Creative electronics

PUPILS at a Sussex school will build their own recording studio, thanks to the Creative Science Centre in CPES.

Students from Angmering School are dabbling in electronics as part of a project run by Dr Jonathan Hare. The A-level students will make the electronics for a sound mixer, whilst the younger GCSE pupils will create simpler circuits. Using this knowledge they will make basic microphones.

The Creative Science Centre forges links between schools and universities to promote science. Recently the Centre received a grant from the Royal Society-Esso Science Education Partnership, which was used to buy the electronic components, power supplies and recording equipment.

Jonathan said that he was pleased to encourage the students, who are "very enthusiastic and get involved." Earlier this year the same students constructed an eight-foot tall carbon (C_60) molecule (pictured right).

The football-shaped model commemorates the fact that three years ago, Angmering sixth formers were the first to produce C_60 in a school laboratory. The molecule, also known as Buckminster-fullerene, was discovered by Professor Sir Harry Kroto, who received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry this time last year.

In the picture: Angmering students with science teacher Jan Meering and Jonathan Hare (centre).

Dr Roger Taylor (CPES) has just had his numbering system for classifying fullerenes published. There are thousands of chemical derivatives of the prototypical C_60 fullerene, which created a need for a standard nomenclature. Dr Taylor found himself hand drawing the diagrams as there is no computer program that can cope with the football-shaped structures yet, especially as some fullerenes exist in so-called left-handed and right-handed forms, similar to mirror images.

Top of the class

FOUR awards will be conferred by the University of Sussex Society, for the first annual excellence in teaching and learning scheme.

The awards were inaugurated in order to recognise and promote excellent teaching. The quality of nominations was so impressive that an extra award was presented in addition to the original three.

Nominees can be from all levels of teaching, from graduate assistants to professors. The assessment panel judges nominees on many aspects of their work, including course design and use of research. Winners will receive a £500 prize and be honoured at the winter graduation ceremony in January.

The winners, MARTIN BELL (SPRU), DR PAUL ROCHE (CPES), ANNIS MAY TIMPSON (EAM) and BERYL WILLIAMS (EURO) were praised by the Vice-Chancellor for their enthusiasm, commitment and achievements. "It was very difficult to choose just four names, but I believe we have selected individuals who stand for everything that is best in Sussex. Like other members of the award committee I was impressed by the very high quality and commitment of everyone who was on the final shortlist.”

The winners will be featured in the Spring issue of Learning Matters, the newsletter published once a term on teaching and learning.
NEW DIRECTIONS CONFERENCE

The New Directions: Postcolonialism, Histories and Identities conference this September was a great success.

The event offered a fresh look at postcolonialism and re-enforced Sussex as a leading centre for the study of the subject. Sussex has long enjoyed this reputation, and this is illustrated by the large number of Sussex delegates present, particularly graduates. Organisers Liam Connell, Tina Lupton, Anita Rupprech and Carole Sweeney are all students at our Graduate Research Centres.

Attended by around 130 delegates, the event was truly international, with guests from Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada and the United States as well as British and European universities. Speakers expressed the view that the presentations represented a genuine reassessment of the topic.

The organisers will shortly submit a book proposal based on selected conference papers. Anyone interested in issues discussed at the conference, or in joining reading groups and seminars should contact Liam Connell, GRC Humanities pigeonholes or email: lj.j.connell@sussex.ac.uk

Elementary, my dear Professor

It's not every day that you get to name a new element in the periodic table. After twenty years of discussion, the naming of nine new elements has been achieved by a group headed by a Sussex professor.

Professor Jeff Leigh (CPES) is president of the Inorganic Division of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. The group have been responsible for naming elements numbered 101 to 109, and recently Jeff put forward a list to the Council of IUPAC in Geneva for approval.

Historically element names have been suggested by the discoverer. The credit for discovering elements 101 to 109 has been hotly disputed. They were identified during atomic research not by individuals, but by groups of scientists in competing laboratories. Since then, three major labs have been unable to achieve a consensus, despite prolonged discussions.

