Work starts on Freeman Centre

Work is underway on campus to build the largest research centre in the world devoted to science, innovation and technology policy issues.

The £9.4 million Freeman Centre will combine the joint expertise of SPRU (Science and Technology Policy Research), currently housed in a different building at Sussex, and the Centre for Research in Innovation Management (CENTRIM), which will relocate from the University of Brighton.

And to mark the new development, on 30 January a 'ground-breaking' ceremony took place on the site of the new centre, now starting to take shape next to the campus exit.

A number of celebrity showlers cut the turf where the foundation trenches will be, including Vice-Chancellor Professor Alasdair Smith, who said the new centre would take SPRU’s ground-breaking research forward and represented a major step in the evolving partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton.

"This addition to the campus will bring a host of benefits to research and teaching staff," said another digger, SPRU's director Professor Ben Martin. "We expect the Freeman Centre to set a new standard for others to follow in the creation of collaborative and innovative research environments."

Both SPRU and CENTRIM have already developed international recognition for their research work. In recent years SPRU's projects have included studying policies on chemical and biological weapons warfare, food additives and food safety and risk management in new technologies. CENTRIM's main focus has been on working with both large and small companies to help them develop better management strategies.

Funded with assistance from the Government's Joint Infrastructure Fund and accommodating some 200 people, the Freeman Centre, which is named after SPRU's founder Professor Christopher Freeman, will also be one of the first low-energy buildings on the Sussex campus. The 4,600 square metre building will feature low-energy ventilation and heating systems. Stylistically, it will visually echo the existing campus architecture.

- Work has also begun on an extension to the Sussex Innovation Centre, which opened in 1996. The linked development, due to be completed in November, will double the available space for start-up high-tech and knowledge-based companies.

New underpass on its way at last

The underpass between Falmer station and the University campus is to be rebuilt this summer, the Highways Agency has announced.

Plans have been drawn up for a new £1 million subway that will be three times the width of the existing one, with improved drainage and lighting. It will also incorporate a cycleway and CCTV security cameras.

A design team from consultants WS Atkins, who are carrying out the work for the Highways Agency, will be exhibiting plans and taking questions in the Gardner Arts Centre music room on Monday 18 February from 6-9pm.

Work is due to begin in early July, after all exams have finished, and will continue into the beginning of the autumn term.

The construction team will use the triangle of grass between the A27 and the Sportcentre as a building site to make the underpass in sections. They will then shut the A27 while they install the completed structure over a long weekend. The new subway will be 30m to the Brighton side of the existing one, which will be filled in.

University staff in Estates have been putting pressure on the Highways Agency for many years to do something about the existing subway, which is less than 2m wide and is liable to flood every winter.

The possibility of erecting a bridge has been discussed, but it is a more expensive option than an underpass. English Heritage also has concerns about the aesthetic impact of a bridge so close to Falmer House, a grade 1 listed building.

Rob French, Special Projects Manager in Estates, said that the construction of a bridge in addition to an underpass might still be a possibility, further from Falmer House, if funding could be found. The plans to the replacement underpass are not dependent on the possibility of a bridge.
Teens@home with technology

Imagine a house that knows if you're ill, re-orders the ice cream when you run out, tells you how long to cook your pizza, obtains the latest video or DVD release for you, shuts your windows when it rains and makes sure you use your gas and electricity efficiently.

Science fiction or just around the corner? This year's Institution of Electrical Engineers Faraday Lecture on 'smart living', written by academics at Sussex, explores the technologies that will deliver radical changes to the way we live in the not-too-distant future.

Of mice and men

Genetic clues to the causes of deafness

Laura Duffy

Biology with European Studies finalist

Hereditary deafness is a common disorder, but one that is now providing valuable information about the way in which hearing actually works. Just out in *Nature Neuroscience* is a paper by Dr Corné Kros (pictured right), Dr Walter Marcotti and Dr Guy Richardson of BIOLS with co-workers at other universities, outlining a breakthrough that should help neuroscientists to understand hearing at a molecular level.

Hearing involves many complex stages. Sound waves are transmitted through a series of membranes and fluid-filled canals until they reach the inner ear, where sensory 'hair cells' are located. These specialised cells sit on a membrane that vibrates with the sound. Tiny bundles of hair-like structures called stereocilia at the tips of these cells detect the movement of the membrane and this information is converted into electrical impulses, which are sent to the brain.

