SUSSEX OFFERS NEW SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

People from across the Sussex region will be exploring the breadth of science research on campus during the summer vacation. The Centre for Continuing Education is hosting two summer schools, each of a week's duration, that will give local people the chance to learn about the pioneering science, engineering and mathematics research going on at the University.

The Sussex Science Experience will encompass almost every aspect of the University science research, and many of the courses will involve use of the University's privileged access to some of the world’s best research facilities. Participants on the Astronomy course will harness the power of the internet to observe the universe through a California-based radio telescope; on the multimedia computing course students will learn how to produce their own multimedia applications, and those on the biology course will have the chance to learn the techniques of genetic engineering.

The courses are open to adults of all educational levels. They will involve lectures and discussions, but will also give participants the opportunity to get their hands dirty, taking part in practical demonstrations and carrying out experiments.

“It's meant to be enjoyable and rewarding,” says Professor John Murrell, who is helping to organise the courses. “The students should get an awareness of scientific activity and some scientific skills.”

This is the first time Sussex has run the Science Experience. Some of the courses will be particularly helpful to primary and secondary school teachers, giving them skills and resources that they can take back to the classroom. Others are for general interest, giving participants a feel for the broad principles of science or a better understanding of a specific area.

Each morning of the summer schools, which run between 28 July and 8 August, will begin with a Keynote Lecture in the Chichester Lecture Theatre. They will be given by some of the University’s most distinguished academics, covering topics of general interest from buckyballs to jet engines. The lectures start at 10am and are open to any members of the University community that would like to attend.

Assessment Centre pioneers assistive technology

The first centre in Sussex to offer students with disabilities the opportunity to discover how best to cope with a degree course will be launched at the University today. The Assistive Technology Centre has been set up to promote access to higher education for people of all ages through the pioneering use of information technology to assess their needs and support their learning.

In order to qualify for assistance under the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA), students are assessed and may become eligible for support in the form of specialised equipment and training although up until now, there has been no provision for assessment in either East or West Sussex. However, all that has changed thanks to gifts from the Alumni Society and a gift of £20,000 to commemorate Sally Marriott, the University’s long-serving Deputy Personnel Officer who died last year of cancer. Sally was always a passionate champion of students with disabilities and the gift in her memory will enable the new centre to provide specialist computer hardware and software packages which give students access to text and graphics through a variety of means.

National statistics suggest that ten per cent of the population are affected by some form of Continued on page 2
**ROBIN LEE POETRY PRIZE 1997**

This year’s Robin Lee Poetry Prize has been awarded jointly to: **CHRIS CAUDRON** (undergraduate English student in CCS) and **FAY MARSHALL** (Creative Writing student in CCE). Runner-up prizes have been awarded to **CLARE BIRCHALL** (HUMS) and **CATHERINE SMITH** (HUMS). The judges also wish to commend **USIE students DAVID KECK and FELICITY NAPIER** and **MARCO ROCHA** (postgraduate in COGS).

It is hoped to publish a poem by each of this year’s winners in a future edition of *Bulletin*.

**Fundraising for surf safety**

Jo Siliprandi, a third year student in CCS was among those who raised funds to buy new safety equipment for the Surf Life Saving Club at Polzeath in Cornwall. Fund-raising began after the tragic death of Jo’s boyfriend Tom Balment, who was a student in EURO. Tom died last year while trying to save the life of a friend who was swept from rocks at Polzeath. Since then Tom’s parents have been campaigning to raise funds for better safety equipment, including a fully equipped four wheel drive vehicle for the auxiliary coastguards. Jo raised £410 herself by organising a fund-raising event in Brighton.

**Assistive Technology Centre continued from front page**

disability. Although only a relatively small number may be classified as severely disabled, persons suffering from conditions such as dyslexia or arthritis, for example, also need extensive learning, teaching and examinations support. According to E.A. Draffen, the Centre’s Manager, “Devices or equipment may be high tech, using sophisticated electronics, for example, or low tech. The key to the service is to understand the limitations imposed by the disability and find the appropriate human support and technical assistance necessary to enable the student to learn.”

**WRONG SORT OF GRASS — Triffid Tor Grass Threatens Downs**

An unwelcome species of grass is causing major problems on the South Downs, threatening the future of an area we all love. The fine closely-cropped, springy turf, with its orchids and other wild flowers, its butterflies and bush-cricket, is being invaded and replaced by the long coarse tor grass, *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Although this is a native grass, it has invaded sites where it has no previous history and, once established, shades out the smaller plants and therefore dominates the plant community, eliminating other species. It is unpalatable to grazing animals, unless they are very hungry, and this allows it to form expanding and proliferating patches of long, yellow-green grass, in an otherwise closely grazed sward.

