Teaching an old turtle new tricks

A Sussex student is helping a giant sea turtle to enjoy the rich marine world of the Brighton Sea Life Centre.

Helen Braysher, a 21-year-old biology finalist, has developed a feeding programme for Lulu, a 60-year-old Pacific green sea turtle. Lulu was relocated to Brighton’s large aquarium habitat in January last year when she outgrew her previous tank.

Helen, previously a part-time aquarist at the Sea Life Centre, carried out a month’s observation of the giant turtle as part of her degree studies. She then invented feeding devices and a schedule to help Lulu feel more at home.

“I recorded Lulu’s every move, turn and dive to gain an understanding of her behaviour,” said Helen. “Her feeding pattern was twice daily meals, delivered from the same location, and it was clear Lulu anticipated her dinner times.

“In the wild, however, turtles eat throughout the day and look for food in various places. I designed and built a couple of portable feeders, or ‘grazers’ as I call them, as a way of making her environment more natural.”

The grazers allow Lulu to feed whenever she wants. They are moved around the tank, so she has to go looking for food when she feels peckish. The aim is to enrich Lulu’s environment by encouraging her to behave more like her ocean-dwelling counterparts.

“I hope that by making Lulu comfortable in captivity we can enjoy her for many years to come,” said Helen. “Sea turtles can live for a very long time in the wild, perhaps even for centuries. She is a real character and very friendly with the people around her.”

Helen’s work may even help to prevent this endangered species from dying out. “The more we learn about them, the more chance we have of saving them from extinction,” she explained.

Once Helen has finished her study at the end of this month, she will collate her findings for Sea Life Centre curator Peter Jones.

Peter said: “Lulu has an excellent home here at the Sea Life Centre and Helen has many positive ideas about how we can make it even better. We have a good relationship with the University of Sussex and are always keen to tap the knowledge of students working to enhance our innovative marine environments.”

Bored of the gym? Try walking

Sitting is bad for you. Like chocolate and coffee, too much and your body suffers.

And these days we sit behind the wheel, behind a desk and in front of the telly. We are becoming sedentary and that means back problems and beer bellies.

As part of Health Week 2004, which begins on Monday (19 January), we are being encouraged to stand up and walk – not just to the shop, but over the Downs and beyond.

Amanda Hastings and David Streeter (pictured) are among members of staff who will be leading walks for Health Week. “The walker is spoilt by campus,” says Amanda, Safety and Environment Officer. “The great thing is there are so many places to go during a lunchtime right on our doorstep. In an hour you could walk up on the South Downs.”

A brisk walk of 30 minutes a day, in which the heart beats a little faster, can reduce heart disease and blood pressure and discourage strokes, arthritis and stress. It helps weight control and improves stamina. In terms of exercise, walking a mile in 20 minutes burns 100 calories, the same as a ten-minute swim or run – and it’s a lot less hassle.

Being an ecologist, David has another reason for tramping around the countryside: “When I walk I do the three Bs: bird watch, botanise and bug hunt. There is, after all, limited natural history in a gym.”

And he also has other motivations for walking: “I can’t allow students to get in front of me on field trips!” he says. “It’s a matter of pride. The day I’m no longer leading the pack, I’ll retire – properly.”

David’s walk on Friday (23 January) will last an hour and take in some of the nature of Stanmer Park. Amanda’s walk, meanwhile, on Wednesday (21 January) will look at the local environment. Both walks are free and depart at 1pm from the Meeting House steps.

Health Week includes loads of free and paid-for events to encourage us to keep our new year’s resolutions. Learn a bit about Reiki or massage, get a quick fitness check, try out cycling, learn some healthy recipes, or just listen to some soothing lunchtime music. There will even be miniature manicures and a ‘experts’ pub quiz in East Slope.

For more information, see the Health Week pull-out in this issue of the Bulletin or visit www.healthycampus.com.

Outside Health Week, an informal one-hour walk takes place every Monday on campus. Walkers leave at 1pm from outside the Bramber House post office. For more details call Alistair Brand on ext. 4351.