Jeff Leigh in his element

The new elements have now been christened by IUPAC, including 104, Rutherfordium (Rf) and 109, Meitnerium (Mt). Now Jeff and his colleagues are busy discussing the naming of elements 110 to 112.

Christopher Johnson Poetry Prize

This competition, in memory of Christopher Johnson (EAM 1963-66 and PGCE 1967-68) who died last year, is open to any student currently registered at Sussex. The winning poems will be read at a Poetry Event in which the judge, Philip Wells, will read from his own work. In addition the authors of the top two poems will receive £200 and £100 prizes. The closing date is 14 November so don’t delay. For details of the competition rules and for further information please contact Lorna Pidgeon, EDB 305, ext 8348.

On yer bike

Now is the perfect time to get out on your bicycle – the weather is cooler, the facilities are improving and what’s more – it’s good for you and good for the environment.

The newly created cycle lane between the University and the edge of Brighton is a great success – cyclists now have their own space on the road and it certainly feels significantly safer. And the good news is we can expect to see more developments - the stretch of cycle path from Coldean Lane to the University is going to be improved and so too the stretch between the University and Lewes.

Furthermore, the cycle rack installation programme on campus is continuing apace and there are plans to establish a Bicycle User Group (BUG). Interest-free loans are available to staff for the purchase of bicycles, provided they have been in employment for more than six months (details available from the Payroll Office). Some local shops now offer members of the University a discount on bicycle purchasing and servicing. All the details are summarised in a useful publication: University of Sussex Guide to Cycling, obtainable from Environmental Adviser Penelope Chapple, ext 8904, email: P.J.Chapple@sussex.ac.uk or from the environmental rep in your area.
Visitors to the Refectory will have spotted a host of new signs, all part of the continuing refurbishment of the building following the fire in January 1996. A distinctive logo (left) identifies the Catering Service units. The main restaurants have been renamed. Level 2 is now The Laines Restaurant, whilst the Salad Bowl on Level 1 is The Downs. New illuminated boards have been installed, sponsored by Coca Cola, Great Britain, showing the type of food offered in the Refectory, with daily menus for the Laines and Downs Restaurants displayed alongside.

Finally, the Library Basement Snack Bar has been renamed The Bolt-hole for all those hard-working visitors to the Library to take a break.

COGS celebrates its tenth birthday

Founding Dean, Maggie Boden was toasted by COGS staff, postgraduates and guests from round the University at a reception to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the School. It was also an opportunity to wish Maggie a long and happy retirement. Maggie came to Sussex in 1965 as a Lecturer in Philosophy and Psychology. In 1987 the Cognitive Studies Programme in SOC broke away under the leadership of Maggie, Aaron Sloman, Gerald Gazdar and others to form the School of Cognitive Sciences. A year later the Computer Science Subject Groups merged with the Computing Studies Subject Group and joined the School. The name was changed to its current form: Cognitive and Computing Sciences. Today there are nearly 500 undergraduates and 200 postgraduates. Maggie remains as a full-time research Professor in the School. Picture at the celebrations from l to r: Vice-Chancellor Gordon Conway, Maggie Boden, former Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Margaret McGowan and Dean of COGS Ben du Boulay.

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.

BBRC MATHEMATICAL MODELLING, SIMULATION AND PREDICTION OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS: second call for proposal. The aim is to develop new, generic mathematical and statistical approaches which address the important issues of nonlinearity, stochasticity and heterogeneity which characterise most biological systems. Deadline: 15 Nov 1997.

1998 LEVERHULME TRUST RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS: applications considered in all subject areas. Grants are to assist with research expenses over and above normal living costs. Fellowships are primarily open to people in continuing full-time posts who need to devote a period of full-time endeavour to research while holding such posts. Deadline: 13 Nov 1997.

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 'Teaching & Research', 'Research Funding at Sussex'.