Mice suffer from the same sort of hereditary deafness as humans. Corné and his colleagues have found that, in such mice, the hair bundles are very disorganised in their arrangement and lack tension. Normal hair cells require only a whisper to evoke a response but these mice need something stronger. They can hear but do so only at levels close to the pain threshold.

What causes these structural changes and subsequent loss of sensitivity? A new discovery by the team implicates a change in the genes coding for structural components of the cell. Normally, a muscle-like protein called myosin 7a maintains the structure of the hair bundles by tethering the cellular elements to the core of the hair cell. This keeps a 'resting tension' within the unstimulated stereocilia. In deaf mice, the genes coding for myosin 7a are absent and the resting tension is lost.

This discovery also applies to hereditary deafness in humans, as the same genes are implicated. These genes are also associated with other types of deafness. The associated illness, 'Usher syndrome 1B', also includes blindness because the same molecule, myosin 7a, is involved in vision.

The work in BIOLS, funded by the MRC, brings neuroscientists a step closer to understanding the fundamental causes of deafness. Ultimately, this may lead to new therapies.

Research Open Evening

A Research Open Evening on campus this month provides an ideal opportunity for potential postgraduates to find out about research at Sussex and to discuss the possibilities for undertaking a research degree.

Academic faculty will be available to outline research currently being undertaken, discuss research opportunities and answer specific enquiries. The Open Evening takes place in Bramber House between 5pm and 7pm on Tuesday 26 February. There will be two funding workshops at 5.30pm and 6.15pm. For further information, contact Postgraduate Admissions on ext. 8412, email PG.Admissions@sussex.ac.uk.

Research funding opportunities

More details of these and other research opportunities are available from the Research Services Division. Please contact your Research Support Officer for more information. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, see REFUND on the RSD website, www.sussex.ac.uk/units/research/refund.shtml

Royal Society Innovation Grants

Funding is available to promote innovation in the following areas: built environment; interaction of man-made artefacts with the earth; and diagnostic instrumentation. Senior grants are up to £250,000 and postdoctoral awards up to £30,000. Deadline: 26 February

AHRI Changing Places

Supports exchange visits of 3 or 4 months between HEI researchers and colleagues who work in libraries, archives museums, galleries, studios and theatres. Funding is £4,000 per month and covers replacement costs and travel and subsistence. Deadline: 30 April

Royal Society UK visits

Study visit grants are for visits of between 7 days and 3 months to enhance the research capabilities of individual scientists and develop international collaborative links. Awards cover subsistence and local travel but not international airfares or research expenses. Deadline: 1 May

Nuffield Foundation

Social Science Grants

Small grants up to £6,000 are available to meet the cost of research assistance, research materials, data collection and analysis, and travel and subsistence. The Trust encourages applications which develop new research careers. No Deadline

Leverhulme Trust Prize Fellowships

Scholars under 36 can apply for £50,000 fellowships in the following fields: biochemistry & molecular biology; earth, ocean & atmospheric sciences; economics; modern history from 1800; and software technology for info. & communications systems.
The University's new corporate strategy was approved by Senate and Council in June 2001, and in December a number of targets were set for measuring the success of the University in meeting the objectives set in the corporate strategy.

Our corporate strategy is not a vacuous 'mission statement'. There is a very simple test for whether mission statements mean anything - insert the word 'not', and if the statement is self-evidently silly, the original version has no real content. "We aim to offer excellent learning opportunities for students" is a true but not very revealing statement because the contrary statements "We do not aim to offer excellent learning opportunities" or "We aim to offer mediocre learning opportunities" would never be advanced as mission statements.

Nor is the corporate strategy a rigid five-year plan. We need to be responsive to changing circumstances and constraints, and the corporate strategy must therefore be a living document, subject to review and amendment.

If we are to be successful in meeting our collective goals, the list of goals has to be short, striking and strategic.

The University is now developing a small number of key targets against which we can judge our progress. We aim to raise applications per undergraduate place by 40%, to increase the entry standard of students who come to Sussex with conventional A levels by 10%, and to halve drop-out rates. We still have to develop targets for the University's widening participation strategy, which emphasises the development of part-time programmes. The widening participation strategy is not in direct conflict with our recruitment and retention targets, but it does provide a particularly challenging context! We also aim to have a significant increase in the number of graduate students and of overseas students at Sussex.

I wrote in January about the outcome of the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). We are now developing a strategy for the next exercise, and there is wide agreement that planning and management of research needs to start now. The aim must be to move a high proportion of research at Sussex into the category of 'international excellence'. We need to look not at what other universities have achieved in 2001, but at what they will be seeking to achieve next time and aim to be high up the league table.

