Chemistry’s cash converters

Prospering CPES students, Iain Simpson and Tamsyn Montagnon, are quids in having won £25,000 each in a Glaxo Wellcome competition. They were given the highly prestigious awards for their work in organic chemistry and will be using the money to pay for their post-doctoral research in the States. Iain, who is sponsored by Tocris-Cookson and works with Dr Clive Penkett, will be going to Ohio State University and Tamsyn, sponsored by AstraZeneca, to the Scripps Institute when they complete their DPhilis next year.

The competition was set up by Glaxo Wellcome to identify bright young people with innovative ideas. They each had to put forward a research proposal based on an independent idea that had never been tried before. Both Tamsyn’s and Iain’s proposals were considered very original and could have practical applications in terms of the synthesis of pharmaceutical products in the future.

Professor Philip Parsons, Tamsyn’s research supervisor and Dean of CPES, said, “It is the first time any student from Sussex has won such a prize. The fact that two students from Sussex won, out of only three awards (the other recipient coming from Cambridge), is fantastic. I am simply delighted – for them and the University.”

The pair were in Basel, Switzerland at a Roche conference when they found out they had won. Iain recalled, “We received the call at 11.00pm and cracked open the champagne straight away. Unfortunately we had to get up at 6.00am the next day to give a presentation – we really could have done with a pair of matchsticks to keep our eyes open.”

The awards follow on from their success last month when both Tamsyn and Iain won an AstraZeneca award for their organic chemistry work and received £4,000 each.

Sussex to strengthen business links with £1.1 million grant

The University has won £1.1 million in grants over four years to help forge stronger links with business. The money, allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), will be used to establish a fully professional Business Services Unit.

Professor Tony Moore is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor responsible for enhancing the economic impact of research output from Sussex.

Welcoming the award, he said: “The Business Services Unit will convert academic knowledge into business activity, create additional economic wealth for the region and complement the substantial capital investment that the University has already committed towards meeting our ‘knowledge into business’ strategy. The money will be of vital assistance in delivering the commercialisation of knowledge and the provision of services to business.”

These services might include consultancy, software development, analytical services or training, said Mark Clark, who will move from the Research Grants & Contracts Office to manage the new unit. He will be able to support faculty by buying in professional services from patent agents, market researchers, lawyers or specialists in a particular sector.

As part of the ‘knowledge into business’ strategy, the University Council has made a commitment to invest a further £3 million (including a £600,000 Single Regeneration Budget grant) into the Innovation Centre on campus. Construction will begin next summer of an additional building, leading to the creation of 150 new jobs.

Continued on page 3.
Redesigning antibiotics to beat superbugs

Stephanie Jones, a final-year BIOLS student, reports on a recent seminar.

The antibiotic era, which promised the end of infectious bacterial disease, seems to be drawing to a close. In 1968 the Surgeon General of the USA announced that it was time to close the book on infectious diseases, but bacteria have now evolved resistance to our most powerful antibiotics. Resurgent TB kills 2–3 million people a year and the World Health Organisation has declared this disease a global emergency. New antibiotics are becoming increasingly difficult to find. We must learn to use the existing ones more effectively and to do this we need to understand how they work.

Understanding antibiotics can involve difficult chemistry, argued Professor Dudley Williams FRS, of Cambridge University, when he gave a seminar in BIOLS recently. Professor Williams’s main interest is Vancomycin, an antibiotic used as a last resort in hospitals, but one that is now encountering resistant bacteria. Bacteria need to manufacture highly cross-linked, protective cell walls; Vancomycin, and related antibiotics, target the cross-linking process and block it. They can do this even more effectively if they can attach themselves to another Vancomycin-like molecule, or to the bacterium itself, so that the antibiotic is less easily dislodged.

It would be ‘goodbye bacteria’ if it worked, but resistance develops very quickly if antibiotics are over-prescribed or treatments incomplete. Methicillin, another very important antibiotic, went on the market in 1959 but by 1961 was encountering serious resistance. Bacteria can evolve quickly (whole generations in just 20 minutes) because of the short time between generations and because of their promiscuous gene swapping – imagine humans evolving at this rate.

