Sussex professor wins prestigious national teaching award

A University of Sussex professor has been recognised nationally for her excellence in teaching and for inspiring others in her profession.

Professor Imogen Taylor, head of Social Work and Social Care, is one of 20 university teachers nationwide to receive the prestigious National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) award this year. "I am really pleased, not just for myself, but for the benefits this will bring to the University of Sussex," she says.

The winners of the NTFS were selected from 81 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England and Northern Ireland. The criteria used to select both the nominees and winners included the nominee's ability to influence and inspire their students, to inspire their colleagues in teaching and to influence the teaching profession as a whole.

Dr Mary Stuart, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, says that "Imogen has made a considerable difference to the climate for learning and teaching at Sussex as well as being an important player on the national and international stage."

Imogen joined Sussex in 2001. She had previously taught at the Universities of Bristol and Toronto, where she first developed an interest in teaching professionals.

Her 1997 book, Developing Learning in Professional Education, challenged the assumption that professional and higher education were the same and explored more innovative approaches, such as problem-based learning. She argues that, instead of learning primarily through conventional seminars and lectures, students studying for professional degrees should start with case studies that present problems for them to solve, learning how to learn in a way that will continue to be useful in professional practice.

Imogen will be presented with a cheque for £50,000 at an award ceremony on 15 July and will be using the money to develop new degree programmes in social work. She plans to spend most of the award on developing interdisciplinary education at Sussex.

"As the enquiry into the Climbie case showed, there are huge challenges in practice for professionals working collaboratively with other professionals. For example, in child protection, social workers must work with other professionals including health workers, police officers and teachers. They need to understand each other's working practices and each other's professional language." Interprofessional education can contribute to this, says Imogen.

From the Restoration to Motown in SUDS new play

The Restoration meets Motown in the student production of William Congreve's 'The Way of the World' to be staged at the Gardner Arts Centre next week.

Sussex University Drama Society (SUDS) have decided to set this 17th-century comedy in a timeless era, neither then nor now. Director Ben Webb, who studied sociology, says many of the characters have relevance today: "There are bumbling buffoons, society wives, lads. Because these characters could be now, I didn't want to impose a time on them."

So some of the music is Motown, which echoes much of the sentiment, while one of the dresses is inspired by one in Barbara Cartland's collection!" Eleanor Kerslake, a second year English student in EAM, plays the part of Lady Wishful, a grande dame who holds all the purse strings. "It's a very funny, meaty role to get into," explains Eleanor, who hopes eventually to become a theatre director. "Lady Wishful is a brilliant but very tragic character who just wants someone to love her. She definitely has elements of Ab Fab's Patsy about her." A romantic yet dark comedy, the play also combines elements of melodrama and musical. Millamant and Mirabell are the classic couple in love, but questions are asked about Mirabell. Is he a nice guy, or really a Lethario out for his true love's inherited wealth?

William Congreve's play wasn't well received on its first West End outing. "Character definition and ensemble pieces weren't fashionable in the Restoration period and this play made much of both," explains Ben. "It also includes a scene where Milamant makes Mirabell sign a marriage contract - a statement of equality which was way ahead of its time."

So why should we go and see the new SUDS spectacular? Ben is emphatic in his praise: "It's a funny, dark play that will have you talking about it way after it's finished. Congreve is waiting to be discovered and he's a lot more relevant than Shakespeare!"

The Way of the World is at the Gardner Arts Centre from 16-21 June. Tickets at £5/£4 are available from the box office on 668561. See the website at www.thewayoftheworld.co.uk.
Bookmark

New books by Sussex authors

Vyan Evans (Lecturer in Linguistics, COGS) and Andrea Tyler
The Semantics of English Prepositions: Special scenes, embodied meaning and cognition
Cambridge UP, £50.00 (hardback)
The publisher says: "Using a cognitive linguistics perspective, this book provides the most comprehensive, theoretical analysis of the semantics of English prepositions available."
The author says: "The book is a groundbreaking theoretical study in which, using English prepositions as a "laboratory", we argue that meaning is fundamentally grounded in the nature of our everyday spatial experience with the world around us. The "little" words (prepositions) we use to describe our basic spatial relationships, e.g. over, in, above, out, etc., have a wide range of distinct meanings, which are often non-spatial in nature, but which appear to be related, in some way, to the "core" spatial meaning.

"Consider a word like 'over':
(1) The light is over the table (above)
(2) The ball landed over the wall (on the other side)
(3) The movie is over (completed)
(4) She has a mask over her face (covering)
(5) She has a strange power over me (control)
(6) The relationship altered over the years (temporal)

The "word like 'over'" has a large number of distinct meanings associated with it, which the native speaker effortlessly deploys, without even really being aware that 'over' has so many distinct meanings. Relatively abstract meanings such as the 'temporal' meaning, the 'control' meaning, etc., are systematically related to and derived from the basic spatial meaning of 'above' associated with this word. This leads to the view that abstract meaning derives from basic everyday spatio-physical experience."

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

Revisiting Lima

In 1975 social psychologist Professor Peter Lloyd spent six months in Peru, studying Medalla Milagrosa, a small shanty town in Lima.

In 1962 100 families had quite rapidly infiltrated the area, setting up crude huts. All the families had some relationship with each other; in fact a third came from a single sierra village.

By the time of Peter's stay they had built small, mostly single-storey, houses of brick and cement blocks. Four stand pipes provided water; houses had minimal electricity wired from a single terminal; and there was a crude drain for sewage. The settlers developed a strong community organisation to fight against eviction and then to struggle to get basic services.

Peter wrote up his material in The Young Towns of Lima (Cambridge University Press 1980). But he lost contact with Medalla Milagrosa when administrative duties as Dean of Social Sciences impeded research and as his interests focused first on community action in Brighton and then on sheltered housing for older people.

This year, Peter was suddenly and unexpectedly given an opportunity to revisit Lima for a week and he decided to see how Medalla Milagrosa had changed. "I had no idea what to expect," he says. "I was not hopeful of seeing much improvement. Peru had been badly hit by economic depression and terrorist activities."

"To Peter's surprise, he discovered a striking improvement in the settlement. The same families were there and the many children of the original settlers now had their own families. Second and third storeys had been added to the original houses and new buildings had been erected. Peter discovered that in 1993 the government had decided to build two complexes of flats for bureaucrats adjacent to Medalla Milagrosa, whose squalor would have reduced the attractiveness and value of the flats. Suddenly the inhabitants' prayers were answered: the main road was surfaced with concrete; and water, electricity and sewage were provided to each house.

