Welcome to the 30th issue of Falmer, which will be received by over 35,000 alumni around the world.

To all 1998 graduates, a special welcome. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at graduation and hope that life after this milestone is bringing you success and happiness.

For the first time this year, we asked all graduands what it is they would like most from the Alumni Society. We had a great response, with most of you showing enthusiasm for social events and careers information from the University. Don’t forget, you are still able to use the Career Development Unit this year, so take full advantage! Other benefits of staying in touch with the Alumni Society are listed opposite, and the most up-to-date news about what the Society can offer is always to be found on our web site (address below).

1998 also saw a surge in activity among overseas alumni. Worldwide, graduates are making a significant contribution to the future of the University. On page 8 there is news of how alumni in Brussels, Japan and Malaysia are boosting the profile of Sussex, helping with recruitment, and having a lot of fun! In the USA, the Friends of Sussex has been launched and is raising money for scholarships to enable more US postgraduate students to study at Sussex. New overseas alumni groups are springing up all over the world, and are supported and greatly appreciated by the University. If there’s not a group near you, why not contact me to be put in touch with others in your region?

Sussex has a new Vice-Chancellor to take us into the next Millennium. Professor Alasdair Smith has already been greatly involved in alumni activity, and on page 4 has a special message for all former students. There is no doubt that the University is committed to the inclusion of alumni in its community as it grows, so remember to let us know where you are, what you’re doing, and how we can help!

Enjoy the magazine, and keep your news coming in.

Rebekah

Falmer is produced bi-annually by the Alumni Office on behalf of the University of Sussex Society. Views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the University or the Society. While every care is taken to ensure accuracy, we cannot be held responsible for information originating outside the University. With special thanks to colleagues in the Alumni & Development, and Information Offices.

The Editor welcomes articles, news and photographs (although publication cannot be guaranteed). Copy date for the next issue is Friday, 30th April 1999. Send your contributions to: The Alumni Centre, Refectory Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Sussex, BN1 9QU.

Change of name or address? Let us know so we can keep our database up-to-date.

The University of Sussex is a charity which exists to advance learning and knowledge by teaching and research.
Membership of the Alumni Society, which is automatic upon graduation, entitles you to benefit from a range of services and discounts. Take advantage of your status as a former Sussex student with these exclusive deals:

**It’s good for your health**

From January 1999 the Playing Fields Pavilion will reopen as the Falmer Sports Complex following a major refurbishment. Lottery and FSA funding have helped to re-establish the facility and provide excellent opportunities for both the University campus and the local community.

The complex will comprise: An conditioned fitness room with the latest gym equipment and sound system; three squash courts, floodlit artificial turf pitch for hockey, football and tennis; bar and restaurant; new changing rooms, disabled facilities and a reception area. The facility will be open seven days a week throughout the year.

We are offering a special Alumni Membership which will entitle you to free use of the fitness room, squash and tennis courts plus university rates at the Sportcentre. The membership starts from as little as £20 a month for individuals to £30 for couples (one of whom needs to be an ex-student). If you prefer you can pay an annual fee that would work out cheaper still. For more information please contact the Sport Service on (01273) 678228 or email sportservice@sussex.ac.uk.

**It’s good for your image**

The Student Union Shop in Falmer House has a range of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hooded tops, hats, scarves and ties. Telephone Gilan or Eileen, who can advise on current range availability and mail order services, on (01273) 678147.

**It’s good for your brain**

The newly-extended Library at Sussex houses over 750,000 books and receives more than 3,500 periodicals from all over the world. This incredible collection is available to alumni both in Incredible collection is available to alumni both in reference and for borrowing. Reference is available for reference and for borrowing. Reference is open seven days a week and a small charge is made for borrowing rights. For further information, please contact Louise Mayers at the Library, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QL.

**It’s good for your wallet**

The University of Sussex Affinity Credit Card offers competitive rates and no annual fee. Every time you use your card, Bank of Scotland makes a financial contribution to the University which is used to support Campus Welfare Services. Details are available from the Alumni Centre (see p.2 for contact details).

**It’s good for your career**

The Career Development Unit can help you in the year following graduation, and is available for reference to all alumni. See their web page at www.sussex.ac.uk.

Alumni Networking Groups enable former students in the media, science, education and management to meet others in their profession. Keep an eye out for the Education Contacts Web Page, coming soon to the Alumni web page!

(Username: alumni, password: selfless)

**It’s good for business**

The University bookshop offers a National and International mail order service for books and university merchandise. Telephone +44 (0)1273 678333. Email bookshop@sussex.ac.uk

**It’s good for a break**

Alumni can stay on campus over the summer at a discounted rate! Self-catering flats sleeping five and six and one person studio flats are available for 3-7 night stays. Contact the Conference Office on (01273) 678676 for details or email conferences@sussex.ac.uk.

**It’s good for your academic development**

Sussex graduates are eligible for a 15% discount on fees for most taught masters programmes and research degrees at Sussex. Contact Postgraduate Admissions on +44 (0)1273 678412 or email P.G.Alumni@sussex.ac.uk.

**It’s good for business**

A 10% discount is offered to alumni wishing to make use of the Isle of Thorns Conference facilities. The discount applies to the normal bed and breakfast rate for all bookings made before 31st March 1999. Alumni customers will also receive a free glass of wine with their meal! Contact Paul Knight on (01273) 740283 or email paulk@icn-u-net.com.

**It’s good when you need help**

If you need verification of your degree from Sussex, or have lost or damaged your original degree certificate, the Student Systems Office Transcripts and Alumni Services section can help. Telephone +44 (0)1273 877134 or email p.j.harding@sussex.ac.uk.

**It’s good for your social life**

Contact the Alumni Centre on +44 (0)1273 678228, or email alumni@sussex.ac.uk for further details of how to contact old friends and faculty. We are also here to help you to organise your reunion or overseas event.

**It’s good for your cultural life**

The Gardner, Brighton’s only dedicated Arts Centre, offers a fantastic range of realistically priced arts activities including drama, comedy, music, dance, film, visual arts, workshops, and much, much more. Alumni are entitled to see shows at modest prices, including the forthcoming Shobana Jeyashing Dance Company on its Tenth Anniversary Tour on 4th February. Shobana is a Sussex graduate and has emerged as one of the UK’s most exciting and groundbreaking choreographers. For tickets, or details of future performances, contact the box office on (01273) 685861.

Stay in touch if you know what’s good for you!

**Graduate Jobs in Wales**

An initiative has been launched by the Consortium of Welsh Higher Education Institutions to match the skills of experienced graduates with the needs of business and industry in Wales. Interested graduates should visit the website http://graduate-jobs-in-wales.ac.uk for further information.
Sussex ranked 7 in UK Top 10

Sussex achieved seventh place in the annual competition for the award of studentships for postgraduate research degrees by the Economic and Social Research Council. 24 Sussex candidates were successful from the 34 put forward, putting us just ahead of UCL and just behind LSE. If the ranking had been done by success rate, Sussex would have been third with 71%, just behind UCL and Sheffield (each 72%) and comfortably ahead of Cambridge (65%).

In 1997 Sussex was not in the top ten at all, so this represents a real achievement and a challenge for 1999. The application form for these awards is a long and complex one, and success in the competition requires a great deal of effort on the part of students, prospective supervisors and programme convenors.

A Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Sussex has a distinguished record of excellence in teaching and research. It has a very strong international reputation and it enjoys great loyalty from its staff, students and alumni. We need to maintain and build on these strengths.

Current changes in UK higher education will have profound long-term effects, and I believe that there is going to be much more competition between institutions for students. Sussex will have to work hard at student recruitment, and I encourage alumni to help us in this work. Some overseas alumni groups are already giving much appreciated help to our overseas recruitment efforts. We need to raise funding for scholarships for graduate students and we welcome the contributions of alumni to our fund-raising efforts.

Sussex has particular research strengths in areas that are promising for both research development and research funding: European studies, science policy, health-related social sciences; and in the sciences of the 21st century - biological and computing sciences. This strength is not an accident: our interdisciplinary tradition in research has placed us in an extremely competitive position when new research areas emerge on the boundaries of existing areas, particularly in the links between computing sciences and other disciplines.

I have already had the pleasure of talking to alumni groups at class reunions on the Sussex campus, and at meetings in Brussels and New York. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming years. Your continued links with and support of the University are greatly appreciated.

Professor Alasdair Smith

Library Extension

Sussex alumni who recall the days of wandering the Library, arms weighed down with books, looking for a spare desk, would be pleasantly surprised by a visit today. The new Library extension includes additional areas of silence zones, as well as its first self-contained rooms for group work, more PCs, and increased space for audio-visual material. The University was granted permission for the extension to, and refurbishment of, the Grade II listed building by English Heritage and the HEFCE contributed £950,000 towards the £6 million cost.

Grange Hill Graduate Joins Sussex

The tally of Sussex student celebrities has risen with the arrival of John Holmes to study on the Common Professional Examination course in CLS.

John's alter ego, Gonch, was a Grange Hill stalwart from 1984 to 1989, a wheeler-dealer scam artist whose madcap schemes were always doomed to failure. John's progression through academia may have been looked upon with horror by the entrepreneurial Gonch, though the street nous of his on-screen character could come in handy in the law profession. John is at pains to point out that "Gonch wasn't very trustworthy – I'm much more trustworthy than him." Even so, he admits that the man and the scam were hard to prise apart – "Though I never adopted any of the schemes, there was a bit of a chicken and egg situation going on. I did the programme for so long that I wasn't sure where he finished and I began!"

Unlike Gonch, whose distrust of educational authority was notorious, John has taken well to academia, studying politics and economics at Norwich as an undergraduate before becoming involved in Union politics as a subbatical officer. Younger alumni may sadly have missed John's time as Gonch, though as he points out, “they may have seen me on the recent repeats.” John played an 11 year old at the age of 14 – which caused some severe continuity blunders when his voice broke mid-term – so he is no stranger to being older than the students he is surrounded by.

