Postgraduate applications up by 26%

There has been a very large increase in the number of applications to postgraduate study at Sussex compared with this time last year, new figures reveal.

The number of offers to candidates and acceptance of offers are also up substantially. These increases have occurred for both taught programmes and research, and for home as well as overseas students.

The 26% increase in applications follows last year’s increase of 23%. A similar increase has been reported in other 1994 Group universities, according to Terry O’Donnell, who co-ordinates postgraduate admissions at Sussex. One reason for this increase, he says, is that employers have slashed graduate intakes as the economic downturn continues, leading many graduates to consider postgraduate study.

At Sussex, Terry (pictured above) picks out attractive new masters programmes such as the MSc in Information Technology for E-Commerce, which in its first year has recruited nine home and 13 overseas students.

As with last year, the main increase has occurred in applications from overseas students to taught programmes (up 40%) and research (up 27%). The majority of overseas applications to Sussex are from Chinese and Indian applicants.

Development studies is a key growth area and the University’s wide range of development-related masters programmes accounted for 25% of the 2002 intake of overseas students on taught degrees.

As with the overall applications figure, a similar growth in overseas applications has been reported in other 1994 Group universities. Terry puts it down to a number of factors including improved marketing by the British Council and UK universities, and a government initiative that means overseas students are now permitted to work part-time in the UK while studying.

It’s not just applications that are up, of course. The 23% increase in offers at Sussex is also encouraging and demonstrates that, despite the huge increase in applications, the standard of applicant remains high.

However, the most encouraging statistic is the 34% increase in the number of acceptances. Last year, despite the 23% increase in applications, acceptances increased by only 6%, as did the final intake.

Terry says that if a 30%+ increase in acceptances can be maintained, the overall intake is likely to increase significantly.

"Please therefore continue with every effort to maximise conversion of those who have accepted our offers," he urges.

Sussex gets in the Kew for the bank

Biologists are being offered the chance to help save the planet by enrolling in an innovative new postgraduate degree at Sussex this autumn.

Together with the world-renowned Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the University is to offer the world’s first degree programme in ‘seed banking’, which includes strategies for safeguarding the earth’s most endangered plants.

Wakehurst Place is the Royal Botanic Gardens’ ‘country garden in West Sussex’ and home of the Millennium Seed Bank, the largest seed bank in the world, it is part of an international collaborative plant-conservation initiative that aims to safeguard 24,000 plant species against extinction. The Millennium Seed Bank has already secured the future of virtually all the UK’s native flowering plants.

The new one-year MSc in Plant Conservation (Seed Banking) will involve teaching by biologists from both the University and the Seed Conservation Department at Wakehurst Place.

In addition to the masters degree, a six-month Postgraduate Diploma is also on offer. Both programmes are targeted at students of ecology, plant physiology or biochemistry.

The University has already received applications from graduates in several parts of Africa, as well as Australia, Bangladesh, China, Eastern Europe and North America.

Dr Peter Scott (pictured left), from the University’s biology department, says: "We are offering postgraduate training in restoration ecology, seed physiology, plant genetics, molecular biology and plant tissue culture.

"These come together to form a comprehensive study of strategies for conserving both plant habitat and genetic resources and analysing plant diversity."
A century of rural decline

The decline of agriculture in rural England is the subject of a new book by social historian Professor Alun Howkins.

"During the last century, the countryside has changed absolutely fundamentally," says Alun. "Now, there are more people employed in entertainment than there are in agriculture, and agriculture contributes only a tiny amount to the gross domestic product.

"Since the 1960s and 1970s, the farm labour force has almost vanished, but at the same time, more people live in the countryside now due to people moving out of the cities either to retire or to commute to work."

This phenomenon has led to increasing tensions between 'town' and 'country' on issues such as fox hunting and the impact of modern farming methods on the environment.

In an age when our food is just as likely to have come from the other side of the world as from the English countryside, and with European subsidies set to be radically reduced as the EU welcomes new member countries, the future of agriculture in this country looks bleak indeed.

However, as this book demonstrates, this is nothing new. "In the inter-war period there was a severe depression in English agriculture and an intense sense of crisis," says Alun. "It took the Second World War - which established the principle of agricultural subsidies and also saw the introduction of modern machinery, fertilisers and pesticides - to keep British agriculture going."

Alun's work has drawn on the Mass-Observation archive held in the Sussex Library, as well as oral histories, memoirs and contemporary newspapers and official records.

- The Death of Rural England: A social history of the countryside since 1900 by Professor Alun Howkins is published by Routledge.

