Sussex fees and funding help agreed for 2006 students

Students applying to Sussex for 2006 will benefit from a range of bursaries and scholarships to help with the cost of their studies.

The Office for Fair Access (Offa) – the public body that promotes access to higher education for all – has formally confirmed that Sussex will be allowed to charge £3,000 per year for ‘home’ (UK and EU) entrants to full-time undergraduate programmes from 2006. Students will not have to pay these fees up front, but can choose instead to defer payment until they are graduates, working and earning more than £15,000 per year.

Offa’s approval depended on the University putting in place new financial support schemes for students from less well-off backgrounds and undertaking more outreach work to help improve progression to higher education across all social groups. The University’s package of targeted bursaries and scholarships, which will supplement non-repayable annual maintenance grants of up to £2,700 on offer to many students, has now been agreed by Offa.

The main elements of this package are:

- Sussex Bursary: £1,000 per year for all students whose family income is £15,000 a year or less;
- Chancellor’s Scholarship: £1,000 per year for 200 students whose family income is less than £24,000 a year. Selection will favour those with no family background of higher education, or those who can demonstrate a special need or merit.

The University will be re-investing more than 20 per cent of the new fee income it will receive from 2006 in these new student-support schemes.

The new schemes add to the University’s existing range of scholarships:

- Subject scholarships/awards: competitive scholarships based on academic promise and/or high entry grades, worth around £1,000 a year;
- Charitable scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds: There are several such schemes, totalling more than £100,000, which are unique to Sussex. These include the Accent Foundation scholarships, from community investment organisation the Accent Group. Sussex is also part of the Dangoor Scholarship scheme, worth £1 million and offered to UK resident students applying to attend 1994 Group institutions, including Sussex.
- Sports bursaries.

Eligible students will be able to apply for all of these awards. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: “We want to be sure that excellent students, whatever their background, can join us. The financial support and advice we are now delivering helps to strengthen this further.”

At its termly meeting on 23 March, the University’s governing body approved the proposals of the Savings Review Group to save £3.5 million for the next financial year, while protecting investment in research and teaching.

Council endorsed the recommendation by the Savings Review Group to permit a small number of academic appointments and Deans are now planning academic recruitment for the short and long term. Council will review the proposed timescale for appointments at its meeting in September.

Schools and units are now responsible for implementing the savings that Council agreed, with the Savings Review Group overseeing that implementation.

Savings on staff costs are being achieved by voluntary redundancy, redeployment and not filling a range of planned posts. About 120 applications for voluntary redundancy came in from administrative and support staff before the 31 March deadline and they are now being dealt with.

As the University will need to continue to look for savings by changing or reducing activities, the Savings Review Group has approved a revised voluntary redundancy scheme and passed it to the trades unions for comment. For details of the revised scheme and how to apply, see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/volsew/.

Work on savings for 2006-07 will focus on longer-term structural and strategic changes; the Savings Review Group has given reassurances that staff will be involved and consulted on the options being discussed.

Inside

3 Car park
Go-ahead for West Slope car park, but construction is delayed.

4 See saw
How everything, from a saw to a pop star, can be made to sing in tune.

5 Bat chat
Talkative electronic imposter helps in plan to track bats.

6 Obituaries
Remembering Sussex people who recently passed away.

7 Gold
Sussex sports teams celebrate most successful year ever.
Why rural life is not so great for kids

The traditional view that a rural upbringing is idyllic for children is challenged in a report by a Sussex social psychologist.

Rosie Meek, who carried out the research for the Howard League for Penal Reform, says that, far from having a sense of belonging in their communities, young people living in the country feel isolated and marginalised, with many who are labelled as “troubleshooters” unable to shake off the tag.

She goes on to point out that anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) raise, rather than solve, tensions in rural communities and should be replaced by community projects.

Rosie focused on young people in the rural communities of the south west (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset). One group was surveyed in their community and a second group was interviewed while serving prison sentences. They were asked about their experiences of growing up, the problems they encountered, how they felt and what they would like to change.

She found out:

- They were bored. Anti-social behaviour was a direct result of having nothing to do. Young people wanted leisure facilities and somewhere to go and be with their friends. Such facilities are often available only in larger towns that are inaccessible due to poor public transport.
- Visibility of young people increases their problems. Being recognised in a local community for many would seem a good thing, but many marginalised young people feel it makes their problems worse and they find it hard to lose the tag of troublemaker.
- Moving to rural locations at an early age can lead to being seen as an outsider. Many young people who had got into trouble had moved with their families to rural locations when they were young to improve their quality of life.