So, should we give up? Not if we can find out how the bacteria become resistant and counteract it. Resistance to the Vancomycin family of antibiotics depends on certain bacterial genes which alter the chemistry and cross-linking of the cell wall so that the antibiotic can no longer bind. Armed with information about the underlying structural chemistry, one drug company has counteracted resistance by modifying the antibiotic so that it anchors itself directly to the cell membrane; this compensates for the loss of binding to the cell wall.

A success – but by no means the end of the story. As long as bacteria find new ways to evade antibiotics, says Dr Andy Smith of BIOLS, continual improvement will be needed. It is very important to limit the opportunities for selection of resistant strains, especially in hospitals, and to make sure the bacteria are completely killed by treatment. Otherwise, bacteria ‘rise from the ashes’ and come back stronger.

Christmas Carvery Special
Bramber House
Level 3
16 December
12.00–1.30pm

Melon and ginger cocktail
Tomato and basil soup
Brie and walnut bread

Roast turkey, chipolata and bacon roll
Vegetables en croute with chestnut sauce
Salmon in filo pastry with mushroom and tarragon sauce

Roast potatoes
Brussel sprouts
Baton carrots

Christmas pudding
Fresh fruit salad
Cointreau yule log
Mince pies and coffee

Just £11.95 per person (plus VAT where applicable). To book your lunch or for more details ring Jenny on (67)8221.

Archers hit the bullseye

The Sussex archery club scored top marks in a tournament at Brunel University, taking first place in the open team competition.

Club members Mick Urbaniak and Heather Duggan, who are both chemistry research students in CPES, also celebrated individual successes. Mick took silver in the men’s BUSA Southern Area Championships and Heather went one better in the women’s event.

If you fancy yourself as a latter-day Robin Hood, shoot down to the Sportcentre on Monday evenings between 8.00pm and 10.00pm. Contact Heather Duggan on ext. 3271 for more information.

Racquetball

Tony Durrant (Undergraduate Office) beat Terry Stanley (ENGG) to win the 1999 Geoff Lockwood Trophy for Racquetball.
Mapping the history of Sussex

How are you planning to mark the new millennium? Throw a party? Pop a few champagne corks? Geographer Brian Short and cartographer Susan Rowland decided to be a little more ambitious. They have spent the last three years working on the first-ever Historical Atlas of Sussex, a major new work of reference that traces the development of the county from the earliest times to the year 2000.

The project was certainly no mean undertaking. Susan drew 70 completely new and original maps for the atlas, presenting the history of Sussex in a way never previously attempted. Brian and his co-editor Kim Leslie (from the West Sussex Record Office), meanwhile, enlisted no fewer than 62 leading experts to place each map in its context with an accompanying essay. Perhaps fittingly for a millennial publication, each contributor was allowed a maximum of 1,000 words.

The contributions cover a huge range and diversity of subject matter, from prehistoric times to the present. Many result from entirely new research, and for many themes this is the first time that an attempt at mapping has been made. A sufficiently wide coverage of the county’s history is presented to show its essential changes through space and time.

“This is the first time that the history of Sussex has been described in the form of an atlas”, says Brian. “The book presents the history of the county in a unique way – it is a landmark publication in Sussex bibliography.”

The volume was launched in grand style, with a party on campus. Brian and Sue popped more than a few champagne corks, relieved that their monumental tribute to the county of Sussex is finally complete.

* An Historical Atlas of Sussex is the result of a joint partnership between the University of Sussex, West and East Sussex County Councils, Brighton and Hove Council, and the Sussex Archaeological Society. It is published by Phillimore and is available from the University bookshop, price £25.00. ISBN 1 86077 112 2.

Sussex to strengthen business links with £1.1 million grant

Continued from front page.

Once the building programme is complete in 2001, the Innovation Centre will comprise nearly 40,000 square feet of purpose-built offices and laboratories. The Business Services Unit will play a pivotal role in facilitating academic interaction with the Innovation Centre and with the business community as a whole.

