



Departures

FALMER

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

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Welcome, once again, to the latest edition of *Falmer*, the University of Sussex magazine.

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

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

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

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

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

With best wishes,

Alasdair Smith
 Vice-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor's welcome



UNIVERSITY NEWS

Sussex ranked among world's finest universities

The *Times Higher Education Supplement* (THES) World University Rankings 2005 has once again listed the University of Sussex among the top 100 universities in the world and in the top 15 in the UK.

A further breakdown of the tables into broad disciplines shows that Sussex is in the top 10 in the UK (ranked 8th) both for arts and humanities, and for social sciences.

Commenting on this latest listing, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said, 'once again, these rankings show that the quality of our research and teaching is recognised worldwide and that Sussex continues to be among the world's leading institutions.'

The THES World University Rankings editorial states that '[a]n international outlook and a global reputation among academics, students and employers are all important aspects of a university that ranks among the world elite.'



Protecting endangered spider monkey



Scientists at the University of Sussex are working with local communities in Ecuador to help save one of the world's rarest species of monkey and the endangered rainforest where it lives.

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

Environmental organisation Ecuador Terra Incognita, supported by partners including the University of Sussex, has now launched the PRIMENET Project to tackle the crisis. Its aim is to determine how best to protect the monkey populations, now restricted to rainforest reserves in northwest Ecuador; then educate local communities to continue the work and ensure the spider monkey's long-term survival.

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

Dr Peck became involved in this project as a result of his previous work on environmental projects in South

America and his research into deforestation. He also has a passion for the region where the project will be based – the Los Cedros Biological Reserve in the Ecuadorean Andes, on the doorstep of the spider monkey habitat. 'This is one of the most beautiful places in the world,' he says. 'It can only be reached by donkey, trekking for five hours. It is a fairy-tale setting – orchids, humming birds, big cats, tapirs, moths the size of dinner plates – and is one of the richest areas for bird species.'

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

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

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

Students begin University's first foundation degree

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

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

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) has led the way at Sussex and has developed the foundation degree in Community Development in collaboration with the University of Brighton and a range of practitioners and employers in the community and voluntary sector.

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

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

University archive inspires BBC's *Lost Decade* series

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

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

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

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



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

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



Video research into gorilla communication

Dr Gillian Sebestyen-Forrester, a psychology Research Fellow at the University of Sussex, is using a novel video observation technique to learn more about how gorillas communicate with each other.

As part of her research, the visual, tactile and auditory gestures of four individual gorillas were observed with one camera in close-up, while another wide-angle camera observed the responses of other gorillas in the group. She is examining the footage for regular patterns in gorilla gesture behaviour that may reveal complex communication in apes. These patterns may also hold vital clues about early human communication strategies and the evolution of language.

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

The video project, involving a group of western lowland gorillas at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent, differs from previous studies in that the observer gets two points of view at once: that of the gorilla making the gestures, and of the other gorillas with which it is interacting. This sets the signalling used in its unique context and helps to build a clearer picture of the complexities and subtleties of the communication.

Different from many past studies, Dr Sebestyen-Forrester is analysing 'multimodal'

communication. This approach takes into consideration information that can be transferred via different sensory signals (for example: vocalisation, manual gesture, facial expression and body posture). 'You can't really analyse a single sensory signal and think that you are getting the whole picture. It's like facing a burglar with a knife in a hostile posture and assessing the situation based only on their vocal signal saying, "Hey, trust me, I'm not going to hurt you",' she says.

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

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



Impossible Geographies of Memory



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

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

The gallery is threaded with a network of laser beams, coated with video projections and equipped with cameras, its 'eyes'. The installation encloses the space with a series of implied and shifting landscapes, described and made 'tangible' only by beams of light. When these lines are crossed, visitors interrupt the space, leave a visual mark and trigger a fracture through which a virtual space can seep into the physical present. Traces of visitors presence begin to drip and slowly form a spill of past moments. Those seeping traces, or memories, are taken from each iteration of the exhibit. As a result, memories of spaces, sounds and visitors from recent exhibitions of the work are among the things encountered.

Sussex storms Glyndebourne

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

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



Photography: Mike Hoban

Researching the memory patterns of ants

Ants have long been regarded as among the intelligentsia of the insect world for their organisational skills and efficiency. Now scientists are beginning to understand more about the role of memory in their behaviour. Researchers at the University of Sussex have discovered that wood ants (*Formica rufa*) are able to retrieve the correct visual memory to enable them to either find their way back home, or to reach a food source.

Neurobiologists Dr Rob Harris, Dr Natalie Hempel de Ibarra, Dr Paul Graham and Professor Tom Collett trained individual ants to follow a short foraging route parallel to a black wall. The wood ants, which naturally rely on visual cues, learned that the wall would be on their left when walking towards the food, but on their right when walking home.

In later tests, trained ants were deposited midway along the wall. Unfed ants remembered that, in order to reach food, they had to walk in the direction that placed the wall on their left, whereas previously fed ants walked in the opposite direction.

'Some ants are known to have surprisingly large memories. For instance, they will remember enough visual landmarks to follow visually guided routes over tens of metres between their nest and a feeding site. One problem with having many memories is that one must be able to retrieve the right memory in the right situation,' explains Professor Collett.

He points out that the world looks different when viewed in the two directions, so that the ant has to keep its memories of how to reach food separate from its homeward memories. Otherwise, it might become very confused partway along the route.

'We were interested in seeing whether the ant's motivational state –

hungry or sated – might trigger which visual route memories it retrieves,' says Professor Collett. 'We found that in exactly the same visual environment, wood ants retrieved memories appropriate to their foodward journey when hungry and to their homeward journey when full.'



A life of diplomacy

Tom Macan (SOC 1965) is currently Governor of the British Virgin Islands. He is now contemplating retirement from the Diplomatic Service after 36 years, during which time he has been ‘Our Man’ from Lisbon to Lithuania; Brazil to Bonn.



Above
Swearing in the National Democratic Party cabinet in the BVI

Right
Tom, sailing in the BVI

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

For over 30 years Tom Macan has used those skills in very different societies and undertaken a wide range of diplomatic and administrative responsibilities. In 1990, after a series of posts in London, Brazil and Bonn, he received the first of a series of senior postings: he was appointed as Deputy Head of Mission in Lisbon.

‘In the early 1990s Portugal was a relatively recent entrant to the European Union but one which, partly because of its colonial experience, shared the UK’s outward-looking view; it was perhaps the most Atlanticist of the EU countries after the UK. So, essentially, the British Embassy there worked to build on those common perspectives.’

