

# bulletin

Friday October 14th 1994



Published every Friday by the Information Office for staff and students of the University of Sussex

## UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

**T**he University put out the Welcome Mat to nearly 2,000 new undergraduate students and their families over the Welcome Weekend which preceded the start of the new academic year.

This year's Welcome Weekend programme was more packed than ever, with a range of advice desks, tours of university facilities and of Brighton and the campus, walks on the downs and a programme of events organised by the Students' Union.

Parents clearly appreciated the Welcome Weekend and there was particular praise for the helpfulness and efficiency of the security staff who were out in force to cope with the traffic and the myriad enquiries from inevitably bewildered new arrivals. Parents also welcomed the opportunity to meet the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs Conway and to talk to senior officers of the university. "It's comforting to realise," said one parent "that Sussex is run by people who have children of their own at universities."

Around 1,400 people attended the Vice Chancellor's receptions which were staged for the first time last year. Feedback from last year's parents has been encouraging with approximately £14,000 donated so far to the Library Book Fund. "Sussex has one of the best attitudes to welcoming people. In comparison to other universities I have visited, Sussex is fabulous," said Mrs Tilley. And according to Mrs. Ingram, "The Weekend was very, very useful. I felt welcomed and appreciated actually seeing the University. I appreciated the effort and the contact being made," she said.

This year, for the first time, all the Schools of Studies were open at some time over the weekend. BIOLS was one of the Schools which opened on both Saturday and Sunday in order to welcome its new students, and, according to Admissions Tutor, Robert Whittle, it was clearly worthwhile both for the staff who took part



*The Societies Fair organised by the Students' Union, gave students the chance to find out about all the many societies and sports clubs on offer at Sussex.*

and for the new students and their parents. "The main concern of the students was to suss out what they should be doing and where they should be on their first day, so after tea and a chat with tutors, they were given a quick course in survival geography. Early on Sunday morning, Alex MacGillivray was quite surprised, but pleased, to get as many as 60 students to take a walk on the Downs."

The Welcome Weekend ended a summer of some uncertainty on the admissions front. It is generally acknowledged that the admissions process has not been as smooth this year as in the past. "Some of the difficulties were caused by the unification of the universities and former polytechnics admissions systems. The fact that students could hold only two offers, instead of the four they could hold previously, meant that the assumptions on which we normally work no longer applied. It became extremely difficult to predict what the actual take-up would be," says Deputy Registrar, George Kiloh. Another complicating factor was a late increase in the overall number target when the Funding Council released additional

places right at the end of the normal admissions cycle. That, and the fact that we would be penalised if we over or under shot by one per cent has made it a difficult year. "However," says George Kiloh, "despite all the uncertainties, we are very pleased that we have been able to meet our increased targets, and we should also avoid incurring any financial penalties."

### PUBLIC LECTURE

**Alan Cawson**  
*Professor of Politics*

Professorial Lecture

**TECHNOLOGIES OF  
FREEDOM?  
Can the new  
Communications  
Technologies enrich  
Democracy?**

Thursday 20 October  
6.00 pm  
Molecular Sciences  
Lecture Theatre

~ All welcome ~

## The Latin American Society

### Book Donation Campaign

The Latin American Society thanks all tutors and students of the University who contributed to the Book Donation Campaign. The aim was to collect academic material, books and journals for the University of Matanzas in Cuba. 300 books have already been sent and thanks to the participation of the University community, another big package will be sent in November. The Society wants to continue the campaign and therefore asks everyone at Sussex to donate academic material in the form of books, articles, off-prints, etc.

### Cuba Visit

The Latin American Society is organising a visit to the University of Matanzas in Cuba in December. It is for 15 days from the end of the Autumn Term. The cost is approximately £550, to include the flight, accommodation in the university halls of residence, meals and excursions to La Havana, Varadero and other places of interest. The offer is open to all students and academics at the University.

