**Why elephants need good memories**

Age and experience may no longer be so highly valued in human societies, but among elephants it is still the key to successful family life.

A new study, led by BIOLS behavioural psychologist, Dr Karen McComb, shows that the most mature female elephant of a family acts as the guardian of social knowledge. When another elephant approaches, she uses this knowledge to signal to her family whether it is friend or foe. Her social knowledge has a direct link to the reproductive success of her family, as it has been found that groups with older matriarchs produce more calves.

The research, carried out on African elephants in Kenya and published in the latest issue of Science, has important implications for conservation. Older elephants are often the target for poachers because of the size of their tusks. But killing them can have serious consequences for family groups.

"We believe this to be the first statistical link between social knowledge and reproductive success in a species," says Karen. "The results highlight the disproportionate effect the hunting and poaching of mature animals might have for elephant populations. Other large mammals, such as whales, dolphins and chimpanzees, also live in 'fluid' social systems, where an ability to recognise friends among many acquaintances might be expected to have an impact on reproductive success."

Karen and her team, including Dr Sarah Durant of the Institute of Zoology, spent seven years gathering data on the elephants at the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in Kenya. Using high-powered loudspeakers, they played different elephant calls to elephant groups and observed the elephants' behaviour.

Families with matriarchs aged 55 were several thousand times more likely to bunch together defensively in response to calls from strangers than acquaintances. Groups with matriarchs aged 35 or under were only 1.4 times more likely to follow this pattern. Older matriarchs were also more likely to lift their trunks to smell strangers. "It wasn't obvious to us when we were carrying out the fieldwork what we would find," says Karen, who has previously studied the communication behaviour of lions and of red deer. "But when we analysed it, we were amazed to get such clear results. We were thrilled to see that we were understanding a little of what goes on in their heads."

**Right:** Dr Karen McComb launched her findings on African elephants at London Zoo. Below: Karen observes the real thing in Kenya's Amboseli National Park.

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**First chapter in a success story**

Now Valerie, who is taking a part-time MA in Creative Writing at Sussex, has been given a major boost to her ambition by winning a 'first chapter' competition.

The 38-year-old, who has worked as a journalist and is currently writing and performing her own shows, receives £250 and a sculpture – and her work will be read by one of Britain's leading literary agents, Curtis Brown.

The competition, held by Shorelines Writing Agency in Manchester, was open to writers of African, Asian and Chinese origin.

Valerie's novel, Don't Tell, weaves together fact and fantasy based on her own experiences as an African child growing up in British children's homes.

"I realised that I had so many stories to tell and that the life I have lived is so unique," she said. "The book is about how a child displaced from her homeland Africa, her biological mother, and many other new families to come, copes with this loss. And how she takes control of her own destiny through the spirit and angel world – finally losing faith in the real world and making a decision to live on the streets, whereupon she comes across another world of insanity and mayhem."

Valerie, who lives in London, chose Sussex as a place to study because her initial interview with Professor Peter Abbs left her feeling "inspired". "This first year has had a tremendous impact on my writing," she said. "I have learned a huge amount – and am most grateful for the teaching I have received."

Shorelines' co-ordinator, Tariq Mehmoed, said: "The competition attracted a sizeable number of entries, but Valerie's chapter really stood out. We wish her luck in completing her novel and in finding a publisher."
Teaching an old enzyme new tricks

Craig O'Dell
Biology with Management finalist, BIO LS

Biochemists have a soft spot for horseradish peroxidase, an ancestor in the evolution of modern enzymology, and an enzyme that played a key role in the development of our ideas on biological oxidation and reduction.

Now, using modern protein-engineering technology to research the basic properties of peroxidases and their potential uses, Dr Andy Smith and his group in BIO LS are giving this dinosaur enzyme a new lease of life.

Why are peroxidases so interesting and important? They occur in almost all living systems and are some of the most active enzymes around. They exist in tremendous variety and researchers have already discovered that plants contain some 90 different genes, which encode different variants.

Some of the functions of peroxidases are well known but many remain a mystery, hence the work of the Sussex team. If you have ever wondered what keeps a tree standing, says Andy, peroxidases catalyse the formation of the tough biopolymer lignin that gives wood its strength.

