Talking plays

The winning plays in a competition judged by Alan Bennett (pictured above), one of Britain’s leading playwrights, will be showcased at the Gardner Arts Centre next week.

The competition was organised by the Sussex University Performing Arts Society (SUPAS), which asked lecturer Amber Jacobs (CCS) to select a shortlist of four from the 15 student entries. They were then sent to Alan Bennett at his home in Yorkshire.

Bennett, whose credits include Talking Heads (1987) and The Madness of King George (1991), clearly found the task of judging a play more daunting than writing one. “Never having won a competition myself I’m a bit dubious about judging one”, he admitted. “This is partly because I don’t like to see anyone lose and also because I feel the world is increasingly prize-ridden ... In Yorkshire I have an award-winning coalman, so I know.”

Declining to choose an outright winner, Bennett opted instead to discuss “what I think makes a play or doesn’t and how these plays illustrate that”.

He commended both The Tragedy of Alba-Eire-Africa in America by Fanny Garvey (EAM) and Close to the Edge by Chrissie Mann (also from EAM) for the range of their ambition. “The Tragedy of Alba in particular – a history and morality play that is hard to summarise but could be said to be about colonialism – is a huge play with a vast canvas.”

Continued on page 3.

Falmer House:
from bricks and mortar to oils on canvas

An oil pastel of Falmer House by celebrated Canadian artist Joseph Plaskett has been given to the University.

The work, which is believed to be the only fine-art painting of campus architecture, was owned by the late Professor Richard Hiscock, a distinguished authority on European politics who was Professor of International Relations at Sussex between 1964 and 1972.

Hiscock was also an avid art collector and his family decided to give the work to the University after his death in 1998. Alister Scott in SPRU, whose wife is the great-niece of Hiscock, knew the professor during his last years. “He’d had an incredible life”, said Alister. “He’d been a colonel in the Royal Marines, he was a military Governor in Germany after the war and he was always up for an adventure. He had a great love of art and his collection included etchings of Rembrandt.”

It was while employed at the University of Manitoba during the early 1950s that Hiscock became interested in a group of modern Canadian artists, which included Plaskett.

Plaskett, who was principal of the Winnipeg School of Art in the 1940s before moving to Paris and eventually Suffolk, completed the picture of Falmer House in 1977.

It is probable that Hiscock commissioned Plaskett to undertake the painting, but this is not certain. If you have any information, contact Simon Lane, who is responsible for cataloguing the University’s art collection, on ext. 2128.

The work is likely to be hung in the Mantell Building.

Random Dance Company

The Random Dance Company will be visiting the Gardner Arts Centre next week (Friday 17 March) with their piece Aeon.

Random’s reputation for futuristic, breathtaking new work continues to grow.

Aeon is the final piece in a ground-breaking trilogy continuing their journey into new technology with a multi media performance choreographed by Wayne McGregor for seven dancers and their virtual partners.

The Gardner Arts Centre will be giving away a pair of tickets to the first five readers who turn up at the box office waving a copy of this Bulletin.
Mike joins the ILT tribe

The annual cost to the University for directory enquiry calls is more than £4,000. In order to reduce this amount, a BT directory enquiries disc has been installed on two of the operator consoles in the main switchboard. During office hours all 192 calls are now channelled to these consoles after office hours they are automatically diverted to BT enquiries.

Bob Stephenson, Communications Manager in Buildings & Services, said: "As this will increase traffic flow to the main consoles, the new system will be monitored for congestion."

"In the first instance, please make use of the printed telephone directory", he added. "As before, dial 9 192 (or 01 for international enquiries) – but please note that these facilities are for business purposes only. And one final request: make sure you have the necessary information readily available, i.e. the name and location of the requested number."
Taylor launches fund-raising campaign for Chair of German-Jewish Studies

Lord Attenborough, film director and University Chancellor, hosted a fund-raising dinner on 22 February at the House of Lords, where he launched a £1.5 million appeal to establish a Chair of German-Jewish Studies.