The next posting – Ambassador to Lithuania – could not have been more different. Lithuania had only recently emerged from the Soviet Union and the British Embassy in Vilnius had just two UK-based officers: the Ambassador and his deputy. When Tom arrived, the priority was to build up government institutions, such as the setting up of the Public Service Language Centre, originally for teaching English and subsequently for teaching other EU languages. A great deal of resource was put into this, particularly to the teaching of the armed forces, who knew only Russian and Lithuanian, neither of which was going to be very useful in NATO or UN operations. By the time Tom left Vilnius, there were as many as seven full-time officers in the British Embassy, and he even recalls having sat in a meeting hearing a Lithuanian General say to a British Minister of State for Defence, ‘we are now going to give you a briefing in English. Five years previously that would have been unimaginable, because then we were all Soviet officers.’

Perhaps surprisingly, when asked what single image he would take from his time in Lithuania, without hesitation he said, ‘midnight on the sixth of August, which is King Mindaugas’ birthday – a national celebration. Summer is very important in northern latitudes and I was standing on a hill looking at this great festival in a natural bowl below where exuberant people were dancing in national costume – something which had been suppressed under the Soviets.’

It was like a sunflower bursting open.’

Dealing with sensitive political issues and conflicting parties is all part of a diplomat’s life and it became clear that Tom’s time at Sussex had played quite an important part in him developing these skills. ‘I was there when the University was new and different – and very radical. I was President of the Students’ Union in 1967-68. Chairing Executive Committees of the Students’ Union and two difficult general meetings of 1,500 students at the peak of the Vietnam War quickly teaches you how to control a meeting. My major degree was economics with a very strong element of international relations and development economics. That cross-cutting of subjects made it a most useful package. I think Professor Asa Briggs had a useful phrase: “The new map of learning”.’

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



Pradesh and representing the High Commissioner. I will never again have an opportunity to address 40,000 people live!’

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

Curiously, integration into a foreign society has been made more difficult with the globalisation of television. When they were living in Portugal in the early 1990s, the only television that could be received was Portuguese. He recalls, ‘it did wonders for everybody’s Portuguese, including our then six-year-old daughter’s.’ Similarly, in Bonn, Tom watched the two principal German news programmes every night. Now, as he says, there are as many as 60 or 70 channels to watch in English, with everything from news to light entertainment, and there can be a temptation not to struggle with a foreign language.

His last diplomatic appointment has been as Governor of the British Virgin Islands (BVI). ‘Governing a British Overseas Territory is quite different from other jobs in the Service and one that not many get to do. The Governor combines the functions of The

Queen’s Representative as Head of State, the representative of the British Government with executive responsibilities and, to some extent, the representative of the Virgin Islands Government to the UK.’ His main challenge is to ensure that the UK’s constitutional responsibilities for security, defence and external affairs are discharged properly and that the territory flourishes and doesn’t become a burden to the UK.

In June 2003 there was a defining moment in the political life of the territory: after more than 20 years of rule by the Virgin Islands Party, the National Democratic Party took power, bringing in a new generation of leaders. To his great delight, Tom swore in the new cabinet, in an unprecedented open-air ceremony, an event he now considers to be the most important moment of his tenure as Governor.

But the BVI isn’t all work, and the sailing opportunities are a great bonus for someone who once ran the University Sailing Club. One of the highlights of the BVI’s Emancipation Festival is a head-to-head competition between Governor and Chief Minister skippering traditional island sloops. The two of them are pretty well matched.

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

his career, you were simply told where the Office wanted you to go, and you went there. ‘My first appointment was to Germany – I was a fluent German speaker. I came back from leave to find a note from my supervisor saying that I was being posted to Bonn in nine months’ time as the Ambassador’s Private Secretary. I had no idea that was coming,’ he remembers.

Gradually, things changed and staff could indicate an area of preference; now all jobs are posted on the FCO intranet and, as Tom explains, ‘you make your bid for a specific job, and you have one side of A4 to say why you would be an excellent ambassador to Ruritania, or wherever’.

There is also no longer the expectation that jobs throughout the public service will necessarily be filled by career public servants. This is generally welcomed, but it is a sensitive area, especially as (and this is not unique to the Diplomatic Service) outside people tend to come in at the top end of the scale, possibly on higher pay. However, the traffic is not all one way: FCO staff can be seconded outside the public service. Tom spent six months with BOC just before going to India – an invaluable development opportunity given his responsibilities for UK trade and investment promotion in that country.

The role of the Ambassador, too, is changing. Despite global communication, and continuous news coverage, there is still an important role for the individual on the spot to explain the political constraints and drivers when the UK’s Foreign Secretary, Prime Minister, or any other senior officer, is meeting his or her opposite number. Of course some of that information can be obtained from the media, but as Tom says, ‘if you are looking for a sustained picture, and not just today’s story, I maintain there is no substitute for having your man or woman on the ground. For example, the negotiations going on in Germany over the formation of a new CDU/SPD political coalition could be very significant in terms of the UK/German relationship. I’m rather jealous of the Ambassador in Berlin (who is an old friend), whose assessment of this process is a key one for UK interests.’

And for the graduate of 2005, would he recommend a career in the Diplomatic Service? ‘I think there are interesting opportunities for young men and women in developing political and economic relationships, but also in resource and people management – something which the Service takes much more seriously today. And, of course, a diplomatic career still offers unrivalled possibilities to live and work in places to which most people rarely have the chance to go. For me, too, the public service ethos has always been an essential part of the job, and I think that remains important.’

Promoting mobility in a globalised world

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



This autumn saw the launch of a new report on migration, *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action*. The report – a product of 18 months of deliberations by Kofi Annan's Global Commission on International Migration – represents a milestone in thinking about migration. It is short, but more importantly, it is unequivocal: migration can be a force for good in the world. Despite press attention to 'illegal' migration, the report highlights another side to the debate: the US\$100bn that migrant workers send home to their families in poor countries each year (that is twice the amount of global development aid), and the way in which migrants enrich their host societies, whilst often continuing

to play a positive role in their countries of origin.

The report makes 33 recommendations, some of which few will object to – the need for more 'policy coherence', for example. However, one of the more controversial proposals of the Global Commission is that governments should consider establishing a series of 'carefully designed temporary migration programmes as a means of addressing the economic needs of both countries of origin and destination'. If implemented, this could be quite a change from 'fortress Europe' policies, or, alternatively, the laissez-faire approach that seems to have characterised most industrialised countries until now.

Above and right
Temporary migrant workers make up an increasing proportion of the agricultural labour force in Britain and abroad.

