campus after 25 years

A gorgeous warm autumn day greeted the 1980 Freshers, from as far away as Australia and the USA, who returned to Sussex recently for their 25th Anniversary Reunion and a weekend trip down memory lane. Arriving at Falmer House for a light lunch, the former Sussex students were soon reminiscing with old friends and reacquainting themselves with people they had not seen for over 20 years. Displays of photos and memorabilia from their days at Sussex punctuated plenty of discussion and amusement. Members of Sussex faculty, past and present, and the current president of the Students’ Union participated in a stimulating Question Time style discussion in the Debating Chamber. Topics discussed ranged from higher education to climate change, with some interesting views coming both from the panel and the audience.

The reunion party continued in Falmer Bar where the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, welcomed everyone back to the University and then the serious business of the evening got under way: a delicious curvy supper, drinks and an excellent 70s and 80s disco.

For many who were staying in the smart new University residences, the partying continued into the wee small hours. There were some rather blurry faces in Falmer Bar the next morning, where a few erstwhile students on coffee before departing, vowed to keep in touch and to meet up again before departing, vowing to keep in touch and to meet up again before another 25 years elapsed.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and thought everything was well judged, relaxed and suitably informal. I had a wonderful time seeing old friends and making a few new ones.

Mike Gould (EUR80)

Date for your diary
Alumni Reunion
16 and 17 September 2006
1981 and 1982 freshers

Were you a fresher in 1981 or 1982? If so, this is your chance to get together with old friends and reminisce about your student days at Sussex.

We are planning a packed programme for the reunion weekend and we hope you will join us for an entertaining trip down memory lane. Alumni from the same era, but from other intakes, are also very welcome to attend.

If you are interested in coming, please email: events@sussex.ac.uk with your current contact details so we can ensure you are on the list to receive information about the reunion.

Calling all recent graduates

If you graduated between 1999 and 2004, you will be receiving an invitation to a Sussex reunion to be held at a venue in central London in early summer 2006 (date to be confirmed). This will be an ideal opportunity to catch up with friends from your days at Sussex. To ensure the invitation reaches you, please take a few minutes to update your contact details online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumndirectory

Sussex people
Your favourite pages: who is doing what and where?

60s

60s 1.7 Watts? The Birth of British Rock Guitar chronicles the birth and rise to pre-eminence of rock guitar in Britain. Written by Mo Foster (MAPS 1964), it covers the two decades from 1955 to 1975 and features original anecdotal contributions from renowned players.

60s Congratulations to Barry Langridge (AFRAS 1964), who was awarded an MBE in last year’s Queen’s birthday honours list for services to broadcasting.

60s Congratulations to Peter Knight (MAPS 1965), who has received a knighthood in recognition of his role in establishing the UK as a world centre for research into quantum optics. He is currently Head of the Department of Physics at Imperial College, London.

60s Kamau Brathwaite (AMTS 1968) is a professor of comparative literature at New York University and author of many collections of poetry. His latest publication, Black Sly Horse, is a collection of poetic meditations on islands and exile, language and ritual, and the force of personal and historical passion and grief.

60s Ianed Rickis (ISS 1965) has had his first novel published. Revelation: A Novel of the Vietnam War is a historical novel set in the dust, heat and mud of Vietnam’s central highlands.

60s Olympic medalist and former world record holder Brendan Foster (MOLS 1966) was invested as Chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University in July 2005.

60s Congratulations to Robert Gillespie (GISG 1967) who was recognised in last year’s Queen’s birthday honours list with the award of an OBE for services to British business interests, especially engineering, in France.

60s Jean Walsingham (BOLS 1968) and Dudley Coates (SOC 1968) have both been active in their respective Churches. Jean spent over 20 years in agricultural research and education before retiring to become an Anglican priest in 1997. Now rector of four Dorset parishes, she has been installed as an honorary Canon of Salisbury Cathedral. Dudley retired from a senior post in the civil service in 2003 and has served in several national positions in the Methodist church and remains a lay preacher.

