Universities given £3.75 million to develop ‘creativity centre’

The Universities of Sussex and Brighton are to receive a £3.75 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in recognition of their excellence in creativity, design and innovation.

Some of the money is to be used to develop two creativity zones – one for each of the universities – where students from a wide range of disciplines can meet to swap ideas and explore new approaches in environments equipped with state-of-the-art computer technology and software.

For example, engineering students could be encouraged to experiment with narrative devices used by creative-writing students to come up with product designs, while creative-writing students may adopt design morphology (thinking in shapes) to develop storylines.

Professor Peter Childs, the project’s director, says: “Both Sussex and Brighton have already proved their creative excellence in several areas, including engineering, creative writing, music composition and innovation technology. The centre will enable the rolling out of innovative learning experiences across the universities and encourage a move away from the ubiquitous Powerpoint presentation.”

He says the bid was made jointly because the two universities have already proved to be successful collaborators for programmes such as automotive design. Peter adds: “This provides the opportunity to define creativity as the central tenet of the University of Sussex.”

The grant is one of 74 being awarded to higher education institutions to create Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs). The bid from Sussex and Brighton was to create a CETL in Creativity.

The CETL will bring capital for refurbishment and substantial recurrent funding for five years. The creativity zones will involve refurbishing existing buildings ready for use by July 2006.

Although the physical spaces will provide focal points for the CETL, the learning and teaching activities associated with it will take place right across the campuses of both universities.

“This prestigious award provides new opportunities for everyone to develop exciting and innovative ways of teaching and learning,” says Dr John Davies, acting head of the University's Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU). The TLDU will play a key role in supporting the work of the CETL, as well as disseminating its outcomes.

Individuals and project teams throughout both universities will have the opportunity to apply to a Creativity Development Fund. The fund, run on the same principles as the University’s successful Teaching and Learning Development Fund, will enable staff to buy the time and resources needed to develop and evaluate creative new teaching and learning activities. The TLDU will run the fund and support each project to ensure that these innovative practices are properly evaluated and disseminated.

Inbreeding blamed for genetic diseases

Modern humans may be more vulnerable to genetic disease because of our ancestors’ small gene pool, according to new research.

Dr Adam Eyre-Walker from the Centre for the Study of Evolution at Sussex was part of a research study that compared the sequences which control the expression of genes in humans and chimpanzees, and compared the pattern observed to that seen in mouse and rat.

The results, published on 24 January in the scientific journal Public Library of Science Biology, show that humans and chimps have accumulated a large number of slightly harmful mutations in the sequences that control the expression of their genes since they diverged 6 million years ago.

The researchers believe that this accumulation of mutations was caused by our ancestors’ relatively small breeding population, of about 10,000 individuals. This meant that damaging mutations could not be eliminated via natural selection. They therefore accumulated, leading to loss of fitness that may have made us more vulnerable to disease.

Adam says the phenomenon is comparable to the genetic problems experienced by severely endangered or captive species, in which extinction can be accelerated by inbreeding and small population size.

“The process happens in all species with fairly small populations,” he told New Scientist. “But we’ve probably escaped our genetic fate by having a few advantageous mutations that have been successful.”

And, he added, humans have halted the genetic deterioration with huge increases in our population over the last six million years. Improved health care and nutrition have also had a beneficial effect, of course.

Inside

3 Savings
Latest news on progress to reduce Sussex expenditure.

4 Tsunami
Thousands raised as campus is taken over by fundraising events.

4 X factor
Mandela Hall rings to the sound of hidden musical talent.

5 You bet
Mathematician can’t predict the ref’s decision.

7 EDB café
What’s happened to it? Catering Services reply.
BOOKMARK

John Hostettler (Research student in Law) 
The Criminal Jury Old and New: Jury power from early times to the present day Waterside Press, £14.50 (paperback) ISBN 1904380115

The publisher says: "This book deals with all the great political and legal landmarks and shows how the jury developed – and survived to become a key democratic institution capable of resisting monarchs, governments and sometimes plain law.

"Linking past and present, John Hostettler conveys the unique nature of the jury, and its central role in the administration of justice – but above all its importance as 'a thing of the people' and a barrier to manipulation and abuse of power."

Russell King (Professor of Geography), Nicola Mai and Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers 
The New Albanian Migration Sussex Academic Press, £49.50 (hardback) ISBN 1903900786

The publisher says: "This book examines one of Europe's newest and most dramatic mass migrations – the exodus of a significant share of the Albanian population since 1990."