The University also has leaflets on handy local walks. Get them from main points around campus or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk and we’ll send some in the mail.
**Bookmark**

New books by Sussex authors

**Trevor Beebee** (Professor of Molecular Ecology, LifeSci), Graham Rowe (Honorary Lecturer in Biochemistry, LifeSci)

An Introduction to Molecular Ecology

Oxford, £25.99 (paper)

The publisher says: "Ecology – the study of how individuals and species interact with their surroundings, and each other – has been revolutionised by a new molecular approach to the subject. By using molecular, biological and molecular genetic techniques, ecological interactions can be investigated in more detail and with more accuracy than ever before. An Introduction to Molecular Ecology makes this fascinating area of research accessible to students for the first time."

**Sandra Halperin** (Reader in International Relations, SecCuLi)

War and Social Change in Modern Europe

Cambridge, £21.95 (paper)

The publisher says: "Halperin traces the persistence of traditional class structures during the development of industrial capitalism in Europe, and the way in which these structures shaped states and state behavior and generated conflict. She documents European conflicts between 1789 and 1914, including conflicts often ignored by researchers and links these conflicts to structures characteristic of industrial capitalist development in Europe before 1945. Ultimately, the book shows how and why the conflicts both culminated in the world wars and brought about a 'great transformation' in Europe."

**Bela Zsolt**, trans. Laci Lób (Emeritus Professor of German, HumS)

Nine Suitcases

Johnathan Cape, £12.59 (hardback)

The translator says: "Zsolt was one of the best-known Hungarian writers of the 1920s and 1930s, and Nine Suitcases is one of the first and greatest memoirs of the Holocaust. My translation is the first-ever English edition of this book, which was originally published in Hungarian in 1946–47."

_All titles are available from the University bookshop. If you are a Sussex author and you have a book coming out in February, email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk._

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**Lighting the way to early cancer detection**

Scientists at Sussex are pioneering a non-invasive way to identify cancers. The team has vastly improved a system for detecting cancer in the early stages, without putting patients through painful exploratory procedures.

The detection works by beaming ultra-violet light at a patient and analysing the information reflected. This information, known as luminescence, reveals a spectrum of colours that separates healthy and cancerous tissue. The results show whether the light has hit healthy or abnormal cells, long before any damage becomes visible to the eye.

Dr Natalia Beloff (pictured), a lecturer in software engineering, is carrying out computer simulations to improve the basic system ready for manufacture. Her research will radically improve the sensitivity of the receiver detecting luminescence.

"The earlier cancer is detected, the better chance a patient has of recovery," said Natalia. "We hope that within a few years clinics across the country may be able to use the photocathode device to help save lives.

"During the last three years there has been an explosion in the literature on successful early detection of skin, bronchial, oral and many other cancers using luminescence.

"In the future it could work well for breast cancer, one of the main killers of women today. We cannot as yet see deep-set cancers, such as bone or stomach, but the technology is improving all the time."

Natalia's findings will speed the development of the device by avoiding costly and time-consuming laboratory testing. She said: "In recent years, my colleagues at Sussex have improved photocathode detector performance by up to 20 times previous capabilities, significantly outperforming all other devices available in the world."

The latest research builds on breakthroughs by Sussex cathode researcher Dr Stuart Harnen and experimental physicist Professor Peter Townsend, inventor of a world-leading way to improve the cathodes.

The next stage of development links up with two UK industrial companies, Photek in Hastings and manufacturers of the final design, Electron Tubes in Ruislip.

The research is being funded by a £125,000 grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and £70,000 from Electron Tubes. The project is part of Framework V, a 2 million EU programme.

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**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) database at www.cos.com.

**AHRB Small grants for creative and performing arts**

Provides a maximum of £5,000 for up to a year meeting direct costs of projects in the creative and performing arts. Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, clerical assistance, replacement teaching, consumables, materials and preparing output for publication.

**Deadlines:**

- 30 January

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**Marie Curie Mobility Early Stage Training**

Provides funding for up to four years to enable hosting of early stage researchers. The aim is to reinforce the training capability of the institution and the development of the fellow's skills. Proposals are welcome in all areas of scientific and technological research of interest to the EC.