An important part of the group's work is to study the way in which these enzymes can also break down the strong carbon-carbon bonds in these biological polymers. This is a vital process in the utilization of plant material to produce alcohol for fuel and as a raw material in the chemical industry.

Peroxidases are among the most versatile enzymes available and can function as tough biocatalysts under extreme conditions and can attack even the most stable substrates, including some of our nastiest environmental pollutants. Currently they are used in a wide range of industrial applications, from medical diagnostic kits to waste-water treatment and biological bleaching agents.

Andy and his team have the techniques to create improved versions of these important enzymes, to improve current performance and extend their range to new and innovative uses. With the help of structural biology and genetic engineering, they can be adapted to many different applications, one example being the bleaching of dyes in a washing machine. Peroxidases can also be used as effective weed killers or to increase crop yield, both possible because of their link with plant growth hormones.

The ability to evolve new enzymes in the test tube by forced evolution techniques makes the advent of 'designer enzymes' one step nearer. Why bother about 'designer genes', says Andy, when you can have designer enzymes? ■
The social gap in higher education: not just a matter of cost

Cost is not the only or even the main reason that puts off qualified people from lower social class backgrounds from entering higher education, new research has found.

A report published this month by the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) and researched by the campus-based Institute for Employment Studies (IES) examines a whole range of factors influencing decision-making processes since 1997, when changes were introduced in arrangements for student finance.

"A lot of attention has focused on the perceived cost of HE participation as a barrier to entry for people from poorer backgrounds," said IES Director, Richard Pearson. "This research reveals a wider range of influences. Some young people prefer to start working sooner and begin earning. Others do not see a degree as guaranteeing a better job, or they have in mind a particular career that does not require an HE qualification."

The research focused on three target groups in England and Wales: potential entrants in low HE participation neighbourhoods; recent entrants from all social classes; and non-entrants from lower social groups, identified as having HE entry qualifications but not studying in HE.

A range of influences that affect decisions taken by potential HE students were identified in the research, including:
- expectations of the benefits and longer-term value of higher education study, especially labour market outcomes
- perceptions of the likely costs and how they might be met
- access to timely and relevant information about higher education options, and also information on costs and available student income
- encouragement given to developing their capabilities and confidence by teachers, FE tutors and other 'mentors' (e.g. student friends and family)
- attitudes in parts of higher education towards their varying needs and aspirations.

The Harris report pays lip-service to institutional diversity, but the spirit of the exercise is central direction, motivated by ill-founded distrust of institutions' ability to manage what we all recognise to be a key part of our provision to students.

Neither Harris nor the QAA pay attention to what we at Sussex have recognised as an important issue - the possible links between student employment and graduate employment. A high proportion of university students have paid employment (some of them too much of it) and we need to build that experience into students' longer-term career planning. To help us do that, our Career Development Unit and Student Employment Office, in a pioneering move, are working on a merger.

April saw the publication of the Funding Council's performance indicators for employability. These indicators are based on the 'first destination return' - the census of graduates six months after graduation. Overall, the statistics present a very positive picture of the performance of UK higher education, with 94 per cent of graduates already in employment or in further study. Less positively, Sussex does somewhat less well, at 92 per cent.

The 'first destination' statistics are a very imperfect measure of the success of universities in producing employable graduates. It would be much better to look at employment outcomes much later than six months after graduation. But the fact that the statistics are very imperfect should give no grounds for complacency about our own performance.

The government is right to be concerned about graduate employment. Public expenditure on mass higher education has to be justified. Their concerns, however, are not best met by an over-interventionist approach to institutions or over-emphasis on flawed statistics.

Geography Association conference

The Geographical Association annual conference, which was held at the University during the Easter vacation, proved to be a great success. The 1,000 delegates included a contingent of about 80 from overseas.

Many delegates commented on how much they liked the campus environment. They also enjoyed the opportunity to find out more about what geographers are doing at Sussex by means of lectures and field excursions from Sussex faculty.