"Amongst the topics covered are: the causes, chronology and theorisation of this emigration; the experiences of Albanian migrants in Greece, Italy and the United States; the problematic reaction of Greek society to the sudden presence of half a million Albanian immigrants; prospects for return migration and for the strategic use of remittances to stimulate Albanian economic development; and the dynamics of migration, ethnicity and identity in the Greek-Albanian border zone."

Rodney Loeppkey (Lecturer in International Relations and Politics) 
Encoding Capital: The political economy of the human genome project Routledge, £45.00 (hardback) ISBN 0415972310

Andy Medhurst (Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies) 
A National Joke: Popular comedy and English cultural identity Routledge, £45.00 (hardback) ISBN 0415168775

The publisher says: "From the music hall tradition to contemporary sitcoms such as 'The Royle Family', Andy Medhurst considers how English comedy reflects national concerns with class, race, gender and sexuality, and traces the recurrence of themes and structures, such as male duos like Morecambe and Wise to Reeves and Mortimer, and camp comedy from Kenneth Williams to Julian Clary. Arguing that comedy plays a pivotal role in the construction of cultural identity, Medhurst presents case studies of comic traditions and representations, and examines key figures in English comic history, including Mike Leigh, Alan Bennett and Victoria Wood."

Maya Umithan-Kumar (Senior Lecturer in Anthropology) 
Reproductive Agency, Medicine and the State: Cultural transformations in childbearing Bergahn Books, £45.00 (hardback) ISBN 1571816488

The publisher says: "Recent years have seen many changes in human reproduction resulting from state and medical interventions in childbearing processes. Based on empirical work in a variety of societies and countries, this volume considers the relationship between reproductive processes (of fertility, pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period) on the one hand and attitudes, medical technologies and state health policies in diverse cultural contexts on the other."

Research to throw new light on nature of colonialism

Sussor research into British colonial history should throw new light on continuing land disputes in New Zealand and Australia.

Geographer Dr Alan Lester will conduct a three-year study of how the experiences of these two countries, as well as that of South Africa, was part of an Empire-wide struggle between two opposing sets of colonisers – the 'humanitarian' lobby and the migrant settlers. The project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, will include research trips to Australia and New Zealand and will result in a book.

Alain says: "The movement away from a 'benevolent' idea of colonialism to the race-driven rule of white settlers that took place in each country was the result of a complex international web of relationships between settlers, humanitarian campaigners, British public opinion and government, as well as contests between coloniser and colonised."

The humanitarians, inheritors of the anti-slavery movement, were represented by politicians, reform campaigners and religious missionaries. They thought the best way to colonise people was through the 'civilising' influences of education and religion.

The settlers, looking to establish themselves as landowners, justified their ambitions by arguing that that they were entitled to take over the new territories because they were intellectually, morally and spiritually the superiors of those they dispossessed. This led to conflict between the two sides as they fought to dictate colonial policy.

This broader picture should also highlight national debates over the idea that modern Australia and New Zealand were founded at the expense of indigenous peoples, and recent anti-colonial criticism in Africa, as in South African president Thabo Mbeki's recent attack on "racist" Winston Churchill.

The study will focus on the period 1820–60, which saw a surge in migration from Britain to the new worlds of South Africa's Cape colony, New Zealand and New South Wales, Australia. Sources will include key government documents, such as the Select Committee on Aborigines (1836–7), settler newspapers, letters to family back in Britain and letters from campaigning missionaries recording atrocities perpetrated by settlers against Aborigines.

Alan also hopes to show how British public opinion of colonial life was shaped by the views of settlers and humanitarians, and how settler communities in all three colonial sites exhibited a common purpose and intent in their propaganda newspapers and communications.

Alan says that he intends "to help explain why a humanitarian belief in the fundamental equality of coloniser and colonised was undermined during the mid 19th century by a settler-derived belief that the different 'races' were inherently unequal". This can be done, he argues, "only by looking at multiple sites of colonisation within the same framework of analysis".

 bulletin

2
Elsewhere on this page, there is a progress report on the savings review. I am encouraged by the way that the review is developing and optimistic that we will meet the challenging targets that have been set.

Of course, the timetable is a demanding one. It has to be, so that Council can be quickly reassured that the University is back on a financially sustainable track, and can afford to make new and replacement academic appointments.

I do understand that this is an uncertain time for many staff who feel their jobs are vulnerable, and it is best to have the uncertainty resolved as soon as possible. It is worth repeating that where posts are removed, we will wish to redeploy and retrain staff who wish to stay at Sussex, with the space being created by normal staff turnover and by voluntary redundancy.

