Astrophysicists save the Earth

Calculations show Sun will not swallow our planet

The astronomy textbooks will have to be rewritten, say astrophysicists at Sussex who have re-examined standard calculations about solar evolution and the distant future of the Earth.

The textbooks tell us that one day the Sun will burn up its nuclear fuel and expand to an enormous size, finally engulfing its inner planets including Earth. However, using the latest data based on real stars, the Sussex researchers suggest a (slightly) less catastrophic future for our planet.

As their hydrogen fuel runs out at the end of their ‘lives’, stars like the Sun expand to become a red supergiant of several hundred times their initial diameter. Most astronomers expect the solar red supergiant to swallow Mercury, Venus and then Earth in about 7.5 billion years’ time, when it has expanded beyond the orbit of our planet.

But Earth may survive after all, say the Sussex astronomers, if an important extra detail is considered: the ongoing loss of mass and weakening gravity while a star is a red supergiant.

Dr Robert Smith (pictured above) from CPES explains the significance of this effect: “Taking this into account, the orbit of the Earth would increase beyond the Sun’s outer atmosphere by a small but crucial margin at all phases of the Sun’s evolution – allowing our planet to continue.”

The new calculations are published in the current issue of Astronomy & Geophysics. They were made by Robert together with Dr Klaus-Peter Schröder from the University’s Astronomy Centre and Kevin Apps, the famous student stargazer who co-discovered 10 planets while still an undergraduate at Sussex.

Although the Earth may survive, long before then its surface will have become too hot to sustain human life. But the good news from the team of researchers is that it will be 5.7 billion years before our planet becomes a no-go zone for life – about 200 million years later than previously thought.

So, ask the Sussex astronomers, is there anywhere in the solar system that would be safe, or does our survival depend on finding another star system? Is it possible to hop outwards from one planet or satellite to the next, always keeping ahead of the Sun?

There are periods, they calculate, when we could in principle survive on one of the outer planets such as Mars, but there will be long gaps when none of them is habitable.

Margaret Boden awarded OBE

Margaret Boden, Professor of Philosophy and Psychology in the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences (COGS), has been awarded an OBE for services to cognitive science in the New Years Honours List.

Margaret works on the philosophy and history of psychology and artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on the phenomena of purpose and creativity.

“I use computational concepts to try and answer questions about how material creatures can have goals and intentions and how they come up with creative ideas,” she says.

Margaret studied medical sciences and philosophy at Cambridge before going to Harvard on a Harkness Commonwealth Fund Fellowship from 1962 to 1964.

“l wanted to come to Sussex before I even left for Harvard,” says Margaret. “What attracted me to Sussex, and what has kept me here, was the interdisciplinary nature of the teaching and research.”

She came to Sussex in 1965 and was one of the founders in the early 1970s of the Cognitive Studies programme, making Sussex the first university in the world to offer undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in this area. In 1980 Margaret became a professor and she was made Dean of the School of Social Sciences (SOC) in 1985. Two years later she became the founding Dean of the new School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences.

“It is somewhat ironic that I’ve received this award at a time when COGS is being broken up,” says Margaret. “Nonetheless, we intend that the COGS name and research will remain in the new administrative structure.”

Margaret became a Fellow of the British Academy in 1983 and is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. In January 2001 she received an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Sussex. One of her current projects is a major book on the history of cognitive science.

• Professor Mary Kaldor, formerly based in the Sussex European Institute but now at the London School of Economics, received a CBE for services to global governance and democracy.
Bookmark

New books by Sussex authors

John Haigh (Reader in Statistics, SMS)

Probability Models
Springer, £15.95

The publisher says: “Probability Models is designed to aid students studying probability as part of an undergraduate course on mathematics or mathematics and statistics. It describes how to set up and analyse models of real-life phenomena that involve elements of chance. Examples come from everyday experiences of probability via dice and cards, the idea of fairness in games of chance, and the random ways in which, say, birthdays are shared or particular events arise. Definitions and theorems supported by fully worked examples and some 200 set exercises, all with solutions.”

Denise deCaires Narain

(Lecturer in English, AFRAS)

Contemporary Caribbean Women’s Poetry: Making Style Routledge, £55.00

The publisher says: “This work offers a sustained account of Caribbean women’s poetry and provides detailed readings of a range of innovative poetry. The book explores the factors which have resulted in the marginalization of women’s voices, particularly within nationalist poetic discourses where arguments about an appropriate poetic voice have been strongly contested by a number of Caribbean male poets, including Derek Walcott and Kamau Brathwaite. Taking three pioneering women poets of the region, Una Marson, Phyllis Shand Allfrey and Louise Bennet, the book offers an assessment of the varied literary and cultural reputations generated by their work, and the respective poetic trajectories pursued, to explore the degree to which they might function as ‘literary mothers’ to the ten, more contemporary, poets discussed in the book. Throughout the book, the discussion of Caribbean women’s poetry is located within the intersecting discursive contexts of Caribbean, feminist and post-colonialist studies.”

Daniel B. Wright

(Reader in Psychology, COGS)

First Steps in Statistics: Introducing Statistical Methods Sage, £15.99 (paper), £50.00 (hardback)

The publisher says: “First Steps in Statistics is an introduction to the most common statistics used and taught on first-year research methods courses and is designed to map onto a ten or fifteen-week module.”

All titles are available from the University Bookshop. If you are a Sussex author and have a book coming out in January, let us know on ext. 8888 or by email at Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Research shows African gorillas are now seriously endangered

Ruth Knowles

Postgraduate student, BIOLS

Hunting, small population sizes and inbreeding threaten the survival of a newly classified subspecies of gorilla on the Nigerian/Cameroon border, according to research by a postgraduate in the School of Biological Sciences (BIOLS).

Recent research involving DNA analysis and skull records has revealed that the local cross river gorilla is distinct from other gorillas in West Africa. Jacqui Groves, an MPhil student working with Dr David Hill in BIOLS, has found that, with only 200-250 of these gorillas left in the wild, they are seriously endangered.

Jacqui’s two-year study is focused on the Takamanda forest reserve and its surrounding areas in Cameroon. Only three short surveys had been carried out there in the last hundred years; conservationists were unsure whether gorillas still existed in the area, until a WWF expedition in 1987 confirmed their presence.