The dinner was attended by the German Ambassador, Dr Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz. Other guests included Sir Clas Moser, Chairman of the British Museum Development Trust and Professor Peter Pulzer, Chairman of the Leo Baeck Institute in London.

Pictured (left to right) are guest speaker Mr Michael Blumenthal, formerly Secretary to the Treasury in Washington DC and now Chief Executive of the Jewish Museum in Berlin; Lord Attenborough and his wife, the actress Sheila Sim; and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith.

Talking plays

Continued from front page.

Bennett's praise was tempered with reservations, however. 'I have to say that I don't really understand what either play means or is getting at really, because neither has any one character whom one can consistently care about or be interested in. Plays, it seems to be, begin with a character, a person the audience wants to follow and know more about. Or rather I think my plays do that but may be just me being behind the times.'

He found no such problem with The Last Laugh, by Charlotte Mooney (EURO), which is set in the Garden of Gethsemane. "The characters, Jesus and his disciples, are in varying degrees familiar," said Bennett. "What we want, though, is some fresh insight into this familiar situation. This the play does not really provide, and the story being so familiar, it would be a remarkable play if it did. So again I applaud its ambition without feeling that it's entirely successful."

"Fair enough," responded Charlotte, who felt that she had come up with a good idea that didn't really work. Given that The Last Laugh is her first play (written in two days, and specifically for the SUPAS competition), this is perhaps not unduly surprising.

Ruth Margolis (EAM) is another first-time playwright, who was encouraged to write Beads, a play about mother and son, because of Bennett's involvement in the competition. She was "really pleased" with his feedback - "pretty gobsmacked, actually."

"Beads is the one I recognise as being a play," the dramatist said, "and having some of the ingredients I think are essential to a story told on the stage. It's a modest play, doesn't attempt a great deal but at least I know where I am. What it lacks, of course, the first two plays have in abundance, namely scope and ambition."

In the end, Bennett found himself confirmed in his prejudices: "A play needs a character or characters who is/are vivid and interesting and about whom the audience can care. He or she needs to talk in language that is terse and alive; characters should not just be the mouthpiece of the author but must speak for themselves."

You can form your own opinion of the shortlisted plays on Saturday 18 March, when readings from all four works will be followed by a panel discussion on the art of playwriting, chaired by local playwright Chris Stagg. Tickets cost £4 (£3 concessions) and are available from the Gardner Arts Centre box office on 01273 685861.

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. 3812 or email D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research Website: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS home page, under Research.

The EPSRC's Interdisciplinary Research Networks aim to encourage greater interaction between chemistry and materials disciplines by providing up to £60,000 towards the operating and administration costs of a Network. Deadline: 31 March 2000

BBSRC and NERC invite applications under their initiative on Gene Flow in Plants and Micro-organisms. Up to five years funding is available. Areas of interest are: the impact of GM crops and micro-organisms, optimising the process of DNA insertion and understanding the consequences of gene flow. Applications that include comparative studies between conventional varieties and agronomic practices and the GM alternatives, will be particularly welcomed. Deadline: 15 May 2000

The AHRB's Resource Enhancement Scheme provides awards of up to £300,000 over three years to meet the costs of improving the utilisation and accessibility of research resources and materials of all kinds. Deadline: 19 May 2000

The ACU and the British Academy are offering grants for International Collaboration in the Humanities. Awards of up to £5,000 are intended to cover travel, maintenance and approved research expenditure incurred in partner countries. Deadline: 31 May 2000

The Royal Society is inviting applications for joint projects with Central and East Europe and the Former Soviet Union. Grants are for two years and the award covers international airfares, subsistence in the host country and internal travel for short visits to and from the participant countries. The maximum award is £5,000 per annum. Deadline: 15 June 2000

The NESTA is inviting applications for its invention and innovation scheme. The idea of the scheme is to help people turn ideas into products, services or techniques with social and commercial benefit by providing a wide-ranging package of support. Support ranges from £5,000 to £25,000. No deadline