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

Nor is the idea of temporary migration schemes for unskilled workers far from the UK government's thinking. Its current consultation document, *Making Migration Work for Britain*, also mentions this approach, although in common with other countries, the UK tends to view these schemes as residual responses to acute labour shortages, rather than ways of allowing people from poorer countries to 'realise their potential and meet their needs'.

The mention of George W Bush and the German *gastarbeiter* programme will no doubt have rung alarm bells for some readers, as will the fact that for some time, European governments have been trying to move towards a situation in which asylum, if it is given at all, is given on a temporary basis only, ideally as close as possible to the country of origin. Meanwhile, for those on the right, any mention of promoting immigration might itself be seen as a non-starter.

But the proposal that we should have more temporary

mobility does deserve careful consideration. For example, research by Sussex economist Alan Winters (currently at the World Bank) and his colleague Terrie Walmsley at Purdue University suggests that a three per cent rise in temporary mobility worldwide could lead to a US\$150bn benefit to the global economy, equally shared between rich and poor countries. Refinement of this calculation, using a database that we published last autumn at the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, which is based at Sussex, suggests that the benefits could be greater still.

Furthermore, many international migrants (and refugees) do actually want to return to their countries of origin to build a house, invest in a business, or simply spend their money in a place where sterling, dollars or euros go much further. This demands that we should look seriously at temporary migration and return, and not simply dismiss it as something only nationalists or racists would advocate.

However, one problem with the debate on temporary migration so far is that it has tended to be framed only in the context of labour market needs or anti-immigrant sentiment in the UK, Europe or US, and to a lesser extent in terms of the impact on migrants themselves, but rarely in the context of global poverty.

Indeed, talk about temporary labour migration schemes in organisations such as the World Bank has focused on how to ensure that temporary workers return, rather than ensuring that their migration is successful in other ways. Another key problem is the focus on designing schemes in order to control outcomes, rather than putting the emphasis on temporary mobility as liberalisation.

In practice, there are four areas of policy leverage that have emerged from discussions we have initiated at Sussex that might help to make temporary migration more 'development friendly'.

First, for temporary labour migration, it matters how workers are recruited. One way is for this to be done through bilateral agreement between governments,



based on analysis of labour market needs. An alternative is to allow private recruitment agencies to operate, as envisaged in current British proposals for 'accredited operators', recruiting from countries with 'effective returns arrangements' and making 'medical and good character checks'.

Yet history is littered with both abusive private operators, and with corrupt 'official' schemes. What is important is, arguably, less whether the private or public sector does the recruitment, but more how transparent and open the system is to potential migrants.

Second, just because a job is temporary, or asylum status is temporary, does not mean that the worker or refugee should lack rights. This is perhaps the biggest fear for those on the left – that temporary labour migration means lower wages, poor working conditions and no right of redress, whilst 'temporary protection' of refugees means watered-down rights. This is important not only because it threatens to lower conditions for workers more generally, but also because the conditions in which refugees and migrants work impact on how they manage to contribute to their countries of origin.

If temporary labour migration schemes are to be expanded, employers need to be held to account if they do not implement fair and safe employment practices. Yet this requires more than relying on migrants to file complaints, as those on short-term contracts may have already left the country by the time cases get to employment tribunals. Indeed, arguably, what we should be thinking of is how our labour rights regimes more generally – the minimum wage, health and safety legislation, etc. – can be adapted to take into account the reality of temporariness and flux.

Third, the success of a temporary labour migration scheme from the point of view of global poverty clearly depends on the ability of migrants to transfer money and other benefits to their countries of origin. Refugees and those with temporary protection may also send significant remittances. Here, a number of initiatives are needed, not just efforts to lower the cost of financial transfers, mentioned earlier, but also measures to allow migrants to transfer social security and pension benefits to their home country. This is more important than simply maximising the flows of remittances, since higher flows may of course put migrants themselves in a very precarious economic state.

And finally, there is the issue of return. Although integral to the notion of 'temporary migration', it is important that we don't get hung up on the issue of



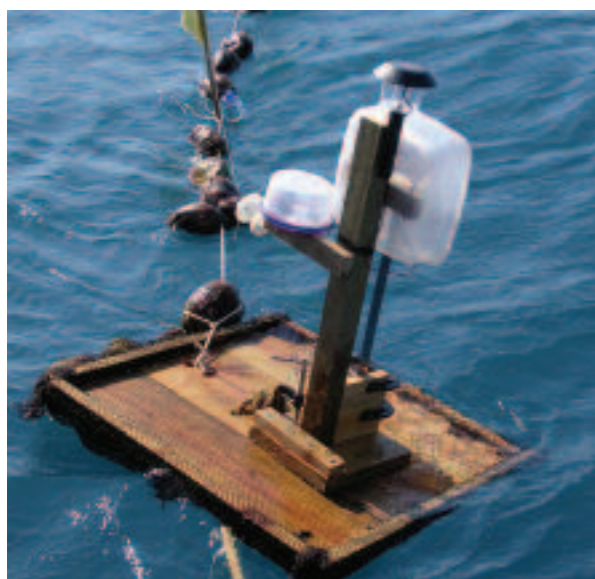
return. For example, return itself can be temporary, as those with experience of migration may be most eager, and most willing to consider migrating temporarily a second time. Meanwhile, because left to their own devices, many migrants do return; in a process that still remains largely unrecorded, because it is uncontroversial. But most importantly, whatever incentives or rules you write into a migration programme, our research suggests that the single most influential factor in whether return is successful is the macro-economic and political climate of countries of origin. Another is family circumstances – many who do return do so on the death of a parent, or at a point where elderly relatives need taking care of. Neither of these is easy to write into a 'return programme'.

In this respect, the Global Commission has opened up a debate on expanding migration, even if it is temporary, that is long overdue. But promoting temporary mobility will be no use if we replace one set of draconian immigration rules with another focused on migration 'programmes'. We also need to ensure that this debate includes the voices of migrants and developing countries if it is to achieve the impact it deserves.

Common treasure:

Rough science and creative science

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



Above
'Wave'
The *Rough Science* generator that made electricity from waves in the Indian ocean.

Top right
The *Rough Science* team (left to right): Kathy Sykes, Ellen McCallie, Mike Bullivant, Jonathan Hare and Kate Humble.

Right
'Rover'
Jonathan Hare with the remote controlled *Rough Science* rover used to explore Death Valley in the USA series.

