New work by Sussex composer premiered at festival

A new musical work by composer and Sussex music lecturer Ed Hughes will be premiered during next month’s Brighton Festival.

The piece, ‘Memory of Colour’, is a Brighton Festival commission to accompany an exhibition that includes a celebrated art installation, ‘Surface of the Lake’, by Japanese artist Teruyoshi Yoshiida.

Yoshiida’s work, which is on display at the Fabrica gallery in Brighton until 26 May, was inspired by the Japanese city of Kyoto. Created 20 years ago, it features shimmering fabric squares covered in gold leaf that appear to float above the ground.

Ed (pictured above) has composed a series of acoustic instrumental movements for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, harp and percussion, and some electronic music to reflect his interpretation of the installation.

"Enshrined in Yoshiida’s work is a dialogue between modernity and ancient rites,” says Ed. “His technique is based on traditional textiles – the mix of gold and colours that go into making kimonos – and this stunning surface is then articulated in a completely modern, abstract, sculpted form.

"I think my music has modern elements – quite urban rhythms, plenty of counterpoint and syncopated rhythms. But in the electronic component I am looking to hint at the ancient sounds of Japan, such as the sound of temple bells."

Ed admits he has limited knowledge of Japanese culture, although he was commissioned by Arts Council England to write the score for a Japanese silent-film comedy a couple of years ago.

‘Memory of Colour’ will be performed in the Fabrica gallery on 8 May by musical ensemble Chroma. Tickets cost £10. Both the art installation and Ed’s music from part of a larger arts project, ‘Through the Surface’.

Brighton Festival events

Ed Hughes’ composition is just one of many ways in which the University will be taking part in the Brighton Festival.

‘Examination’, an exhibition at the Gardner Arts Centre on campus, is the culmination of photographer Tom Wichelov’s year-long residency at the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). It shows collaborative work made with first-year students, as well as Wichelov’s response to the school environment. The photographer will be in conversation with Helen Smith, Professor of Primary Care, on 8 May at 2pm.

The University is also sponsoring three Festival events:

• The Szymanski Quartet, playing in the Royal Pavilion Music Room on 6 May.
• ‘African Songs’, at the Dome on 19 May; and
• La Damnation de Faust, a symphony/opera by Berlioz, at the Dome on 21 May.

As part of the Brighton Festival Fringe, SUDS (Sussex University Drama Society) will be performing Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing (featuring a live jazz band!) at the Old Market in Hove. The play will be on at 7.30pm every evening from 2-4 May.

Also part of the Festival Fringe is ‘What did you eat today?’ an exhibition in the Library of film, texts, photographs and miscellaneous objects. Curated by Sandra Cross and William English and described as "an ongoing enquiry into how we make choices about what to eat", the display runs from 5 to 23 May during Library opening hours. It is sponsored by the Mass-Observation Archive.

Evolutionary biologist John Maynard Smith dies

Professor John Maynard Smith passed away peacefully on Monday (19 April), aged 84. His colleagues in the Centre for Study of Evolution (Life Sci) pay tribute here to one of the world’s greatest evolutionary biologists.

"Although born in London, JMS spent much of his youth on and around Enmore, where he became a skilled rider – and naturalist. He was less happy at Eton College, but this was where he developed passions for mathematics and Darwinism.

JMS became a communist while at Cambridge University, but ignored the party line when war broke out in 1939 by attempting to join the army. He was rejected because of his poor eyesight and told to finish his engineering degree, which he then applied to military aircraft design.

After the war, deciding (in his own words) "that aeroplanes were noisy and old-fashioned, he entered University College London, to study zoology". There he studied fruit-fly genetics under J.B.S. Haldane, another apostate Etonian. In 1965, JMS became the founding Dean of the School of Biological Sciences at Sussex. JMS is perhaps best known among professional biologists for his investigations into The Evolution of Sex (1978) and his application of game theory to biology (Evolution and the Theory of Games, 1982). He made an even wider impact, however, with books such as "my little Penguin", The Theory of Evolution (1958, 1966, 1975, 1993)."

In 1985, JMS retired from teaching and administration but certainly not from research. He wrote the highly influential book The Major Transitions in Evolution (1995) with Éros Szathmáry, and what he called "the birdwatchers' version", aimed at a wider public, The Origins of Life (1999). Another major focus was his work with Noel Smith on the bacterium causing tuberculosis in cattle and badgers.