**Deadlines:**

- 11 February

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**Marie Curie Mobility Intra-European Fellowships**

One- to two-year Fellowships open to EU researchers with at least four years' professional experience or a doctorate. Proposals welcomed in areas of scientific and technological research of interest to the EC.

**Deadline:**

- 11 February

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**Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851**

Fellowships intended to give a few young scientists or engineers of exceptional promise the opportunity for conducting research for two years. Open to candidates in physical or biological sciences, mathematics, applied science, or engineering.

Six awards are made per year.

**Deadline:**

- 27 February

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**British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship**

This scheme offers up to 32 three-year fellowships from October 2004 to recently postdoctoral scholars to help them obtain experience of research and teaching in a university. The emphasis is on completion of a significant piece of publishable research during the Fellowship.

**Deadline:**

- 1 March
Applications up again

With two-thirds of undergraduate applications now in for 2004 entry, Sussex continues to show healthy growth in overall numbers. While nationally higher education applications are broadly the same as last year, Sussex numbers are up an impressive 9%. If this is reflected in the final figures, the University will hit its applications to places target of 7.5:1, a turn-around from barely 5:1 just five years ago.

These increases come in a year when the University's published offer levels have been raised across many subjects. Owen Richards, Academic Registrar said: "Our strategy of increasing our entry requirements is designed to reinforce our attractiveness to potential undergraduates. In the past, low offer levels in some areas didn't show applicants what a high-quality institution Sussex is. The 2004 figures seem to show this new strategy is working."

Growth in applications does of course vary from subject to subject, but there are some significant and welcome increases in both sciences and arts. Schools and departments are currently looking at the latest breakdown by subject, and Academic Registry will shortly be providing a supporting analysis and commentary.

Getting the applications in, though, is just the start. For many staff across the University the hard work of turning these applicants into keen students arriving in October is now underway. Owen commented: "We need now to build on this excellent starting point through admissions days and other contacts, to convert these applicants into what should be a really strong entry cohort of students."

Gold star for Sussex PGCE

Inspectors have given a gold star to providers of teacher training at Sussex, after the biggest inspection of the University’s PGCE programme for more than ten years.

Nine inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) were on campus last November and also visited ten of the University’s partnership schools. The inspectors looked at five subjects as well as the overall management and quality assurance of the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

The results of the short inspections of English, Music and History were very good indeed, with each subject being recognised for considerable improvement since the last inspection. In the case of English and Music this means confirmation of excellent provision, and for History, improvement to very good from good grades last time.

Full inspections of Citizenship and Geography will continue later this year, with visits to schools in May to see trainees teaching. The interim feedback on both subjects was encouraging, with some good practice seen at the University and in schools.

Interim feedback on quality assurance included the following strengths:

• A rigorous admissions process
• Positive work on improving the recruitment of minority ethnic students
• A well established partnership with local schools
• A comprehensive quality assurance policy and effective procedures for monitoring course provision
• Enhancement of student support through the new Sussex Institute procedures
• Improved documentation and a new website.

The inspectors have recommended further development of the appraisal system and induction of new tutors.
Green collaboration cleans up dirty sites

Contaminated industrial sites can be cleaned up using a new low-energy, low-cost technology solution developed by a Sussex researcher. Already, soil from a contaminated Swedish industrial site has been cleaned up.

Dr Andrew Cundy of the Centre for Environmental Research at Sussex is working together with Dr Laurence Hopkinson from the University of Brighton on the new FIRS (Ferric Iron Remediation and Stabilisation) technology. The technology electrochemically places an iron-rich barrier at working sites, to protect sub-surface ground water and soil from chemical contamination. "This forms an impermeable barrier," says Andy. "It also draws contaminants, such as arsenic and plutonium, to the barrier and locks them inside."

It can be used as an alternative to traditional clean-up techniques or alongside them. The technology does not require the toxic conditioning solutions that are normally used and uses low voltage and current, so power requirements are low. It is lower in cost than traditional techniques and is sustainable over the long term.