At 28, though, he stresses that he has “never felt in any way mature.”
**Graduation Day – Summer ’98**

Congratulations to all new graduates and welcome to the Alumni Society. Over 1,500 students, together with their families and friends, returned to Sussex in July to receive their awards, many travelling long distances.

The graduation ceremonies also marked a return to Sussex for three former members of the staff of the University who received honours degrees: the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Conway, who left the University last year to take up the post of President of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York; Dr Paul Nurse, the Director General of the Imperial Cancer Fund, and one of the most celebrated biologists of his generation, who was at Sussex between 1979 and 1984, and former Sussex Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barry Supple, who is now Director of the Leverhulme Trust. The other distinguished figures to receive honorary degrees were Andrew Davis, Director of the Glyndebourne Festival Orchestra and one of Britain’s leading conductors, and Dr Jessica Rawson of Merton College, Oxford. This summer’s ceremonies were the first University occasions to be presided over by Lord Attenborough who will be officially installed as University Chancellor at a special ceremony to be held at the Gardner Centre in January. The occasion was also the first as Vice-Chancellor for Alasdair Smith, whose appointment was announced at the end of the previous week.

Among those graduating was Samuel Alford, who graduated with first class honours in pure Maths. Samuel comes from a family where Sussex is something of a tradition; over the last thirty years, no less than five members of the family have graduated from the University, and four of them in Maths. Samuel was joined at his graduation by his father, Michael Alford (MAPS 1965-68 & DPhil Mathematics 1969-72), his mother, Kathleen Alford (née Wilson)(MOLS 1965-68), his aunt Valerie Pullen (née Wilson)(MAPS 1967-70) and his uncle Nicholas Alford (MAPS 1972-75).

Interdisciplinarity brought Michael and Kathleen together; it was due to Sussex’s innovative approach to science teaching that the couple met. Their experience here resulted in them recommending Sussex to their son, and Samuel ended up in the same School as his father had been in thirty years ago.

**New-Look Website**

The new academic year brought with it a new-look Sussex website, completely restructured and redesigned to make it easier to find information about the University – wherever and whoever you are. A local new-media firm was commissioned to come up with a fresh look and feel for the site. At the same time the University devised a new system of menus, based on information for different kinds of users – alumni, for example, and information about different aspects of the University. Coinciding with the new structure and design are a number of new developments on the website including an online teaching timetable and a searchable bank of past exam papers. This year, for the first time, the postgraduate prospectus on the web includes downloadable application forms for potential students. The coming academic year will see further developments on the web. The amount of information available – both for internal and external users – will continue to increase. Bookmark http://www.sussex.ac.uk now!
School News

School & GRC Shortforms

AFRAS School of African and Asian Studies
BIOLS School of Biological Sciences
CCE Centre for Continuing Education
CCS School of Cultural and Community Studies
CDE Centre for the Comparative Study of Culture, Development and the Environment
CGJS Centre for German-Jewish Studies
CLS Centre for Legal Studies
COGS School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences
CPES School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Sciences
CULCOM Graduate Research Centre in Culture and Communication
EAM School of English and American Studies
ENGG School of Engineering
EURO School of European Studies
GRCISS Graduate Research Centre in Social Sciences
HUMS Graduate Centre for the Humanities
IDS Institute of Development Studies
SEI Sussex European Institute
SMS School of Mathematical Sciences
SOC School of Social Sciences
SPRU Science and Technology Policy Research
TCMR The Trafford Centre for Graduate Medical Education and Research
USIE University of Sussex Institute of Education

BIOLS

● Biology is the latest subject group to be reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency. The Group was awarded 22 points out of a possible 24 and was commended for its broad-based relevant and interdisciplinary curriculum, its high standard of teaching and the high level of achievement of its graduates. Amongst other commendations were the excellent University and School resources, the rigorous cycle of evaluation and effective mechanisms for student feedback.

COGS

● COGS recently hosted its second Women into Computing workshop. The individual workshops, which ran over two days, centred around the themes of Artificial Life, Human Computer Interaction and Video Gaming Techniques. There were also parallel programmes for accompanying teachers including, in response to popular demand, a 'hands-on' period. The teachers worked with Alan Morris who designed Kodak a programme which allows schools or museums to produce relatively simple kiosk-style presentations. The workshop involved 16 schools from Sussex and the home counties.

CPES

● 'Utopia' may be launched into the music world thanks to the Creative Science Centre in CPES. The band have been able to lay down tracks in the recording studio at their own Sussex school as part of a project initiated by Dr Jonathan Hare.

The recording studio project has encouraged pupils at Angmering School to become actively engaged with electronic design, as with former pupils made the whole studio from scratch. With help from Jonathan and their teacher, students have built the microphones, mixing desks and amplifiers needed for a fully operational recording unit. Pupils are "very enthusiastic" about the project, says Jonathan. "They are improving all the time and learning all the lessons for themselves."

The collaborative enterprise has been underway for just under a year, funded by a grant from the Royal Society-ESRC Science Education Partnership. The first recording was made in July, and the studio will now be used for poetry readings and drama classes as well as for the school band.

ENG

● A team of Sussex engineers led by Professor Jayawant has just completed the first stage of a NASA-funded project which may revolutionise space travel. The team is conducting research into magnetic levitation, or maglev, as a source of power for rocket launches.

Maglev technology is already being used in transport systems in Japan, Germany and the USA to propel vehicles down specially designed tracks. The transport carriage hovers above the track, held in place by the repelling effect of two magnets of the same pole, ensuring that the friction which would normally slow the transport system down is greatly reduced. According to Dr Denis Edwards, a member of the team, "the magnetic force developed by a maglev engine is like a river - just as if you were a stick on its surface, you can't help but be dragged along by its force."

The team is building on the already proven success of these systems, developing the technology to a point where it might enable cheaper and more frequent space travel. The space launch track would be inclined at a 45 degree angle so that when the rocket reached a critical speed of 600 mph it would be launched off the track and into orbit. The Sussex engineers have completed the first phase of a three part plan by building a prototype for the system which propels a 2 ft shuttle down a 12 ft track at 25 mph in the first 4 ft. The prototype will be built on a bigger scale at a site near the Marshall Space Centre in Alabama in December, when a load of 100 pounds will be expected to accelerate to 70 mph in the first 25 ft.

NASA is particularly interested in exploring any means of rocket launching which can avoid costly fuel waste, and since the maglev track is reusable, it is both cheaper and more environmentally sound.

Jonathan and their teacher, students have built the microphones, mixing desks and amplifiers needed for a fully operational recording unit. Pupils are "very enthusiastic" about the project, says Jonathan. "They are improving all the time and learning all the lessons for themselves."
providing “huge, huge savings,” according to Denis. In fact, in terms of energy cost, the maglev system could launch a rocket for as little as £5.00 worth of electricity from the mains.

EURO

According to ESCR-funded research conducted by Professor Russell King, Dean of EURO, the dream of migrating to warmer climes upon retirement has become a reality for many. Despite fears that the experience would live up to the expectations, Professor King’s study—undertaken with colleagues from the Universities of Sheffield and Exeter—shows that those who have taken the plunge are largely enjoying themselves and determined to stay.

The trigger for this study was a glut of adverse publicity in 1995 which portrayed retired people abroad as sad, lonely and trapped. Russell King found quite the opposite. “By and large we found very much more of a positive result than we expected – a vibrant set of people who were pretty content with the climate and the way of life.”

Concentrating on those who have retired in the sun, the study shows that Malta, Tuscany, the Algarve and the Costa del Sol are the ‘hot spots’ for emigration, with Tuscany the more popular destination for those from professional and managerial backgrounds. Malta attracted more former manual workers, largely because of its armed forces connections. The trend towards retirement emigration is set to rise as social and cultural mobility and European integration increases, and with the projected increase in ageing populations.

Attracted by the slower pace of life and the greater respect for the elderly in Southern Europe, many of the émigrés have launched themselves into the local culture with gusto. Their only complaint has been with bureaucratic red tape and persistent language barriers, particularly in Spain and Portugal. Surprisingly though, separation from loved ones didn’t prove disruptive, as people stayed for weeks on end.”

In fact, as Russell King points out, “sometimes respondents found these visits disruptive, as people stayed for weeks on end.”

Professor Russell King was appointed Dean of EURO from September 1st 1998.

SOC

Dr Rod Bond was appointed Dean of SOC from 1 August 1998.

Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art

This new research centre was inaugurated at Sussex last term. The Centre is co-ordinated by a newly-appointed Research Administrator, Dr Michelle O’Malley, who is a scholar of Italian Renaissance art and was formerly Head of Exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts. According to Michelle, “The Centre will develop the diverse and challenging culture for research in art history at Sussex. We shall encourage innovative scholarship by supporting long-term research projects, studentships and postdoctoral fellowships, and by drawing scholars together for lectures, conferences, symposia and seminars. We shall also explore partnerships with other institutions in the field and generate external funding for the range of our activities.”

History of Art at Sussex was awarded the 5* grading in the last national Research Assessment Exercise, one of only three departments in the UK to receive this accolade.

USIE

Sussex has received good results from the Secondary PGCE OFSTED inspection carried out last year. Out of 24 aspects of the training, the course gained 4 grade ones (very good), 18 grade twos (good) and 2 grade threes (satisfactory). Outstanding features identified by the inspectors were the quality of the University teaching, and partnership between the schools and the University. The process was particularly stringent as the course was being inspected against the new standards for teacher training which had only just been introduced.
Those who were unable to attend this occasion and would like to hear more about alumni activity revived in Malaysia should contact the Alumni Centre, University of Sussex, Refectory Building, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QU, UK (email: R.E.Reid@sussex.ac.uk) or Chang Chi Wai in Malaysia (email: Chi.Wai.Chang@intel.com) for further details.