Progress does have its drawbacks, however. "With the achievement of their goals, community spirit has waned," says Peter. "With TV and telephones in most homes, life is lived indoors. Envy threatens cohesion."

What will another 25 years bring?, he wonders. The contrast between Medalla Milagrosa and its middle-class surroundings remains as strong as ever. But, for the inhabitants, it is now a very convenient space in which to live.

Research funding opportunities

More details of these and other funding opportunities are available from your Research Support Officer in the Research Services Division. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities, search the Community of Science (COS) funding database at www.cos.com.

British Ecological Society Small Ecological Project Grants
These grants provide funding to promote all aspects of ecological research and survey. They enable ecologists to travel from the UK to another country or vice versa. Funding of up to £1,000 for travel and up to £1,500 for other costs is available.
Deadline: 1 July

BBSRC bioinformatics and e-science programme
Applications are invited under this programme to promote multidisciplinary research across the life and physical sciences. Industry involvement is encouraged. An example of research supported is development of tools for biological data analysis.
Deadline: 14 July

EPSRC SuperGen call 3 Expressions of interest are invited for sustainable power generation and supply studies. There are three themes: 1) fuel cell technologies; 2) energy storage systems; 3) distributed power systems. Full bids will be invited following a consultation exercise in December 2003.
Deadline: 8 August

e-Science link scheme
The e-Science Core Programme invites bids of up to a maximum of £40,000 for networking projects to establish links with leading Grid/e-Science projects around the world. May include workshops or satellite meetings between projects.
Deadline: 8 August

JSPS Fellowships for research in Japan
The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science offers fellowships programmes of 2 to 10 months. All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences are included. The award includes ticket; allowance; research expenses; and overseas insurance.
Deadline: 12 September
The Roberts report on the future of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) has been published. Officially, the document is for consultation, but Gareth Roberts has made it clear he expects his main proposals to be implemented, so it is sensible for universities to start thinking now about the implications.

Some of the Roberts proposals have direct and obvious relevance to the planning of research strategies: the proposal that the next RAE should take place in 2007-8; and the proposal that panels might allow researchers to submit more than four items of research output. But note that this second proposal does not imply that researchers will be able to submit as many items as they wish – the idea is that the limits will be set by individual panels, with the implication that individuals might not know the rule for their subject until much nearer the submission date.

The biggest systemic change proposed is that there should be a two-tier assessment system: a ‘light touch’ Research Capacity Assessment, based on ‘proxy measures’ for the ‘less competitive’ departments; and the full-blown Research Quality Assessment, similar to the current RAE, for departments that aspire to high grades. The desired outcome here is a sensible one – it is not sensible to invest large resources in the development or assessment of low-quality research – but a central issue is whether the system will behave in the intended way.

Social scientists are familiar with the idea that poorly designed systems produce unintended consequences. A striking example from development economics is the analysis of ‘rent-seeking’, where large social losses can be incurred by people spending resources chasing ‘prizes’ like import licences. From this perspective, the current RAE is reasonably well designed; the prizes go to the departments and the institutions that produce the research outputs that score highest in peer assessment. The system does not deal well with the kind of research that is best directed to the production of one absolutely first-class book every 15 years, but on the whole the incentives are right, and the system has encouraged the production of high-quality research publications. Any proposal to change the reward structure needs to be looked at very carefully to make sure that it does not generate perverse incentives to generate good statistics rather than good research.

Gareth Roberts is proposing a major change in the grading system. At present the outcome is a grade for a department; the proposal is that in future a department should receive a ‘quality profile’ indicating how much ‘one-star’, ‘two-star’ and ‘three-star’ research is being produced in the department. This approach would reduce the incentive for games-playing and it would enable the funding councils to devise a much better relationship between grading and funding than the wholly unsatisfactory funding rules that have been applied following the 2001 RAE. I think this is a very welcome proposal, indeed it is essentially what I proposed in this column in April 2002. Perhaps Gareth Roberts reads this Bulletin?

Even though there is some uncertainty about what the new system will be and how it will operate, we know that its fundamental nature will be unchanged: assessment by peers of the quality of published research. Let’s not allow discussion of details of the assessment system to distract our attention from the need to maximise the quality of our research performance.

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**University Challenge**

For the first time in many years, a team from Sussex has made it through to the televised heats of University Challenge.

The team will travel to Manchester this weekend to battle as yet unknown opponents and face the impatient wrath of Jeremy Paxman.

“We’re very excited about getting through as the selection process was very tough,” says team captain Ros Levin. Out of the 250 teams that apply, only 28 get through to the televised heats.

Ros, who is studying Creative Writing in CCE, has one particular concern. “I’m a bit worried about how to announce myself – I can’t say ‘I’m Ros Levin, reading writing!’”

Team mate Jon Watson, who is doing a DPhil in American History, is confident of their knowledge of popular culture, and overall the team is “noisily confident”, according to Ros.

“As a student, if you’re into quizzes then this is the ultimate really,” says Dave Boyne, a second year Contemporary History student in SOC. Dave also holds a science degree and has been spotting up on science theories.

Andrew Clay, who is studying Geography with Development Studies in AFRAS, completes the team.

As for buzzer tactics, the team intend to take a confident approach. Dave describes this as “an educated investment in the buzzer”.

We will all have to wait until transmission of the programme in the autumn to see for ourselves how the Sussex team get on. Until then, we wish them good luck!

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**Dot drops in on launderette**

There’s nothing strange about seeing Dot Cotton and Pauline Fowler having a cuppa and a gossip in the launderette. Except that the launderette in question was in Bramber House.

Lindy Ainsworth and partner-in-grime Lynn Cooper donned the glamorous garb of the EastEnders stars to encourage users to give them their views on the service. “No one ever fills questionnaires in so we thought we’d dress up and hand out free tea and biccies to bribe the students,” explains Lindy.

Surprisingly, Lindy discovered that most of Dot’s clothing and accessories – from hairnets to curlers – could be found by rifling through her wardrobe and those of her friends.

Students’ top suggested launderette improvements included music, comfort seating and the replacement of old machinery. “We’re in the early stages of any revamp,” says Lindy. “But hopefully many of the suggestions will make it through.”

Did anyone give her any stick? “Maybe if I’d been dressed as Kat Slater. But everyone likes Dot, and besides, I had my handbag at the ready!” And did she pick up any gossip? “Of course”, smiles Lindy, with one cocked-eyebrow. “But I can’t tell you. I’m the soul of discretion.”
Researchers in the running to save lives

Clare Coxon's sister-in-law died last year after a painful fight against breast cancer. She was only 33 years old. "I feel very strongly about this issue," says Clare, "and want to do my bit to help raise funds and awareness for cancer research."