LINK OPEN PROGRAMMES: LINK offers several programmes currently open to project applications: Electronics/ Communications/IT; Food / Agriculture; Biosciences/ Medical; Materials/Chemicals; Energy/ Engineering.


DIVERSITAS: AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE: the major objective of this scientific programme is to unite the various approaches to the study of biodiversity under one umbrella.

CELL ENGINEERING: LINK final call for proposals. The programme objective encompasses the use of recombinant DNA technology to generate new types of cell, either in culture or in whole organisms, that are of interest in medicine, agriculture or other industrial applications. Deadline: Outline applications: 8 Nov; Full application: 30 Jan 1998.

PROGRAMME: to promote the application of biocatalysis by identifying the scientific and technical problems which are impeding the wider use of biocatalysts by industry. Best time for applications to be submitted: Dec, April and Aug.
What’s on...

Monday 27 October

2.00 pm Falmer Language Group: Geoffrey Sampson. There is no ‘language instinct’. Room A155
2.00 pm Particle Physics Seminar: Ken Peach (CERN) The asymmetry between matter and antimatter. Room Pevensey 2A1
3.00 pm Mathematical Analysis Seminar: V Mikhailets, Spectral analysis of one-dimensional Schrödinger operators with point interactions. Room Pevensey 2A2
4.00 pm CULCOM Lecture: David Osmond-Smith, Imaginary bodies/imaginary spaces. CCS Common Room
5.00 pm Sociological/Social Psychology Seminar: Mark Van Vugt (University of Southampton) The impact of metering in coping with a resource crisis: a social dilemma approach. Room D310
5.00 pm Women’s Studies Research In Progress Seminar: Anne Hole, As seen on TV: the fat female body comedy of Victoria Wood, Dawn French and Jo Brand. Room D510

Tuesday 28 October

10.15 am COGS Open Lecture: Margaret Boden, The rise of computational psychology. Room C133
10.15 am British and American Universities, Past, Present, Future: Rupert Wilkinson, Minister, promoter, farmer, soldier - four phases in American higher education. Room EDB 121
12.30 pm Sussex Life History Research Seminar: Katie Holmes (La Trobe University) The garden path of biography: gardens in women’s personal writings. Room EDB 302
4.00 pm COGS Seminar: Chris Thornton, Truth from trash learning and the mobot footballer. Room COGS SC11
4.15 pm Biochemistry & Genetics & Development Seminar: Nigel Veitch (Jodrell Laboratory) NMR of haemproteins. Biology Lecture Theatre
4.30 pm Engineering Colloquium Series: Andy Thomas, The crop circle mystery. Room ENGG A52
4.30 pm Social & Political Thought Seminar: Andrew Chitty, The political implications of materialism. Room D630
5.00 pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Michael O’Hanlon (Museum of Mankind) ‘Mostly harmless? missionaries, administrators and material culture on the Papuan coast. Room D722
5.00 pm International Relations & Politics Seminar: Hugh Miail (Richardson Institute for Peace Research) Conflict: is early warning possible? Room D646
5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Kurt Rudolf Fischer (University of Vienna) Philosophy in Austria and the United States since 1945. Room A155

Wednesday 29 October

12.30 pm Environmental Science Seminar: Peter Worsley (University of Reading) Volcano under the glacier - the November 5 1996 mega-flood in Iceland. Room MS3, CPES
1.00 pm IDS Seminar: Chris Freeman, Catching up and development. Room 221

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 27 October – Sunday 2 November

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

1.30 pm Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics Seminar: Keith Burnett (Oxford University) Theory of BEC for trapped atoms. Room Pevensey 2A2
2.00 pm Queery Lesbian & Gay Studies Seminar: Oliver Phillips (Goldsmiths’) Venus Monostrata: patrolling the boundaries of race, culture and heterosexuality in Zimbabwean law. Room D630
4.30 pm Centre for Legal Studies Seminar: Roshan de Silva (University of Kent) Deconstruction and the ambivalent relation between law and justice. Room D610
4.30 pm History of Art Work In Progress Seminar: Gill Saunders (V & A Museum) Going up the wall: writing a history of wallpaper. Lecture Theatre A5
5.00 pm English Graduate Colloquium: Phyllis Welliver, Music and female power in The Woman In White and Lady Audley’s Secret. Room D640

Thursday 30 October

11.30 am Economics Seminar: Christian Dustmann, (UCL, Health, wealth and fixed effects. Room D310
4.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Gregory Murphy (Illinois University) Knowledge in concept acquisition. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)
4.00 pm Geography Research Seminar: Khalid Kosser (Sussex Centre for Migration Research) Temporary protection and the repatriation of Bosnians from the EU. Room D610
5.00 pm Sussex Development Lectures: David Dyker, Post-communist Russia: what kind of capitalism? Room A1
5.00 pm History Work In Progress Seminar: Anna Davin (Middlesex University) Genteel occupations: young women and modernity in late nineteenth century London. Room A155
5.00 pm Centre for Modern French Thought Seminar: Ed Baillard, Kant on the ideal of beauty. Room A71
5.00 pm Centre for Statistics & Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Wei Lui (University of Southampton) Methods of sequential estimation. Room Pevensey 2A2

Friday 31 October

11.30 am Topology, Algebra & Geometry Group Seminar: R A Fenn, Ordering the braid group II. Room Pevensey 2A1
2.00 pm SPRU Seminar: David Sokolce (WZB Science Centre, Berlin) National institutional frameworks, company organisation and innovation patterns. Room EDB 121
4.00 pm Astronomy Centre Colloquium: D Gough, (Cambridge IoA) The structure of the sun deduced from helioseismology. Room Pevensey 1A
4.00 pm Applied Mathematics & Numerical Analysis Seminar: James Robinson (Oxford) Approximating turbulence with a set of three ODEs. Room Pevensey 1A
4.30 pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Kathy Wilkes (Oxford) Some other minds. Room A155

Small Ads

FOR SALE: four lightweight sports/racing cycles, all with gears, drop handlebars, 531 tubing, frames 22 and 25 inches, £60 to £150. Contact ext. 8744 or 401013
FOR SALE: Toshiba colour notebook 486DX, Windows, Word 6, Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, with charger and bag v.g.c., £525. Contact Akhtar on 271933
FRENCH/ARGENTINIAN, 21, seeks au-pair placement in Brighton. Responsible and caring with a sense of fun. Contact 246074
FOR SALE: standard door 1930s style, good condition, stripped and waxed, £70. Glass hath/shower partition, £20, and Ferguson Videostar model camera with metal carrying case, offers please. Also assorted curtains. Contact Deirdre by e-mail: d.augier@sussex.ac.uk
EDITING/TYPING services - term papers, theses, CV’s, resumes, scientific papers, etc. Reasonable rates, contact Clara on ext. 7006 or 682929
FOR SALE: Wilson electric organ, excellent condition, can be seen and heard on campus, free delivery locally. Offers in the region of £75 please. Contact John or Alan on ext. 8067
HATE IRONING? Hate gardening? Need a babysitter? Rates £5 per hour, contact Claire on 682929

Miscellaneous

MSE Annual General Meeting and Branch Meeting, 1.00 pm, Thursday 30 October, Pevensey 1A6
World Development Movement and Third World First, Exploitation and pesticide poisoning: Carlos Mora and Doris Calvo talk about their struggle for better conditions on Costa Rican banana plantations, 7.15 pm, Tuesday 28 October, Meeting House
Managing your thesis and dissertation - Computing Service workshop, 10.00 am Monday 3 November, contact ext. 8090

Language Centre

Open Courses in Arabic, Czech, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish at all levels, from £70. Also pre-Open University French and German.
Do you want to learn Dutch? Learn from scratch or improve your skills. Tuition can start from week 4.
Teaching English as a Foreign Language - one week intensive 'Initial Teacher Training for TEFEL' course at the end of every term, next course 15-19 December, £120.
For further details on these courses, contact the Language Centre on 678006