Sussex to Discover a New VISTA of the Universe

Sussex is part of a team which has been given the go-ahead to build a pioneering new telescope. The VISTA telescope will be able to penetrate unseen corners of the universe with a probing infrared lens. Costing £25 million to make, the 4m telescope will use instruments a hundred times more sensitive than anything else in the world.

Dr Robert Smith is at the helm of the Sussex branch of the project, which involves a nationwide consortium of universities. Robert, subject chair of Physics and Astronomy, is very excited about the venture: "The VISTA telescope will be able to map the whole sky for the first time. The combination of the size of the mirror and the amount of sky which it can view makes it completely unique, and on that basis it beats all existing or planned telescopes."

VISTA (Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy) will be able to map regions where stars millions of light years away are actually in the process of being born. The infrared beam can cut through the dust which blocks these stars off from light waves. In this way, it will also be able to detect elusive brown dwarf stars, and to identify galaxies which we have so far been unable to see. Questions surrounding the formation of stars and galaxies have so far remained unanswered because of the clouds of dust which shroud them, but the VISTA telescope will literally be able to shed new light on their origins.

The telescope will also be able to test a theory that Pluto, the most distant planet in our solar system, is actually part of a belt of rocky objects called 'kuipers'. VISTA will be able to tell us definitively whether this belt exists, and how big it might be.

The telescope, which is set to be completed by 2003 and will probably be located in the mountains of Chile, will give us our first complete picture of the mappable universe. And, says Robert, "Sussex will be among the first places to have access to the data it produces."

Brighton and Hove Mayor puts Theory into Practice

Jenny Langston is a student at Sussex, about to embark on a 15,000 word dissertation for her Social Policy MA. But she is no ordinary student.....she's also Brighton and Hove's new Mayor.

See page 3 for full story

VC's open meeting with faculty

The Vice Chancellor will be holding his termly open meeting with faculty on Tuesday 8 June at 1.00 in Arts A103. University management is one of the issues he will be discussing at the meeting.

Professorial Lecture

Migration and Social Mobility in Britain and Japan

Tony Fielding
Professor of Human Geography

Tuesday 8 June 1999

6.15pm in Chichester Lecture Theatre

All Welcome
Honey to the Bee-Orchid

bee-orchids are now blooming on campus: the result of co-operation between Mike Hutchings of BIOLS and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The orchids are grown from seed germinated at Kew, as part of the Sainsbury Orchid Project, which aims to generate plants from suitable sources to re-establish native orchid populations in the field. Planted last year, several are now in flower and are already the subject of lustful, but ill-focused, advances by local bees. The flower of the bee-orchid mimics the appearance of a female bee and also produces counterfeit bee sex pheromones. Male bees are attracted, attempt to copulate with the flower, and depart frustrated, but with a sticky package of pollen. So the orchids are fertilised by the fruitless mating attempts of the bees, a marvel of vegetable love. Mixed mating is best but, if the right sort of bee fails to turn up, the orchid can fertilise itself.

The campus is part of a downland landscape designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and orchids are an important but often endangered part of the natural flora. Two other orchid species are also resident on campus: white helleborines and pyramidal orchids. The bee-orchids, Mike hopes, will be the first introduction of many. Some will be grown from seed, but he also hopes to be able to salvage plants from habitats that are damaged or destroyed.

Professor Wins Chemistry Award

Professor Jeff Leigh (CPES) was presented this week with the 1999 Royal Society of Chemistry Award in Chemistry and Electrochemistry of Transition Metals. Jeff, a professor of environmental science, was previously Deputy Director of the BBSRC Nitrogen Fixation Laboratory.

The award recognises Jeff’s important contribution to understanding the chemistry of nitrogen compounds and their effect on the environment. His research centres on nitrogen requirements in agriculture and ecologically sound alternatives to nitrate fertilisers, coupled with methods of removing nitrates from water.

Jeff’s research attempts to model and understand the mechanism of biological nitrogen fixation. If it were possible to copy this mechanism, the use of nitrate fertilisers could be reduced which would benefit the environment and mean a reduction in cost to the grower. Jeff’s work is important because it may provide a cheap and efficient method of growing crops based upon natural products.

Geography Student to Embark on Himalayan Venture

Third-year student Benoit Cathala will be leading an expedition to Nepal this June to investigate the impact of Western medicine on Himalayan Sherpas. Benoit has won funding from Imperial College and the Royal Society for the expedition. Three students from Imperial College will also be taking part.

Basing themselves in the Khumbu region, the students will be looking at ways to integrate different kinds of healthcare within the Sherpa population. "Shamans do refer people to hospitals, but they are reluctant to get involved, and they feel that in the past doctors looked down on their practices. And in fact, some practices have caused concern among expatriate health workers and educated Sherpas," says Benoit. Nepal has one of the highest infant mortality rates in Asia, and life expectancy rates, at 55, are also among the lowest. Benoit feels that his study might help to improve Nepal’s health and medical problems by pinpointing ways in which both sides of the healthcare divide can complement each other.

The students will be away for over three months, focusing mainly on TB treatment and on post-natal care. They will live amongst the Sherpas, using an interpreter to help them communicate. They hope to get an insider’s view of the Sherpa way of life, and to use this to see how medicine really works in the region.

Robin Lee Poetry Prize Competition

Sarah Wardle, a student in HUMS, was one of the runners-up in this year’s poetry competition.

Reading Room Requiem

Suppose a poet had been last to leave the Reading Room, the final cell to die in the giant brain that enclosed the eye of its great domed mind, had been first to receive the impression of the pews of learning sitting empty, the god of knowledge gone, fled through a hole, as in the Pantheon, shelves raided, books stacked as if for burning, suppose he’d seen all this and then, turning, had shrugged and walked out beneath the golden orb of the British Museum, quite absorbed in imagination with ideas churning, detached as Nero declaiming a song of Troy’s destruction as Rome blazed, men torched monuments, temples were razed, suppose him cold-hearted as he went along, but picture him warmed by a current of thought, pausing trivially to feel the heat from hot chestnut coals in Great Russell Street, pleased to find an image he had not sought.

Sarah Wardle

Peter Dawber

We are sad to announce the death on 27 May of Dr Peter Dawber, Reader in Physics, after a long fight against cancer. Peter was a key member of the Experimental Particle Physics research group, an excellent teacher, and a delightful person, who was always willing to play his part in the Physics Subject Group. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.
Brighton And Hove Mayor Puts Theory into Practice

Continued from front page.

Installed at the end of May, Jenny has grown used to juggling a career in local politics with a commitment to her own education. After a stint as a governor at Lewes Tertiary College, Jenny decided she wanted to see how the decisions she helped to make impacted on ordinary students. Figuring that the best way to find out was to become a student herself, she enrolled on the college’s Access course. “I came from a big family, and a university education was out of the question,” she says, “But when I went back to learning, I really got the bug for it. And it helped me understand how students felt, so I became a better governor too.”

Since then, Jenny has completed a BA in sociology, overcoming a brain haemorrhage which impaired her memory skills and going on to undertake the MA. At the same time, she has toiled away as a councillor, as a member of the Primary Care Group, and as a tireless fundraiser for charity. But she’s found that all these activities flow into each other: “I try not to separate my life into compartments. For example, my MA links very well into decision-making processes I use in my job; it has taught me to think critically about things, to read between the lines of reports instead of accepting them at face value. And it has given me a lot of knowledge which I can use in my work. I tried to tailor my BA to extend the work I do as well, doing projects like looking at how representative councillors are of their community.”

Jenny has enjoyed being a mature student, and values the interchange of ideas between younger people with fresh ideas and a more formal education, and older people with life experience. “When I was ill, the amount of support I got from the younger students was amazing,” she says. “The teaching at Sussex really gains an extra dimension through encouraging this interaction. There’s been a lot of talk about lifelong learning recently, but it’s been a characteristic of Sussex for years.” As mayor, Jenny’s main ambition is simply to represent people. She is already planning fundraising ventures for cardiac equipment at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and for Avondale Centre in Hove, which helps people with learning difficulties. She says - “It’s exciting to think that someone who is active locally and is willing to learn new things, meet new people and look at new ways of thinking can be the first citizen of the town.”

CDE Rural Development Website

A group of MA students on the current Rural Development programme in CDE have just launched the first Rural Development Website. This is an entirely student-led initiative for which the students were awarded a grant from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit. This is the first such site developed within CDE and the work on it is still evolving. It is hoped that the site will carry on developing long after the current students have graduated and subsequent cohorts will take over and further develop the initiative.

The site address is: http://members.xoom.com/~RuralDev/ and further details about the site are available from Jon Rouse by email at sap01@central.sussex.ac.uk.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants & Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3482 or email: D.Foy-Eower@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFLUND on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/nts/research or USIS Home Page, under Research.

The British Ecological Society deadlines are approaching for small ecological project grants. These grants are given to promote all aspects of ecological research and ecological survey. Deadline: 1 July 1999.

The ESRC is inviting applications for its annual research seminars competition. Applications can be made from any field within ESRC’s remit. Seminar groups are multi-institutional groups of academic researchers who meet regularly to exchange information and ideas with the aim of advancing work within their fields. Successful proposals will be funded for up to two years and applications should not exceed £12,000. Deadline: 19 July 1999.

The British Academy is inviting applications from mid-career academics for up to 13 research scholarships; up to eight senior research fellowships; and one Thank-Offering to Britain Fellowship. These awards are designed to allow the award holders to undertake/complete an approved programme of research, while relieved of their normal teaching/administrative commitments. Deadline: 31 July 1999.

The BBSRC is inviting applications from departments and supervisors for research committee studentships. Applications are accepted from supervisors for standard research studentships or Case studentships to carry out work within the following priority areas: agri-food; animal sciences; biochemistry and cell biology; bioinformatics; biomolecular sciences; engineering and biological systems; genes and developmental biology; and plant and microbial sciences. Deadline: 6 August 1999.

The EPSRC is inviting research applications under its Life Sciences Interface Networks scheme. Up to £50,000 over three years is available for the support of UK based Networks which link academic and industrial groups in new/enhanced collaborations. The aim is to encourage the transfer of ideas and experimental techniques. Deadline: 1 September 1999.

The Royal Society’s International Programme provides grants for scientific research visits to and from the UK. Exchanges with Japan, Korea and South East Asia are being advertised currently. Grants cover all areas of the natural sciences, including mathematics, engineering, medicine, and the scientific research aspects of psychology, archaeology, geography and agriculture. Various deadlines, see RGCO.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 7 June
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Colin Griffin (Surrey), Lifelong learning as education policy. D310.
1.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Jenny Rusted, Drug outcome expectancies produce attentional biases in smokers. BLR.
2.00pm Falmer Language Group: Keiko Ozaki, The ‘inner ear’ in silent reading in different writing systems. A155.
5.00pm Women’s Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Tamsin Hinton-Smith, Eunho Song, Jo Lanhäm. D610.

Tuesday 8 June
2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Kazuto Suzuki, European space policy: the competing logics of collaboration. A71.
4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: John Walshaw & Maya Pandya, Coiled coils: disentangling protein-protein interactions. BLR.
5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Eduard Goldstucker (Sussex and Prague), An aspect of the work of Franz Kafka. A155.

Wednesday 9 June
11.00am IDS Seminar: Jon Snow (Channel 4), Development awareness - on the line. Room 221.

Thursday 10 June
11.30am Economics Seminar: Mohammed Razzazque and Loraine Ronchi, research outlines. D310.

Sussex Language Institute


Languages for Pleasure: 5 day summer schools in French, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. 5-16 July. Cost: £100. Contact the Open Course Assistant, tel. 677258.

Proof Reading: This service is offered by SLI English language tutors. Essays, term papers, dissertations, theses - tutorial included. Reasonable rates. Contact Alison on 670509, Jane on 739981 or David on 685825.

Miscellaneous

Accommodation Office News: The Housing List is now available internally on the University’s website. The address is: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/housing/acom9900.html. The site is updated every Wednesday morning with details of properties available to let from local landlords for the summer and next academic year.

Computing Workshops: Moving to Windows NT on Thursday 10 June, 2.15-4.30pm. This conversion course aims to provide information for those already used to Windows 3.1 and now are moving to Windows NT. The course covers: managing windows, using the right mouse button, explorer- copying/moving/deleting files and understanding the NT desktop. There is a booking fee of £3. Come to Computing Service Reception for more details.

Music Group: Music Group final year exam recitals on Tuesday 8 June 1999 in the Meeting House. Elizabeth Courtaney (Flute) 2.15pm, Lucy Hawker (Flute) 3.00pm, Claire Stokes (Voice) 3.45pm. All Welcome.

Small Ads
Small Ads are placed free of charge. We will always try to display them in the earliest edition but cannot guarantee this.

WANTED: Any documents referring to ‘conductive education’ - in particular, a copy of the BBC programme Standing up for Joe. Tel. 503695.

FOR SALE: Grundig TV, 14” screen, teletext, one and a half years, VGC, comes with aerial and booster, £90 (was £170). Call 246185.

WANTED: We are two lovely people looking for a two-bedroom property in the central Brighton area for July, August, September. Any offers call 735685, or email dmawes @clearview.prestel.co.uk.

FOR SALE: Renault 5 car, C Reg, 5 months MOT, good history. £400 ono for quick sale - please contact Sue Straw on ext 3740.

FOR SALE: Men’s mountain bike. Apollo Tecton 7600 - 20 inch. All chromed silver frame, 21 speed with Gripshift gearchange, complete with shackel lock & CatEye headlamp. £70.00 or best offer. Call Dave on 697747 or email cse@biols.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Television (21 inch) - £25 - Call John on 772051 (eves) or 3007 (day).

TO LET: Granny annexe near Preston Park/London Road Station. Available from 13 June. 1 double bedroom, kitchen-diner, living room and bathroom. £435 pcm (excl). Please call 556654.

FOR SALE: Youth/Men’s 18 inch-frame mountain bike, 21 gears, excellent condition, hardly used. £100 ono. Jenny 483424 or ext 8004.

SUMMER LET: A two bedroom house in Paddock Road, Lewes, available 3 July - 13 September. Would suit visiting faculty. £650 per month. Call Richard on 471217 or email Richard@coco.u-net.com.

TO LET: Large room in seafront flat. Own bathroom, share kitchen/lounge with one other. Available July - November. Females preferred. £55 pw (excl). Tel. 678667 (day) 572180 (evening).

FOR SALE: Saab 900 GLF, 1984, 125,000 miles, power steering, radio cassette, MOT until Dec. 99. £600 ono. Tel. Peter on 202609.

FLAT SHARE: Available from 1st July 99, sharing with a member of faculty, an economical two bedroomed purpose-built furnished flat near seafront and Brighton/Hove boundary. Includes lounge, kitchen, bathroom and telephone. Suitable for staff or pg, M/F, non-smoker. Rent £210/month plus bills. Contact Malcolm on ext 8402 or kafso@central.sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: A very nice two-bedroom purpose-built flat in Seven Dials. Fully furnished, washing machine, dish-washer, TV, central heating, parking space, ten mins walk from Brighton station, two mins from shops. Available from now until mid-September. £780pcm Tel. 735653.

TO LET: Self-contained studio flat in Lewes, very pleasant, large garden, quiet road available from June 20. Any length of let considered. Tel. 476813 or email rboice@sussexuniv:u-net.com.

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom flat in the Seven Dials area, close to Brighton Station, GCH, Double-glazing, no chain. Furniture and kitchen appliances included. £64,950 Tel. 207796.

FOR SALE: Mercedes 500 SEL (Special Edition), LHD, Auto, FSH, ABS, white, VGC, 1982, electric windows & seats (heated) & mirrors & S/R, alarm, 5 spoke alloys, Face off stereo, leather, £4,000 ono, call ext 2623, 684202 (eve) or 07919 278043 (mobile) or email: Lerturk@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Hove family (two children, 11 and 13) seek responsible and cheerful au pair from September until July 2000. Details from Angi Drew on ext 8022 or email A.Drew@sussex.ac.uk or 272119 (evenings).

WANTED: Child’s first violin and/or guitar. Telephone Lucy on 413421.

FOR SALE: Rockclimbing boots, size 3, VGC, £15. Call 478068.

FOR SALE: Exercise bike, Leisure Wise, triple action, chain driven with 7kg weighted flywheel, electronic console, distance meter, etc. Little used. £45. Please contact T.Pearce@ids.ac.uk or ext 8273.

TO LET: Rooms in quiet, conveniently located Seaford house. Lovely garden, share facilities with owner. Part week negotiable. Suit mature person. Tel. Chris 01323 891943.

WANTED: Sublet for 3/4 weeks from 5 July or later, anywhere in Sussex. Or anyone interested in exchanging a flat in Sussex during that time for a lovely, light one-bedroom apartment in New York City between Soho and Little Italy. Please email Georgette Fleischer at g24@columbia.edu.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on Ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.