Psychology postgraduates united

Sam Knowles
Experimental Psychology
PG rep

The new School of Life Sciences unitises Experimental Psychology, Psychology in COGS and Social Psychology in SOC to create one of the largest psychology departments in UK academia.

The department's postgraduate community will initially number 50 DPhil and 50 masters students. The range of interests spanned by this diverse group is remarkable, including social and cognitive development in children, developing effective health-promotion interventions, and the neurobiological basis of drug dependence.

Knowing that the merger was imminent and aware of the need to eradicate sometimes-pervasive stereotypes that exist among the different approaches to psychology, postgraduate representatives from the three subject groups have collaborated for the last six months.

To help foster understanding and mutual respect, to promote collaboration, and to provide representation to faculty on both academic and pastoral issues, the three postgraduate representatives have created - with the full support of faculty - the Sussex Postgraduate Psychological Society (SPPS).

SPPS aims to achieve its objectives in different ways: A website and interactive forum are under construction, and department-wide conferences and away-days are planned. That the three groups can get on together was much in evidence at last December's psychology Christmas party.

SPPS will also present an occasional lecture series. For the inaugural event, the Society has landed perhaps the world's best-known and best-selling contemporary psychologist, well read by members of all three subject groups as well as a broader academic and lay audience.

Steven Pinker (pictured) is the Peter de Florez Professor of Psychology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and author of The Language Instinct, How the Mind Works and The Blank Slate. Professor Pinker will talk about the fallacies of the modern denial of human nature from 6.30pm on Friday 6 June in the Chichester Lecture Theatre. Non-postgraduate psychologists welcome!

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.

EPSRC INTERACT
New initiative to increase new collaborations between the UK and China, India and Japan. Grants will enable UK scientists and engineers to visit these countries to develop contacts. Grants can be for individual visits, group visits or workshops involving researchers from the UK and overseas.
Deadline: 13 June

EPSRC Partnerships for Public Awareness
Current and past EPSRC grantholders are invited to submit partnership applications which aim to increase the public's awareness of the role of science in society. Partnership activities could include interactive exhibits, videos, presentations and debates, schools' programmes.
Deadline: 5 September

Rolex Enterprise Awards
Applications are invited in the following areas: science & medicine, technology & innovation; exploration & discovery; the environment; and cultural heritage. Projects must improve the quality of life on the planet or contribute to the betterment of mankind. Five laureates will each receive $100,000.
Deadline: 30 September

British Academy
The BA and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique are inviting applications for projects between British and French scholars in the humanities and social sciences. Funding of up to €2,500 p.a. from each side is available for travel and subsistence costs. Projects should last up to two years.
Deadline: 30 September

Leverhulme Academic Networks
Aims to develop fields of research where the participants can benefit from an international exchange of ideas. It is expected that the outcome of a grant will be the creation or development of an effective research network.
No deadline for outlines.
Dear Editor

In the last Bulletin (16 May), the University’s Transport Manager wrote that the early introduction of the summer timetable for the 25 bus service should cause “no overcrowding problem”. With due respect, this is true.*

As I recall, it was only two years ago that the switch to summer services at the end of May (as for other Brighton & Hove services) instead of the end of June meant that large numbers of students were being left at the roadside in the morning as bus after bus sailed past them full, often as early as the route at North Street. Those on the Lewes Road had no chance. During exam season, this was a catastrophe. Happily, it was rectified the following year with a later cut-off date for University ‘winter’ services.

Now, it seems that the difficulty in retaining drivers means that we are reverting from a slightly unreliable but excellent service to a totally inadequate service. Perhaps we should all just give up and buy cars.

Dr Richard Gray, Life Sciences

Car parking update

There are just two months to go until the introduction of campus car-parking charges, on 1 August. From that date, car drivers will need either to display an annual parking permit or to ‘pay and display’ for occasional parking.

Pay-and-display rates will be lower for Sussex staff and students than for visitors, but only if you have a ‘pass-to-park’, for which there will be no charge.

Users will be able to apply for a permit or pass from 1 July. The application procedures are currently being finalised, but Transport Manager Linda Newman hopes that most users will be able to apply by email or completion of a web form. Paper forms will also be available from Linda.

Details of the application process will be posted online (at www.sussex.ac.uk/transport) before the end of June and will be sent individually to everyone who has a vehicle registered on the University database.

Permit and pass application details will be available to new and returning students during registration in October. Remember, though, that students living on campus are not allowed to park a car on campus (except Residential Advisors, disabled students and those with families).