The special nature of chalk grassland is a product of low soil nutrients and heavy grazing. The spread of tor grass in this sort of grassland is not a problem unique to the South Downs or, indeed, to the UK. In the Netherlands, increases in tor grass seem to be associated with atmospheric pollution which increases soil nitrogen and favours the spread of this coarse and vigorous grass rather than that of the slower growing chalk grassland species. Fertiliser application has a similar effect. In the UK, however, atmospheric nitrogenous pollution is not as high and our chalk grasslands, in the south-east, have a much lower level of soil nutrients than the Dutch problem sites. Nevertheless, increased nitrogen in the soil may still have an important role, and research by Audra Hurst, working with Libby John in BIOLS, suggests that this increase is brought about by the presence of tor grass itself which alters the soil environment to favour its own growth.

Audra found that the level of nitrates in the soil was higher inside the stands of tor grass than in immediately adjacent areas. Lack of grazing seems to allow nutrients to build up, as little or no plant material is removed from the system. When tor grass dies it produces a vast amount of plant litter, which rots in situ, returning its nutrients to the soil, and litter also plays an important part by shading out more desirable chalk grassland species. The experiments have shown that removal of this litter is essential for controlling this grass, both by lowering soil nitrogen and by making it possible for seedlings of other species to become established. This explains the lack of success of reserve wardens who have become so desperate to get rid of tor grass that they have been driven to use herbicides. This may kill it, but also has the effect of fertilising the soil. Removal by cutting and raking promises much better long term control.

A certain amount of long grass, even *Brachypodium*, can have its attractions and a mixed sward, with warm well grazed patches and areas of longer grass for shelter and protection, is ideal both for butterflies and for our famous local wart-biter bush-cricket. Left to itself, however, tor grass will let little else survive.

**WORKING ON THE LABOUR EXCHANGE**

Steve Bell, the political cartoonist and Sussex honorary graduate, is facing a problem. Brighton-based Steve, whose work is showing as part of the Hogarth Tercentenary exhibition at the Gardner Centre, declared in the Guardian that he likes New Labour, and it makes his job rather difficult.

According to various media reports the whole nation has lost its cynical edge in the wake of Tony Blair’s first few weeks in office. Dr Luke Martell of SOC, an expert on New Labour, feels that the party handled their entry into power very cleverly.

“They were obviously highly organised about what they were going to do when they got into office,” says Luke. “Just by the list of novels that they dished out every day, Labour kept the excitement going amongst a lot of people who wouldn’t normally be particularly excited about a Labour victory.”

He thinks the future looks bright for the new government, despite their need to get down to tackling more mundane issues. “Inevitably the Government has decided to play it cooler in the last couple of weeks,” he says. “They can’t keep up this momentum and dynamism and support, which they’re getting out of freshness, but I also can’t see any big problems for them at the moment.”

Luke Martell, in collaboration with Stephen Driver of the Roehampton Institute is currently finishing off a book on the ideology of New Labour. He has been examining the shift in Labour’s policy since the war and rejects the argument that New Labour is the same as Conservatism. He also rejects Tony Blair’s assertion that the means, and not the end, has changed. “I think he really has given up on greater egalitarianism and redistribution – not because he doesn’t believe in them, but because he feels they’re not realistic. If he started raising taxes for middle income people he’d be in real trouble.”

The old values have more or less disappeared, Luke Martell believes. “Looking at the phrase ‘New Labour’,” he says, “they really are quite new. But they’re not particularly Labour any more.”
Mooting goes from strength to strength

The finals of the Centre for Legal Studies Mooting Competition took place in Lewes Crown Court before their Honours, Judge Michael Kennedy and Judge Stephen Lloyd. This marks a third successful year of the competition which is sponsored by Donne Mileham & Haddock, Solicitors. Catherine Bancroft-Rimmer and Melanie Trevor won this year’s final, earning themselves a share of £1000 prize money. A moot court is one in which law students argue hypothetical cases. The four finalists, having won against stiff competition in a number of qualifying rounds, faced the ultimate test of their skill as advocates by arguing their case before the two senior judges playing the part of the House of Lords.

Pictured from l to r: Raphael Jouenne (CLS), Melanie Trevor (CLS), Judge Stephen Lloyd, Martin Allen (Donne Mileham & Haddock), Judge Michael Kennedy, Catherine Bancroft-Rimmer (SOC), Rachel Sheppard (CLS).

Remembering the way it wasn’t

Professor Alan Parkin and his colleagues in Experimental Psychology, BIOLS, have been awarded two new grants, worth just under a quarter of a million pounds, for research into the brain mechanisms underlying false memories. False memories can be observed widely but they are particularly common in two groups of people, adults who have suffered certain forms of brain damage and young children. In both instances it can be shown that accurate recollections can be contaminated by ‘memories’ of events that did not happen.