The geography resources exhibition, probably the biggest such exhibition in Europe, filled both sports halls in the Sportcentre and was the registration point for all delegates. At the Sussex stand, there were leaflets, prospectuses and advice about both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Dr Tony Binns (AFRAS), who organised the conference, said: "I feel sure that the GA conference further raised the profile of Geography at Sussex, and I am confident that, as a result, many teachers who attended will recommend Sussex to their sixth-form students."
In brief

New professor for SPSW
The Social Policy and Social Work Subject Group welcomed its new Chair on 1 April. Professor Imogen Taylor, who has published widely on social work training and professional education, comes to Sussex from the University of Bristol. Imogen will be based in room 218 Essex House, ext. 2511. Barry Luckock, who has chaired the Group for the past four years, has moved to 225 Essex House, ext. 4225.

Census 2001 – count yourself in
The 2001 Census of Population is the 10-yearly count of everyone resident in England and Wales, including foreign nationals studying in Britain. In the 1991 Census, students were one of a number of social groups who were significantly undercounted, so students in particular are asked to fill out and return their form as soon as possible. Students living away from home will be counted at their term-time address rather than at their own or parental home.

Housing workshops
For students who are looking for private accommodation for the next academic year and need advice, the Students' Union Welfare Office and the Housing Office will be running two workshops on Tuesday (1 May) at 1 pm and Thursday (3 May) at 6 pm, both in Lancaster House common room.

The biographical turn
A life-history research day on 2 June aims to explore issues posed by the 'biographical turn'. The event will showcase research in progress by University faculty including Professor Stephen Fender (EAM), Dr Viv Griffiths and Pat Owen (USIE), Dr Maria Laurent (EAM), Jenny Shaw (CCS) and Dr Alistair Thomson (CCE). Email de.sheridan@sussex.ac.uk for more information.

Boozing flies set to reveal genetic secrets
Sussex researchers know a thing or two about alcohol that goes beyond the quality of beer in the Falmer bar. The Sussex Centre for Research into Alcohol and Alcoholism and Drug Addiction (SCRAADA) was set up three years ago to bring together campus-wide expertise in addiction. Now three researchers in BIOLS have been awarded a grant for nearly half a million pounds from the BBSRC to identify genes activated in the brain after alcohol exposure and to study how these genes may contribute to alcohol-induced behaviour.

We all know that while a drink or two can be pleasant, and lift up an evening, drinking even a little too much is dangerous, especially if we drive. This is because alcohol acts to slow down the brain's function, resulting in loss of co-ordination, reduced attention, loss of memory and, if we really go over the top, unconsciousness and even death. For occasional drinkers, the milder effects occur even after a few drinks, but the brains of regular toppers adapt to the presence of alcohol, so that they can drink more before they suffer the worst effects.

This adaptation occurs as the brain cells switch on dormant genes to counteract the effects of the alcohol. The bad side of this is that once these genes are switched on, the brain may need alcohol to work as efficiently as it once did before alcohol. At this point, the individual is 'hooked': dependent on alcohol for normal function. This is why alcoholics often need an early-morning drink, just to get going. Knowing which genes are switched on would help us understand alcohol addiction, and perhaps why some people are more likely to become alcoholics than others.

A surprise resulting from publication of the human genome was the discovery that humans have only about 30,000 genes, just about twice the number of the humble fruit fly, Drosophila. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that about half the genes in a fruit fly have counterparts in humans and many basic biological processes in all animals use the same sets of genes. This discovery implies we can understand much about human genetics from study of these other organisms.

Molecular biologist Dr Lynne Mayne, in the Trafford Centre, Drosophila expert Dr Jane Davies, in the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience, and addiction researcher Professor Dai Stephens, in Experimental Psychology, have come together to use this similarity across fruit flies, mice and humans to study changes in gene expression resulting from drinking alcohol.

Using newly available genetic maps of Drosophila, and mice, the Sussex researchers are looking for similarities between flies and mammals in which genes are switched on by exposure to alcohol. "It is very likely that alcohol has formed part of the environment of animals since very early in evolution," says Jane. "Although the precise alterations in fly and mammal brains that result in adaptation to alcohol are likely to differ, the genes that control the switching on of arrays of other genes may well be related."