70s

70s Lotte Hughes (CCS 1970) has switched from journalism to academia, and has been appointed to a lectureship in African arts and cultures at the Ferguson Centre, Open University, Milton Keynes. This follows a three-year postdoctoral Fellowship at St Antony’s College, Oxford, researching and co-authoring with William Beinart a book on environment and empire for Oxford University Press. Palgrave Macmillan will publish a revised version of her doctoral dissertation, Moving the Masai: a colonial midadventure, in early 2006.

70s Graham Dittenden (MAPS 1970) has been appointed as an International Fellow at the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute (UNC) at Tsugi in Japan. After leaving Sussex to take up a postdoctoral Royal Society European Research Fellowship at the University of Oslo in 1974, followed by 30 years in the UK nuclear industry.

70s Steven Phillips (MAPS 1971) has been promoted to Professor of Astrophysics at Bristol University. He has also published an undergraduate textbook The Structure and Evolution of Galaxies.

70s Felicity Garrie (Euros 1973) has been active in socialist politics since leaving Sussex, and stood for Scottish and European Parliament in 2003 and 2004. Felicity is currently working at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

70s Lea Pulkinnen (SPRU 1973) won the Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Child Development from the Society for Research in Child Development in 2005. She is Director of the Human Development and its Risk Factors programme.

70s Robert Hamberger’s (EAMS 1975) poetry has been broadcast on Radio 4, and published in numerous magazines including TheObserver, NewStatesman, Poetry Review and GayTimes. He has been awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship, and a sequence in his latest collection was shortlisted for a Forward Prize. He has published five pamphlets and two collections, Waypoint Angel and The Small Bridge, which was recently chosen as one of the 13 best collections in the past ten years for the small press Alternative Generation promotion.

70s Brendan Foster (GISG 1971) is doing what and where?

70s Above

Mo Foster

70s Below

Barry Langridge

70s Below

Peter Knight

70s Below

Brian Knight

70s Below

Peter Knight

70s Below

Brendan Foster

70s Below

Barry Langridge

Please email us your news at: alumni@sussex.ac.uk
70s

70s

Patrick J Webb (AFRAS 1977) has spent the past three years working as Chief of Nutrition for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) based in Rome. During this period he has dealt with emergency relief in various places including Aceh, North Korea, Darfur and Niger. He now returns to Tuffs University in Boston as Academic Dean.

30s

Paul Reeve (MOLS 1978) graduated in environmental science. He was previously executive director of the chemical industry’s Responsible Care programme and nowadays advises companies in construction and other sectors on safety and environmental issues. He has recently co-written a book entitled Essentials of Environmental Management, a practical guide for people in businesses of all sizes. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and a Chartered Chemist and Environmental Manager. He has two daughters and lives in Ealing, West London.

80s

80s

David Moran (ARTS 1980) has recently been posted to Tashkent, to take up the post of Ambassador to Uzbekistan. His previous postings include Nairobi, Moscow, and Paris.

80s

Former television news broadcaster Jacqui Harper (ENGAM 1981) has recently written a book, Voices of Experience. The book consists of a collection of influential speakers who share their experiences and the techniques they use to achieve effective public speaking. She is now planning to write a fiction novel.

80s

Sarah J Davies (EURO 1984) runs a TFL department at a large college in Melbourne, Australia. She is also completing an MA in linguistics.

80s


80s

Simon Cocking (ENGAM 1987) works as an environmental education officer in Ballymun, Dublin. He has recently published the Ballymun Eco Book, a simple guide on how to start environmental activities and projects in local communities.

80s

Katie Williams (CCS 1987) is just about to publish her third book – a volume on spatial planning, urban firm and sustainable transport.

80s

Petra Boynton (SOCSCI 1988) continued after Sussex to study human psychology and now lectures at University College London in international health research. She explains that much of what she learned at Sussex was around practical aspects of research and understanding the differences, issues that have informed her latest book. The Research Companion: a practical guide for the Social and Health Sciences is a useful how to’ study guide.