Unsurprisingly, JMS was showered with honours, including the Darwin Medal in 1986, the Crafoord Prize in 1999 and Kyoto Prize in 2001. The affection he inspired from students was surely just as rewarding.

To our despair, we can no longer direct seek his clear and patient advice. But our memories – and John’s prodigious output of publications – will continue to inspire us. Our sympathies go to Sheila, his children and grandchildren."
University pays tribute to champion of Palestine

A conference organised by Sussex graduate students and faculty will celebrate the life and work of Professor Edward Said, arguably the greatest champion in the West of the Palestinian cause.

The one-day conference, to be held on campus on 14 May, will pay tribute to the intellectual legacy and political involvement of the author, critic, academic and political activist, who died last year. It will also address the growing importance of postcolonial thought on academic life.

The idea for the conference arose after Said spoke at last year’s Brighton Festival and following the Social and Political Thought (SPT) graduate conference held at Sussex in the same month.

One of the conference organisers, Gurminder K. Bhambr, says: “Said’s work rests on the crossing of boundaries and, as such, Sussex’s commitment to progressive, cross-cultural academic engagement makes it an ideal location for the examination of his thought and politics.”

Said was also a great champion of culture, primarily classical music. To celebrate this aspect of Said’s life, the conference will include a performance by Samadana, a five-piece band that plays a fusion of Arabic/Israeli/Western music.

There will also be a photo exhibition documenting projects that promote co-existence in the Middle East.

Sussex’s commitment to cross-cultural academic engagement makes it an ideal location for the examination of Said.”

Research funding opportunities →

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

BOOKMARK ▼

David Buckingham and Sara Bragg (Research Fellow, Education) Young People, Sex and the Media Palgrave Macmillan, £50.00 (hardback), £16.99 (paper)

The publisher says: “Drawing on an extensive research project, which investigated children’s interpretations of sexual content in films, TV and print media, this book considers how young people (aged 9–17) use such material to understand their experiences and build their identities, and how they and their parents respond to public concerns about these issues. The book offers a clearly written and entertaining insight into children’s and parents’ perspectives on these difficult issues – perspectives that are often ignored or trivialised in public debate.”

Nigel Eltringham (Lecturer in Anthropology) Accounting for Horror: Post-genocide debates in Rwanda Pluto Press, £15.99 (paper)

Vvyyan Evans (Lecturer in Linguistics) The Structure of Time: Language, meaning and temporal cognition John Benjamins, 95 euros (hardback)

The reviewers say: “Time belongs to the bedrock of human cognition. Beginning before birth and remaining for the most part below the horizon of consciousness, temporal cognition is a mystery not easily penetrated. The Structure of Time is an indispensable investigation, rich in theory and examples, into the phenomenology and the linguistics of the way we think about time.” (Mark Turner, Case Western Reserve University)

“With this work, Cognitive Linguistics finally turns its attention from Space to Time.” (Jordan Zlatev, Lund University)

“This work is interesting, creative, thought-provoking, and timely (no pun intended),” (Wallace Chafe, University of California at Santa Barbara)

Daphne Grace (Tutor in English) The Woman in the Muslim Mask: Veiling and identity in postcolonial literature Pluto Press, £14.99 (paper)

The publisher says: “Utilising a range of literatures, east and west, Grace goes beyond purely historical or ethnographic description to ask why, at the start of the new millennium, veiling is more popular than ever - and to explore what it actually means for the women themselves.”

Bookmark is a regular review of new books by Sussex authors

EPSRC First Grants Scheme Support of up to £120k is available for those who have just begun their academic career and are submitting their first proposal to EPSRC as principal investigator. To be eligible, investigators must have taken up their appointment in the previous 24 months. No deadline

Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowships Up to 25 fellowships are available to enable researchers in the humanities and social sciences to have a period of research leave for 2–3 years. The Trust will support a full-time replacement lecturer and up to £6k p.a. for research expenses. Deadline: 7 May

Leverhulme Trust Philip Leverhulme Prizes Approximately 25 prizes of £5000 are available across this year’s selected disciplines: Anthropology; Economics; Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences; Mathematics and Statistics; Medieval, Early Modern and Modern History. The 2-year prizes can be used for almost any purpose that can advance the prize holder’s research. Deadline: 14 May

Toyota Foundation Research Grants Funds of up to £100k are available for 1- or 2-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

NERC Research Grants Grants for basic, strategic or applied research are inviable from two open competitions: a Small Research Grants support projects costing between £2k and £50k; and b) Standard Research Grants support projects costing more than £50k for a period of up to 3 years. Deadline: a) 1 June; b) 1 July
The government is currently in the midst of a Spending Review that will plan public expenditure for the period 2005-2008. The recent debate on the funding of higher education has clearly established the need for substantial additional funding for universities. Increased tuition-fee income from 2006 onwards will make a significant contribution to reducing the funding gap, but the larger part of that gap will remain to be filled.