The report recommends that:

- Rural communities should think about the needs of children and young people when planning or improving services and facilities. The young people surveyed repeatedly said they wanted to be involved in this process.
- Improvements in drug, alcohol and sexual health services, leisure facilities and local infrastructure, in particular transport, should be a priority.
- Young people in rural communities should not be viewed as a threatening presence.
- ASBOs should be replaced with community projects. The use of anti-social behaviour legislation has only heightened tension in rural communities.

Rosie, who is completing a DPhil funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), says: “This research explores the myth that growing up in a rural location is nothing but beneficial for children and young people. They want to be valued and active members of their communities but at the moment they don’t feel that anyone is listening, let alone taking any notice of their problems.”

The Howard League for Penal Reform awarded Rosie a Sunley Fellowship to carry out her study.
Again this month, this column has to be a progress report on dealing with University finances. The savings plans developed by the Savings Review Group were endorsed by the University Council in March. Although the process has not been an easy one, we have in a very short period of time taken very large steps towards getting our finances back on track. The task of ensuring that savings plans are now actually implemented will be led by Deans and other heads of budgetary units.

I am very pleased that it has proved possible to meet our savings targets without compulsory redundancies. Applications for voluntary redundancy or early retirement are now being dealt with, and in the coming year we will therefore be saying a regretful farewell to a number of colleagues. Many individuals have faced difficult decisions about their own future, and the good wishes of all of us all will go with those who are choosing to leave Sussex.

The benefits of the process are already being realised. Ten high-priority academic appointments for 2005-06 are now being identified, and we are looking forward to making a larger number of academic appointments in 2006-07.

These appointments will be made in line with the strategic priorities of the University. We have all been working hard to strengthen student recruitment and improve the student experience at Sussex, and therefore, as in previous years, a high priority will be given to academic appointments in areas where student recruitment is strong and where high student-staff ratios need to be reduced. We are also all working hard in preparation for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in 2007-08, and selective investment in research strengths will be the other key priority over the coming year.

A senior management discussion on 20 April will take forward the next stage of our planning, guided by these strategic priorities. As the last issue of the Bulletin (18 March) made clear, there is more work to be done on getting our finances in good order, and making sure that our future plans are based on realistic estimates of income.

It does need to be emphasised, however, that the overall framework within which we are working is one in which University expenditure is increasing. We’re not cutting back on everything: we are cutting back on some expenditure in order to focus resources on the University’s core academic functions. The coming months will see decisions not just on the filling of academic posts, but also on the investment of over £10m of strategic infrastructure funding in research and teaching facilities.

In the process, there will be plenty of opportunity for collegial and inclusive discussion; I want us all – academic staff, support staff and students – to have a shared vision of the future for Sussex.

Everyone who heard the three inspirational presentations from Professor Peter Childs, Dr Celia Hunt and Dr Steve Burman on the theme of ‘creativity’ at the University Court or Professor Jon Cohen’s impressive London lecture to a large audience at the Royal Society will understand that the University is not standing still, but moving forward with confidence in the future.

---

Car park extension deferred for two years

A proposed extension to the EDB car park will not go ahead at the moment, despite getting the thumbs-up from council planners.

Work had been due to begin in October 2004 on the extension, which will replace some of the parking spaces lost in creating a new teaching building and student residences across the road from Bramber House.

However, the work was put on hold when parents of children in the nearby Créche raised safety concerns about the plans and a student sought a court injunction to stop the works going ahead.

As a result, Estates staff looked at how plans for the car park could be modified to address the parents’ concerns. This resulted in a design that features a reduced number of parking spaces (from around 95 to 60), and means that the proposed car park now stops short of the Créche boundary.

At its meeting last month, the planning committee of Brighton and Hove City Council unanimously passed the University’s revised application. Because the latest plan is an amendment to the one already approved, members of the committee felt there were no grounds for refusal. “We are pleased that the revised design seems to have provided a positive way forward,” said David Kirkwood, Director of Estates.

Despite getting planning approval, however, the extension to the EDB car park will not be built for at least another two years. This is because the project to construct a new teaching building and student residences has been deferred for two years as part of wider University proposals to identify substantial savings for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The extension to the EDB car park will not be needed until drivers no longer have access to the spaces in Boiler House and East Slope car parks. These spaces will continue to be available until construction work on the teaching building and student residences begins in spring 2007.

