Lottery Lucky for Sussex

News was received this week that the University has been successful in a bid to the Lottery Sports Fund. We have been awarded a grant of just under half a million pounds to improve facilities at the Sports Pavilion.

The successful bid is for the conversion of the existing floodlit pitch to an artificial turf pitch; conversion of two of the five squash courts to a ground floor fitness training area and dance exercise studio; upgrading of changing facilities; installation of a new reception area and staff accommodation and making the whole of the existing accommodation accessible to people with disabilities.

The re-furbished pavilion and new pitch will provide key benefits for the local community and the bid was put together with the needs of the region very much in mind. According to Jan Thole, Director of Sport “This is excellent news for the university and for the local community, clubs and schools who will benefit from this grant by having even greater opportunities to use this first class university facility.”

The University’s Sports Service has promoted community use of its facilities since the early 1970s and works closely with the Sports Development Team in Brighton Borough Council to provide coaching and recreation classes for members of the local community. But there is still a large unmet need in the locality for access to such facilities, and because we have lacked means of providing staff supervision, community use of the Pavilion’s facilities has hitherto been restricted.

Among the benefits to the community of the project will be access to a conveniently sited artificial pitch – the demand for access to such pitches, not only for matches but for training, now far exceeds supply in the local region. There will be programmes of hockey, football, squash, racketball and tennis coaching, and fitness and health-related activities. We shall also provide an open access programme of community sports aimed at attracting new participants to sport and fitness among some key target groups, notably children and young people, veterans, people with disabilities and women.

As part of the project, the University has undertaken to promote the sports services and facilities actively to clubs, schools and individuals within the region and one of the key objectives is to achieve a year-round average of not less than 40 hours per week of community use.

The Lottery grant, which totals £499,500 comes in addition to a grant of £75,000 already obtained from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. Work is planned to begin in three months’ time and it is expected that the project will take up to six months to complete.
The secret of domestic bliss?

A recent study has found that by viewing your partner through rose-tinted spectacles not only is your relationship likely to last longer than if you took a more realistic view, but also you are more inclined to create the relationship you hoped for in the first place. Dale Griffin (COGS) who conducted the study, published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, said the findings challenge the view that couples should be realistic about their partner’s faults and accept that there is no such thing as the perfect partner.

According to Dale, the reason for this is that the person who is being idealised will start to live up to the expectations of their partner, thus creating the relationship they had wished for. Although, this does not mean that one should be overly idealistic about their partner, by turning a blind eye to each others’ failings, partners are less likely to view each other as incorrigibly flawed human beings and thus become disillusioned with one another. The trick seems to lie in holding a slightly more positive image of one’s partner than they hold of themselves.

The study looked at 200 married, or dating couples of any age who had been together for 19 months on average. Dale and his colleagues, Sandra Murray (University of Michigan) and John Holmes (University of Waterloo), looked at how satisfied partners felt in light of how their partner saw them, and then examined how satisfied they were with their relationship a year later – if, of course, they were still together. Dale said the results were clear: “Relationships persisted, satisfaction increased, conflicts were averted, doubts abated and personal insecurities diminished when individuals idealised their partners and their partners idealised them.”

New Postgraduate Scholarship

Through the generosity of the James Henry Green Charitable Trust, Sussex is offering one scholarship for full-time study leading to the degree of DPhil in the field of art, archaeology or material culture of China or South Asia.

The funds are available for the start of the academic year 1997/98 and the successful candidate would pursue research within the Graduate Research Centre in Culture and Communication.

To apply please send a brief CV and a statement outlining proposed topic of research to Dr Craig Clunas in CCS. Closing date: 21 April 1997.

Calling budding thespians

Auditions are now being held for Terry Pratchett’s play Mort. This fund-raising event is a story of assassination, love, magic and orang-utans. The organisers are planning to take the production on tour during the summer vacation—a great opportunity to see Britain and raise money at the same time. All proceeds will go to the Unseen University Scholarship Fund, which is currently being launched by students to help those who would not otherwise be able to afford a University education.

If you wish to take part in any way (it is open to all students and staff), call Simon Buckingham, EAM ug ph, tel: 687107, email: seuo0@central.sussex.ac.uk
PGCE 30th Anniversary

The Sussex Consortium for Teacher Education and Research (PGCE) held its third annual meeting recently with representatives from more than 40 local primary and secondary schools attending.

The theme of this year’s meeting was ‘The future of Initial Teacher Education across Europe’, building on the PGCE’s existing links and exchanges with Canada, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden. The keynote lecture was given by Professor Daniel Kallos from the University of Umea, Sweden. Professor Kallos is a central figure in the EU thematic network on ITE, and has conducted research on the delivery of teacher training in a number of EU countries.