The University has also set itself demanding financial targets. These have been set not because financial security is an end in itself, but because we must have resources to invest in new posts and new activities if the University is to remain academically healthy. In the short run we face a difficult period of financial adjustment. Following the RAE, we are likely to lose over £1m of income annually, and we are already running a deficit.

To deal with the income shortfall and to create headroom for new investment requires a financial adjustment of perhaps £3m annually. The more of that adjustment that can be made through increasing income (increased graduate student intake, higher research grant overheads, and so on) the better. However, most of the £3m adjustment will have to come from cutting costs, and my view is that "it were well it were done quickly".

The appointment of Deans of the new Schools is now under way. I am confident that the new School structures will provide a strong framework within which we can all work together towards meeting the challenges the University faces, and I very much look forward to working closely with the new Deans.

In his memoirs, Lord Shawcross recalled another Sussex appointment: "I was at an early stage appointed chairman of the buildings committee for the whole University. I think on the theory that it would involve one professional man - me - dealing with another professional man, the leading architect. This was not always easy but the redoubtable Basil Spence and I got on well together."

Lord Shawcross was elected Chancellor - the University's most senior officer - at a special meeting of Court in 1965. His duties included presiding over graduation ceremonies and the annual meetings of Court.

Most importantly, though, he acted as a figurehead. Installing Lord Shawcross as Chancellor at a ceremony in the Brighton Dome, the then Vice-Chancellor, Lord Fulton, said: "We count on you to help us in building bridges to the outside world; as the University's ambassador, to interpret us to our neighbours and them to us; above all, to join us in the task of replacing passion by reason and of exchanging understanding for fear, prejudice and ignorance in the conduct of human affairs."

After retiring in 1985, Lord Shawcross installed Lord March (later the Duke of Richmond and Gordon) as his successor. The current postholder is Lord Attenborough, who was elected in 1998.

Lord Shawcross holds honorary degrees from nine universities in Britain and the USA and has been a director of some 15 companies including EMI, Shell Petroleum and Times Newspapers. At 100, he is the oldest member of the House of Lords.
Remote heartbeat monitor will outperform current technology

Jacqui Bealing
Press Office

Founding dean of the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Professor Jon Cohen, began his first day in the job this week with interviews for BBC TV South East and BBC Southern Counties Radio. He talked about the challenges ahead and the benefits the school will bring to the two universities and the local community.

Following an article in New Scientist about his new device to monitor heartbeats remotely, Professor Terry Clark (EIT) has been swamped with media requests. He was filmed by Meridian TV, talked to Metro newspaper, was featured on BBC Online and answered questions for Sweden's largest news technology journal, Ny Teknik. Inquiries have also come from Channel 4's 'Richard and Judy' show, Star Trek Monthly, and BBC Radio 4's 'The Material World'.

Whenever journalists need an academic to talk about gambling, the chances are that statistician Dr John Haigh (SMS) will be contacted. Last week he was heard on a BBC Radio 4 programme, 'Reinventing the Wheel', talking about how to 'lose slowly' at roulette.

And whenever a scientist is required to talk about the importance of explaining science to the masses, Professor Sir Harry Kroto (CPES) is likely to crop up. He was the author of a lengthy article in the Daily Telegraph last week, as well as being a guest on BBC Radio 4's 'Start the Week'.

Dr Rose Luckin's (COGS) research into children's interactive toys received a full investigation by BBC Southern Counties Radio, with a live 25-minute slot, while fellow psychologist Dr Andy Field (COGS) has had interest from broadcasters as far afield as Australia in his study on how children develop phobias.

Above: Professor Terry Clark and the prototype of the remote heartbeat monitor.

Doctors may be able to monitor a patient's heartbeat from a distance by using a radical new sensor that is currently being developed in the School of Engineering and Information Technology.

Although research by Professor Terry Clark and his team is in the early stages, the device has already been used to monitor a cloaked person's heartbeat from a metre away, without any electrical connections. Potential applications of the sensor include remote monitoring of burn victims who cannot be touched.

The researchers present their remarkable new data in the current issue of Measurement Science and Technology and describe a fresh approach to the detection of electrical activity in the human body.

They predict that the new approach will lead to radical improvements in the measurement of electrical activity in the heart (using electrocardiograms, or ECGs) and brain (using electroencephalograms, known as EEGs) as well as other parts of the body. Existing ECGs record the rhythm and activity of the heart via small adhesive pads on the surface of the skin. The pads are connected to a machine that picks up and amplifies the electrical signals produced by each heartbeat and displays them on a screen or print-out.