For further information about both these projects contact through AFRAS u/g ph: Karina Sarmiento, Inka Stock or Gabriel Trujillo.

## AROUND THE SCHOOLS : MAPS

### Sussex Astronomers and Mencap launch new partnership

Mr. Irvin Veitch, Chairman of the East Sussex Group of Mencap Societies, presents a cheque for £1500 to Professor John Venables, Dean of MAPS. The money represents half the cost of a thermoelectrically-cooled CCD camera, shown here attached to the School's portable computer-controlled 20 cm Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Looking on are Dr Andrew Cameron (behind telescope) and Mr Dick Robin, designer and builder of the University's 45 cm teaching telescope, which is to be installed in a new observatory at the Isle of Thorns later this year.

In return for Mencap's help with the purchase of the camera, Sussex astronomers will give four evening presentations per year to visiting groups with learning disabilities. The visits will be organised by Ann Cooke, Regional Co-ordinator of Mencap. The camera, which is controlled by a PC, allows visitors to view images of the planets and deep-sky objects 'live' on the computer's monitor. The first such session is planned for November,

once the system has been fully tested.

The camera is many times more sensitive than the human eye and can take long exposures to reveal structural details in deep-sky objects such as spiral galaxies, which are difficult to discern by looking directly through the telescope. It also has the advant-



age that all members of a visiting group can observe simultaneously from the relative comfort of a warm laboratory, rather than having to queue in the freezing darkness of a clear winter's night for a ten-second glimpse through the eyepiece. The camera will eventually be used with the larger telescope in its permanent dome at the Isle of Thorns.

## Women In Physics

During the summer, 70 fourteen year old girls from schools all over the South East attended a three day residential course in MAPS to encourage them to consider taking A level Physics with a view to following a degree in Physics or a related subject. The University has held these courses since 1983 when Sussex was given a two year start-up grant by the Equal Opportunities Commission to counter the gender bias against girls following careers in physics and engineering.

Organiser of the course, Colin Finn, writes:

Statistics illustrate the gender bias away from physics and engineering. In 1993, only 25% of students taking A-level physics were female as compared with 38% for chemistry, 55% for history and 66% for English. In the same year at all UK universities, only 17% of students on physics degree courses were female while the percentage for engineering was even lower at 13%. The figures for chemistry and biological sciences were much higher being 35% and a massive 60%. At Sussex, the percentage of women taking physics in recent years has been a little higher than the national average and it is interesting to note that, for the past three years, they have obtained some 46% of the first class degrees awarded.

The course run here in the summer, consisted of a series of lectures given by Sussex faculty and external speakers on topics that would help the girls in their GCSE studies, together with experiments carried out in the laboratories. "The Strange



Some of the GCSE students attending the Women in Physics Course

Behaviour of Matter at Very Low Temperatures" and "A Brief History of the Universe" generated enormous interest and some excellent questions. To break the ice the girls were asked to produce collages of what they thought a physicist looked like. While each collage was unique, about a third of them had the same underlying image - of a rather wild looking mad professor with a bald head surrounded by a ring of white hair, glasses, a bow tie and a white coat. Heinz Wolf (Professor of Bioengineering at Brunel and frequent contributor to TV science programmes) would have been either shocked or flattered. It is hoped that the course has done something to change this image and has encouraged the girls to consider taking physics at A-level and perhaps beyond.



Joan Turner and Ken Pike, being presented with gifts on their retirement by Brian Law, Lab Manager in MOLS

**T**he School of Chemistry & Molecular Sciences recently bid a fond farewell to two long-serving members of staff, Joan Turner and Ken Pike. Joan, chargehand cleaner, was appointed in November 1964 by Michael Jamieson, then Bursar in Falmer House. She later worked all over the University – in BIOLS, MAPS, the Library, student residences, the Bookshop and the Sportcentre. She joined MOLS in October 1972 when Falmer House became the Students' Union building.