The strategic direction and broad targets have been set by the Savings Review Group, but the ideas for how to achieve what we have to do are coming from schools and units themselves, not imposed from the top down. It’s the people who actually do the work who will have the best ideas on how things can be organised and managed more efficiently.

Among the creative ideas that are worth exploring is the possibility of having more flexible working patterns where that is in the mutual interest of staff and of the University.

Meanwhile, the work of the University continues to progress. The successful bid for a Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) reported on the front page is excellent news, and warm congratulations are due to Professor Peter Childs and everyone else associated with this exciting new development.

Among notable developments at national level is the work within the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on the replacement of our current undergraduate admissions process by a ‘post-qualifications admission’ (PQA) system, in which effectively all applicants would go through Clearing after the A level results were known.

This, of course, would create a huge peak of work in the month of August. Such a system, it is alleged, would be more ‘fair’ than the current system; though the evidence suggests that there are relatively few applicants who do substantially better at A level than their predicted grades, and there is no evidence that such applicants are particularly likely to come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The danger is that a PQA system would be hugely disruptive and difficult, for no real benefit. Watch this space.

We have also recently seen a new initiative from the Funding Council (HEFCE) in ‘sustainable development’. It is worth emphasising that this country’s universities already have an admirable range of provision both in teaching and research on sustainability – as we do on a vast number of other socially important issues such as poverty reduction, controlling infectious diseases, curing cancer, designing safer buildings, and encouraging social harmony. And as organisations, universities score pretty well on the criterion of corporate social responsibility, not just in respect of sustainability.

I see no case for HEFCE to take a special initiative to promote one particular social value. They should focus their energies on funding us properly, and let us get on with managing our business both efficiently and responsibly.

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**Savings Review Group progress**

The Savings Review Group has been pressing ahead, leading work across the University to deliver savings in planned spending. Last month the Group, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, set savings targets for each school and unit.

The Group has had meetings with all Dears, School Administrative Managers, Technical Services Managers, finance managers and heads of administration and support units, looking at how these targets could be achieved. The Group has also met campus trades unions to discuss ideas for savings.

In the next round of meetings this term, schools and units will present firm proposals for savings, and final plans will be agreed for presentation to Finance and General Purposes Committee in early March. More detailed discussions should therefore now be taking place within units and groups to ensure that these proposals are robust and can be delivered.

The Savings Review Group also aims to approve a carefully targeted range of new investment in academic posts and support as part of the preparations for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), following the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Professor Alasdair Smith, Vice-Chancellor, said the process had not been an easy one, but it was providing positive ideas: “I have been impressed with the positive and collegiate way in which all units have approached this exercise. We are working at a fast pace – which is right for the University and is, I hope, helpful to ensure all staff know as quickly as possible where changes will be made. By working together we can make sure the University spending plans are robust, and continue to support high quality teaching and research at Sussex.”

Alongside work within schools and units themselves, a number of special reviews are being conducted across campus to see if there are better and simpler ways of working that could improve how the University operates.

- Derek Trevitt is working with support staff in schools and centrally to look at processes for student admissions and recruitment, quality assurance and research support.
- A consultancy from St Andrews business school are working with staff in one arts school (SocCull) and one science school (LifeSci) to look at how processes could be simplified within schools generally.
- Malcolm Strong, Technical Services Manager for SciTech, is leading work on ensuring there are appropriate technical services to support teaching and research in the two science schools.

The voluntary redundancy and early retirement scheme has generated interest from across campus, against the short deadline of applications by 31 March. Alongside the normal vacancies that arise on campus from normal turnover of staff, the scheme should provide opportunities to redeploy staff where functions are changed or stopped.

Barbara Bush, the Director of Human Resources, has also responded to calls by staff for more flexible working options, and has written to all staff to encourage savings proposals to come forward where staff want to work changed hours.

Full details of the work of the Savings Review Group is being reported weekly for staff and students on the University website at www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/position.
**£6k so far for tsunami relief**

The last few weeks have seen a slew of events on campus raising money for the University’s tsunami appeal. Staff and students have raised more than £6,000 so far. Much of the money is going to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), with some also going to local charities picked by the organisers. The money was still being counted as the Bulletin went to press but here are a few choice figures:

- **St January Sale, Essex House** £2,000 approx
- **Live music tsunami fundraiser, East Slope** £1,000 approx
- **Falmer Barn/hothouse fundraiser** £988.50
- **Tsunami jazz and acoustic gig, Meeting House** £980.00
- **Fundraiser Faye, Mandela Hall** £845.00
- **Collection tins around campus** £384.30
- **RAG second-hand book sale** £150.00

**Aid for Asia**

Above: Sarah Boak (centre), departmental coordinator in American Studies, and her band Porteno performed at the tsunami jazz gig.

