Supercomputer a boost for Sussex Scientists

Sussex is about to experience an enormous explosion in computing power. As a result of the successful outcome of a bid under the 1997 Joint Research Equipment Initiative, the University has been awarded nearly £700,000 for a new graphics supercomputer which will deliver nine billion mathematical calculations every second. The supercomputer will be used to support computational research being carried out in Biology, Cognitive Science, Chemistry, Engineering and Physics and its time will be occupied exploring issues as diverse as the mysteries of the origins of the universe, biological systems in atomic detail and the optimisation of gas heating and flow in jet engine design. It will also be used to explore the property of materials and, according to Sir Harry Kroto, will enable Sussex scientists to rationalise the amazing new perspective that recent advances in carbon materials science have revealed. “It will open up further avenues of research for the 21st century,” says Sir Harry, “which will see the construction of molecular electronic devices and engineering structures of previously unheard of tensile strength and lightness combined.”

According to Malcolm Heggie of CPES, who was responsible for preparing the successful bid, the benefits of the new facility go beyond just speed. It will provide Sussex with the ability to process, store and visualise huge amounts of data which the groundbreaking research of the 21st century demands. “Nowadays, progress in information technology, computing research and even scientific research can be limited by how well concepts and results can be illustrated and explained by advanced visualisation techniques,” he says. “This is key research within the program, both developing algorithms for efficient creation of realistic artificial scenes and for applying them to bring meaning to abstract ideas.”

The Joint Research Equipment Initiative, which is co-ordinated by the Office of Science and Technology, involves funding provided in partnership with industry. In addition to the computing project, two other Sussex proposals have received funding under the 1997 initiative. Peter Childs (ENGG) has been awarded £134,000 for a compressor to supply air to gas turbine engine rigs and Steve Armes and Norman Billingham have been awarded £32,000 for state of the art light scattering and differential refractometry equipment for the CPES polymer group.

Sussex Centre for Migration Research

The new Sussex Centre for Migration Research was launched last Friday by members of faculty from six Schools of Study. Experts from disciplines as diverse as social anthropology, human geography and law, have joined together to provide a base for high-quality research and to offer post-graduate and post-doctoral opportunities.

The new Centre supersedes the former Migration Research Group which was formed in December 1996. The Group has held termly workshops and from this year has been able to offer an MA in Migration Studies. The Centre’s research interests include the socio-economic and political impact of migration, asylum-seekers and refugees, the nature of pluralism, and the recent boom in retirement migration, particularly that of Britons moving to Mediterranean Europe.

The launch began with an open forum of presentations which summarised some of the Centre’s research topics. This was followed by a reception in CDE, attended by Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof Alasdair Smith. The launch coincides with the publication of two new books: *Southern Europe and the New Immigrations* (Sussex Academic Press), edited by Prof Russell King and Dr Richard Black, who are co-Directors of the Centre, and *The New Migration in Europe: Social...*

Pictured above: the new European immigrants: Bangladeshi street-trader in Rome, the focus of Melanie Knight’s Sussex DPhil, as described in *Southern Europe and the New Immigrations*.
Volunteer Recruitment Fair
Tuesday 27 January at 11am

This annual fair is an excellent opportunity for students to get involved with national and international charities and local community organisations and for those organisations to raise their profile and recruit volunteers for specific projects.

Since its inception the Fair has gone from strength to strength, with organisations keen to return every year to meet prospective volunteers. Taking part this year are representatives from Oxfam, Mind, Greenpeace, Brighton Youth Service, Peace Centre, SCOPE, Social Services, the Samaritans, Street Outreach and Rape Crisis.

A grand total of £975 was raised through the Meeting House Christmas Appeal. This has been sent to the Save the Children Fund and earmarked for child landmine victims within their rehabilitation programmes. Grateful thanks to the many people who responded to this appeal.

A total of £1,441 was raised for local HIV/AIDS charities from events organised by UNISEX at the Universities of Sussex and Brighton to coincide with World AIDS Day. The money is being shared between six local organisations which provide a wide range of services, care and support for people living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in Brighton and Hove.

First Edition is a new competition set up by Lewes District Council for writers aged 18 to 25 living in the South East. Applicants should send either: a sample chapter of a novel; a short story (max 3,000 words); or four poems. Up to 16 winning writers will receive a week’s tuition on a specially organised writing course; work with a professional writer through a unique mentoring scheme; get into print and learn about the world of publishing. For entry form and further details ring Carole Buchan, Asham Literary Endowment Trust, 01273 484167.

How green can black gold be?
The Society of Petroleum Engineers is sponsoring an undergraduate essay competition on this subject. First prize £500. Deadline end of February. Entry details from Charles Cottrell at SPE on 01305 203310.