From the results of her survey, Jacqui estimates that, in approximately 700 sq km of Takamanda itself, only about 100 gorillas are left.

The gorilla populations were found to be concentrated in highland areas, possibly because of the pressure of hunting in the lowlands. “We need to know if gorillas move between highland sites via lowland areas,” says Jacqui.

“If the gorillas are reluctant to move through lowland areas, these could act as barriers to the mixing of populations. Small populations will become increasingly isolated and inbred.”

Much remains to be discovered about the movements of the gorillas through the forest and the reactions of the local people. “If remaining populations are not to be hunted to extinction,” says Jacqui, “good relations with local people are paramount; so are good interactions with the local government in Cameroon.”

A hunting ban has been set up by the local communities within Takamanda and its enforcement is now spreading to other areas as well. With luck, the recognition of this gorilla may not be followed by its extinction.

Jacqui’s research was funded by the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Margot Marsh Foundation and the Whitley awards.

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

British Academy Small Research Grants
Grants of up to £5,000 are available for the direct costs of primary research, including: research assistance, travel and maintenance, consumables, specialist software, and costs of interpreters in the field.
Deadline: 28 February

Royal Society Conference Grants
Conference grants are awarded to UK-based scientists presenting their own paper or poster, or chairing a session, at an overseas conference, where conference participation is the main or sole purpose of visit.
Deadline: 1 March

Lloyd’s Torcenterary Foundation Fellowships
A limited number of two-year postdoc Research Fellowships (probably not more than three) will be made in the following categories: engineering, medicine and health-care, safety or environmental studies, and science and technology.
Deadline: 29 March

NATO Grants
Applications are invited in physical, engineering life, and environmental and earth sciences for advanced workshops, collaborative linkage grants and expert visits. All applications must include scientists from NATO and partner countries.
Deadline: 1 March & 1 April depending on area

AHHR Resource Enhancement
The scheme provides awards up to £300,000 to support projects that are designed to enhance access to and the availability of research materials and resources of key importance to the arts and humanities.
Deadline: 31 May
Sussex has done very well in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The proportion of staff in 5-rated groups has risen from 52% to 65% and all submissions were rated 4 or higher, so meeting the two main goals we had set ourselves. We submitted a high proportion (91% of eligible staff) and had all submissions rated excellent by national or international standards. This is a tribute to the all-round strength of research at Sussex.

We should take particular pleasure in those groups – Physics, Psychology and Statistics – that moved up by two grades between 1996 and 2001, and in the achievement of a 5 rating for the first time by Anthropology, Applied Mathematics, Education, Engineering, Music and Philosophy.

This is an impressive performance, but the performance of many other universities has been even more impressive. Nationally, the proportion of staff in units rated 5 or 5* has risen from 31% to 57%, and the proportion of staff in 5* rated units is now 19%. We have not kept pace with the overall improvement in grades, and the fact that we do not have any 5* grades is the most striking respect in which we have not kept pace with the competition.

There has been some discussion about whether the increase in national performance is 'grade inflation' and whether therefore the RAE has reached the end of its useful life. I think the increase in grades largely reflects a genuine improvement in the production of high-quality research, that the dual-support system of research funding (with funding coming both from the funding council and the research councils) should continue, and that some form of RAE will therefore continue. We should plan on the basis that it will.

If the University aims to remain a leading research institution, and I think we should, we then have to accept the implications for the way we manage ourselves. We will have to be more strategic in the allocation of resources and we will have to manage research more actively than we have done in the past. The new School structures will provide a better framework for appraisal, staff development and performance management, in which academic staff, especially young faculty, will have a clear sense of what is expected of them and to whom they are responsible for the meeting of these expectations. I know that some regard ‘managerialism’ as a dirty word, but I strongly believe that such an approach can be supportive rather than threatening.

There will be difficult financial consequences of the RAE outcome. The funding council is unable to fund grades at current rates, and has announced that only 5*-rated groups will be protected from the funding shortfall. This is bad news for Sussex and we are likely to lose over £1m of grant annually. We are already running a deficit on current activities of over £0.3m, and we need financial headroom of at least £1m annually to make selective investments, particularly in new faculty and facilities. These three sums together imply that we have to contemplate a very painful reduction of around £3m annually in the resourcing of many current activities over the next 12 months if the University is to remain competitive.

But to repeat the positive message: an RAE outcome in which all research at Sussex was judged excellent is a very strong foundation on which to build for the future.

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IT girls wanted

Women are becoming increasingly left behind in critical areas of the information technology revolution, a major international study by researchers at Sussex has revealed.

While men dominate courses and careers in the field of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITEC), the proportion of women participants is declining. In the UK in 2000 only 13 per cent of the ITEC workforce were women, down from 16 per cent a year before. This is despite a predicted massive skills shortage in the IT-related industries in the future.

Dr Jane Millar, a researcher in SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research and joint author of the Government-funded study, Women in ITEC Courses and Careers, says: “As IT literacy becomes more critical to life, the absence of these skills among women is cause for concern. More and more jobs require employees to be at least conversant with information technology and electronics-based communications.”

The study, which was undertaken on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Women’s Unit in the Cabinet Office, focused on six countries: the UK, the US, Canada, Ireland, Taiwan and Spain. Although all the countries were found to have declining proportions of women in ITEC, the figures for the UK were among the lowest.

Jane points out that, at GCSE level, the proportions of boys and girls qualifying in information systems and mathematics were equal. But at graduate level, the proportions show a huge disparity. In 1998 just 21 per cent of computer science graduates and 15 per cent of engineering and technology graduates were women.

“Negative attitudes to ITEC are formed early in life through experiences in the home, at school and through the media,” says Jane. “Women may find it less intuitive to interact with technologies that have been designed by men. Women do have strong technical skills but, unlike men, they don’t enjoy technology for its own sake.”

Ways to encourage women into ITEC include refreshing the image to reflect the greater employment opportunities, she says. There is also a need to make ITEC occupations more “female friendly”, for example, by offering greater flexibility in work hours and opportunities for older women to develop new skills.