The PGCE programme also celebrated its 30th anniversary with a birthday cake and presentations. Particular thanks were extended to former Consortium Chair Peter Bratton (Head of Hove Park School) and Primary Chair Jane Quincey (former head of Balfour Infant School) for their hard work in establishing the Consortium as a strong model of partnership in teacher education and to Mary Lewis, former Primary PGCE Director, for her enormous contribution over a number of years to the PGCE course.

Problems with immortality

Immortality can be fatal, says Alison Sinclair of BIOLS. Living cells which continue beyond their normal life span, and multiply without check, disrupt the delicate co-existence on which our life depends. This co-existence requires an orderly mortality of body cells; disorder leads to cancer.

Some viruses cause body cells to become immortal and therefore potentially cancerous. One of these is the Epstein-Barr virus, which most of us carry but which can cause cancer in some people; for example it can cause Hodgkin’s disease, which affects more than a thousand people in this country alone, and Burkitt’s Lymphoma, which is a problem in Africa. Alison is working on Epstein-Barr virus because its mode of action raises fundamental questions about normal controls in the living body: about life, death and proliferation. Her research is supported by the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Epstein-Barr virus affects the white blood cells which play a vital part in our immune system. These cells usually have a finite life and do not divide unless they receive an appropriate signal. The virus seems to switch off the effect of a natural control protein, which normally prevents unwanted cell division. Therefore the virus creates immortal cell lines which, in cell culture, continue and multiply, carrying the virus with them. Usually, in a healthy body, the effects of the virus are kept under control by the immune system. If the immune system is suppressed, however, for example by the effects of another disease (malaria, in the case of Burkitt’s Lymphoma), the immortal cell lines can run destructively rampant.

Viruses also play a key role in the development of a variety of other cancers, including most genital cancers, liver cancer, and Kaposi’s Sarcoma. According to Alison, the virus is only one factor in the development of the cancer; various other co-factors, such as carcinogens, are also very important. Understanding the way in which these viruses and other factors interact with the cellular control mechanisms should lead to better methods of treatment.

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 (mornings only) 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 USIS Home Page, select ‘For Staff’, ‘Research Funding’.

NEDO GRANTS FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND MATERIALS: The New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation invites applications for its grants for international joint research in the areas of materials and global environment. Closing date: 8 April 1997.


TEACHER TRAINING AGENCY INVITATION TO TENDER: to carry out research which will help teachers to extend and enhance their teaching by increasing their capacity to make informed choices about what and how to use Information and Communications Technology to improve teaching and learning. Closing date: 21 April 1997.

SRHE SMALL GRANTS – YOUNGER RESEARCHER AWARD: to enable the researcher to develop competences to advance her/his research career; to undertake a study that will prepare the ground for a larger project. Closing date: 25 April 1997.

UK/FRANCE JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMME – ALLIANCE: to promote the development of Franco-British scientific co-operation between universities and public sector research institutes in France and the UK. Closing date: 1 May 1997.

What’s on...

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- Monday 10 March
  2pm CultCom - Telling Stories: Film narrativenarrative narrative: some of the differences. Greg Currie (Flinders University, Australia), Gardner Centre Theatre.
  2pm Particle Physics Seminar: First order vortex dynamics. N. Manton (DAMTP), room PB2A/1.
  3pm Analysis Seminar: One dimensional wavelets: their applications in analysis and signal processing. D. Kelly-Lyth (King’s College London), SMS room 2A2.

- Tuesday 11 March
  9.30am CultCom follow-up Seminar for Telling Stories Lecture: Film narrativenarrative narrative: some of the differences. Esses House Conference Room.
  4pm COGS Seminar: Rethinking the nature/nurture debate: a view from abnormal development. Annette Karmiloff-Smith (Medical Research Council and UCL), room PBSC1/1.
  4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: Control of protein kinase Cε synthesis. Dr. Martin Ramsey (University of York), Biology Lecture Theatre.
  5pm German Research Colloquium: Wagner and antisemitism. Margaret Brearley (London), room A155.
  5pm American Studies Open Seminar: Class, crime and punishment: the British garrison in Boston, 1768-76. Gareth Morgan, room D730.
  5pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: The roots of modern Macedonian identity: notes on transnationalism. Dr. Keith Brown (University of Wales Lampeter), room A71.
  5pm CDE Graduate Seminar: The globalisation of privatisation and the privatisation of globalisation. John Maclean, room D440.
  6.30pm Issues in Environmental Science Lecture: Geologists interview their effects on life. Professor J. Sumpter (Brunel), Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre.

