Music tutor hits high note with national award

Duncan Mackrill's career as music curriculum tutor has hit a high note after he was named among the 50 winners of a prestigious national teaching award.

Duncan, who has taught secondary Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) students at Sussex for six years, has been chosen as one of the "rising stars" in the 2005 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme for his innovative approach to music education.

He will attend a special ceremony in London in September, where he will be awarded £50,000 to be used for a project that will make a special contribution to learning and education.

"Technology has revolutionised the teaching and learning of music in schools over the last decade," says Duncan. "There is now an opportunity to place creativity at the centre of music lessons, which is very exciting."

Duncan's groundbreaking, nationally respected innovations include a revolutionary new assessment system for pupils' work that is now commercially available. He has also considerably developed the range and use of music technology equipment for use by trainee teachers at Sussex, which the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted) and external examiners have noted as a strength of the course.

Duncan describes himself as "not a natural academic", but he has thrived and developed at Sussex, not least through undertaking an MA. He says: "Through the culture of teaching and learning in higher education, I have been able to re-consider and re-evaluate my own philosophy about music education, and crucially, to encourage others to do the same. It is a great privilege to be able to work with and influence new teachers entering the profession and to try out new approaches and test ideas."

Last year Duncan won a Sussex teaching award for the improvements he had made to curriculum content and teaching strategies.

Dr Rose Luckin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, says: "Duncan is an educator in whose company one always feels refreshed, stimulated and intellectually invigorated. He has already offered much to the communities that include music and teacher education, and will continue to provide more during his career."

This is the third consecutive year that a member of staff at the Sussex Institute has won a NTFS award. Last year creative writing tutor Dr Celia Hunt was a winner in the "Experienced Staff" category. In 2003 an award went to Professor Imogen Taylor, head of the department of Social Work and Social Care.

Sussex update on London bombings

Members of the University have been affected in different ways by the bombings in London on 7 July. "For anyone whose family or friends were involved, the thoughts of colleagues will be with them," said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, in an email to all staff.

As the Bulletin went to press, the University had no information of any current Sussex staff or students who had been directly caught up in the attacks.

The bus bomb exploded in the heart of one of London's main academic areas. The Vice-Chancellor has written to the universities' representative body, UUK, and the university employers' association, UCEA, whose offices overlook the site of the bombing, expressing good wishes to their staff.

The University plays host to a large number of international students in the summer, including many from North America on the main summer school programme. Staff in the International and Study Abroad Office, the Sussex Language Institute and elsewhere on campus helped to ensure messages were relayed between families and students, as phone networks in London were jammed. All of these students were safe and accounted for.

On 7 July the campus was also hosting a visit and a week-long summer school for school pupils from London. Sussex staff helped to support them and ensure they could manage the journey back while transport was disrupted.

A number of other visitors on conferences and on a visit from a South African university who were unable to return to London stayed overnight on campus.

Many staff and students gathered at the Meeting House at mid-day yesterday (14 July) to observe the national two-minute silence and the University flag was flown at half-mast.

Inside

2 C60
Roger Taylor and his quest for tiny molecules.

3 Honoraries
Evolutionary biologist and Brighton VC to get honorary degrees.

5 Top gear
Sussex achieve high results in debut racing car performance.

6 Uni finances
Groups announced to take closer look at spending and saving.

8 Opera offer
Staff offered unique chance to experience Glyndebourne.
Mass destruction discussed *en masse*

Over two days at the end of June, academics, researchers, government officials and students working on efforts to tackle the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction gathered at the Freeman Centre for the launch of a seminar series funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The seminar brought together almost 50 people from across the UK to consider new approaches to the dangers posed by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

In recent years, traditional approaches to the problem, such as multilateral arms control and disarmament treaties, have been sidelined and there has been talk of "the end of arms control".

Efforts are now being directed towards less consensual measures, ranging from controls on potentially dangerous technologies, through the interdiction of suspect shipping, to military action against countries, as seen in Iraq.