Clare's doing her bit by getting in shape for the annual Cancer Research UK Race for Life next month, along with 14 of her colleagues from the Psychosocial Oncology Group on campus.

Researchers in the group, which is funded by Cancer Research UK, look at the psychological aspects of having cancer and the effects that different treatments and screening procedures have on patients. They also work on ways to improve the communication skills of health-care professionals working with patients with cancer.

"We feel it is very important to support Cancer Research UK fund-raising activities," says Dr Valerie Jenkins, the group's deputy director and one of the runners. "All 15 of us have had friends and relatives who have been affected by cancer."

Within those taking part in the 5km event, there is a wide range of running experience, from unfit non-runners to experienced half-marathon women. "But experience does not matter for the Race for Life," says Val.

"Some of our group will walk the distance and others will run. It's not about getting around as fast as you can, it's more about the taking part and making an effort to do something to help others. We all expect to finish the race but we doubt that we'll catch Sally Gunnell, who is also running."

Professor Lesley Fallowfield, who heads the research group, will give a speech and officially start the run/walk at Stannmer Park on 6 July.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Race for Life, which has raised more than £35 million for research into cancers that affect women's lives.

The event is open to women and girls of all ages. To register, call 08705 134314 or see the website at www.raceforlife.org.

Sussex staff lower themselves for charity

They'd never done it before, but a friend asked them to and it sounded like a laugh. What they didn't realise was that all her other friends had declined the opportunity.

"I was very anxious and nervous beforehand," recalls Sara Hinchliffe. "Afterwards I had shaky hands and slight hysteria (although that may just be normal for me). "I wanted to get it over and done with," agrees Liz McVeigh. "Back on the ground I felt huge relief and I was really pleased I'd done it - but I was a little bit wobbly."

What could possibly induce such feelings in two strong women? It turns out that the two Sussex staff members had agreed to hurl themselves 100 ft off the top of Brighton's Grand Hotel in aid of Cancer Research UK. Fortunately, they were attached to a rope at the time.

"I had never assailed before," says Sara, "which is why I thought it would be a doddlle. Little did I realise the horror that lay in wait..."

"The guy in front of us had looked down and had gone green and then bolted out, so I was determined not to look down from the top. All I saw was a very small ledge (the width of a pencil), which I was instructed to stand on!"

Once over the edge, Liz got into a slight panic as she struggled to keep her feet on the wall. "I dangled in a spider-like fashion for a lot of the descent," she recalls. "But I remember laughing a lot. Sara was so desperate to get down, she went very fast."

Even looking back, Sara thinks the best thing about the experience was getting it over with. Her colleague does at least feel a sense of achievement - as they both should, not least because they raised £700 in sponsorship (no less than £500 of it from Sussex staff).

And the worst thing? Liz is in no doubt: 'At the bottom our friend said, 'That was great, what shall we do next?"
Dear Bulletin

I can well remember a few years ago, it taking me over half an hour to leave campus. At that time I would have agreed we need some change in policy.

Recently, I have encountered very little delay in leaving and it seems to me that a policy change in parking and the great expense (£40,000 p.a.) of employing a parking manager to deal with parking on campus cannot be justified at all.

The University has, in my opinion, taken a sledgehammer (and a very expensive one too) to crack a nut.

There is widespread anger among staff about this extra University tax on our salaries and a feeling that we are in effect, being charged for nothing ... not even a guaranteed space!

Mick Henry, CPES

Dear Editor

A policy for a green transportation plan was agreed by Council a year ago. Those who have seen the details of the fully developed plan -- many of which were not anticipated in last year's outline plan -- may see red and not green in this management strategy to reduce car parking on campus.

- There are no concessions in sight for reduced fares on (privately owned) public transportation in peak commuting hours, as there are for County Council employees.
- A car-share scheme is yet to prove effective.
- Charges are to be higher than those for local council employee parking and at other universities (where salaries are the same).
- Charges are not just for term-time but for every working day of the year.
- Charges for occasional use will be greater than for annual pass holders so, with pass in hand, the instinct will be to use it!
- Visitors who are fully engaged in University work, given grants, and casual visitors -- who must include prospective parents and students -- are to pay more.

This is not the green policy that the University as a community notionally agreed to last year. This is a new plan that seems to be a large tax on employees to pay for the costs of charging for parking without either benefit to them or valuable investment in protecting the precious character of the University's open and welcoming rural campus.

Dr Janet Collett, BIOLS

Dear Bulletin

I am alarmed to discover that the proposed daily charge for car parking from 1 August will be 50% more than the equivalent annual rate.

After much discussion last year, Senate and Council approved a transport strategy developed from wide consultation that allowed for charges for car parking by the University in return for a sustainable transport policy that included better public transport, car sharing, etc.

It was agreed that charges would be for term time only and that the daily equivalent charge of £1 or £2 would be no more than the annual charge of £150 or £300 (30 weeks at 5 days per week = 150).

Last autumn, as reported in the Bulletin, the Estates Committee decided that charges would be for the entire year, not just term time. I spoke to the Transport Manager and sought her assurance that the daily charge would not be more than the equivalent annual charge and she indicated that this would be so.

It is generally accepted that after allowing for holiday, bank holidays and closure days there are 225 working days per year, so the daily charge should be either £150/225 = 68p or £300/225 = £1.33. Instead we are to be charged £1 or £2, 50% more.

So why does this matter? I believe that it is important that we encourage the use of public transport, cycling, etc. instead of driving our cars to work, and that charging for parking will encourage sustainable transport. Our transport strategy was based on this. But selling an annual pass at a very significant discount over the daily charge just encourages people to drive here every day rather than sometimes saving money by using alternatives. It goes against the spirit and letter of the Transport Policy we approved last year, and looks much more like a scheme to raise money from car parking than a radical transport strategy.

As the Council member for non-academic staff, I will raise this at Council and urge the University to reduce the daily charge (preferably) or charge only during term time. I invite members of Senate who are similarly concerned to do so at Senate.

I would like to represent your views on this matter, so please visit www.biols.sussex.ac.uk/home/ Jeremy_Maris/parking and fill in the online questionnaire.

Jeremy Maris, BIOLS

Dear Bulletin

I am disappointed, although not surprised, that there is no concession for either students or staff with young children who attend the daycare at the University. I use the term concession to suggest both the possibility of reduced charges and the option of dedicated spaces.

I have one child in the Nursery and a baby in the Creche. With the option of the 25 bus, which has no pushchair space and is -- as has been mentioned -- frequently full, I have no feasible alternative to the car.

All the £150 charge is going to do is anger me and further impoverish me. It will not reduce the level of traffic by removing my car nor the cars of anyone else who needs to transport their children.

Once again, people with families are being treated as second-class citizens by the University.

Alison Bambridge, GRC CulCom

Campus opens its doors

As many as 2,000 potential students will swell campus on Tuesday 24 June for the Summer Open Day.

Over 100 staff and current students are on hand to give talks, conduct tours and answer questions on everything from essay length to sporting opportunities.

Sussex prides itself on informal yet informative open days, when potential students get to sample a real slice of Sussex life. A combination of the stunning campus and a relaxed atmosphere often means many an undecided Year 12 student puts Sussex at the top of their list after the open day.

"I have completed my UCAS form, and of course, put Sussex right in there, I was so convicned by the visit," said one open day attendee. Another prospective student exclaimed: "I enjoyed the visit very much and the tour was very informative. I picked up on the friendly atmosphere and will be making Sussex my first choice. So well done, you sold it!"

This year visitors have been asked for the first time to register in advance, and one student is coming all the way from Hong Kong for the day! The Brighton and Sussex Medical School will also be running a series of talks and tours for students looking at 2004 entry.

With 400 cars expected and a few dozen coaches, some parking disruption is inevitable. It is also likely that large school groups will be wandering around campus, so please be extra careful if driving along University roads.

Another pinch point is lunchtime, when thousands of visitors will want to be fed.

Queues are likely to occur at the food outlets in Bramber House, the Falmer House Union Shop and the most obvious common rooms. So get those bagels and bagnettes early.

For further information on one of Sussex's biggest annual events, contact Tanya Shadrack in Schools and Colleges Liaison on t.e.shadrick@sussex.ac.uk.
First class

The winner of the Royal Geographical Society's Edward Heath Award is Professor Mick Dunford, for geograhical research in Europe. Mick's main research interests are economic, urban and regional geography, including inequality and social cohesion in Europe (east and west) and its Mediterranean neighbours.

Dr Annis May Timpson has been awarded the inaugural Canadian Women’s Studies Association book prize for her book 'Driven Apart: Women’s employment equality and child care in Canadian public policy' (UBC Press, 2001).

New timetable for Sussex

Although not famous for being early birds, from this October students with early classes will need to adjust their alarm clocks. This is because the normal teaching day will start at 9.00 am (instead of 9.15 am).

The change is part of a new, simplified teaching timetable that comes into force this autumn. Teaching slots will run every hour, throughout the day. Each one will start on the hour and finish at 10 minutes to the next hour, allowing staff and students who have consecutive classes to move from one location to the next.

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Apart from simplicity, the main benefit of the changes will be an extra teaching slot within normal hours (up from eight to nine), giving more timetabling flexibility and enabling better use of teaching space. Wednesday afternoons will remain teaching-free, to allow for student sports and faculty committee work.

Of course, a change like this has to be thought through (and not just because of a few lostzzzz’s).

During consultations in 2002, some fears were expressed that the 9.00 am start would be particularly difficult for those who come to campus using public transport. These worries were checked out by Transport Manager Linda Newman, who confirms that the change of start time should not lead to staff and students paying any more on fares. She is continuing to work on our behalf in relation to crowding on buses and trains in the 8.00–9.00 am rush hour.

Another concern was the disappearance of fixed morning and lunch breaks. The timetablers will address this by promising to avoid extended back-to-back sessions for a group of students or member of staff, especially during the middle of the day.

Dropping children off for campus childcare is also an issue for many staff and students, so from the autumn the Creche and Nursery will open ten minutes earlier to fit in with the new teaching day.

But this change to teaching slots is only part of big moves to improve timetabling arrangements more fundamentally.

Until now, timetables have emerged only shortly before the start of the term. This is the result of practices that date, practically unaltered, from the days when the University had half as many students as it does now. The late emergence of the timetables causes serious difficulties for staff and students – for instance, arranging childcare and part-time work.

The big changes to Schools and curriculum structures for 2003/4 are an opportunity to move to new arrangements that should mean much earlier timetables. A new web-based system for collecting teaching requests is already in place, and this is part of a series of technical improvements.

The intention in future years is to publish the autumn term timetable by the end of the summer term, and the spring term timetable early in the autumn term. Students and staff will then have good notice of the commitments around which they need to make domestic and other arrangements.

So despite the earlier rise, the Students’ Union strongly supports the revised teaching day, recognizing that it is part of a package of modernizing changes to take proper account of the needs of students who have family or work commitments.

“This is what has always been needed,” says Nik Goldberg, USSU Education Officer. “It will help time management not only for people with kids, dependants or jobs, but will also help them to manage their degree and study better.”

The proposals for new teaching timetabling arrangements were passed by Senate in December 2002. To see the paper that went to Senate, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/sos/status/proposal.pdf.

Did you know that you can already check online for when your courses are timetabled? See www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/timetable.

Chef celebrates cup cake

A pastry chef in the University's Catering Service has discovered that winning competitions is a piece of cake.

Inspired by Brighton's Royal Pavilion, Gemma Tiplady created a wedding cake for a regional competition organised by The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO).

Her brief was to make and decorate a one-tier Madeira cake up to 12 inches in diameter. The judges of the Celebration Cake category awarded Gemma's creation top marks for appearance, taste, texture, and moistness.

"It's the first competition I've entered and I'd only made two wedding cakes before," she says. "Winning the cup was the icing on the cake."

Gemma is one of two pastry chefs at Sussex who make all the cakes, savoury pastries, hot sweets and cold desserts that are served in Catering Service outlets and at University functions.

Now in its third year, the annual TUCO Culinary Competition gives catering staff in the southern region an opportunity to improve their skills, gain competition experience and meet fellow professionals in the sector.

Other categories at this year's event at Thames Valley University on 6 June included Fish Course and Student Main Meal.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 16 June

Alumni Systems Manager, Alumni Centre (ref 225)
2x Library Assistant, Library (pt, ref 240)

Apply by 18 June

Generalist Advisor, Student Advice Centre (ref 232)
RM Phillips Chair in Experimental Medicine, BSMS (ref S239)

Apply by 20 June

2x Lecturer/Senior Lecturer inMEDIA Practice, SocSci (ref 226)
Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies, SocSci (ref 927)
Lecturer in Gender and Media Studies, SocSci (ref 228)
Building Supervisor, Library (ref 231)

Apply by 24 June

2x Research Fellow, Psychosocial Oncology Group (ref 032b)

Apply by 27 June

Lecturer in American Studies, Humns (ref 230)
Health and Fitness Instructor, Sport Service (ref 241)
Duty Manager, Sport Service (ref 242)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personal/off or contact Staffing Services on ext. 8706, fax 877401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk.
Dear Bulletin

Patricia McCabe’s letter (2 May) comments on the “breeze-block monstrosity” across the road from Sussex House. I agree that it does look rather sterile. But then again, it is a Medical School.

Regarding the chance to rename a couple of campus roads (Bulletin 30 May), I wonder if any thought has been given to renaming the equally unimaginatively-named Arts Road. It might also discourage sign-alteration in the obvious manner by tired and emotional first years. It is curious in that regard that the name signs for Arts Road have been constructed with plenty of space on the left-hand side to facilitate such redesign.

Andy Clews,
Computing Service

Dear Bulletin

I notice in this week’s Bulletin (30 May) that the article “Wife-swap scandal at drag wedding” refers to “Library Square”.

I always thought that this area was officially called “Fulton Court” after the first Vice-Chancellor, John Fulton. Has there been a renaming here as well? I do hope not.

Marco Frieslaar
ENGG 1987-90

Benedict Brook, the author of the offending article, replies:

Hands up! Fulton Court is indeed the official name for what I termed “Library Square”.

However, in my defence, a totally unscientific poll I conducted among current students reveals they have also never heard of Fulton Court, mirroring my own experiences while studying here. In fact the hodger went as far to tell me: “We refer to it as Library Square, and shall ever do so.”

This ignorance has much to do with the fact no sign has ever been erected naming the quad, leaving students to hand down this mistake unfeathered through the years.

So well known is the colloquialism that I would argue it has now become an established name. Yes, history should have a place on this campus – but perhaps in the case of Fulton Court the horse has already bolted.

Why the underpass isn’t yet up to scratch

If you think the banks around the new underpass across the A27 have taken on the bright-yellow appearance of an oil seed rape field, then you’d be right. Rob French, Special Projects Manager and in charge of liaising with contractors on the underpass project, sees the rape as nothing more than a nuisance to be eradicated: “A weed is a plant, just in the wrong place.”

Although the underpass itself is a vast improvement on the previous dark, dank and narrow tunnel, the scruffiness of its landscaping is one of a clutch of concerns following the completion of building.

According to Rob, the impromptu rape field is down to wrangling between the underpass builders, Costain, and the firm they contracted to complete the landscaping. So far only a small amount of weeding and landscaping has taken place.

“We suggested that Ecover [who maintain the University grounds] finish the landscaping. So far Costain haven’t taken up this idea. However, we are determined to finish the landscaping without the rape going to seed,” explains Rob.

Meanwhile, the funky blue steps on the south side of the A27 seem to become a mini waterfall at the merest hint of rain, and puddles linger days after wet weather has cleared. Some underpass users claim to be seriously worried about slipping on them.

Rob explains this is being caused by a higher-than-usual ridge on the edge of each step, preventing water from draining away. When the rainfall is heavy, rain spills down from the top and creates a waterfall.

“We have asked that the designers look at the steps,” says Rob. “However, the Highways Agency are currently replaced the company responsible for their design work. The change-over to a new firm is causing a delay in rectifying the problem.”

Finally, another problem confronts bus passengers. The large bus shelter was removed as a construction work began, but has so far not been replaced. Passengers are now getting wet both from the rain and from cars going through puddles.

Rob confirms that a new shelter will be installed. Protected on at least one side, it will be 13.5 m long and will almost certainly contain seating. “We have been told this will arrive within the next couple of months,” says Rob. “We are pushing for it to provide proper shelter and not just ad space.”

1,000 students visit CDEC campus recruitment fair

They were greeted by a mix of local and national companies offering a wide range of part-time and graduate opportunities. The most popular stands appeared to be the Teacher Training Agency and PricewaterhouseCoopers, who were both promoting their graduate schemes. The various NHS trusts also attracted a great deal of interest due to the variety of positions available, including part-time and graduate jobs.

Local employers also enjoyed a successful day. Among them, Telegen, Babel Media and the Brighton Metropole Hilton Hotel all reported lots of interest in their part-time vacancies.

All employers saw the event as invaluable in raising their profile among students and delegates were impressed by the quality of the students. Surrey and Sussex NHS Trust, recruiting for various part time and vacation positions, found applicants to be of “a high standard” and “very focused”.

“It’s testimony to our students that the feedback from employers was so positive,” said organiser Andrea Wall. “They had paid attention to all the CDEC pre-event publicity, including attending preparation workshops. It was also a real team effort from the University, with CDEC working closely with units such as Management Information Systems (MIS) to make the day a success.”

Now it’s time to start organising the autumn Jobday: 5 November is the date for your diary.

O’Reilly tennis cup

On the day Juan Carlos Ferrero was thrashing a nobody in the French Open final, a far more closely fought tennis tournament was taking place on campus. Professor Tony McCaffery (CPES) and Bridget Millmore (CDEC) each made the most of a succession of mixed-doubles partners and emerged victorious in the annual O’Reilly Cup.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 16 Jun
12.30pm Continuing Education Research and Practice Forum: Mick Fletcher (Research Manager, Learning and Skills Development Agency), Funding adult learning: Reform or revolution. Arts D310.

Wed 18 Jun
4.00pm South Asia Seminar: Minoli Salgado (Sussex). Text and territorialism: Sri Lankan literature since the Civil War. Arts D340.

Thu 19 Jun
4.30pm Social and Political Thought Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Darrow Schacter (Sussex). Regulation or reconciliation? Towards a theory of legitimate law. Arts D630.

Fri 20 Jun
2.00pm Graduate

Faculty Seminar: Fredrik Rakar (Osnavrub), Taming integration: In the crossfire between interest and good intentions (on the Swedish [immigrant] Integration Board). Arts D630.

Mon 23 Jun

1.00pm Cognition Research Group Seminar: John Gardiner (Sussex), Episodic memory in adults with Aspergers Syndrome. EP Seminar Room 4D13 / 4D14.

Thu 26 Jun
4.30pm Social and Political Thought Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Patrick Baert (Cambridge), Richard Rorty's Neo-Pragmatism as a philosophy of the social sciences. Arts D630.

Small ads

FOR SALE: Classic Palm Vx (8M, almost new, Valentino leather cover). £95 ono. Email xh21@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Care/ companionship for 11-yr-old boy in summer school holidays, several days a week, times negotiable. Suit teenager/au pair (could live in). Contact Jo Grigg on 0703 678327 or j.f.grigg@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LEND: Peugeot diesel, good condition. Aug 03 to Dec 04, for local use. Virtually no costs. GB driving licence required. Email stj2@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 1-bed furnished flat nr Palmeira Sq, Hove. W/M, dryer, GCH, £530 pcm. Available 30 June. Email dep20@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: 'Cordon Bleu' mini oven (tabletop size) with grill. Unused. £90 ono. Ext. 8940, email lindt@gogs.sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: 2-bed flat in Kemp Town. Extensively renovated: new kitchen, bathroom, polished wood floors. £165K. Contact Joe on 07776 301727 or J.R.Buckman @sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: VW Golf Driver 1.8i. M reg (Dec 99). 84K miles, FSH, MOT Apr 04. £3,175 ono. Call Paul on 07879 683701 or 01444 474120.

FOR SALE: 3-bed maisonette with garden and share of freehold. On 25 bus route. £160K ovo. Tel. 602896.

FOR SALE: 1-bed flat, Lewes Road area. Recent refurb, wood floors, communal gardens. £130K ovo. Tel. 07971 850998.

FOR SALE: Alpha Smart Dana laptop, Palm powered. £130. Call Amanda on 385168.

WANTED: Keyboard tutor for school-aged child (grade 1). Email S.Brown@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 2-bed house in Lewes. Available mid-July, £725 pcm excl. Short let considered. Email matfs@sussex.ac.uk or call Mary on 515757.

TO LET: Beech veneer dining table & 4 chairs £100. Double bed with headboard £100. 2 small bookcases £10 each. Ironing board £5. Toaster £5. Kettle £5. All items less than 1 yr old. Email C.Sengar@ sussex.ac.uk, ext. 7238.

TO LET: 1-bed top-floor seafront flat with balcony. Part furnished, GCH, off-road parking. Suit N/S professional(s).


TO LET: Double room in flat share with 1 other, Seven Dials. £375 pcm. Available 1 July. Call Michelle on ext. 3615 or 776283.

Bike2work week

Cinema

Sun 15 Jun
8pm Frida (15)

Sun 22 Jun
8pm Gangs of New York (18)

Mon 23 Jun
9pm The Magdalene Sisters (15)

Tue 24 Jun
8pm The Pianist (15)

Flicks for free: for every film in the summer programme, a free pair of tickets worth £9 to the first Bulletin reader at the box office.

Exhibitions

Fri 2 May–Fri 20 Jun
Jonathan Gilhooley – Some Outs

The result of a collaboration with a professional magician to explore the dynamics of illusionism, deception and misdirection.

Tue 24 Jun
Bike2work week

17 June and Thu 19 June: Bike Doctor. Tue 10.00 to 16.00 and Thu 10.00 to 14.30. Look for the large banners.

Thu 19 June: Cycle Training instructors will lead organised bike rides to campus. Both rides start at 07.45 and finish with a free breakfast at the Meeting House.

Cycle from Lewes, leaving from the junction of Montacute Road and Brighton Road; or cycle from Brighton, leaving from the level.

Thu 19 June: Free breakfast for cyclists. Everyone who arrives on campus between 08.00 and 10.00 having travelled by cycle, unicycle, skateboard or other self-powered transport will be provided with a free breakfast of bagels, spreads, fruit juice and hot drinks. Breakfast will be served at the Meeting House.

Thu 19 June: Book for the University’s own cycling training course, Bike to Campus. The course will consist of eight hours of training, including at least two hours of one-to-one help tailored to individual journeys and needs. The cost will be only £20.

Gardner Arts Centre

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

Performance

Wed 16–Sat 21 Jun
7.30pm SUBS – The Way of the World
Sussex University Drama Society in a Restoration Comedy about the utter helplessness of giving your heart over to someone else.

Sun 15 Jun
8pm Frida (15)

Sun 22 Jun
8pm Gangs of New York (18)

Mon 23 Jun
9pm The Magdalene Sisters (15)

Tue 24 Jun
8pm The Pianist (15)

Flicks for free: for every film in the summer programme, a free pair of tickets worth £9 to the first Bulletin reader at the box office.

Bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field, Peter Simmons and Benedict Brook. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 27 June, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 20 June. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
New parking strategy: Your questions answered

Why do I have to pay to park on campus?

The University Travel Plan, adopted by Council in July 2002, identified as one of its aims a new Parking Strategy for the University campus, including the introduction of car-park charges.

The over-riding objective for the University's Travel Plan is: "To reduce the impact of University generated traffic on the environment and the local community by encouraging staff, students and visitors to the University to travel by sustainable transport modes, through improvements to the choice of transport available to them."

The Parking Strategy is key to achieving that objective because it acts as an incentive to change to more sustainable modes of travel and it will provide the funding for other aspects of the Plan. The income from car-park charges is ring-fenced to fund those aims and to provide improvements to parking provision on campus.

What times of the day will parking charges apply?

Charges for parking will be levied Monday–Friday, 0900–1700.

What times of the year will parking charges apply?

Charges for parking will be levied all year round except Bank Holidays and Minimum Service Days.

How will I pay?

There will be two methods of payment for parking:

- Annual parking permit by pre-purchase arrangement
- Pay-and-display

How much will I pay for occasional parking?

- Visitors: £2.50 (four hours maximum)
- University staff earning above £22,000 per year FTE and associates: £2 per day
- Full-time students and University staff earning under £22,000 per year FTE: £1 per day.

How much will I pay for an annual permit or pay daily?

- University staff earning at a level over £22,000 per year full-time equivalent (FTE) salary and associates of the University will pay the University rate of £300 per year for parking.

How do I know to which category I belong?

Most University car-park users will have a University ID card. This shows the user category, defining the rate of payment for parking.

- Staff: includes any member of staff paid by the University or through the University payroll system (including IDS, Gardner Arts Centre)
- Student: includes all students registered with the University on credit-bearing courses, including those on special modes of registration, e.g. continuation, intermission or similar.
- Associate: includes others with an ongoing relationship with the University that entitles them to use certain University services, e.g. visiting fellows, sundry people working for the University or in units on campus who are not on the payroll, emeritus professors and retired staff, open access learners, etc.

Users may have more than one association with the University. Student status normally takes precedence over others and this will apply to parking rights.

Anyone not entitled to a University ID card is considered external to the University and will pay the visitors' rate for parking unless special arrangements are made.
Are there any exceptions to parking charges?

Some staff and students will not have to pay to park on campus:

• Disabled staff and students: Those whose disability has been registered by University procedure will initially be exempt from parking charges. This exemption will continue until the University is confident that sustainable travel alternatives are equally available to the disabled. Special parking provision will continue to be available.

• Essential car-users: Human Resources staff will confirm which staff contracts include essential car use. The University is revising its policies relating to business travel, including use of private cars. A vehicle hire scheme will be provided as a later addition to the new Parking Strategy.

• Staff earning under £12,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) salary per year.

All the above categories of staff and student will still need to register their car and apply for an annual permit-to-park.

University users applying for an annual permit will be required to send pre-payment (cheque or cash) with their application, or, in the case of staff, to include an authority to deduct the cost of the annual permit from salary (12 monthly payments). The application process will give clear details. The pass and permit example, a member of staff on a half-time contract will pay half the FTE rate, but a member of staff working four full days a week, i.e. on a 0.8 contract, will pay four-fifths (0.8) of the FTE rate.

How do I apply for a permit or pass-to-park?

Users will be able to apply for a permit or pass from 1 July 2003.

The application procedures are being finalised. For convenience, it is planned that most University users will be able to apply for a permit or pass by email or completion of a webform. Paper forms will be available from the Transport Manager or will be available by printing from the website.

Details of the application process will be posted on the website before the end of June 2003 and will be sent individually to everyone who has a vehicle registered on the University vehicle database.

Packing permit and pass application details will be available to new and returning students during University registration in October 2003.

Passes and permits will identify the applicant and will not show vehicle registration data, so may be moved from car to car by a user, providing its registration data are held on the University vehicle database.

What are the arrangements for part-time staff?

Part-time staff will pay for an annual permit-to-park at a cost proportional to the size of their contract. For example, a member of staff on a half-time contract will pay half the FTE rate, but a member of staff working four full days a week, i.e. on a 0.8 contract, will pay four-fifths (0.8) of the FTE rate.

As part-time attendance at the University varies from person to person, a part-timer will need to consider carefully whether to purchase an annual permit or whether pay-and-display is a more economical option, particularly as it enables payment for periods of two, four or six hours.

Staff on small contracts, less than 0.2 or “as-and-when” contracts will not be able to apply for an annual permit. Such staff will be able to apply for a pass-to-park and will pay and display at the appropriate rate.

What are the arrangements for part-time students?

Part-time students will pay half the student rate, i.e. £75 per year.

What are the arrangements for pay-and-display payment?

University staff, students and associates who choose to pay and display for parking will also have to apply for a pass-to-park, for which there will be no charge. That pass will have to be displayed in the
windscreen of the car, next to the daily pay-and-display ticket and will identify the user’s entitlement to pay at one of the University rates for daily parking. The colour of the pass will inform car-park enforcement staff of the rate that should be paid for parking. Instructions issued with the pass will tell the user how to pay the correct rate at the machine.

Pay and display machines are being installed in every University car-park (38 in total). There will be more than one in most car-parks. In all cases there will be a pay-and-display machine within a reasonable distance of all parking spaces, even if the nearest machine is temporarily and unusually out-of-order. The pay-and-display machines do not give change. Will the parking ban still apply for students resident on campus?

The parking ban introduced last September for students resident on the University campus will continue and will be enforced with more rigour next session. Only students with families resident, Residential Advisors and registered disabled students are excluded from this ban. A student in one or more of the first two categories (i.e. not disabled students) will have to apply for a permit or pass and charges for parking will apply between 0900 and 1700 Monday to Friday.

Users without a pass (or permit) displayed in the windscreen will be expected to pay the full external rate for parking, i.e. £2.50 for four hours. Is there an alternative to cash payment for daily parking?

A University user who wishes to pay and display for parking will be issued, without charge, with a rechargeable card with the pass-to-park. These cards can be charged and recharged with value at any pay-and-display machine, and then that value can be used to pay for daily parking, avoiding the need to carry the exact monies. Replacement rechargeable cards (for loss or damage) will be available but will cost £2.00 each.

What are the arrangements for display of permits, passes and pay-and-display tickets?

Permits or passes and pay and display tickets must be prominently displayed in the front windscreen of vehicles. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that they are visible. Failure to do this will contravene the new parking regulations. A user may move a permit or pass between vehicles that are registered by that user on the university vehicle database.

What are the arrangements for parking by visitors (i.e. those who are not considered to be University users)?

Visitors and those with no link to the University will pay at a daily rate of £5.00, or £2.50 for up to four hours.

Units will have the option of issuing daily permits-to-park with invitations to visitors. Daily visitor permits can be purchased by University units, and will be available from the Transport Manager from July 2003. Details of the procedure for obtaining visitor permits will be sent to all unit heads by the end of June.

Will there still be dedicated visitors’ parking, and how will it be enforced?

The two Visitors’ car-parks will remain although the barriers and intercom communication to the Security Office will be removed. The barriers will be re-used for other purposes. Only those displaying a Visitor Permit or a pay-and-display ticket at the full visitor rate will be permitted to park in the Visitors’ car-parks.

Parking of vehicles displaying university Permits or Passes will not be allowed in these car-parks and will contravene the new Parking Regulations. This regulation will be rigorously enforced.

Visitors to campus will continue to be able to park in any car-park, if there is space available and providing a visitor’s permit or an appropriate pay-and-display ticket is displayed.

Are there special arrangements for groups of visitors?

There will be some special arrangements for certain groups or regular categories of visitor.

• Student recruitment events: The present system of assigning specific parking for student recruitment events will continue. Those attending will be directed to parking provided and will not be required to pay or display any permit.

• Staff of businesses located on campus: Businesses located on campus may apply to the Transport Manager to purchase annual Permits-to-park for their staff at the university rate (£300p.a.) Business Permits will be allocated to the business and may be moved among staff of the business as required.
• Conference delegates: Charges for parking are included in conference fees. Delegates will be sent a Permit for display with conference registration information. Special parking provision, i.e. the closure of all or part of a car-park for conference use, will continue.

• Contractors working on campus: Individual contractors visiting campus will be issued with a Permit-to-park with the permit-to-work process. Guidance will be given about suitable parking available. Building contractors or other contractors working on larger or longer projects on campus will be allocated parking space at the contract negotiation stage and will be required to restrict parking within the area agreed by the terms of contract. As far as possible such parking will be outside the area of university car-parks and will be confined to the area under the control of the contractor concerned.