The parking strategy includes proposals for a campus car-share scheme. Although there have been some delays in setting this up, Linda hopes it will be in operation from 1 August. Watch this space.

Full details about charges, payment methods, enforcement, visitors’ parking, parking regulations and much more are now available on the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/transport.

This detailed information will also be available in print, both inside the next issue of the Bulletin (13 June) and tucked under windscreen wipers.

The London-Brighton-Freetown Bike Ride

A Sussex student who usually only cycles four miles to campus is to take on the challenge of the 56-mile London to Brighton bike ride to raise money for an African aid charity.

Suzie Sands, a second year studying Contemporary History in the School of African and Asian Studies, aims to raise £2,000 to fund a three-month trip to the war-torn state of Sierra Leone.

There she will work with the charity Action for Children (AFC), helping in their scheme to build new lives for survivors of the civil war. “I will be helping child mothers,” says Suzie.

“These women were often raped during the conflict and many had limbs cut off as a sign they had been captured.”

Suzie, 26, who used to work as a carer for children with special needs, first became interested in a placement of this kind after travelling through southern Africa: “I saw children with special needs who didn’t receive the support that they would in the UK. They couldn’t bring in an income and this had therefore led to their whole family being on the streets.”

Suzie chose Sierra Leone because it was an unpopular volunteering destination: “Because of the civil war, many people prefer to go to places such as India to help. But I thought I could be of more help to a small organisation such as AFC.”

Suzie will be living in the capital, Freetown, a city with a population of 2.5m squeezed into an area the size of Oxford. She will help AFC’s work, which involves counselling, educating and providing young mothers with a trade. AFC has even set up a national amputee football team, which will soon be playing in the UK.

Suzie seems almost more apprehensive about the cycling challenge that awaits her on 15 June than about spending the summer in war-torn Sierra Leone. “I’ve only ever regularly cycled to campus. My dad, however, is super-fit and does it every year so he told me into it.”

Will she make the trip in the average seven hours? “I’ll start off at 7.30am and if I can make it back to Brighton by dusk I’ll be happy!”

To make a donation to Suzie’s campaign, email her at kss20@sussex.ac.uk.

Now is your chance to rename that road

Enough is enough, and the time has finally come. As the wind of change blows across campus, the Bulletin announces a major new competition to suggest new names for Refectory Road and Boiler House Hill.

While it is undeniable that there is a boiler house at the bottom of Boiler House Hill, it is also undeniable that the occupants of the Mantell Building have suffered for many years by having to print this address on their headed notepaper.

And these days Bramber House is so much more than a refectory. (Did you know, for example, that work has begun to create a non-residential conference centre on the top floor?) When you’re trying to come up with an idea, you could take inspiration from the building formerly known as BIOLS. It was renamed the John Maynard Smith building earlier this year, in honour of the University’s eminent evolutionary biologist.

Unfortunately, the ‘rapes’ (former administrative districts) of Sussex such as Bramber, Pevensey and Hastings have all been used up. But how about using the points of the compass, as in North- South Road and Eastern Ring Road? Whatever it is, send your entry by Monday 30 June to Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk or 230 Sussex House.

Don’t forget to include your contact details.

There’s the ever-popular bottle of bubbly up for grabs if the Vice-Chancellor chooses your suggestion – not to mention the satisfaction of seeing it on maps and signs (and headed notepaper) for years to come.
Development of the University's identity

Rob Read
Director of Communications

The 21 March Bulletin reported on plans to develop a new "look and feel" for the University. Since then, the internal working group and Circus, the external company advising on the project, have been taking forward the initial research phase.

A range of interviews and discussions have taken place with groups and individuals from inside and outside the University, including students, staff and members of Council. Material has also been collected from across campus, and views taken of other universities' own materials.

Following on from sessions with senior managers at RoFce Park, discussions are now underway with the Senior Management Group. The intention is to report the outcome of these initial phases to Senate and Council in July, before moving into a design phase over the summer.

Any Schools, departments or units across campus who wish to have further individual discussions about these initial stages and next steps can get in touch with Rob Read (ext. 8109) or Katy Hiles (ext. 8523).

Given the complexity of change Sussex is going through, and the range of our current designs, we are currently looking to generate initial applications of any new design around the New Year. This should include key publications, such as the prospectus and annual report, stationery, welcome signage and signs for new buildings, plus the revamping of the website.

Full-scale design guidelines will be generated over 2003/04 to cover the full range of content that the University uses. We will plan for gradual introduction of further key elements, such as individual identities within the overall design. The new designs for publications and so on will then gradually replace the existing range of designs as materials come up for renewal.