The technique the Sussex researchers are using involves arranging copies of thousands of genes on a slide called a microarray. These slides are used to identify which genes obtained from brain cells are active at any particular time. The pattern of active genes from a normal animal is compared with the pattern of genes expressed following alcohol treatment, allowing those genes that have been turned on or off by the alcohol to be identified.

"Until now, researchers interested in the molecular genetics of alcohol dependence have been forced to work gene by gene," comments Lynne. "This new approach allows us to look for affected genes without being restricted by existing hypotheses of alcohol dependence." About 1,200 genes are switched on in response to alcohol, according to Lynne. Which of these genes are involved in addiction is anybody's guess at the moment.

The Sussex researchers are combining their efforts with teams working in the USA, who are carrying out parallel studies on rats and monkeys, under the umbrella of the National Institute for Drug Abuse. "We think our Drosophila work gives us an important input," says Dai, "as this can progress much more quickly than the work with mammals, and will also help us pinpoint interesting genes that can be checked out by ourselves and our American colleagues in the other species."

"Alcohol-related problems cause enormous unhappiness, and are an enormous drain on our health and social services. Hopefully, this research will help give us a better understanding of alcoholism, and perhaps pave the way for eventual treatments." We can all drink to that.
The camera never lies

Charlotte Shaw
International Relations with
Development Studies, AFRAS

The Overseas Training
Programme (OTP) is an
opportunity for undergraduates to
work in a developing country for
up to one year. Training
placements are set up, usually
alongside local non-governmental
organisation (NGOs).

In September 1999 I embarked
on my journey to Thailand, to
work with people with HIV and
AIDS. What struck me almost
immediately was that despite my
time studying in AFRAS, I was still
surprised to find that I had my
own stereotypes and expectations.

I had expected to find poverty,
disease, inferior education and
health services, slums and
shantytowns, and in amongst all
of these things to find misery and
suffering.

And yes, these things do exist,
but the bigger picture is much
brighter than that. I found people
who had opportunities, who
created innovative solutions to
problems, who had a wicked sense
of humour and who were healthy,
happy and well educated. Hospitals
—even outside the main
metropolitan areas—were clean
efficient, children were eager to
learn and had access to
education.

Most surprising to me was the
number of European cars: I had
never anticipated seeing Mercedes
and Rovers driving through the
streets of Phayao, but there they
were!

I decided that something needed
to be done to change the way
people looked at the ‘developing
world’. A fellow OTP trainee
(Rehena Amirraly) and I set about
creating a small oasis of hope
and happiness in the corridor near
AFRAS. ‘Faking it?’ is a photo
exhibition that takes a snapshot of
some of our experiences, of the
positive images that we were lucky
enough to capture.

To support the exhibition we
will be holding a talk in the
AFRAS Common Room on
Tuesday (1 May) at 4.30pm. OTP
trainees will talk about their own
placements and the things that they
found most surprising, the
 stereotypes that they took
with them, and the positive images
they have brought back. Everybody
is welcome, so please come and see
the exhibition and attend the talk
and consider the impact of your
own stereotypes.

The word on the streets

Who can best tell us what
Brighton and Hove is really like?
A guidebook that attempts to
answer this question will be
launched tomorrow (28 April)
at the Ray Tindall Centre.

The Brighton Street-Talk Walk
details a three-hour circular walk
around the city, starting from the
station and taking in the North
Laine, Kemptown, The Lanes, West
Pier, Hove (actually) and St
Nicolas’ Church before returning
to the station.

David Popey, Publications
Assistant at the University, has
worked on the cartography for the
project and also undertaken some
of the oral history interviews.
Working by word of mouth and
personal recommendation to find
participants, and meeting in pubs
rather than an office, David and
the other members of the project
gradually collected accounts from
over 60 local people who offered
recollections of their life in
Brighton and Hove. These stories—
focus on specific streets or areas—
are presented in the book as part
of the guided walk.

“This is a tour of Brighton
focused on people rather than
landmarks,” says Keith Kennedy,
one of the originators of the idea.
“There are no media stars, just
stories out of the mouths of local
people.” The book includes 150
photos as well as the maps that
David worked on. “The maps are
an important part of this project
that helps readers to pinpoint the
streets being discussed,” says Keith.