Gothenburg students join EAM

After a successful pilot scheme last year, a group of Swedish students on the Gothenburg programme at Sussex are joining the Approaches to English course in the School of English and American Studies. The group is seen here on the first day of term with (front row, l to r) Dr Ulf Dantanus (Director of Studies for the Gothenburg programmes at Sussex), Sally Bidwell (Gothenburg School Office), Dr Ian Littlewood (English Teaching and Exams Convenor), and Professor Norman Vance (English Subject Chair).

1998 Teaching Awards Scheme

The University of Sussex Alumni Society (UoSS) makes awards of £500 annually as one way of promoting excellence in teaching and learning at the University. The Awards are open to all those teaching University courses and for MPhil and DPhil supervision. Applicants for an award may be nominated by members of staff and/or students and alumni of the University, or be self-nominated. The 1998 scheme commences this term, with an initial deadline of 20 February 1998 (end of Week 7). Nomination forms and notes for guidance are available from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit, Arts D, tel: (67)8543, or Email: W.D.Locke@sussex.ac.uk.

As reported in last week’s Bulletin the 1997 Awards will be given at the Winter Graduation Ceremony on 28 January. Profiles of the Award winners are included in this term’s issue of Learning Matters.

SEI Evaluates Democracy Programme

The Sussex European Institute has just completed a major project aimed at evaluating the political impact of the EU’s democracy programme in Central and Eastern Europe. Nine countries were selected for evaluation by the team which comprised Sussex researchers Mary Kaldor and Zdenek Kavan, and members of ISA Consult in Hamburg and GIW Europe in Brussels. The study involved a statistical evaluation of the programme and a qualitative evaluation based on extensive interviews and field trips. Between them, Mary and Zdenek visited Georgia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

One of the main recommendations of the study is that the programme should be expanded in view of the importance of maintaining assistance to those countries which have been selected to join the first wave of new membership of the EU. This is both to prepare them for membership and because other donors are reducing their commitment to those countries.

Grant for German-Jewish Studies Archive

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies has been awarded £12,500 by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany. The grant has been allocated from funds which are available to established institutions engaged in appropriate research, and will be used to purchase computer equipment for the new German-Jewish Archive and Research Unit to be opened in the refurbished Library later this year. Director of the Centre, Professor Edward Timms, said the grant would enable researchers to establish secure links with colleagues around the world.

At the Gardner Centre

Film
Sunday 25 January
3.00 pm Il Postino (15)
6.00 pm The Peacemaker (15)
9.00 pm Men/Women: A User’s Manual (15)
Monday 26 January
7.30 pm Play it again Sam (pg)

Theatre
Friday and Saturday 30 and 31 January
7.45 pm Theatre Derevo Visually stunning theatre from this premiere Russian company.

FREEBIES for either performance of Theatre Derevo to the first 10 people to present themselves at the box office with this Bulletin
New Face – Estates Secretary Tony Middleton

“...I'd rather fly...” says Tony Middleton, Estates Secretary and microlight enthusiast.

Having overall responsibility for campus buildings, facilities, portage and crucially, car parking, Tony has adopted a "customer-centred approach" to management. In his first few months as Estates Secretary, he has despatched questionnaires to senior University personnel to get feedback on how Estates is faring. Issues ranging from how often bins are emptied to the problem of cleaning the Falmer House moat are on his list of pending improvements.

Tony considers his experiences in building management with London Regional Transport and the NHS good training for a university, and enjoys a challenge. He plans various changes including the reshuffling of Estates staff, and the long-term goal of making Estates more accountable and highly customer-focused, starting with a help desk facility to provide a single point of contact to sort out problems. A pilot version of this scheme has been running in the Arts complex since December, and a campus-wide version is planned for later this year. "If staff and students feel Estates provides a quality service to support their needs, hopefully this will allow everyone to do their jobs better," he says.

As well as tackling the problem of cleaning up the moat, Tony and his team are investigating innovative new ways of sweeping up leaves on campus. He says that his staff are testing various brooms and motorised sweepers, and may consider consulting Connexx for advice on removing both the right and wrong kinds of leaves.

Meadowland – a field study

A GROUP in the Centre for Continuing Education is comparing farming management techniques to preserve a rare local habitat.

Wildflower meadows are becoming increasingly scarce, with just 4,000 hectares remaining in Britain. Work by Dr Margaret Pilkington and her CCE Meadowlands Research Group compares the effects of using the land for either haymaking or sheep grazing.