The Students’ Union has united with seven universities and Asian societies across the UK to help raise £30,000 to re-establish the infrastructure in a small Indian village in Tamil Nadu, which suffered enormous damage from the tsunami. A team of self-funding volunteers from the UK will fly to India on 26 February to coincide with the second phase of rehabilitation.

USSU is aiming to raise £5,000 of the £30,000 target this month. The two-week challenge will include a fair in Library Square on Valentine’s Day, a campus car wash on Tuesday 15 February, and slave auctions. To get involved in this campaign, email activities@ussu.sussex.ac.uk.

* A proportion also donated to Sudan appeal

**University of Sussex tsunami appeal**

**Talent apparent**

Stars: Rob and Naana perform as Desert Blue at last year’s Arena contest in Mandela Hall.

Sussex students are once again getting the chance to see if they’ve got the X factor as the popular Arena music competition returns for a second year.

The live contest sees Mandela Hall, which in the past has hosted the likes of The Who and Jimi Hendrix, ring to the sounds of campus’ brightest music stars. Each week different genres of band take to the stage, from jazz to acoustic and good old-fashioned guitar-based rock. The winners then go through to a battle royal to see who will become 2005’s Arena champ.

Rob Lewis, a final-year music student, is competing in this year’s contest. But if he’s just a little blasé about the whole thing, it could be because he won it last year. Under the name of Desert Blue, Rob and fellow student Naana Agyei-Amponsah stormed 2004’s competition. Friends from North London, they had already performed together and decided to see how far they’d get with their acoustic, soulful sound.

“The day of the performance I was trying to get over a hangover,” admits Rob. “We weren’t taking it too seriously, but we both gave it 100% despite the hangover.” In fact Rob was so laid back about the whole contest that he had to miss much of the final because he was going on a skiing trip. “They let us perform first and then I went off with the Ski Club. It was only a few hours later that someone phoned me and told me I’d won.”

Rob puts their success down to working out what the judges want and picking the right tunes accordingly. “It’s good to have one song which really draws the attention,” explains Rob, who says that theirs was a simple duet of Naana’s voice and his cello playing. He also stresses the importance of keeping it professional on stage: “The crowd wants to hear tunes, not someone tuning their guitar for five minutes.”

Desert Blue, however, have no plans to become an acoustic reality band. Naana is now working in the law field, and Rob hopes to continue writing. Before that, however, he has another bout of Arena to look forward to, on Monday 21 February.

For more information, go to www.ussu.info/arena. If you fancy appearing on stage, email arenaevents@hotmail.com.

**Rob’s top tips for Arena winner wannabees:**

1. Be professional: have all your songs ready, and look like you do this all the time.
2. Have a stage presence.
3. Choose a variety of songs, but pick carefully bearing in mind what the judges want.
4. Make it appealing; make it look like you’ve made an effort.
5. Put yourself in the audience’s position. If you’d paid to come to a gig, what would you be looking for in a band?
6. Give it your all!
Anthropologist joins Red Cross on tsunami mission

A Sussex anthropologist has been advising the Red Cross on its plans to help rebuild communities struck down by the Asian tsunami.

Professor Jock Stirrat has 30 years' experience in the anthropology of fishing communities in Sri Lanka and the anthropology of development. He flew out as a volunteer to Galle, Matara and Hambantota in the south of the island two weeks after the tsunami on 26 December. The devastating wave killed more than a quarter of a million people and destroyed businesses and communities across several countries, including Sri Lanka.

Aid agencies are now looking beyond the immediate relief operation to see how the vast sums of donated cash can be used to help long-term rehabilitation. In Sri Lanka alone, 160,000 people are now without a home and around 18,000 small fishing boats were destroyed, along with the shops and businesses that back up the island's vital industries — tourism and fishing.

Jock was asked to assess how best to target aid and to establish useful contacts for the Red Cross locally to help in the rehabilitation mission. He says: "The thing that struck me most was the randomness and scale of the destruction. In some places, even on the beach, there was hardly any damage, while along other stretches the devastation extended up to 1km inland. I saw people poking around the rubble of what used to be their homes, looking for belongings, bits of their past."

Advising Yushchenko

Viktor Yushchenko has been inaugurated as Ukraine's new president, after his victory at the end of December in a controversial election campaign. Keeping a close eye on the dramatic events was Professor Alan Mayhew from the Sussex European Institute (SEI), who has been advising Yushchenko since the end of 2003.

Together with Polish colleagues, Alan has been helping Yushchenko and his supporters to design Ukraine's economic reform and its policy on links with the European Union (EU).

Developing integration with the EU and joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are the most promising priorities for foreign policy, in Alan's view. And in Poland (which became an EU member in May 2004), Ukraine has a major supporter within the Union.

"With Polish assistance," says Alan, "Yushchenko has already developed a very detailed strategy for integration with the EU and reaching his goals here will be an important element in the success of his presidency."

Aid for affected areas, says Jock, should now focus on getting people back on their feet. "People do not like to depend on hand-outs and wish to be in control of their own lives. New boats and nets in Sri Lanka are visible signs of how aid money is helping, but less 'glamorous', less visible needs should also be met. Businessmen, labourers, shopkeepers and basic service providers, such as small workshops, all need support too. There's a danger that they will be forgotten."

"There's also a need to re-establish vital paperwork that secures people's identity and rights to property and businesses. If you don't have an ID card you don't exist."

"How long the rehabilitation process will take is also a complex issue. "I expect the tourist industry will pick up in the next year," says Jock, "but the scale of the damage means that a return to normality could take anything from weeks for some to years for others — it takes time to replace 18,000 fishing boats."

"The complexity of the aid operation also illustrates the practical role that expert knowledge, such as Jock's, can play. "The challenges facing the tsunami communities underline the need for universities to support academics who can offer expertise and advice in a range of areas," he says.

04.02.05 | 5

News in brief ↓

Your views on e-learning

Consultation on the University's emerging e-learning strategy went campus wide this week with the launch of an online questionnaire for students and staff. See www.sussex.ac.uk/ldu1/1-2-9.html to have your say on future planning.

VC's open meetings for staff

The Vice-Chancellor's termly open meetings for staff are coming up this month: one on Tuesday 15 February, from 2pm in the BSMS lecture theatre; and another on Thursday 24 February, from 12 noon in Arts A2.

' Rough Science' on screen again

Some guys get all the luck. Visiting Research Fellow Dr Jonathan Hare filmed the latest six-part series of 'Rough Science' for BBC 2 on the exotic African island of Zanzibar. See how he and the other three scientists coped with a set of marine and underwater challenges in the Indian Ocean, from 15 February at 7.30pm.

Falmer stadium inquiry reopens

The lengthy public inquiry into whether Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club can build a new stadium reopened this week and is scheduled to last four weeks. The club wants to build a 22,000-seat ground at Falmer, across the A27 from the Sussex campus.

Hitchens exhibition in Eastbourne

An exhibition at the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne contains a couple of studies for the very large oil and wax mural by Ivon Hitchens in Mandela Hall. The Hitchens exhibition, which finishes on 6 March, focuses on nudes and features a large selection of paintings and drawings. Peter Khoroche, a leading authority on Hitchens, will be giving a lecture on Thursday evening (10 February).

Appreciation

Peter Cockaday (Senior Premises Assistant) would like to thank all his colleagues in Sussex House for their very kind gifts. He would also like to wish them all a belated happy and healthy 2005.
Professor Charles Cooper

Charles Cooper, a joint Fellow of SPRU and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) between 1969 and 1981, died on 16 January after a long illness.

Charles came to Sussex to help SPRU and IDS build a new programme of research and teaching about science and technology in developing countries. He brought unique assets with him: degrees in both physics and economics as a basis for interdisciplinary work; a deep sensitivity to the political sources of injustice and inequality, rooted in his South African upbringing; and an astute grasp of the workings of international organisations derived from his previous work with the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

In his academic research at Sussex he broke new ground in the 1970s in understanding the relationships between science, technology and industrialisation. He linked that academic work closely to the policy debates around international organisations such as UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and the World Bank.

He also led a joint IDS-SPRU group in preparing a wide-ranging report for the UN Advisory Council on Science and Technology in 1970 – radical and controversial at that time, and subsequently referred to in the General Assembly as the ‘Sussex Manifesto’.

After a period as deputy director of the IDS, Charles moved for a short time to the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.

Thereafter he played the lead role in planning the creation of the United Nations University Institute for New Technologies (INTECH) in Maastricht – the only large organisation in the world that is fully committed to policy-oriented research and teaching about science and technology in the developing world. He was then the first director of INTECH.

Sadly his years there were sorely troubled by repeated serious illness, but it is a dual tribute to him that this unique institution has just been given a vote of confidence for the future by its sponsors, as well as a new director: Dr Luc Soete, one of his former DPhil students at Sussex.

Martin Bell, SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research

FIRST CLASS

Professor Kevin Davies from the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) has been appointed a trustee of the Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC).