Partner agencies including the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Government Office of the South East (GOSE) and Sussex Enterprise are fully supportive of the project to establish a Business Services Unit. Mr Barrie Giles, Director of Enterprise Development at SEEDA, said: “Enterprise hubs, which include both the flow of knowledge from research and proximity of an innovation centre, are critical to regional wealth creation and economic growth.” Representatives from SEEDA and Sussex Enterprise will be invited to join Tony Moore on the Monitoring and Steering Group for the new unit.

The HEFCE allocated the grant under the Higher Education Reach-out to Business and the Community Fund, a partnership project between the HEFCE and government departments in Whitehall.

The programme is intended to become a third permanent stream of HEFCE funding, complementing those for teaching and research. HEFCE Chief Executive Sir Brian Fender said: “Through this fund we aim to ensure that knowledge and ideas created within universities and colleges are harnessed to create growth in the economy and to benefit the whole community.”

Contributors from the University

Peter Brandon (CCE): countryside conservation
Richard Coates (COGS): place-names before 1066
John Farrant (Trafford Centre): the growth of communications from 1720-1840 and 1840-1914
Maurice Howard (CCS): Tudor and Stuart ‘great houses’,
Civil War
Fred Gray (CCE): population change 1911-1951
John Lowerson (CCE): leisure in the later 20th century
David Robinson (AFRAS): soils, the coast and coastal changes
David Rudling (CCE): Roman Sussex
Brian Short (CCS): Population change 1801-1851, agricultural regions, landownership in Victorian Sussex
Rended Williams (CPES): geology, natural regions

News in brief

Committee timetable on the web

The spring term 2000 committee timetable has been published on the web. The URL is http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/secretariat/commtable/.

Details of committee memberships are also on the web at http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/secretariat/commem/.

If you have any comments, please send them to Anne-Marie Mitchinson in Sussex House (ext. 3855 or email A.F.L.Mitchinson@sussex.ac.uk).

Congratulations to biochemists

The Biochemistry Subject Group was assessed during the last week of November by the Quality Assurance Agency and received a score of 22 points (out of a maximum possible of 24).

Daghani on display

Works by 20th-century artist Arnold Daghani are currently on display in the University Library. Since 1997 staff in the Centre for German-Jewish Studies have been cataloguing 6,000 pieces, which the University acquired after Daghani’s death in 1985. The images in the exhibition – drawings, paintings, collages, folios, sketchbooks and albums – are a small but representative selection from the collection.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference

The Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers will hold their Annual Conference at Sussex from 4 to 8 January. The conference, which is being organised by the Geography Subject Group, will include guest speakers from around the world.
Star gazer does it again

A n undergraduate has been credited with the co-discovery of six new extrasolar planets around nearby stars. A year ago, Kevin Apps became the first UK astronomer to be involved in the detection of a new planet. Since then Kevin (pictured below), studying Physics with Astrophysics, has topped his achievement with the addition of several more planets.

His discovery was made in collaboration with world-famous ‘planet hunters’ Steven Vogt, Geoff Marcy and Paul Butler from the USA. The team deployed the massive Keck telescope in Hawaii, undertaking a survey that monitors approximately 500 nearby Sun-like stars for planets.

Kevin, who has been an astronomy enthusiast since he was seven, was inspired to become involved in the project by a visit to the Keck telescope. “It’s the world’s largest telescope”, said Kevin. “Very few professionals get to use it – only a dozen or so groups in the world.”

He scrutinised the American astronomers’ target list of stars to see which were potential planet-bearers and discovered that 30 of them were unworkable. Kevin was astonished when his offer to choose 30 replacement stars was accepted. His theory is that solar systems comparable to ours may be the most likely to harbour life, so he based his search around Sun-like stars. He selected 30 stars that were “dead ringers for the Sun” – having the same size, mass, temperature and luminosity – and sent details to the USA so that they could be monitored on the Keck telescope.