Brussels

The Brussels Club has experienced something of a revival and has met twice since the last edition of Falmer. The first event, which took place at the British Embassy in July, attracted around 30 alumni based in Brussels, working within the European Commission and for other Brussels-based organisations. As a follow-up to this event, and to meet the new Vice-Chancellor who was visiting the city, over 30 alumni met in October for dinner at Vincent’s, one of Brussels’ wonderful eateries. Over dinner and drinks, alumni and University representatives discussed times at Sussex old and new, and alumni expressed great enthusiasm at the chance to be actively involved in the future of the University.

As a result of these meetings, a working party has been established to plan strategies for future activity as well as establishing an email network. Already, alumni are getting involved in a range of programmes such as mentoring visiting students, providing careers advice and work placements, and visiting schools to promote the University. Future plans include an annual event to coincide with the visit from students at the Sussex European Institute, which takes place early in June each year.

For further information please contact Rebekah at the Alumni Centre on +44 1273 678258 or e-mail R.E.Reid@sussex.ac.uk

Japan

In early October Japanese alumni again turned out to assist on the Sussex stand at the British Council Education Fairs in Osaka and Tokyo which over 50 British universities attended. Last year was the first year that Sussex alumni had helped at the various fairs. It was such a success that this year many other universities copied the idea! Maryll Dean, the Deputy Director of the Centre for Legal Studies is now the regular Sussex representative for Japan and makes visits twice a year. The two day Fairs in Tokyo and Osaka were visited by over 1600 people in each city. This meant a lot of work for those...
...commented, “The Japan Alumni Association is very active and a model for other groups to follow. Its contribution to recruitment is invaluable but more importantly the support it gives to Sussex in many other ways is wonderful to see. Moreover on my visits I now feel I am returning to visit friends and not just alumni. It is a great group of people, efficiently organised, effectively networked and a credit to Sussex.”

**SAN FRANCISCO**

Sussex alumni in the San Francisco Bay Area celebrated our first-ever get-together on November 14. Using the excuse of a faculty visit (EAM’s Dr. Stephen Fender) we lured people to one of the area’s trendiest restaurants to eat gourmet food, drink good California wine, and reminisce. In all, 32 of us braved the Saturday night traffic to hear Dr. Fender talk about some of the changes on campus and the various accolades the University has won for its recent research. We had quite a cross-section of alumni, representing just about every school, and graduates from the ‘sixties through to 1996. It was an interesting mix too of Brits and Yanks, since a number of us had been 50 miles or more from Silicon Valley for the event and two people even came down from Sacramento (over 100 miles away). Most of us had never met one another before the night yet, judging by the noise level, everyone had lots to say. In fact, no one seemed to want to leave, so after dinner we adjourned to the bar next door and continued the party. By popular demand, we are planning a second event for early 1999.

**EIRE**

Anybody interested in a group for Sussex alumni in Ireland are invited to contact Marie Motley (EAM 1981-85) by email at marie.motley@mentec.ie

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**Publications by Sussex Alumni**


Ian Collier (EAM 1992-95) Live and Work in Germany (2nd Ed.) and Awakening Job hiddens Both Vacations Week, 1998


Harry Goldbourne (DPhil Comparative Politics 1972-75) Race Relations in Britain Since 1945 Macmillan, 1998


Mark’s first novel won him the Fulder Award, an annual award for the best first novel for children in the 8-12 age group.


150 Puzzles (with Rod Marshall)
The Faculty and Institute of Actuaries, 1998 (as part of the Institute of Actuaries 150 year celebrations)


1973 Reunion

Last September saw an emotional and happy 25th anniversary reunion for the intake of 1973. The event, which took place on campus over the exceptionally warm and sunny weekend of September 19th/20th, was attended by nearly 150 Class members, their partners and children. One of the highlights of the weekend was an animated panel discussion about the student experience then and now. Pandelos were the Vice-Chancellor Professor Alasdair Smith and presidents past and present – 76) and Student Union headquarters the Clue if you plan to attend.

Human Sciences Reunion

A reunion for Human Scientists of all years was held on campus over brunch on Sunday 27th September 1998 at the Gardner Arts Centre. The reunion marked the retirement of Dr Gerry Webster after 17 years as convenor of the Human Sciences degree. Gerry was thanked in speeches by Professor John Maynard Smith and Daniel Simon (BOLS 1983 – 88) and was presented with gifts and cards. The gathering enjoyed a Chucks Fat brunch and lively jazz and the celebrations lasted long into the afternoon.

Engineering Event

Nearly sixty former students and faculty attended the reunion for the Engineering graduates of 1993 and adjacent year groups which took place on campus on Saturday, 7th November 1998. The group met Sub-Dorm Phil Neller and Pierre Bernard (ENG 1990 - 97) in the afternoon for refreshments, and returned to their student days together with a series of lectures on recent developments in Engineering. Having worked up a healthy appetite, they moved on to the more serious business of food and drink with a buffet at the Gardner Arts Centre. This was followed by a lively tour of old haunts East Slope Bar and The Grapevine, before heading into Brighton to continue the festivities.

UoSs Elections

The following Executive Officers have been re-elected to serve the Alumni Society on its Management Committee for a further three years.

Chairman – John Spiers
Secretary – Okhile Amoama
Treasurer – Lorne Duncan

1999 Teaching Awards Scheme

The University of Sussex Alumni Society makes awards of £250 annually as one way of promoting excellence in teaching and learning at the University. The Awards are open to all those teaching University courses and for MPhil and DPhil supervision. Applicants for an award may be nominated by members of staff and/or students and alumni of the University, or be self-nominated. The 1999 scheme commences in the Spring term, with an initial deadline for nominations of 17th February 1999.

The 1998 Awards were given at last Summer’s Graduation Ceremony to Tony Binnns (AFRAS), Dorothy Sheridan (Mass-Observation Archive, Library) and Nicola Woods (COGS).

Nomination forms and notes for guidance are available from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit, Arts D 421, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9SL. Tel: 01273 678243, or e-mail: W.D.Locke@ussex.ac.uk
START SPREADING THE NEWS

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TANDING AT A WINDOW in the President’s office, former Vice-Chancellor of Sussex University Gordon Conway surveys the Manhattan traffic twenty-three floors below. The fastest way to travel on a Friday afternoon, he says, is in the express elevator up to his offices in the Rockefeller Foundation. The traffic is going nowhere.

The Foundation has offices in the Girl Scouts of America building on New York’s exclusive 5th Avenue. The view from the President’s office is dominated by the Empire State building rising skywards two blocks away, and by the sweep of the harbour, with Liberty Island and the famous statue visible in the distance.

Gordon Conway is honouring a promise he made when he was appointed the first non-American President of the Rockefeller Foundation – to host a Sussex alumni event there. The occasion is the launch of the US Friends of the University of Sussex, and over fifty guests are expected including the current Vice-Chancellor Alasdair Smith.

The Friends have been established by three Sussex alumni groups: Washington, Chicago and New York. The organisation is registered with the US Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3), meaning that gifts to it from US taxpayers are tax deductible.

Many of tonight’s guests have already taken advantage of the new organisation, signing up as founder members and raising around $10,000 in the process. The money will go into a scholarship fund, which will be used to aid recruitment of US postgraduate students.

It starts to get darker. The view from the President’s window changes, as the Empire State is floodlit in garish colours giving it the appearance of a giant milkshake. The guests start arriving. Alasdair Smith is one of the first, along with John Spiers who chairs the University of Sussex Alumni Society, and Alumni Officer Rebekah Reid.

The reception takes place in the atrium of the 23rd floor, a wide gallery looking down onto the Rockefeller’s main reception area and a square stone sculpture of a flat world map covered in cascading waters. Waters glade around with an abundance of refreshments and hors d’oeuvres. In the adjacent boardroom, with its huge, polished oval table and stuffed leather chairs, the Research at Sussex video is playing, projected onto a screen occupying most of one wall.

Dinner follows in the Trustees private dining room. Baby greens with jicama matchsticks in a champagne vinaigrette is followed by a choice of broiled swordfish in a Dijon caper sauce or breast of chicken in a walnut & rosemary crust. Cranberry & pecan bread pudding with Crème Anglaise leads on to coffee and the presentation of alumni fellowships. The Alumni Society is empowered to award fellowships – in recognition of service to the Society and the University, achievement of alumni in personal or professional life, or those making a significant contribution to the local community.

John Spiers presents candidates for the award. They are John Sedlins, President of the Friends and Chair of the Washington group; Rebecca Janowitz, Vice-President of the Friends and Chair of the Chicago Group; Laurie Schlagel, Vice-President of the Friends and Chair of the New York Group; and (Ken) Tatsuo Fujimura, founder and first President of the highly influential Japanese alumni group. The fellowship certificates are presented by Alasdair Smith.

The keynote speech is given by Alasdair. He starts by presenting a ‘surprise’ fellowship to John Spiers, now in his fifteenth year as Chair of the Alumni Society. Alasdair then looks forward to his term of office as Vice-Chancellor, outlines his vision for the future of the University, and suggests new roles for the growing number of alumni – focusing in particular on student recruitment.

Gordon Conway wraps up the proceedings; but the evening has come alive and the guests are reluctant to leave. We are finally ushered out into the Manhattan traffic, now moving at a steady crawl, with the yellow swarm of New York cabs buzzing in and out like angry wasps. The city-that-never-sleeps is living up to its reputation.

Do You Want to be a part of it – NEW YORK, NEW YORK?