The equatorial sun is blazing down; my skin is crusted in sea salt and my eyes are sore with all the reflected light from an intensely bright sparkling sea. Four of us are wrestling with the practicalities of our latest challenge. Ellen has made a raft for a wave powered generator I constructed. Mike and Kathy have been swimming around in the sea for three hours setting things up on a rolling Indian ocean. This 'monster' of a challenge, set by Kate Humble, our presenter, is a brave attempt at making a prototype alarm (perhaps the first in the world) to protect the unique coral reefs off the coast of African Zanzibar.

After much sweating and toil we have the joy and great satisfaction of seeing our reef alarm work. Well, sort of. This is a comparatively normal day in what has become an extraordinarily rewarding and exciting part of my working life – we are filming the fifth series of *Rough Science*.

Rough Science takes a team of scientists to unusual and often spectacular locations, setting them challenges which push their scientific knowledge and skills to the limit. Encountered along the way are the frustrations, joys, surprises and wonder of science and experimentation.

The series have been shown during prime-time in the UK and repeated on PBS, BBC World and cable channels in over 90 countries throughout the world. Recently filming the sixth series, *Rough Science* has become a flagship science programme.

Looking back, however, it seems that I have been a *Rough Scientist* for much longer than the duration of the TV series. In 1989 I joined the University of Sussex to pursue a PhD. Good fortune also led me to the laboratory of Professor Harry Kroto (later to be a Nobel prize-winner), who at the time was studying the chemistry between the stars, in the interstellar medium.

A few years before, these astro-chemical investigations had led Professor Kroto and his colleagues to discover by accident the football molecule, C⁶⁰ – Buckminsterfullerene. C⁶⁰ turned out to be the head of a family of new carbon cage structures known as the fullerenes.

Initially, my PhD was to study carbon stars; intriguing objects that are pumping out vast amounts of carbon particles and molecules into the universe. Our aim was to make laboratory studies using state-of-the-art lasers and computer systems to try to reproduce and explore the chemicals produced by our very own little 'carbon star'. We were intrigued to see what role, if any, these charismatic fullerene structures

would take in this carbonaceous component of the cosmos.

Immersing myself in this new area of research and all this new technology was interesting and inspiring, but I love making and tinkering with things. I longed to be able to go back to basics and take the equipment apart; to start to understand the experiments through personal experience.

These high-tech experiments that scientists do are providing exciting glimpses into an ever unfolding universe. But like Galileo pointing his new-fangled telescope to the Moon to discover for the first time its mountains and craters, so these high-tech experiments often provide only a tantalising distant glimpse; they don't take you directly there. The same occurred with the discovery of C⁶⁰. A new round world of carbon chemistry had been glimpsed but it was not a route to make useful amounts. To explore the Moon you need a rocket to transport you there. To investigate this new C⁶⁰ fully we needed some way to make usable quantities.

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

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

The Creative Science Centre

With all the national and global media interest in C⁶⁰, the Sussex group had a great number of requests for talks and workshops. As a consequence, the Creative Science Centre (CSC) was created and I also began running workshops as part of the growing range of activities for gifted and talented pupils. The Gifted and Talented scheme was set up by David Daniels (Head of Physics at Brighton's Hove Park School and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Sussex) in conjunction with the School of Science and Technology at the University.

What I try to do in the CSC workshops is demonstrate something

that shows the fundamentals of the science we are exploring and is clear for the audience to understand and appreciate, but encourages the participants' imagination, ingenuity and creativity.

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

Recently, we have given *Rough Science* workshops at the Science Museum and I get hundreds of enquires from all over the world through the website. I am also working for the Vega Science Trust (Sussex) to explore the use of the Internet to provide workshops and mentoring sessions, swap technical information and know-how to respond to all these requests without having to travel extensively throughout the world.

A National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) fellowship I was awarded in 2000 has enabled me to research painting, sketching, meditation and to explore inventing and creativity in general. I don't believe that knowledge is really divided up into subjects. Both



the artist and the scientist share the need to see things clearly in order to be able to understand and be creative. Science plays such a key and crucial role in human development. I hope that in a small way through the TV series and through my activities at the CSC I can contribute to inspiring and enthusing people of all ages about our common treasure that is science; to discover and uncover both the treasure within them and that which is all around them.

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

In the spotlight

John Altman

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



When did you first realise you had this extraordinary musical gift?

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

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



Far left
John Altman, known for his saxophone playing, is currently leading his own Big Band in the UK and USA.

Left
John, receiving his Emmy Award for his score to the HBO Original Film RKO 281.

different ways and no one had done that before. It's still quoted to me as a seminal movie by all kinds of film composers and it won me a BAFTA. I didn't realise it was such a big deal at the time, but that meeting in Sussex kicked my career off.

You also compose for commercials. Is a different approach required for these?

I don't really write jingles, more orchestration – but then of course I did write 'You can do it when you B&Q it', so I guess I'm hung by my own admission! Most commercials I write have a filmic conception: rather than being little songs to sell products, they're story-telling commercials directed by people like Ridley Scott, Alan Parker or John Frankenheimer. Essentially, it's the same process as scoring a movie. You talk about the style of the music, where it's going to be, where it will start and finish, and then you talk about the feel of it and what it is going to add to the images. It's the same technique as in films – it's just that this film is 30 seconds.

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

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

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

The sixties was a great time for interaction. The idea now that somebody like me would be allowed to get up and play with the groups

You have the reputation of being a very skilled arranger.

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

You have written music for over 50 films – the most recent being the acclaimed television film

Mr Harvey Lights a Candle. What attracts you to films?

Music is a key element in film. I scored the tank chase in *Golden Eye* and in my lectures [to film schools] I show the film without any music: it's just a car and a tank driving through the street, knocking things over. It goes on forever and is extremely dull. But add the music to it and it's a scene transformed. A classic is Janet Leigh driving in *Psycho*. If you take the sound off, she's driving a car with a completely blank face; put the music in and you immediately think, 'oh my God, something's going to happen!'

The first movie I scored was the result of a Sussex reunion where none of my peers turned up. The only person I knew was somebody I'd met in advertising. As a result of talking to him I wrote the music for *Hear My Song*, a film about the Irish tenor, Joseph Locke. I didn't know anything about writing film music so jumped from Irish music, to swing, to big band, to synthesized music. It was the same basic theme treated in all these

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

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

You have a reputation for wonderful birthday parties. Are they usually the result of careful planning or spontaneity?

Muddy Waters coming to my twenty-first was really circumstances – and looking back it seems quite extraordinary. Similarly, on my twenty-fifth birthday a friend who had started playing with Bob Marley rang me to say he and Bob had just arrived in London and was there anything going on. So, of course, I invited them to my party – and they played. More recently, I've actually been able to have people like Shakka Kahn and Lionel Richie play, but again, only because they have happened to be around when it's my birthday. I can't really claim to have organised things like that but it's a nice conversation point.