At the same time, some of the countries leading these efforts, including the UK, are maintaining and even improving their nuclear arsenals; during the next five years the UK will have to decide whether to keep its nuclear deterrent.

The seminar discussed whether the term 'weapons of mass destruction' was useful in dealing with what are very different weapon systems. As well as discussing terms of reference such as "arms control", "disarmament" and "counter-proliferation", the seminar also examined emerging challenges that exacerbate the problem posed by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, such as international terrorism and advances in science and technology.

All of these issues will be taken up in more detail in the subsequent seminars, to be held at University College London (UCL) and the Joint Services Command and Staff College, before returning to Sussex at the end of 2006.

The seminar series is organized by Professor Julian Perry Robinson, Dr Caitriona McLeish and Daniel Feakes from SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research, along with colleagues from Southampton University, UCL, King's College London and Lancaster University.

Over the course of the subsequent seminars, the organizers aim to bring together those working across the range of "weapons of mass destruction" and also to integrate postgraduate students into the community of more established researchers. In order to enable student participation, the organizers have set aside as much as possible from the ESRC award to fund travel and accommodation for students. The next seminar is scheduled to take place on 19 September.

If anyone is interested in participating in the seminar series, contact Daniel or Caitriona via wmdseminars@sussex.ac.uk

_Why British Olympic hopes should focus on golf_  

With London winning the Olympic bid, the hope is that British competitors will dominate the medals tables in 2012. But is it sporting excellence, luck or strategy that determines which countries walk away with the most golds?

According to Dr John Haigh, maths lecturer and co-author of a new book, *How to Take a Penalty: The hidden mathematics of sports*, our best chance for success is to focus on the sports we do best - and the ones with an element of luck.

"There's a lot of luck in golf," suggests John, "which makes it a good one to go for. And we're good at equestrian events."

In fact, John, and his co-writer Rob Eastaway, devote a whole chapter of their book to how to win gold in the Olympics.

The other 16 chapters include established mathematical research and theories on how to score penalties (make sure the goalkeeper doesn't know whether you intend to place the ball or to 'blast it' by using an unpredictable strategy); whether or not winning the toss will give you an advantage; and the effects of wind speed and other environmental factors on record-breaking.

"The fact is that most participants are mathematicians," points out John. "They have to be, because sporting success and failure are predominantly measured using numbers and also because many of the tactics essential to a competitor require logical, analytical thought that is, essentially, maths."

John, a keen sportsman who was awarded an Oxford 'blue' for football while at university and once played at Wembley stadium, describes the book as a "dip-in" text.

The one theme that unifies it, however, is that maths and sport are inextricably linked, he says. "For those who ask the question, 'What's the relevance of maths?', we hope this book provides at least part of the answer."

_Sussex chemists isolate fullerences smaller than C_{60}_

Fullerences are a big thing in the scientific world. These large molecules of natural carbon come in a number of sizes, from big (such as C_{60}) to even bigger (including C_{70}, C_{76} and C_{84}). But chemists around the world have found it a big problem to make smaller fullerences - until now.

In the 1 July issue of Science journal, Emeritus Professor Roger Taylor and his Sussex collaborators describe their success in being the first fullerene scientists to isolate and characterise derivatives of C_{58}. In other words, they've won the race to obtain samples of a smaller fullerene that you can actually look at.

It shouldn't come as too much of a surprise that Sussex scientists got there first: it was in a lab at Falmer that C_{60} (pictured left) and C_{70} were first isolated and characterised, back in 1990.

Chemically, large fullerences are quite stable: a C_{60} molecule, for example, consists of 60 carbon atoms bonded in a nearly spherical 'cage'. Smaller fullerences have remained elusive because the carbon bonds don't want to join together and they become bent, making the cage unstable.

However, scientists have predicted for many years that the addition of another molecule or atom to the cage would reduce the strain, making possible the isolation of a compound. What Roger and his team did was to attach fluorine to the carbon cage to make it stable.