Interim guidelines

With the creation of new Schools and departments in the summer, colleagues across campus will need to be clear about interim guidelines for design before the introduction of any new identity:

- Stationery (headed paper, compliment slips and business cards) should follow current conventions using the crest - the Print Unit has up-to-date guidance that should be used. When ordering new supplies, it would be prudent to order enough to last until the New Year when new designs should be available.

- For those planning new printed publications, including recruitment literature, colleagues might find it helpful to have discussions with Katy Hiles (Publications Officer). Our current advice on style for recruitment literature is to use the modern presentation of name as found on current prospectuses, together with the simple banding design for the cover. There is also a range of new photography that can be accessed in discussion with Katy.

- For websites, the current design guidelines continue to operate for the time being. The creation of the new content management system that is being used by Schools and departments will make the process of updating the overall website design itself much more straightforward. We plan to introduce the same system for other sites across the Administration over the autumn.

A number of other exercises are currently being undertaken by the Estates and Communications divisions to reflect the creation of the new Schools, ahead of any changes introduced through the new identity:

- Campus maps, both on the web and in print, are being updated to show new buildings, location of new School offices and buildings under construction. A new version of the 'How to get here' leaflet should be available from the Print Unit by the beginning of August.

- The current range of external signage and fingerposts is being looked at again to ensure they reflect the names of the new Schools and departments appropriately.

- Discussions will take place with new Schools to look at appropriate changes to internal signage, where Schools themselves might best take the lead, supported by Estates to ensure a simple and consistent approach. In the longer term, as new departments bed down, there will clearly be a need to have a more thorough exercise.
Student poet has first collection published

Sussex postgraduate student Sarah Wardle has had her first collection of poetry published this month.

Sarah describes the key themes of Fields Away as "city and country, classics and philosophy, literature and love affairs". The collection is published by Bloodaxe Books and features 85 poems written mainly over the last decade.

"I had poems in school magazines since I was nine, so it's always been part of my identity," says Sarah. "I started sending them to poetry magazines in 1997, when I was doing my BA in English at Sussex, and two years later won Poetry Review's New Poet of the Year Award."

She feels "a mixture of happiness and relief" about having her first collection published: "When I first saw the book, I thought the pile of poems had shrunk in the wash," she says. "If I were knocked down by a bus, there would be a trace of my thoughts and memories as well as cells squashed on the road."

As well as writing poetry, Sarah is also studying (her DPhil thesis is on 'Poetry: A protean art'), and teaching in CCS and EAM. "Teaching a course on creativity has helped me become more conscious of writing's intrinsic rewards, the healing and adaptive nature of poetry, while teaching a course on tragedy brought home its open-ended, historically shifting nature."

So what's her advice to budding poets? "Read current stuff, collections shortlisted for the Forward, Whitbread and TS Eliot Prizes. Use your favourite poets as a template at first, but then develop your own voice."

Check out the Poetry Library on the South Bank. Don't be afraid to send to Poetry Review, London Magazine, and the Times Literary Supplement. Enjoy puzzling out each poem. Write only when you feel one coming on."

Advanced mathematics for Roedean

A unique and innovative study scheme is making it possible for able pupils from a local independent school to get a taste of university-level mathematics at Sussex.

Professor Charles Goldie, Dean of Mathematical Sciences, attended Roedean School's assembly this month to present transcripts carrying 12 Year 1 credits to eight sixthformers who had completed the Mathematics Advanced Study Scheme.

A-level students on the scheme take the term 1 undergraduate course Algebra & Geometry 1 from the School of Mathematical Sciences' undergraduate curriculum, attending a lecture and workshop one day a week. The other lectures are sent to them on video each week.

The scheme is increasingly popular at Roedean, with numbers rising steadily from three to eight over the four years it has run. As in previous years the students performed very well on the course and are very enthusiastic about the experience.

Pictured left: L-R back row: Jacqueline Clarke (School Admin Manager of SciTech), Professor Charles Goldie (Dean of SMS) and Carolyn Shaw (Roedean headmistress) with the eight 'graduates' of the Mathematics Advanced Study Scheme.

Wife-swap scandal at drag wedding

Library Square came alive to the sound of the Wedding March for some very unusual nuptials on 20 May. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered group (LGBT) organised a mass 'drag wedding' to raise awareness of transgendered issues.

COGS student and LGBT co-chair Bee Ashmore said: "The T in LGBT is often neglected so we thought it was about time something needed to be done, and a big drag wedding seemed the perfect opportunity."

The event also raised money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and was the culmination of a fundraising month in drag for History of Art finalist Tammy Mill.