Ken, a master craftsman, joined the University in January 1963 as Chief Glass Blower, managing to get a holiday straight away because the Chemistry Building was not completed. He is well-known throughout the University for his glass-blowing demonstrations (there is a picture hanging in the Refectory of Ken with Prince Philip) and his great enthusiasm for sport. Terry O'Donnell in the Information Office says "He plays a canny game of racket ball – at the age of 65 he still manages to beat much younger and supposedly fitter players."

### Professor Giuseppe Martelli

16 May 1923–27 September 1994

Giuseppe Martelli, Honorary Professor of Physics, died on 27 September after a long fight against cancer. Giuseppe was educated in Italy, moving in 1957 to Birmingham where he was a Lecturer in Physics. He joined Sussex in 1964 as Senior Lecturer, founding the Space Plasma Physics Group in MAPS, which has evolved into the Space Science Centre, now spanning MAPS and ENGG. His interests in Ionospheric, Solar System and Plasma Physics were very wide; he was exceptional at working with project and research students, even concluding his last DPhil examination from his hospital bed the day before he died. He influenced many scientists worldwide, who held him in very high and warm regard.

Following his nominal retirement in 1982, he worked intensively between Sussex and Italy, where he was studying hyper-velocity impacts in order to understand the evolution of the asteroid belts, and the source of earth-crossing asteroids. In recognition of this work, an international conference was held in 1993 to mark his 70th birthday, and an asteroid (Martelli 4061) was named after him in 1988.

### OPENING OF SESSION SERVICE

**B**efore the Church Commissioners cunningly lost most of their money in the property market, Richard Harries the Bishop of Oxford had taken them to the High Court to establish whether or not they had a duty to invest ethically or simply to make a profit. He lost – they gave millions away to more competent speculators, and Harries became something of a prophet instead, and a critic of the complacent establishment. He

seemed just the person to invite to speak at the Opening of Session. He had been Dean of King's London before becoming Bishop of Oxford, and so was at home with a University audience. He gave a robust talk on the myth of self-fulfilment. We also welcomed Charles MacDonald who replaces John Birch as University Organist, and Charles graced the occasion with a display of organistic pyrotechnics that added flair to the "Spirit" of the occasion.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call Louise Vincent in the Research Office, ext 3761, email: S.Vincent@sussex.

**LEVERHULME TRUST RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (INCLUDING EMERITUS) AND PERSONAL GRANTS 1995/96:** closing date 11 Nov. 94.

**ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH CHARITIES Hand-book 1994/95** has information on 85 charities and should be available in Science School/Subject offices.

## SuperPorters

READERS MAY recall *The Times* 'SuperDons' series which highlighted 22 of the nation's foremost young academics including Professor Geoffrey Bennington (EURO) and Dr Homi Bhabha (AFRAS) and was featured in the *Bulletin* (10 June). The 'SuperDons' were said to share two common features: "They are formidable teachers who relish the demands of lecturing and are sharply critical of the orthodoxies they have inherited."

The *Bulletin* has now been informed of a similar series only this time featuring 'SuperPorters' which highlights 22 of the country's foremost 'young' porters and includes MAPS porters, Leslie Thwaites, Edward May and Robin Kemp. The 22 'SuperPorters' are all said to share two common features: "They are formidable porters who like relish and the demands of being lectured to, whilst remaining humble, and are sharply critical of the lecturers as soon as they are out of earshot."

Edward is a Professor of inconsequential trivia and is renowned for his ability to send people drifting off with the minutiae which he injects into his stories. Robin has recently been made Professor of SOAS (Sheets of Airmail Stickers) whilst Leslie has been awarded the title H.P. SAUCE (Head Porter: Senior Academic at the University of Crass Enquiries).

# What's on...

Monday 17 October – Sunday 23 October

## Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

### Monday 17 October

12.30pm **Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum:** *Adult Education in Portugal*. L. Oosterbeek (Escola Superior de Tecnologia, Portugal), Refectory Level One, Room A.