The Royal Academy of Engineering's International Travel Grant Scheme provides funds to cover conference attendance and visits to research institutions and/or industrial sites. Overseas visits may be made for periods of up to two months. No deadline.
How to create a mind virus

In our current consumer-led society what every entrepreneur wants to know is how to create a multi-million pound best seller. Paul Marsden, a DPhil student in GRCiSS, has come up with an idea that may just solve this quest. He has developed an online research tool that will help companies or individuals to design and promote successful products. The technique may be used to increase the ‘infectiousness’ of advertising and marketing campaigns through the development of ‘mind viruses’ that can trigger ‘social epidemics’ by making people believe that they want the product.

Paul’s online research tool uses insights from ‘mementics’ to evolve ideas online. The term ‘meme’ was first used by Richard Dawkins in his book The Selfish Gene. Dawkins argues that ideas, or memes as he calls them, are rather like genes; they are ‘genes of meaning’ that replicate too.

Paul likens this to a computer that has hardware and software. In humans, the genetic side is the hardware and the memento side is the software. This software, or these memes, get loaded onto us through communication. Memes that happen to recombine in this process so that they can jump from mind to mind are successful; they are good memes because they are good at ‘replicating’. It is ‘survival of the fittest’ with ideas; the good memes survive because they are combined in such a way that our minds notice them and pass them on, whilst weak memes die.

Paul says, “The Christian church is a wonderful set of memes that has copied itself across countless minds and as it copies, the more it copies, by definition, the fitter it gets. All the other five million half-baked ideas that everyone has, that never manage to get out of your head and replicate inside someone else’s head, they die.”

To develop a way of generating fit sets of memes, Paul used a well-established technique, the word association game, and put it online. By getting consumers to play this game, he identifies the subjective meaning of a brand and the emotions it evokes in people. The real power of the web is that it allows a large number of people to be involved, evolving a ‘meme map’ of the idea that is robust. Anyone can log on to the web at www.ideaslab.net, where they are asked to give the words that they most associate with the concept of ‘healthy living’. Words that come up repeatedly become strong associations with healthy living such as ‘low fat’, ‘exercise’ and ‘natural’, while those words that are just particular to certain individuals become weak and die. Paul can then use the network of memes to recombine and engineer new products and ideas that are full of fit memes and that are likely to be contagious. Paul describes this as a repetitive “Darwinian survival of the fittest” selection process.

The focus of Paul’s doctoral research is, in fact, the opposite of these positive mind viruses. Having studied evolutionary theory as part of his first degree in sociology at Sussex, Paul went into marketing for a large pharmaceuticals company. But he finally became disillusioned with the way that marketing is carried out, realising that the power of Darwinian thinking was not used, and so he returned to develop his ideas at Sussex.

For his DPhil Paul has examined the negative effect of an infectious meme; people seem to ‘catch’ suicides like they catch colds: suicides lead to copycat suicides. According to research carried out in the 1980s, after a suicide is reported in the media the suicide rate rises significantly. The theory behind this is that media suicide stories are somehow contagious. Humans have evolved certain tendencies, like doing those things we feel positively about, copying people with high status, and copying people who are similar to ourselves. Therefore, when we are exposed to reports of suicides of people that we admire or are like us, or are portrayed positively, this can trigger suicide.

Paul used the memetic mapping technique to evolve a map that is representative of a population’s associations around suicide to find out which words might help trigger suicides. The word ‘escape’ is, according to Paul, a very good example of this. “Reports of suicides should avoid writing things like, ‘John’s suicide was a cry for help that allowed him to escape . . .’ because words like escape are associated with all sorts of positive associations, like holidays and freedom.” Knowing these associations, and working out which are positive and which are negative, means that recommendations can be made to journalists on words to be avoided when reporting stories on suicide.

Paul is currently working with American Express (Amex) to engineer a new financial product and will be presenting his work with marketing researcher Alix Beelaerts from Amex at the Market Research Society conference in Brighton next week.