Finally, is there any one area of music that you enjoy most?

I'm really enjoying doing a lot more live work, especially conducting and playing with my two Big Bands. I still love doing films but there is nothing like getting up and playing in front of a live audience. You need that. I stopped for a long time before realising how important it was to me.

Overall, the thing I've liked best is being able to play and contribute authentically in every genre of music. So, for instance, people can be surprised when they hear that I've conducted. I have to be the only person who has conducted Mozart and played with Little Richard!



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

Development

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



Forty Years On

Forty years ago, in autumn 1965, some 700 people headed for the Falmer campus for the first time. We were 'intake five' at Sussex, bringing the student population up to 3,000. It was an exciting journey, and one which would fill the next three (or, in many cases, four) years with new challenges, many ups and downs, a host of new friends, and all the varied experiences which go with that time of life. Memories and friendships have lasted well through those 40 years. And perhaps this is the moment to think whether those of us who look back happily over those years can do something for the next generation at Sussex.

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

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

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

The Sussex Fund

Investing in the future

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

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS. Thank you.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Postcode _____

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

£25 £50 £100 £250 £500 Other amount £

HOW TO GIVE

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

Card number
 Expiry date / Issue number (Switch only)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (UK taxpayers only)

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

Signature _____
 Date _____

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

Thank you for your support.

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



Left
Adelaide Crescent, 1967

From top left, clockwise:
Francis Riley
(EURO 1965)
Michael Pattison
(ENGAM 1965)
Robert Fraser
(ENGAM 1965)
Kit Hornvedt
(ENGAM 1965)
Bernard Dickens
(EURO 1965)

Photo by Sally Hornvedt
(née Mead) (BIOLS 1965)

“This is absolutely the right time, if we look back with some pleasure on that time 40 years ago, to consider whether we can provide a little help to our successors in this new financial climate”

For current and future Sussex students, there is no such basic financial certainty. Student loans are a threatening prospect for many of today's potential undergraduates. Sussex, like all other universities, desperately needs additional resources to provide scholarships and hardship funds.

This is absolutely the right time, if we look back with some pleasure on that time 40 years ago, to consider whether we can provide a little help to our successors in this new financial climate.

If even half of those 3,000 students who went to Sussex in its first five years could put something into a scholarships and hardship fund pot, it could make a real difference. I guess many of us are higher rate taxpayers as we head towards our retirement. For example, using Gift Aid, we can put £1,000 into such a fund at a personal cost of £600, with the balance coming from reclaimed tax.

If those 1,500 people could each stretch to a gift producing £1,000 in the course of 2006, we would be putting £1.5m into University funds to help see the next generation of students through the first year of the new fees regime, with less financial hardship than is now threatened. If we could keep this going for three years, and encourage the generation behind us to step in afterwards, we could really get something going which could have a huge impact.

I know the University's Development and Alumni Relations Office will readily help individuals do the paper work on Gift Aid, or advise how they could make similar tax effective donations through an employer's Give As You Earn scheme. I plan to have sorted out my own donation by the time this is printed, and I'd love to hear that others are willing to do the same. For me, it will be partly in memory of two very good friends from Sussex who haven't made it to their late 50s, and perhaps also in a spirit of thanks for my own survival after a brush with leukaemia last winter. But do you need an excuse to help today's young people, 40 years on, to have the same kind of chance at Sussex as we had in those happily-remembered years of the 1960s?

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni sports day 2006

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

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

We are trying to encourage as many former students as possible to come back and play against our current University teams. Programmes like this are a highlight of the year for past and present students alike in other universities and feedback from current students and alumni suggests this is a long overdue event at Sussex.

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

Scheduled sports will include: men's and women's 6-a-side football, men's and women's rugby 7s, men's and women's 7-a-side hockey, and

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

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



The future is radio

Students and staff filled the Meeting House at the University to listen to a fascinating talk given by **Robin Lustig** (AFRAS 1967), presenter of *The World Tonight* on BBC Radio 4 as well as *Newshour* and *Talking Point* on the BBC World Service, when he returned to campus late last year.

Robin's talk traced his formidable career in the media from its beginnings on campus in the late 1960s, through his work at Reuters and *The Observer*, to the BBC, where he has been since 1989. As part of the question and answer session which followed his presentation, Robin also discussed the media coverage of politics and current affairs today and the changes he has seen in the sector over the years.

With printed newspapers suffering from declining circulations, television dismissed as a vehicle for entertainment rather than news, and technological developments enabling listeners to access radio in various new ways, Robin was unequivocal, 'the future is radio'.

In memoriam

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

Staff

Professor David Daiches
The first Professor of English at Sussex

Professor François Duchêne
Retired Director of the European Centre for Research and Emeritus Professor

Sybil Marshal
Retired reader in Primary Education

Professor Dietrich Scheunemann
Retired reader in German

Alumni

Jennifer Barnett
(CCS 1999)

Jane Denton
(née Windley)
(BIOLS 1971)

Ian Livesey
(ENGG 1967)

Barbara O'Reilly
(ENGAM 1980)

Adam Reynolds
(EURO 1978)

Fiona Stevenson
(EURO 1994)

In response to suggestions from readers, submitted obituaries can be found online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

Calling all former URF members

University Radio Falmer (URF) would be delighted to hear from former members, presenters, and even listeners. Celebrating its 30th birthday this February, URF has a proud history of broadcasting student news, views and tunes across Sussex campus and into Brighton on 1431am. For the last few years our internet streaming service has also made it possible to listen to URF from anywhere in the world (listen online now to hear current URF presenters at: www.urfonline.com). We will be marking the big 30 in style with a series of events both on campus and in Brighton, and are pleased to invite anyone who was involved with the radio station during their time at Sussex to join us in celebrating this special occasion. The icing on the birthday cake will be the coming together of long-held plans to relocate the studio from student residences to a shiny new home in the Union building. By doing this, URF will be able to cement the transformation from a society to Student Media, and forge closer links with student clubs and societies, allowing us to provide a much better service for students at Sussex. For details of the birthday events, or to share your messages and memories of URF, please contact: exec@urfonline.com or log on to: www.urfonline.com
Emily Silver, URF Secretary/Treasurer

Make apathy history

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



The irony of our Western lifestyle, of course, is not that we are blissfully ignorant of the negative impact it has on ourselves, our neighbours and the environment, but that we choose to journey on regardless, blinded by a convenient fog of inertia and apathy.