One of the grants is from the Human Frontiers Scheme, which finances international research collaborations. “It’s a multi-centred study based at Sussex, Harvard and Lausanne,” explains Alan Parkin. “The aim of my part of the study is to understand more about why the brain-damaged people make the mistakes that they do. They all have lesions in the front part of the brain, the frontal cortex. That tells us that in some way the frontal cortex is involved in establishing the truth or untruth of memories. We want to know more about the brain mechanisms that allow memories to be verified – how we stop ourselves producing incorrect information.”

The Harvard part of the study will involve a technique called functional neuro-imaging. This shows which parts of the brain are more active while a person is doing a particular activity. The researchers hope it will show the difference in brain activity between producing real and false memories.

Studies of brain damaged adults also provide an important clue as to why young children may be susceptible to false recollection. Different parts of the brain mature at different rates and the frontal cortex is the slowest – some estimates suggest that this region of the brain is not fully developed until the mid-teens. It is possible that younger children display false memories because the frontal cortex is not yet fully developed.

Alan Parkin, together with colleagues Wendy Clements and Ted Ruffman, is investigating this theory. The Economic and Social Research Council have awarded a grant for this research, which will examine how readily children of different ages produce false memories. The experiments involve showing children a short film followed by a summary. Some facts mentioned in the summary are incorrect and the extent to which children are misled by these facts provides a measure of susceptibility. This degree of susceptibility is, in turn, related to how well the children perform on tests which measure the developmental status of frontal lobe function.

“Although this research is at an early stage,” explains Alan, “it may eventually give us a much better understanding of a memory phenomenon which has become of considerable social and legal significance in recent years.”

In brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND linked to the Research web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research or UIS Home Page, select ‘Teaching & Research’, ‘Research Funding at Sussex’.

AWARDS TO WOMEN FOR GRADUATE RESEARCH 1998/99: The British Federation of Women Graduates invites applications for fellowships, scholarships and grants. The awards are only for postgraduate research (not taught courses). Closing date: 5 September 1997.

ESRC RESEARCH SEMINAR COMPETITION: proposals invited. To exchange information and ideas with the aim of advancing and enhancing work within their fields.

NEW LINK PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE AGRIBLE PRODUCTION: to encourage research which will contribute to sustainable development in the UK arable industry – thereby benefitting the rural environment and contributing to the health and wealth of the nation. £2.5 million available for collaborative research. No closing date.

CANON FOUNDATION VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: offered by The Canon Foundation to highly qualified researchers aged 30-45 who are European or Japanese nationals and permanent residents, to go to Japan or Europe respectively, for periods normally of 12 months. Closing date: 15 October 1997.

UK/SPAIN JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMME: The British Council invites applications in all subject areas for inclusion in the 1998/99 programme. To promote collaboration between groups from universities and public sector research institutes in both countries through the award of travel and subsistence grants for joint research projects. 15 October 1997.

James Wickings

Following the tragic death of James Wickings (final year student in EURO), there will be a memorial service in the Meeting House Chapel at 11.30am on Thursday 10 July. All those who knew James are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 16 June – Sunday 22 June

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- **Monday 23 June**
  2pm Particle Physics Seminar: A. Taormina (Durham), The affine SL(2|1) superalgebra and its potential role in the description of N=2 non-critical strings. Pevensye Building 2C1.
- **Tuesday 24 June**
  5pm Globalising Ethics Seminar: Dr Dokun Oyeshola, EU Northern NGOs and conflict in Africa. Room D640.
- **Wednesday 25 June**
  4pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: D. Helfand (Columbia), First science from the FIRST survey. Pevensye Building 1A7.
  5pm The English Graduate Colloquium by Candace Waid is cancelled.
- **Thursday 26 June**
  11.30am Economics Faculty/Graduate Seminar: Francesco Pastore, Wage policy in Italy. Room D340.
- **Friday 27 June**

Open Talk on New Labour

- **Monday 23 June 11.00 - 3.30**
- **New Labour New Citizen**
  An open event for all staff, faculty or students with an interest in contemporary political developments organised by CulCom Applied Policy Studies Group. Speakers include Luke Martel, Jenneth Parker with additional contributions from Sue Wright, Crescy Cannon and MA students from CulCom. Room Arts B347. All welcome.

Miscellaneous

- **Monday 23 June**
  **Bangers 'n' Bass**
  Saturday 5 July at 6pm, Playing Fields Pavilion. Sussex staff, alumni and finalists are invited to an evening of lively music, 'burgers and beer. Summer barbecue with guest band Thompson's Directory. Tickets cost £7.50. Further details from the Alumni Office 8258.
- **USIE Open Afternoon**
  Thursday 3 July from 2.30pm in the Meeting House, to introduce its new continuing professional development programme. All welcome.
- **Music Faculty Lunchtime Concert**
  Wednesday 25 June at 1.15pm in the Recital Room, Falmer House. Moreno Andreotta (piano). All welcome.
- **Sussex University Women**
  Monday 23 June, 12.30pm in the Meeting House: a talk by Erik Millstone (SPRU), Mad Cows and Englishmen (The BSE phenomenon). Please bring a dish as usual or sandwiches if you wish.