But the problem with ECGs, says Terry, is that the skin contacts distort the electrical measurements because they drain the current slightly. "You get a smaller and distorted signal," he told the New Scientist, which details the work.

"It's best not to make contact with the skin."

Together with Dr Robert Prance and Dr Christopher Harland, Terry set about developing a remote, non-contact alternative. The resulting sensor is a small disc about a centimetre across - although the team won't say much more about it, preferring to keep the details close to their chest while patents are pending.

However, Terry is confident about the potential of their new approach, suggesting that in the near future it may form the basis of a radically new technology. "We now have the means to access and detect non-invasively any electrical signal ranging from foetal heart signals through to EEGs of brain function," he says.

Dr Ary Goldberger, a cardiologist at Harvard Medical School in the USA, told the New Scientist that the claim needed to be independently verified, but agreed that the sensor could be the basis of a major advance in remote medical sensing.

• The group are the first to develop their intellectual property under the University's new Code of Practice on Intellectual Property, Commercial Exploitation and Financial Benefits. They are working with the University's Commercialisation Manager, Russ Bown, to license the intellectual property to a number of leading ECG manufacturers and to provide support throughout the product-development process.

The University has ambitious plans to increase the volume and commercial value of research ideas (known as "intellectual property") that are developed for manufacturing and business purposes and will be encouraging academics to follow in the footsteps of Professor Terry Clark's group, who have just filed a patent application for their remote heartbeat monitor.

A new University of Sussex company will be responsible for commercialising intellectual property, with three business streams to exploit research output: licensing and company formation; research contracts with commercial clients; and consultancy.

The chief executive officer of the new company, Dr Allan Symms, took up his post this week. Allan was a biochemistry undergraduate at Sussex in the mid 1970s and has been the chief executive of three successful spin-out companies from UCL, UMIST and Aberdeen University.

In addition, a joint venture with the University of Surrey encourages and supports the commercialisation of biotechnology-based research ideas generated by Sussex academics within the School of Biological Sciences.

Beacon Bio, as the new venture is known, has funding under the Biotechnology Exploitation Platform (BEP) challenge of the Department for Trade and Industry and employs a specialist Biotechnology Commercialisation Manager, Dr Mike Shaw.
Inquiring infants required

How do we know what a baby knows? For example, if an object is hidden from view an adult understands that it still continues to exist in time and space. But what about babies? At what age do they know about the permanence of objects? And even if very young babies know about objects, is this knowledge the same as an adult’s?

Experimental psychologist Dr Ted Ruffman (BIOLS) is addressing all these questions, using a range of hide-the-toy tasks, in a series of studies funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

One central idea that links all the studies is the claim that a baby’s knowledge of an object’s location can be demonstrated by their gaze. “It does seem that babies will often look to the correct location of an object even if they search incorrectly,” says Ted, “and we want to explore this with a range of tasks for babies aged 3 to 12 months.”

If you’d like your baby to take part in one of the studies or know of anyone who might, please contact research fellow Lance Slade on ext. 3918 or email lances@biols.susx.ac.uk.

Ted stresses that all the tasks are very baby friendly and quick. Parents receive a certificate and a colour print-out from the video of their baby engaged in the tasks.

Sleuth hunts for silverfish

A postgraduate neuroscientist is appealing for staff and students to supply him with silverfish (those scurrying little pests from granny’s cupboards) so that he can establish a breeding colony.

Dave Booth (pictured above) is a DPhil student in the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience, working with Professor Jonathan Bacon and Dr Alan Stewart on a project funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

To help him with the study, which looks at the evolution of escape behaviour in primitive insects, Dave is on the hunt for nooks and crannies around campus that are known silverfish ‘hotspots’. Shaped like a torpedo, the tiny, wingless insects are about 1cm in length. They prefer dark, moist, warm conditions and are often found in bathrooms and kitchens. They will eat almost anything and thrive on the tiniest scraps of food, preferring starch from sources such as bread and flour, paper and glue in old books, and wallpaper paste.

“I guess the people with the real expertise here will be our cleaners and technicians,” Dave says. “The insects often manage to climb into plastic tubs and containers inside cupboards and then can’t get out – and this is essentially how we trap them.”

Dave is keen to emphasise that his traps are not lethal: “We need the silverfish very much alive, and we intend to keep them that way!” he stresses. Alternatively, Dave is happy to collect from anyone who can actually catch a few.