Guidelines on recruitment and selection

Even at a time when the University is making financial savings and some staff are taking voluntary redundancy or early retirement, the process of recruitment and selection goes on (as a result of normal staff turnover, to support specific research projects, and so on).

And at a time of financial constraint, it is even more important than ever that the University gets the best possible value for money, i.e. the best person for the job.

What you may not know is that staff in Personnel have written a set of procedures and guidance notes to help you through the processes of recruiting and selecting new staff.

The notes, which are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/appcorn, have information on subjects such as further particulars, shortlisting, taking up references, equality and diversity issues, and giving feedback to applicants.

There are separate notes for academic faculty and for support staff. The notes and procedures for recruiting academics apply to all academic staff at Sussex except clinical academics in BSMS (the Brighton and Sussex Medical School).

“We need the best people for the job,” says Barbara Bush, Director of Human Resources. “And we need to recruit them in an open, fair and legal manner.”
**Brighton branch of the BA launched on campus**

From Madonna and Cher, from opera and birdsong, the secrets that have helped to make 'instant hits' were revealed on campus last month at the inaugural lecture of the new Brighton branch of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA).

Members of the public were also there and the BA is keen to get more people involved. Other organizations already on board include Downlands School in Hassocks and Setpoint Sussex, which promotes science, engineering and technology in local schools.

"The association with the BA is a really positive thing for the University," says Gerard Cronin from the Research and Regional Development Division, which was involved in organising the launch event. "It helps us to engage with the wider community."

Gerard says there is lots of potential for future collaborative events, not only with schools but also with small businesses and other local organisations.

"We are keen to get more University staff and students involved," he adds. So if you could contribute your expertise, knowledge, connections or ideas, see www.the-ba.net.

The new branch was launched during National Science Week, which the BA organises every year.

**Conference puts Sussex Library on the map**

**Staff in the University Library provided huge support to the organisation of the annual conference of the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL), which came to Brighton for the first time this week.**

Most events took place at the city's Old Ship Hotel, but there was also a reception at the Royal Pavilion. In addition, delegates from university libraries around the UK had the opportunity to visit the new Brighton library or the Mass-Observation Archive, which is housed in the University Library on campus.

Deborah Shorey, Sussex Librarian, brought a number of eminent international visitors to speak at the conference. Among the highlights was the opening speech by the Botswana president of the International Federation of Library Associations, which Deborah chaired.

Among other plenary addresses was one on 'Wireless Brighton' by Trevor Potten, director of Information Technology Services at Sussex. Professor Alasdair Smith, the University's Vice-Chancellor, gave an after-dinner speech.

"Bringing this prestigious conference to Brighton for the first time has helped to put the Sussex Library on the map," said Deborah.

**Sussex goes to London**

**Professor John Cohen, Dean of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, was at the Royal Society on Thursday 17 March to give the first ever University of Sussex London lecture. Entitled 'The leopard changes his spots', the talk centred on the troublesome streptococcus bacteria responsible for both scarlet fever and the infamous flesh-eating bug.**

The aim of the event, attended by 150 specially invited guests and alumni, was to take Sussex to an audience outside Brighton. Corporate Events Manager Sue Hepburn, who organised it, said the University plans to make the London lecture an annual fixture.

**Part-time adult education tutors required**

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) is seeking to expand its team of locally based tutors. It is looking for tutors in all of its subject areas, especially:

- professional development tutors for workplace learning to teach groupwork skills, advocacy, influencing and negotiating, etc.
- tutors to teach on a new foundation degree in Community Development from autumn 2005
- natural history/field biology tutors
- media, film and cultural studies tutors
- practical media production tutors
- tutors who live in the Hastings area (in particular to teach creative writing)
- tutors with experience of supporting adult returners, to contribute to CCE's Learning Support programme, which offers both workshops and one-to-one support at undergraduate and (occasionally) postgraduate level, including maths support tutors for Field Biology students

CCE runs courses on the Sussex campus at Falmer, at University Centre Hastings and at the venues of its partner organisations across Brighton and Sussex.

For an application form contact Chris Leggatt on ext. 8255, E chris.leggatt@sussex.ac.uk.