The book launch at the Ray
Tindall Centre in Upper Gardner
Street starts at 5pm and will include
readings and a party with music.

Creche raises cash

The Creche’s fundraising efforts
in March, when children and staff
dressed up and toured campus
giving out cookies they had
made whilst collecting for Red
Nose Day, have raised £95 for
Comic Relief. The Creche
would like to thank everyone
who supported the event.

In brief

Elections to Council

Elections will be held shortly
to appoint one non-academic
member of staff and six
academic members of faculty
(four from Senate and two
others) to Council. Notices
with details have been
distributed. Nominations must
be received by Anne-Marie
Mitchinson by 12 noon on
Wednesday 9 May. Please
contact Anne-Marie on ext.
3855 with any queries.

Biotechnology
Commercialisation Manager

The Universities of Sussex and
Surrey have been awarded a contract from the
Department of Trade and
Industry to set up a
Biotechnology Exploitation
Platform (BEP), which will
exploit technology from both
universities by licensing
intellectual property, providing
services for client companies,
setting up trading units within
the Schools and forming new
companies. Sussex is the lead
partner in the BEP and Dr
Mike Shaw has been
appointed to the role of
Biotechnology
Commercialisation Manager in the
Research Services
Division. Mike will be working
on both campuses; at Sussex,
he will be located within the
Business Services Unit.

Robin Lee Poetry Prize 2001

Robin Lee was a student at
Sussex in the 1960s. On his
death, his mother set up and
funded an annual poetry
competition. Entry forms for
this year’s competition, which
is open to all students and
staff of the University (except
teaching faculty) are available
from Elaine Saunders (EAM),
Arts B239, ext. 7303. Entrants
may submit up to four poems,
totalling not more than 100
lines. The deadline is 12 noon
on Thursday 31 May. Cash
prizes are awarded to the
winner and runner-up.
Obituaries

Julius Carlebach

Professor Julius Carlebach, who died on 17 April at the age of 78, taught sociology and Jewish studies at Sussex from 1968 to 1989, when he was appointed Rektor of the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, an affiliated institution of the University of Heidelberg.

His pre-eminent role in the revival of Jewish studies in Germany was recognised by the award of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1994 and the Distinguished Service Medal of Baden-Württemberg on his final retirement in 1998.

After his retirement, Julius produced a series of important books and articles in the field of German-Jewish Studies. As a member of the Advisory Board both of the Leo Baeck Institute in London and of the University’s Centre for German-Jewish Studies, he also helped to raise the profile of the ongoing work at Sussex.

“I am amazed by the range of things he did in his career,” said Professor Edward Timms. In 1999, the University recognised his achievements by conferring on him the title of Emeritus Professor of German-Jewish Studies.

Eung-Soek Park

Eung-Soek Park, a first year research student, collapsed in London on 5 April after a period of ill health and died two days later. Eung-Soek, from Korea, had been taking a doctorate in Social and Political Thought within the Graduate School in the Social Sciences and was described by his supervisor, Professor William Outhwaite, as “very promising”.

First class

Geoffrey Clarke, Emeritus Reader in Statistics, has been awarded the Chambers Medal by the Royal Statistical Society “for his outstanding service to the Society and the Institute of Statisticians for over 25 years, including his dedication to the development of professional affairs, examinations and training courses, his considerable editorial work on The Statistician and his sound, timely and valued advice on these and many other matters both during and outside his time as an Honorary Secretary from 1992–1998”. Geoffrey was a Reader in Statistics in the former School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences before taking early retirement in the early 1980s. He was made an Emeritus Reader last year.

Dr John Dearlove (Politics), Dr Nigel Llewellyn (History of Art) and Dr Julian Perry Robinson (SPRU) have all been promoted to professorships.

Sport at Sussex

Dance and movement festival

Enjoy a weekend of African dance, Egyptian dance, ballet, Pilates, yoga, tai-chi, trapeze, Khai Bo, kick boxing, Feldenkrais and more, on 5 and 6 May at the Sportcentre (10am to 4.30pm both days). For an unlimited number of classes (subject to availability), tickets for staff and students are £10 for both days or £7.50 for one day. For further information or a booking form, contact the Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.