As campus was buffered by the wind, four couples in a variety of costumes took their solemn oaths. Bee played the part of vicar, wearing the traditional costume of a rubber shirt and chaps.

Originally Bee was supposed to be getting married herself, but for a turn of events worthy of Take a Break magazine: "My husband left me at the alter and ran off with the original vicar! So I ended up marrying them instead."
Work after work

Every Monday night Niamh MacMahon helps to run Cherish, a youth club for teenagers with learning difficulties. She plans activities and provides them with an outlet: “Even though you feel exhausted sometimes after work, the kids just give you energy because you have to keep up with them!”

Niamh, an employment assistant in the Career Development and Employment Centre, is one of a growing number of Sussex staff who are putting their skills and experience to work in the local community.

She found out about Cherish through Project V in Falmer House. Set up by the University and Students’ Union in October 2002, it aims to match staff and students to opportunities in the local community.

Having established the student side of Project V, co-ordinator Karen Belton is now keen to get more employees like Niamh involved. “Sometimes volunteering can be difficult for full-time staff,” she acknowledges. “However, we now have a portfolio of opportunities that fit around working hours.”

The RNIB, for instance, need volunteers to act as sighted guides for visually impaired people. This might involve helping them get to the shops or evening classes. Helpers need to do a minimum of 3-4 hours but times are very flexible.

Or how about helping out in an art gallery? Fabrica in the Lanes need information and research assistants during exhibitions, and technical assistants during display change-overs.

Volunteering has a whole range of benefits, stresses Karen, from gaining new skills and confidence to exploring different career paths. To explore the opportunities available, pop down to Project V on the ground floor of Falmer House. They’re open Monday–Thursday 11.30am–1pm and 2pm–4.30pm. Or email projectv@sussex.ac.uk.

But is it really worth sacrificing your hard-earned Rn’R to volunteer? Well, Niamh certainly thinks so: “It’s really not like giving up free time, because you’re gaining something so rewarding.”

VC’s regular open meetings with staff

One minute he was taking a question about office moves over the summer, the next he was being asked to consider the role of universities in contemporary society. The issues range far and wide at the Vice-Chancellor’s regular meetings with staff (one for support staff and one for academics), and this term’s were no exception.

Not surprisingly, with a whole new academic structure coming into being on 1 August, much of the discussion at the two meetings focused on the logistics of the changes: building plans, devolution of functions from the centre to Schools (e.g. management accounts and registry functions), budgetary systems, etc.

Other issues and questions included the revised teaching day that takes effect in the autumn term (more details coming soon in the Bulletin); the procedures for undergraduates to choose ‘elective’ courses in the new arts curriculum; and the response to the recent press adverts for 30 new academic posts (which have attracted an excellent field of well-qualified candidates, especially at the lecturer level)

For next term, the Vice-Chancellor’s meetings with staff will be given a modest facelift: wider publicity of dates and times; the opportunity to send questions in advance (e.g. by email); and an online report of the questions and answers.

So make a note in your diary now: 29 October (support staff) and 19 November (academics).

First class

Chemistry DPhil student Ahlam El-Barbary was awarded ‘Best Talk’ prize at the Young Materials Modellers Forum this month. Ahlam’s talk, ‘Ab initio calculation of point defects in carbon materials: structure, energetics and microscopy’, described among other things her contributions to an article recently published in Nature Materials.

Former Sussex student Dr Charles Harb has received a prize of $4,000 from the Karim Rida Said Foundation, in recognition of his DPhil in social psychology. While at Sussex, Charles worked with Professor Peter Smith in SGC. He completed a cross-cultural study of values, self-concepts and life satisfaction in UK, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Charles is now a lecturer at the American University of Beirut.

University accepts report findings

The Chair of Council has asked that the following statement should be published in the Bulletin.

Jim Byrne, Research Professor in the School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science, raised a number of concerns with the Chair of Council under the University’s whistleblowing procedures.

These concerns, about events which took place between 1995 and 1998, related to the procedures for the examination of a research student; the procedures for changing supervisors of research students; and the processes followed, firstly, by a committee set up to look into a student complaint concerning the formal advice received from the supervisor and related matters and, secondly, by an ad hoc committee set up to consider allegations of plagiarism against a former research student.

The Chair of Council invited Professor Michael Shattock, former Registrar of the University of Warwick, to undertake an inquiry into the matters raised by Professor Byrne. Professor Shattock has now submitted his report to the Chair of Council, who has accepted all of the recommendations in the report.