My life is certainly no different. I can't get through a day without reading stories about poisonous salmon, deodorants being linked to cancer, or landfill sites reaching full capacity. I gasp at the saddening and maddening facts about our wasteful and contradictory lives – that globally, US\$33bn is spent on makeup and perfume annually, whereas just US\$29bn a year would be required to eliminate hunger and provide clean water to all; or that the US has more private vehicles on the road than people licensed to drive them.

But I also prefer to switch over to *EastEnders* or turn to the football results than dwell too long on all that nasty, negative stuff. Besides, what can 'little me' do about it all?

It was against this backdrop that I was set a challenge by *The Guardian* newspaper. Could I – someone living a typically comfortable and routine life in a south London suburb – take a step back from my daily habits and consumer choices, and try to understand their true impact? Could I, over the course of a few months, start to lead a more ethical life, in which I reduced, to use a popular axiom, my 'footprint on the earth', as well as being a more positive force both to myself and those around me? Could I join the small, but growing, proportion of society striving to live less wastefully; those that, according to the Ethical Consumerism Report 2003, pushed sales of organic food over the £1bn mark, up from £390m in 1999, and which in 2002 spent £19.9bn on a wide range of ethical purchases, from free-range eggs to A-rated energy-efficient appliances?

But I spotted a problem immediately. I was going to need some help; someone to kick my weak-willed, unethical butt whenever I wavered and started to show signs of giving up. Three people answered my call: Renee Elliott, council member of the Soil Association and founder of the Planet Organic shops; Mike Childs, campaign director at Friends of the Earth; and Hannah



Left and above
Leo Hickman embarks on his assessment of how he and his family live

Right
Leo at the Mucking landfill site

Far right
The introduction of a wormery is one way to deal with organic waste

Berry, writer and researcher at *Ethical Consumer* magazine. Between them, I hoped, they would provide the spur I required.

However, a second, and probably more fearsome, hurdle I faced was my family. If I wasn't to give up after the first weekend, I was going to have to bring my partner, Jane, and our baby daughter, Esme, along too. Jane, it has to be said, needed some convincing, especially after I explained how the challenge would commence with the three ethical auditors entering our home. The thought, she said, of anyone rummaging through our kitchen cupboards, or asking us what loo paper we use, was abhorrent. I agreed, but managed to sign her up with the promise that the experiment may lead me, at the very least, to take more of an interest in how the house got cleaned.

The day of reckoning when the auditors finally sweep through our home is, as predicted, not enjoyable, but we do immediately start to act on their advice. We go organic, start doing voluntary work, move our money into ethical bank accounts, put Esme into washable nappies,



change our fly/drive holiday plans to a walking holiday, use less gas and water and change our deodorants. In fact, it is so all-consuming that at one point friends start to joke that they think we have joined a cult. But the biggest catalyst for change is my journey to find out where all my rubbish goes.

It's 8.45am and I'm standing on the pavement outside the house watching our wheelie bin being emptied of its rotting payload on the back of a dustcart. It's going to be a long and smelly day.

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

It takes four hours to complete the shift. In this time we collect 12 tonnes of waste from just 20 residential streets. Then it's a 40-minute drive to the vast transfer station at Smugglers Way on the banks of the Thames, where it's all loaded onto barges and floated down the Thames to a landfill site.

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

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

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

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

'Once closed in 2007 (because of new European regulations) this site will be totally sealed over with 2ft of engineered clay. It will take at least 80 years for any liquid to escape from here and by that time it will be totally inert. You could drink it, it will be so clean.'

After 2007, Ian adds, there will be a rare animal farm on the site, as well as forest walks, picnic areas and a cycle track. 'We've even had Aberdeen Angus herds grazing on some of our reclaimed land before.'

I wander across to a mound of recently dumped rubbish to take a closer look, stepping on all sorts of items I could have thrown out myself: shampoo bottles, packets of cornflakes, toys, tyres, blackened chicken bones, magazines. What strikes me is how much of what I see could be recycled. I even find a copy of *The Guardian* from the week before.

The journey has had the desired effect. I immediately try to reduce the rubbish I throw out, as well as recycling as much as possible. Perhaps the biggest success is managing to compost at least a quarter of our kitchen waste via the wormery we order for the garden. Replacing Esme's disposable nappies with washable cloth ones



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

Living through an experiment that invites constant criticism of your life leaves you vulnerable and raw. At times it seems that there are few highs and many lows – you always seem to feel guilty; it is hard work; and you have to battle against appearing smug and self-righteous. But I have found that the trick to avoiding the feeling that your life is one drawn-out exercise in self-flagellation is to make sure that you retain a sense of perspective and humour throughout. No, you can't save the world single-handedly, but you have made more of an effort than you did yesterday.

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

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

Events and reunions

The Sussex Lectures spring term 2006

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

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

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

24 January 2006

Professorial Lecture

Judy Sebba, Professor of Education

8 February 2006

BSMS Visiting Professorship Lecture

Baroness Susan Greenfield, Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University

14 February 2006

Barlow Lecture

Dr Timon Screech, School of Oriental and African Studies

16 February 2006

Centre for Early Modern Studies Lecture

Professor Jim Shapiro, Columbia University

21 February 2006

Professorial Lecture

Sue Hartley, Professor of Ecology

7 March 2006

Professorial Lecture

Paul Gough, Professor of Space Science

16 March 2006

University of Sussex Lecture, London

Shamit Sagggar, Professor of Political Science

30 March 2006

BSMS Inaugural Lecture

Professor Mike Peters, Chair in Applied Psychology

Back on campus after 25 years

A gorgeous warm autumn day greeted the 1980 Freshers, from as far away as Australia and the USA, who returned to Sussex recently for their 25th Anniversary Reunion and a weekend trip down memory lane.

Arriving at Falmer House for a light lunch, the former Sussex students were soon reminiscing with old friends and reacquainting themselves with people they had not seen for over 20 years. Displays of photos and memorabilia from their time at Sussex prompted plenty of discussion and amusement.

Members of Sussex faculty, past and present, and the current president of the Students' Union participated in a stimulating *Question Time* style discussion in the Debating Chamber. Topics discussed ranged from higher education to climate change, with some interesting views coming both from the panel and the audience.

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

For many who were staying in the smart new University residences, the partying continued into the wee small hours. There were some rather bleary faces in Falmer Bar the next morning, where guests met for coffee before departing, vowing to keep in touch and to meet up again before another 25 years elapsed.

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

Mike Gould (EURO 1980)

Date for your diary

**Alumni Reunion
16 and 17 September 2006
1981 and 1982 freshers**

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

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

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

Calling all recent graduates

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

www.sussex.ac.uk/alumnidirectory

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

60s

60s *17 Watts? The Birth of British Rock Guitar* chronicles the birth and rise to pre-eminence of rock guitar in Britain. Written by **Mo Foster** (MAPS 1964), it covers the two decades from 1955 to 1975 and features original anecdotal contributions from renowned players.