Charity sports night

Indoor fun including netball, badminton, short tennis and the wacky races, 6 June from 6-8pm at the Sportcentre in aid of Spiral (Mencap). Teams of six required, at least two females per team. Entry is £12 per team, all of which goes to Spiral, who are aiming to send two of their special-needs weightlifters to the Special Olympics in August. Last year in excess of £400 was raised. There will also be a raffle (prizes last year included a free flying lesson). For further information or a booking form, contact the Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.

Summer basketball camp

Train with the Brighton Bears from 5 to 10 August, 9.00am to 9.30pm. Suitable for boys and girls aged 12–18. All levels welcome. Book and pay before 1 May for the early bird rates: non-residential £59, residential £178. After 1 May: non-residential £69, residential £199. For further information or a booking form, contact the Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.

Outdoor activities

• Mixed doubles tennis tournaments on 16 May (5.30pm start), 10 June (2.00pm start – playing for the O’Reilly Cup) and 27 June (5.30pm start). The price per tournament is £3 per pair, with a maximum of 12 pairs per tournament.

• Outdoor 6-a-side intra-mural soccer league on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8pm. £18 per team plus £20 loyalty deposit. Max. 24 teams. Sign up by 7 May, first game 15 May.

New courses

• Beginners’ tennis, on Tuesdays from 12 noon–1pm, and intermediate tennis, on Thursdays from 1–2pm. Both with Simon.

• Creative dance, on Fridays from 6–10pm, with Julia.

Below: Your chance to emulate Andy Black and Teresa Wemban from BIDS last year’s O’Reilly Cup winners.

New code of standards for immigration advice

A new legally binding code of standards for the provision of immigration advice and services comes into effect on 1 May. The Code has far-reaching implications for the way the University offers advice to international students, their dependants and potential and current employees.

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 required the immigration services Commissioner to prepare a code of standards to regulate the conduct of advisors. One of the most important results of the Code is that only named individuals within an institution can offer immigration advice and services.

The intention is to prevent unscrupulous organisations from offering expensive, unreliable or incorrect immigration advice. To this end, any individual or organisation wishing to offer such advice must register with the Commissioner. Further, unless the Home Secretary’s application for a block exemption for publicly funded institutions of education and Students’ Unions is granted, each advisor will need to gain a certificate of registration by proving they comply with the Code. Even with an exemption, it is important to note that the University will still be bound by the Code and the requirements it sets out.

The International and Study Abroad Office is paying close attention to these developments and is available to offer advice to staff who are unsure of their position in regards to immigration matters.
Dear Editor,

I have a great sense of foreboding towards the VC's grand shake-up in the organisation of our university and its methods of delivering learning. Increasing the number of courses and reducing the length of seminars will dilute the critical approach to learning that seminar-level, two-way discussion promotes.

What is at issue is the quality of teaching on offer. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to objectively measure quality. A lower grading on a league table, often as not, indicates a limitation of the measuring process rather than the quality of the teaching being measured. Chasing league-table position, or parental approval, will turn Sussex into followers of academic fashion, not leaders and innovative iconoclasts.

I have heard (I do not know first hand as existing students seem to have been excluded from any consultation process) that parental perceptions have been one of the forces behind the planned changes. After 20 'gap' years, my parents are impressed that I came to university at all. Had they been unhappy with the supposedly limited contact time on offer at Sussex, I'm sure that I could have easily explained to them the difference between contact time and the working week. And how, with all the essays, presentations and reading, along with the seminars (and some lectures), my working week would be a full one. Thus, I wouldn't have changed my choice of universities, just marketed Sussex's superiority better.

The VC seems to have also forgotten existing students in his column published in Bulletin, January 2001. The glaring omission is what he plans to do to improve or maintain quality of service for current students; the imperative is to "strengthen our student recruitment, and generate more income". Does the University really need to change so drastically in order to make itself more attractive, or could its existing strengths be marketed more successfully?