The report found that the University had acted unfairly and unreasonably towards Professor Byrne in respect of the following matters:

1. The handling of a student complaint against Professor Byrne.

2. The handling of Professor Byrne’s response to the report of the panel looking into the student complaint.

3. The conduct of an ad hoc committee which was set up to investigate allegations of plagiarism against the student. Professor Shattock concluded that the committee had conducted its inquiry in a way that was prejudicial to Professor Byrne.

The Chair of Council has offered Professor Byrne an unreserved apology on behalf of the University for acting in the ways which have been identified as having been unfair and unreasonable towards him.

In addition, the University has accepted the recommendation that a searching inquiry should be undertaken into the management of postgraduate affairs, given that a number of weaknesses were identified in this respect.

This inquiry will be undertaken in the context of the reorganisation of the School structure, so that lessons which need to be learnt can be fully taken into account in that structure, and will report to Pro-Vice-Chancellor Llewellyn.

The review of the concerns raised by Professor Byrne undertaken by Professor Shattock and the latter’s findings have shown that Professor Byrne’s persistence in pursuing these matters was entirely justified.

Staff vacancies

Apply by 9 June

The R M Phillips Chair in Experimental Medicine, BSMS (ref 329a)

Apply by 11 June

School Administrator (Curriculum), Hums (pf, ref 223)
Postgraduate Co-ordinator, Hums (pf, ref 224)

Apply by 16 June

Alumni Systems Manager, Alumni Centre (ref 225)

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vacs/contact Staffing Services on ext. 8706, fax 877401, email recruitment@sussex.ac.uk.
A walk on the wild side

David Harper and David Streeter BIOLS

Like a glow-worm golden,
In a dell of dew,
Scattering unbehelden,
Its aerial hue
(Percy Bysshe Shelley, 'To a Skylark', 1819)

From now until late August, look out for Glow Worms.
These wingless female beetles emit a greenish light from the underside of their bodies by night. They perch on a leaf or stem, pointing their luminescent rear ends towards the sky for a few hours after dusk. Flying males search for the lights, each of which resembles a hi-fi LED. Mated females cease to glow, dying soon after laying about 100 eggs in the soil or leaf litter.
While few adults live for more than a fortnight, the blackish larvae grow for two to three years. They are nocturnal predators of small snails and slugs, injecting chemicals in their first bite to paralyse and then digest their victims.
Their diet probably explains why they are most common in grassy areas over calcareous soils, and thus why they are widespread on the South Downs. We have never seen them on campus, probably because we do not live here! Pick a warm, dry night and search grassy areas that have not been intensively managed. The sight of several females glowing together is both enchanting and eerie.
Since Glow Worms are probably declining in numbers, please do not disturb them but report any sightings to ecology expert Dr Alan Stewart (a.j.a.stewart@sussex.ac.uk).
An email from a reader in Sussex House in late April told us that there was a bee's nest below a window on the east side (back) of the building. When we went to investigate we found that the bare soil below all of the windows on that side of the building was pockmarked by dozens of holes from which large bees were emerging. Unlike bumble bees, which they superficially resemble, these were solitary bees that nest colonially.
There are numerous species of solitary bees that excavate burrows in which they lay their eggs. Individual cells open off from the end of the burrows that the bees provision with a 'pollen loaf' before laying a single egg.
The walls of the cells consist of very fine-cemented soil particles and the inner surface of each cell is smooth and coated with a thin, transparent, waterproof waxy coating. The larvae feed on the pollen during the summer before pupating, the adults emerging at the end of the season but remaining incarcerated in their cells until the following spring.
Expert Mike Edwards from Midhurst identified our bees as Anthophora plumipes, one of the earliest spring bees. It is often seen in gardens where it is an important pollinator, using its long tongue to take nectar from tubular flowers.
The orange-brown males search for the black females around such flowers and around the colony. Who would have thought that the Administration would eventually be undermined by bees!?

Below: Glow Worms emit a greenish light from the underside of their bodies by night.
Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 2 Jun

5.00pm USIE Open Seminar: Bridget Byrne (Manchester), When is a mix too much of a mix? ‘Race’, class and gender in primary school choices of white mothers. Arts C233.

Tue 3 Jun
12.30pm Centre for Life History Research Seminar: Susan Burton (Sussex), Western methodologies: Eastern interviewees. Library Meeting Room.

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Paul Taggart (Sussex), The politics of the heartland: Populism in contemporary Europe. Arts A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry Seminar: Graham Packham (Southampton General Hospital), Bag-1: A multifunctional regulator of cell survival in breast cancer. BLT.