And it looks as though there are many more years of research ahead, because the Sussex group also have evidence for the existence of many other C_{58} compounds, as well as those involving C_{57} and C_{56} cages. "A fascinating new chapter of fullerene science is in prospect," says Roger.
Peace campaigner and former Pavilion head among honorees

The University will award four honorary degrees at the graduation ceremonies this month. “The achievements and values of our honorary graduates resonate strongly with the ambitions and values of the University,” says the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith.

- 21 July (am): Canon Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden, University Chaplain, will present an honorary Doctor of Laws to Quaker Chaplain Dr Paul Oestreich.
- 21 July (pm): Dr Lindell Bronham, Lecturer in Population Biology, will present an honorary Doctor of Science to evolutionary biologist Professor Richard Dawkins.
- 22 July (am): Professor Alasdair Smith, Vice-Chancellor, will present an honorary Doctor of Laws to Professor Sir David Watson, retiring Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton.
- 22 July (pm): Art historian Professor Maurice Howard will present an honorary Doctor of Letters to Jessica Rutherford, director of the Royal Pavilion and Head of Libraries and Museums for Brighton and Hove from 1997 to 2004.

German by birth, Dr Paul Oestreich and his family fled to New Zealand in 1939 to escape Nazi persecution. He studied politics, which led to lifelong interests in Marxism and pacifism, as well as shaping his ministry in the Church. (Dr Oestreich combines his Anglican priesthood with membership of the Society of Friends and is now Quaker Chaplain to the University of Sussex.)

Dr Oestreich’s career reflects his devotion to peace and reconciliation. He is vice-president of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) as well as trustee of the University of Bradford School of Peace Studies and founder trustee of the Dresden Trust. He was for many years director of the Centre for International Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral. Other significant roles include chairmanship of Amnesty International UK and membership of the Church of England’s General Synod.

The struggle against apartheid has been an important part of his life. He currently works with his wife (Dr Barbara Einhorn, Reader in Gender Studies at Sussex) for Jews for Justice for Palestinians, and was actively involved in the campaign to free the Israeli nuclear whistleblower, Mordechai Vanunu.

Richard Dawkins, Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, has been described as “the world’s most controversial evolutionary biologist.”

Publication of his first best-selling book, The Selfish Gene, in 1976, thrust him into the limelight with its provocative thesis that competition in natural selection was through genes, not species or individuals, and that humans were merely “gene survival machines.”

His reputation is reinforced by his later works, which include The Extended Phenotype (1982) and The Blind Watchmaker (1986) - a riposte to the creationists, as well as his willingness to speak openly about his views on religion and the likelihood of a godless universe. Since 1996 he has been vice-president of the British Humanist Association.

His many awards and achievements include a Royal Society of Literature Award and the Los Angeles Times Literary Prize in 1987 for The Blind Watchmaker, the 1989 Silver Medal of the Zoological Society of London and the 1990 Royal Society Michael Faraday Award for the furtherance of the public understanding of science. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1997.

Professor Sir David Watson, who retires as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton this year, has contributed widely to the development of higher education in the UK and was knighted in 1998 for services to higher education.

He joined Brighton Polytechnic in 1990 as director and since that time has overseen many major changes. The polytechnic became the University of Brighton in 1992 and is now one of the leading new universities in the country for both teaching and research.

Sir David has been involved with many of the major developments in higher education. He was among the first members to serve on the new Funding Councils set up in 1988 and 1992. He was a member of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation’s National Commission on Education, and of the National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education, chaired by Sir Ron Dearing. He has chaired the Long Term Strategy Group of Universities UK for the past six years.

Jessica Rutherford, who served as director of the Royal Pavilion and Head of Libraries and Museums for Brighton and Hove from 1997 to 2004, played an important part in preserving the city’s rich cultural heritage.

As director, she was responsible for the management of the city’s historic buildings, museums, libraries and art galleries, comprising 280 staff, 30 buildings and an annual gross budget of £8.1 million.