Quality of contact time is more important than quantity. This is adult education and we should not be moving backwards towards more prescriptive and less interactive teaching. Seminar-led teaching is active, lecture-led teaching passive. I hope that the VC will be genuinely open to all options, including retaining the seminar-led, School-based system. I am sure that there are as yet unexplored options - less invasive and destructive - that can further improve an already excellent university.

Stuart Anderson
Finalist, English with Development Studies (AFRAS)

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Healthy campus

Mini health checks
New: find out your blood pressure, body fat, lung function and flexibility scores for only £3. Call the Falmer Sports Complex on ext. 7125 for further information.

Healthy walks
The walks during January's Health Week were so popular that the following are now offered: Environment Walks on 4 and 22 May with Amanda Hastings (Environmental Officer), Fitness Walks with Cat Stead and Lindy Ainsworth on 6 and 13 June (remember to wear sensible footwear). All these walks will commence at 1pm from Bramer House. Walk to Ditchling with Rob Eadsdale - 2pm start from the Meeting House. No need to sign up - just turn up.

Food for Mood workshop
Saturday 2 June from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to explore the relationship between what you eat and how you feel. Find out which foods could be contributing to feelings of anxiety, cravings, concentration difficulties, depression, fatigue or mood swings. Discover some good mood foods and eating habits that could change the way you feel. Price £36. To book, contact the Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.

UNISEX
Due to the popularity of the extra drop-in sessions during Health Week in January, the UNISEX Project will now be open every day during term-time.

The drop-in is open to all students and staff and offers information and confidential advice and support around any sexual health or drug/alcohol issue. Also available is the Contraception scheme, which provides a wide range of good-quality free and low-cost condoms and other safer-sex resources.

The UNISEX drop-in is part of the Student Advice Centre, first floor, Falmer House and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11am-2pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 4-6pm.

Anyone who has difficulty accessing Falmer House or who cannot visit at the above times should contact Kate Stickland, Project Co-ordinator (ext. 8641, email unisex@sussex.ac.uk), to arrange an appointment. For more information about UNISEX, visit www.sshag.net.

Happy 80th birthday, Asa!

This year marks not only the 40th anniversary of the University of Sussex, but also the 80th birthday of one of the University's founding fathers, Asa Briggs.

To celebrate, the University's Chancellor, Lord Attenborough, has invited Asa to be his guest of honour at the next Chancellor's Society evening on Wednesday 9 May.

The University's Royal Charter was granted in August 1961, when Asa became the first Pro-Vice-Chancellor and founding Dean of the School of Social Studies, now SOC. When Lord (John) Fulton left to become Chairman of the British Council in 1967, Asa took over from him as Vice-Chancellor.

Because of the relatively small numbers of staff during his time here, Asa knew most of them personally, and many were sorry to see him go when he left Sussex in 1976 to become Provost of Worcester College, Oxford. He was made a Life Peer in the same year and later became Chancellor of the Open University.

Asa and his wife, Susan, have continued to be great supporters of the University and have attended several gatherings of 1960s alumni. Some of Asa's contemporaries from the early days, as well as a number of current students, will be at next month's celebration. As usual, the event will raise funds for the Jubilee Scholarships, which help younger students with severe physical and sensory disabilities to get into university and study for a university degree.

Tickets are £21.60 each and tables seat a maximum of 10 people. Book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/alumni/news/chansoc2.htm or contact Celia Alexander in the Alumni Centre on ext. 8258.

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Swinging Sixties ...

From the Bulletin, 30 April 1965

Rag material
Max Handley and his Federation committee are well under way with the Rag Magazine but still need ideas and contributions from you all. Next term various students will be visiting guest houses and joining you at your tables in the University to extract jokes and amusing stories from you. I hope you will co-operate with them ... At one of the dances this term the Rag Queen will be chosen ... The dress grants have not yet been settled but will of course be generous. I am looking forward to seeing any young ladies wishing to enter as soon as possible ...

I would also appeal to everyone to make no statements to the press at all concerning Rag. This is most important as leaks of stunts etc. can cause us a lot of trouble. If you are asked about Rag by a reporter please send him to me.