Wed 4 Jun

5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Per Lundberg (Sussex), Predicaments of exile: Burmese refugees in Thailand. Arts D440.

Fri 6 Jun
3.00pm Royal Society of Chemistry Tilden Lecture: P. A. Tasker, Coordination chemistry at work: Zwitterionic ligands to transport metal salts. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

4.15pm Biochemistry Seminar: Therina Theron (GDSU), Links between DNA repair and transcription in patients with the combined features of xeroderma pigmentosum and Cockayne syndrome. BLT.

6.30pm Professorial Lecture: Paul Webb (Sussex), The presidentialization of politics in contemporary democracies. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Mon 9 Jun

5.00pm USIE Open Seminar: Kathy Pitt (Lancaster), The recontextualisation of knowledge: A discourse perspective. Arts C233.

Fri 6 Jun

2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Pontus Odalmalm (Sussex), Political participation and identification among migrants in Sweden and the Netherlands. Arts A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry Seminar: Erik Myin (Brussels), Can Merleau-Ponty save cognitive science? Arundel 40A.


Thu 12 Jun
9.30am Kindergarten Workshop: Experience, narratives and archival resources. Arts A71.

4.30pm Social and Political Thought Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Graham Harrison (Sheffield), The 'War against terrorism' and liberal imperialism. Arts D630.

Fri 13 Jun
2.00pm Sociology Symposium: Andreas Hess (University College, Dublin), Paul Rock (LSE), Jennifer Platt (Sussex), Robert Merton 1910–2003. Arts D630.

2.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: David Rosenthal (City University of New York), Consciousness, qualities, and higher-order thoughts. Pevensey I A6.

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

Tuesdays 3–6 Jun
7.45pm Brighton & Hove Operatic Society – Hot Mikado
A modern jazz adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's popular operetta.

Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685661 www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Performance

Tues 3–Wed 4 Jun
8pm David Glass Ensemble – The Chimp That Spoke
Using physical theatre, a moving meditation on our closest animal relatives and what it is to be human. Save £22 by presenting your Bulletin to the box office. 1 pair of tickets up for grabs for Wed 4 June.

Wed 11–Sat 14 Jun
7.45pm Brighton & Hove Operatic Society – Hot Mikado

Cinema

Fri 6 Jun
8pm City of God (18)

Sat 7 Jun
8pm The Hours (12A)

Sun 8 Jun
8pm Chicago (12A)

Exhibitions

Until 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.

Wanted: Participants in food and drink research. Earn up to £80 per study. Email martin@central.sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Stamps from around the world, to sell on behalf of RNLI. Send to Mark Flower, Hastings building.

For Sale: 3 bed house off Lewes Rd. £210,000. Call John Pryor on ext. 7144 or 607900 (eves). Email j.p.pryor@sussex.ac.uk.

For Sale: Ford Escort 1.4, 4 door, elect. windows. MotTAX July 1, owner: FSH. 102K miles, hence <£1,500 ono. Tel. 515923 or ext 4244. Email s.j.sacre@sussex.ac.uk.

Electrician: Qualified tradesman with 11 yrs' experience (now a poor PG needing work). For free and very reasonable estimate, call Joe on 487147 or 07760 204551.

To Let: Large study/bedroom in Lewes.

Bulleting 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 13 June, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 6 June. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
When the new Schools come into being on 1 August, they will be made up of departments, each with their own head. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, has now confirmed the appointment of all 27 Heads of Department (except Mathematics). He made each appointment on the advice of the relevant Dean, who in turn consulted with members of the department before making a recommendation.

All Heads of Department will be appointed from 1 August 2003. Each appointment will normally be for three years, with the possibility of renewal. In order to achieve a balanced spread, appointments from 1 August 2003 will run for two, three or four years.

For roles and responsibilities of Heads of Department, see www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/newschools.

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<th>School of Humanities</th>
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<th>Prof Maurice Howard</th>
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engineering – and adapt to new learning methods (virtual learning environments, problem-based learning, more project work, etc.).

We recently had an accreditation visit from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, who congratulated us heartily on our teaching of the design process (which is important for all engineers). We want to exploit our strength in design.

I believe there’s a place for engineering within the university context (both teaching and research), but it needs to be redefined. I have long experience in the commercial sector, so this new challenge is a good match to my experience.

We will have to be more outward looking as a department, not least because we are moving into an environment where engineering courses with an IT content will have to be provided within a bigger School.

**Informatics School of Science & Technology Professor Paul Lister**

The new Informatics department brings together under one umbrella the computing activities within Information Technology and Computing Systems (EIT) and within Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (COGS).