The Chancellor's Budget speech somewhat unexpectedly announced the Spending Review settlement for education, an overall increase of 4.4% annually. As the Spending Review was expected to be difficult, this is a good outcome.

Perhaps almost as welcome as the Chancellor's money (the taxpayers' money, to be more accurate) were his words about the importance of investment in education: "I have no doubt that the nations that will succeed long term will be the nations that make the long-term choice to invest in the drivers of future prosperity - education, science and enterprise."

There was no announcement at this stage of how the increase in the education budget will be divided between the competing demands of the different parts of the education system. But the Chancellor made a statement which is of great significance given the fears that have been expressed that the Treasury will 'claw back' tuition-fee income, by reducing public expenditure on higher education as fee income increases.

Gordon Brown's words are again worth quoting directly: "The settlement will maintain the levels of real terms student funding per head and ensure universities receive in full the benefit of additional revenue from the Government's Higher Education reforms."

The education budget is only one of the sources of public funding for universities, and we will have to wait for the Spending Review settlement for science, but against the Chancellor's promise that, "We will work with the scientific community and our science based companies so that in this spending period we can raise the level of science spending as a share of national income, with one purpose: to make Britain the best and the most attractive location for science and innovation in the world." The government is this month conducting a science and innovation review in order to develop a 10-year framework for investment in science (including social sciences and the arts and humanities) and again there are strongly encouraging words: "To ensure that the UK Government maintains the momentum for recent reforms, funding and improved outcomes from the science base, it will ensure that the level of public investment here will grow faster than the trend rate of GDP growth over the Spending Review period."

The UK's spending on research has declined in comparison with our competitors, primarily because of a decline in business investment in research and development, and the government aims to reverse that trend.

Their enthusiasm for investment in science is based, whether we like it or not, not on an enthusiasm for knowledge for its own sake, but because it believes that stronger science means a stronger economy. There are many opportunities for universities in the current climate - there are also real challenges.
Technology expert promotes computer usability

Jon Rimmer (second right) in Hyderabad visiting one of India's few usability laboratories

A Sussex technology expert has just returned from the latest in a series of visits to India, where he has been helping academics and industrialists to make computer products easier to use.

Over the past two years Jon Rimmer has done four tours of India, meeting with industry and academia to promote computer "usability". This means developing products that are easier to learn and remember, as well as more efficient and more reliable to use.

Jon’s latest visit included a seminar and workshop tour of academic institutions and industry laboratories. He and a small number of European colleagues spent time in Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad and discussed the development of usability in the university curriculum.

"Usability is fundamental to human-centred technology research and development, which is well established in the West and very multidisciplinary," explains Jon. "It includes – among others – computer science, psychology, sociology, anthropology, engineering and design.

"In India, almost all the academics we met were from design schools and institutes. The aim of the project is to try to involve computing and social science departments as well."

Jon travelled to India with the Indo-European Systems Usability Partnership (IESUP), a project funded by the European Commission that links the British Computer Society and European academics with the Computer Society of India.

The IESUP is looking at ways of securing further partnerships and funds to develop collaborative research between European and Indian institutions. It also hopes to extend the development of usability in other countries such as China, Russia and Nepal.

The IESUP is keen to hear from individuals who would like to participate in future events, for which flights and accommodation costs are paid. For more information, see www.iesup.org or email Jon on J.Rimmer@sussex.ac.uk.

Don’t fight civil unrest with force

In trying to reduce serious political conflicts within countries, it may be more effective to be tougher on the causes of discontent than on the unrest itself. That is the implication of new research by Sussex economist Dr Patricia Justino, presented at the Royal Economic Society’s annual conference this month.

Many social scientists have suggested that persistent poverty and inequality may lead to riots, insurgencies and even civil wars. Patricia’s research takes these findings one step further and asks whether social policies may help to reduce and prevent conflicts in developing countries.