1pm **Experimental Psychology Seminar:** *Compulsive Addictive Buying Behaviour: The Influence of Child Experience and Family Types*. S. Frieze EP3.9, BIOLS.

3pm **Analysis Seminar:** *Asymptotic Behaviour of Solutions to Ordinary Differential Equations with Variable Operator Coefficients*. V. Kozlov (St Petersburg), PB2A2, MAPS I.

4pm **Women's Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar:** *A Comparison of South and North Korean Women's Lives*. M. Youn (LSE), Arts, A183.

4.15pm **MOLS Colloquium Programme:** *Popularising Science Around the World*. P. Briggs (British Association for the Advancement of Science), MSLT, MOLS.

4.30pm **Neuroscience Seminar Series:** *Ecology of Primate Colour Vision*. D. Osorio, Biology Lecture Room.

### Tuesday 18 October

9.15am **Modern European Mind Lecture:** *Nietzsche and Freud: Dionysus and the Unconscious*. Prof. E. Timms, Arts A5.

1.30pm **Psychology & COGS Research-in-Progress Seminar:** *Human Nature Beliefs and Perceptions of the Economic World: Some Developmental and 'Class' Indices from Britain and Russia*. M. Van Duuren, PB2A1, MAPS I.

3pm **SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar Series:** *Conversion in Central Europe*. T. Malleret (European Bank for Reconstruction/Development), A71.

4pm **Algebra Seminar:** *Blocking Sets in Finite Planes*. S. Ball, PB2A2, MAPS I.

4.15pm **Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar:** *Mutational Analysis of Lymphocyte Differentiation*. J. Kay (Howard Hughes Medical Institute), Biology Lecture Theatre.

### Wednesday 19 October

12.30pm **Chemical Physics Research Seminars:** *Perspectives in Molecular Structure Research*. Prof I. Hargittai (Budapest), MS3, MOLS.

1pm **IDS Seminar:** *The Role and Priority of Industrial Development in the Agenda for Development*. Mauricio de Maria y Campos (Director General, UNIDO), Room 221, IDS.

4pm **Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis Seminar:** *Bounds for the Effective Response of Nonlinear Composite Materials*. J. Willis (Cambridge), PB1A1, MAPS I.

4.30pm **Korner Lecture 1994:** *Chaos, Forecasting, Self-Organising Spatial Structures, and Other Entertaining Things*. Prof. R. M. May, FRS, (Oxford), Biology Lecture Theatre.

### Thursday 20 October

1pm **IDS RUPAG Seminar:** *Feeding Conflict: Rural Development and International Agendas in the Rwandan Apocalypse*. J. Fairhead (SOAS), Room 221, IDS.

4.30pm **Experimental Psychology Colloquium:** *Perceptual Load as a Necessary Condition for Selective Attention in Vision*. N. Lavie (Cambridge), EP 3.9, Biology Lecture Room.

5pm **History Work-in-Progress Seminar:** *The Idea of Revolution in France, 1786-1793: Etienne Claviere and the Political Economy of Small and Large States*. R. Whatmore, Arts, A155.

6pm **Professorial Lecture:** *Technologies of Freedom? Can the New Communications Technologies enrich Democratic Society*. Alan Cawson, Professor of Politics, Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre. Open to the public. All welcome.

### Friday 21 October

2.15pm **SPRU Seminar:** *Development in the European Aerospace Industry*. Prof. K. Heyward (Staffordshire), Arts, A5.

4.30pm **Philosophy Society:** *Sense, Reference and Russellian Propositions*. R. Gaskin, Arts A155.

## CCE Saturday Schools - 29 Oct

**Making Autobiography.** Pleasures and problems of writing autobiography.

**The Guy Fawkes Celebrations in Sussex.** Origins of Guy Fawkes with specific reference to Sussex.

**TV Workshop.** Opportunity to use camera, vision and sound mixing and produce video (Sat & Sun).

**Written in Blood: The Rise of the Vampire.** History, literature and popular culture of the vampire. All at the University – reduced rates for students, half price for staff. Enrol with CCE on 678527.