Planets around extrasolar stars cannot be seen directly, so astronomers find them with a technique that involves searching for a tell-tale ‘wobble’ in the motion of a star. The wobble indicates a disturbance in the motion, which is caused by the gravitational pull of a large mass, i.e. the planet. The size and duration of the wobble determines the mass of the planet as well as the length of time it takes to orbit the star.

To his great surprise, one of the stars that Kevin had selected turned up a planet. The planet hunters were so impressed, they not only invited him to visit the Keck telescope for an observing run, but also asked him to weed out any more unsuitable stars from their target list and generate further targets for investigation. In January two of these revealed the existence of planets. And now, a year later, another of Kevin’s original 30 stars has come up trumps for him, leading to the discovery of planet HD 222582.

The icing on Kevin’s cake is that he has been credited with the discovery not only of this planet but also of five others. Vogt, Marcy and Butler asked him to investigate the properties of the 500 target stars and his work has won him a credit on the research team’s paper, to be published in the Astrophysical Journal. Geoff Marcy is impressed with Kevin’s contribution, commenting: “He shows a fierce interest in this research. It’s great to have him as a colleague.”

This new batch of six increases the number of extrasolar planets that astronomers have detected to a total of 28. Already the properties of these planets have defied expectations, upsetting existing theories about how planets form. Scientists are working on new telescopes that should tell them more about the planets detected to date and enable a more comprehensive search for other extrasolar planets.

Two of Kevin’s planets show evidence of an additional, companion planet further out. Previously only one other system of multiple planets had been identified. It will take years of additional observations to work out the orbits of these companion planets, says the research team, but the evidence suggests that a fair number of multiple planet systems exist.

Further information about the planet search is available on the web at www.physics.sfu.edu/~gmarcy/planetsearch/planetsearch.html.

VC’s Voice

David Blunkett wrote to the Higher Education Funding Council for England on 23 November, announcing the resources to be provided for higher education for 2000–01 and 2001–02. The main financial message is sadly familiar: funding per student is to continue to fall at 1% per year, and since the costs of universities rise at a faster rate than the inflation rate assumed in this calculation, the real funding per student will fall by substantially more than 1% per year.

There is to be expansion in student numbers, but most of the expansion will be in two-year sub-degree programmes in further education colleges. The Secretary of State’s announcement also makes strong statements about the need for universities to produce employable graduates: “Graduates ... need the generic skills which most employers demand: team working, communication, and some understanding of the world of work. Some universities are already making sure their graduates have these skills ... More could do so. Universities need to be aware of skill shortages in the economy ... I am therefore asking universities ... to accelerate the development of vocationally orientated elements within all courses ... I will want to see evidence of increased capacity in these areas over the next twelve months.”

These statements might ring alarm bells: the mission of this University is not the provision of vocational education. But we do not have to be defensive. Any society will want its higher education system to produce graduates equipped for socially useful careers. Directly vocational courses are not the only route to the achievement of this objective. Even the most non-vocational degree programmes can and should provide students with opportunities to develop skills of team working, communication and problem solving. Following the report of the Student Development Working Party, we are working to increase such elements within our degrees.

And even in a university whose central mission is not vocational, some forms of professional and vocational education are an integral part of our activities, notably postgraduate courses in areas such as education and social policy. A research-oriented university should not be an ivory tower and this kind of activity is an essential link between the University and the community to which we belong.

Research links with the world outside the University are increasingly important too and it is a great pleasure to congratulate ourselves on the University’s success in obtaining a grant of over £1m from the funding council to improve the commercial exploitation of the University’s research.

And continuing the congratulatory note: all involved in the recent QAA Subject Review of Biochemistry deserve our congratulations on an excellent result.

Many of you will regard this as my last Bulletin contribution of this millennium. I’m afraid that I belong to the pedantic minority that believes that the end of 1000 years comes at the end of the year numbered 1000. I therefore wish you all, at the end of this month, a Happy New Year and I look forward to leading the University into the new millennium in a year’s time.