---

**Image Descriptions**
- A wide range of musical instruments and apparatus, Sussex postgraduate student Sarah Angliss (pictured left, playing a saw) demonstrated the electronic, acoustic and digital tricks (including the latest digital technology that can make anyone sing in tune!) behind the effects we have all heard in music.
- Sarah's main interest is in composing sounds and music, and then using them to create what she calls 'immersive visitor experiences'. She is now combining this work with studying for an MSc in Evolutionary and Adaptive Systems at Sussex.
- Her lecture was attended by staff from the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, which are currently driving the establishment of the new branch. (Professor Benedict du Boulay, Dean of Science and Technology, is a founder member of the branch committee.)
AutoBat helps track down the real thing

The nocturnal mysteries of elusive woodland bats can now be studied, thanks to a device that imitates their calls

Developed by Sussex researchers, the AutoBat emits a synthesised version of bats' social calls to lure them to a large net, where they can be caught and fitted with tiny radio transmitters for tracking.

The portable AutoBat is now expected to help researchers to monitor some of the country's rarest species of bats.

Ecologist Dr David Hill, who led the project, says: "Very little is known about woodland bats. They are extremely difficult to observe in their foraging and roosting habitats, which are usually in dense woodland, and they can be very hard to capture.

"Our technique, which involves simulating real bat calls using an ultrasound synthesiser, ensures they can be captured safely."

The team will now use the device to survey the population distributions of one of the country's rarest mammals, Bechstein's bat.

David says: "A rough estimate has put the British population of Bechstein's bat at just 1,500 – compared with estimates of around 1.3 million for the more common Pipistrelle. But the truth is, for Bechstein's, we just don't know how many there are."

What they do know is that this species is associated with mature woodland, roosting in old woodpecker holes, and foraging in dense cover.

Before 1998 no one knew the location of any of the bat's breeding colonies. Four were found between 1998 and 2001. Since developing the AutoBat, David and his colleagues have discovered another nine. They have now received funding from the Mammals Trust UK to survey woodlands of Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Kent.

David, who has been studying bats for seven years, says: "My main field of research is ecology and conservation of woodland mammals. For many years I studied macaque monkeys in southern Japan. One night I happened to visit the forest with a bat detector and discovered a huge amount of bat activity. I realised their consumption of insects must have a massive influence on the forest ecosystem, which I hadn't even thought about."

He is also intrigued by the cognitive abilities of bats. "They're only small creatures, many smaller than a mouse. But, by emitting sounds and listening to the echoes, they are capable of understanding and navigating through complex environments. That ability fascinates me."

Children's fears learned through observation

Psychologists at Sussex have found evidence suggesting that children can learn to be fearful of something just by observing another's facial expressions.

DPhl student Chris Askew and his supervisor, Dr Andy Field, presented their findings at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society on 31 March.

The study, which aimed to investigate whether children's fears about a picture of a previously un-encountered animal increased after seeing it together with scared faces, was conducted using a group of 8-9-year-olds.

Each child was presented with pictures of two Australian marsupials, together with either fearful or happy faces. A third animal was also presented; this was not paired with any faces. The child's fear beliefs about each animal were measured by questionnaires both before and after viewing the pictures.

The study, which was repeated one week later, found that fear beliefs increased for animals paired with fearful faces and decreased for animals paired with happy faces, compared to the non-paired animal. Significant differences in fear beliefs and attitudes were still present one week later.

Chris said: "Seeing imaginary animals together with fearful faces appears to increase children's fear beliefs and negative attitudes towards the animal. Thus the results show how children's fear beliefs about a previously unknown stimulus can be affected just by observing another's facial expressions. The findings therefore will have implications for both the theory and treatment of fears."
Lindsay Bryson

Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, who died on 24 March at the age of 80, served on Council (the University's governing body) for a decade and chaired it for six years from 1989. At his final meeting in 1995, the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Conway, praised Sir Lindsay for his blend of "firmness and consideration". The University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws that year; it was presented by Brian Manley, who succeeded Sir Lindsay as chair of Council.

The current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, will attend a service of thanksgiving on Monday (11 April) in St Peter's church, Brighton. He paid tribute to Sir Lindsay for his "remarkable personal achievement in the Navy in working his way up through the ranks as a very talented engineer to the highest level", and added: "He made a huge contribution to the University, particularly as chair of Council, and to the local community in a number of very significant public roles, especially in support of the cultural and artistic life of Brighton and Hove."

Sydney Lloyd

Sydney Lloyd, retired Visiting Senior Research Reader in Electronic Engineering, has died at the age of 74. Syd, as he was more commonly known, joined the University in 1985 as a lecturer, progressing to senior lecturer in 1995. In 1998 he won the Institution of Electrical Engineers' FC Williams Premium prize for his paper on 'Variable structure adaptive control of robot manipulators', while in 1990 he became a Faraday Lecturer. Syd officially retired in 2000 but continued working in the School of Engineering and Information Technology (EIT) until 2002.

Steve Parker

Steve Parker, a familiar figure on campus in his role as a Senior Security Patrolman, died suddenly on 29 March at the age of 58. Formerly a prison officer in Zimbabwe, Steve worked for the University for more than 20 years, retiring in June 2004 because of ill health.

Ben Reynolds, Security Shift Leader, worked with Steve for 10 years and says his nickname at work was 'Badger' because of his hair. "Steve was a very witty, intelligent individual. He enjoyed doing the Argus crossword and puzzles, as well as reading autobiographies and military history."

Jim Callaghan

In January 1989 Lord (Jim) Callaghan was one of four local residents to receive an honorary degree from the University. The former Prime Minister, who died on 26 March, farmed 138 acres in Ringmer. He is the only British politician to have held the four most senior posts in government: Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister.

Ieuan Griffiths

A funeral service was held at the Meeting House on 4 April for Dr Ieuan Griffiths, who died on 22 March.

Appointed to Sussex in 1964, Ieuan made a great contribution to very many aspects of the University's life before his retirement through ill health in 1996. During the 1970s and 1980s, as Reader in Geography he was a passionate, hardworking and longstanding subject chair, as well as holding many other roles. He was Dean of the School of African and Asian Studies for five years from 1975, chairman of Counselling Services from 1980–83, a member of Senate and Council, on the governing board of IDS, and a member of the Mandela Scholarship Fund.

His writings on the geo-politics and transport problems of Africa are well known, with his Atlas of African Affairs (1984) particularly widely used.

His presence on many external committees dealing with geography, with Africa and with Area Studies (he was, for example, chair of the Standing Committee on University Studies of Africa) brought him into contact with wide fields of concern, and he therefore will be missed not only by his former colleagues here at Sussex, but by many scholars throughout the world.

An athlete, a devoted family man and proud Welshman, one source of sadness will be his inability to savour with his colleagues the triumph of Wales in the Six Nations rugby championship this year.

Brian Short, Professor of Geography

Humphrey Spender

The associations between Sussex and Humphrey Spender, who died on 11 March at the age of 94, go back to the 1970s when it gave a home to his inter-war photographs of working-class people in two Lancastrian towns.

Humphrey was one of the first participants in the Mass-Observation project, which specialised in material about everyday life in Britain. His pictures of Blackpool and Bolton now form part of the Mass-Observation Archive, which is in the care of the University.

Many of the images featured in his first one-man photographic exhibition, 'Worl-town', which the Gardner Arts Centre hosted in 1977 and was jointly organised by Sussex art historian David Alan Mellor.

In 1997 Humphrey visited campus to discuss his life and work in a Life Histories research seminar. He returned to Brighton in 2000 to receive an honorary degree from the University.

The renown of Humphrey's work has since brought other collections to Sussex. When Euan Duff, a freelance photo-journalist, donated three collections of photographs to the Mass-Observation Archive in 2002, he said it was partly because he "liked the idea of sharing a home with Humphrey Spender".

Left: Humphrey Spender receiving his honorary degree in 2000 from Chancellor Lord Attenborough.
Winning year for Sussex’s sport teams

Sussex's student sport teams have had their most successful year ever, with eight teams winning prestigious British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) competitions.

CJ Lee, the University’s Sports Development Manager, said that it is an “unparalleled success for Sussex and it has raised the expectations of all of our teams to achieve their full potential”.

The men’s 1st squash team won their BUSA league without dropping a match; this was despite having to battle against, effectively, their own side in the form of the Sussex men’s 2nd squash team. Also triumphing in their leagues were men’s football, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s volleyball and women’s netball.

The icing on the BUSA cake, however, was the promotion of women’s basketball, a team CJ himself coaches, to the Premier League – a feat never before achieved by any Sussex team.