The New York alumni group is to be re-launched. To ensure you are on the mailing list, please contact Jessica Thurlow (MA in HUMS 1994-95) by e-mailing JThurlow@law.columbia.edu or Laurie Schlagel (V&A student 1976-77) at lschlag@reporters.net
Kevin Apps, a physics and astrophysics student at Sussex, hit the headlines in October after being named as the co-discoverer of a new planet.

At the time it was the twelfth planet to be discovered outside our solar system. It has now been joined by a further two, both of which Kevin has been partly responsible for discovering.

Kevin first contacted Dr Geoff Marcy and Paul Butler of the San Francisco (SF) planet-hunting group, currently the most eminent group of astronomers, in November 1997 after writing to request a copy of the list of the stars they were monitoring. When he checked the stars against a catalogue recently published by the European Space Agency he found that 30 of the 300 stars being monitored couldn't lead to the discovery of planets. Some of the stars were Giant stars which, unlike Dwarf stars typically used to detect planets, cannot be used to detect planets. This is because it is impossible to measure whether they are pulsating and so indicating a nearby planet, or simply being pulled around by the draw of another star.

In the intervening period a total of almost 500 pages of e-mail went back and forth between Kevin and the SF group as he was informed of the progress of the project. On 19th July he received an e-mail to tell him that one of his stars had started to wobble (a sign that the star was close to a planet). “I was gobsmacked!” says Kevin “I walked around the house in a complete daze.”

However, it wasn’t until 24th September, after the scientific paper had been written and credited, that Kevin was able to go public. The planet, named HD187123, and located 154 lights years away in the constellation of Cygnus, is half the mass of Jupiter and takes just three days to orbit its parent star.

Kevin became interested in stargazing when he was four years old, after his parents bought him a telescope. Since then Kevin, now 25, has followed all the latest discoveries and claims to be “more interested in what goes on up there than things down here!” He is now a member of both the SF group team and the Darwin Project, which is part of the European Space Project.

It is just three years since the discovery, by a Swiss team, of the first planet outside our solar system. The SF group have found 11 of the 14 planets so far discovered. According to Kevin, their success rests on the advanced methods used to measure the velocity of stars, which are now five times more accurate than methods used by other teams. Kevin is confident that advances in space-based instrumentation and more sensitive performance of space-based instruments could even more discoveries in the future and could eventually allow him to see images of his planet. He says that quantum physics “is moving towards answers” to questions which we have never been able to answer. Dr Paul Marcy of the SF group affirms that “what we’re all about is discovering planets where evolution might have gained a toehold.”

Before joining Sussex last year Kevin had worked in the laboratories at Duracell. However, after working on two space projects he is adamant that he doesn’t wish to return to a commercial environment. Instead he hopes that on leaving university he will be able to gain a full-time position on a space project. Kevin currently has three telescopes around the world monitoring 300 stars and these will undoubtedly turn up more planets. He says that he enjoyed the 15 minutes of fame but is glad that he is now able to get back to his studying and stargazing in peace. “I did what I wanted to. That’s for me now. I just want to concentrate on finding some more planets.”
For a few moments on 22nd September this year, a small part of Brighton became the coldest place in the universe. That place was a lab in CPES at the University of Sussex, where Aidan Arnold, Calum McCormick and Dr. Malcolm Boshier made a Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC) – the first created in the UK.

Room-temperature atoms whiz around at close to the speed of sound (~300metres/s), and their velocity is halved whenever the temperature drops by a factor of 4. When the velocity of atoms drops to zero this is the coldest temperature you can achieve – absolute zero. On a Celsius scale this happens at -273°C. The atoms in a BEC are all in their coldest state theoretically possible, and this corresponds to about 1/10,000,000th of a 0°C above absolute zero…mighty chilly! The sluggish atoms cruise along at a snail's pace of 5mm/s.

Rubidium atoms in a gas are used for the experiment, and various steps are used to get them to such low temperatures. First they are laser cooled. This might sound like a contradiction at first, but it is a very real effect.

You may have noticed that when a car travels towards you, it sounds higher in frequency than when it is travelling away from you (this is known as the Doppler Effect). The same thing happens with light! If a car with an orange light was travelling toward you then the light would look slightly more green, and as the light travelled away from you, it would look slightly more red. The effect is so small that it’s hardly noticeable for speeds slower than the speed of light (so don’t try it out on a police officer!)

Atoms are sensitive to these very small effects though, as they will only absorb light which is a very precisely defined colour, or frequency. This is why we use lasers, as the colour has to be stable to 1 part in a million. With careful use of laser beams and magnetic fields the Doppler effect means you can slam atoms around with forces 10,000 times stronger than gravity! Using laser cooling you can collect a billion atoms in a little round ball 1mm across, cooled down to just 1/10,000th of a 0°C above absolute zero.

In the lab you can see the little ball of glowing red atoms levitating inside a vacuum chamber. Without a good vacuum the atoms in the laser trap would be knocked out by hot atoms buzzing around inside the chamber. A "good" vacuum in this case means a pressure 100,000,000,000,000 times smaller than atmospheric pressure (we tend not to use barometers to measure this). This isn’t the end of the story though, because there are limits to how cold and dense the atoms can be made with laser cooling. For this reason the lasers are switched off and the atoms are transferred into a magnetic trap. This kind of trap is possible because atoms behave like very tiny magnets.

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The atoms in a BEC all behave in a very similar way, and atoms in a BEC are to atoms what lasers are to light. In light the photons ("light particles") all behave in the same way, and in BEC the atoms collapse together into a kind of "superatom". So it could be possible that the same wave of innovations that occurred after the first laser was created may follow with BEC. But don’t expect the release of any BECD players in your record stores for a few years yet...

The figure depicts a ‘slice’ through the Sussex Bose-Einstein Condensate. The BEC was released from the confining magnetic trap, and allowed to fall freely for 1/50th of a second. It is still only about 0.1mm across. For comparison a small ball of room temperature atoms would have expanded into a ball the size of a house in this time.
THE ARTS MARKETING DIRECTOR

Joanna Baker (French Studies, EURO 1979-1983) is the marketing and public affairs director of the Edinburgh International Festival. She is responsible for all marketing and press for the event, promoting up to 200 music, theatre, opera and dance performances over the three week festival.

Joanna started her career at the Royal National Theatre after graduation, first in telephone sales and later as a box office assistant. After gaining a training bursary in Arts Management from the Arts Council of Great Britain to cover placements, she undertook work with Cardiff Arts Marketing and Welsh National Opera. Joanna joined Sadler’s Wells Royal Ballet as a press and marketing assistant in 1985 and by the time she left, four years later, was head of department. With three more years’ experience at the Welsh National Opera as Head of Marketing and Press, she moved to her current position in January 1992.

Joanna now manages a permanent staff of five, rising to forty temporary staff at festival time. Her role includes involvement in all aspects of planning and programming the festival, including travelling to see events under consideration, setting financial targets and producing printed material. The job involves detailed planning to meet deadlines, something which Joanna recognises, “was not something I was noted for as a student!”

On graduating Joanna was unsure about which career path she wanted to take. “I just knew I didn’t want to do something technically related. I thought it would be nice to work in the arts but I didn’t know what.” She feels that the collaborative and challenging tutorial style at Sussex provided her with good training for working within the creative industries. In addition, the language and cultural perspective of her degree prepared her for the different aspects of her role. “Every month and every year is different, I get a mixture of practical targets and creativity and also get to travel and meet people.”

Joanna believes that good communication skills and financial literacy are important in her job, but even more vital is “a passion for the arts, a desire to communicate that passion to others, and a creative flexible brain.” There is massive competition for even the most junior job and those who have shown initiative through gaining voluntary or temporary work give themselves a head start. Joanna’s advice to graduates wishing to pursue a similar career is clear. “If you’re going to be a press officer, you have to be prepared to start at the bottom, stuff envelopes, putting up posters and be prepared to keep on doing it; the sector has little money and is not glamorous so I never employ anyone who can’t use a fax machine!”

THE PRESS OFFICER

Tessa Camilleri (English with Public Media, CCS 1990-93) is a corporate press officer with the BBC. As the first point of contact for the media, Tessa acts as spokesperson on enquiries ranging from policy to programme matters.

After graduation, Tessa gained her first post as Press Officer with Tower Hamlets Council and within a month was offered an editorial assistant position on the first weekly colour newspaper published by a Council. Promoted five months later to Deputy Editor, she was responsible for writing, commissioning features, setting up photo shoots and overall production of the paper. Tessa increasingly began to liaise with the Council’s press officers and was attracted by the variety and fast pace of their role.

Tessa gained her first post as Press Officer at the Council one year later with responsibility for social services, “with really hard, crisis stories” and art, leisure and sports “the enjoyable part!” The completion of a CAM postgraduate course supplemented the theoretical learning provided at Sussex and gave her the practical knowledge which led to a successful application to the BBC one year later.

In her current position, Tessa has been involved in the BBC’s 75th anniversary celebrations and was one of the press officers for Children in Need last year. Her love of the job is clear. “You’re dealing with real news issues that everybody knows about...I find that a real adrenaline beat.” She particularly finds the variety of her role attractive; “I have to write, talk to journalists and cope with crises so have to be both proactive and reactive.”

With the recent launch of digital services in television, Tessa feels that she is lucky to move into the media industry at such an exciting time. “It’s a revelation in television and I feel privileged to be here at the start of it.” Tessa believes that her time at Sussex provided an excellent grounding for such a career, with an emphasis on freedom of expression and close connections to the capital. For her, Sussex’s appeal was a media course offered when no other university provided such a degree and she believes the University retains the reputation of a modern, innovative institution.

Tessa’s success shows how valuable work experience is to those graduates wishing to enter such a sought after industry. She advises, “look for administrative jobs - anything in a press office which will teach you how things run and get to know people’s names.” She stresses, “you can’t sit down and learn the job; it all comes from pure experience,” and having the confidence “to be able to telephone complete strangers to sell your story” is essential. Most importantly Tessa believes that, in a job where you can never predict a normal working day, coping with crises is unavoidable, demanding, yet all part of the excitement!

Interviews by Sarah Bravin (EAM 1995-98)
Ringing the Changes

Our recent move to new offices in the Refectory has brought us a number of benefits, including lots of extra space! We have so much extra space that this year, for the first time ever, we have been able to bring the annual phonathon ‘in-house’.

Our first session, currently under way, is to call MAPS and MOLS alumni using current students as callers and, wherever possible, matching the caller’s course with the former student’s. The callers want to talk to you about alumni services and, of course, seek a contribution to this year’s Annual Fund.

Making a gift is entirely up to you – the callers will not press if you say no. But most of them are keen to chat too so, if you want to catch up on people and places, find out what happened to old so and so, or are curious to know where some of your long lost friends have got to, this is your opportunity.

Alumni Scholarships & Prizes

Geoff Lockwood Scholarship
Named in honour of the University’s long-serving Registrar and funded by alumni, the scholarship provides a bursary of £1,000 towards tuition fees for high calibre, self-funding postgraduate students. The selection committee, this year including Geoff himself, awarded the scholarship to Imogen Heard, who has just completed a first class honours degree in Mathematical Physics at the University of Liverpool. Imogen will be studying for an MSc in Astronomy at Sussex.

Waterloo Scholarships
A James Banks Waterloo Scholarship has been awarded to Laura Cotton, a second year student in the School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science. Laura will use the award, worth £250, to help defray the costs of her exchange programme at the University of Waterloo in Canada this autumn. James graduated from MOLS in 1984.

SAIL Scholarships
Aminul Hoque from East Ham, London, reading American Studies in EAM, is in the final year of a four-year SAIL (Sussex And Inner London link) Scholarship funded by John SIC (61-64) & Gillian (MAPS 64-66) Cumberland. Aminul says the Scholarship has changed his life.

Pat Young Scholarship
Sussex EAM graduate, Pat Young, who was studying part-time for a DPhil at Sussex, sadly died earlier this year. In her will, she left a legacy of £10,000 ‘for the support of mature students working in the School of English & American Studies’. The capital has been invested as she directed, and the income will be used in accordance with her wishes.

Marcus Cunliffe Bursary
Funded by alumni in honour of the late Marcus Cunliffe, the bursary, worth £1,000, was awarded this year to Marina Cacioppo, a DPhil student in American Studies who is working on the writings of American authors of Italian descent. The award also provides her with research access to the Library of Congress and accreditation at George Washington University in Washington DC.

The Val McNaughton Prize
Commemorating the life of Val McNaughton (AFRAS 79-82) the prize, awarded annually to the best student in International Relations, was won this year by Rebecca Joanne Beavis from East Ham, London, reading American Studies in EAM, in the final year of a four-year SAIL (Sussex And Inner London link) Scholarship funded by John SIC (61-64) & Gillian (MAPS 64-66) Cumberland. Rebecca says the Scholarship has changed his life.

Making a Gift

If you wish to support any of the above causes, or simply want to make a gift to the Annual Fund, call (02223 6733) for details of tax efficient forms of giving, and maximise the value of your gift.

Last week, an alumnus called to update her standing order. While we were talking, she said ‘...what a pity universities have to rely so much on fund raising these days’.

The truth, of course, is that universities have relied on fund raising for the past seven hundred years or so. Techniques might have changed but the need hasn’t, universities are always striving to improve and over the centuries it is alumni who have made the greatest contribution.

Of course, we could settle for what we have but that’s the road to mediocrity. The alternative is to build on what we have and strive to improve it. Or, rather, you can because your gifts are making that difference. Your gifts are providing the edge of excellence that keeps Sussex special. That’s why your support for the Annual Fund is so vital.

Thank you.
convenient in many ways, I found it very difficult to just be myself and not 'fit in' most of the time (the Adaptive Child in me?) I eventually trained in what I most enjoyed - gardening. A gardener with a non-Horticultural degree? Very odd, you might think, but obviously at this time feelings were more important to me (the Free or Creative Child?), and I experienced feelings of Euphoria. Was this my 'Manic' phase?

After qualifying I returned home to Brighton and to normalcy. I found that my name on the waiting list for a flat had come up – a chance to develop my uniqueness which just couldn't be done at home (at least not with my Mum!) Occasionally I worked, rather casually, but mostly I had to be on benefits. At that time I was living with my parents, subsequent to my divorce (my ex had got custody of the children, whom I missed greatly), and whilst living with my folks was

However, I took to the wheelchair and, despite many obstacles, I am still endeavouring to live a 'normal', i.e., not too handicapped, life. I am taking several part-time college courses (expanding my Adult ego-state?), including one related to the BSc degree in Experimental Psychology I took all those years ago. The course is an introduction to Transactional Analysis – I find all these psychological theories and models help me to understand myself!
Greetings from this year's sabbatical team! We are unique in Sussex's sabbatical history, as we have no vice-presidents. VP's, now referred to as officers, were swept away as part of a major overhaul of USSU's constitution. We have introduced a range of new measures to truly kick-start the process of giving Sussex a Union that is able to meet the needs of the twenty-first century student. The changes include an all-singing, all-dancing and brand spangley new election system designed to devolve power to the constituent bodies of the Union and a long overdue Equal Opportunities policy.

As well as developing the Union's structures, we are very excited about the possibilities of physically developing Falmer House, the home that we share with Career Development and Student Employment Offices. You may remember from a past edition of Falmer that the University and the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) had earmarked a large amount of money to repair the roof, electrics and heating within the building. That work will begin in March, along with networking the offices. In the next two weeks the University will be submitting another bid to HEFCE on our behalf for internal development. The proposal will include plans for a disabled lift, turning Mandela Hall into a purpose designed entertainments area and giving clubs and societies plenty of activities space. We are hoping that the bid will be accepted for its strengths in encouraging greater student and staff use of the building and promoting co-operation between the building occupants.

I very much enjoyed meeting some alumni at a recent 1973 reunion and hope to be invited back to more. Much concern was expressed about the introduction of tuition fees and the death of the maintenance grant. The Union's beliefs are clear on this subject - we condemn this attack on education, we believe it will limit the type of people entering University and the type of employment they will seek after graduation. We also believe that it will harm students as they study (a recent survey showed that 90% of Sussex students who graduated in the last two years had to work to support themselves through their degree, eating into valuable time for study and extra-curricular activities). We do not believe that the passing of the Teaching and Higher Education Act means that we should accept this most serious attack on the principle of free education. Around 200 Sussex students will be attending the National ‘Grants not Fees’ demonstration in London and other action is planned. We are also beginning to investigate setting up some type of hardship or scholarship scheme to financially assist students who would otherwise be unable to attend Sussex.

Finally, I have to report that first years are getting younger. It is now five years since I started my undergraduate degree and got the shock of my life when East Slope Bar appeared to be packed with under-age drinkers back in October. The fresh-faced youngster have now found their way round campus, the bewilderingly large library extension and the Zap nightclub. They're not so fresh-faced anymore but are decidedly cool young adults - another generation of true Sussex students arrives!

Pictured, from top left clockwise, are Hannah Darvil (SOC 1995-98), Education Officer; Joe Martin (SMS 1995-98), Sports Officer; Harriet Cox (EAM 1993-98), Finance Officer; Chris Wright (EAM 1996-), Communications Officer; Kate Ridley (CCS 1995-98) Welfare Officer; and Becca Holyhead, President. All can be contacted at ussu@sussex.ac.uk.
IN MEMORIAM

CHRISTOPHER GRIFFIN-BEALE

Chris (EURO 1966-69), who died suddenly in May 1998 at the age of fifty, was one of the most high-profile of the many Sussex graduates who worked in the media, becoming head of press and deputy head of corporate affairs for Channel 4.

His professional gift for the encouragement of others was already highly developed when he was at Sussex between 1966 and 1969, reading Russian and English. Generally known as Goff, he was recognizably the man of his later television career with his corduroy trousers, baggy jacket and polo necked jumper; a small, hurried figure, always bubbling with enthusiasm, always late for something. His most significant work at Sussex was on the seminar programme where he edited the weekly magazine programme In Camera. One of the projects he encouraged (and produced, and acted in) was a spoof on the silent films of the Russian Revolution made in 1967 and called Fire over Falmer.

After Sussex Chris worked for the BBC, then as a deputy editor of the leading trade magazine Broadcast, before being picked by Jeremy Isaacs in 1981 to be chief press officer of the soon-to-be-launched Channel 4. No one realised at the time what a weight would be placed on Chris’s shoulders, for Channel 4 was subjected to a continuing hail of negative press criticism for its portrayal of alternative lifestyles. It was Chris who always fielded the first blows, taking calls at all hours of the day and night, and even while he was on holiday. He adored Channel 4, and was immensely proud of every aspect of it, including its big new building in Horseferry Road where his presence is most sorely missed.

Jad Adams (CCS 1973-76)

ANDREW HARDMAN

Andrew Hardman (EAM 1967-70) died just before Christmas 1997. A great many people will remember Andrew (known to friends as Bugsy) as one of the liveliest and ablest students in his year. As a fellow History student I shared several seminars and tutorials with him. One of the high points of my time at Sussex was the final year revision seminar in eighteenth century British History, taken by Peter Hennock, which Andrew and I shared with Colin Langton, John Holkham and Jim Epstein (biographers of Henry “Ounce” Hunt and Fringa O’Connor respectively).

After graduating Andrew assisted Keith Middleton in his biography of Edmund VIII and Margaret Cook in her account of the 1926 General Strike, and then went on to join the civil service. He particularly enjoyed his time as Private Secretary to Employment Secretary James Prior and later contributed to the trade union legislation of the 1980s. He was still serving in the Department of Employment when I last met him in 1993.

All who knew Andrew will share my sense of loss at his death. Gill Perry, a fellow student from 1968-75 and close to Andrew until his death, remembers him as “engaging, witty and brilliant – we miss him terribly.”

Michael Williams (EAM 1967-70)

YANNAI HEIDECKER

Yannai Heidecker (COGS 1992-95) passed away on the 2nd April 1998 after having battled with leukemia since the previous summer. In his 24 years he lived an interesting and adventurous life and made a lasting impression on all who met him. He was a unique individual the likes of whom we shall never see again.

During his time studying CSAI in Cogs he would often be found frequenting the Hungry Years and visiting all the night spots to be found in Brighton. After graduating he moved back to London to obtain more A-levels in order to study medicine in Italy.

He maintained his positive outlook on life throughout his illness, most notably his sense of humour. During his time in hospital he summed up the days, with only daytime T.V. and internet shopping to occupy him, as “pretty much my ideal lifestyle”, also commenting that “I have a nice drip and nice bowls to throw up into, a bit like being a first year again.”

Yannai was a very private person and also had a tender and sensitive side, sometimes hidden by his mischievous antics. He is greatly missed and we offer our condolences to his family.

Simon, Dave and Rowena.

COLIN LEE

Colin (BIOLS 1974-77) died, tragically and unexpectedly, in February 1997, aged 40. He had lived in Australia since 1986, working as a computer consultant, but was great at keeping in touch with all his old friends. He is a character much loved and much missed. He may be remembered for his purple Norton, wearing a scuffy brown leather bomber jacket and dancing enthusingly (but oddly) at campus discos.

Debra Del Valle (EAM 1974-77)

HAZEL MARLOW

Hazel studied French in AFRAS between 1980 and 1984, spending her third year in French Guyana. After graduation, she spent ten years in London, broking and trading in the oil industry. Her interests centred around photography, music, literature and a love of Art Deco and the 1930s. She joined the T.A. and served in Bosnia for six months on secondment. In 1996 she left London to return to her home town, taking up a post with the RSC in Stratford, as an administrative assistant and photographer in the Education Department. Hazel died in an accident on 6th March, 1998, at the age of 36. Her pictures are still to be seen in RSC publications and programmes.

Valerie Marlow

CHRISTOPHER PARSONS

I was a very good friend of Chris’ (BIOLS 1992-95) and shared a house with him in the second year. His enthusiasm for life has had a great influence on me and I will never forget it. I know that others who knew him well join with me in saying that Chris is, and will be, deeply missed. He had achieved what many of us are still looking for: happiness, his goal in life. He was taken in the prime of his life by a wicked fate, but we will always be lovingly remembered by those who knew him.

David Parker (BIOLS 1992-95)
Booker Prize Winner

Prolific writer Ian McEwan (EURO 1967-70) has been awarded the prestigious Booker Prize 1998 for his novel *Amsterdam* (Jonathan Cape, 17th September 1998). McEwan beat the bookmakers’ favourite, Beryl Bainbridge, to the award which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1998. Despite earlier claims that “It really must be hell to win,” Ian was reportedly “stunned” by his win which sealed his status as a literary celebrity.

*Amsterdam* tells the story of two old friends who meet in the throng outside a crematorium to pay their last respects to a lover they both shared. What follows the meeting involves a sex scandal threatening the career of a Cabinet minister, disastrous moral decisions and a friendship tested to the limits.

McEwan, who turned fifty last year, was well into his thirties when the literary world recognised his immense talent. By then, he had already created a body of work that has aroused intense reactions, occasionally provoked controversy, and had always received exceptional critical acclaim.

He describes himself as “a very mediocre pupil” until he was seventeen, when he began to find English literature exciting. The discovery brought him to Sussex, where he studied in the School of European Studies. Ian went on to gain an MA in creative writing and began writing short stories, the first of which, *Homemade*, was accepted by The New American Review and the money earned from its publication paid for a trip to Afghanistan on the hippy trail.

In 1972 he returned to England and taught English as a second language whilst writing. In 1975 his volume of short stories *First Love, Last Rites* was published to sensational critical acclaim, and won the Somerset Maugham Award. Subsequent collections of stories shocked the English literary establishment with their themes of adolescent sexual awakenings, the perverse and the macabre.

*The Cement Garden*, McEwan’s first novel, was published in 1978 and by 1980 he was established as ‘a leading literary spokesman for his generation.’

Lewinsky Book Deal

Biographer Andrew Morton (RAE 1972-75), famed author of the most authoritative biography of the late Princess of Wales, is reported to have struck a book deal with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Morton is to write Lewinsky’s memoirs in an agreement that will earn at least $1 million between them and grants the author “exclusive and unrestricted access” to Ms Lewinsky and her family. Details of the affair between Monica Lewinsky and the US President, Bill Clinton, proved a talking point of 1998, both within and outside the USA. It is expected that publication will take place some time between February and summer, no doubt hitting bookshops amid a flurry of controversy.

Sandér’s Brit-Flik

The Governess is writer and director Sandra Goldbacher’s (EURO 1978-82) first feature film. It was released first in the USA, which it took by storm, and is enjoying rave reviews across Britain. Starring Academy Award Nominee Minnie Driver, the film follows the story of headstrong Rosina, a Jewish girl determined not to marry for money but still trying to save her family from poverty following the death of her father. To this end, Rosina takes the job of governess to the family of Charles Cavendish on the Scottish Isle of Skye, where she becomes involved in Cavendish’s pioneering work in photography.

Sandor’s interest in film began at Sussex, where she first started running around with a camera making films, and developed through a postgraduate film course and making documentaries for, among others, the BBC. Future projects include two films, one a contemporary relationship study and another based on the novel *Nana*, about a 19th Century courtesan.

In Brief

● Festus Mogae (MA Economics 1969-70) succeeded President Ketumile Maure last year to become the third national leader of Botswana.

● Charlie Masters, (EURO 1991-96), has been (literally) making the news. Charlie, a freelance journalist based in Paris, was in Baghdad in November 1998 in the company of the French charity ‘Equilibre’. Though Saddam Hussein won a last-minute reprieve from an Allied airstrike, ‘Baghdad Charlie’ (as he’s now known to his friends) found himself one of the few Western journalists in the city at the time and was thus in much demand for on-the-spot reports. He filed several full-page news stories to the Sunday Telegraph and Sunday Times and spoke to French radio and other news media on the situation in Baghdad as the crisis developed.
For the Record

1961 – 1969

Joly Warner (EURO 1962-66) was recently elected National President of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and has completed a two-year certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution at Mohawk College.

Richard Soulsby (MAPS 1964-67) went on from Sussex to Kingston University, where he gained an MSc in Oceanography. This led to research posts with the Admiralty and the Natural Environment Research Council before Richard moved to his present job in Oxfordshire, where he manages a Marine Sediments Group.

After a brief flirtation with business in London and Loukia, Hugh Jenkins (EURO 1965-69) became a social worker and gained his PhD at Exeter University, where he met his wife Jeanne and practiced in various settings. With a postgraduate qualification in Family Therapy in 1978, Hugh moved to work at the Maudsley Hospital in 1981. He became Chairman of the UK Association for Family Therapy in 1982 for three years, and from 1987 he was for nine years Chief Executive of the Institute of Family Therapy. His lecturing has taken him all over the world. Turning 50 gave Hugh the opportunity to turn his back on the camera and get on with his work, which he now enjoys in his private practice, and as a senior lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry. Jeanne and Hugh have three children, one of whom hopes to read social psychology at Sussex in 1999!

Alumna Society Chairman and Honorary Graduate Johnnie Spencer (ENGG 1960-64) has been appointed External Professor by the University of Glamorgan’s Professional and Ex-Conf ormation Committee. The status of External Professor is conferred on those who are expected to make a substantial contribution to the University’s scholarship or research, or to furthering the University’s external collaborations.

Martin Stone (EURO 1969-69 & Dphil Economics 1969-70) was appointed IBM Professor of Marketing at the Surrey European Management School (Sem). His role is to act as an externally-funded research team at Sem and to extend Surrey’s reputation for applied research in the management area. On a personal level, this post represents a change of lifestyle, from flying all over the world on consultancy assignments to a regular "potted down the A3 from Surbiton to Guildford. " Spending more time with his wife Olfa and their daughter Maya and Talu is now possible, although they still complain that his "mind is on other things!"

Martin Cahn (BIOLS 1962-70) has married Agnieszka from Poland and plans to move to his wife’s home country in about two years. The couple have a baby named Alfie, born on 23rd September 1998.

"I scored six goals on Russell’s Clump one Sunday morning in the season 1970/71. Is this still a record?" asks Bernard Wheaton (SOC 1967-70 & DPhil Russian 1983).

1970 – 1979

Richard Hoodmont (BIOLS 1972-75) has published three children’s books in the Welsh language, under the imprint Hoodmont. Richard is a Commercial Manager at the University of Wales Press and Hoodmont is a part-time activity. Interviewed on Radio Cymru shortly after the launch he was asked to name his all-time favourite book in Welsh or English. His choice was Brian Ewald’s Labolatory and the juice of Silver published in 1973 by Sussex University Press.

Carol Mcgill (AFRAS 1973-76) went on to SOAS to study, having rejected UCLA (“there wasn’t even a bar on campus”). She then began work on a book called Collecting African art (by Werner Gellon), the promotion of which took her to New York. “Well, I ended up staying and getting into the big bad world of real estate development, and was the first woman to build a house in the city!” Carol is now working on a resort project in St Kitts in the Caribbean. She married Leslie Segalman in 1989, and the couple have a five-year-old daughter, Madeline.


Kevin Bradshaw (AFRAS 1973-76), who remembers being so tongue-tied in front of an eight-person seminar that he never stopped working and he felt like hiding under the table, has pursued a career in acting. He was just about to get the better of his stage-fright and the knack of handling an audience when he discovered he was good with puppets. He then spent many years hiding under the table as a member of the team which made Spring fringe. He changed his name to Kieran Shaw, learned to play the didjrambo, studied ecstatic dance, and occasionally runs around dressed as a yellow furry creature called The Honey Monster. Kieran now lives in Woodstock, New York with his wife and son, trying to do things which can be done on top of the table, rather than underneath, like writing.

Ronald Brice (MAPS 1974-77) went on to attain a Masters degree from the Open University. He is keeping up his interest in mathematics and hoping he may one day have time to consider a PhD on a part-time basis.

After completing his PhD at Sussex, Talal Amin (MPhil Physics 1972-78) went on to qualify as an Engineer in NRI Physics, Newcastl-upon-Tyne. From 1980 to 1983, Talal studied and obtained his PhD in Biophysics and Physiology at St Mary’s Hospital, London. Following a year travelling around the world, he took up a position as Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Talal is also a qualified acupunctureist. After many years in Western and Eastern medicine, Talal and his family decided in 1998 to move to Bali, Indonesia, where they have married a life-long collaborator in wooden furnishing. Talal would love to hear from his friends from Sussex.

Gilly Burnell (AFRAS 1976-79) and Nigel Sweet (ENG 1976-79) met on their first day at Sussex in 1970, and married in 1979. Nigel is now Deputy Leader of Adur District Council’s Labour Group, having been elected to represent the area around their Shoreham home in 1996.

1980 – 1989

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Alice Arnold (SOC 1980-84) has been working as an actress after completing a postgraduate course at the Drama School, London, in 1985. Most of her work is in Radio 4 either in drama or occasionally reading the Shipping Forecast. Most recently she played ‘Nurse’ in The Tempor at Stoke-on-Trent.

Carol Mitchell (née Sketch) (BIOLS 1980-84) has ‘moved sideways from “proper science”’ and now works in medical information for Leo Pharmaceuticals, providing up-to-date information to users of the company’s drugs - “rather different from glycolysis and cell differentiation! Too much water (and wine) has flowed under the bridge since 1981-84 and I’ve lost touch with too many people.” To contact Carol, please telephone her on 0844 34733 x. 318 or via the Alumni Centre.

Jeff Ward (MOLS 1983-86) and Karen Kantzki (MOLS 1984-87) have recently moved to Hervey Bay in Australia, where they have two daughters (Emily 9 months) and Catherine (21 months). The couple both work for Wide Bay Water where their offices are only fifteen yards apart! They say they miss England, but not enough to come back just yet. In the meantime, they can be contacted at jeffw@herveybay.qld.gov.au or karenc@herveybay.qld.gov.au.

Romance blossomed at the Sport Pavilion for Gregor Morris (MAPS 1980-83) and Angela Morris (née Collins, EAM 1984-87). Gregor was in the rugby team and Angela was the captain of the netball team, and they got together after a UAU match at Kent when Angela arranged for the rugby team to travel back on the same coach as the netball team. They have lived together ever since, got married last year in Kenya, and are expecting their first child in March 1998. They would love to hear from anyone from their time at Sussex.

Diana Lowe (née Mansfield) (EAM 1984-87) and Gavin Lowe (EAM 1983-86) had a baby boy, Benedict Miles Alexander, on 4th July 1998 in Brighton. They would love to hear from anyone who remembers them. Contact via the Alumni Centre or gavlin@lume.co.uk.

Helen Beartie (MOLS 1986-90) and Albrik Keppenhofer (MOLS 1989-90) have recently...
married and are now living in Oxford. Helen, having gained her PhD from Hall, spent three years in chemical research at various locations in the UK and abroad. She is now a freelance German to English technical translator and Ali is in the last stage of his biochemistry PhD. They can be contacted at cor@cbcinnect.co.uk

During her time at Sussex, Priya Doshiengkar (BNS 1986-87 & DPhil 1987-1992) worked as a Researcher at SPUK, where she met her husband Andrew John Hall (DPhil Science and Technology Policy 1990-93). Priya worked for the Stockholm Environment Institute on climate change and natural resource management for five years before moving to India. Andy’s job with the Natural Resources Institute took the couple to Indonesia, where they had a daughter Tara.

Following graduation, Paul Maddocks (EAM 1987-91) “disappeared for six years before re-emerging last year!” He is now an established actor and is currently starring in his first feature film “Summer Rain” as well as developing his own film “Heroes and Villains” and comedy show “Ticking About”. Paul is interested in hearing from anyone who can remember him.

Graham Senior (EURO 1987-91 & PGCE 1992-93) has just completed five years as a geography teacher and is living in Surrey with his wife and their two year old daughter. He would particularly like to hear from anyone who did their PhD in cooperation, or others who did Block Practice at the Angmering School) and can be contacted via the Alumni Centre or at school, where the e-mail address is gfh7@plymmail.co.uk

The wedding of Charlie Simpson (EURO 1987-91) to Emma Sell (EAM 1986-92) recently doubled up as a huge Sussex reunion. Both of Charlie’s siblings, James Simpson (EURO 1989-93) and Katherine Simpson (CCS 1992-95) also studied at Sussex.

Natasha Cox (SOC 1988-91) returned to her home city of Brussels in 1994 having completed an MSc in European and International Politics at the University of Sussex. She is currently working for an international trade union organisation which represents 23 million teachers throughout the world. Natasha would love to hear from anyone who remembers her at Sussex, particularly Raz Abeytinghe (MALS 1989-1990), Kathy Baudet (BIOLS 1988-93), Jenny Simpson, Jim Ellis and Pauline Morris (SOC 1988-91) and Paul Jokes (ENGJ 1988-91).

Colin Fletcher (ENGJ 1989-92) and Barbara McAll (SOC 1989-92) were married on 6th June 1996 at St Mary’s Church, Hartfield, East Sussex. The couple met during their second year at Sussex. Colin is an Application Sales Engineer working for an International Computing company and Barbara is a solicitor working in-house for an investment bank. Other alumni who attended our wedding were: (Jack row, l-r) Penny Barrington (SOC 1989-92), Ghazala Nazir (MAPS 1989-92), Alan Waterfield (SOC 1989-92), Karine Jones (née Mort, BIOLS 1989-1992), Greg Davis (BIOLS 1988-92), Jimmy Mason (CCS 1989-93), Stuart Mitchell (SOC 1989-92 & EAM 1992-93), (front row, l-r) Andrea Mitha (EURO 1989-93), Andrew Hoot (ENGJ 1989-92), Anna Greenford (BIOLS 1989-93), Julian Toutih (EAM 1989-93), Catherine Thompson (EAM 1989-92), Stuart Wilkinson (MAPS 1992-96), and Adrian Jones (BIOLS 1989-93). Also arrived but unable to attend due to work commitments were James Ellis (SOC 1988-91) and Helen Dumbrell (ENGG 1989-95) who is currently working in Hong Kong.

Since the last issue of Falmer, Leanne Balsevic (EAM 1989-92)’s magazine Steppin’ Out has been relaunched in full colour as A4 Steppin’ Out as well as developing his own film “Heroes and Villains” and comedy show “Ticking About”. Paul is interested in hearing from anyone who can remember him.

Congratulations to the recently married Andrew Gareth Jones (ENGJ 1990-93) and Sophie Lindley (BIOLS 1984-89 & CCS 1991-93).

Crystelle Mills (EURO 1990-94) went on to Bradford to gain an MA in Interpreting and Translating, and is now working in the Civil Service as a Higher Language Officer in a large government department.

Jon Coape (EAM 1991-94) is working for the Health Education Authority as Press and Public Relations Manager for the HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health campaigns. His job includes working with celebrities for World AIDS Day, “including such luminaries as Dannii Minogue, Tamara Beckwith, East 17 and the new Wonderbra girl!”

Since marrying in 1995 and are both teaching English in secondary schools in their home country.

Tamara Ringrose (AFRAS 1991-94) is halfway through her training period with Allen and Overy and is thoroughly enjoying her current ‘seat’ in international project finance. She hopes to go overseas in 1999 for a secondment before qualifying – “hopefully!” – as a solicitor.

For almost two years after graduation, Nazar Al-lowati (ENGG 1992-95) worked back in Oman with a Shell International operating unit as a Petroleum Engineer. He also completed two stages of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountant qualification. In his spare time before he returned to the UK to study for the remaining two stages. Following “the dreadful pressures of job hunting”, Nazar landed a position with Lloyds in Dubai where he is very happy.

Brendan Coram (COGS 1992-95) is currently working as an IT consultant for CMG Plc in London, building intranets and related applications. “I’m actually using my degree directly!”

Sarah Evans (EURO 1992-96) has just become engaged to Simon Hill and the couple plan to marry in the year 2000.

Sarah can be contacted at sarah.e@amiplastics.co.uk
School of Mathematical Sciences
Yearbook 1999
We are currently compiling a yearbook for the graduating year of 1999 and we would like to include a section on graduates of SMS/MAPS from previous years.
We would really like to know what you have been doing since you graduated; where you are, and generally how you are getting on. If you would like to contribute anything (i.e. news about yourself, contact addresses, or even sponsorship) please drop us a line, with any details you think relevant.
There are still a limited number of '98 Yearbooks available. They cost a mere £10 (cheques made payable to SMS SJC.) from the School Office. There is no charge for a copy if you are a staff member or a current student.

Contacts:
Yearbook Committee, c/o School Office, School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, BN1 9QH, or e-mail rmf@maths.susx.ac.uk.

If the contact details for the following are not noted, please write care of the Alumni Centre, address on page 2.