As an author, Ms Rutherford has also made her own unique contribution to the literary heritage of the iconic Royal Pavilion, with her book A Prince’s Passion: The Life of the Royal Pavilion.

Currently a director of the Gardner Arts Centre on campus and a member of the University Court, Ms Rutherford has also served as a member of Council (the University’s governing body) and as a trustee of the University’s Barlow Collection of Chinese ceramics, bronzes and jade.

She has also been a Council member and member of the management committee for the Charleston Trust, the charity that maintains the former East Sussex home of artists from the Bloomsbury Group.

Honorary degree nominations

Honorary graduates add interest and act as potential role models for students at degree ceremonies - but the ceremony is at the very end of a process. They have to be nominated first.

The best source of ideas for awards is you - the staff, student, graduate or friend of the University. You may know the individual personally or through your own interests; or, if you’ve ever thought, “Why don’t they honour so-and-so?” now’s your chance. Get your thinking cap on over the summer so there is a good field for the Honorary Degrees Committee to consider in October.

Criteria and the nomination form are online at www.sussex.ac.uk/secreariat/1-2-11.html. Completed nomination forms should be submitted in confidence to the Vice-Chancellor by the end of September.

If you are in any doubt about the criteria or whether a particular person has already been nominated or recognised, the Secretariat can help. Call Paul Baker on ext. 8427 or email p.v.baker@sussex.ac.uk
Sussex helps to engineer new approach to science study

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) grant will fund two new teaching posts on a new undergraduate degree in Engineering for Society, due to begin in October 2006.

In addition, a field worker will introduce school pupils to the possibilities of the subject. The project will focus on schools in south London, where Sussex is already active in student recruitment as part of its strategy to widen access.

The aim of the new degree is to change the perception of engineering among school pupils by showing how engineering is a vital link between the discoveries of science and the needs of society. Students will work in project teams and combine their engineering studies with other disciplines, including the creative arts and social sciences. For example, students could focus on the role of sustainable technologies in developing countries.

Professor Richard Stobart, head of Engineering and Design, says: "One popular perception of engineering is that of men tinkering with cars, but there is much more to the subject. The development of this new degree and the outreach to potential students offers an exciting opportunity to take engineering into new areas, providing solutions to problems that will benefit society. We'll be opening a whole new branch of the profession."

The programme is open to all interested prospective students, but it is hoped that the new approach will attract female applicants to a traditionally male-dominated subject, as well as students who might not have considered higher education – or science – before.

Richard says: "We are creating a window of opportunity for prospective students who would not normally consider studying engineering. It also opens up the possibilities for engineering projects of the future, by tapping into the skills and abilities of students with a wider range of academic backgrounds. There is also a clear need for this kind of approach in industry, as we look for new and innovative ways to cater for the complex demands of the modern world."

It is planned that the development of the project, in association with the Royal Academy of Engineering and 13 other partner institutions, will become a model for similar programmes.

Science secrets revealed at chemistry camp

Fifty students from schools all over the UK found out how fireflies glow and how to turn copper into 'gold' at a residential chemistry camp on campus. The 15-year-olds also discovered the science behind putty and slime and designed mini crash helmets.

The purpose of the camp, which was run and organised by Salters', one of the UK's oldest livery companies, was to enable young people to participate in the fun of chemistry and to motivate them to develop both an awareness of and a long-term interest in the subject through an action-packed week's programme.

The course was supervised by Sussex chemistry professor Norman Billingham, who said: "This is a fantastic way to get young people enthusiastic about chemistry. Sussex is a great inspiration to building scientists, with its history of two chemistry Nobel prizewinners."

He added that this year's students also benefited from using new teaching labs, completed this year at a cost of £1.2 million. In addition, students were able to see chemistry applied in industry by visiting the GlaxoSmithKline site.

The Salters' Chemistry Camp was sponsored by Pfizer Limited, the Association for the British Pharmaceutical Industry, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry.
Students’ racing car excels in top competition

Engineering and design students have achieved unexpectedly high results with the first-ever entry from Sussex in an international motor racing competition.

Alex Bradshaw, Peter Bull, David Cresswell, Martyn Dalton-Brown, Chris Davies, Daniel Eastwood, Peter Harrison, Ian Radley and Kieron Stanger were taking part in this year’s Formula Student competition at Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome, Leicestershire, from 7–10 July.

“The team were magnificent and achieved far more than we had thought possible,” said Professor Richard Stobart, head of the Engineering & Design department. “They showed extraordinary commitment.”

Formula Student judges entries on a variety of specifications, from best design to fuel economy and safety measures. There are also awards for best website and best cost analysis. There were about 80 teams, including entries from North America, other European countries and the Indian sub-continent.

Features of the Sussex entry included a 577cc single-cylinder water-cooled engine, acceleration to 62.5mph in under four seconds, and a high-performance braking system. Working to competition guidelines, the team kept within a total budget of £15,000.

The Sussex car was the focus of a great deal of attention. “We had puzzled over how to make a unique offering from Sussex,” said Richard. “We reached the goal: our car looked great and decidedly different from the rest, and was sold in its engineering.” The team was ranked 27th out of 80 for design presentation and the car’s design was praised by Ross Brawn, Chief Engineer of Ferrari F1.

The car readily passed compulsory checks on aspects such as noise levels, braking and stability. During these initial checks a senior Lotus representative unusually singled out the car as one he would “like to drive”.

The team completed three out of four “dynamic” events and in each was ranked in the 30s out of 80. “More development time and more time for drivers to practise would have given us a higher ranking, but what we got was beyond our expectations,” said Richard.

The fourth event was a 30-lap, 22km endurance run. After eight laps, the car had to be withdrawn with a fuel leak. The team were disappointed because the failure was of a single small item in a component that they had bought rather than made. Everything else – suspension, steering, engine, transmission and the electronic systems – held up beautifully. “The car’s handling was exceptional,” said Richard.

“Overall it was a worthwhile event for everyone,” he concluded. “We learnt a great deal and had a lot of enjoyment on the way!”

Above: The Sussex car on the track at Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome, Leicestershire.
Below: The Sussex team in the Formula Student pit area, working on their car and getting it ready to take to the track.

The head of a cancer research unit on campus was the official starter for the first of two ‘Race for Life’ fundraising events in Stanmer Park this month.

Professor Lesley Fallowfield leads the Psychosocial Oncology Group at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). The group is paid for by Cancer Research UK, which organises a series of 5km fun runs around the country to raise funds.

Lesley told the Argus newspaper: “I am surrounded by cancer and cancer patients and the impact of it all day every day. Very few people are left untouched by the disease, which is why it is so important to keep on fighting and researching into its causes and treatment.”

Lesley’s research group works on ways to help support patients and their families in different ways and also looks at how to train doctors and nurses to communicate properly to patients with cancer.

A team from the group took part in the race itself. Almost 8,000 women and girls signed up for the two Brighton races on 2 and 3 July.
Update on risk management

Continuing pressures on budgets and ever increasing competition in academic areas (such as student recruitment and research funding) mean it is essential the University has effective systems to both identify opportunities and manage its key risks.

Responsibility for facilitating and promoting risk management transferred from Finance to Internal Audit last autumn.

The current year has seen the continuation of work to embed structured risk-management processes across all areas of the University. This is being achieved through a combination of different approaches, including:

- unit-level workshops to identify and assess their key risks;
- a requirement explicitly to identify the main risks when proposing new initiatives and defining strategic plans;
- ongoing work to develop and improve contingency planning in case of a major disaster; and
- introduction of an annual sign-off by the senior manager responsible for each unit or division.

While further work is ongoing to improve the University’s financial position, the Finance Division’s new senior management team have already introduced some examples of good risk management to avoid future problems.

These include much clearer reporting of the financial sensitivity of key planning assumptions and budgetary variables, such as forecasts of research overheads. Likewise, within the Estates division, all major new capital schemes are subject to a formal risk assessment at an early stage in their project planning.

While responsibility for managing the risks facing each area clearly rests with the management and staff concerned, the University’s overall policy and approach to risk management is overseen by a Risk Management Group (RMG).

Following changes in senior management over the last year, the RMG has recently been reconstituted in line with the University’s policy to streamline the size and number of such working groups. The RMG is now chaired by Professor Tony Moore (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and includes Dr Stephen Burman (Dean of Humanities), Allan Spencer (Finance Director), Mike Townsend (Head of Internal Audit) and Derek Trevitt (Risk Assurance Officer). The remit of the RMG is to monitor progress in improving and developing good risk-management practices across the University.

Details of the University’s overall risk-management policy, extracts from the current corporate Risk Register and a range of other resources to assist in assessing and analysing risks are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/intermaudit.

If staff or managers have any queries or wish to highlight any particularly good (or bad!) risk-management practices, contact Derek Trevitt (ext. 6593) or Mike Townsend (ext. 3183).

New regime for research costing

A seminar examining the implications of and issues arising from the introduction of Full Economic Costing (FEC) for research projects was held on 4 July. The event was attended by 50 managers from across the University including deans and heads of department.

Among the issues covered were the financial and strategic implications of the new costing rules, as well as their practical application at individual project level. The session raised a number of significant challenges around how best to manage grant budgets in future, and also how the additional income generated under FEC will be used.

The TRAC/FEC website, www.sussex.ac.uk/about/trac_fec.html, has been updated to include copies of all the presentations given, including a case study on how to apply the new rules to a typical Research Council grant. Answers to some new ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ have also been added.

The changes will apply to the costing of all proposals for external research funding submitted after 1 September.

In readiness for this, Research Services have arranged a number of training sessions later this month for Principal Investigators intending to put in early applications for external funding. These sessions will explain the new costing rules, as well as introducing the new online Project Costing & Pricing Tool (POPT) soon to be released through Sussex Direct.

Further training sessions will be run throughout the coming academic year.

Any academic staff wishing to sign-up for a workshop on the new costing system and FEC rules should contact Research Services on ext. 3518.

Finance and planning groups start work

The small working groups being established to take forward work on finance and planning processes following up the savings review have now started their work.

The new groups and their chairs are:

- planning and resource allocation: Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary Stuart
- administrative processes: Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Rose Luckin
- science strategy: the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith
- income generation: the Director of Finance, Allan Spencer.

The groups will be looking at key issues for developing systems and strategy, and producing advice and guidance to Senior Management Group (SMG). They aim to draw on wider views and information from staff and students in the autumn and spring terms.

This work is part of the process for improving the way Sussex operates and helping to deliver activity within planned spending limits for 2006–07.

Any options and issues for discussion will be presented to the campus as the groups take their work forward, using existing forums such as the Intranet and the Vice-Chancellor’s open meetings. Update reports will be submitted to Senate and Council in the autumn term.

Council and Senate this term received financial reports and updates for 2004–05 and 2005–06, and plans for 2006–07 onwards, which were in line with forecasts presented in March.

Savings targets for 2006–07 are between £1.1m and £2m to achieve a spending total of £117.5m which balances with income, compared to spending of £111m forecast for 2005–06.

Finance Division are working on end-year accounts for 2004–05, and continue to support deans and heads of administrative unit to operate within agreed budgets for 2005–06.

Further detail and regular updates are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/position.
Sussex researchers examine ‘poaching’ of health workers

If we are to “make poverty history”, surely Africa needs its skilled personnel to help bring this about? Yet instead, increasing numbers of doctors and nurses from poor countries seem to have been recruited to fill vacancies in the UK, Europe and North America.

In the week that world leaders gathered for the G8 meeting in Scotland, researchers from the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty (which is funded by DFID, the Department for International Development) met in Ghana to examine this issue of the brain drain.

Over the last year, Sussex’s partners in Ghana and Bangladesh have carried out surveys of doctors and nurses, while Professor Ron Skeldon has been conducting a global review of skilled mobility.

Ron explains that migration is not necessarily a bad thing: “Migration is an integral part of development. As countries change economically, socially and politically, migration — including the movement of the highly skilled — tends to rise.”

The Sussex research places particular emphasis on understanding how the nature of training in health and other skill sectors influences patterns of migration. Some countries — the Philippines being the most obvious example — actively promote the export of particular skills, such as nurses or IT professionals.

Bangladeshi researchers working within the Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty are particularly interested in whether this model could work for Bangladesh: by dramatically expanding the number and quality of training places for nurses, Bangladesh could benefit both from producing more nurses, and from gaining revenues when these nurses work temporarily abroad.

A key point of this research is that the mobility of health professionals internationally is only part of a complex story. For example, although it is estimated that as many as three-quarters of Ghana’s trainee doctors will leave the country after their training, and that there are more Ghanaian doctors in New York than in the whole of Ghana, it is important also to realise that Ghana trains only about 100 doctors a year — less than last year’s intake at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) alone!

A walk on the wild side

Several readers were concerned by the felling of two magnificent elms on campus: tree 232 outside the Post Office (pictured below) and tree 263 just to the north of the Arts Bridge. A third victim, near the tennis courts, was probably less well known. All three had become infected with Dutch Elm Disease; sadly, felling the doomed trees was essential to protect their healthy neighbours.

Although we are usually forbidden to stray off campus in these jottings, the editor has waived the rules because we are writing from the shores of Malham Tarn, a large lake high in the stunning Yorkshire Dales. We are enjoying a field course with first-year Ecology and Conservation students.

Malham is on the boundary between lowland and upland Britain and allows the class to survey a wide variety of habitats. Many of these habitats, such as raised bogs and limestone pavements, are absent from Sussex.

Even familiar habitats are subtly different. For example, the commonest warbler in the woodlots on campus is the Chiffchaff. At Malham, it is scarce but every tree and bush seems to contain a Willow Warbler. This summer visitor looks very similar to the closely related Chiffchaff but has a liquid, descending song rather than a monotonous ‘chiff-chaff’. National surveys — to which students on the field course contributed — reveal that Willow Warbler numbers are buoyant in the north but have fallen in the south, including campus.

Among the many other intriguing differences that the 240 miles between the South Downs and the limestone of the Craven uplands produce is the appearance of roadside verges. Up here the Hogweed and Common Mallow of the lanes around campus are replaced by swathes of Sweet Cicely and the tall, majestic, dark-red heads of Melancholy Thistle.

On the calcareous mires the deep magenta spikes of Northern Marsh Orchids are a stunning sight. On the South Downs at this time of year the equivalent splash of colour is provided by the Pyramidal Orchids, which struggle to reach as far north as Malham.

Which brings us to a bit of good news. Four years ago we wrote about the Pyramidal Orchids that were blossoming among the long grass of the wooded edges on the east side of the Science Car Park. At that time there were no more than four or five plants. This year they have produced an almost meshed display of about 50 flowering spikes. What is more they have also appeared in a completely new place in the grass between the Gardner Arts Centre and Stanmer Park.

This seems to have been a particularly good year for most of our orchids. Several people have spotted the Bee Orchids on the banks behind the John Maynard Smith Building and a lone Common Spotted Orchid is poking up through the grass next to the Arundel Building.
Visitors still have to pay!

Term's over, which means drivers get to park on campus all day for nothing. Charges will be payable once more with the start of the autumn term on 3 October. Parking charges for those who do not display a University pass or permit still apply during the vacation at the rate of £2.50 for four hours.

Appointments

Dr Jon Loveday from Physics and Astronomy has been appointed as the new Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Science and Technology. In Humanities, Professor Martin Butler will head of the Music department from 1 August.

Sussex sponsors business award

The University of Sussex is sponsoring one of the 2005 Brighton and Hove Business Awards. Professor Tony Moore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, explained why Sussex is backing the Education in Community Award: "We are extremely supportive of businesses developing new and innovative education initiatives, being very keen ourselves to develop relevant continuing professional development programmes." The award ceremony takes place at Brighton racecourse in September.

Summer school students begin their studies

Students from 12 countries studying for the International Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) started their annual residential summer school at Sussex on Monday (11 July).

This innovative programme offers structured study at the doctoral level through a series of taught courses followed by a research thesis. The intensive modules are taught by Sussex academics at an annual three-week summer school on campus, allowing participants to remain in their home country for the rest of the year.

The countries represented are Armenia, Belgium, Chile, Cyprus, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Japan, Latvia, Namibia, UK and USA.

Small ads ↓

For sale: Yamaha motorbike DT125R, Y reg, 8,260 miles. FSH, 1 yr MoT, not taxed. £1,500 ono. T 07748 050325.


Wanted: Person to share special 2 for 1 gym membership offer at LA Fitness in central B'lon. £35 pp/mnth. Offer runs out shortly. T Sarah on 678467, 697539 or 07796 133880.

To let: 2-bed house, central Lewes. 6 mths from 1 Oct. Spt visiting academic. £800 pcm. T 475885, E mary@mbturke.freeserve.co.uk.

For sale: Fiat Cinq. N reg, 30k. miles. New MoT, £650 ono. E susansu@biols.sussex.ac.uk.

To let: Room in house on Montpelier St, B'lon. Suit mature student. Females only. £340 pcm incl. T 707008.

Wanted: Accommodation in central B'lon/Hove from Sep. For female N/S PG student on 1-yr course at BIMM. T 01727 834634.

To let: GF fully furnished flat in North Laine, B'lon. £600 pcm. Suit PG or visiting lecturer. Available now. T Alex on 07899 747772.

To let: 4 bed house in Stirling Place, Hove. Long let from 7 Aug. Suit PGs or mature UGs. £1,400 pcm. T Julie on 07901 812412.

Let's keep campus safe and secure

David Lamper
Head of Security

The majority of us welcome the long overdue summer weather and the chance to enjoy the warmth and fresh air through open doors and windows. Unfortunately it also increases the possibility of crime, the majority of which is opportunistic.

Although one can never totally prevent crime, one can minimise the chances of being a victim by:

- not leaving wallets in jackets or handbags in view in unattended offices, even for a couple of minutes
- not leaving valuable possessions within easy reach of an open window
- securing your office, including shutting the window at ground level, if you leave it unattended at meal/break times
- locking doors, closing windows and, at ground level, drawing blinds when leaving campus after a hard day's toil
- not leaving property on view in your vehicle.

Let's all help to keep the campus as safe and secure as possible for everyone.

News in brief ↓

 Sussex and Glyndebourne team up

For the first time ever, the University of Sussex has teamed up with Glyndebourne – one of the best known opera houses in the world – to offer Sussex staff, alumni and students the opportunity to enjoy the unique Glyndebourne experience, while mingling and swapping campus experiences.

Tangier Tattoo, a new operatic thriller, will be performed at Glyndebourne, which is only a few miles from the Sussex campus, on 26 October at 7pm.

Tickets for staff and alumni are only £25 per person, including a free programme. This price partly subsidises a student ticket (sold at £10), allowing as many students as possible the opportunity to afford the unique Glyndebourne experience. Each student ticket includes free transport and a programme.

To book a ticket, phone 01273 813813, quoting ‘University of Sussex’. For more information, see www.glyndebourne.com/alumni/alumni.cfm (alumni and staff) or www.glyndebourne.com/alumni/student.cfm (students).

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from Jacqui Beeling, Maggie Clarke and Rob Read. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from the staff and students of the University. The next issue, the last before we take our annual August break, will be out on 29 July, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 22 July. Please contact the Press and Communications Office on ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.