So what’s the secret of Sussex’s sporting success? “The introduction of professional coaches,” answers CJ. “A few years ago, talented students taught other students. But this meant these students concentrated on coaching rather than playing.” In 2003 things began to change when professional coaches were paid to help promising teams.

Improvements started straightaway: last year Sussex jumped 40 places in the overall BUSA championships and more teams than ever before reached knock-out stages. This year 12 teams reached knock-out stages and promotional play-offs and three either won their leagues or were promoted.

Sussex can now count an ex-West Ham footballer and the coach of the high-flying Fulham junior women’s football team among its roster of coaches: “We have coaches who now genuinely develop our student athletes and this has helped us retain more beginners and elite players than ever before,” says CJ. A new innovation this year has seen coaches attend many team matches, helping out their players when it’s most important. “The kind of investment we’ve made in coaching is clearly paying off,” says CJ.

However, one cloud on the horizon is the upcoming Sports Awards Dinner and the troubling task of how to pick out the actual winners: “It’s going to be really tight this year for team of the year,” confides CJ. “Not just between the BUSA teams but other clubs, such as Outdoor Pursuits, who have also done really well.

The annual Sports Awards Dinner is on Friday 6 May at the Hilton Metropole Hotel. Tickets for the black-tie affair are £35 each and are available from the Activities Centre, Falmer House, from Monday 18 April.

New student drama group debut with hard-hitting work

New theatrical group SUSSEXACT unveiled their first show last week, featuring an uncompromising storyline about male rape.

The group, which have received financial support from the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC), say they have a mission to “produce controversial and hard-hitting experimental, adult contemporary drama and to provide upcoming actors with opportunities to perform inspiring work”.

Their opening play, The Cronos Cycle, was staged at the Marlborough Theatre from 28 March - 2 April. The play is split between Ancient Greece and the present day and concerns the difficult subject of male rape.

“The Cronos Cycle addresses this issue directly, with no beating around the bush, setting it into different contexts and offering very different perspectives on the issue,” says Michael Alexander, a Media and Film student and member of SUSSEXACT.

“We have no qualms whatsoever about offending people. Our aim is to create controversy, to spark up emotion and incite debate because only by finally addressing this sensitive topic openly will we begin to break down the taboo that makes many suffer shame in silence.”

FIRST CLASS

The following members of faculty have been promoted to professorships: Dr Adam Eyer-Walker (Biologi), Dr Sandra Thomas (SPRU), Dr Erik Millstone (Science and Technology Policy) and Dr James Thomson (Economic History)

Sussex undergraduate and cricketing all-rounder Rosalie Birch was part of the England side that reached the semi-finals of the Women’s World Cup this week. England lost to Australia, the team they had also faced in their first match on 22 March.

Jim Guild, president of the Sussex branch of the Association of University Teachers (AUT), has been elected to the trade union’s National Executive Committee for a period of three years.

After more than 30 years of intermittent studying, technician Mick Henry has obtained a BA in English Literature from the Open University. Mick, who works in the Chemistry department, will be awarded his degree tomorrow (9 April) in a ceremony at the Brighton Dome. He thanked Sarah Strupinski from the Staff Development Office, which supported his efforts financially, even though, as Mick is the first to admit, he was “strictly off subject”. He also acknowledged the encouragement he had from Andrew Hood (former Staff Development Officer), “who always took the enlightened view that whatever skills we learnt, we brought them with us to our workplace”.

The Lithuanian government has awarded Professor Alan Mayhew of the Sussex European Institute (SEI) the Cross of Commander of the Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas, for his support in negotiating Lithuania’s accession to the European Union.

John Proctor, a finalist studying Politics and International Relations, has received the Duke of Edinburgh’s gold award in a ceremony at St James’ Palace in London. To complete the award, John took part in a range of activities covering five areas: service, skills, physical recreation, expeditions and a residential project.

On 1 April Librarian Deborah Shorey became president of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), a post she will hold for one year.
Great new gifts

From teddies to tankards: A new range of gifts has been launched featuring the University's new identity and colours. Choose from traditional tankards etched with the 'us' marquee, sweatshirts and hoodies and even a teddy bear replete with mortarboard and flint-coloured scarf.

The gift range is especially popular with those wanting a memento of Sussex and as such is available at all graduation ceremonies. However, you can also purchase items from the range online at www.sussex.ac.uk/units/registry/graduation/merchandise. Like every good TV-advertised compilation CD, however, the range is not available in any shops.