Rag Committee Chairman
Small ads

WANTED: Anyone done a spring clean lately? Got any furniture you want to give away? In need of sofa, shelves, desk or anything else. Email s.c.koa-wing@susx.ac.uk or tel. 325488.

FOR SALE: HP Pavilion 3120 – Pentium 166 MHz, 2.9G hard drive, 16CD-ROM, 48 MB RAM, modern 33.6 Kbps, monitor 15", mouse, keyboard, speakers, £270. Contact A.F.Azevedo@susx.ac.uk.

WANTED: Room in shared house in Brighton, late June/early July to late Sep (dates flexible) for male student, 23, non-smoker. Pref. c.£50 per week. Contact Stefan on 07818 250989 or 0207 955 5213.

TO RENT: 2-bed flat with fabulous views, Wick Hall, Hove. Available end May, £800 pcm (heating, hot water, rates & water rates incl.). Email John on maystar@binternet.com.

WANTED: Participants for interesting social psychology study (takes 20 mins). Chance to win cash prizes or bottles of wine. Sign up on the sheet pinned to the door of room Arts E438 or email S.L.Holton@susx.ac.uk.

TO RENT: Well-maintained 1-bed Regency flat in Brighton / Hove from ca. 15 June. Only non-smoker, no pets. £140 pw plus bills. Contact: simons@artisansw.com.

TO RENT: 2 double-bed first-floor flat in Ferndale Road, Hove from 1 June. Suitable for long-term let. Faculty / postgraduate students sharing. Only £650 pcm excl. Tel. 302627 or 07748298926.

Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 30 Apr
2.30pm–7.30pm Jean-Luc Nuncy (Strasbourg), The deconstruction of monothemism. Arts A71.
3.00pm–4.30pm International Relations and Politics Research-in-Progress Seminar: Ellen Meksin's Wood (York), The commodification of empire: The origins of capitalist imperialism. C219.

Tue 1 May
2.15pm–3.50pm Sussex European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: Philip Budden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), title TBA. Arts A71.
4.00pm–5.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Peter Rogers (Bristol), Some causes and consequences of dieting. PEV 2A12.
4.15pm–5.30pm Biochemistry and Genetics Development Seminar: Alan Lehmahn (Sussex), title TBA. Ancillary Lecture Room.
6.00pm Tabletalk: Simon Ditchfield (York), Reading and writing women's lives in counter-Reformation Rome. Arts B26.

Wed 2 May
2.00pm South Asia Seminar: Benjamin Zachariah (East London), Idioms of political legitimacy in late colonial India: The place of development. Arts C162.
4.00pm–5.50pm Centre for Southern African Studies Seminar: Professors Brenda Donker and Malcolm Thorp. Arts C162.

Fri 5 May

Wed 9 May
1.00pm–2.30pm IDS Seminar: Diane Elson (Essex), Gender analysis and national budgets. IDS 120.
4.30pm History of Art Research Seminar: Margaret Mullett (Queen's, Belfast), The construction of identity in 12th-century Byzantium. Arts A103.

Thu 10 May
2.00pm–3.50pm Centre for Southern African Studies Seminar: Deborah Posel (Witwatersrand), title TBA. Arts C254.
4.30pm–6.30pm Geography Seminar: Vincent Mok (Hong Kong), Government policy and competitive advantages of foreign-financed firms in the Guangdong province of southern China. Arts D610.
5.00pm History of Work-In-Progress Seminar: Konstantin Diers (Oxford), When was race at stake? The social and cultural symbolism of literacy and letter writing in Anglo-America, 1680–1800. Arts A155.

Fri 11 May
11.00am–4.00pm History of Art Symposium: Margaret Mullett, Shaun Tougher, Dier Smythe, Liz James, Women, men and eunuchs: Gender in Byzantium. CCS Conference Room, Essex House.
2.15pm SPUR Seminar: Title TBA. EDB 121.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 3 May
American Studies Subject Group Coordinator (ref 166)

Apply by 4 May
Payroll and Pensions Officer, Staffing Services (ref 170)
Web Production Assistant, USIS (ref 171)

Apply by 10 May
Porter / Security Attendant, Library.