"This experiment mimics traditional farming practices," says Margaret. "Most wildflower meadows are either ploughed up or grassed and used as silage, so there is a trade-off between using the land for farm animals or growing flowers." The group are studying part of Bedelands Farm, a local nature reserve near Burgess Hill. Two meadows are being compared and each will be split so that half will be grazed and half cut for hay. One meadow will also be split into thirds at right angles, to compare the effects of hay cutting at three different times of year. This meadow will also have organic fertiliser applied to a central strip to increase the hay yield.

Meadowland vegetation differs according to how it is treated. The group will be analysing the flora in the meadows using an analysis of quadrant samples.

Preliminary analysis last year showed a uniform distribution of vegetation across both meadows, and management for the general public.

This research is supported by a grant from COPUS – the Royal Society Committee on the Public Understanding of Science.

In brief

Research Opportunities

More details of these and other research opportunities are available from Mylene Powell in the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext 3812 or email: M.Powell@sussex.ac.uk.

ESRC RESEARCH PROGRAMME – ONE EUROPE OR SEVERAL? The Dynamics of Change across Europe: outline applications invited. The aim is to assess contemporary processes of political, security, economic, social and cultural change across the European continent. Deadline: 20 Feb 1998.

SINO-BRITISH FELLOWSHIPS: The British Academy is able to bid for Sino-British fellowship trust funds, to support humanities and social science research. Work must be conducted in Britain or China, and involve personal contact. Deadline: 28 February 1998.

STUDY AND RESEARCH IN GERMANY 99/00: Scholarships and funding for academics, researchers and students of all disciplines.

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'.

BBSRC/ESRC INITIATIVE IN BIOINFOMATICS: applications for research grants are encouraged in the following priority areas: interpreting sequence data; sequence function; comparative genome analysis; understanding how computer science and IT techniques can aid biological research; methods to create biological databases from uncomputerised or unstructured data; new approaches to the integrity and maintenance of biological databases. Deadline: 1 April.

NERC NEW INVESTIGATORS: annual competition for new investigators. Applicants are considered new investigators if they are within five years of their academic appointment, including fellowships won in open competition. Deadline: 1 February 1998.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS: The Institute for Environment and Health invites proposals. Priority areas are: health effects from heavy metals; assessment of exposure to environmental chemicals; variations in sensitivity to chemicals. Deadline: 27 Feb 1998.

As announced in last week's Bulletin, the Staff Development Office has moved to Room 208 Falmer House. Please note their telephone numbers: Andrew Hood (87)7188 and Alison Lyner 3868.
Monday 26 January – Sunday 1 February

**Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia**

**Monday 26 January**

1.00 pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Dai Stephens, *A tale of blood-curdling mutants, cocaine addiction, memory deficits and inability to tell the time*. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)

2.00 pm Palmer Language Group Seminar: Dick Hudson (UCL) *Title t.b.a.* Room A155

4.00 pm CULCOM Lecture: Mieke Bal (University of Amsterdam) *Memories in the museum*. CCS Common Room

4.30 pm Neuroscience Seminar: Fred Miles (National Eye Institute, USA) *The early cortical processing of 3D visual information: evidence from eye movement studies*. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)

5.00 pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Peter Smith, *Mapping differences in national culture: values or behaviour?* Room D310

6.00 pm Lapidus Meeting: Mic Burton and Robert Snell, *Writing for ourselves - writing for others*. Room D410

**Tuesday 27 January**

12.30 pm Sussex Life History Research Seminar: Margareta Jolly and Alistair Thomson, *New books in life history work*. Room A71

1.25 pm Sussex European Institute Research in Progress: Andras Bozoki (Central European University, Budapest) *Between modernization and nationalism: the ideologies of ex-communists in East Central Europe*. Room A71

4.00 pm COGS Seminar: Jose Luis Bermudez (University of Stirling) *Problems in defining a quality space for colours*. Room COGS SC11

4.30 pm Social and Political Thought Seminar: Jorge Alberto (Reading University) *Passion and function: unifying the ideas of G.H. Cole and Gramsci*. Room D630

5.00 pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Sarah Green (University of Manchester) *On the corporeality of conflict on the Greek-Albanian border*. Arts D722

5.00 pm New Metaphysical Art Seminar: Roger Poole, Soren Kierkegaard: either aesthetics or ethics: is that the choice? EDB 302

5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Rudi Leavor (Bradford University) *Weissensee cemetery's demise and resurrection*. Room A155

6.30 pm Issues in Environmental Science Lecture: Sue Cox (*Office of Water Services*) *Balancing the demands for water and available supplies*. Chichester Lecture Theatre

**Wednesday 28 January**

11.30 am Plant Science Seminar: Richard Ferris-Kaan (Forestry Commission) *Forestry and biodiversity - the role of research*. Room Pevensey 2A1