She compared and contrasted the impact of social policies and of police force on the level of riots in 14 major Indian states over the last three decades.

Her results show that public expenditure on education and other social services can be an important factor in managing conflict when it is caused by discontent with persistent poverty, increasing inequalities and deteriorating living conditions.

On the other hand, the accumulated use of force by police over time seems to be associated with increases in rioting. In other words, it may help in the short term but in the long term the use of force makes things worse.

Although Patricia’s findings are specific to India, they have wider implications for countries that combine high income inequalities and high potential for conflict – such as parts of Latin America – as well as countries where previously successful social-development policies have shown signs of breakdown – such as Cuba and Sri Lanka.

Kinder! Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Brighton and Hove education authority is pioneering the introduction of foreign-language teaching in primary schools in collaboration with the Education department at Sussex, which is offering a new course to train graduates to teach languages to pupils aged 7-14.

"The aim is to harness children’s enthusiasm to create an appetite for learning about other languages and cultures," said Margaret Jones, PGCE Tutor for Modern Foreign Languages.

A recent curriculum change by the government is intended to get pupils interested in languages at an early age, while their brains are most receptive to language acquisition. The knock-on effect should be that pupils will want to continue to learn languages beyond the age of 14.

Primary foreign-language teaching declined nationally during the 1990s, with only four local primary schools out of 56 and one special school offering French on the timetable.

Brighton and Hove is one of 19 local education authorities selected for a two-year project and the Hove Park School specialist language college is taking a leading role in establishing links with a number of ‘pathfinder’ primary schools.

These schools are keen to integrate foreign language learning into the curriculum in a flexible way, creating links between language work and existing subject areas.

Language graduates from Sussex who can teach French, Spanish and German are working to make language learning fun in the classroom, using drama, songs, storytelling and games in ways that will capture the interest of children and bring the languages to life.

The aim is that primary pupils in all 56 local primary schools will have similar language opportunities by 2010.

"This will ensure that Brighton and Hove is a city with a European identity and a global perspective," said Margaret.
FIRST CLASS

On 17 April Margaret Boden, Research Professor of Cognitive Science, received an honorary DUniv from the Open University in a ceremony at the Brighton Dome. This is Margaret's third honorary doctorate, as she has an honorary DSc from Sussex and from Bristol.

Sussex graduate David Gilbert began work this month as managing director of book chain Waterstone's. "I am confident that my long-standing interest in literature coupled with my 27 years in retailing will prove a winning combination," said Mr Gilbert, who completed a Sussex MA in Comparative Literature in 1977.

Psychology student Laurence Halsted led the British under-20 fencing team in the World Junior Championships last week in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Laurence, a former junior European junior champion and the no. 2 British foil, has been awarded a sporting bursary by the University in recognition of his achievements and future potential.

Thabo Mbeke, who has a master's degree in economics from Sussex, will be sworn in on 27 April for his second and final five-year term of office as President of South Africa. The ruling African National Congress won a third landslide victory in national elections last week.

Sussex graduate Jane Root, currently controller of BBC Two, starts work in the middle of May as executive vice president and general manager of the Discovery Channel in the USA. Jane left Sussex in 1980 with a degree in Politics and International Relations and returned in July 2003 to become an honorary Doctor of Letters at the summer graduation ceremonies.

Douglas Young, Professor of Organic Chemistry, is to receive a £500 Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Award for his "brilliant contributions to the organic chemistry of enzymes of importance in biology and medicine". Work in this area by Douglas' group includes important discoveries in the biosynthesis of antibiotics such as penicillin, and the devising of new syntheses for compounds that may be useful as anti-Alzheimer's or anti-stroke drugs.

Medical School receives million-pound grant from Pfizer

Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) has received a one million pound donation from pharmaceutical company Pfizer (UK).

"The cash injection will make a significant difference to academic activity at the school," said Professor Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS. "We are in the process of building a multi-million pound scientific research complex and this new grant will provide a welcome boost both to that development as well as underpinning the expansion of emerging research programmes."

The four key research areas for BSMS are infectious diseases, ageing and elderly care, neuroscience, and cancer and genetics.

Professor Ken Miles, Professor of Imaging, said: "Additional funding will accelerate the development of my work, which includes non-invasive imaging techniques for assessing the blood supply to tumours. The more research we can do will hasten the transition of new anti-vascular cancer treatments from research to clinical practice."