A large-scale field demonstration site is being planned with an organisation that evaluates and supports the best innovative environmental technologies. This will lead to licensing and commercialisation opportunities; the two researchers are working with Sussex IP and the Business Services Office at the University of Brighton to commercialise the FIRS technology.

GM debate must not neglect developing countries

There is an ethical obligation to explore the benefits that genetically modified (GM) crops could offer people in developing countries, according to a new discussion paper.

"The possible costs, benefits and risks associated with particular GM crops must be assessed on a case by case basis," said Dr Sandy Thomas, Director of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and Senior Fellow in SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research.

The report, whose authors also include Professor Michael Lipton from the Poverty Research Unit at Sussex, argues that GM crops could significantly improve agriculture in developing countries but warns against considering GM technology in isolation.

"We recommend asking how the use of a GM crop compares to alternatives," Sandy continued. "It is essential to focus on the specific situation in a particular country, and to compare all possible options. This comparison should include not only other approaches in agricultural research and practice, but also the potential cost of doing nothing."

Sussex links up to computing grid

The University of Sussex is one of 19 UK academic institutions to be linked up to a massive computing grid for particle physicists, enabling them to process the vast volumes of data generated in experiments.

Last month the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) announced funding of £16 million to create GridPP, whose computing power will be equivalent to that of the world’s second-largest supercomputer.

Grid computing shares the resources of connected computers, much as the World Wide Web enables the sharing of information between computers. By connecting large numbers of computers together, particle physicists are able to run simulations and analysis in a fraction of the time it would take to run on a single machine.

Such work can also be done on supercomputers, but as these are custom built they are expensive and in high demand. The benefit of grid computing is that it is constructed from cheap units and can be expanded or reduced to fit the users’ needs.

GridPP will eventually form part of a larger European grid, to be used to process the data from CERN, the European particle physics laboratory, when its new facility comes online in 2007.

Sussex Rough Scientist explores space

In previous series of BBC 2’s ‘Rough Science’, Sussex physicist Dr Jonathan Hare has been sent in turn to an Italian island, the Caribbean and New Zealand. For the fourth series, currently showing on Tuesday nights at 7.30 pm, the BBC packed Jonathan off to California’s Death Valley, where he and four other scientists faced a series of challenges on space exploration.

Each week presenter Kate Humble sets Jonathan and the rest of the team a set of different, space-related challenges. Each challenge is rooted in a real-life problem that space scientists have faced at some time – from making a Mars rover to designing a communication system that would work in space and even making a spacesuit.

Based in an abandoned silver mine, the scientists have just basic tools and electricity at their disposal, so to meet the challenges stretches their ingenuity, creativity and resourcefulness to the limits. As they grapple with the extreme climate, the scientists also have to find whatever resources the desert can provide.

For each challenge the team come up with ideas based on their scientific knowledge, commonsense and – sometimes – guesswork. Through the challenges, the six-part series aims to inspire viewers to learn more about science.

Nobel Prize for Sussex research

Professor Anthony Leggett received the Nobel Prize for Physics from the King of Sweden in Stockholm last month.

Professor Leggett was awarded a share in the 2003 prize for his research at Sussex in the early 1970s on the theory of superfluids. Professor Leggett opened his award lecture by calling it "a great honour and privilege" to receive a Nobel Prize and saying he was particularly proud to share it with Alexei Abrikosov Abrikosov and Vitaly Ginzburg, "whom I've always looked up to as two giants in the related field of superconductivity".

Superconductivity is the flow of electricity without resistance at low temperatures. Professor Leggett’s prize recognizes his work on the liquid version, superfluidity.
Letters

Cash bonus for support staff in schools

It was very pleasing to see (Bulletin 12 December) that hundreds of support staff in the five new schools were given a £100 bonus in their pay packets at the end of December 2003.

While nobody begrudges this bonus, a lot of people feel that they had also contributed to the implementation of the new schools and this has obviously not been taken into account. It was not only the dedication, commitment and additional effort in the most difficult of circumstances of the schools that have made the implementation possible. What about the contribution made by other offices in the University?

One would imagine that the managers of the schools would have recommended that their staff have a bonus. It seems a shame that some staff were appreciated by their managers a lot more than others!

It is generally felt that this information should not have been printed in the Bulletin as it has aggrieved many people and made them feel disappointed and very undervalued.

Various staff

Roundabout rage (again)

I had no wish to prolong this discussion, but Sue Sullivan’s letter (Bulletin 12 December) forces me to comment further.

I did not mention the shorter “rat run” in my letter because, firstly, I believe the route over the bridge is a private road for the use of the nearby farm, and secondly the turn from that road onto the west-bound A27 is fraught with danger, given that there is no slip road and you would almost certainly have to accelerate from a standstill straight onto the main carriageway into the path of traffic doing motorway speeds. Given that this would be happening at peak times, it raises the likelihood of a very serious accident occurring.

The first point raises something of a PR issue for the University (the farmer would soon discover that it’s University traffic using his bridge and wouldn’t be too happy about it) and the second point is a very definite and far more important safety issue.

For these very reasons I very strongly discourage the use of this alternative route. The route I recommended that uses the roundabout a little further down the road is far safer.

Andy Clews, Computing Service

Lessons learnt for project management

A report from internal auditors at Sussex makes a number of recommendations to improve the management of large-scale projects on campus, following the failure of project management and financial control in a major cabling project.

The project involves providing a new and upgraded cabling network around the campus (except in residences) for computers so that all students and staff can benefit from modern access to data and the internet for research and study.

The project was approved in late 2000 and installation began in March 2001. Completion was originally envisaged by late 2003, but later extended to July 2004 as the scope of the project increased.

The original cost estimates ranged from £850,000 to £3.1m, and the initial budget set in 2000 was £1.5m. By the end of 2002 this figure had been increased to £3m. The University is currently committed to £3.99m and the expected final cost is £4.75m.

The project was originally managed jointly by Estates and Computing Services, but in August 2003 Estates took on an overarching role, as concerns had emerged about the robustness of project management. By the time these concerns had been identified, the project was well advanced and senior managers decided it would not be sensible to leave it unfinished.

In recent months Estates have reviewed the project with Computing Services to identify the cabling works that still need to be carried out. Computing Services continue to be responsible for the technical and quality aspects of the cable installation.

Meanwhile the Registrar and Secretary, Neil Gershon, commissioned Internal Audit to review the project and identify what had gone wrong. Their report, which was presented to the University’s governing body in December 2003, describes a serious lack of effective financial control over the project’s budget; problems and weaknesses in the management of the project; over-reliance on a rigid technical specification; and expansion of the project beyond its original scope.

The report makes clear that initial cost projections were over-optimistic and that more work was necessary than had first been anticipated. For example, project leaders had not envisaged the amount of out-of-hours work that would be necessary, nor the extent of health and safety issues such as asbestos.

The report makes a number of recommendations, all of which senior management have accepted, that should prevent similar problems in the future. They include improvements to financial reporting; better specification of the scope of projects; and the establishment of dedicated project-management teams, which report to formal project boards.

The Internal Audit report confirms that the tender process was carried out correctly; the prices obtained from contractors were within an acceptable range, and the work has been carried out to an acceptable quality. The report concludes that to a great extent the cabling represents value for money and will be beneficial to the staff and students of the University. It also shows that there is absolutely no question of fraud or impropriety.

However, the over-reliance on a rigid technical specification has led to the installation of more network outlets than might be immediately necessary, although this does provide an element of flexibility.

“Failure to identify reasonable costings at the outset represents a major failing in project management,” said Neil Gershon, Registrar and Secretary.

“However, it is arguable that had it been properly costed in the first place the University would, given the importance of the project, have committed to the sums involved.

“This was an isolated example of poor project management in the context of a £60m capital programme over the last six years, with major projects – including a new medical school and additional student housing – all having been completed within budget.

“The matter has been thoroughly investigated by Internal Audit and the University’s governing body. A number of lessons have been learnt that will enable more robust project management in future.”

He was also at pains to reassure staff and students that the financial implications of the cabling project are minimal in the context of a £100m annual turnover and that no jobs or courses are in danger as a result of the overspend.