[Signature]
Scientists squeeze millions out of the JIF

Arguably, in science there can be few more exciting objectives than explaining how the brain works, stores and transforms the information required for adaptive behaviour. The enormous growth of interest in neuroscience over the last decade has been based on the new avenues of research created by molecular biology, by behavioural and evolutionary approaches and by advanced instrumentation and computer technology, which have impacted the whole field – from physiology to pharmacology, psychophysics and robotics.

The next decade will undoubtedly see dramatic advances in scientists’ understanding of how the brain works. The most significant of these advances will almost certainly be at the interfaces between existing sub-specialities of neuroscience: cell and molecular neurobiology, psychopharmacology, sensory-motor physiology, physiology, psychophysics, studies of animal adaptive behaviour, computational modelling, artificial intelligence and robotics.

All of these are strongly represented at Sussex, but until now researchers in BIOLS have operated independently, in scattered laboratories. Now all that is set to change, with the announcement this week that the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience has been awarded up to £3.7 million from the Joint Infrastructure Fund (JIF) to refurbish 30-year-old laboratories and create a flexible and modern laboratory environment for the study of neuroscience.

The refurbished laboratories will provide accommodation for three major areas of research:

- computational and evolutionary neuroscience (combining two internationally recognised centres of excellence – the Centre for the Study of Evolution and the Centre for Computational Science and Robotics)
- synaptic plasticity and behaviour
- sensory mechanisms and attention, building on research strengths in vision and hearing.

Welcoming news of the award, Professor Mike Land said: "This refurbishment will provide an infrastructure that is specifically engineered to promote interaction, collaboration and interdisciplinarity, with sufficient flexible space for growth and new initiatives."

The funding partners in the Joint Infrastructure Fund have also supported a bid for £1.7 million to establish a multi-disciplinary Centre for the Measurement of Particle Electric Dipole Moments (EDMs) in CPES. The search for EDMs is one of the most important areas of particle physics because of the strong constraints it imposes on elementary particle theory.

The new centre will bring together two groups of researchers, who work on experimental particle physics and on optical and atomic physics. These two groups share a strong common interest in non-accelerator based particle physics and, according to Professor Ed Hinds, constitute probably the strongest group in the world working on particle electric dipole moments.

"We plan to use this money to renovate our laboratories and electronics workshops", said Professor Hinds. "We also plan to modernise our optical, electronic and mechanical equipment, and to build new facilities. These improvements in technical infrastructure will promote a broad, coherent programme of non-accelerator based particle physics at Sussex using the full range of modern techniques."

Only 45 grants from a total of 214 applications were approved in this round of bids for money from the Joint Infrastructure Fund. Dr Robert Howells, Director of Science Programmes at the Wellcome Trust, said: "The scientific standard of the applications was high and competition for funding intense, so it has been possible to fund only those bids of the most outstanding quality."

Students: Time is running out ...

If you are a home student who has started university since September 1998 and you have not yet applied for financial help, you need to contact your Local Education Authority (LEA) now.

Unless you apply before the end of January 2000, you will never be able to get any money for fees or a loan for the rest of your degree programme. So, even if you do not need a loan this year or do not qualify for help with fees because your parents’ income is too high, you need to apply now to ensure you will receive financial help in the future if your circumstances change.

You can use the free phone in the Student Advice Centre Resource Room (First Floor, Falmer House) to contact your LEA (list of numbers available).
Christmas cheer

Christmas competition
We are offering a bottle of bubbly to the person who suggests the most witty answer to the following question (answers to the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk by Wednesday 15 December):

Who are the three wise men?

Seasonal greetings cards for sale
This year's card shows colourful Christmas lights (shown above), on a jade green background. For a full-colour version, see the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/information_office/bulletin/.
The cards cost 40p each (or 35p each for orders of more than 10) and are available from the Information Office in Sussex House, tel. (67)8888 or email information@sussex.ac.uk.