Dr Ruth Hargreaves, Medical Manager for Pfizer UK, said: "We are hoping to develop a number of joint initiatives over the years. In particular, we plan to help the students by giving them the opportunity to acquire a variety of business skills, as well as working closely with them on a selection of scientific research projects."

BSMS is an equal partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, working together with the NHS throughout the south east. It is funded by the Higher Education Council.

Union decision imminent on Framework Agreement

A postal ballot of its members by the Association of University Teachers (AUT) finishes next week (28 April) and could result in acceptance of the Framework Agreement negotiated between union officials and employers.

"This has been a difficult time for the University and we must all be relieved at this positive progress," said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, in a memo to academic and academic-related faculty.

The AUT suspended national industrial action last month and launched its ballot after delegates at the union's annual conference voted to recommend that members accept the Framework Agreement. The AUT locally advised its members to return to normal duties.

All other English trade unions have now voted in favour of the Framework Agreement. The Vice-Chancellor said: "I would like to re-affirm our commitment to working with all of our campus unions to implement this long overdue revision of the pay scales, and to the key principles of the Framework Agreement: to a common approach to pay and grading for all staff groups; to transparency and clarity of pay and grading; to a structure that supports equal pay for work of equal value; to a national framework for pay that allows for local flexibility; and to an approach to all of this which fully includes the trades unions."

LETTERS

The obstacles faced by female staff

Dave Booth's depressingly sexist and puerile letter comparing the new University logo to a woman's breasts (Bulletin 12 March) demonstrates very effectively that the obstacles faced by female academics are social and cultural, in addition to the very real professional issues targeted by the new Women's Staff Network, as reported in the same issue.

Dr Thomas Austin,
Media and Cultural Studies
Obituaries

Bob Copper

Folklorist Bob Copper, who received an honorary degree from Sussex in 2000, died last month at the age of 89.

Mr Copper, who lived in Peacehaven, collected traditional songs and tales from rural downland villages. He wrote many books about the county of Sussex, including A Song for Every Season and Bob Copper's Sussex.

Christopher Longuet-Higgins

Christopher Longuet-Higgins, Emeritus Professor in Experimental Psychology, died on 27 March at the age of 80.

One of the last great polymaths, he made important scientific advances in two quite different disciplines - chemistry and artificial intelligence - and many people think he was unlucky not to receive a Nobel Prize for his work in the former.

After undergraduate study at Oxford in both chemistry and music, Christopher had short spells at Chicago and Manchester Universities, before moving to a chair in theoretical physics at King's College London in 1952.

In 1954 he joined the eminent Department of Theoretical Chemistry at Cambridge and built it further to become arguably the outstanding such department in the world. In theoretical chemistry he made outstanding contributions in quantum chemistry and statistical mechanics.

It was a surprise therefore to most chemists when in 1967 he decided to move into artificial intelligence, giving up his Cambridge position for a research fellowship at Edinburgh University. He had also started publishing important papers in music from 1962 onwards.

Christopher showed a formidable talent in his new field. Together with postgraduate and postdoctoral workers, he made important early contributions in informatics, neural networks and language generation by computer. Christopher, unsure what to call the sort of research he conducted, coined the term "cognitive science" in a paper in 1973.

In 1974 Christopher transferred his Royal Society research professorship to Sussex, where he joined the Experimental Psychology group in the School of Biological Sciences. He continued his work on artificial intelligence, making an important contribution to understanding how the brain analyses information about depth and distance in sequences of visual images.

Christopher was a tough postgraduate supervisor and an aggressive contributor to colloquia and scientific meetings; many an invited speaker wilted under his comments. Nor did he waste words in his writings: Christopher's penultimate scientific paper, published in 1995, has the title '150 words on consciousness'.

Christopher was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1958, a Foreign Associate of the US Academy of Sciences in 1968, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1970. He had honorary doctorates from the universities of Bristol, Essex, Sheffield, Sussex and York.

Dr Zoltan Dienes,
Reader in Experimental Psychology

Larry Trask

Professor Larry Trask died aged 59 on 27 March, after a progressive illness lasting about two years.

It is hard to do justice to Larry's contribution to Linguistics and English Language at Sussex, or to his subject in general, in a few lines. The death of a scholar in service and with his intellectual powers intact must always diminish his colleagues.

He was a popular teacher, generous with his time and knowledge to students and staff alike.

His publications include many guides to ideas about language for the benefit of students and the serious general reader that are models of clarity and accuracy.