The Audit Committee will consider the Internal Audit report at its meeting on 17 February.
Phone call restrictions

Staff now need permission to have certain calls connected through the switchboard, following abuse of the phone system.

Phones on campus have many different levels of access. Most staff can call local, national and mobile numbers from 8am–6pm, and some can make international calls. Altogether, however, there are 26 levels of access.

Previously, if you wanted to make a call outside your level, connection was at the operator’s discretion. From now on, switchboard will not dial numbers outside that user’s level without authorisation.

If a member of staff wants switchboard to connect a call outside their level, they should get the relevant senior person in their school or department (Technical Services Managers in SciTech and LifeSci, usually Departmental Co-ordinators or School Administrative Managers elsewhere) to authorise the call by emailing Pam Lammin on p.a.lammin@sussex.ac.uk.

It is likely that some staff who routinely go through switchboard may feel their level is set too low. In this case, an email from the relevant senior person to Pam can get that level raised, enabling direct dialling.

Bob Stephenson, Telecommunications Manager, says: “This isn’t something I wanted to do, but without the proper authority on some phone calls we are leaving the system open to abuse.” He goes on: “It will also save the telephonists’ time as international calls can take significantly longer to connect than domestic calls.”

AUT ballots on strike action

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) has begun balloting its members around the UK – including those at Sussex – with regard to industrial action, after national pay talks with employers broke down last month.

Because of the breakdown in talks, academic and academic-related staff at Sussex have not yet received a pay award for 2003/04.

Staff Vacancies

- **Apply by 12 Jan**
  - Chinese Students Support Officer (p/t), International & Study Abroad Office (ref 473)

- **Apply by 20 Jan**
  - 2x Finance Assistants, Financial Accounts (ref 476/477)
  - 2x Senior Premises Assistants, Estates (ref 383/384)
  - Corporate Events Manager

- **Apply by 23 Jan**
  - Research Assistant, Action on Access (ref 479)
  - 2x Receptionists (p/t), Sports Service (ref 480)
  - Communications (ref 401)
  - Equality and Diversity Projects Officer, Equalities Unit (ref 402)

- **Apply by 29 Jan**
  - Aist Director of International Summer School, International & Study Abroad Office (ref 474)

- **Apply by 30 Jan**
  - Business Broker/Link Sussex Enterprise (p/t), Regional Development Office (ref 478)

- **Apply by 30 Jan**
  - School Safety Advisor, LifeSci (ref 383)

- **By 11 Feb**
  - Library Assistants (p/t), Library (ref 472)

- **By 12 Feb**
  - Library Assistant, Library (ref 472)

Mлезia magazine (“for women who write”) have voted Catherine Smith, a tutor on the Creative Writing Certificate in the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), “one of the best 10 women poets to have emerged in the last 10 years”.

Dr Annis May Timpson will be leaving Sussex this week with the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), to work in the school of German Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Debby Shorley, University Librarian, is president-elect of the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals (CILIP). Her term of office begins in April.

Eddy Viseaux, a final-year DPhil student in the School of Life Sciences, was one of the winners of a prestigious poster competition organised by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer. Eddy’s poster was on a paper on anti-cancer agent Roseophilin.

Sam Younger, chair of the University’s governing body, has been appointed chairman of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) board of directors.
Holocaust Memorial Day highlights horrors of genocide and plight of refugees

The deadly dangers that drove refugees to flee their homelands — and the awful consequences if they can’t — will be brought sharply into focus at this year’s event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on campus.

The free event, organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and open to all, follows this year’s national theme of genocide and the refugee experience, and will be held in the Arts A2 lecture theatre on Wednesday 28 January, starting at 2pm. A series of special events will reflect on the lessons still to be learnt by international — and local — communities, despite the impact of the Holocaust and, more recently, the atrocities witnessed in Rwanda.

Key speakers include Cracow ghetto survivor Janina Fischler-Martinho, author of the Holocaust memoir Have You Seen My Little Sister?, who will give a personal account of her experiences. Janina fled the ghetto as a young child with the help of her older brother and, as she cycled to her countryside home, finally escaping to Britain in 1946.