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) has appointed Dr John Haigh to deliver its 2005 Schools Lecture to teenagers across the UK. The aim of each year’s lecture is to draw out the importance and widespread applicability of statistics in a serious but accessible and entertaining way. John’s lecture will be about the ways in which ‘probability’ is misunderstood but can be got right if people think straight.

Professor Sue Hartley is the new vice president of the British Ecological Society, and Professor Mike Hutchings has become executive editor of the Journal of Ecology.

Professor Sir Harry Kroto appears in the February issue of Saga magazine on its ‘Wise List’, a list of 43 people with intelligence and an ability to apply it; humility and a willingness to admit mistakes; self-awareness and clarity of thought; and a desire to make the world a better place. Harry, who shares the honour with sages including Bobby Charlton, Ken Livingstone and Baroness (Shirley) Williams, is named for travelling the world to preach the virtues of teaching chemistry to children.

Robbed by the ref

When the referee awarded a 93rd-minute penalty in the FA Cup fourth-round tie between Southampton and Portsmouth on 29 January, it ended up costing Sussex mathematician Dr Andrew Briggs £22,000.

Andrew had placed £10,000 on a draw at odds of 11/5 and looked set to take home £22,000. But when Southampton striker Peter Crouch netted the controversial injury-time penalty, Portsmouth were out of the cup and Andrew was out of the money.

Andrew had won the £10,000 bet from Ladbrokes in a competition to bet on the lowest first goalscorer in the third round. He had placed 50p, at odds of 16/1, on Notts County’s Tony Scully to score in their match with Middlesbrough. Scully scored after two minutes.

Before the Southampton–Portsmouth game, a hopeful Andrew had said: “This match has a draw written all over it. It is bound to be a tightly fought game; both teams simply don’t want to lose and we’re unlikely to see a game of attacking football. I just dread a last-minute goal that swings the result a different way.”

Afterwards a Ladbrokes spokesman said: “This is one of the most unbelievable hard-luck stories we have heard. Dr Briggs had turned a 50p bet into a £10,000 one and lost out on £22,000 after a 93rd-minute decision.”

Primary school poet

A tutor on the MA in Creative Writing is teaching some rather younger pupils than the ones she encounters on campus. Cheryl Moskowitz is currently working with years 2 and 5 at Clerkenwell Parochial Primary School in Finsbury, where she is poet-in-residence for a four-week period.

The poet, playwright and novelist writes for both adults and children and leads writing workshops at various schools and galleries as well as teaching on the Sussex MA. Cheryl’s plays have been produced and performed nationally and her poems have been published in several anthologies.

“I take away all the rules – it’s all about the enjoyment of the sound of words,” Cheryl told the Islington Gazette. “We began by exploring the children’s names and the meaning of their names and asking them what their favourite words are. We then made nonsense poems from their favourite words. The children are really proud of the stuff they’re writing,”
LETTERS

What’s happened to the EDB coffee bar?

May I ask those responsible in the University’s Catering department whether and when they plan to re-open the EDB coffee bar as it was until last autumn?

From having a very popular eating and meeting place, one of the few in the Arts schools to be open early and shut late (8.30pm most evenings), we now find ourselves with dramatically reduced opening hours and with a range of pre-packed sandwiches whose exotic titles unfortunately do not – by any stretch of the imagination – live up to the gastronomic images they invoke. Indeed, it’s more like eating chemical cardboard!

If, as we are given to believe, the making of fresh sandwiches had to be halted due to a lack of hygiene, then we can all appreciate the University’s vigilance and concern for our health. However, surely, by now, that situation has been remedied and we could hope to see once again the smiling, friendly staff serving fresh food at hours to suit staff and faculty of the schools, who don’t all work 9am-5pm.

I am sure I am not the only person wishing to say, ‘Please bring back our EDB coffee bar’.

Jenny Money, SocCul

Phil Booker, Catering Manager, replies:

The recent temporary changes to the service in EDB café have largely been forced upon us. As most EDB customers will be aware, the supervisor went on long-term sick leave last July and did not return to work prior to her very recently leaving the University’s employ.

Hygiene regulations prevent us from preparing ‘high-risk’ foods, such as sandwiches, on site without suitably qualified persons. The Catering department is currently very short of such staff; this has also, regrettably, caused the temporary closure of the Bolt Hole. To comply with regulations we temporarily ceased fresh food production in the café.

The sandwich supplier currently used in this area is a major national high street supplier nominated by all southern universities, through a full competitively tendered process that includes strict quality and taste-test procedures.

The EDB café will not be re-opening outside ‘office hours’ in the future as this service is now available in the Sussex Institute (pictured left).

We are seeking authorisation to replace the supervisor, which, if granted, will allow us to review the opening hours and service provision of the café.

• A new café opened this week in the Innovation Centre, serving breakfast specials and a hot lunch every day as well as the usual drinks and snacks. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4pm.

Thanks for the good wishes

May I thank everyone for all their good wishes on my retirement from the University this week, for the tremendous send-off party, and for the extremely generous presents. I have been deeply touched by all the kind and generous comments I have received, and I shall take away many warm memories of those I have worked with during my 29 years at Sussex.

Dr John Gaunt, formerly Head of Secretariat

Attenborough to lead fundraising push

The Chancellor is to chair a new development council at Sussex as part of a long-term strategy to increase philanthropic giving to the University.

As well as Lord Attenborough, other members of the council will include economist and businessman Sir Robert Wilson (deputy chairman) and Derek Hunnisett, head of the family firm that ran Brighton department store Hanningtons.

Lord Attenborough plans to appoint members who will work on raising money for particular areas of activity, such as medicine, development studies or creative arts; and will provide financial support for students and student activities in all parts of the University.

The members will act as ambassadors for the University, giving their time to lead its fundraising effort by building relationships with key contacts among their peers. They will meet twice a year and will work in close co-operation with the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

Development Director Dominic Tickell describes Lord Attenborough as “one of the country’s most effective fundraisers”. As president of RADA (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts) he masterminded a £35 million capital campaign and has also been involved in raising money for UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund), for which he has been a goodwill ambassador since 1987.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, says: “The University welcomes the dynamism that Lord Attenborough brings to all of his work — and not just to Sussex. This new role further increases his involvement with the University.”

As Chancellor, Lord Attenborough is most visible at the summer and winter graduation ceremonies, over which he presides. However, his role involves him in many other University activities.

For example, he represents Sussex at formal events such as the reception hosted by the 1994 Group of universities to thank the Dangor family for making available £1 million in scholarships to its members.

He has also chaired meetings of the arts strategy group; has advised the Dean of Humanities on the development of film studies at Sussex; and has been a staunch supporter of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies (hosting a fundraising dinner for it at the House of Lords).

One of his longest associations is with the Gartner Arts Centre on campus; in his capacity as president of the Centre, Lord Attenborough will advise on future developments.

“All these various activities demonstrate the Chancellor’s commitment to representing and advising the University in the widest possible variety of roles both on and off campus,” says Dominic.
Academic events↓

MON 7 FEB
1pm Colloquium: Lynn Murray (Reading), title TBA.
Pev 1B13.

3pm International Relations and Politics seminar: Julian Stauin (Sussex), Development and the political economy of exhaustion.
Arts C233.

4pm Neuroscience seminar: Guy Fox, Protein trafficking and acon guidance in Drosophila. Genome Centre seminar room.

5pm Geography seminar: Godfrey Yeung (Sussex), Market division versus parallel trade in the beverage industry in China. Arts C175.

5pm Education seminar: Gerald Grace (Institute of Education), Class, inequality and Catholic schooling in contemporary contexts. Arts D610.

TUE 8 FEB
12noon Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Ian Collins (Bristol), Structure of the membrane bound protein translocation complex SecYEG. JMS lecture theatre.

12.30pm Life History seminar: Jieyu Liu (Sussex), Chinese women growing up in the Mao era. Library meeting room.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Adamantia Kyri (Sussex), European capital markets integration. Arts A5.

4.30pm German-Jewish Studies seminar: Norman Jacobs, Polish-Jewish relations and the Holocaust. Arts B217.

WED 9 FEB
2pm Music seminar: Tacet ensemble workshop, Falmer House 120.

4.30pm History of Art seminar: Jeanie Ubrano (Sussex), Celebration of the child on funeral monuments in Renaissance Poland. Arts A103.

5pm Migration seminar: Danny Skandsanajah (Institute for Public Policy Research), Policy challenges in migration. Arts C233.

THU 10 FEB

4.30pm Social and Political Thought seminar: Howard Covuy (Empire and radical Enlightenment: Recent interpretations of Spinoza. Arts D630.

MON 14 FEB
1pm Colloquium: Gerty Altmann (York), The automaticity of language mediated attention. Pev 1B13.

3pm International Relations and Politics seminar: Ronan Piel (Sussex), The imagined economies of globalization. Arts C233.

4pm Neuroscience seminar: Sarah King (Sussex), Developmental role for nicotinic receptors in corticothalamic circuits. Genome Centre seminar room.

4pm ROLLS (Linguistics and Language) seminar: Devyani Sharma (Kings College), Be and it in the Survey of English Dialects. Arts D440.

5pm Geography seminar: Tony Fielding (Sussex), Japan’s turnaround in from being a country of net emigration to being one of net migration. Arts C175.

TUE 15 FEB
12noon Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Nick Brown (Cambridge), Genetic dissection of the machinery mediating integin adhesion during morphogenesis. JMS lecture theatre.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Keith Weston (Police International Counter-Terrorism Unit), International terrorism. Arts A5.

4pm COGS seminar: Andy Clark, title TBA. Pev 1A04.

6pm Barrow lecture: Rodney Whitfield (SGAS), Portraits of horses and lions at the Ming Court. Chi lecture theatre.

WED 16 FEB
12.30pm Engineering lecture: Hua Zhao (Brunel), New combustion process for IC engines. TMRC building, mezzanine floor.

12.30pm Law seminar: Vanessa Muro (Kings College), False rating responses to the trafficking of women for prostitution. EDB 341.

12:30pm IDS seminar: Mark Lewis, Victor Zamora and Marfil Francle (DFID), DFID experiences in Peru, IDS C22.

2pm Music seminar: Victor Potter (Sussex), title TBA. Falmer House 120.

3pm Rights, justice, violence and war seminar: Gerry Simpson (LSE), Texan international law. Arts A71.

3pm History of Art seminar: Lynda Nead (Birkbeck), London on camera. c1900. Arts A103.

5pm Migration seminar: Eugenia Marinova (Sussex), Legal status, migrant economic performance and intention to return. Arts C233.

THU 17 FEB

5pm Q-Soc colloquium: Elizabeth Pavan (Open), Radiating health: Some recent advances in radionuclide imaging. Pev 1A7.

FRI 18 FEB
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Walt Patterson (Chatham House), Keeping the lights on: Based on current research regarding the future of electricity in human society. Freeman Centre G24/25.

Secretarial service: Word processing, proof reading, reasonable rates, quick turn around. Caroline on 07702 949789.

Small ads↓

Wanted: Long-term house or flat let in Brighton for professional couple. Need 2 or 3 bedrooms + on or off street parking, N/S, no pets, v. quiet. E Beth at e.obbii@sussex.ac.uk.

Sublet: Furnished 1-bed Kentown flat available for Feb. £450 + utilities. E bintz@chepkuko.cca.

Holiday let: Mobile home on site nr St Tropez (Var). Sleeps up to 4 adults + 2 children. Pool, shady location, convenient Nice or Toulon. From £250 p/w. E mafaj@gmail.com.

For sale: German novels. Private collection of 100 + recent & new titles from last 5 yrs. Paperback £2, hardback £4. List available. E jeffrey@idsl.ac.uk.

Arts events↓

PERFORMANCE
Tue 8 Feb
8pm Henri Gouike Dance Company - Second Signal, Shot Flow, White Space, Seen of Angels Contemporary dance. Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

Fri 11 Feb
10am David Glass Ensemble - Disembodied David performs accompanied by musician Jonathan Cooper in a surreal volleyball. GAC.

Wed 16-19 Sat 19 Feb
7.30pm BATS (Sussex University Musical Theatre Society) - Little Shop of Horrors Expect blood, lust, betrayal and a whole lot of laughs in this dark musical farce. GAC.

For sale: Metallic blue Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 16v GLS. V. reg. (99), Tax Apr, MoF Sep. 59k miles, £2.200ono. E: 3211 or E s.forton@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Rover 416i 1.6, 4-door saloon. H reg, MoF Aug. £2.500ono. T Mick Jenifer on est. 2175 or 503188 (aviva).

For sale: Citroen AX 1.1lh Eco. 1994. 11k miles & MoF. £550ono. E: katu@google.ac.uk or T Barry on est. 8102.

To let: Furnished room in Butter Rd. £298 pcm + bills. Share with 2 DPh & 1 PCGe student. T Sarah on 077989 30704 or 62309. E sarae-lousie.quinnell@kcl.ac.uk.

EXHIBITIONS
Sat 5 Feb–Fri 18 Mar
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm Hans van der Meer - Flemish Fields In the film 'Flemish Fields' and the photographic series 'Keepers', van der Meer describes the struggle between human ambition and the resulting achievement, the mismatch between an individual's isolated perception and van der Meer's camera's more distant view of our behaviour. GAC.

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from Jacqui Bealing, Maggie Clune and Rob Reed. We welcome news, story ideas, letters or small ads from Sussex staff and students.

The next issue will be out on 18 February, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 11 February. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.