This won’t be easy, because silverfish get their name not only from the covering of tiny scales that gives them a shiny appearance but also from their rapid, darting movements. Like other insect families, silverfish avoid capture by detecting the motion of an approaching threat using tiny wind-sensitive hairs, and they can easily evade predators by scurrying into a dark corner.

There is, of course, a bit more to Dave’s study than just blowing puffs of air at insects and seeing which way they run. “This type of insect escape system is relatively simple for us to understand,” he explains, “and therefore a useful model system for neuroscientists who are trying to find answers to more general questions about how nervous systems develop and repair themselves.”

Biologists have made extensive studies of cockroaches, but until now nobody has studied the escape behaviour of even more primitive insects like silverfish – which probably haven’t changed much in 350 million years. “We have learned a lot from the cockroach system,” says Dave, “and the silverfish and their close relatives may be able to teach us much more.”

Cash for AIDS

A cash collection for World AIDS Day on 1 December raised £572 for local HIV charities. Volunteers for UNISEX, the sexual health project for the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, collected money across both campuses with the assistance of many departments.

BIOLS Christmas charity party

The BIOLS Christmas party at the King and Queen pub in Brighton raised £228 for Crisis at Christmas. The organisers would like to thank all the enterprises – including the Bookshop and Bodyslop, Falmer Bar, Gardner Arts Centre, Bagelman and Sportcentre – that supported the prize raffle with generous contributions.

Calling all travellers

The British University Sports Association (BUSA) is offering cash prizes to develop student sport. For Sussex to be in with a chance, as many students and staff as possible have to be photographed abroad wearing a BUSA t-shirt. If you’re off on your travels, contact Kevin in the USSU Activities Centre on ext. 8155, email ussu-activities@sussex.ac.uk; or Matt via the Sport Service on ext. 8228, email M.P.Lindner@sussex.ac.uk.
ESRC recognition exercise

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has just announced the results of its latest recognition exercise. The outcome for Sussex has been extremely favourable, with 22 Masters programmes across a wide range of social science disciplines and interdisciplinary areas being granted full recognition.

ESRC recognition is a requirement for all relevant academic departments at UK universities in order for potential academic students on MA and research degrees to be eligible for ESRC funding.

"This is a fantastic result and demonstrates the ESRC's confidence in the delivery of graduate programmes at the University," said Alan Soutter, Secretary to the University's Graduate Studies Committee.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, commented: "This excellent outcome shows that we can respond successfully to the changing needs of our students and of external funders." He gave particular thanks to Professor John Holmwood (SOC), who co-ordinated the University's submission.

The requirements for research methods training are being made more stringent than before and from October the ESRC will no longer provide studentships for Masters programmes independent of doctoral study. Students wishing to study for a DPhil will be required to do a relevant Masters degree in research methods during the first four years of funded study.

Masters programmes at Sussex associated with the following subject areas have been granted full recognition: COGS; Contemporary History; Cultural and Media Studies; Culture, Development & Environment; Economics; Education; Geography; Institute of Development Studies; International Relations and Politics; Psychology; Social Anthropology; Social & Political Thought; Social Work and Social Policy; Sociology (and Centre for Women's Studies); SPRU; Sussex Centre for Migration Studies; Sussex European Institute.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 14 February
Research Fellow, COGS (ref 290)
2 x Data Monitors, CRC Psychosocial Oncology Group (ref 077b)
Unix System Administrator, COGS (ref 076)
Apply by 15 February
Medical School Secretary, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (ref 296)
Research Fellow, COGS (ref 291)
Research Fellow, CRES (ref 070b)
Library Officer / Security Attendant (ref 298)
E-Strategy Leader, Library (ref 292)
Research Fellow, BIOL (ref 076)

Small ads

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
Interested in climbing, walking, canoeing, sailing or mountain biking? Join Brighton Explorers, a multi-activity outdoors club. Contact Adam on ext. 8480, email a.c.eyrewalker@sussex.ac.uk or see www.brightonexplorers.org.

FOR SALE: PASS Labs X2 hi-fi pre-amplifier. Book
remote control, accepts single-ended and balanced inputs £995 (costs £2250 new). For reviews see:
www.audioviewire.com reviews/Preamplifier/product_6016.shtml. Contact Lucas Bowler on ext. 7779 or email
lucash@biobs.susx.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: 2-bed 1st-floor flat in Sandown Rd (off Elm Grove), with front and rear garden, good-size kitchen.
£119,950. Contact Fox & Son, tel. 077544.