The new department creates one coherent group, with opportunities for research synergies and to consolidate teaching activities around niche areas in which Sussex has some track record, e.g. computer science, multimedia, artificial intelligence and computer science. It presents a real opportunity to present a strengthened external view, especially with regard to research and student recruitment.

My short-term priority is the integration of the two groups and their offerings. In the longer term, we will be trying to get in a position where the group can achieve a 5* in the next Research Assessment Exercise. The main challenge is ensuring there is adequate resourcing to underpin this ambition to be a high-class department with a strong international reputation.

The major drawback is that it may be some time until we are rehoused together in Chichester 1, as an entity. I personally plan to move into the COGS area as soon as possible to get to know the culture with which I’m less familiar.

**Media & Cultural Studies School of Social Sciences & Cultural Studies Dr Sally Munt**

We were the Media Studies subject group before, and it had a very strong reputation in that area nationally and internationally. Over the years though, the research interests of staff has gradually become more focused into two main fields: a stronger central concern with cultural studies academic work, and the emergence of a vibrant interest in media practice/media arts, following the successful introduction of our production-oriented degree, Media Practice and Theory.

We had group discussions about our academic identity and direction throughout the autumn term of last year, including an awayday, and there was a shared feeling that we could use the University restructure to give a clearer signal, inside and outside the institution, of that change in our activities.

The advantage this gains is primarily an internal one, so that we have an agreed and organic sense of ‘who we are’ and ‘what we do’, within the new School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, which will then enable us to plan more strategically our future direction.

I suppose this could be seen as a coarse ‘rebranding’ to our external peer departments nationally, but I don’t think that will happen. I’ve had a really positive response from other universities. There is a distinctive niche available nationally for a department that is publicly identified as working with these paradigms (and indeed, it is central to the School profile and name).

My view is that we are merely consolidating our strengths, and presenting them as such in a clearer way. A chance to take an opportunity to reflect and redefine ourselves in the best way for the future, to have that kind of taking stock, is necessary in such a changing sector.

**Psychology School of Life Sciences Dr Rod Bond**

Psychological studies at Sussex has had a distinguished history in which the different subject groups have drawn on their distinctive intellectual roots in biological, cognitive and social science. Nevertheless, the boundaries between the groups have become increasingly blurred in recent years, and the rationale for maintaining three separate groups has been difficult to explain or defend to those outside Sussex. Moreover, the external pressures of research assessment, quality assurance and professional accreditation of our programmes are easier to respond to as a single department than separately. Sussex is an important centre for psychology, and this will now be more visible.

The new Department of Psychology will be the largest department at the University and one of the largest psychology departments in the UK. There will be over 40 members of teaching faculty and around 1,000 students, located in Pevensie 1 and the B wing of Pevensie 2.

There are many advantages to the creation of a single department. We are better able to bring together psychologists with cognate interests, and I think the new department will be a more fertile environment for collaboration. It will be a better environment for research students, who will now be part of a large postgraduate community. We have already rationalised our undergraduate programmes so that we make the most effective use of our expertise in the courses we teach, increase the choice of options for students, and achieve considerable economies of scale.

For me, it is a unique opportunity to help build a large department and the challenge is to create a top-class department, both in research and teaching.

**Sussex Language Institute School of Humanities Sue Sheerin**

The Sussex Language Institute has been made a department because, in addition to our long-established support functions (the Language Learning Centre, and English language and study skills support for international students) and our income-generating activities (full- and part-time open courses in modern languages and EFL), we are increasingly involved in running degree programmes and elements of degree programmes.

Since the modern language teaching operation became part of the Sussex Language Institute in April 2002, we are responsible for all language minors and language teaching on the Modern Languages major courses in years 1 and 2.

In October we will be running a joint BA degree in TESOL (with English Language, Linguistics, Modern Languages or Humanities) and from 2004 we will be starting a joint BA degree in Applied Languages, which will enable students to focus on high-level performance skills in two languages as 50% of their programme.

My priorities as Head of Department, with the able help of the two Deputy Directors of SLI – Jeremy Page (English Language) and Jenny Hill (Modern Languages) – are to make a success of our new BA programmes and to help all staff keep their sanity in the coming period of change and upheaval while we move offices, settle into our new School and implement the new curriculum!

In the longer term we are aiming as a department to become more active in research – primarily in the field of second language acquisition – and hopefully in 2006 to introduce a postgraduate degree in the field of language teaching. Where will you find us? The Modern Language section is already in situ in Arts A, rooms A45 to A59. The English Language section will eventually join them on the ground floor of Arts A.