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

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

60s **Kamau Brathwaite** (ARTS 1965) is Professor of comparative literature at New York University and author of many collections of poetry. His latest publication, *Born to Slow Horses*, is a collection of poetic meditations on islands and exile, language and ritual, and the force of personal and historical passion and grief.

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

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

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

60s **Jean Walsingham** (BIOLS 1968) and **Dudley Coates** (SOC 1968) have both been active in their respective churches. Jean spent over 20 years in agricultural research and education before retraining to become an Anglican priest in 1997. Now rector of four Dorset parishes, she has been installed as an honorary Canon of Salisbury Cathedral. Dudley retired from a senior post in the civil service in 2001 and has served in several national positions in the Methodist church and remains a lay preacher.

70s

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

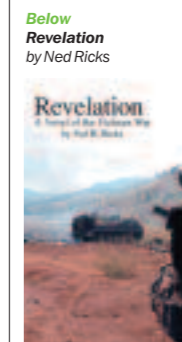
70s **Graham Crittenden** (MAPS 1970) has been appointed as an International Fellow at the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute



Above
Barry Langridge



Below
Peter Knight



Below
Revelation
by Ned Ricks



Below
Brendan Foster

(JNC) at Tsuruga in Japan. After leaving Sussex he took a post doctoral Royal Society European Research Fellowship at the University of Oslo in 1974, followed by 30 years in the UK nuclear industry.

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

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

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

70s **Robert Hamberger's** (ENGAM 1975) poetry has been broadcast on Radio 4, and published in numerous magazines including *The Observer*, *New Statesman*, *Poetry Review* and *Gay Times*. He has been awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship, and a sequence in his latest collection was shortlisted for a Forward Prize. He has published five pamphlets and two collections, *Warpaint Angel* and *The Smug Bridegroom*, which was recently chosen as one of the 13 best collections in the past ten years for the small-press Alternative Generation promotion.

70s Jill Walkinton (née Gray) (ENGAM 1976) is currently teaching in Sussex and has co-authored her first children's book *A Mum in a Million*, published by Chrysalis Books Group.

70s Patrick J Webb (AFRAS 1977) has spent the past three years working as Chief of Nutrition for the United Nations World Food programme (WFP) based in Rome. During this period he has dealt with emergency relief in various places including Aceh, North Korea, Darfur and Niger. He now returns to Tufts University in Boston as Academic Dean.

70s Paul Reeve (MOLS 1978) graduated in environmental science. He was previously executive director of the chemical industry's Responsible Care programme and nowadays advises companies in construction and other sectors on safety and environmental issues. He has recently co-written a book entitled *Essentials of Environmental Management*, a practical guide for people in businesses of all sizes. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and a Chartered Chemist and Environmental Manager. He has two daughters and lives in Ealing, West London.

80s

80s David Moran (ARTS 1980) has recently been posted to Tashkent, to take up the post of Ambassador to Uzbekistan. His previous postings include Nairobi, Moscow, and Paris.

80s Former television news broadcaster **Jacqui Harper** (ENGAM



Above
Essentials of Environmental Management
by Paul Reeve



Above
Emotional Rollercoaster
by Claudia Hammond



Above
Hilary Cottam

Below
26a
by Diana Evans



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

80s Sarah J Davies (EURO 1984) runs a TFL department at a large college in Melbourne, Australia. She is also completing an MA in linguistics.

80s Kenneth W Pickering (EDUC 1986) had his book *Key Concepts in Drama & Performance* published last year.

80s Simon Cocking (ENGAM 1987) works as an environmental education officer in Ballymun, Dublin. He has recently published the *Ballymun Eco Book*, a simple guide on how to start environmental activities and projects in local communities.

80s Katie Williams (CCS 1987) is just about to publish her third book – a volume on spatial planning, urban form and sustainable transport.

80s Petra Boynton (SOCSCI 1988) continued after Sussex to study human psychology and now lectures at University College London in international health research. She explains that much of what she learned at Sussex was around practical aspects of research and understanding differences, issues that have informed her latest book. *The Research Companion: a practical guide for the Social and Health Sciences* is a useful 'how to' study guide.

90s

90s Claudia Hammond (CCS 1990) has had her first book published. *Emotional Rollercoaster: a journey through the science of feelings* is a thought-provoking and highly entertaining exploration of the extraordinary feelings which make us human. She takes nine universal emotions in turn and looks at the science behind them, combining the latest theories and discoveries from neuroscientists and psychologists with everyday human experience. Claudia has presented numerous programmes on psychology, science and medicine for BBC Radio 4.

90s Hilary Cottam (AFRAS 1991), Director of the Design Council's pioneering research and development team RED, was named Designer of the Year 2005.

90s Diana Evans (CCS 1991) is being spoken of as the 'new literary voice of multicultural Britain' following the publication of her first novel, *26a*. She was the winner of the Orange Award for New Writers 2005. *26a* is reviewed on page 24.

90s Athina Markomichelaki (EURO 1993) recently played a major role in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games Organising Committee. She was deputy Venue Manager of the Port of Piraeus, where a number of cruise ships served as hotels for distinguished guests such as Heads of State and members of the International Olympic Committee. She is currently employed as head of Procurement Division with the Tourism Development Company, a state-owned organisation.

90s Nick Walker (MOLS 1993) was awarded the Meldola Medal of Royal Society of Chemistry 2003. He is currently the Royal Society University Research Fellow at the University of Bristol.

90s Sally Handford (CCE 1994) is working in Ethiopia with the Minister of Education on a diploma teacher training programme.

90s James Jenkins (BIOLS 1994), now a lecturer in Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Hertfordshire, has just been appointed to the Government's newly created Consumer Council for Water (CCWater) for the Thames Region. CCWater replaces WaterVoice, the Government's previous consumer watchdog for the water industry.

90s Jan Johnson-Smith (ENGAM 1995) has recently had her first book, *American Science Fiction TV*, published.

90s Samantha Cameron (AFRAS 1996) was awarded an MBE in the summer of 2005 for 'services to health care and community development in Madagascar'. She currently works for Feedback Madagascar, a Scottish NGO. For further information see page 25.

90s Eugene Sully (ENGG 1996) was chosen to enter the television game show *Big Brother* shown in the UK over the summer 2005 and narrowly missed winning. Whilst at Sussex, Eugene was very involved with University Radio Falmer (URF) and recently returned to campus to help promote URF during Freshers' Week.