Chana Mosheńska, event organiser and director of educational programmes at the Centre for German Jewish Studies, says: “We need to commemorate the Holocaust every year to remind ourselves that racism and xenophobia continue across the world, including in Brighton. Hearing Holocaust survivors speak reminds us that we must listen to refugees in Britain today, and help make sure that such horrors never happen again.”

Fazil Kawani, director of communications for the Refugee Council, will talk about current British government policy on asylum seekers. This issue also features in a film presentation by final-year media studies students, entitled From Songo to Saldean, which tells the story of recent local reactions to plans for refugee housing in Saldean.

Other events include a lecture by Seattle-based artist Akiva Segan on the Holocaust represented in art, including work by survivors.

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

New director takes the reins at Centre for German Jewish Studies

Dr Raphael Gross (below left), lecturer in German-Jewish history, has been appointed the new director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

He takes over from Research Professor Edward Timms (above right), who will now concentrate on a three-year project to create a national database for British archival materials relating to German-speaking refugees from 1933 to 1950, and on a new edition of the slave labour camp diary of the artist Arnold Daghani. Edward is also researching individuals who sponsored and gave refuge to German-speaking Jews fleeing Nazi persecution.

Raphael was Assistant Professor of Modern History at the Ruhr University, Bochum, before being appointed director of the Leo Back Institute (named after the last public representative of the Jews in Nazi Germany), which records the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry in central Europe. His personal fields of research cover German-Jewish culture and politics and he is currently working on the nature of morality during the Nazi period.

Africa forum on campus

Representatives of the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Programme (IFP) were at Sussex in December for the regional meeting of their Africa regional forum.

The Ford Foundation has invested US $280m from 2000-10 to provide fellowships for students from social groups and communities that lack systematic access to higher education to study at postgraduate level.

There are currently ten IFP students at the University. Sussex is one of a small number of UK universities that recently entered into a strategic partnership with the IFP that will lead to further links with the countries in which the IFP operates and additional IFP-supported students studying at Sussex.

University’s new identity ready for inspection

The run-up to the introduction of the University’s new visual identity is gathering pace.

Many University staff have already had a chance to sample the new identity and the process that led up to it, including those designs rejected.

However, if you are still in the dark over the new look, you can now access a presentation on the free-standing computing kiosks. Go along to one of the kiosks, which are situated in busy areas of campus, and follow the link from the front page.

In the next few weeks and months more information about the new identity’s launch will be available, both through the Bulletin and at the dedicated website,

www.sussex.ac.uk/newidentity

If you would like any more information or, perhaps, to arrange a presentation for your unit, call Katy Hiles, Publications and Branding Manager on ext. 8523 or email k.a.hiles@sussex.ac.uk.

In brief

‘University Challenge’ is over

Sussex went out of BBC 2’s ‘University Challenge’ quiz this month, losing 165–130 in the second round to Magdalen College, Oxford. The Sussex quartet were behind all the way until they drew level at 115 points apiece, but then faded away. “You started badly, came back strongly and had a bit of bad luck towards the end,” quizmaster Jeremy Paxman told them.

VC’s meeting with support staff

The Vice-Chancellor and Registrar & Secretary’s termly meeting with administrative and support staff is on 28 January, from 3pm to 4pm in the Brighton & Sussex Medical School (BSMS) lecture theatre. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available in the BSMS foyer from 2.30pm.

Help with Pride

The organisers of Pride in Brighton are looking for Sussex staff and students to help with the event (on Saturday 7 August in Preston Park): planning, organisation and management; designing the artwork, programme and costumes; fundraising; dancing on a float in the parade; and more. To get involved, come to an open meeting at Envy (above Charles Street bar) on Wednesday 28 January at 5pm. For further information, contact Paul Steinberg in the Project V Bureau, Falmer House, on ext. 3387 or email P.C.Steinberg@sussex.ac.uk.

Bramber House catering

Catering Services are re-arranging catering in Bramber House. The Downs restaurant is now closed permanently, with some food items previously sold in the Downs now available in The Laines restaurant (which remains open). Meanwhile, a waitress service is now available for meals in the Grapevine Bar, 12noon-2pm and 5–7.30pm Monday to Friday. Place your order at the bar and your meal will be served at the table.
Small ads

TO LET: 2-bed furnished house in B'ton, Apr-Oct. Suit visiting faculty. Contact Karen on ext. 3947. email k.dunster@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 2-bed house in Eastern Rd. Available mid Feb. £775 pcm + bills. Call Mary on 515575 or email mabfs@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 3-bed house, B'ton. £980 pcm. Available 26 Jan. Tel. 883101 or 07739 316166. Email timwhittington@ntworld.com.

BUILDER: Currently studying, available for most building works, incl carpentry, plastering, maintenance. Refs available. Tel. 07739 516166 or email t-dublin@ntlworld.com.

FOR SALE: Peugeot 205 Cabriolet L reg, 50K miles. Call N. Llewellyn on ext. 7279 or email sfidd@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Law books: contract, criminal, EC law. All most recent editions. £25 the lot. Call Claire on 07813 893681 or email n.storey@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: Room in modern detached house in Peacheaven. Suit prof. lady or mature female student. £70 pw + phone. N/S pref. Call 587280 or 07919 135252.

Lectures, seminars, colloquia

Mon 19 Jan
4.00pm Research on Languages and Linguistics: Roberto Pizzazu (Susssex). Power and dominance in the discourse of Italian horror films. Arts D310.

4.30pm Neuroscience Research Seminar: Simon Laughlin (Cambridge). Sex, speed and the single photoreceptor. Genome Centre, Seminar Room.

5.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Kenneth Lynch (Kingston). Enhancing access to communications technology (ENACT) for rural marketing of agricultural produce in East Africa. Arts C175.

5.00pm Education Open Seminar: Rob Banerjee (Susssex). Peer relations in the primary school children: An interplay of social cognition and emotion. Arts C233.

Tue 20 Jan
12.00pm Physical Chemistry Seminar: Steve Acquah (Sussex). Protein fibres and carbon nanotubes. Developments for biomanufacturing. Chi 3R143.

12.30pm Physical Chemistry Seminar: Yizheng Jin (Sussex). Production and characterization of 1D nanomaterials. Chi 3R143.

4.00pm Biochemistry and Genetics Development Seminar: Martin Bushell (Leicester). Gene regulation during the induction of apoptosis. JMS Lecture Theatre.

7.00pm Institute of Physics Lecture: Louise Harra (MSSL). Explosions on the Sun. Per I/7.

Wed 21 Jan
1.00pm South Asia Seminar: Sudipta Bhattacharyya (Bath). Class, politics and participative rural development in western Bengal. Arts C162.

5.00pm Migration Research Seminar: Khalid Koser (UCL). Human smuggling from Afghanistan/Pakistan to Western Europe. Arts C233.

6.30pm IMechE South Eastern Regional: William Kimberly (Automotive Engineer) and Graham Johnson (Engine Techno). Open debate on journalism and vehicle development. Branner House.

Thu 22 Jan
4.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Dorothy Sheridan (Sussex). Mass Observation: A discussion of the problems and rewards after 22 years. Arts A155.


Fri 23 Jan

Mon 26 Jan

3.00pm Global Justice/Political Violence Network: Julian Perry Robinson (Sussex). Weapons inspection regimes - biological and chemical weapons. Russell Building 19.


Thu 29 Jan

Fri 30 Jan
2.15pm SPRI-CENTRIM Seminar: Richard Lamming (Bath). title TBA. Freeman Centre.

Gardner Arts Centre
Box office: (01273) 685861 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.

Cinema

Sun 18 Jan
5pm Finding Nemo [U]

Wed 21 Jan
8pm KILL BILL Volume I [18]

Tue 20 Jan
8pm Matrix Revolutions [15]

Sun 25 Jan
5pm Spellbound [U]

8pm Blind Shaft [15]

Bulldon

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from Jacqui Bealing, Maggie Clune and Alix Macfarlane. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 30 January, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 23 January. Please contact the Press and Communications Office in Sussex House on ext. 8888 or email Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk. Happy new year.