This same desire for rigour informed his research. He was one of the world's foremost scholars of Basque, and he wrote a history of the language that is both outstanding in its own terms and a superb vindication of the methods of classical historical linguistics, of which he had also written a fine textbook.

Larry's interests were wide, and he had recently been involved with the question of the origin of language in general and with the relation between different language-families, as well as writing guides to internet etiquette and punctuation.

He wore his learning with real modesty and never sought the front of the stage he found himself on in the last eight years or so of his life, though he held his own there with distinction.

It is painful to think that the festshrift he was to receive, with contributions from all the leading scholars in his field, will now be a memorial volume, especially since his own last academic activity was to try and complete an article for a memorial volume to another scholar.

The respect and love that Larry evoked in us are mixed with sadness and bitterness at the cruelty of his illness, which robbed him of his speech and then broke his health bit by bit. We will deeply miss his part in our lives as a colleague and friend, and we will not forget that, true to himself, he was still entertaining us with comments on his reading emailed from his bed two days before he died.

Professor Richard Coates,
Linguistics and English Language

Staff vacancies

For further details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/personnel/vacs or contact staffing services on ext. 8706, fax 877401, recruitment@sussex.ac.uk

APPLY BY 30 APR
Chair in Education, Sussex Institute (ref 523)
Lecturer in X-ray Crystallography, Biochemistry (ref 601)
Housing Services

APPLY BY 5 MAY
Alumni Officer, Development & Alumni (ref 609)
Development Officer (Major Gifts & Research), Development & Alumni (ref 610)
Development Officer (Legacies) (p/l), Development & Alumni (ref 611)
Lecturer in Statistics & Economics, SPRU (p/0 ref 615)

Manager, Residential Services (ref 613)
APPLY BY 3 MAY
Office Assistant, Development & Alumni (ref 608)
Staff and students cultivate relations on campus allotment

Geography students and staff are taking a fresh approach to departmental relations by mucking in together to grow organic produce on a campus allotment.

The plot, one of ten behind the Brighthelm hall of residence, was taken on by geography undergraduates with the support of faculty and staff keen to benefit from the fresh air, exercise and produce offered by allotment gardening.

Physical geography lecturer Dr Dominic ‘Monty Dom’ Knivet also saw the allotment project as a way of encouraging community spirit within the department, an idea welcomed by both staff and students.

The allotment group currently includes around eight female students and staff, and one male student. They meet every Wednesday to dig, sow and plan out the plot.

“I’m quite keen to spend my lunch hours pottering about. It’s also about making collective decisions and thinking about green issues such as the use of chemicals, or even paper,” says Evelyn Dodds, geography resource centre manager.

“Because the students go away in June they wouldn’t usually get to enjoy all the fruits of their labours,” she adds, “so we’re aiming to grow short-term things that we can all share in, such as lettuce, and long-term things such as herbs.”

Louise Farquharson, a first-year geography and American studies student, worked on an organic farm in New Zealand during her gap year, which reinforced her interest in organic/sustainable food production and physical geography.

“By working on the allotment I’ve got to know members of the department,” she says. “There’s so much on at university but you can go there and do nothing except drinking. Gardening is just so rewarding – you get fit and can enjoy your own home-grown vegetables, just from putting a few seeds in the ground.”

It’s a pastime that has seemingly shrugged off its elderly image to attract a new generation of organically sensitive and environmentally aware gardeners. All the University’s plots are taken up by undergraduate and research students and there is currently a waiting list.

University Environmental Officer Amanda Hastings, who is responsible for the plots, says: “We have been oversubscribed since we set up the plots in 2000. We get a lot of enquiries from staff keen to take them on, but they are reserved for students.”

Amanda is not aware of any other university having allotments, and they certainly sparked a lot of interest when they were first created. “We got a mention on ‘Gardeners’ Question Time’,” she recalls. “Even the News of the World reported on it. They were speculating on what students might be growing there, but were told the students could grow anything they liked, as long as it wasn’t illegal.”

Summer sport at Sussex

Experience salsa, African and Egyptian dance, pilates, tai chi, hip hop, ragga jam and more in the Dance and Movement Festival at the Sportcentre on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 May. Tickets are available for either day or the whole weekend; contact the Sportcentre on ext. 8228.

A maximum of 12 men and 12 women can play for the O’Reilly Cup in a mixed tennis tournament (different partner for each match) on Sunday 6 June. To enter (£2 per person), call the Falmer Sports Complex on ext. 7125.