90s

90s

Claudia Hammond (CCS 1990) has had her first book published. Emotional Rollercoaster; a journey through the science of feelings is a thought provoking and highly entertaining exploration of the extraordinary feelings which make us human. She takes nine universal emotions in turn and looks at the science behind them, combining the latest theories and discoveries from neuroscientists and psychologists with everyday human experience. Claudia has presented numerous programmes on psychology, science and medicine for BBC Radio 4.

90s

Hilary Cottam (AFRAS 1991), Director of the Design Council’s pioneering research and development team RED, was named Designer of the Year 2005.

90s

Diana Evans (CCS 1991) is being spoken of as the ‘new literary voice of multicultural Britain’ following the publication of her first novel, 26a. She was the winner of the Orange Award for New Writers 2005, 26a is reviewed on page 24.

90s

Athina Markomichelaki (EURO 1993) is currently a Research Fellow at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and is teaching ‘The integration in the European Union: the Spanish experience and the Polish prospects’. She is currently employed as head of Procurement Division with the Tourism Development Company, a state-owned organisation.

90s

Sally Handford (CCE 1994) is working in Ethiopia with the Minister of Education on a diploma teacher training programme.

90s

James Jenkins (BIOLS 1994), now a lecturer in Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Hertfordshire, has just been appointed to the Government’s newly created Consumer Council for Water (CCWater) for the Thames Region. CCWater replaces WaterVoice, the Government’s previous consumer watchdog for the water industry.

90s


90s

Samantha Cameron (EURO 1999) recently graduated from Grar University in the presence of the Austrian President; an honour given each year to only 15 students, based on their academic excellence.

90s

Andreas Golob (EURO 1999) received his PhD in Developmental Biology from the University of Helsinki.

90s

Pablo Dopico (EURO 1997) was awarded the Medalla Medal of Royal Society of Chemistry 2003. He is currently the Royal Society University Research Fellow at the University of Bristol.

90s

Nick Walker (MOLS 1993) was awarded the Meda Medal of Royal Society of Chemistry 2003. He is currently the Royal Society University Research Fellow at the University of Bristol.

90s

Patrick J Webb (IRP 2001) is currently working for a research project on European integration at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He is also working on his MSc thesis at the University of Helsinki.

90s

Petri J Burtsov (IRP 2001) received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her PhD in Special Education at the University of Texas. She works for the Vaughn-Gross Centre for Reading and Language Arts.

90s

George Riciuti (Economics 2002) received his PhD in Developmental Economics in October 2004, discussing a thesis on the external trade regimes. Since then he has been working at the UNICEF-IRC in Florence, and teaching ‘Principles in economics’ at the University of Florence.

90s

Yasmin Karim (SOCSCI 2002) has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005 as Nobel Peace Laureate for South Asia, part of the 1,000 Peace Women Project.
Forgotten Voices of the Holocaust
By Lyn Smith (ARTS 1976).
Published in hardback by Ebury Press in 2005.

In this latest book in the Forgotten Voices series, Lyn Smith creates a personal oral history of the holocaust period, from pre-war persecution to the unspeakable horror of concentration and death camps.

Lyn Smith has worked extensively over the last 25 years as a freelance interviewer, recording experiences of Holocaust survivors for the Imperial War Museum sound archives, one of the most important archives of its kind in the world. From these revealing interviews, Lyn has interviewed the unique experiences of over 100 Holocaust survivors to expose the full barbarity and horrific conditions which survivors and their families experienced. Yet what emerges from the testimonies is not only the brutality and degradation which survivors endured, but also the many acts of bravery, charity, and kindness which were possible even under such circumstances. From these revealing interviews, Lyn has interviewed the unique experiences of over 100 Holocaust survivors to expose the full barbarity and horrific conditions which survivors and their families experienced. Yet what emerges from the testimonies is not only the brutality and degradation which survivors endured, but also the many acts of bravery, charity, and kindness which were possible even under such circumstances.