Vacation Opening Times

- **University Library**
  Monday, Wednesday–Friday: 9am - 5.30pm
  Tuesday: 9am – 7.30pm; weekends: closed
  The Library will also be open 10am–5pm for reference only on Sundays from 6 July–17 August and on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August. These days are primarily for Open University students, and none of the usual weekend services will be available.
- **Computing Service**
  Mon – Fri: 9am – 9pm; weekends: closed
- **Language Centre**
  Mon – Fri: 9am – 9pm; weekends: closed
- **EAM Common Room**
  The EAM common room, Arts B, is open throughout the vacation 9.30am to 4.15pm Mon to Fri.

Sport

- **Summer Vacation Children's Sports Courses**
  **Mulit Rackets**
  27 - 29 August (inc) 11-4pm Cost £27
  **Tennis** (including Youplay Tennis Award Scheme)
  28 July - 1 August (inc) 10am – 12noon Cost £25
  **Summer Sports Night and Barbecue**
  Playing Fields Pavilion Wednesday 25 June, 6pm start. Teams still needed for Rounders, Volleyball, Boule, Darts, Skittles and Bowls. Barbecue tickets £3.50 per person (includes entry fees). For further details contact Karen Dunster on 3947, email K.Dunster@sussex.ac.uk.
- **Sports Injury Clinic**
  From Monday 30 June the Sports Injury clinic will be operating on an appointment only basis. New patients can make an appointment for a Monday or a Thursday. Appointments must be booked with Sam Fuller between 9am-12 and 2-5pm Tel 678229 or 8229

Small Ads

- **ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE**: person required to share lovely 2-bedroom flat (partly furnished) with one female. North Laines, 3 mins from Brighton station. £53 pw. 0402 853515, 01273 877284 (weekdays) 01865 242642 (weekends), e-mail a.n.scott@sussex.ac.uk
- **HOLIDAY**: Fancy staying in a Bed & Breakfast near St Tropez, in the South of France, in August? £10/night, 10 min walk from the beach. Contact Raymonde at: rayoleil.aruf@wanadoo.fr OR Nicole at hhpu9@central.sussex.ac.uk or on 696689.

**TO LET**: Room and own kitchen in country house in Kingston for mature lady. Contact 486235.

**FOR SALE**: Fiat Uno, Dreg, MoTo Oct, good runner – £495. Call 602900.

**FRENCH LANGUAGE** tuition or translation service offered by native speaker. Widely experienced, from toddlers to pensioners. Call Delphine on 670420.

**TO LET from 29 June**: two pleasant attic rooms with cooking facilities, in Queen’s Park area. Suit female research student wanting peace and quiet to study. £35 per week. Call Pauline on 8209 or 607602.

**TODAY**: Self-contained bed-sit in private house in Lewes. Own shower/toilet. Non-smoker please. £55 inc. per week except telephone. Call Frances on 8048 or 478594.

**HOLIDAY LET**: Beautiful house in Provence. Sleeps 10 to 12, large pool, spectacular views, 2 weeks available in July (3 to 17) due to cancellation. £1,200 per week (usual price £2,400 per week). Contact Sam in France 0033490543577 or in the UK on 01323-423443.

**FOR SALE**: RM Nimbus 386 computer. 40mg hard disk with Word for Windows. £100. Call Trafford Centre 2884.

**SINGLE ROOM** in house with owner and one other available for female non-smoker from 18 August £35 a week inclusive. North Laines area, 5 mins from station. Contact 682929.

**FOR SALE**: SUZUKI GSXR400RM Slingsting-91, H reg, black, 12000kms, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, Yoshimura Cyclone exhaust, reliable, good condition. £3,500. Contact 746808 / 0973 754311, email: adep@admin.sussex.ac.uk or 3587.

Bulletin

The is the final Bulletin of the Summer Term. Many thanks to all those who have contributed. There will be a Bulletin on 11 July, copy deadline 4 July. As well as the usual news, events, letters and small ads, please send in any vacation notices that you would like published, to the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209, or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk

Centre for Continuing Education
From Archaeology to Women's Studies
The Centre for Continuing Education offers Certificate and Diploma courses at half price to University staff.
We will be outside the Refectory on 26 and 27 June from 12-2pm to help with advice, information and enrolment.
We look forward to seeing you.

Bulletin is now on the web: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/information_office/bulletin/