The race was on

Relay team Pancakes of Fire confirmed their enormous potential when they clogged the fastest time of Shrove Tuesday and raced to glory in the Bramber House pancake race.

The victorious quartet – Lindy Ainsworth, Chris Gaterell, Julia Goode and Ann Warwick – generated tremendous power to pull away from the opposition while simultaneously tossing the pancake a minimum of four times each. Pancakes of Fire shrugged off three opposing teams to claim the first win of their running careers and a bottle of vodka.

Approached by the Bulletin after the race outside the Coffee Shop, the four athletes declined to be interviewed, preferring instead to let their running and tossing do the talking.
'State of the arts' conference goes global

It began as a rumbling dissatisfaction with the state of contemporary art, grew into a local Sussex protest and is now an international movement supported by Prince Charles and the celebrated composer Arvo Part.

This year the fourth annual conference of New Metaphysical Art (NMA) on campus has attracted speakers from around the world.

The one-day event will once again be addressing the issue of what can be done to counteract the trivialisation of art.

Ninian Smart, Professor of Comparative Religion at the University of California, will look at 'Art as the Exploration of Spiritual Experience'. Indian filmmaker Rajan Khosa will introduce and show his film Dance of the Wind, while Raul Peschiera will launch the sixth edition of international literary magazine The Literary Review and modern composer James McMillan will talk about 'Inspiration and Music'.

From closer to home, Professor Gabriel Josipovici, author and visiting fellow in HUMS, will pose the argument "Why art matters" and Norbert Lynton, Emeritus Professor of History, will introduce and discuss the work of Seaford painter Harold Mockford, who will also be available for questions.

Sussex's Professor of Arts Education Peter Abbs, who is a founder of the NMA along with composer Jonathan Harvey and choreographer Anna Carlisle, will read from his poetic work Love After Sappho.

Peter said the group's campaign against the 'uncritical and endless use of parody and pastiche in art' continues: "We need art which is defiant, passionate, metaphysical and utterly inexorable."

He said the way forward is to encourage a global dialogue between philosophies and to look beyond the Western world to understand the role that art still plays in primitive and indigenous cultures.

"Modern art, even the Turner Prize, has become institutionalised," he said. "There could be something better than this. If we don't begin to confront the future, it looks very bleak."

The NMA conference is on Saturday 8 April, in the Chichester Lecture Theatre, from 9.30am until 8pm. For tickets contact Lorna Pidgeon on ext. 8438.

All in a day's work

Roger Discombe has worked in the Computing Service since 1974. He leads the Information and Training team, whose job is to make students and staff aware of computing facilities on campus and ensure that users are able to exploit them fully.

The job's enjoyable because it's changed so dramatically.

Twenty-five years ago there was a very small number of users (primarily science researchers). The big change was when PCs came in, during the 1980s: the undergraduates and staff in the arts area started using computers. We've had to cope with increased numbers of people without an increase in staff.

There are four of us in the Information and Training Team, which is part of the User Services Group.

Sandy Radford runs the basic IT training, covering things like word processing, spreadsheets, email, the World Wide Web and bibliographic databases. In conjunction with the Library, we run a great deal of courses at the beginning of the academic year and then continue through the year. They're mostly held in the evenings and at weekends, so they don't interfere with the students' normal term-time schedule.

Jason Bailey provides more advanced training, primarily for postgraduates and staff. For example, research students need to know how to manage long documents in Word, so that they can write their dissertations. He also trains staff to use the Access database and things like PowerPoint, or more advanced use of Excel.

Chris Limb makes sure all the online information is kept up to date, both on the Web pages and on the Message of the Day. If anything important happens, we send a message out, and it's flashed to all the students using our PCs. He also produces leaflets and publicity for the training we provide.

Among many other things, I update the self-help information sheets, which are available in print and on the Web. Most are done by the expert in their field in the Computing Service, and then what I do is try and look at it from a user's point of view and remove the jargon.

I also produce the monthly Computing Service newsletter, which is available in print but is primarily an online document now. The A4 sheet gives brief information, and people can look at the online version for details.

One thing Chris and I did last summer was to make our Web pages - www.sussex.ac.uk/USCS/ - more accessible. They were originally an online version of our annual printed guide and they carried that structure with them. Now there's a lot more user information, as well as downloadable software and search facilities.

From left: Chris Limb, Jason Bailey, Sandy Radford and Roger Discombe.

We've all got our particular roles, but we do cover for each other. We're all involved with answering user queries either at the Help Desk or by email. Also we're involved in different projects. For example, Chris led the project to reorganise the ground floor of Chichester 1 last summer; Jason is involved in an internal inventory project; and I am chairing a project to introduce a new user registration scheme.

When I'm on the Help Desk and I advise students how to produce well-presented assignments and the importance of making back-up copies of their work, I am actually speaking with practical knowledge and feeling, because I am currently taking an MA in Information Management at the University of Brighton. I am about to start my dissertation, for which I will be researching whether better user services have resulted at universities that have merged their library and computing services. I am looking forward to reading my conclusions!

I also get away from the office every lunchtime, when I run three to four miles. There are four regular runners in the Computing Service. The others are somewhat younger and faster than me, so they only go with me when they want a good chat or an easy day.

Running's very useful because the problem with this job is that you just firefight. If you go for a run, you have space to think about the implications of the problem.

In the Computing Service we all try to provide to users the best service we can, with the equipment we've got. People want as good a service as they think they're entitled to, while we give as good as we are able to. They're not necessarily the same!
Societies

Role-playing and War Games Society

Aaron Stead, a third-year Maths with Computer Science student, reveals all about the joys of war games and role-play.

"We do three different things in the society: war gaming, role-playing and card gaming. War gaming is where you collect an army of models, paint them up, put them together, and you have fantasy battles against each other using different systems. At the moment we're running a fantasy campaign where we use our armies to take over territories, mapping out who's winning. Generally it's every man for himself, but there is a possibility of joining up armies to battle against each other. The way the actual battles are fought is using dice to determine moves: you chose your army, use tactics to put your units where you think you need them, and then you roll dice to see what move you need to make.

Whereas the war games are on-off, role-playing is something which we do from week to week. There's a Gamesmaster – or DM, there are many names for it – who designs a story or adventure, and makes up special characters for that adventure. Anyone can be a DM, if they have a system they are interested in which other people are interested in too. They act out those characters, like in a play.

The role-plays are done within a system, which is like an imaginary fantasy world. There are lots of different systems – Vampires and Masquerades involves vampires in a world of darkness which is similar to this one. Then there's Marvel Superheroes, where the players are acting out superhero roles in the Marvel comic style. There's also Deadlands, set in the 'Weird West', where there are all sorts of ghosts and strange things happening. At the moment we act these out by sitting around telling stories rather than acting them out with costumes, but you can use costumes and sets and everything. You can even do it at night in real-life spooky conditions.

In a way, card gaming is different. It's basically collecting cards from different systems, and you make your own deck with certain cards to a different style to it and then you play games against each other. They're like battle games as well. The main one we do is magical gathering, where you can summon creatures using charms and spells to defeat your enemy, and use land cards to cast these spells.

It is quite a fun society. You get to know a lot of people, and we see each other outside our meetings. It might sound a bit weird, but it's well worth a try."

Factfile

Name: The Role-Playing and War Games Society (RAW).
Age: The society's been going since 1998.
Membership: Around 30-40 members. Of these, only three are female. Members are mainly students, but staff are welcome.
Time and place: Wednesday afternoons, 6.00pm until 9.00pm. Meetings begin at the Mandela Hall balcony, but the games themselves take place in student rooms on campus.
Cost: £3 joining fee, plus £1 extra to take part in war gaming. Costs come with equipment.
Special equipment: At first you can join a role-playing group where the DM already has all the equipment. But to be a DM, you will need to buy books from your system. They can cost up to £20, and supplementary books can cost around £10. To take part in the war gaming, you'll need to buy your own models. They cost around £3 each, but some are less.
How to join: Anyone is welcome. You can join any time, but role-play games can run for several weeks, so you might have to wait for a new one to start.
Contact: Aaron Stead, email aaronst@central.susx.ac.uk

VC's Voice

Once again, the subject of top-up fees is on the political agenda. David Blunkett has made it clear that he is strongly opposed to allowing universities to set their own fees for UK and EU students. In his major speech in Greenwich last month, he re-affirmed his own position and said there would be no change in policy before the next General Election. But he also pointed out that he will not be Secretary of State for ever, and suggested that the issue might be re-opened after the General Election, as part of a wider review of the funding of higher education.

Those who oppose tuition fees in principle will see this as the natural development of an offensive policy. But the principle that university education should be free to all is very hard to defend. First of all, higher education was never free to 'all'; it used to be free to full-time undergraduates, but not to part-time or postgraduate students. Furthermore, since the taxpayer-voter is clearly unwilling to pay the full costs of higher education for 40% of the population, we have to face the hard question of what is the best use for scarce public expenditure. I have no doubt that any extra public funds available for student support would be better spent on paying the maintenance costs of students from poorer backgrounds than on paying the fees of students from comfortable backgrounds. The withdrawal of the means-tested maintenance grant was a much more damaging step than the introduction of means-tested tuition fees. It is the loss of the maintenance grant, not the introduction of tuition fees, that has caused the decline in the number of mature students coming into full-time higher education.

There will be strong pressure to allow universities to set their own fee levels, as a way of bringing more resources into the higher education system. More resources would, of course, be a good thing, but there could be a heavy price to pay. More fee income might allow governments to reduce public funding of higher education. High-fee universities might become middle-class preserves, while students from less well-off backgrounds could afford to attend only what would be seen as second-rate institutions. If a future government does decide to go down the route of liberalising fees, the higher education system will have to find ways of ensuring that students from less well-off backgrounds have access to all universities.

The liberalisation of fees may happen whether we want it or not. If it does happen, the change will pose large challenges for the University. We will have to work hard to ensure our success in what will be a very competitive market. That will mean having attractive academic programmes, a high research reputation, and good student facilities. We will also have to work hard to sustain the diversity which is one of the most attractive features of the University.
News in brief

Computer-aided assessment
Do you sometimes find yourself overwhelmed with marking and processing questionnaire returns? A group at Sussex are collecting data on the potential use of a web-based computer-aided assessment package, Questionmark Perception. If there is enough interest across campus there may be a good case for setting up a centrally maintained system that can be accessed by all Schools and units.

If you are interested, see www.biols.sussex.ac.uk/percept.htm, which gives examples of how Perception can be used. You are also invited to complete a very brief questionnaire. For more information contact Sally Wilks, BIOLS (sallyw@biols.sussex.ac.uk), Tom Browne, USCS (t.j.browne@sussex.ac.uk), or Richard Inskip, TLDU (r.f.inskip@sussex.ac.uk).

New name for Engineering
The School of Engineering was renamed School of Engineering and Information Technology (EIT) with effect from 1 January.

Congratulations to Physics and Astronomy
The Physics and Astronomy subject group scored 22 out of a possible 24 in their Teaching Quality Assessment last week.

Disciplinary Panel
The Disciplinary Panel, consisting of four faculty and two student members, met on 28 February to consider a case referred to it by the Discipline Committee. Two students in EAM and one in AFRAS were found guilty of taking part in action designed to prevent the Chancellor’s Society dinner from taking place on 17 November 1999. They were found not guilty of bringing the University into disrepute by these actions.

The Panel also met on 7 February, when a student in EAM was found not guilty of using offensive and threatening language.

Students put on their law suits for competitions
Interviewing clients will clearly be no trial for students Nirada Griffiths and Amy Richardson (pictured right) when they become qualified lawyers. The pair came overall runners-up (out of 27 teams) at the national finals, held at the University of Warwick.

Nirada and Amy, who were trained by Heather Keating, began their successful run in January with a victory in the final round of the annual School of Legal Studies competition, which was sponsored by local solicitors Donne, Mileham and Haddock. They then proceeded to represent Sussex at the regional round of the client interviewing competition at University College, London.

The School of Legal Studies/Donne, Mileham & Haddock negotiating competition was won by Emma Davies and Bryan Scattergood (pictured left), who went on to become joint winners at the regional round, held at the University of Essex in February.

Emma and Bryan, who were trained by Emily Haslam, now go forward to the national final, which takes place at the end of March, at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. If they are victorious there, a place beckons in the international final in Sydney, Australia.

Bryan also partnered Karen Moss to second place in the internal client interviewing competition. Carolyn Hunnisett and Brendan Hughes were runners-up in the Sussex round of the negotiating competition.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 13 March
2.00pm Falmer Language Group: Joan Swann (Open University), title TBA. A155.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Chris Faulkes (Queen Mary and Westfield), Social control of reproduction in mole rats. BLR.

5.00pm Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Lecture and Slideshow: Communities in resistance - Internally displaced in Colombia. Presented by staff of Christian Aid. A103

Tuesday 14 March
12.30pm Centre for Life History Research Seminar: Rob Perks (National Life Story Collection, British Library), Oral history and genomics: The millenium oral history project. LMR.

12.30pm Inorganic Discussion Group: Phil Dyer (Leicester), Phosphine-imines: From curiosity to ligands. CHI 3R143.

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Les Metcalfe (European Institute of Public Administration), Reforming the Commission: Innovation in European public management? A71.

4.00pm COGS Seminar: Margaret Boden, Crafts, perception and the possibilities of the body. COGS 5C11.

4.00pm American Studies Research Seminar: Les Benedict (Ohio), Political re-presentation: Salmon P. Chase and the presidential politics of reconstruction. A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Joe Lewis (Edinburgh), The nuclear Cap Binding Complex: A multifunctional activity in RNA polymerase II transcript metabolism. BLT.

5.00pm Media Studies Graduate Seminar: Bill Osgerby (Southampton IHIE), You don’t have to be a millionaire, just think like one: Consumption, lifestyle and men’s magazines in post-war America. EDB 125.

5.15pm Luke Holland and Rudy Kennedy will discuss their new film I Was a Slave Labourer. EDB 121.

Wednesday 15 March
12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: James Readman (Plymouth Marine Lab), Monitoring strategies for organic micropollutants in coastal waters. CHI 3R241.

4.00pm Accelerating Adaptation Lecture: Günter P Wagner (Yale), Evolution of evolvability: Fact or mirage. BLT.

Thursday 16 March
1.10pm Lunchtime Recital: Composers’ Concert. Recital Room, Falmer House.

4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Alan Allport (Oxford), Task switching and the long-term negative priming of tasks. BLR.

5.00pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Abdelsam Serroukh (Imperial), Wavelet variance estimator for the scale analysis of time series. PEV2A2.

Friday 17 March
2.15pm SPRU Seminar Series: Andy Davies and Tim Brady, From systems to services: Building capabilities in complex Product Systems. C133.

4.00pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Alexandre Refregier (IoA), Weak lensing by large scale structure. Arundel 401.

4.00pm SOAP and Chemical Physics Joint Seminar: Mike Ashfold (Bradford), High resolution studies of molecular photodissociation. CHI3-3R241.

Volunteers needed
USIE are looking for student volunteers to help with children’s activities on 19 and 20 June. The days are part of a week-long programme of activities for 150 school children from Brighton’s EAZ. E-mail I.Z.williams@sussex.ac.uk

Language courses
A Levels looming? Worried about your speaking and listening skills? Why not try a 2-day A level revision course in French, German or Spanish, to be held on 17 and 18 April from 9.30am–4.30pm, cost £60.

Contact the Open Course Assistant on 877258 for details.

Sussex Higher Education Fair
This will take place on 21 and 22 March in Bramber House. Up to 7,000 sixth formers will be attending over the two days. Part of the science car park will be used for coach parking and Levels two and three of Bramber House will be closed (excluding the Laines restaurant).

Book sale for Mozambique
A book sale to raise funds for the flood victims of Mozambique will be held at IDS on Thursday 16 March, in the Upper Common Room from 12.30-2.30pm. Donations of books gratefully received in the Directorate, IDS. Contact Diane Frazer-Smith (ext. 8264, email: d.j.frazier-smith@ids.ac.uk).

Health Centre
www.studenthealth.co.uk
Visit the new Health Centre web pages with regular weekly news updates on different health areas, special features and specific travel information. There is also an A-Z health guide for all sorts of health problems.

Vacation opening times
Minimum service days
Minimum services only will operate from Wednesday 19 April until Monday 24 April. All services will re-open on Tuesday 25 April and the summer term will start on Wednesday 26 April.

Library
The Library will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.00am–5.30pm and on Tuesdays from 9.00am–7.30pm. It will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. The Library will be closed from 19 to 24 April inclusive.

Sports facilities
The Sportcentre will be closed from 19 April to 24 April inclusive. The Falmer Sports Complex will be closed from 21 April to 23 April inclusive.

Health Centre
The Health Centre will be closed from 21 April to Monday 24 April inclusive. There will be an emergency-only clinic 11.00am–12.10 noon on Saturday 22 April. More details about the Health Centre’s opening times can be found on the web at www.studenthealth.co.uk.

Small ads
Small ads are free for members of the University. Please try to keep small ads to 20 words or less.

FOR SALE: Super Compact Bendix washing machine – £35. Contact r.e.reid@sussex.ac.uk or t.o.donnell@sussex.ac.uk.

Lose: In COGS, black leather jacket with silver zips on sleeves, quilt-stitch lining and a tag that says ‘Tony’s’. Contact William on 753354.

Moving Sale: All items less than one year old, excellent condition: Washing machine + four-year covererial, £120. Sofa bed (Futon Co. wood frame) large size, £60. Dining table + six chairs, £60. Bedside cabinet with three drawers, £10. Please contact Jacques 678516 or Mercy 778931.

To LET: Two/three bedroom house in Brighton. Partly/unfurnished, v. good decorative order, garden. £750 pm. Tel. ext. 4315 or 01903 532387 or 0777 649525.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: Final year DPhil student (with young child) seeks a two+ bedroom unfurnished house/flat. Call (67)4245 or email kirstie@biols.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Jaguar 420G – 1968. Only 35,000 miles, two owners, all original parts, MOT Nov. interior requires some work. Phone Sally ext. 7011 or email s.dalton-brown@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Double bedroom in large terraced house, share with two others, n/s preferred. Rent £200 excl. bills. Call Jeelan on 679976 or email j.moghraby@sussex.ac.uk.


MUSIC SYSTEM: Turntable, twin tapes, tuner and separate speakers. Free to good home/donation: charity. Contact Alister on a.h.scott@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Costa del Sol, three bed, detached villa on hillside overlooking sea between Malaga and Nerja. Rates from £150 pw. Phone 472831 for details.

TO LET: Newly refurbished one-bed flat in Kempston, just off sea-front. Available from 20 March. £470pcm. Call Bryony on 621555 or brymott@freeuk.com.

FOR SALE: Honda Accord Aroadeck 2.0EX, red, 1990, full history, one year MOT, five mths tax, R/C alarm, power steering. Bargain at £1,200. Contact 07909 903006.

WANTED: Graduate seeks position as a live-in au pair with a Brighton family. Non-smoker, experienced and responsible. Tel. 01243 535922 or email C.Hajnal-Smith@sussex.ac.uk.

PROOF READING SERVICE: Offered by SLL English language tutors: essays, term papers, dissertations, theses – tutorial included. Reasonable rates. Contact Alison on 670509, Jane on 624620 or David on 685825.

Bulletin
The next issue of the Bulletin will be out on Friday 5 May with a copy deadline of 1.00pm on 28 April. 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. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.