The Care Development and Employment Centre (CDEC) at Sussex would very much like to hear from any alumni with disabilities who would be willing to tell the story of their career so far, or help mentor current students with disabilities. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kim O’Brien at 01273 678697. Email: k.o-brien@sussex.ac.uk or telephone 01273 678697.

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There is a Malagasy proverb that says 'Azafarana ny andro lava', which translates as 'Don't believe the day is long'. In other words, time flies. And it certainly does so in Madagascar. Despite the calm, laid-back atmosphere and philosophy here, work in the development field is hectic and there are never enough hours in the day.

The School of African and Asian Studies (AAS) was undoubtedly instrumental in guiding my path in life, unshowering a thirst to discover more about developing countries and to contribute to tackling the underlying causes of poverty and environmental degradation. I first came to Madagascar as an Overseas Training Programme (OTP) trainee for a year in 1998-9, working with the Scottish NGO, Feedback Madagascar, and its local partner organisation, Living in, and feeling part of, an isolated rural community was an incredible experience that deepened my understanding of issues surrounding rural development. Being able to communicate in Malagasy built a tremendous foundation for me to appreciate the similarities and differences between us and there, to realise that people have the same concerns and emotions the world over, and has helped to forge personal relationships that remain strong to this day.

Being determined to return to Madagascar after finishing my studies, I was fortunate in securing funding to continue the health work that had been initiated in my first year here. I returned at the point of Feedback’s separation from its previous local partner and at the birth of a new Malagasy organisation, Ny Tanintsika. It has been very fulfilling being part of the development of this NGO which, from nothing, has now grown into a well-known and respected organisation.

A year after my return to Madagascar came the ‘crisis’ of 2002: a political coup whose knock-on effect was to be a severe economic and, therefore, social and health crisis. But what was most striking was the peaceful and resilient nature of the Malagasy people. In the most trying of situations, which would have caused riots and widespread violence in most western countries, the vast majority of people remained calm and focussed.

Crime levels even saw a decrease from the strengthening of community-guaranteed systems. Despite strikes and a lack of fuel, for the most part, we managed to work.

Difficulties are to be expected, especially when you take into consideration a lack of infrastructure and communications, problems with bureaucracy and lack of financial security due to our reliance on donations and grants. However, despite these day-to-day frustrations, it is exciting to be working on the ground level; to see direct results from one’s efforts; to combine office work with field work; and to be able to communicate with local actors. It is important to build trust and understanding and to have the flexibility to respond to situations that arise. There is a great scope for innovation and personal initiative. I think this is what makes us most effective.

Feedback Madagascar’s Ny Tanintsika uses a multidisciplinary approach, working with partners from public and private sectors, and in different domains: health, education, environment, governance) to ensure that real progress is made.

Communities’ needs and concerns are taken into account right from the start and they are involved in all stages of project design and implementation; building a sense of ownership and determination to succeed. Specific objectives are identified by the local population, to be achieved within a given time frame, and committees are established at the community and borough levels in order to monitor progress. We provide training for the various community service providers and ensure the initial follow-up support, but with an emphasis on involving the local authorities and public services with the view to them taking the work afterwards. Sustainability of project activities is a full-time preoccupation.

Real improvements have been made due to our work: lower infant and maternal mortality rates, decreases in the incidence of common disease that can be fatal; increases in the quality of teaching and health services; leading to greater attendance of schools and health centres; higher crop yields from greater adoption of improved agricultural techniques; and better income-generating activities. But, most importantly, one can see a change in peoples’ attitudes away from ‘help us’ towards ‘help us to help ourselves’.

For more information on Feedback Madagascar please visit: www.feedbackmadagascar.org or email: info@feedbackmadagascar.org.

Images
- Photo: Planting demonstration part of the Feedback Madagascar programme.
‘At Sussex I grew in confidence, felt a part of the University, started to believe that I might actually possess reasoning skills, and thrived. If I live to be 100 years old, not a day will go by that I am not profoundly grateful to the University.’

Jonathan Catherwood
Executive Vice-President and Treasurer
Wendy's International, Inc.

www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni