Sussex takes centre stage at Brighton Festival

England’s largest arts festival opens in Brighton tomorrow (3 May) and the Gardner Arts Centre will be centre stage as usual, playing host to many leading productions.

Sussex students are part of the team working on transforming Stanner House into an atmospheric stage for an innovative play from 3–11 May.

Rather than sitting in an auditorium, ‘Don’t Look Back’ audiences will be transported from the Gardner Arts Centre to Stanner House, where they will be free to wander the rickety hallways. On their journey, objects and figures they encounter will illuminate the narrative, based on the ancient myth of ‘Orpheus and Euridyce’.

English finalist Becky Kemp is one of many Sussex students who are helping to clean and turn the house into a suitable stage. Becky, who wants to work in arts marketing, sees this as a good opportunity to get behind the scenes: “We do all the little jobs like sweeping, blasting out windows and collecting props.” However, it’s more than just an opportunity to get some work experience: “It’s brilliant getting inside this fantastic house and seeing it transformed,” she enthuses.

Sussex University Drama Society (SUDS) are heavily involved in this year’s Festival, staging two performances.

First years Tom Halstead and Stuart Simons are putting on a production of ‘A Midsummer’s Night Dream’ at Falmer School from 14–16 May. Produced with the aid of the famous Stagecoach youth drama school, the event will comprise a workshop for the school children followed by the show itself, featuring both student actors and the children themselves.

Meanwhile, SUDS treasurer Vanessa Hammersmith, a 2nd year English student, has been heavily involved in an innovative production called ‘Dancefloor Dramas’ at Club New York in Dyke Road. She describes it as “a cheesy pop club night, but with a dramatic element -some of which will be very clear, and some of which will come as a surprise to clubbers”. 14 May, 10.30pm–2am.

The University itself is sponsoring two flagship Festival events. On 4 May epic Russian propaganda film Alexander Nevsky will be shown at the Dome to the accompaniment of a live performance of Prokofiev’s score, while on 7 May the Schubert Ensemble will entertain in the magnificent Royal Pavilion.

The performance of Alexander Nevsky features the Brighton Festival Chorus, whose members include a clutch of Sussex staff and students. One of them is Dr Viv Griffiths, from USIE. “Singing in the Festival stretches you to the limit of your abilities,” she says. “But it’s an exhilarating experience.” Viv and the rest of the Chorus will also be singing in Benjamin Britten’s War Requiem on 16 May at the Dome.

The Festival Chorus was formed in 1968 by Laslow Heltay, then head of music at Sussex. To this day the Chorus still practises in the Biology Lecture Theatre.

The Open Houses (local artists showing their work in private houses around town) have become an integral part of the Festival.

Roger Bates from Management Accounts (pictured above) will be showing large abstract pieces of stained glass at 51 Wilbury Road in Hove, as well as several smaller pieces. Weekends 3–25 May, 11am–6pm.

Pat Drake from USIE will be showing drawing and sculpture at 20 Ilingword Street. Weekends 3–25 May, 11am–5pm.

Studying the “Martians” of the seas

The strange and fascinating world of cuttlefish - the “Martians” of the seas - will be studied by University of Sussex researchers at a new facility at the Sealife Centre in Brighton.

“We’ve now got a laboratory at the Sealife Centre and while we’re studying the cuttlefish, people will be able to watch us at work,” says Dr Adam Shohet.

Dr Shohet and Dr Daniel Osorio have been working with the Sealife Centre on the collaboration for the last 18 months, fitting out the laboratory and designing an educational display for visitors.

“Cuttlefish are the nearest we can get to Martians,” says Daniel. “They are very like vertebrates in some ways in that they are mobile with big brains, but they have evolved from snails so they have come from a completely different evolutionary route and they do everything differently.”

Cuttlefish are cephalopods - meaning ‘head foot’ - and they are native to British waters. They are voracious predators with eight arms and two feeding tentacles which they shoot out at the speed of a bullet to grab their prey and pull it in to their beak.

They are also extremely vulnerable to attack, as their shells have evolved to be on the inside (the cuttlebones used in budgies’ cages).

For this reason cuttlefish have developed an incredible camouflage ability. “In less than a second they can completely change their colour. They’ve had to become masters of disguise,” says Adam.

The camouflage system is also used for social communication and the Sussex team has developed image-processing software with which to study this behaviour.

Cuttlefish have also developed a defensive response which releases mildly narcotic ink to stun attackers and give them time to escape. This sepia ink is used as writing ink and to colour rice and pasta.

“Cuttlefish are very sensitive to water quality and at the Sealife Centre we have readily available sea water instead of the artificial sea water we have previously been having to use,” says Adam.

Ex-Sussex student Emma Kelman, who recently completed her Masters degree in cuttlefish behaviour and who now works at the Sealife Centre, initiated the project with Peter Jones, the Centre’s curator.
The next generation of engines and engineers

Engineering researchers at Sussex will be developing the next generation of computer-controlled diesel engines.

The Control and Diagnosis for Internal Combustion Engines (CANDICE) project will run for two years and will bring together researchers from the UK and France.

“The objective of this project is to identify new ways of controlling diesel engines,” says Richard Stobart, Professor of Automotive Engineering. "Diesel has historically had a bad image of noisy and smoky London taxis and lorries, but modern diesel engines have a lot of virtues. For example, they produce up to 20% less greenhouse gases and are very efficient.”

However, compared with petrol engines, diesel engines still produce high levels of nitrogen oxides and microscopic soot particles, which are proving difficult to control.

“What we are looking into is how to develop new electronic systems to control the injection of fuel and the combustion in the engine cylinders in ways that will reduce pollution,” adds Richard.

Electronic systems play a significant role in today’s cars, with one-third of the manufacturing cost of a typical car made up of electrical and electronic systems.

“The new Automotive Systems degree is designed to train engineers in the software skills needed to work with the kind of electronic systems found in modern vehicles,” says Richard. “The explosive growth of electronic systems in cars has left the industry short of engineers able to design and program such systems.”

The degree will span a range of subjects – with a combination of software, electronics and mechanical engineering. Students will benefit from links with both car companies and major sub-system suppliers to the motor industry.

The CANDICE project is funded by the European Commission Interreg IIIA scheme, which aims to stimulate cooperation between European regions.

The project brings together researchers at the University of Sussex, the École Supérieure d’Ingénieurs Généralistes (ESIGELEC) and the Complexe de Recherche Interprofessionnel en Aérothermochimie (CORIA) at the University of Rouen.

Sussex lecturer gets too close to the edge

Dr George Walter, CCS

As events in the Middle East have dominated the news recently, the recent election in Malta may not have come to everyone’s attention.

This election was not merely about who governs Malta but, more significantly, also about Malta’s membership of the European Union. As the first of the 15 enlargement states to test the waters with both referendum and general election on the issue of accession, it was also a test case for the whole EU enlargement programme.

In a society where 96% of the population regularly votes at elections, politics is a part of daily life in Malta. The week leading up to an election sees a hectic schedule of electioneering, mass meetings and public debate.

Among the events leading up to the general election on 12 April was the open lecture given by Sussex anthropologist Dr Jon Mitchell four days earlier.

Entitled ‘Maltese pasts and futures’, and delivered in the historic surroundings of a 16th-century palace built by the Knights of St John, which is now used as the National Museum of Archaeology, the lecture addressed the complexities of Maltese politics at this critical juncture.

An eager audience of politicians, journalists, students, academics and interested citizens heard Jon’s analysis of contemporary Maltese anxieties about the processes of political reform required by European accession.

Drawing on his book, Ambivalent Europeans: Ritual, Memory and the Public Sphere in Malta (Routledge, 2002), he explored the unique nature of Maltese political life and its relationship to wider social considerations.

The heated debate that followed not only showed the relevance of Jon’s topic but also confirmed his argument that, in Malta, politics is much more than merely a five-yearly shuffle to the voting booth.

“It was a bit daunting”, said Jon later. “I know that Maltese take their politics seriously, but it is important that scholars like myself make interventions into public life, and our work is heard, or even challenged, by the people to whom it really matters.”

Jon’s lecture was the climax of five days of lecturing, teaching and consultation meetings organised by Dr Paul Clough, anthropology coordinator at the Mediterranean Institute, University of Malta.

“We were delighted to have Dr Mitchell here this week, given the importance of his research on Maltese identity,” said Dr Clough.

“His work in the last week underlines the importance of continuing international academic cooperation.”

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 R&D website.

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<td>Toyota Foundation</td>
<td>Funds of up to £100,000 are available for one- or two-year projects under the key theme ‘Creating a society with pluralistic values’. Research falls into four sub-themes: diverse cultures; the reform of social systems; the global environment and human survival; science and technology in an age of civil society. Deadline: 20 May</td>
<td>An open competition for curiosity-motivated basic, strategic or applied research. Funds sought should not be less than £2,000 and not exceed £30,000 (including indirect staff costs). No studentships are awarded under this scheme. Deadline: 1 June</td>
<td>Grants of up to £100,000 a year for up to three years, meeting the costs of projects to improve the utilisation and accessibility of research resources and materials of all kinds. Eligible costs include: travel and subsistence, consumables; secretarial assistance; research visits. Deadline: 1 June</td>
<td>This scheme is designed to support new links with China, India or Japan. Funds are available for travel and subsistence, pre-collaboration lab inspection or for workshops. Applicants must apply to EPSRC for funding under the normal programmes to continue the collaboration. Deadline: 13 June</td>
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British Council British / Italian Link Supports new collaborative links with young researchers. Funds are available for travel and subsistence for projects of up to one year in the following areas; DNA methylation and reprogramming; food quality and safety; grid computing; our sustainable world; hydrogen fuel. Deadline: 18 July
Sussex Direct launches to staff

Now showing at a screen near you is Sussex Direct: a secure web site offering personalised access to the information that people need to study, work and socialise at Sussex. The Sussex Direct team launched the service to all staff this week.

The team developed the site in close collaboration with more than 100 staff and students, as well as members of the administration, Arts Computer Unit, Computing Service, Web Team, Management Information Systems, Human Resources, Ideas Lab, Library, Teaching and Learning Development Unit, and representatives of the existing and new Schools.

This release of Sussex Direct enables all staff to maintain their personal details and to access up-to-date information about their work, including expense claims. Teaching staff can access data about their courses and students from work and home. Everyone will be able to access systems such as email and computer accounts with a single password.

Planned future releases include a student version, an online registration system and the facility to add student marks and attendances from on and off campus.

Dr Simon Shurville, the project director, commented: "Sussex Direct is an example of successful collaboration across the University and the forthcoming releases should help smooth the transition to the new Schools next term."

Staff can log into Sussex Direct, using their USCS user name and password, at www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexdirect.

The helpline for users of Sussex Direct is ext. 8318.

Holocaust education website launched

A unique resource aimed at teachers and students of the Holocaust has gone online.

"We realised that we have a lot of really good resources in the archives and that we needed a way for students to be able to access them," says Chana Moshenska from the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

"We've also been involved in a project about Holocaust denial on the internet and we realised that, as well as telling people what not to look for, we should tell them what positive things they could look at."

The website provides searchable archives consisting of personal and family papers of German-Jewish refugees from the Nazis in the 1930s, as well as the art works and personal papers of Arnold Daghani, a survivor of the Holocaust.

Topics covered include the history of anti-Semitism, the diaspora experience, the history of the Third Reich, refugee experiences, women in the Holocaust, the resistance movement, and current refugee issues.

"We've had positive feedback about the site from all over the world," says Research Fellow Dr Stella Rock. "One academic in New Jersey has said he intends to use the site in his teaching, and others have praised the online catalogue."

Chana and Stella worked on the website with colleagues Dr Deborah Schultz and Samira Teuteberg, as well as Richard Inskip from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit. Richard Doe designed the archive catalogue pages.

Assistance and support came from the Anne Frank-Fonds in Switzerland; the Conference on Jewish Claims against Germany; Professor Ralph Grillo in AFRAS; the Photographic and Design Unit; Richard Tammar in the Web Team; and the Teaching and Learning Development Unit.

The website can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/cgis/teachingpack/teachingpack.php.

Funding boost for cancer research

Research at Sussex into the cellular causes of cancer has received a boost thanks to funding from Cancer Research UK.

A six-year fellowship worth over £900,000 will employ Dr Sally Wheatley and two other researchers for the next six years in the Genome Damage and Stability Centre and will also cover the cost of new equipment.

"I'm very excited to be here," says Sally. "The facilities are excellent and everyone works together really productively."

Sally will be looking at the way human cells divide and how this process can sometimes go wrong and lead to cancer.

When a cell divides, it must execute the processes of both 'mitosis' - the division of the genetic material - and 'cytokinesis' - the division of the cell itself.

Any inaccuracies in these processes - which are not yet fully understood - can lead to tumour formation or cell death. This research aims to identify and analyze the cellular proteins involved and to understand how they regulate the process of cell division.

One method that Sally will be using is live imaging using green fluorescent protein - which is derived from jellyfish - fused with particular proteins to see where they move in the cell, all in real time.

The Genome Damage and Stability Centre at Sussex is a purpose-built facility for the investigation of genetic disorders.

In brief

Mixed doubles tennis tournament
The annual O'Reilly Cup takes place on Saturday 7 June from 12-6pm. This year's tournament will be run on an American format, which means you have a different partner for each match. There is a maximum of 12 men and 12 women, at £2 per person. Ext. 7125 to enter.

Dance and movement festival
A weekend of dance and movement workshops takes place on 3 and 4 May. Experience salsa, African and Egyptian dance, Pilates, tai chi, hip hop and much more. You don't have to be able to dance, just to enjoy yourself. Day ticket for staff/students £10, weekend ticket £14.50. Contact Sportcentre reception on ext. 8228.

CCE open evening
The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) is holding an open evening from 5-8pm on 14 May and would like to encourage staff to come to Brambler House and find out about part-time learning opportunities. Depending on the total number of students on a course, there are some free places for staff available. CCE has a programme of taster sessions in June, which includes topics of local interest.

Stopping spam email
The Computing Service has introduced a 'spam catcher'. The initial effect of this is for email to be marked with an ""*"""" SPAM ""*"""" tag. At present about 10-15% of spam is being tagged in this way, but this percentage will increase as the spam catcher learns more about the spam that users are receiving. In future, once the Computing Service is happy that the spam is being properly identified, spam currently being tagged will be deleted and users will not even see it.
Student helps build Barbados blind cricket

Sussex student and England sporting star Andy Dalby-Welsh has returned from a visit to the cricket-mad West Indies, where he has been helping to develop blind cricket.

Andy was picked to travel to Barbados after his performance in this year’s Blind Cricket World Cup in India, where he was part of the England squad that came third overall in the championships and beat the eventual winners, Pakistan.

During the Barbados trip, Andy and the rest of the squad trained the newly formed local blind team. Their visit caused such a media stir that over 1,500 spectators turned up to see an England vs. Barbados clash at the end of the tour. “We did rather beat the Barbados team,” recalls Andy, “but they’ve only been in existence for eight months. Next time they’ll be much tougher opponents.”

The 10-day tour also included a match against a team of sighted players including ‘80s West Indies cricket legend Desmond Haines. “We lost!” laughs Andy. “As they could see us setting up the shots, they knew exactly where to run. But we managed to get 90 runs against 150, so it wasn’t a complete wipe-out.”

Luckily for Andy, the group had lots of spare time to look around the Caribbean island. “Barbados is beautiful, and we did all go to the beach – but we also went to various schools and got everyone playing cricket.”

Andy is in the third year of a Social Policy degree. Like most finalists, he is now struggling to get his dissertation in for the dreaded 18 May deadline – including one paper on the experiences of visually impaired children in mainstream education.

Andy’s experiences while at Sussex have certainly helped him to focus his mind on his future career. “I always really liked sport before I was visually impaired. Now I would like to get into sports development work, specialising in disability.”

Sussex graduate in NUS president bid

Former AFRAS student Sukant Chandan has failed in his bid to become National Union of Students president.

At the NUS national conference in April, Sukant lost out to the incumbent candidate Mandy Telford. However, Telford’s vote was one of the closest in years and, against a backdrop of increased fees and war in the Gulf, broad left candidate Kat Fletcher lost by only three votes.

Sukant is no stranger to elections. In February 2001 he was elected as the University’s Students’ Union Education Officer, a sabatical position.

In June of that year he stood in the general election as a Socialist Labour candidate in Diane Abbott’s safe Labour seat of Hackney North and Stoke Newington.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

The University is taking the advice of the public health authorities about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and encourages staff and students to acquaint themselves with the characteristics of this serious illness by consulting http://www.phls.org.uk/topics_az/SARS/boarding_schools.htm.

Any symptoms suggestive of SARS (high fever, sore throat, dry cough or breathing difficulties) should be reported to a GP immediately.

Small ads

FOR SALE: 2-bed flat, central Lewes. Available now, £118,000. Short-term lets also considered - £175 p/w incl. Call Nick on 07818 452194 or email nickhill88@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Second-hand office desk, regular size, two integral pedestals, 5 drawers, £25 ono. Buyer collects. Contact Lindsey on l.j.mullard@sussex.ac.uk, ext. B497.

WANTED: Room from 11 June for approx. 4-6 wks, for couple moving to B’ton to study at Sussex. Email anna_maron@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: Golf diesel, M reg. Tax, MoT £1,800. Tel. 677401.


Cost £180 new, accept £75. £325 the pair. Contact Tony Fuller after 2.30pm Mon-Fri, any time weekends, on 480154.

TO LET: Large study/bedroom in Lewes. From 1 May. Share with 2 Pgs. £280 pcm (excl). N/S pref. Ring 487147 or Joe on 07760 204551, Nina on 07904 169792.

ELECTRICIAN: Qualified with 11 yrs’ experience (now poor PG needing work). For free estimate ring Joe on 487147 or 07760 204551.

TO LET: House during July. Hanover. 3 beds. 2 baths. Dishwasher, washing machine etc. Patio garden. On street parking. £100 per week for one person. Negotiable for more. Postgrad/staff preferred. Contact Lisa on 07700667526 email elvislive69@hotmail.com.
In brief

Homestay hosts needed
The Sussex Language Institute offers courses to overseas students throughout the year. If you have a spare bedroom and would be willing to offer bed, breakfast and evening meal plus a taste of the British way of life, in exchange for an excellent rate of pay, contact Melanie Suppel on ext. 8338, email M.Suppel@sussex.ac.uk.

Robin Lee Poetry Competition
Robin Lee was a student at Sussex in the 1960s and on his death his mother set up and funded this annual competition, which is open to all students and non-teaching staff. Cash prizes are awarded to the winner and runner-up. Entrants may submit up to four poems, totalling not more than 100 lines. For entry forms, contact Elaine Saunders, EAM, Arts B239, ext. 7303. The closing date is Friday 30 May.

Invigilators wanted
The Exams Section of the Undergraduate Office is looking to find new invigilators for unseen exams in June 2004. Invigilators set up and monitor unseen exams during the exam seasons (mid-May to late June, and mid-September) and are responsible for the good order of the hall during an exam. Payment is based on the number of exams (and students in those exams) that an invigilator covers. We would particularly like to hear from colleagues who are about to retire, or from the partners of current staff. If you're interested, contact Elizabeth Stewart in the Undergraduate Office on ext. 2151, email e.c.stewart@sussex.ac.uk.

Correction
The Bulletin of 4 April refers to a new book by Sussex author "Nalia Kebeer", Professorial Fellow in IDS). Many apologies to Professor Nalia Kebeer for the spelling mistakes in both parts of her name.

New appointments to Council
Research scientist Peter Saraga has been appointed to the University's governing body, to replace Jim Ellis. Artist and illustrator Patrice Aggs has filled the vacancy on Council caused by the resignation of Baroness Andrews. The appointments of Christopher Crook, Sir David Watson and Lord Renton of Mount Harry have all been extended for a further period.

Fun Run
Don't forget the inaugural University of Sussex Fun Run on Sunday 11 May. Run (or even walk) 5km round Stanmer Park and you get a medal and the chance of a lucky dip prize. Your kids can take part too, and all proceeds will benefit the children's hospital in Brighton. See www.sussexsport.com for an application form.

Chancellor's Awards
Time is running out to nominate a member of staff for the inaugural Chancellor's Awards, which recognise exceptional contributions to the work and life of the University. Four awards of £500 each will be made at the graduation ceremonies in July. See www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/register for details on how to nominate someone who you feel should be acknowledged for their part in life at Sussex. The closing date is 9 May.

Psychologists seek families
Psychologists Dr Alison Pike and Dr Anna Harrison are seeking local families to take part in a study into sibling relationships. "Our aim is to see 200 families and we've seen about 80 so far," says Alison. "We would like to talk to parents whose children attend schools in the Brighton and Hove area who have a child in Reception or Year 1 and also another child up to the age of eight." Call ext. 7288 or 8408.

Kinder egg
He reckons to break even on his betting, but he normally likes to collect any winnings in cash.
On this occasion, the University's Registrar and Secretary won an over-sized prize by correctly guessing the weight (10kg/22lbs) of a chocolate Easter egg at a promotional stand for Ashdown Park Hotel. He admits to prior knowledge, having won an egg of equally gigantic proportions in a raffle 13 years ago.
Having won the egg, Neil knew just what to do with it and there were lots of sticky faces in the campus Nursery after he had presented it to a group of grateful children.

Neil Gershon is a passionate racegoer and inveterate gambler, so it's no surprise to hear that he was at Plumpton races on Easter Saturday.

Open days to answer your mortgage questions.
Why not call in for a face-to-face chat with one of our mortgage specialists during our Mortgage Open Days every Friday.
Please ask staff for details or call 01273 362209.

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Obituaries

Aubrey Jones

The Rt Hon Aubrey Jones died on 10 April, aged 91. Since July 1986 he had been part-time Visiting Fellow at SPRU.

An economist and former MP, Aubrey had a deep commitment to the study of technology and technology policy, which had developed especially in the late 1950s when he was Minister of Supply.

A second tie to SPRU came through his very catholic and pragmatic approach to the politics in which he emulously himself. This made it easy for him to associate freely with individuals of a range of political persuasions (or indeed none) in SPRU — at a time when SPRU was (somewhat improbably) regarded in parts of Whitehall as a hotbed of revolutionaries.

He went well beyond the normal performance of part-time SPRU Visiting Fellows in attending our Friday seminar each week while continuing to work on approaches to technology in management. His long-term support of SPRU will be deeply missed.

Professor Nick von Tunzelmann and Janet French

Jane Longhurst

Jane Longhurst, whose body was discovered in West Sussex on Easter Saturday after she had mysteriously disappeared five weeks earlier, had trained as a music teacher at Sussex. Rebecca Scaky (née Goldsworthy) was a fellow student of Jane’s on the music PGCE from 1995–96. “Jane was an excellent musician,” she recalls, “and completely committed to teaching right from the start. She had a great sense of humour and a love of life. She always tried to work things that she was passionate about into her lessons.”

Jane played both violin and viola in the University Philharmonia orchestra, which is where she met her partner, Matthew Sentence. Dr Nicholas McKay, Music Subject Chair, remembers “an exceptionally generous, sociable, sensitive and caring musician.”

Jane was frequently asked to perform postgraduate students’ compositions, a mark of the high regard in which her violin and viola playing was held.

Some years earlier, Jane had formed a piano trio with two former members of Music faculty, Dr Robert Adlington and Michael Downes. Robert remembers “an exceptionally happy time of outstanding music making inspired by Jane’s fantastic, natural musical talent”.

Jane went on to become a music teacher at Uplands school in Hollingdean. “Her effortless approach to music making will undoubtedly have inspired many of her pupils and associates at Uplands,” says Nicholas.

Police believe Jane was murdered shortly after disappearing from her Brighton home on 14 March. Her body was discovered near Pulborough on 19 April.

First class

Dr Viv Griffiths' poem 'Evensong' was displayed as part of the 'Chalking' exhibition in Lewes Barbiican Museum. The idea was to write a poem that went with one of the exhibition's paintings of the South Downs. The curator commented on each pair (poem and painting). Viv’s included comments on the intense personal response to the landscape.

The editorial board of Measurement Science and Technology journal has selected an article by Dr Chris Harland, Professor Terry Clark and Dr Robert Prance from EIT for its Best Paper Award 2002. The article describes new research by the three authors on remote sensing of the human body.

Former Sussex DPhil student Sam Leach has been awarded the Ogden Prize, awarded annually for the best UK thesis on cosmology. Sam is invited to the University of Durham to give a presentation on his thesis and to receive the £500 award. Sam's work, supervised by Professor Andrew Liddle in the Astronomy Centre, was on the inflationary cosmology, which seeks to explain the large-scale properties of the Universe. He is now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Geneva, but continues to collaborate with Sussex astronomers.

Professor Andrew Liddle, head of the Astronomy Centre, has been awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC). This award will enable him to fully focus on his research in cosmology for the next three years.

Noel Sladen, Insurance and Risk Manager, has been re-elected to the Council of the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) for a period of three years from May 2003.

New team of Personnel Officers

With the appointment of new staff in Human Resources, a full team of Personnel Officers is now in place to help you.

From left to right, Graham Curry (ext. 7076/7369); Sussex Institute, Administration; Johanne Lees (ext. 7951/7981); SocCul, Library; Kelly Lewis (ext. 7074/7324); Hums, SPRU, Computing Service; Paula Rich (ext. 7976); SciTech, Student Services, EFM; Sarah Marshall (ext. 7573/7324): Life Sciences, BSMS, TCMR.

Each Personnel Officer is responsible for recruitment, contracts and other personnel issues in their designated units.
Dear Editor

"The King is in the altogether." Could it be that the breeze-block monstrosity across the road from Sussex House won't be getting a coat of brick?

Patricia McCabe, ACU

Dear Bulletin

I am worried. In your 4 April edition, the Vice-Chancellor refers to what he calls an iron law of statistics "that in any situation, half the observations are below average". Suppose five observations were: 10, 10, 10, 10 and 5. The average is 9 and only one of the five observations is below that. Surely it is only in very special situations that the Vice-Chancellor's iron law holds and, I suspect, exceedingly rarely in practice? So, what of paragraph six in his 'Voice': is that solid as iron, or might there be a bit more to the matter?!

Trevor Beeforth, EIT

Dear Bulletin

If you were a shopkeeper, would you close on one of your busiest days? No? Then why did most of the arts common rooms decide to close on the Arts Open Day on 16 April? Maybe many outlets shut down assuming the last day before the Easter break would be dead.

However, campus was heaving with hundreds of prospective arts students. The result was massive queues at the Gardiner, EURO and Baguette Express. The other outlets lost out needlessly on extra income, managed to give a bad image to prospective students and, most importantly, left me hungry.

A one-off, however, this was not. On 22 April, the day before term started, the Bolthole, AFRAS, CCS, Bramber House restaurants and much else was also closed. But because term was starting midweek the place was full, with third and first years as well as, again, prospective students. The result? The SU shop ran out of fresh food and there were again massive queues at EURO and other food places.

Surely campus catering outlets should not just blindly base their opening days according to term time, but actually investigate what days in the vacation are likely to be busy? Perhaps the new event-management working group should consider the coordination of catering in their remit - lest I go hungry again.

Benedict Brook, Communications Division

A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

On sunny days, look out for swarms of Bibionid flies. These stout relatives of gnats and midges are typically black, with a prominent shiny thorax.

The Fever Fly is a common species, seen from March to October. Males drift lazily around flowers, trailing their long legs and searching for females against the bright sky with immense globular eyes. The larger females have tiny eyes and their wings are smoky grey rather than transparent. After mating they lay their eggs in soil, where the larvae feed on decaying vegetation and roots.

Another common Bibionid is Saint Mark's Fly, a larger and even more inedible flier that gets its name by emerging around the feast of Mark the Evangelist (25 April). Although Saint Mark is the patron saint of people suffering from insect bites, adults do not suck blood but feed on nectar and pollen. Few Saint Mark's Flies are seen after May and they are sometimes called Hawthorn Flies because they often visit the flowers of that bush, the so-called 'May blossom'.

Indeed, of all our trees and shrubs Hawthorn is almost the most important for insects. For example, Richard Southwood recorded nearly 150 different species of bug, beetle and moth feeding on its leaves, a total exceeded only by Oak, Birch and Willow.

Few trees are so embedded in our mythology as the Hawthorn. Geoffrey Grigson, in his Englishman's Flora, lists more than 70 different local names. Professor Richard Coates from COGS tells us that haw comes from the Old English haga, one of several early 'hedge' names. In many parts of the country it is 'Whitethorn' to distinguish it from the earlier flowering 'Blackthorn'. 'Quickthorn' refers to the rapidity with which our Georgian ancestors were able to use it to establish the new enclosure hedges.

The May blossom is looking especially good along the woodland edge on the east side of the campus. The mass of white flowers, symbols of sex and fertility, celebrate the transition from Spring to Summer and were an essential component of the May garlands that festooned the maypole. Even today the plant is treated with cautious ambivalence and many people will not bring the blossom into the house.

Their ability to survive as isolated aged trees means that Hawthorns were often used as landmarks in Anglo-Saxon charters. The indefatigable Oliver Rackham has searched every charter, finding that Hawthorn is by far the most frequently mentioned tree, accounting for almost 40% of the total.

BIOLS staff member Dr Martyn Stenning recently discovered three Yellow-necked Mice inside the building. With brown upper parts and white undersides, this species resembles the much commoner Wood Mouse but has a yellow band running right across its throat, rather than just a spot on the chest. Sadly, their short life expectancy means that all three will probably die before the end of term.

Below: Hawthorns were often used as landmarks in Anglo-Saxon charters.

Interlibrary loans and photocopying news

There are two new options for placing Interlibrary Requests.

Option A allows users to place requests online through Borrower Services on the Library catalogue. Items requested this way have a £1 charge payable on collection from Lending Services. For photocopies, users will be required to sign the Copyright Declaration.

Option B allows users to complete a request form on the Interlibrary Requests web pages at www.sussex.ac.uk/library/interlib/ir/irf.shtml. Completed forms should be printed out and returned to the Interlibrary Requests office.

It is important to sign the Copyright Declaration when requesting photocopies from Periodicals. Photocopies can be sent to home addresses or campus pigeonholes as required.

The £1 fee will be charged to the user's Library card when an item has been supplied. Alternatively, facilities exist for University fund holders to cross-charge to an expenditure code by pre-purchase of £1 vouchers.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Tue 6 May
12.30pm Life History Research Centre Seminar: Mark Bhatti (Brighton), The garden, memory and the body (with reference to Bachelard). Library Meeting Room.

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Patricia Hogwood (Glasgow), 'Asymmetric devolution' and European policy in the UK. Arts A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry Seminar: Mike Wallis (Sussex), Fits and starts in growth hormone evolution. BLT.

Wed 7 May
1.00pm IDS/Centre for Southern Africa Studies Seminar: Wim Naudé (Potchefstroom, South Africa). The economics of South Africa's cities: Specialisation, size, growth and convergence. IDS 221.


Mon 12 May
1.00pm Cognition Research Group Seminar: Karen McComb (Sussex). Gathering social information in African elephants. EP Seminar Room

4D13 / 4D14.

1.00pm IDS Special Seminar: Rosemary Muesemwili, (Rwandan Ambassador to the UK). The 1994 Rwandan genocide and the challenges of national reconstruction. IDS 221.

2.00pm Research on Languages and Linguistics Seminar: Richard Coates (Sussex). Medieval Anglo-Scandinavian morphology. Arts A155.

Tue 13 May
12.30pm Life History Research Centre Seminar: Chana Moshenska (Sussex). Listening to refugees: Life histories of refugees from Nazi Germany. Library Meeting Room.


4.15pm Biochemistry Seminar: Alison Sinclair (Sussex). Manipulation of pathogen and host gene expression. BLT.


Wed 14 May

Small ads


FOR SALE: HP 610C Deskjet printer. £20 ovno.

Contact Debora on 07816720192 or dmariner@t nln.it.

LOST: Gold bracelet set with heart-shaped garnets. Lost 31 March. Huge sentimental value. Email S.Jenkins@sussex.ac.uk or call ext 8201. (Still haven't found my son's cuddly cow, either!)

FOR SALE: LG bread maker. £10. Email R.Mcgrann@sussex.ac.uk or call 07941 745686.

WANTED: Volunteers to help make up questionnaire packs, sort documents and file for huge ovarian cancer screening study. Reasonable travel expenses reimbursed, refreshments provided. Choose own hours. Contact Chris or Julie on ext 3017.

TO LET: 1-bed flat in garden in Rosehill Terrace. Suit faculty/visiting academic/research staff. Available early Aug. £500 pcm. Tel Benie on 605892 or 07900 687916, email beniemac@aol.com or carolma@ccgs.susx.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Unused Virgin talk-time £10 voucher for £8. For Virgin pay as you go mobiles only. Email eapud@susx.ac.uk.

TO LET: Large unfurnished room in 2-bed maisonette at Seven Dials. 300 pcm + half gas and electric bills. Contact Shaun at S.A.Billing@sussex.ac.uk, shaubbill@hotmail.com, or 0774 8568 030.

TO LET: 4-bed detached house with double garage in Lewes. 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms (one en-suite), cloakroom, kitchen, utility, gardens. £395,000. Tel. 480775.

FOR SALE: 4-bed furnished flat. Dedicated parking space. 2 mins walk Preston Park station. PG or faculty only, £750 pcm. Contact barbaram@ccgs.susx.ac.uk.

WANTED: Cricket players for local league team. Home ground Sussex campus, matches on Sat. Contact Simon Tunley on ext. 7230, s.t.tunley@sussex.ac.uk or Terry Stanley on ext. 7098, t.j.stanley@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Large room overlooking garden, own bathroom, nr Preston Park. Share modern kitchen, TV lounge, etc. £320 pcm incl. N/S only. Tel. Gill on 82048 or email nick.jagger@employment-studies.co.uk.

WANTED: Participants in food and drink research. Earn up to £80 per study. Email martini@central.susx.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: 1938 family house and garden, Surrendered Rd. 4 beds, 3 recep., lift, conserv., £525k. Tel. 553435.

Gardner Arts Centre

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

Performance

Sat 3–Sun 11 May
Various times
Dreamthinkspeak – Don't Look Back
A new site-specific piece specially designed for Stanner House. In groups of up to three you find your way through its hauntingly silent hallways and stairs.

Sat 3–Mon 5 May
8pm Ken Campbell – Children of Blau
The master storyteller and comic genius of theatre uncovers the hidden history of ventrilgouism.

Thu 8 May
8pm Dave Douglas Septet
From furious post-bop to delicately textured modern jazz soundscapes.

Sat 10 May
7pm Fat Cat
Cutting-edge sounds from artists on the pioneering Fat Cat record label.

Sun 11 May
7.30pm Dirty Three & The Clogs
Double bill from a bittersweet instrumental trio and an experimental US/Australian group.

Wed 14–Sat 17 May
7.30pm Oskaras Korsunovas Theatre – A Midsummer Night's Dream
Performed in Lithuanian with English surtitles.

Exhibitions

Fri 2 May–Fri 20 Jun
Jonathan Gilhooly – Some Outs
The result of a collaboration with a professional magician to explore the dynamics of illusionism, deception and misdirection.

Fri 2 May–Fri 20 Jun
Visioneer One Touch 8700 USB scanner. 1200 x 4800 optical res. Boxed with software and USB cable. £58. Email w.stanton@susx.ac.uk.

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field, Petar Simmonds 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 16 May, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 9 May. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
New Schools Update on staffing

Clerical, admin and technical staff

All support staff have been allocated to posts in the new School structures, and the vast majority have had their formal letters of confirmation. Staff who have not received letters should not be concerned at this stage. IT staff and some others who have been part of direct reporting lines to academics or small teams outside the main administrative or technical structure are being prepared individually and will be issued shortly.

Some posts remain unfilled. These vacancies have been ringfenced for internal applicants and all staff have been invited to apply for them. Although the closing date has now passed, full details are on the new Schools website at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/vacs/vac174_194+197.shtml.

Interviews for the vacancies will be held during May, and confirmation of the detailed Schools structures is expected in early June.

IT staff

A number of IT services are provided by support staff who work outside Computing Services and Management Information Systems (MIS). In the new Schools, these services will continue as they are, and any user queries should be addressed to the appropriate School Administrative Manager or Technical Services Manager.

A lively preliminary meeting of staff across campus who provide computing and IT support was held this week. Trevor Potten, the new Director of Computing Services, shared some thoughts on building an effective informal network of all computing staff, in order to share expertise and experience more effectively in the future. Trevor would welcome any email comments or queries via jm51@sussex.ac.uk.

It was also agreed that meetings should be set up in the new Schools as a matter of urgency to discuss specific practical computing issues relating to the restructuring.

Catering staff

As part of the review of catering (see below), staff employed by existing Schools are being contacted by Human Resources and Catering Services, which will in future manage all University-employed catering staff.

Academic staff

Letters to all academic staff, confirming their new School and department, are being prepared and will be issued by the end of May. This is later than the date that was originally given, and is due to the need for wide consultation with recently appointed Directors and Heads of Department as well as Deans.

Review of catering provision

The University is undertaking a review of all catering provision across campus, including the new Schools.

Each School will have a common room/cafeteria area as an integral part of the School centre. There are other developments planned, notably in Bramber House.

It is, therefore, an ideal time to consult students and staff about catering on campus and address some longstanding issues regarding opening times, weekend services, choice and diversity of provision. Servicing conferences and catering for functions and events also need to be considered.

The wide-ranging review will recommend the best means of meeting the University's requirements, whether it be in-house, by other operators or a mixture of the two to provide the best and most appropriate services for the campus community.

Catering staff currently employed by existing Schools are being contacted by Human Resources and Catering Services, which will in future manage University-employed catering staff. Some existing independent contractors will continue to run School outlets on campus during 2003/04 while the review is undertaken.

The Director of Student Services, Charles Dudley, would welcome comments by email (c.r.dudley@sussex.ac.uk), from anyone with views and ideas about campus catering services.

Telling students about the changes

With only one term left before the new Schools come into being, it's imperative that returning students are in the picture.

However, it's also important to reassure students that the majority of what they are used to - syllabus and tutors, for example - will not be changing.

Communication to students started last year with a letter sent to all returning students, telling them of the changes. This was backed up with an individual letter last month, which informed students of those changes affecting them personally, such as their new School and Dean.

A new Schools website has been online at www.sussex.ac.uk/UIS/NEWSchools for some time and contains comprehensive information for students, including answers to frequently asked questions.

Next week the Badger will start publicising the changes to Schools, and a series of 'new Schools noticeboards' will also soon appear across campus.

Colourful and engaging, these noticeboards aim to provide students with just about all the information they will need about the changes. There will also be space on this board for Schools to post their own information.

Some Schools and departments have also begun informing students of the changes using other methods. For example, the School of Science and Technology held an open meeting for students this week.

With a combination of centrally and School/department produced information and events, current students should be confident of the changes when they return to campus in October.
Departments in the new Schools

Council has approved the establishment of Departments with effect from 1 August.

Further consideration is being given to the titles of the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Engineering.
The title for the merged Biology and Environmental Studies Department has not yet been agreed.

School of Humanities
American Studies
Art History
English
History
Sussex Language Institute
Linguistics and English Language
Music
Philosophy

School of Life Sciences
Biochemistry
Biology and Environmental Science
Chemistry
Psychology

School of Science and Technology
Engineering
Informatics
Mathematics
Physics and Astronomy

School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies
Anthropology
Economics
Geography
International Relations and Politics
Media and Cultural Studies
Sociology
Sussex European Institute

Sussex Institute
Centre for Continuing Education
Sussex School of Education
Sussex Law School
Sussex School of Social Work and Social Care

SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research

Brighton and Sussex Medical School

COGS will continue to engage

Professor Richard Coates
Dean, COGS

COGS (the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences) has established a worldwide reputation over the decade and a half of its existence. When, with the other old Schools, it formally becomes part of Sussex’s history, it will immediately burst forth into bloom of a rather different sort.

It will become an interdisciplinary research centre based within the School of Science and Technology. Its brief will be to champion and support research and teaching in cognitive science by fostering interdisciplinary links between scholars working in artificial intelligence, psychology, linguistics, philosophy and related subjects. Its first director will be Dr Ron Chrisley, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy.

Initially, it will be a focus for research by hosting visitors, running seminars and meetings, and establishing a significant web presence deriving from COGS’s current activities.

It will also offer guidance in the creation, maintenance and development of degree programmes in cognitive science, including the MA in Philosophy of Cognitive Science and the new IDPE in Cognitive Science, available in new-style BAs from October 2004. The MPhil and DPhil in Cognitive Science will be there as now to attract students of a high calibre to the new Centre, and current students will have a key role to play in continuity.

COGS will have a core membership created by free association. Blooming in the heart of the Centre will be Maggie Boden, as Research Professor of Cognitive Science. It will have a looser network of friends.

All interested in becoming core members or friends, especially those not currently in COGS, should let me know right away on ext. 8522 or email richardc@cogs.susx.ac.uk.

Science workshop relocations

Malcolm Strong
Technical Services Manager, School of Science and Technology

The Electronics and Computing technical support workshops for the new School of Science and Technology will be relocated this summer to refurbished space in Pevensey 1. The refurbishment work will begin on 30 June and is expected to be completed ready for the move early in September.

This will release space in Pevensey 2, which is to become the main Physics building. The released space will be refurbished during September and October for Physics experimentalists.

The CPES and EIT Mechanical workshops will be merged to form the new SciTech Mechanical workshop, as recommended last year by the workshop review group.

New School Administrative Managers appointed

Following interviews last month, Barbara Bryan will be starting as School Administrative Manager in the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies on 7 July, a week after Sam Riordan leaves the University. Barbara is currently the Faculty Officer for the Faculty of Health at Brighton University.

Following the departure of Laura Flynn, Susan Aldridge is acting in the role of School Administrative Manager for the School of Life Sciences until the arrival of the new postholder on 22 July.

That postholder will be Peter Clements, who is currently College Registrar for Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. He was formerly on the staff at Sussex.

90 days to go!