FOR SALE: Large IKEA oak table + chairs (£100); IKEA IVAR bookshelves/supports (offers); microwave with built-in oven & grill (£50); ironing board & steam iron (£15); Philips vacuum cleaner (£30), Ext. 8373 or email a.a.green@susx.ac.uk.

WANTED: Visiting professor (from Santa Cruz) and family seek to rent 3-bed furnished house 1 Aug-late Dec, preferably in Downs village. Up to £1,250 ppcm. Contact Ronnie Lipschutz at rlipshch@cats.uidaho.edu, tel. 01 831 423 1084.

FOR SALE: Nissan Micra 1.3 LX, K reg., stereo, 37k miles, full service, 1yr MOT £1,500. Contact Claudia Gama, email claudia@ cogs.susx.ac.uk, ext. 8061, tel. 385981.

TO LET: Ground-floor studio flat, 2 mins Bton station, PG, mature student or single professional preferred. From end Feb. £100 p/w. Contact Alexandra Loske, ext. 7762, tel. 880439, email A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: New home with lots of light for healthy Swiss cheese plant (c.10yrs old) that has outgrown current home. Approx. 9ft tall with large leaves and baby ones coming along all the time. £40 p/w (buyer collects). Email r.orill@susx.ac.uk or call ext. 7432, tel. 245963.

WANTED: Transcribing machine, will collect. Call Caroline Norrie on ext. 7021 (pm only), email C.Norrie@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Buffet oboe, in original carry case, with cleaning brushes, etc. £450 o.n.o. Email h.torrance@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Double futon (mattress and base). VGC. £70. Email P.L.Williams@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 8745.

DAY TRIP TO FRANCE: On 20 Apr, orgd by Jeff Bailey from Estates. A few seats still available. First come, first served. Email L.Wall@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Fencing equipment, Electric foil (r/h pistol grip), jacket (medium size - front zip), Ulman mask, glove and body wire. In immaculate condition, offers invited. Email bco@ central.sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 6936.

FOR SALE: Two oil-fired electric radiators, one large (with timer) and one small. Still under guarantee. £60 for both. Contact Jean on ext. 3777 or 698696.

TO LET: 1 bedroom in quiet 4-bed house off Lewes Rd. £220 pcm. Female PG or finalist preferred. Contact Sara on 660337 or sara436@central.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: 3-piece suite, £150 o.n.o. Buyer collects. Email D.Finnimore@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Host families in the B'ton. Hove and Lewes area for visiting foreign students. £60 p/w per student (inc. breakfast/evening meal). Ext. 8338, email D.Finnimore@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Large room in cottage cottage. Car essential - garage inc. From 1 March. Single occupancy £350 ppcm, double occupancy £525 inc. plus phone, Email Carol.Booker@btopenworld.com or tel. 01444 400944.

FOR SALE: New gas fire, Parts still in box. Unwanted after house move. £250 o.n.o. Tel. 470940.

FOR SALE: Exercise mat and 5 foam bricks for lyengar yoga. £15. Contact Hilary on ext. 3560 or email h.holt@sussex.ac.uk.
Oyez oyez! Avis à tous les francophiles du campus

Tutorial fellow Christiane Freeman has just set up an open, online bulletin board for all French natives and all students studying French at Sussex.

Both groups of students can benefit from it in several ways because the bulletin board has mentoring, cultural and social functions. “It is a great opportunity for students to help each other (when writing essays or with administrative tasks, for example), to exchange ideas about culture or current affairs and to meet up socially,” says Christiane.

Go to www.sussex.ac.uk/vbulletin and click on L’Entente Cordiale, or email c.m.freeman@sussex.ac.uk for more details.

Student wins internship at heart of US power

“Since September 11th, we have been shown the importance of the transatlantic dialogue,” says Hermione. “Whether you agree with American policy or not, the fact is that Britain and America are interrelated.”

Hermione is one of only 10 students to be selected from over 150 applicants nationwide, and is the only one to come from a non-Oxbridge university.

“I’m hoping to work on trade issues working with think-tanks and NGOs,” says Hermione, who has previously worked in Ecuador with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), and was the project’s representative at a UN meeting of NGOs in New York.

Hermione is organising a music concert in her home town of Oxford in May to help raise the necessary funds (approximately £3,000) for the internship. The IR & Politics subject group has granted Hermione £150 from the Norman Agnell Fund. She is also seeking financial support from businesses or individuals.

Nominate sports stars on campus

On 11 May the University will be holding its first-ever Sports Awards Ball at the Hilton West Pier Hotel.

This will be an opportunity to award a full or half blue to Sussex students who have achieved representative honours at national or county standard. Other awards will include club of the year, most improved club of the year, sports woman of the year and sports man of the year.

If you would like to nominate someone for a blue or half blue award, contact the Sports Federation Office in Falmer House for a nomination form.

There will also be a staff of the year award, sponsored by the Sport Service. This will be given to a University staff member who has either achieved outstanding sporting success while working at the University or who has made an outstanding contribution over and above their coaching remit to a club or sports programme.

Nomination forms for the staff award are available from the Sport Service. Email info@sussexsport.com, ext. 8229. Tickets for the Sports Ball are available from the Sports Federation Office, Falmer House at £25 per head.

Sussex law students win at interviewing and negotiating

Client interviewing regional win

Law students Jim McGregor (SLS) and Victoria Young (EAM) have won the regional stage of a national client interviewing competition. The team had to act as solicitors, interviewing and advising actors who were playing the part of clients.

The competition was held in the Old Naval College at Greenwich University, where Jim and Victoria competed against eight other law schools in the south of England and came joint first with a team of postgraduate students from the Inns of Court Law School.

The final of the national competition will be held at Kingston University on 23 February. If Jim and Victoria are successful at this stage they will fly out to Florida at Easter for the international competition.

Negotiating success

The winners of this year’s SLS negotiation competition each received a prize of £150 and a week’s work placement from sponsor DMH, which has offices in Brighton, Crawley and London.

Hermione Holland, finalist in international relations and development studies in AFRAS, has won a summer internship in the office of a US Senator in Washington DC.

The three-month Capitol Hill internship is organised by the English-Speaking Union, an educational charity based in London that promotes the use of English throughout the world. The Catholic University of America in Washington DC provides accommodation and a week of orientation to the interns.

History postgraduate Andrew Harvey is pictured before, during and after having his head shaved to raise money to send sick children on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, in the French Pyrenees.

Andrew hopes to raise £500, and to make a donation, you can call him on 07816 019622 or email egghead4lourdes@aol.com.

Gilda Kii and Matthew Jenkins, both of whom intend to qualify as barristers, reached the final by completing a three-month negotiation course in their own time and then winning three early rounds of the competition.

Negotiation is one of three vocational skills courses offered by SLS to students, designed to promote and develop their practical legal abilities.

The competitors negotiate in teams of two about a scenario set within a legal context. In the final, the competitors were required to secure a deal for their respective clients within the context of the break-down of a business partnership.

To do this they had to demonstrate detailed knowledge of the facts, fluency of argument in advancing their clients’ positions, teamwork, lateral thinking and an awareness of legal ethics.

Gilda and Matthew will now go on to represent the University against teams from the south of England at the regional heats, which will be held at City University in London tomorrow (9 February).
Lectures, seminars, colloquia
Mon 11 Feb 1.00pm–2.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Chris Darwin (Sussex). What? Where? Auditory continuity with one and with two ears. EP Seminar Room 4D13/4D14.
4.00pm Social Psychology Graduate & Faculty Seminar: Nick Emery (LSE). A social psychology of reputation. Arts D340.
4.00pm Sociology Graduate Faculty Seminar: Mark Elton (Brighton). "When I'm in the garden I can create my own paradise": Gardening in later life. Arts D310.
4.30pm–5.30pm Sussex Centre for Neuroscience Seminar: Dora Duka (Sussex). Disturbed emotions in alcoholics. Anicentary Lecture Room, BOLS.
5.00pm Literary and Intellectual History Seminar: Kate Bennett (Cambridge). The rattlesnake, the kidney and the mutilated bishop: Aubrey's life and the cabinet of curiosities. GRC Humanities Common Room, Arts B.
5.30pm–7.00pm Sussex Open Seminar: Ivor Goodson (Sussex). Aspects of educational change. EBD 341.

Tues 12 Feb 12.30pm–2.00pm Joint Centre for Life History Women Studies Seminar: Molly Andrews (East London). Counter-narratives of early maternal influence. Library Meeting Room.
1.00pm–2.30pm IDS Seminar Series on Islam, Crisis and the Future of Development: Jeff Halper (Ben Gurion). Engaged anthropology: Development, politics and advocacy with reference to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. IDS Room 221.
2.15pm–3.50pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Claire Spencer (Chatham House). The EU's relations with Algeria: Will the Association Agreement make a difference? Arts A71.
4.00pm CGGS Seminar: Wendy Hall (Southampton). Little TBA. Arndt 404A.
4.15pm–5.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Robert Poole (Sheffield). Bacterial haemoglobin: No news is good news. Biology Lecture Theatre.
5.00pm Theory and Research: Eftichios Pironakis (Sussex). The fiction of testimony in Ricœur and Derrida. GRC Humanities Common Room.
5.00pm–7.00pm Media Studies Graduate Research Seminar: Anita Bireisi (Buckinghamshire). Chlorination disinfection by products in drinking water: Exposure and assessment. EPEV-21A2.
Fri 15 Feb 2.15pm–4.00pm SPRU Friday Seminar: Simon Barnes (Imperial College). Entrepreneurship in the life sciences. EBD 121.
4.00pm–5.00pm Sussex Astronomy Seminar: Nalls Anderson (Southampton). Gravitational waves from unstable r-modes in spinning stars. Arundel 401.
Sun 17 Feb 3.00pm Bill Epstein Memorial Lecture: Emanuel de Kadt (Utrecht). Fundamentalism, religion, identity. Ajeel Hall, Palmeira Avenue, Hove.
Mon 18 Feb 1.00pm–2.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Brendan Wees (Sussex). Why does the age of acquisition of a word affect lexical processing? EP Seminar Room 4D13/4D14.
2.00pm–3.15pm Palaver Language Group: Larry Trask (Sussex). How non-linguists see language and linguistics. Arts A155.
2.30pm–2.00pm Centre for Environmental Research: Mark Niezenhujjen (Imperial College). Chlorination disinfection by products in drinking water: Exposure and assessment. EPEV-21A2.
3.00pm–6.00pm Sussex Centre for Neuroscience Seminar: Paul Norman (Sheffield). Good intentions and bad habits: Examining the modern world's role in past behaviour on intention- behaviour relations. Arts D340.
4.30pm–5.30pm Sussex Centre for Neuroscience Seminar: Brian Day (University College London). After Ecstasy: Cognitive and serotoninergic function in men who have stopped using MDMA. Anicentary Lecture Room, BOLS.
5.00pm–6.00pm UoSSE Open Seminar: Vivienne Griffiths and Angela Jacklin (Sussex). Investigating the development of newly qualified primary teachers. EBD 134.
5.15pm University of Sussex Media and Information Studies Seminar: Susan McKenna (Sussex). ‘Can we take it outside?’ The rise of critical DIY media in the context of, and in response to, digital culture.
Wed 20 Feb 1.00pm–2.30pm IDS Seminar: Chris Zielinski (Information Workstations). Is there a right to essential health information? Taking a simple idea to the limits. IDS Room 221.
4.30pm History of Art Research Seminar: Dan Tyrwhitt (Sussex). Dominating the Old Testament: the role of medieval imagery in migration and identity change. EBD 360.

Performance
Wed 13–Sat 16 Feb SMUTS - Guys and Dolls SMUTS (Sussex University Musical Theatre Society) brings to life the Broadway of the 1940s inhabited by gamblers, nightclub performers and Salvation Army members trying to counter the sins of the Times Square population.
Sun 17 Feb 7.45pm Susheela Raman Trained in Indian classical music, Susheela Raman is a captivating artist who moves with ease between that and the most contemporary urban sounds. She plays with a 6-piece band.

Gardner Arts Centre
Box Office: (01273) 685861 www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Cinema
Fri 8 Feb 8pm Sol y clara (PG)
Sat 9 Feb 8pm Brotherhood of the Wolf (U): 1.30pm
Sun 10 Feb 5pm The Pledge (15)
8pm El Espinazo del Diablo (The Devil's Backbone) (15)

Exhibitions
Until 17 Mar Photoworks - It's Wrong to Wish on Space Hardware
A group exhibition based around space and space travel, including the work of contemporary photographers, archival photographs from NASA and astrological images.

Bulletin
The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Peter Simmons, with regular contributions from Jacquie Bealing. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 22 February, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 15 February. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Maurice Chevalier and his wife, Lily Pons, on their way to the Savoy Hotel in London, 1930. Maurice played an important role in bringing the French musical style to the United States. His career spanned over 50 years, and he is remembered as one of the most beloved actors of his time. The Savoy Hotel is a historic hotel located in London, and it has been a popular destination for celebrities and dignitaries for many years. Chevalier's visit to the Savoy was a significant event, and it is likely that the hotel staff worked hard to accommodate his needs and ensure that he had a comfortable stay. The image of Chevalier and his wife on their way to the hotel is a valuable historical document, providing a glimpse into the past and offering insights into the lives of these celebrated figures.