Wonderland awaits you
The Gardner Arts Centre Christmas show is a musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. For a chance to win one of two family tickets (2 adults, 2 children), enter the Bulletin quiz.

Send your answers to Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk (or drop them into the Information Office) by 5.30 pm on Tuesday 14 December. The winners will be notified on Wednesday 15 December.

1) What was Lewis Carroll's real name?
   a) Henry George Liddell  b) Charles Lutwidge Dodgson  c) John Tenniel

2) When was *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* published?
   a) 1865  b) 1870  c) 1875

3) In the 1933 film version, Gary Cooper played the White Knight. Who was cast as the Mock Turtle?
   a) James Stewart  b) Cary Grant  c) Henry Fonda

4) Who was not at the Mad Tea-Party?
   a) The March Hare  b) The Dormouse  c) The White Rabbit

5) What colour did the playing cards paint the roses?
   a) Yellow  b) Red  c) White

*Alice in Wonderland* runs until 30 December. Tickets cost £7.95 and £8.95 (concessions £1 off). Tel. 685861.

The Sussex 1999 entry mindset list

In the first Bulletin of term we published some of the entries in a 'Class of 2003 mindset list', assembled by Beloit College in Wisconsin to help its staff understand the ways in which freshmen frame of reference differs from that of their elders.

In an attempt to bridge the generation gap at Sussex, we asked for your suggestions for a Sussex '1999 entry mindset list'. Here are the results:

- They scorn 'snail mail' and don't keep in touch with anyone who doesn't have an email address.
- Courtesy of MTV, they have always consumed a daily diet of pop videos.
- They never knew of Ronald Reagan as a Hollywood B-movie actor or of Margaret Thatcher as a milk snatcher.
- They wouldn't know an Ice Borg if it hit them. As far as they're concerned, Pistol Pete is titanic in men's tennis.
- It doesn't bother them that the Pink Panther will never return to strike again.
- Jean-Paul Sartre has always been as nothing to them.
- They fail to see anything obscene about the Romans in Britain.
- They've never played Patience with real cards.
- They can't recall that Zimbabwe was ever Rhodesia.
- Prince Charles has never been young, free or single.
- While they would never dream of being anything other than PC, they've all grown up knowing how to use a PC.
- Mount St Helens has always been dormant.

And thanks for this one to Assistant Librarian Mike Lewis, who tells us that the first 'Geac' computer catalogue was introduced in the Library in the summer of 1981.

- They think that a card catalogue is a brochure from which Christmas cards are chosen.
Advice from the Computer Users Group on the Year 2000 transition

The Computing Service (USCS) has taken steps to ensure that all its own systems are Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant and there has been an audit of all other systems in the University. However, it is possible that failures of systems outside the control of the USCS, or of the electricity supply, could lead to a failure in the service that they deliver to users. Such failures could occur over the period 31 December to 1 January or at any time up to Easter 2000.

With respect to the transition from 31 December to 1 January, the Computer Users Group makes the following recommendations:

- Non-USCS University computing equipment running essential services such as School domain names servers (DNS), web servers (http daemons) and file servers should be able to continue to function as usual. However, each School/unit should assess its own risk in continuing to provide these services. Ideally all such equipment should be connected to uninterruptible power supplies (UPSs), which will power down the machines in a controlled fashion in the event of a sustained power cut.
- Equipment not running essential services and not connected to a UPS that would otherwise merely be sitting idle (e.g. office and personal computers) should be powered down and have the electrical supply switched off at the wall over the Christmas/New Year vacation to avoid possible damage in the event of a power cut. (Note that it is not sufficient simply to power down the PC. Many PC's power up automatically when connected to an electricity supply, and such machines might sustain severe damage in the event of an intermittent power cut unless their power supply is disconnected.)
- You are strongly advised not to rely on alterations to files stored on USCS or other University computers made over the Christmas/New Year vacation. In the case of data stored on USCS machines, this applies to any alterations made after 21 December (as 22 December is the last working day before Christmas). Similar information applies to data stored on other University machines, unless your unit's Computer Officer advises otherwise. You are advised to keep copies of any altered files on removable storage media (e.g. floppy disk) or off-campus computers.
- You should make back-up copies of all your important computer files before 31 December. This applies equally whether the data is stored on your own (or someone else's) personal computer or on a University system.
- You are recommended not to make plans that have a time-critical dependence on guaranteed network connectivity over the Y2K transition. USCS believes all its systems are Y2K compliant, and our external network connection provider, UKERNA, is taking steps to ensure the Y2K compliance of its equipment and the continued provision of JANET services. Details can be seen at http://www.ja.net/y2k/y2k_index.html. However, the campus network and external network connection – and hence all networked services (including email) – will also be at risk from possible failures of other systems and power supplies, and should therefore not be relied upon.

Some universities are ordering the shutdown of all non-essential computing equipment over the Christmas vacation. While the Computer Users Group believe this to be unnecessary, it indicates the seriousness of these issues. See also the advice that USCS has issued (in its November newsletter or on the web at http://www.sussex.ac.uk/USCS/Publications/Newsletters/199911/Y2K.html), and the Vice-Chancellor's letter on Y2K computer problems (copies are available from the Vice-Chancellor's office by email pa2vc@sussex.ac.uk).

European research funding
For more information on the opportunities listed below please contact the European Liaison Officer, Ross Dowsett, email R.L.Dowsett@sussex.ac.uk

Environment and sustainable development programme
Activities supported: Research proposals, thematic networks, post-doc fellowships, Marie Curie training sites, studies/dissemination activities.
Research priorities: Sustainable management and quality of water, global change, climate and biodiversity, sustainable marine ecosystems, city of tomorrow and cultural heritage, seismic risks/earth observation technologies, socio-economic development and environmental changes, tools to integrate sustainability into policies.
Website www.cordis.lu/eess
Budget for this call: £233m/€149m
Deadline 15 February 2000

Archimedes Prize
EU distinction for undergraduate students in the age range 15-20 years. Awarded for high-level research work and the development of original scientific ideas or concepts in areas relevant to the advancement of European science.
The current call is for research in the area of: AI - automatic and other applications, concepts and tools for long-distance collaboration and teaching, technological development and the management of risk implication for governance.
First prize: €60k
Second prize: €50k
Third prize: €40k
Deadline 29 June 2000

Forthcoming calls
Quality of life (budget for this call: €192m/£123m), call expected 15 December 1999.
Deadline March 2000
Socio-economic key action (budget for this call: €165m/£108m), call expected 15 December 1999.
Deadline 29 April 2000
Noticeboard

 Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

During the spring term the Bulletin will be produced fortnightly. We will therefore include two weeks’ lectures on the back page. Please make sure that you get information to us in time for the copy deadline. Lectures, seminars and colloquia that miss the deadline will be put on the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/information_office/bulletin/ which will be updated every Friday.

Wednesday 13 December
4.00pm Environmental Research Seminar: Alex Ferreira-Leach, Flow injection system for soil analysis. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Friday 17 December
4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials/SCOAP Seminar: Dr C. A. Mayhew (Birmingham), Low energy electron attachment processes and ion-molecule reactions in plasmas. CHI 3-3R24.

MSF special branch meeting

On Thursday 16 December in EDB 302 at 1.00pm. David Houliston, the Southern Region NEC member, will present 30-year badges to qualifying MSF members. Together with Anne Mellor, a former NEC member, he will give a presentation on ‘Fairness at Work’ and family-friendly policies. There will be an opportunity for questions and some seasonal refreshments. Please ring the secretary on ext. 7252 for more information.

Vacation opening times

Minimum services days

Minimum services only will operate from 23 December 1999 to 3 January 2000 inclusive. All services will re-open on 4 January 2000 and the spring term will start on 10 January 2000.

Falmer Sports Complex

The Falmer Sports Complex will be open on 23 December from 8.00am to 10.00pm. It will be closed from 24 to 28 December, open on 29 and 30 December from 9.00am to 6.00pm. It will close again from 31 December to 3 January. It will re-open on 4 January at 8.00am.

Health Centre

The Health Centre will close at 5:00pm on 24 December and re-open on 29 December and be open on 30 December. It will be closed on 31 December except for the emergency clinic between 11.00am and 12.00 noon. It will be closed from 1 to 3 January inclusive and re-open on 4 January.

Library

During the vacation the Library will be open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00am–5.00pm, Tuesday between 9.00am and 7.30pm and closed on Saturdays and Sundays. The Library will then be closed from 23 December to 3 January inclusive. It will re-open on the afternoon of 4 January.

Catering services in Bramber House and other areas

The Downes, Level 1 and the Pitstop will be closed after 10 December.
From 13–21 December inclusive the Laines Restaurant, Level 2 will be open from 12 noon–2.00pm, but not on Sundays. There will be no evening service in the Laines.
Christmas lunch will be served in the Laines Restaurant on Wednesday 15 December: Roast turkey, chipolata, bacon roll and gravy, bread sauce, roast potatoes and two vegetables. Followed by Christmas pudding and rum sauce. Cost for both courses £3.95. Main course only: £3.60. A vegetarian option will be available.
On Wednesday 22 December, the Coffee Shop, Baguette Express and Library Bistro will be open until 2.00 pm. All other University-run units will be closed.
All catering units will be closed from 23 December to 3 January inclusive and will re-open on 4 January.

Small ads

WANTED: Studio/one-bedroom flat for new member of staff, from January for six months. Contact j.holmwood@ed.ac.uk
WANTED: Incoming professor with small family seeks house or flat to rent (also sabbatical rental). Preferably within car-commutable distance to the university. Wanted for 5–12 months (or longer) starting around December/January 2000, but later start-date (up to April 2000) also possible. Contact rmurphy@wanadoo.fr or S. Freeman on 877385.
TO LET: Brunswick Square, large basement flat, 4 rooms and kitchen and bathroom. In need of decoration as just left vacant by graffitis artists! £750 pcm plus bills. For more info please call 724190.
BOOKS FOR SALE: Postgraduate research books, Judith Bell (1993), Cohen and Manion (1994) plus others relevant to teachers, half original price. Please phone Natalie on 566675 or email andyh1@tinyonline.co.uk

Bulletin

The first Bulletin of the spring term will be out on Friday 14 January. The copy deadline for that issue will be 1.00pm on Friday 7 January. Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Baby guinea pigs looking for homes. Ready from 14 December. Call ext. 3828 or email D.Du-Boulay@sussex.ac.uk.
FOR SALE: Brand new Sony Playstation and Driver(TM) game included. PAL system. Never opened, never used, still in original packaging, Bargain at £100. Email jantojanowski@hotmail.com.
WANTED: Second-hand car stereo, cassette and radio. Contact Andy Fryer on ext. 2153 or email a.n.fryer@sussex.ac.uk.
TO LET: Beautiful maisonette, 1 bed, fully furnished, own garden, Queen’s Park area, suit quiet, professional, non-smoking couple. £480 pcm. Tel. 702441.
FOR SALE: Colour laptop, CD-ROM, fax/modem, Windows98, Office97, many more, bag, very good condition, only £450. Re-advertised due to time wasters. Please call Marmar on 249774.
SPANISH: Practise Spanish with a native speaker. Conversation only. Hove area. £5 per hour. Tel. 387562.
CAR RENTAL: Rent a car this Christmas for as little as £10 per day (offer includes certain restrictions). Offer available until 30 December only. For more details contact Hertz on 738227.
FOR SALE: Macintosh PowerPC, Performa 5400/160, 32M RAM, 1gb HD, Zip, colour Stylewriter 2500, some consumables and software. £500 ono. Contact dek@biols.susx.ac.uk.
WANTED: Visiting Research Fellow from Finland is looking for a furnished flat/house in Brighton (not too far from station) for two months in May–June 2000. No basements. Please email tettu.luukkonen@vtt.fi.