- Wednesday 12 March
  11.30am Plant Science Seminar: Third year research project seminar. APRC room 1B.
  12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: Environmental radioactivity: an overview and some applications. Prof. Roger Scott (Director, Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre, East Kilbride), CPES room MS3.
  1pm IDS and Poverty Research Unit Seminar: Food poverty and food policy in the north and south. Elizabeth Dowler (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), IDS room 221.
  1.30pm SCOP Seminar: The interaction of intense laser fields with atoms, molecules and clusters. Dr. Jon Marangos (Imperial College), room PB2A/2.
  2pm International Relations and Politics Seminar: Global economic institutions and the environmental social movement. Dr. Marc Williams, EDB room 125.

- Thursday 13 March
  4pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: We all confabulate. Paul Burgess (UCL), Biology Lecture Room, EP 3.9.
  4pm Space Centre Colloquium The Aurora: 25 years of amateur research. Nigel Bone, PB2A/1.
  4.15pm The New Metaphysical Art: First memorial lecture: Art, justice and metaphysics in the work of Gillian Rose. Prof. Howard Caygill, room A5.

Monday 10 March - Sunday 16 March

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- Thursday 13 March
  5pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: German historicism and English “social evolution”: two nineteenth-century philosophers of history. John Burrow (Balliol College, Oxford), room A155. Joint meeting with SPT.

- Friday 14 March
  2pm SPRU Seminar: Cancer chemotherapy confronts biodiversity: the case of taxol. Dr. Vivien Walsh (UMIST), EDB room 121.
  4pm Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis Seminar: Modifying the inertia of matrices arising in optimisation. Nick Higham (Manchester), SMS room PB1A/1.

Looking for a start in Publishing?

There is an exciting opportunity in the University Publications Office for a one-year graduate internship, starting September 1997. The successful applicant will be helping to produce the prospectuses and other University publications. For more information call Andrew Proctor on 678523, or send a written request to Room 301, Sussex House. Closing date: Friday 21 March.

The Language Centre

- Summer Job on Campus
The Language Centre wishes to recruit a full-time student social and welfare officer to assist overseas students attending our summer courses (July-September). Details available from Student Employment Office: 678146, or the Language Centre on ext. 2175/2003.

Miscellaneous

- Helen Sharman
  4.15pm Monday 10 March: Life in Space. Helen Sharman, MSLT.

- Physics and Astronomy Society
  5pm Monday 10 March: Science Lecture. Dr. Clough (University of Surrey) will talk about qarks. Room PB1A/7.

- Alternative Lecture
  5.30pm Tuesday 11 March: Sister Wendy’s story of art. As told by Liz James. Organised by the 33 Percenters (aka Mature Students’ Society). All welcome. £2 including refreshments. The Meeting House.

- Composers Concert
  1.15pm Friday 14 March: University of Sussex Music Faculty: Composers concert. All welcome. Free at the Recital Room.

- Centenary Lecture
  4.15pm Friday 14 March: Design of molecular assemblies with extremely large optical non-linearities. Prof. T.J. Marks (Northwestern University, USA), MSLT.

- Lost Property
The Health Centre has gathered a number of lost articles over the last few months. These include watches, jewellery, wallets, articles of clothing, glasses and keys.

Miscellaneous cont.

- Easter SU Play Scheme
  7 - 11 April: Registration starts Monday 10 March from Students’ Union receptions available for staff and students. For more information call ext.8152.

- Open Day
  Saturday 15 March: Open Day for mature students. Events will be centred around the Refectory, and will be running from 10am to 3pm.

- Intra-Mural Soccer
Entries are now being accepted for the Summer Term 6-a-side outdoor football league (Tues and Thurs evening) and the Summer indoor 5-a-side tournament, Thurs 12-2pm. Entry forms available at the Sportcentre reception, or contact Karen Dunster on ext. 3947.

- Vacation Work
The Student Employment Office are looking for 420 clerical staff to work in a variety of positions in Hove for the period of the Easter vacation. Full-time with overtime available. Pay rates from £4.20 to £5.77 ph (basic). For more information please come to the SEO in Falmer House, quoting reference C97/09/01.

The Gardner Centre

- Film at the Gardner
  Sunday 9 March
  3pm and 9pm Michael Collins (15)
Free tickets are available to see the 3pm showing for the first 10 people who produce their copy of Bulletin at the box office.

Small Ads

WANTED: Chairs, preferably stacking, for a school in Albania. If you can help at all please contact Helen Swyer, Library, ext. 3514.


ROOM TO LET: in family house near Seven Dials and Brighton railway station. £45 pw inclusive of bills. Deposit required. Non-smoking, postgraduate preferred. Tel: 563397.


TRANSLATION: Chinese/English/Chinese translation or tutorial, trial lesson first half an hour FREE: email: ywang@sussex.ac.uk, or tel: 603454 after 6pm. Or ext. 2992/2567 and ask for Dona daytime.

Bulletin
The next Bulletin will appear on 21 March. Copy deadline is lunchtime 12 March. We welcome suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk

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