Entrants in the Charity Sports Night on Wednesday 9 June will raise money for Spiral with fun games and a quiz. Closing date for team entries (6 per mixed team, maximum 12 teams) is Wednesday 26 May. Contact the Sportcentre on ext. 8228 for entry forms.

Sussex goes to war in Euro robot challenge

Engineering undergraduates Arthur Guy and Graham Ross left for Leuven in Belgium today (23 April) to compete against 40 other teams from all over Europe in an annual robot competition.

The two first year students took up the challenge to develop an autonomous vehicle (without remote control) that works its way through an obstacle course by means of intelligent sensors. The track resembles a real traffic situation, including road markings, obstacles, traffic signs and other vehicles.

The robots will compete for the Melexis Safety Trophy and prizes worth 15,000 euros.

News in brief

VC’s open meetings

The Vice-Chancellor will be holding two open meetings for staff this term: in the BSMS lecture theatre on Wednesday 12 May, and in Arts A1 lecture theatre on Wednesday 19 May. Both meetings begin at 3pm and are open to all staff. In a new initiative, the Vice-Chancellor will also be holding the first of a regular termly open meeting with students. This takes place in Arts A1 on Tuesday 25 May, from 3–4pm.

Bike Doctor

Cycle-Training Southeast will be offering a Bike Doctor service on campus on alternate Thursdays this term: 6 May, 20 May, 5 June and 17 June. The service will be located in Fulton Court (Library Square) from 10am–4pm or under Falmer House, depending on the weather.

Chancellor’s Awards 2004

The deadline for nominations for the annual Chancellor’s Awards is Thursday 7 May. The awards recognise exceptional contribution to the work and life of the University by members of staff. Awards can be made for work in any area of activity at the University, other than direct teaching and research. Up to four winners will receive their £500 prize at the graduation ceremonies in July. Further details and nomination forms are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/registrar/chancellorsawards.shtml.

Council elections

The University’s governing body needs one academic and non-academic member of staff to serve for three years from 1 August. Nominations close on 28 April; a list of valid nominations will be published on 30 April; voting closes on 12 May; and results will be announced on 14 May. See the Secretariat web pages for full details.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin
Lectures, seminars and colloquia↓

TUE 27 APR
2.30pm Does Information matter? Lora Salter (York University, Toronto), Freeman Centre G24/25.
4.00–5.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Robin Poston (King's College London), Monocyte adhesion to atherosclerotic plaques. JMS Lecture Theatre.
4.00pm COGS Research Seminar: Maggie Boden (Sussex). The universality of religion. Arundel 404A.
4.00–5.00pm American Studies Open Seminar: Tim Youngs (Nottingham Trent). Radical travel writing. Arts A155.
4.15–6.00pm Sussex Lecture in Anthropological Theory: Guillermo de la Pena. Indigenous rights and the debate on civil society in Mexico. Arts C133.
7.00pm Institute of Physics Lecture: Paul Cracknall (British Museum). Scientific investigation of fakes and forgeries. Pev. 1.147.

WED 28 APR
2.00–5.30pm Mandela Scholarship Trust, Africa Forum and University of Sussex. South Africa ten years on – the challenges. IDS 120/121.
5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Nigel Harris (UCL), Globalisation, migration and aid. Arts C233.
6.30pm South Downs Health NHS Trust 10th Annual Discourse: Julia Polak, Stem cells and regenerative medicine. BSMS Lecture Theatre.

THU 29 APR
3.00–4.00pm Bioinformatics and Vision Seminar: David Saad (Astro), Getting the message across: The statistical physics of error correcting codes. Ch3 392/41.
FRI 30 APR
11.00am Bioinformatics and Vision Seminar: Peter McOwan (Queen Mary, Uni of London). From cortex to computer: Biologically inspired models for low level visual. Arundel 404A.
1.30pm Human Centred Technology Seminar: Nuno Otero (GAP/RNSCD-UJ), title TBA. Rev. 2813.
2.15–3.30pm SPRU/CENTRIM Seminar: Paul Nightingale (Sussex). Genomics and pharmaceutical innovation. Freeman Centre 624/625.

TUE 5 MAY
4.00–5.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Brad Spiller (Cardiff), Coxsackie B viruses induced myocarditis: Engineering decoy receptor therapeutics. JMS Lecture Theatre.
4.00–5.00pm COGS Research Seminar: Richard Cox (Sussex), title TBA. Arundel 404A.