1.00 pm IDS Environment Group Seminar: Richard Sandbrook (International Institute for Environment and Development) *Dilemmas in the environment-development policy debate*. Room IDS 221

**Thursday 29 January**

11.30 am Economics Seminar: Geraint Johns (Lancaster) *Stochastic frontier estimation of a CES cost function: the case of higher education in Britain*. Room D310

4.00 pm Geography Research Seminar: Jorge Malheiros (University of Lisbon) *Urban restructuring and the generation of marginalised spaces in the Lisbon region*. Room D610

4.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Robert Snowdon (Cardiff University) *A flash of lightning by night...attention in visual processing*. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)

5.00 pm Sussex Development Lecture: Angela Little (Institute of Education, London) *The diploma disease - 20 years on*. Room A1

5.00 pm Centre for Modern French Thought Seminar: Geoffrey Bennington, *Forget to remember, remember to forget: Sade avec Kant*. Room A71

5.00 pm History Work in Progress Seminar: James Thomson, *Reconsidering the decline of Spain*. Room A155

**Friday 30 January**

2.00 pm SPRU Seminar: Stuart MacDonald (Sheffield University) *The triumph of utility over quality: a hollow victory in management research*. Room EDB 121

4.00 pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Carl Murray (Queen Mary College, London) *Saturn's rings before Cassini*. Room Anrundel 401

4.30 pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Veronique Munoz-Darde (UCL) *Should the family be abolished, then?* Arts A155

**Miscellaneous**

- Luncheon recital in the Meeting House: Nita Farmer (soprano) on 27 January in the chapel at 1.20 pm
- ROKPA Tibetan/Nepalese travel and cultural evening: includes a (vegetarian) dinner, and talks on personal experiences in Tibet and Nepal. The event will be held in the Meeting House on 27 January at 5.30 pm. Tickets are £25.00 on the door.
- Come and join the Bisexuals Coffee and Cake mornings, every Wednesday from 11 am. Two hours of informal discussion in a support/social group, including occasional walks, meals and films. For details contact Sonia on 248181 or e-mail: sau30@central.sussex.ac.uk
- MSF Branch Meeting: 29 January at 1 pm in Chichester 3R1/3

**Small Ads**

TO LET: room in shared house with three female graduates in central Brighton, lounge, balcony, two bathrooms, kitchen and all mod. cons. £47.50/week exc., available March. Contact 734534

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: for research fellow, male, non-smoker, arriving from Russia on 23 January. Contact Prof Charles Goldie on ext 8311 or C.M.Goldie@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: clarinet, buffet B12, £240 o.n.o. Contact Christine on ext 8006 or 748346

TO LET: large room in house near Seven Dials, sharing facilities with graduate and a visiting student, £50/week incl. except phone. Contact 773161 or e-mail: mmmfgf@sussex.ac.uk

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE: now until summer, large single room in quiet shared house at Fiveways. Faculty or PG, non-smokers only. Contact Sarah on ext 3604

FOR SALE: Creda Debonair autopump spin dryer, as new, £50 o.n.o. Contact ext 3439 or e-mail: c.aurreys@sussex.ac.uk

TO LET: holiday cottage in Tuscany, superb setting near mountains. Within easy reach of Florence, Siena, Arezzo and the Chianti country, ideal for walking and sightseeing. Contact 0117 924 7537, or e-mail: gp ck@virgin.net

TO LET: two bedroom country village house in southwest France (the Lot), £170/week. Great for swimming, walking, cycling, sight-seeing, eating and drinking red wine! Contact Mike Hall on 564209

WANTED: people currently working as secretaries to take part in a psychology experiment. Contact Sarah on ext 7052

SOCIOLOGY TUTORING: for GCSE/A level. Available for private tutoring on evenings and weekends. Contact Sarah on 772051

WANTED: various issues of the Economist to complete 1996/7. Contact Achim on ext 8083 or e-mail: sgaz6@central.sussex.ac.uk

---

**Bulletin**

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or e-mail: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk
WHISTLEBLOWING

The second report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) recommended that local public spending bodies should institute codes of practice on "whistleblowing", that is, allegations made by staff members relating to the running of the institutions or the activities of colleagues within the institution. The Committee of University Chairman, has offered national guidance to universities on the handling of such allegations and advised that universities should themselves draft more detailed protocols to take account of individual circumstances and experience. A Procedural Note for the University of Sussex has accordingly been prepared and was approved by Council at its meeting on 7 January. Copies have been sent to all Deans and Directors and to the trades unions. The full text of the Note is set out below.

Procedural Note on Whistleblowing

1. This Note describes procedures at the University of Sussex for handling allegations relating to the running of the University or to the work-related activities of members of staff of the University (commonly referred to as "whistleblowing"). Such allegations may concern inter alia questions of financial malpractice, the abrogation of appropriate and agreed procedures, or departures from the statutory or other requirements for good governance.

2. The University of Sussex, like other public bodies, has a duty to conduct its affairs in a responsible and transparent way and to take into account both the requirements of funding bodies (including, notably, the Higher Education Funding Council for England) and the standards in public life enunciated in the Reports of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee), including the "Seven Principles of Public Life", namely: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership. The University is also committed to the principles of academic freedom and equality of opportunity embodied in its Charter and Statutes.

3. Succeeding paragraphs indicate the routes through which allegations of misconduct or malpractice should be raised. However, members of staff may fear that their own position may be jeopardised if they raise a particular concern directly in one of these ways. A member of staff may, therefore, choose to raise a concern in the first instance with a Dean, other line manager, a trades union representative or another colleague and ask that person to bring the matter forward on his/her behalf.

4. Allegations should be raised and dealt with through one of the routes indicated in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 below, depending on the nature of the allegation.

5. Allegations of injustice or discrimination made by one member of staff against another should be dealt with under the appropriate grievance procedure established by the Council for the category of staff to which the complaint belongs. An allegation of this kind made by a student against a member of staff should be dealt with under the general complaints procedure for students. This provides that a complaint should be raised in the first instance with the line manager of the member of staff concerned or, if the line management responsibility is unclear or the student remains dissatisfied, with his/her Dean. If the matter cannot be resolved in this way, a formal complaint may be lodged with the Registrar & Secretary who (unless the complaint is judged to be wholly without substance or merit) will investigate and prepare a report for the Vice-Chancellor whose decision in the matter is final.
6. Allegations about an individual's financial conduct should be made to the Internal Auditor. The Internal Auditor will investigate the allegation and will report his/her conclusions to the Registrar & Secretary (to whom the Internal Auditor has a direct reporting relationship) and to the Audit Committee. Where for any reason the person making the allegation considers it inappropriate to refer the matter to the Internal Auditor, the procedure indicated in paragraph 7 will apply.

7. Allegations about other issues, including for example the behaviour of a senior University officer or of a lay member of Council or the propriety of committee or other collective decisions, should be made to the Registrar & Secretary. The Registrar & Secretary will investigate the allegation and will prepare a report for the Vice-Chancellor whose decision in the matter will be final. The Registrar & Secretary may appoint another person to undertake the detailed investigation on his/her behalf, provided that the conclusions of the person so appointed shall have been reported to, and endorsed by, the Registrar & Secretary before a report is made to the Vice-Chancellor. Where an allegation concerns the Registrar & Secretary or the complainant otherwise considers it inappropriate to refer the matter to the Registrar & Secretary, he/she may raise the allegation with the Chairman of Council who will investigate and report to the Vice-Chancellor; the Chairman of Council may, similarly, appoint another person to undertake the detailed investigation on his/her behalf. If the person making the allegation considers it inappropriate to refer the matter to either the Registrar & Secretary or the Chairman of Council, he/she may raise the matter with the Chair of the Audit Committee. Where an allegation concerns the Vice-Chancellor, or any person acting with Vice-Chancellorial powers under delegated authority, the Registrar & Secretary will report to the Chairman of Council.

8. In all cases where an allegation has been made under paragraphs 6 and 7, the person to whom the allegation is made will make a record of its receipt and of the subsequent action taken. If on preliminary examination the allegation is judged to be wholly without substance or merit, the allegation may be dismissed. The person making the allegation will be so informed and may re-make the allegation to the Chairman of Council or, if he/she has previously been involved in the matter, to the Chair of the Audit Committee. The person or persons against whom an allegation is made must be informed of the allegation and the evidence supporting it and must be allowed to comment before the investigation is concluded. All allegations, including those dismissed after preliminary examination, and the results of their investigation must be reported to the Audit Committee. The outcome of all allegations must also be reported to the complainant.

9. The identity of any person making an allegation under paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 will be kept confidential to the person receiving the allegation until a formal investigation is launched. Thereafter the identity of the person making the allegation may be kept confidential, if requested, unless this is incompatible with a fair investigation (e.g., the need of the person(s) against whom the allegation is made to know the identity of his/her accuser) or unless there is an overriding reason for disclosure. Provided that the allegation has been made lawfully, without malice and in the public interest, the employment position of the person making it will not be adversely affected by reason of making the allegation.

October 1997
Approved by the Council January 1998