- Sally Tangye (née Sebbah) (MA Music 1963-86) is keen to hear from you.
- Susan Hammond (journalism 1968-69) is keen to contact Anne Lindsay who was on the same course, run by Regent Street Polytechnic with Sussex University. Anne may now be living in Scotland.
- John Shepley (MAPS 1968-71) would like to hear from William Burgess (ENGG 1968-71).
- Biology graduates of 1973? Zeni Dinesen (BIOLS 1969-73) would like to hear from you.
- Anynbody know where Michael White (EAM 1972-75), Jackie Lynham (SOC 1972-75), Jasmine Amar (SOC 1972-75), Mike Kelly (BIOLS 1973-77) and SMU President), Ashraf Noor (EURO 1972-75) are? Eric Schneidhoffer (SOC 1972-75 & M&A Economics 1975-78) would like to hear from them.
- If anybody knows where Heather Baxter (EAM 1973-77) is, please let the Alumni Centre know!
- Eamonn Shanley (SOC 1974-77) has recently moved to Perth, Western Australia, to take up the Foundation Chair in Mental Health Nursing at Edith Cowan University. Eamonn would like to contact Mike Sharrod (SOC 1974-77).
- Sue West (AFRAS 1974-77) is married with a four year old son, Hut. Sue’s work has taken her to Turkey, the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Uganda, but she is now based in Cambridge. Sue would like to hear from any of her former classmates in the Cambridge area, and is also trying to trace Joanne Fenn (EURO) and East Slope, Shane O’Neill, Peter Sampson (EAM 1974-77), Paul Platz (AFRAS 1974-77) and Nieves Perez (ENGG 1974-77).
- Philippa Martin-King (EURO 1975-79) is keen to hear from anyone who was living in the French-speaking part of Switzerland who was at Sussex at around the same time as her.
- Helen Farrow-Wheaton (EURO 1976-80) would love to get in touch with Averor Ayodo (EURO 1976-80). Helen lives in Paris and would be interested in an alumni group there; please contact the Alumni Officer if you are also interested.
- David Fowler (EURO 1976-80) would love to hear from Stephen Read (AFRAS 1976-79).
- Any alumni in the Cape Town area are invited to contact Rosie Burton (BIOLS 1978-81), who is working out there this year and would like to meet fellow ex-Sussex students. Email Rosie at ROSIEBURTON@iol.co.za
- “Does anyone know the whereabouts of the American Studies graduates of 1983?” Theresa Byrne (EAM 1979-83) would love to hear from you, either via email (theresabyrne@compuserve.com) or at 9B North Avenue, London W13 8AP. Theresa would also love to hear from anyone who lived in York Avenue during the year 1982-83.
- Members of the MA Education group of 1979-80, and Subba Rao (IDP 1976-82) are asked to contact Richard Perera (MA Education 1979-80) at 13/17 Dicyanewewe, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- Mary Clary (CCS 1983-86) would love to hear from ex-students. She is now retired and living in Andalusia and hoping that anyone who remembers her at Sussex and living in Brighton will get in touch. In particular, Mary would love to hear from Elaine Bounfield (CCS 1982-85), Alison Coates (CCS 1985-86), Nicola Coos (CCS 1983-86), Christian Frederick (CCS 1983-86), Val Mainstone (EURO 1983-88), John Murphy (SOC 1983-86), Pauline Nugent (CCS 1983-86). Julie O’Hara (CCS 1966-70) and Caroline Young (AFRAS 1982-86).
- Sally Geaves Brown (AFRAS 1983-88) is still living in Switzerland and would love to hear from any of her friends from Sussex; in particular Penny Foster (AFRAS 1983-87) and Alison Brown (AFRAS 1984-88). Sally is also happy to hear from any Sussex graduates in the region and can be contacted at rbrown@ecs.susx.ac.uk.
- Peter Sokolove (V&E 1985-86) is looking for Stephen Rodgers (SOC 1985-88).
- If anyone knows the whereabouts of Natalie Clarke (CCS 1988-93), please let us know as Wendy Garlick (SOC 1988-91) would like to contact her.
- If you studied for your MA in International Relations in 1995-96, Tadhg O’Sullivan and Marieke Reithoff from that course would love to hear from you, and from anyone who were friends of theirs at Sussex.


Congratulations to husband are in Australia for a year.

Johanna now lives with her husband (BIOLS 1991-94 & PGCE 1995-96), who both graduated in Biology, are in Australia for a year.

Information, contact David at 7th September 1998.

Pauline Dwor (AFRAS 1993-96) has just completed a part-time MSc in Geography for Third World Development. Whilst studying, Pauline worked in her college library and as an assistant librarian for Farrer’s, the Queen’s Library, and also gave campus tours and helped at graduation ceremonies. Pauline now works in her local public library and is involved in the National Year of Reading.

After a spell in Germany working on a teenage music magazine, Gayle Emery (EURO 1993-97) is based in central London. Since last January she has been working as a radio producer for GWR Group. Gayle’s job involves a large amount of demographic audience research as well as co-ordinating and scheduling spots which are logged onto traffic systems. Gayle would love to hear from anyone who is working in radio or other media from her year.

Garen Corbett (V&E 1994) is working as a Policy Analyst for a state agency, while studying for a Master’s degree from the University of Massachusetts. Garen would love to hear from any V&E alumni from 1994, and send him an email at gcobert@uoregon.edu. Garen is particularly keen to hear from Pritesh Patel (CCS 1994-97); please let him know if you have any clues to Pritesh’s whereabouts!

CDs of music by the composer Michael Finnissy (lecturer in composition at Sussex) are being released on the recently featured is a work by the head of the PR2 3LZ. David Lefeber (lecturer in composition at Sussex) are being released on the label Garencorbett@garencorbett.com. Garen is particularly keen to hear from Pritesh Patel (CCS 1994-97); please let him know if you have any clues to Pritesh’s whereabouts!

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Feature

Above: Cathy (2nd from right) and colleagues enjoying typical German fare and, opposite, a very un-German beach party! The 'postcard' shows Schloss Glücksburg.

Dear Roger,

It is strange, being here. The cold east wind nibles away at the very marrow of one's bones and yet the landscape is calm and benign, with beech trees standing right down to the sea's edge. So unlike our Cornish scrub, brow-bent long before the cliff's edge.

Across this yacht-studded inlet of the Baltic Sea - the Flensburger Förde - the low lump of Denmark can be clearly seen. Nice little houses are dotted along the shore. Some have boats moored at the bottom of the garden. Dare one ask for much more than a home and a boat between two lands?

Here on the German shore is my new home. I've been teaching at the University of Flensburg for about a year now. My students are studying management and renewable technologies and most of them hail from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Perhaps Flensburg seems a strange place to come, tucked away as it is right against the Danish border. Yet the state of Schleswig-Holstein, in which Flensburg is located, generates 12% of its energy from windmills. The new red-green government, which surged to power at the end of September after sixteen long years of conservative rule, has already promised to phase out nuclear power stations. More incentives for the development of renewable energy sources, including windmills, seem certain.

I don't know if everyone will be happy though. From a distance windmills have an eerie grace, towering above the trees - as they must in order to capture wind. Close up they are noisy beasts. To an artist's eye they must seem monstrous. Although many local people have bought shares in a windmill, there is a lot of nimbyism too. Great idea, but not in the field next door - bitte.

Back to the students. The other day we were exchanging views on that never-failing topic of conversation - Germany and the Germans. (You know we are all Ausländer, foreigners, here). Quite a number of us confessed to being very impressed by Oma (Granny) power. As one student said, "They expect a personal service in shops, they want to gossip, tell stories, pass the time. It's great -unless you are stuck in the queue behind them!" Everyone laughed. The conversation then turned to work. One woman commented, "Workers are powerful here. At the end of the day there's a real frenzy to go home. They just drop everything and go." Someone butted in, "People here are really helpful though, so long as you know you want. If they can't get you something, they will tell you why." The students wondered whether the German workforce would be able to protect its perks - there are many, like an excellent healthcare system - or if the new government will tell them to bow before the winds of globalization. Somehow we hope they can hang on to the best. The conversation moved on to another topic inevitable of pressing concern to foreign students here, namely racism. Some considered mining crime and Ausländerfrendlichkeit2 to be linked to high rates of unemployment. As one student put it, "The Germans are now finding out how the rest of the world lives. It's a tough learning process."

Ironically it is pretty difficult to find 'real' Germans at all around here. There is a substantial Danish minority in the area who send their children to Danish-speaking schools. These people, plus Danish tourists out for the day, fill Flensburg's streets with Danish chatter. Another language you're likely to hear is Friesen, again quite distinct from German. Indeed in some small villages round about you'll even see bi-lingual signs. The Danes and Friesens have been here a very long time. In fact Flensburg only passed definitively into German control in 1920, having seen a succession of Danish and German rulers over the previous 700 years or so. After the second world war Flensburg's population was swollen by an influx of Germans from Prussia. Even today there remains a slight tension between the 'real' locals and these 'incomers'. So, if you have a lot of time on your hands, brew a strong pot of tea, lay on a substantial supply of biscuits and ask a Flensburger about their ancestry! Such conversations can be very good fun and are generally most illuminating.

Overall this is a remarkable area. Buses, as everywhere in Germany, come on time - and yet bus drivers still manage to wait for tardy passengers - unlike anywhere else I know in Germany. And every visitor, no matter how resistant to foreign languages, learns the phrase 'moin moin'. It's a bit of local dialect and means hallo. One hears it everywhere.

And so you thought I had only skipped across the channel to where everything is basically like Britain, but not quite. Well, it is quite a lot different than you had expected, isn't it? When are you coming over?

Cathy Rozel Farnworth

(1) Not In My Back Yard
(2) Hostility towards foreigners

Cathy Rozel Farnworth (AFRAS 1983-86)
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