WED 5 MAY
1.00–2.30pm IDS Seminar: Zander Navarro and Aaron Schneider (IDS), The political economy of participation: The case of ‘Participatory Budgeting’ in Porto Alegre (Brazil). (05 22).
2.00–5.00pm Religion and Extremism Seminar: Oliver McTear, Violence in God’s Name? Religion in an age of conflict. Panel discussants: Rabbi David J. Goldberg, Sheikh Mussa Adimani, Paul Oestreicher. Meeting House. Booking essential: email reccademic@sussex.ac.uk, or tel. 698032.
4.00–5.00pm CSAS Research Seminar: Jo Bristow (Delft), Kultur reclaaded: Afrikaner nationalities and the Stellenbosch district, 1934–1939. Arts C162.
4.30pm Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art Research Seminar: Tara Hamling (Sussex), To see or not to see? The presence of imagery in post-Reformation houses. Arts A103.
5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Ching Lin Pang (Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism), title TBA. Arts C233.

FRI 7 MAY
2.15–3.30pm SPRU/CENTRIM Seminar: John Bressant ( Cranfield), Managing innovation beyond the steady state. Freeman Centre 624/625.

Small ads↓

Wanted: Housemate for room in house with garden, off-road parking. On direct bus route to campus. £400 pcm. Call Simon on 07775 556371.

To let: Single room in Hove flat. Share with 3 others. £230 ppcm + bills. Call 774674.

For sale: Rover 3-dr Metro, 1.4 auto, j reg, 45K miles, sunroof, Tax end May, MoT June. £325 ono. Contact Chris on 292128 (day), 697539 (ev).

Wanted: Women of all ages to complete anonymous questionnaire (on sexual activity) for Cancer Research UK. Used extensively in UK and abroad in clinical trials. Want to reanalyse the questionnaire, will be distributed at various sites across campus. Details: Dr Hazel Beveridge, ext. 3012.

For sale: Vauxhall Peugeot 205 1.8 diesel, 1992, 3cr. MoT Mar 05, tax Nov 04. £500. Email wahleyander@susx.ac.uk. Call ext. 3390 or 477883.

Wanted: Cricketers for West Susx Div 1 team. Home matches played on campus. Call Simon Tunley on ext. 7230/8228.

For sale: Panasonic ghetto-blower CD, digital tuner, remote control, manual. £55. Email d.boot@sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Flat to rent for 3-4 people, for July. House sitting considered. Prefer: 7 Duke/Brunswick/Montpelier. Email p.brambilla@ids.susx.ac.uk or call 07949 829797.

Wanted: Mature participants (40 yrs +), for computer-based task. £6 p/hr/40min. Email Dimitrios at d.giagoss@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Giant mountain bike. Brand new, never used. £100. View on campus. Email B.E.Pfaff@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 1 bed top floor furnished maisonette nr Palmers Sq, Gas CH, £520 pcm excl. Available late April. Call 733661.

For sale: 3-seater settee + two armchairs, Madison Pink, 4 yrs old. £200. Email A.J.Woodbridge@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 8021.

Wanted: House or flat for visiting professor, wife + two teenage children. 19 June–9 July. Contact James Hirschfeld on ext. 8080 or email jph@johannes.ac.uk.

For sale: Volkswagen 440 1.8 '91, 1 yr MoT, sunroof, central locking, £545 ono. Email G.Mills@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 8203.

To let: 6 bed, 3 bath house. Available Sep. £850 p/w. Tel. 07739 516186, email t.duto@nclworld.com.

Gardner Arts Centre↓

Box office 0273 665861
www.gardnerarts.co.uk

Sussex students and staff are eligible for tickets at concessionary rate to all events on presentation of a valid ID card.

PERFORMANCE and self-discovery is also a timely festival on the powerplay of supersates and human limitation. Teatro Kinet is Italy's premier physical-theatre company, internationally acclaimed for its innovative and poetic interpretations of classical myths and fairy tales. Performed in English and Italian (with subtitles).

EXHIBITIONS

Sat 1 May – Sun 6 June
Tom Wichelow
Examination
The culmination of photographer Tom Wichelow's year-long residency at the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School. The exhibition shows collaborative work with first-year students, as well as Wichelow's response to the school environment and the people within it.

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from Jacqui Beeling and Magpie Clune. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from the staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 7 May, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 30 April. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.