## CDU Workshops and Career Talks

**WORKSHOPS** (Falmer House, 2nd floor)

Life after a language degree - Wed 26 Oct 2-4pm.

Life after humanities degree - Thur 27 Oct 10-12am.

**CAREERS TALK** (Refectory)

Institute Chartered Accountants - Wed 26 Oct 6pm.

**POSTGRADUATE FAIR** (Refectory)

Find out about postgraduate work. Thur 27 Oct 1pm.

Places limited so please book in advance (£5 returnable deposit). For further details on the above and on other events the CDU runs contact ext. 8429.

## Language Centre

### Open Foreign Language Courses

Places remain on the following mainly lunchtime courses: French, Italian, German (beginners) and Italian, German, Spanish (intermediate). Russian (beginners & improvers each Saturday). Mandarin Chinese also available. Contact ext. 8006 for details.

### Advanced French Language Skills

If enough MA or research students are interested in developing such skills the Centre will offer a course this term. Contact ext. 8006 for details.

## Miscellaneous

**University Chorus.** Sing with the University Chorus each Wed, 7.15pm in Biology Lecture Theatre. No audition required. Contact ext. 2171 for details.

**Massage Treatment.** Available in Sportcentre from 1 Nov. Each Tues 3.20pm - 8pm & Thurs 10am - 4.40pm. Half hour rates: Students £5.50, staff £6.60 & general public £9. Contact ext. 8228 for details.

**The Rugby Club.** Student v staff game being organised. Any staff interested contact Richard on ext. 8512 or email: RACOLBERT@sussex.

**Morris Men Needed.** The University's Morris Team seeks new members. Practice each Thurs in Hanover Community Centre, B'ton, 8pm - 10pm (followed by swift pint). St George's day onwards dancing at various locations. Contact ext. 3914.

## Meeting House

**Lunchtime Recital.** Tues 18 October: Sarah Stobart - Soprano. 1.15pm in the Chapel.

## Small Ads

**WANTED:** Lift from campus to Hove (Upper Drive area) on Thur and Fri afternoons 4pm. Contact ext. 8022.

**FRENCH LESSONS:** By native French speaker. £4.50 ph. Contact Maggie, 48E East Slope or via EAM p/h.

**FOR SALE:** Ford Escort 1.6GL, F Reg, 5 door, c/locking, e/windows, sunroof, stereo. very good condition. £2,495. Contact Hayley on ext. 8043.

**FOR SALE:** Gas Fire. Log effect. Good working order. £10. Contact Sally on ext. 3844.

**FOR SALE:** Silver flute (Gemeinhardt) in perfect condition. £200 ono. Includes books and tapes for beginners, and music stand. Contact ext. 2784 or 326319 eves.

**TO LET:** Comfortable self contained 2 bed first floor flat in upper Dyke Rd area. Fully furnished, large living room, bathroom, kitchen, c/h, phone, washing machine, use of garden. Parking space. Available now for 2 tenants only. Would suit staff or graduate couple. £400 pcm. Contact 643350 (day) or 0825 723494 (eves).

**TO LET:** Superior double bedsit to be occupied by one tenant. Non-smoker pref. Nr Withdean stadium. Washing machine, c/h, dishwasher, tumble drier, Jacuzzi. Suit mature student/faculty. Off street parking. Available now £60pw inc. bills. Contact 56540 for details.

## Bulletin

The *Bulletin* appears every Friday of Term. Copy deadline for the four page *Bulletin* is 1pm on the Friday preceding publication. Copy deadline for the next eight page *Bulletin* which appears on Friday 28 October is 1pm Wednesday 19 October. We welcome any suggestions for news, details of events, letters and small ads, etc. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

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