• Other special events: As far as possible other events will only be permitted during periods of low demand for parking (evenings, weekends and vacations). Car-parks may be partially or wholly closed for such events. Arrangements for event parking will usually include charges.

decide the charges for fixed-penalty notices and tow-away/impounding of vehicles.

What are the new parking regulations?

The traffic and parking regulations have been revised and extended to enable enforcement of the new Parking Strategy. They are proceeding through committee to Council this term. They will be displayed on these pages after agreement by Council at the beginning of July 2003.

The new regulations include
• provisions to enforce the purchase and display of permits, passes and pay-and-display tickets
• penalties for defrauding the Parking Strategy, e.g. by copying or defacement of permits or passes
• proposals for more effective enforcement of inconsiderate parking or parking that causes an obstruction.

How will the new Parking Strategy and regulations be enforced?

Additional and dedicated parking enforcement personnel will be employed to enforce the Parking Strategy and to provide support to vehicle users on campus, e.g. providing directions and increased security presence in car-parks.

Penalties for infringing the new traffic or parking regulations will include warning notices, fixed penalty notices and towing away/impounding of vehicles parked unsafely or causing an obstruction. Council will

parking on University roads, to which the Road Traffic Acts have been applied, will be enforced by representatives of Brighton & Hove City Council under contract. Penalties for illegal parking on these roads will be subject to penalties enforced by the City Council.

Will there be a car-share scheme?

Unfortunately there have been some delays in setting up the proposed car-share scheme. It is still hoped that it will be available as part of the Parking Strategy from 1 August 2003. Details of the Scheme will be published in future editions of the Bulletin and the badge.

What should I do with my existing parking badge?

After 1 August 2003 existing parking badges can be thrown away as they will all be replaced by new permits or passes.

Will parking charges guarantee spaces to park in University car-parks?

Unfortunately, demand for parking exceeds supply of spaces by a factor of nearly 2:1. It is hoped that the Travel Plan will eventually reduce the demand for parking to the level of supply but a permit or pass-to-park is only a licence to look for a parking space. The University is actively seeking additional parking to replace spaces lost during current building projects but also to supplement University parking space until demand levels are reduced.

What are the arrangements for motorcycle parking?

Motorcycle riders will have to register their bikes to park on the campus. Initially there will be no charge and there will not be a permit to display.

Where can I obtain further information or answers to specific questions?

Please make sure you have read this information fully before deciding that you still have a query about the new Parking Strategy. If you need further information or an answer to a specific question, please send it by email to the Transport Manager, l.g.newman@sussex.ac.uk.

Linda Newman
Transport Manager
June 2003
Catering consultant appointed

A catering consultancy firm has been appointed to research users' needs and look at the provision of catering campus wide, including in the new Schools.

Over the next few weeks Turpin Smale will be consulting students and staff about issues such as prices, opening times, weekend services, choice and diversity of provision. Managing director Peter Smale has already begun by talking to the Students' Union, senior managers and franchised catering units on campus.

There will also be two open consultation meetings: call Charles Dudley on ext. 8679 or email c.r.dudley@sussex.ac.uk to make sure that you are sent an invitation to the meetings.

In addition, all students in residences are invited each summer to complete an 'exit survey' and this year they are being asked specific questions on catering.

Following the research and consultation period, Turpin Smale will submit a report to senior managers on their proposals for the best means of meeting the University's catering needs. There will be widespread publicity of the recommendations.

In the long term, each new School will have a common room/cafe area as an integral part of its School centre. Some existing independent contractors will continue to run School outlets on campus during 2003/04 until the catering review is complete.

Finance managers appointed

Each School will have a finance manager, devolved from the Finance Division, who will be physically based in the School and will be part of its senior administrative team.

Their role will be to advise the Dean and his management team on financial management within the School. They will also provide a link between the School and the finance functions in the central administration.

**Humansit**: Bryan Pearce

**Life Sciences**: Peter Ellis

**Science and Technology**: Richard Cousins

**Sussex Institute**: Charlotte Ryder

**Social Sciences and Cultural Studies**: Sandra Webb

New Schools sports day

To celebrate the formal start of the new Schools there will be a new Schools sports day, organised by the Sport Service and including a variety of competitions, on Friday 1 August.

More information will follow, but if there are keen groups of pool players, footballers or anything else, please start training! The organisers hope that the new Schools will be competing with teams from the Administration, Library and Computing Services.

The plan is for the competition to take place in the afternoon, followed by a barbecue and drinks in the early evening.

For more information, contact Sara Hinchcliffe in the Sussex Institute on ext. 8014, email s.j.hinchcliffe@sussex.ac.uk.
Finding your way in the new Schools

In the autumn, when new students arrive on campus for the first time, they will of course need help in finding their way around. But so will some returning students and staff, as the new Schools take shape, some staff move offices and new School Offices come into being.

So School Administrative Managers, in discussion with Estates, are looking at ways of signalling clearly the location of each School Office as people move around campus. This might be through some sort of entrance banner or other distinct signage. In the longer term, the new School centres will themselves have strong and distinct visual markers, as the designs by architect John Pardey show.

Once inside the buildings, there will be opportunity to orient people to key areas. The aim will be to provide simple layout maps at key entrance points. These would set out the location of the new School Offices (and departmental offices where they exist), plus key areas such as seminar rooms, labs, cafes and toilets. If you have a suggestion as to what needs to be included, email newschools@sussex.ac.uk.

Just looking round current buildings shows the build-up of old internal signs. In the Arts B entrance alone, there are seven different sets of signs, old and new. Improvements to all the internal signage are clearly needed, but will take longer to get right. Again, the simpler new School structure should allow this to take place on a planned and systematic basis.

Directors for SocCul

The School of Social Science and Cultural Studies has appointed a Director of Graduate Studies – Dr Barbara Einhorn (pictured right) – effective from 1 April.

In the same School, Dr Ruth Woodfield has resigned from the post of Director of Student Support as she will be on maternity leave for a significant part of the 2003/4 academic year. Dr Janice Winship (pictured right) replaced Ruth on 1 June.

SocCul School Office

The location of the temporary School Office for the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies will not be Arts C219 as previously advertised, but Arts C114/C110 (the former home of the Photographic and Design Unit).

This location on the ground floor will be more easily accessible for staff and students using the new office.

Your feedback

Keep the questions and issues coming!
Email newschools@sussex.ac.uk if there’s something you want to know about the new Schools or about arrangements during the transition period before they come into being in August 2003.