90s Antonios Papagiannopoulos (COGS 1997) has started his own foreign language school in Greece.



Above
Athina Markomichelaki



Above
Eugene Sully



Above
Andreas Golob

Below
Petri J Burtsov



90s Pablo Dopico (EURO 1997) is currently a Research Fellow at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and is teaching 'The integration in the European Union: the Spanish experience and the Polish prospects' at Krakow College, Poland.

90s Daniel Woodley (CLS 1997) has just completed a world cycle tour from Brighton to Sydney.

90s Jennifer Whyte (EURO 1998) has set up and is now running a youth club for unaccompanied asylum seekers in London.

90s Andreas Golob (EURO 1999) recently graduated from Graz University in the presence of the Austrian President; an honour given each year to only 15 students, based on their academic excellence.

00s

00s Petri J Burtsov (IRP 2001) is currently working for a research project on European integration at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He is also working on his MSc thesis at the University of Helsinki.

00s After completing her MA in International Education (2002), **Julia Gallegos Guajardo** (EDUC 2001) received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her PhD in Special Education at the University of Texas. She works for the Vaughn Gross Centre for Reading and Language Arts.

00s Georgio Ricchiuti (Economics 2002) received his PhD in Development Economics in October

2004, discussing a thesis on the exchange rate regimes. Since then he has been working at the UNICEF-IRC in Florence, and teaching 'Principles in economics' at the University of Florence.

00s Yasmin Karim (SOCUL 2002) has been nominated for the Nobel Prize 2005 as Nobel Peace Woman to South Asia, part of the 1,000 Peace Women Project.

Many more class notes are available at the **Keep in Touch** section of the **Alumni and Friends** website, where you can search for other Sussex alumni. www.sussex.ac.uk/alumnidirectory

Bookmark

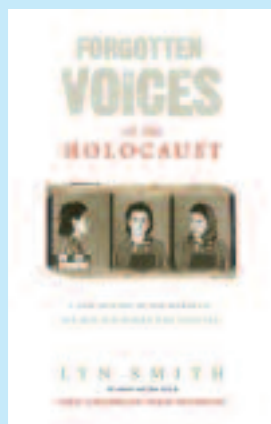
**Forgotten Voices of the Holocaust**

By Lyn Smith (ARTS 1976).
Published in hardback by Ebury Press in 2005.

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

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

Remarkably, then, *Forgotten Voices* goes beyond emphasising the sheer barbarity which survivors faced, and ultimately, what emerges from the book is the triumph of human spirit and hope, and the will of the people to survive.



Message board

Andre Buchanan (EAM 1993) is urgently looking for Joan Horne (EAM 1993).

Ceri Buckmaster (CCS 1995) would like to get in touch with old friends Fatima Ali (AFRAS 1995) and Louisa Pretorius (AFRAS 1995).

Mustafah Dhada (AFRAS 1974) would like to get in contact with Carolyn Raffle (AFRAS 1973) or hear from anyone who may know of her whereabouts.

Steve Jenner (ENGG 1969) would like to make contact with Jane Crawford (EAM 1969) and others from the dorms.

Stephane Pineau (BIOLS 1996) and Isabelle Pineau (née Neau) (BIOLS 1996) were married this year and would love to hear from anyone who remembers them.

University Radio Falmer (URF) would like to hear from anyone who was involved with URF whilst at Sussex. They are celebrating the radio station's 30th birthday this year and are keen to gather as many memories and anecdotes as possible. Email: exec@urfonline.com

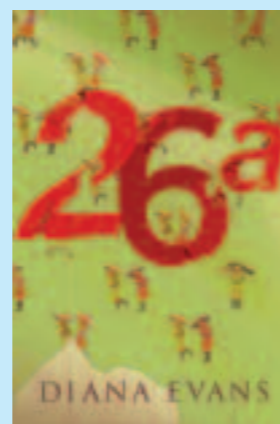
The Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC) at Sussex would very much like to hear from any alumni with disabilities who would be willing to tell the story of their career so far, or help mentor current students with disabilities. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kim O'Brien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

Bookmark



26a
By Diana Evans (CCS 1991).
Published in hardback by Chatto and Windus in 2005.

Diana Evans' debut novel 26a has achieved great success, winning the Orange Award for New Writers 2005. Diana tells the imaginative and wholly convincing story of twins Georgia and Bessi, living in the loft of their Neasden home, yet still deeply connected to their Nigerian heritage. In this moving coming of age novel, we follow the twins on their journey to adulthood, exploring the pains and solaces of the unique relationship of twinhood. As the twins mature, life inevitably grows more complicated, and the twins face the challenge of increasing separation. Diana explores themes such as marriage and dual heritage, using the contrasts of comedy and tragedy, realism and supernatural. Her sharp prose is both wickedly funny and also extremely moving. 26a is an extraordinary first novel, beautifully written and utterly enthralling.



Making a difference

Samantha Cameron (AFRAS 1996) was awarded an MBE in June 2005 for 'services to health care and community development in Madagascar' through her work with Feedback Madagascar – a Scottish charity working in the field of development, health care, environment and conservation.

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

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

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

A year after my return to Madagascar came the 'crisis' of 2002: a political coup whose knock-on effect

was to be a severe economic and, therefore, social and health crisis. But what was most striking was the peaceful and resilient nature of the Malagasy people. In the most trying of situations, which would have caused riots and widespread violence in most western countries, the vast majority of people remained calm and focused. Crime levels even saw a decrease from the strengthening of community guard systems. Despite strikes and a lack of fuel, for the most part, we managed to work.

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

Feedback Madagascar – Ny Tanintsika uses a multidisciplinary approach, working with partners from public and private sectors, and in different domains (health, education, environment, governance) to ensure that real progress is made. Communities' needs and concerns are taken into account right from the start and they are involved in all stages of project design and implementation; building a sense of ownership and determination to succeed. Specific objectives are identified by the local population, to be achieved within a given time frame, and committees are established at the community

and borough levels in order to monitor progress. We provide training for the various community service providers and ensure the initial follow-up support, but with an emphasis on involving the local authorities and public services with the view to them continuing the work afterwards. Sustainability of project activities is a full-time preoccupation.

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

For more information on Feedback Madagascar please visit:

www.feedbackmadagascar.org

or email:

info@feedbackmadagascar.org

Right
A rice planting demonstration – part of the Feedback Madagascar programme



'At Sussex I grew in confidence, felt a part of the University, started to believe that I might actually possess reasoning skills, and thrived. If I live to be 100 years old, not a day will go by that I am not profoundly grateful to the University.'

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

www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni