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Library wins grant for Archives Hub

A small grant from HEFCE/JISC will enable the University Library to bring its Special Collections records up to the standard required for inclusion in a national Archives Hub.

The Archives Hub is a gateway that will allow potential users to search by subject across archives. Until it was established, users had to know where something was before they could search on the on-line catalogue, or rely on a general search engine.

Dorothy Sheridan, Head of Special Collections, explained why the money is needed: “As most archives have developed their own anarchic sets of cataloguing systems, some form of translation into a standard form is required to standardise them and make them amenable to cross-institution searching.”

The award will pay for specialised help to create summary records at the correct standard for the University of Sussex on the Hub. Work will begin in April.
All in a day's work

Jacqui Bealing
Press Officer

Journalists are always interested in looking for answers to the Big Questions (life, the Universe and everything) so when a Sunday Telegraph writer spotted an article in Astronomy & Geophysics journal about how long the Earth will survive, it was little wonder he chased up its authors Dr Robert Smith (CPES), Dr Klaus-Peter Schröder (CPES) and Sussex graduate Kevin Apps. Robert was subsequently interviewed by the BBC World Service, BBC Online, Meridian TV and the Argus.

The financial crisis in Argentina has been keeping economist Professor Stephany Griffith-Jones (IDS) in the media spotlight. Stephany, who specialises in global capital flows, has done numerous interviews during the past few weeks, including BBC News 24, Radio 4 and Southern Counties Radio.

Dr Rosemary Luckin (COGS) had some timely media interest before Christmas on her research on interactive toys. Southern FM were keen to talk to her about why interactive toys were not the best Christmas presents for the under-fives.

Still on the subject of the festive season, food psychologist Dr Martin Yeomans (BIOLS) found himself being quoted in a December issue of the New Scientist on the science of overeating. It turns out that the tastier the food, the more of it we want to eat — whether we’re full or not (no surprise there).

And on the perils of letting men loose in the shops at Christmas, shopping addiction expert Dr Helga Dittmar (SOC) explained to Best magazine the gender differences in buying presents. She said men leave it to the last minute, don’t plan ahead and generally can’t think beyond the obvious options of perfume and lingerie.

Above: Ian Salisbury, Health and Fitness Officer in the Sport Service, shows new gym users how to use the equipment and develops personal fitness programmes for those who want to take exercise more seriously.

Now the festivities are finally over, talk of getting fit is on everyone’s lips. Health Week is on the way and Ian Salisbury — Health and Fitness Officer in the Sport Service — can help you stick to your New Year’s resolutions.

Especially after Christmas, people want to use the gym, so they have to have an induction to show them how to use it safely and correctly — even if they have been to a different gym before. Part of my job is to act as a fitness instructor, showing groups of people how to use the equipment. When term starts it’s so busy: people just want to get in there and you need to get as many through as you can. There’s always one instructor on each day as well as the duty managers, who are all trained as fitness instructors.

It’s amazing how many people — mainly the students — complain about the walk up the hill to the gym.

Maybe towards the end of this month we’ll start advising on individual fitness programmes. I go around with one person and guide them towards whatever goals they have, whether it be to lose weight, get strong or train for a marathon. Although they’ve had an induction, they still like to be shown what they should or could be doing. You try and mould it around what they can already do and then take it from there.

The worst thing about being a fitness instructor is that it gets a bit monotonous, when you’re going round the gym showing people exactly the same thing time after time. It’s the same with the personal fitness programmes: if all they want to do is lose a bit of weight or just get fit generally, it’s not that much of a challenge.

I’ll be doing the mini health checks in this month’s Health Week: blood pressure, flexibility, body fat and lung capacity

Students on sports bursaries get free use of the gym. We do have some other serious athletes here: people who want to train for a marathon or a triathlon, which is my sport. I compete in local races at various distances.

Personally I don’t really make New Year’s resolutions. I’ve got a race in June, which is quite a big race for me, and I just want to be ready for that. It’s not really a resolution, it’s just something I need to do.

I use the gym quite a lot myself — the machines are good. We could probably do with a few more free weights, which has already been talked about. If you want to bring top sports people here, you need to do something about that.

I lead a running session on Monday lunchtimes at 1 o’clock and I’ve also organised a running club, which is slightly more serious, aimed at doing races.

There are a lot of people at the University who run, and it seems a shame not to have a club when there are lots of road races that people could do. That’s my little baby, if you like. If you come up with a good idea, they generally say yes.

For last year’s Health Week we started the mini health checks, which we developed from our fitness tests at the gym, and I’ve been quite heavily involved in designing them and training other staff to carry them out.

We take blood pressure, measure your flexibility, estimate your body-fat percentage and measure your lung capacity. I’ll be doing the mini health checks in this month’s Health Week — we’ve got six sites on campus over five days — and other staff will do the gym inductions.

Last year it was anything but quiet — I think having your body fat measured is tempting to many people, as much as fitness. A lot of women get it done!

We do more serious fitness testing for the hockey and basketball squads, who are part of the Focus on Excellence programme. I interpret the results and say, “Look, this is what you need to work on,” and then I get out there with the teams and work on their fitness in the training sessions. Sports fitness is my expertise.

The other main point of the Focus on Excellence programme is getting coaches in, because that’s really important if you want to develop any sport. The long-term aim is to get coaches for each team.

We’re trying to improve the level of sport here and this sort of thing will do that. The wider aim is to spread the programme to all the teams.
The true costs of smoking

Dawn Wilkinson
DPhil student, GSiSS

We all know that one in two long-term smokers will die from a smoking-related disease and that this disease is most likely to be lung cancer, bronchitis, emphysema or coronary heart disease (although cancer of the throat and mouth, oesophagus, bladder, kidney, stomach and pancreas are other likely contenders).

Many of us are also aware that smokers are at increased risk of more than 50 non-fatal illnesses including impotence, infertility, tooth loss, depression and stomach ulcers. We know about these risks but we believe it is more likely to happen to the smoker next to us than ourselves.

Maybe these risks just aren't tangible enough for us to appreciate now. Perhaps more tangible is the £790 we spend each year if we smoke 10 cigarettes a day (the cost creeping over £1,500 a year if we smoke 20 a day).

If these personal risks and costs are not important, then the risks to others may be: just 30 minutes’ exposure to cigarette smoke reduces coronary heart flow in non-smokers. Long-term passive smoking increases a non-smoker's risk of heart disease and lung cancer by 25 per cent. Indeed, environmental cigarette smoke is classified as a class A carcinogen.

If you smoke and any of this has put you in the mood to change your ways, the perfect opportunity to give up smoking is just around the corner. Health Week begins on 21 January and a multitude of initiatives will be taking place to encourage us all to live healthier lifestyles.

One of these initiatives will be the implementation of no-smoking nights in some of the bars on campus – presenting the perfect opportunity to test your resolve. Why not set Health Week as your quit date?

Nurse Vál, your on-campus smoking cessation specialist, is also holding stop smoking clinics on 23 January between 4pm and 6pm. To book an appointment tel. 249049 or email health@unimed.co.uk.

You never know, you might just stay smoke free for National No-Smoking Day on 13 March. Wouldn't that be an achievement worth celebrating?

Student war film wins competition

A film by three Sussex students about women in the Second World War has won Best Documentary in the Imperial War Museum’s Student Film Competition.

Susie Passingham, Stephen Hill and Anna Nomikou all studied for the MA degree in Life History Research: Oral History and Mass Observation. Their 22-minute film, called 'A Force for Change? Women in Uniform', was voted Best Documentary by audiences at the Imperial War Museum in London ahead of 12 other films in the competition.

Susie Passingham, who now works for McKinnon Films in London, says: "Making the documentary was a brilliant experience for us all. Our tutor Dee Kilkeary, who taught us camera work and editing, has the patience of a saint."

The film explores how the Second World War affected the status of women and incorporates archive footage from the Imperial War Museum collection.

"The students took to the film-making process like ducks to water," says Dee. "All of them worked very hard to see it through, often editing late into the night. They surely deserve the recognition they have now received."
Centre for Educational Innovation launched

The Institute for Education launched a new Centre for Educational Innovation last month with a promise to challenge government policy.

Dr Michael Fielding, director of the centre, told the Times Higher Educational Supplement: "The government is working on a high-performance model for education that is counter-productive. There is an unremitting emphasis on outcomes. The models are wrong."

Past is mapped out for future generations

Not content with drawing maps at work, Geography Subject Group cartographer Susan Rowland has been taking her day job home. In her spare time she is co-ordinator of the Hamsey Mapping Project, which launched its long-awaited parish map at a celebration party last month.

Work on the project began in 1997 when Hamsey Parish Council decided to produce two maps for the new millennium - a printed map and a needlework map.

Susan and her group made a visit to the East Sussex Record Office in nearby Lewes to consult old maps and documents. And Susan drew on her campus contacts by persuading Dr Peter Brandon and Geoff Mead, who teach landscape studies and local history for the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), to talk to the group on the social, agricultural and industrial history of the area.

The Sussex Archaeological Society awarded the Hamsey group a grant to purchase equipment for a field-walking project, which led to the discovery over a three-year period of the sites of medieval buildings, a 16th-century tannery, a lost watermill and two Mesolithic hunting camps.

Launching the printed map, Susan said: "It has been a long but very enjoyable journey and we have now reached our first destination. Our second will be the unveiling of the needlework map in June."}

Staff vacancies

Apply by 16 January
Initial Teacher Education Admissions Co-ordinator, USIE (ref 287)
Apply by 17 January
Research Fellow, BIOLS (ref 059b)
General Office Assistant / Secretary, Estates (ref 268)

Apply by 18 January
Communications Manager, CCE (ref 284)
Apply by 23 January
Recruitment Assistant, Staffing Services (ref 268)
Apply by 31 January
2 x Research Fellow, Astronomy Centre (ref 061b)

Finance Assistant, Research Services Division (ref 253)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vacancies or contact Staffing Services on ext. 8706, fax 877401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk.

More places for trainee teachers

The University has welcomed last month's news that the Teacher Training Agency is to increase its allocation of training places.

Sussex will be able to offer an extra 16 secondary places, bringing the total to 179. Ten are in English, three in music and three in modern languages.

Pat Drake, Director of Initial research programme unifying cognitive and developmental psychology, artificial intelligence and multimedia. Located within the newly founded COGS Interact Laboratory, this is theoretically challenging, empirically demanding and potentially of great practical importance.

The driving question concerns the use, by young children as well as adults, of various types of representation in problem-solving, creativity and play. Some of these are internal: lasting or fleeting data-structures in the minds of the individuals concerned. Others are external: cultural artifacts of various types, including the many virtual worlds now being created by multimedia technology.

Mike was raising far-ranging theoretical questions about how these are used in different social contexts and how they might be designed to enable novel types of experience in the humans interacting with them. These new technologies will affect our minds at least as much as printing did. Mike's research was starting to explore the crucial questions about how users of various kinds can - or perhaps cannot - manage, integrate and exploit the new forms of representation alongside the old. And, characteristically, he was doing this with flair and imagination - and his wonderfully wicked sense of humour.

Mike's research programme, thanks to Yvonne and her Interact colleagues, continues. His presence, to our very great sadness, is lost. But no one who knew him can ever forget him.

Margaret Boden
Professor of Philosophy and Psychology, COGS.

Teacher Education in USIE, told the Argus: "We were always over-subscribed in English and, following an absolutely excellent OFSTED inspection, we are delighted to have been given an extra 10 places. The places for modern languages, which is a shortage subject, are reinstated places because recruitment has been going so well."
Why high-tech toys cannot replace real-life teachers

Santa’s sack may have been packed with expensive, high-tech interactive toys that can teach young children to count and play alphabet games, but they should not be seen as a substitute for learning through human contact, warn researchers at Sussex.

The electronic toys, which are usually cuddly dolls or teddies with sensors that respond when squeezed or pushed, are supposed to encourage children as young as four to learn by themselves through play.

But the initial findings of a current study by computer scientists and psychologists at Sussex, together with the Institute of Education at the University of Stirling, have shown that many children do not interact with the toys in ways for which they were designed.

“The toys claim to be educational and to be able to engage your child in hours of interactive learning to hook people into buying them,” points out Dr Rosemary Luckin. “But when we carried out a pilot study with four-year-olds and five-year-olds, we found a lot of children were happy just to squeeze the sensors without actually getting the toy to play a game. The toys can be motivating, but they shouldn’t be seen as a substitute for spending time with your child.”

Some of the toys, which can cost up to £50 each, also interact with computers and accompanying software designed to help children learn about maths, problem solving or spelling. Linking the toy and the computer can broaden a young learner’s experience of technology, but the pilot study, which looked at Microsoft’s ActiMate toys, showed that children were less enthusiastic about using the software when the toy was taken away.

The study will also look at what children think and feel about the toys and explore the social impact of children as users and consumers of computer-based toys.

“We’re not saying the toys are necessarily a bad thing,” says Rosemary. “But parents would need to find out how much their child was able to engage with them first.”

Postgraduate Open Day

The annual Postgraduate Open Day will take place on Wednesday (16 January) in the Terrace Room, Bramer House between 12 noon and 2.30pm.

Academic faculty will be available to answer specific questions on the wide range of postgraduate programmes and research opportunities at Sussex.

In addition the following receptions will take place in Graduate Research Centres (GRCs):

- 2.30pm-4pm. Sussex European Institute.
- 2.45pm-4pm. Science and Technology Policy Research.

Mantell Building, Room 2A3.
- 3pm-4pm. GRC Humanities, Humanities Common Room, Arts B261-265.
- 3pm-4pm. GRC Legal Studies, SLS Common Room.
- 3pm-4pm. GRC in Social Sciences & GRC in Culture and Communication. Essex House Common Room.

There will also be workshops on financing postgraduate study and career opportunities. Academic faculty from the University of Brighton will also be in attendance to discuss Brighton’s range of postgraduate programmes and research opportunities.

For more information contact Postgraduate Admissions on ext. 8412 or email PG.Admissions@sussex.ac.uk.

Rescuers, resisters and survivors of the Holocaust remembered

Trude Levi suffered the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald before collapsing from exhaustion on the infamous ‘death march’ of 1945 and being left for dead. Somehow she survived. She went on to write about her harrowing experiences of the Holocaust and the poverty and hardship she experienced after the war in her memoirs, A Cat Called Adolf.

Hungarian-born Trude, now 78, will be talking about her memoirs for Holocaust Memorial Day, on campus on 23 January.

The free annual event, which this year focuses on the themes of rescue and resistance, includes talks, film shows and discussions and will look at both the historical perspective and current situation with regards to refugees and asylum seekers.

Chana Moshenska, director of educational programmes for the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and organiser of the event, says: “There are important messages from the Holocaust that relate to contemporary issues. Why is it that some people become rescuers while the vast majority are just bystanders? Why do some choose to risk losing their lives through moral or spiritual resistance?”

Sussex historian Sybil Oldfield will talk about German women rescuers and resisters, while Centre for German-Jewish Studies researcher Deborah Schultz will chair a discussion on visual representations of rescue and resistance.

Rebekah Webb and Lori Gmeiner, also researchers for the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, will address Holocaust education and racism on the internet, while Shanti Haft, from the Brighton Campaign for Asylum Seekers, will look at the current issues facing refugees and asylum seekers in Britain.

The day will end with a showing of the Czech film, ‘The Power of Humanity’, which describes the work of a British stockbroker, Nicholas Winton, who helped more than 600 Czech children escape the Nazis in 1939 by setting up the Czech Kindertransport. Some of those who were rescued will be among the guest speakers after the film show.

Holocaust Memorial Day, which is a national event, is actually on Sunday 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Michael Maine, musical director of Hove Parish Church and St. Christopher’s School in Hove, is to become the University’s new organist.

Michael will be performing a recital on Tuesday 15 January. Lunchtime recitals take place at the Meeting House on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1.20pm.
Bulletin board

Details of events also on the web at www.susx.ac.uk/USIS/nw/events.cfm

Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 14 Jan
1.00pm–2.00pm
Experimental Psychology Seminar: Pete Clifton (Sussex), title TBA. EA Seminar Room 4013 / 4014.

Tue 15 Jan
2.15pm–5.30pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Jim Rolfe (Sussex), title TBA. A71.
4.15pm–5.15pm
Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Nick Dorrell (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), title TBA. Biology Lecture Theatre.

Wed 16 Jan
1.00pm–2.30pm IDS Seminar: Susan Reynolds Whyte (Copenhagen), Medicines and knowledge in changing health systems. IDS Room 221.

5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Nicolas Tredell (Sussex), Panoramic sleights: Figures of cinema in literature. Arts D603.
5.00–6.30pm Migration Research Seminar: Natalia Ribas-Mateos (Sussex), Global border cities and families in Mediterranean migration. Arts D630.

Thu 17 Jan
12.30pm–2.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Will Wolmer (Sussex), Lowland landscapes: Conservation, development and the wilderness vision in South Eastern Zimbabwe. Arts D710.

Tue 22 Jan
2.15pm–3.50pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Rachel Sabates-Wheeler (Sussex), title TBA. A71.
4.00pm–5.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Paul Hitchcott (York), title TBA. EA Seminar Room 4013 / 4014.
4.15pm–5.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Keith Caldecott (Manchester), title TBA. Biology Lecture Theatre.
6.00pm Meeting House Lecture: Andrew Brown, The Darwin Wars. Meeting House.

Small ads

Tuesday 12 February
Larry Trask
(COGS)
Why do old people talk funny? Reflections on changing English

Tuesday 12 March
Ed Copeland
(CPES)
Exploring our Universe from particles to galaxies

For more information on the Professorial Lectures, contact Peter Simmons on ext. 8209 or email P.J.Simmons@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Volunteers to make up questionaire packs for psychosocial ovarian cancer screening study. No wage, just refreshments and pleasant surroundings. Contact Chris Leggatt in CRC Psychosocial Oncology Group on ext. 3017, email C.Leggatt@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Tuscany holiday cottage in superb setting nr mountains. Florence, Siena, Arezzo easily accessible. Ideal walking, sight-seeing, etc. Tel. 020 8699 8883. See http://freespace.virgin.net/pk.cw. Email G.P.Kirby@virgin.net.

TO LET: Two bed house in Cliffe area of Lewes. Gas CH, own parking space. Suiting faculty/PG available till June, £950 pcm. Tel. 515575.

THANK YOU: To everyone in Sussex House for the generous gift received by Peter, the porter, and Jean in the tea bar.

FOR SALE: Bookcase, mahogany coloured, 91 x 40 x 180 cm. Four fixed and three adjustable shelves, good condition. £45ono. Tel. 7466 or email S.Goodwin@sussex.ac.uk.

STUDENT PARENT? If you would like to be involved in a new student parent group or have any suggestions, email hcoy3@sussex.ac.uk.

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

Cinema
Sun 13 Jan
5pm The Circle (Dayereh) (PG)
6 pm Amelie (15)
Mon 14 Jan
8pm Xffffff (15)

Tue 15 Jan
8pm The Man Who Wasn’t There (15)
Fri 18 Jan
7.30pm Asoka (12)
Sat 19 Jan
8pm Enigma (15)

Sun 20 Jan
5pm Moulin Rouge (PG)
9pm The Others (12)

Mon 21 Jan
8pm Perdita Durango (18)

Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Peter Simmons, with regular contributions from Jacqui 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 25 January, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 18 January. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
Health Week

21st Jan - 25th Jan 2002

Health Week is a campus wide initiative to encourage both staff and students to improve and maintain a positive state of health and well-being.
REGISTRAR’S STATEMENT

The University is delighted to be holding its second annual Health Week as part of an ongoing programme of commitment to promoting positive health for all members of the University community. This year’s event follows a similar theme to last year with a wide range of activities for improving physical and emotional well-being, in addition to opportunities to fulfill social and spiritual needs. Research carried out during last year’s Health Week showed unanimous support for the campus wide health initiative and as a result activities have also taken place throughout the year including a number of successful healthy freshers’ events in October.

A research study undertaken by CRaM showed that those who were aware of Health Week had significantly more positive attitudes to health, higher health priorities and stronger intentions to both eat healthily and exercise more. Follow-up research demonstrated that those who had been aware of Health Week had significantly improved their diets.

This year we want to widen the impact of Health Week and involve more staff and students. If you are reading this programme then try and play your partby taking advantage of one or more of the events and also passing the programme on to a friend or colleague encouraging them to get involved. Even if the only thing you do is make an effort to take a lunch break every day you will have succeeded in improving your health in many ways.

Neil Gershon

All sessions are free unless stated otherwise. All sessions can be booked in advance at the Sportcentre or by telephone 678228. Please note that session spaces will be limited so please ensure you telephone to cancel if you cannot make a session. Venues for sessions vary and will be confirmed on booking if they are not stated on the programme.

FEEL BETTER WITH SOUND AND MUSIC

Date Monday 21st
Time 12-2pm
Event Drumming Workshop with Chris Pegg
Venue In the Debating Chamber, Falmer House

Have fun and try out Djembe drumming and percussion. Drumming is a great reliever of stress and can you leave you feeling refreshed.

Date Tuesday 22nd
Time 12-2pm
Event Chanting Workshop with Savita Burke
Venue In the Debating Chamber, Falmer House

A magical journey into the ancient sounds and mantra chanting of Hindu, Buddhist and Tibetan culture. Colouloquial vocal sounds to tease and relax - healing mind, body and emotion.

Date Tuesday 22nd
Time 7.30pm to late
Event Latin American Night
Venue At the Sussexsport Café Bar at the F.S.C.

Come and enjoy 2 hours of Latin American dancing with Carola, including Salsa and Latin American Tango followed by Latin American food. There will also be a demonstration of Argentinian Tango. Tickets, which include all food, are priced at students £8.00, staff £9.00 and public £10.00. For further information or to purchase a ticket, please contact Sportcentre Reception on (67)8228 or Falmer Sports Complex Reception on (87)7125.

Date Thursday 24th
Time 1.20pm
Event Recital of Soothing Music
Venue In the Meeting House

STRESS BUSTERS

Date Wednesday 23rd
Time 5-7pm
Event Stress Buster Massage Workshop with Chris Pegg
Venue In the Quiet Room at the Meeting House

Learn a massage treatment that can act as a pick me up, relieve stress and leave you feeling refreshed. This treatment can be done sitting down and doesn’t require removing any clothing or using any oils. A quick and easy form of massage that you can practice on your friends and colleagues.

Date Monday 21st to Friday 25th
Time 10am to 4pm
Event On Site Massage

Fully qualified massage therapists Chris Pegg and Jane Fagan are available all week to come to your office and give you a neck and shoulder massage. Price is £8.00 for a 20 minute treatment. If you book for 5 sessions, you will get one free.

Date/ Time
Event 20 Minute Mini Reflexology Sessions with David Lagden
Venue Room and Thurs 24th (Bramber House, The Downs Restaurant
Time 11am to 3pm

Please remember you can book Indian Head Massage, Holistic Massage, Sports Massage, Acupuncture, Reflexology and Beauty Therapy throughout the week at the Lifestyles Studio situated in the Sportcentre. Students £5.50, Staff £6.50 and Public £7.00.

Date Friday 25th
Time 11am to 3pm
Event Massage Clinic
Venue In Falmer House

Book an appointment for an Indian Head Massage, Reiki II, Sports Injury Massage or Back Massage at USSU Reception. £9 for half an hour, £3 deposit upon booking.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR WORK ENVIRONMENT

Date Tuesday 22nd
Time 10-11am
Event Why should you be encouraging your staff to exercise
Venue In the Sussexsport Café Bar at the F.S.C.

A one hour session for line managers on how encouraging your staff to exercise can increase productivity and reduce stress and absenteeism.

Date Thursday 24th
Time 5-6.30pm
Event Alexander Technique with Juliet Cox
Venue In the Quiet Room at the Meeting House

Come and find out about the Alexander Technique. This is a simple and practical method which brings our minds more into connection with our bodies, and improves our co-ordination. The talk will give you a brief introduction to the Technique, where it comes from and its basic principles.

Date Thursday 24th
Time 10-11am
Event “Back” in the Office with Belinda Tunley
Venue In the Sussexsport Café Bar at the F.S.C.
A one hour discussion with a Chartered Physiotherapist on how to recognise and prevent stress in the office on the upper limbs and spine.

**Date**  
Thursday 24th  
**Time**  
1-2pm  
**Event**  
Feng Shui with Frederique Cooke  
**Venue**  
In Room 126, Falmer House

Is your work place making you ill? Does your office suffer from sick building syndrome? This talk will explain what risks the modern office may present and what measures you can take to protect your health at work.

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**EAT TO FEEL GOOD**

**Date**  
Monday 21st to Friday 25th  
**Time**  
All day  
**Event**  
Healthy Display and Exhibition  
**Venue**  
Bramber House

There will be displays and exhibitions in Bramber House throughout the week. Come and see for yourselves!

**Date**  
Monday 21st to Friday 25th  
**Time**  
12-2pm  
**Event**  
Healthy Eating in the Downs Restaurant  
**Venue**  
The Downs Restaurant, Bramber House

We will be serving healthy options during the week. Come and try some new dishes and take away free recipe cards so you can cook them at home.

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**SPIRITUAL HEALTH**

*Please note that the Meeting House is available to all members of the University for quiet prayer and meditation all day, every day.*

**Date**  
Wednesday 23rd  
**Time**  
12.30-1pm  
**Event**  
A Service of Prayer for Healing and Inner Peace  
**Venue**  
At the Meeting House

The relationship of physical, mental and spiritual health is a complex one. This service will use religious texts, poetry, music and silence to help people to find some moments of peace amidst the busyness of life.

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**ENJOY THE OUTDOORS**

**Date**  
Monday 21st  
**Time**  
1-2pm  
**Event**  
Running Session with Ian Salisbury  
**Venue**  
Meet at Sportcentre

**Date**  
Tuesday 22nd  
**Time**  
12.30pm start

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**Event**  
Walk in Stanmer Park  
**Venue**  
Depart from Meeting House.

A lunchtime walk in Stanmer Park, led by Father Rob Esdaile, followed by hot soup and bread in the Meeting House.

**Date**  
Wednesday 23rd  
**Time**  
1-2pm  
**Event**  
Fitness Walk with Cat Stead, Lindy Ainsworth and Alistair Brand  
**Venue**  
Depart from Post Office, Bramber House

Walk some of the beautiful countryside surrounding the campus. Please wear suitable footwear (trainers, walking boots). Only extreme weather conditions will cancel this walk - please check with the Sportcentre on the day. We aim to return to Bramber House at approximately 1.50pm to give participants a chance to grab a sandwich before returning to work.

**Date**  
Thursday 24th  
**Time**  
1-2pm  
**Event**  
Environment Walk with Martyn Stenning  
**Venue**  
Depart from Meeting House

Dr Martyn Stenning (BIOLS/CCE) will lead a walk on Thursday 24th January, looking at features of campus ecology.

**Date**  
Friday 25th  
**Time**  
1-2pm  
**Event**  
Environment Walk with Amanda Hastings  
**Venue**  
Depart from Meeting House

Amanda Hastings (Environmental Officer) will be taking a walk to show some of the environmental projects that are currently taking place around the campus.

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**FINANCIAL HEALTH**

**Date**  
Mon 21st/Thurs 24th/Fri 25th  
**Time**  
11am-1pm  
**Event**  
Financial Health in Falmer House  
**Date**  
Tues 22nd  
**Time**  
1.30-3.30pm  
**Event**  
Financial Health in Falmer House

Not many people are truly aware of the knock on effects of poor financial management. Poverty and debt has a direct correlation to stress, poor health, alcohol and drug dependencies. Whip your finances into shape in our Finance Drop In in Falmer House.
A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY
Free use of the Fitness Room from 8am to 9am every morning during the Health Week. An instructor will be present at all times so that those who have not done an induction can attend these sessions.

HEALTHY CHECK UP

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday 21st</th>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>Venue</td>
<td>Sussex House</td>
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<td>Hastings Building, Occupational Health Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Falmer House Common Room</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Pevensey Building</td>
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A free 10 minute mini health check including blood pressure, flexibility, body fat, peak flow readings and weight. Reservations for these can be made on the day with one of the fitness staff at that days location. If you can’t make any of the above, call the Falmer Sports Complex Reception on (07)7125 during Health Week and you can make a booking for a free health check. If you attend a mini health check during the week, then you will be eligible for a free fitness room induction, free fitness room programme and a free drop in class.

HOUSING

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mon 21st/Wed 23rd/Fri 25th (from 1.30-3.30pm)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Tues 22nd (from 11am-1pm)</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>Healthy Housing</td>
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<td>Venue</td>
<td>Falmer House</td>
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Do you live in a property which may be bad for your health? Damp, unsafe gas appliances, disrepair? Call into the Welfare Drop in Office in Falmer House for guidance and information on how to improve your situation.

PAMPER YOURSELF
During the week Jane Fagan will be available to carry out the following treatments:

10 minute hand massage - price £4.00
15 minute mini manicure (including file to shape nails, hand massage and coat of clear polish) - price £4.00

Please note that a minimum of 4 bookings per office/area is required. Please book at sportcentre reception or phone 678228

BRING A FRIEND AND GET A SESSION FREE
Bring a friend to any drop in class listed below during Health Week and either yourself or your friend will get in free. All classes are at the Sportcentre.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21st</td>
<td>11-12pm</td>
<td>Complete Step Body Workout</td>
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<td>Monday 21st</td>
<td>4-5pm</td>
<td>Sculpt and Tone with Step</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21st</td>
<td>6-7pm</td>
<td>Circuit Training</td>
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<td>Monday 21st</td>
<td>7-8pm</td>
<td>Stretch and Tone</td>
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<td>Tuesday 22nd</td>
<td>5-6pm</td>
<td>Aerobatone</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>1-2pm</td>
<td>Body Tone</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>6-7pm</td>
<td>Complete Step Body Workout</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>7-8pm</td>
<td>Street Dance Workout</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th</td>
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<td>Sculpt and Tone</td>
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<td>4-5pm</td>
<td>Stretch and Tone</td>
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UNISEX
Information and advice available in the Unisex Office in Falmer House. Free condoms available. The office will be open on Mon 21st from 11am-2pm, Tues 22nd from 4-6pm, Wed 23rd from 11am-2pm, Thurs 24th from 4-6pm and Fri 25th from 11am-2pm.

IS SMOKING GOOD FOR YOU?
We all know that one in two long term smokers will die from a smoking related disease, and that this disease is most likely to be lung cancer, bronchitis, emphysema or coronary heart disease (although cancer of the throat and mouth, oesophagus, bladder, kidney, stomach and pancreas are other likely contenders). Many of us are also aware that smokers are at increased risk of more than 50 non-fatal illnesses including impotence, infertility, tooth loss, depression or stomach ulcer. We know about these risks but we believe it is more likely to happen to the smoker next to us than ourselves. Maybe these risks just aren’t tangible enough for us to appreciate now. Perhaps more tangible is the £790 we spend each year if we smoke 10 cigarettes a day (the cost creeps over £1500 a year if we smoke 20 a day). If these personal risks and costs are not important then the risks to others may be just 30 minutes exposure to cigarette smoke reduces coronary heart flow in non-smokers. Long term passive smoking increases a non-smoker’s risk of heart disease and lung cancer by 25%. Indeed, environmental cigarette smoke is classified as a class A carcinogen. If you are a smoker and this has put you in the mood to change your ways, the perfect opportunity to give up smoking is just around the corner. The third week of the spring term is Health Week and a multitude of initiatives will be taking place to encourage us all to live healthier lifestyles. One of these initiatives will be the implementation of no-smoking nights in the bars on campus - presenting the perfect opportunity to test your resolve. You can do it! Why not set week three of next term as your quit date? You never know, you might just stay smoke free for National No Smoking Day on 13th March 2002! Wouldn’t that be an achievement worth celebrating.....?

Dawn Wilkinson

STOP SMOKING CLINICS
There are now treatments to help you stop smoking available on prescription. With the help and support of Nurse Val, your on-campus smoking cessation specialist, there’s never been a better time to quit. Why not make an appointment to discuss whether you’re ready to stop. No nagging. Promise!

Clinics will be held on Wednesday 23rd January between 4 and 6pm.
Numbers are limited. To book an appointment or for more details phone 249049 or email health@unimed.co.uk. See our website for more information www.studenthealth.co.uk/univ
Why?
“Risk Management” is the culmination of the moves to improve Corporate Governance, which started following the high-profile scandals of the 1990’s - Maxwell, Barings Bank, BCCI etc. Organisations that actively manage their risks have a better chance of achieving their objectives and preventing major problems happening. Over the last 5 years Risk Management has become widely established in the private sector (and it is now compulsory for Stock Exchange listed companies.) Many other parts of the public sector have also already accepted it as best practice, from the NHS and Government departments to local Councils. By issuing a mandatory Accounts Direction on this subject, HEFCE has now prompted all universities to put effective systems in place to manage their risks.

When?
Adequate arrangements to manage our risks must be in place by 1st August 2002. This is so that our external auditors can sign off that we complied with HEFCE’s requirements for the year-ended 31 July 2003.

What “risks” need to be managed?
Every organisation faces risks in carrying out its operations. Many people are now familiar with the need to formally assess Health & Safety risks, in order to minimise the risk of accidents. However Health & Safety issues are just one aspect of the many risks facing the University. Risk Management considers how we address all the different types of risk including financial, reputational and operational. Examples of important risks might be: a major failure in our IT network, under recruitment of overseas students, financial overspend on a new building project, a catastrophic fire in the Library or reputation damaging adverse publicity.

So it is all just about preventing “bad” things?
Certainly not - every activity carries a risk. One of the biggest risks for most organisations is the risk of stagnation: failing to innovate and develop fast enough. Managing risks properly does not mean becoming risk averse, or ignoring new opportunities for being “too risky”. It simply provides a framework to:

- help ensure that all the foreseeable risks involved are actually understood and accepted before important decisions are taken.
- Monitor new projects, and ongoing operations, to ensure that they continue to develop satisfactorily, and no problems or new risks emerge.

In addition we must remember that every activity carries a potential reward as well. Risk Management, essentially, is about managing risk versus reward. Or, more technically, managing the risk/reward ratio.
Don’t we do this already?
In many cases, managers and staff will already be assessing and managing risks as a matter of routine. Under the current, informal, arrangements it is impossible to ensure that this always happens however, or that the appropriate amount of rigour is applied in every area.

Will “Risk Management” just be more unnecessary red tape?
If imposed badly, it is certainly possible that Risk Management could become overly complex and burdensome for an organisation of our size. To ensure this does not happen, the approach being taken here is to limit initially the scope of risk management to only the most important Corporate and Strategic risks. In these areas, the potential benefits are significant:

- Better informed decision making - for example in assessing new opportunities;
- Less chance of major problems in new and ongoing activities; and
- Increased likelihood of achieving our Corporate Objectives.

So exactly what is happening?
A Risk Management Working Group has been formed under the Chairmanship of Steve Pavey. This group reports to both the Audit Committee and to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Mike Townsend (Head of Internal Audit) has been appointed as Project Manager until 1 August 2002 to develop procedures, and set up the initial Risk Management system. In the long term it is not intended to develop a large Risk Management overhead, rather it should simply become embedded within the University’s normal management and planning processes.

How will this affect me?
Start thinking about how your School/Unit/Group manages its risks! Ask yourself the following questions:

- What are the 10 biggest risks/problems which could prevent us achieving our main objectives?
- How do you currently make sure these problems don’t happen?
- Are there any “early warning indicators” we can monitor to help identify when risks are developing? i.e. Before they cause any major problems.
- If, despite your best efforts, the risk happened - how could we minimise its impact?
- Is this level of risk acceptable? If it is not - how can we manage it better?

Note: There are many different ways to manage risks: insure against them, put procedures/controls in place to prevent/deter/minimise them, withdraw from the activity completely or look for alternatives, transfer the risk to a supplier or third party by buying in, outsourcing or going into a joint venture.)

Where can I find out more?
For further information on this subject, or to make comments about any aspect of Risk Management, please contact Mike Townsend (Extn 3183; Room 325, Sussex House.) A University web-site on Risk Management is also planned, and will be available shortly. As our Risk Management systems develop and get implemented additional information will be made available and publicised across campus.

January 2002