New curriculum for a new prospectus

When any new prospectus is finished, it marks the culmination of months of work by central publications staff, working with colleagues across campus. But the publication this week of the undergraduate prospectus for 2006 entry was particularly special for the science departments at Sussex.

Over the last 18 months they have been working on an overhaul of the University’s science curriculum and the prospectus gives prospective students their first opportunity to see the new portfolio of degree programmes on offer.

The review was led by academics Dr Rose Luckin, Dr Libby John and Dr Helen France, whose remit was to ensure the curriculum is up to date for the 21st century, builds on established Sussex strengths and is attractive to the scientists of tomorrow.

Every science department has been involved in a collaborative process of updating and renewal, incorporating ideas from teachers and students at local schools. “We have drawn out the distinctive characteristics of science at Sussex,” says Helen.

What they have done is to streamline the portfolio of degrees on offer, withdrawing 51 programmes and adding 10 new ones such as a BSc in Engineering for Society and a BSc in Medical Neuroscience.

Each of the programmes has a common structure (including a fresh approach to year 1). This in turn creates flexibility and allows more opportunity for students to tailor their programme to their own interests. “We have tried to assure interdisciplinarity is still available for those students who want it,” adds Rose.

There is greater emphasis on students working as project teams, although a variety of learning and teaching methods (including fieldwork and portfolios) will continue to be used.

Alongside diverse forms of teaching, there is more diversity of assessment. “We recognise that unseen exams are not the only way to test learning and knowledge in the sciences,” says Libby, “and that our science graduates need a whole range of skills.”

And to improve graduate job prospects, there is greater focus on employability skills, links with employers, industrial placements and career development.

So when prospective students pick up the 2006 prospectus, what they should see is a clear and consistent message about studying science at Sussex. Its publication heralds a major campaign to promote the new curriculum.

And the process of renewal doesn’t stop there. “The momentum built up during the review will be sustained in further development,” assures Rose.
Students make all town’s planning decisions – no one minds

Just for one day, students made planning decisions that could change the face and landscape of a fictional town close to London and would affect the lives of thousands of people.

They were all taking part in the University Business Challenge, led by the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) with Dr David Twigg and Dr Pietro Morlacchi, lecturers from SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research.

Involvement in this interactive game on 28 February was offered to students from any subject area. Participants worked in teams on the challenge, which was based on a problem-solving scenario for the public sector.

Scientists go underground in hunt for elusive neutrinos

The formal launch of a major experiment that will see Sussex scientists investigating one of physics’ most intriguing puzzles took place this week in the USA.

Scientists and politicians from the six countries involved in the US$200m MINOS (Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search) project gathered at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab), near Chicago, for the start of the experiment, which has taken ten years to develop.

The experiment will send a beam of subatomic particles called neutrinos straight through the earth from Fermilab to a 5,400-ton detector 400 miles away in an underground cavern in Minnesota. The detector itself, whose 200,000 readout channels are calibrated by an innovative system developed at Sussex, is a massive ‘sandwich’ of 486 hexagonal steel plates, 8m wide and 1m thick, interleaved with special plastic sheets that emit tiny flashes of light when charged particles pass through.

Of the many billions of ghost-like neutrinos that will stream through the detector, just a few will interact and reveal their presence, allowing them to be studied in exquisite detail.

It is then that the work of a team of Sussex physicists, led by husband and wife Dr Phil Harris and Dr Elisabeth (Lisa) Falk Harris, begins in earnest.

Reflecting the variety of work undertaken by the many ACCA accountants working in the public sector, students were challenged to make decisions that were strategic, justifiable, appropriate and financially sound. They were also offered the opportunity to develop an understanding about the importance of lateral thinking, entrepreneurship and the viability and implications of proposals.

The winning team was rewarded with HMV vouchers and all participants enjoyed chocolates and other treats to encourage the flow of innovative ideas.

The event was hosted by the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC). Linda Buckham, director of CDEC, commented: “We are delighted to welcome ACCA on campus to lead this event, which enables students to grapple with the challenge of a real-life scenario and develop valuable insights and skills on the way.”

“The past seven years have seen a revolution in neutrino physics,” says Lisa. Originally, they were thought to be massless, but we now know that that isn’t the case. Tiny though they are, there are so many of them out there that their total mass is likely to equal the mass of all of the ordinary matter in the Universe.

In addition, they exhibit the most extraordinary behaviour – due to a quirk of quantum mechanics, the fact that they have slightly different masses allows the three distinct types of neutrinos actually to transmute from one to another as they travel along. This so-called oscillation is the property that we’ll be studying with unprecedented precision.”

Phil adds: “The nature of neutrinos is one of the hottest topics in physics today, and the experiment should help to unravel their mystery. This is a very exciting time for all of us: After so many years developing and building this experiment together, we’re really looking forward to seeing our first results.

We’re now in uncharted territory; but within a year, the answers we’ve been waiting for will start to come in.”
VC's VOICE

Next week, the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Council of the University receives the first report of the Savings Review Group. The many colleagues across campus involved in the process have been working to a very demanding timetable and have helped us to make substantial progress.

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor

I have emphasised throughout that the University does not face a financial crisis. What we are aiming to do is to reduce our costs sufficiently to permit investment in the future of the University, particularly in academic posts, in order to improve student-staff ratios and strengthen our research standing.

Everyone recognises that seeking savings is neither easy nor painless, and I am grateful for the positive spirit in which University staff have approached these challenges, and for the huge amount of time that many of our colleagues have devoted to managing the process.

The Finance Committee will have to take account not only of the proposed savings, but also of our latest five-year forecasts of income and expenditure, which have been updated and informed by the thorough scrutiny of all budgets through the savings review process. How much investment in academic posts we can afford and when we can afford it are both matters of judgement.

I realise that staff are anxious to know as soon as possible what decisions are made by the Finance Committee. We will be communicating its decisions as soon as possible in the days following the meeting, and I'll be holding an open meeting for staff in the following week.

It is important to emphasise that where savings are being made by reducing the number of posts, the individuals whose jobs are affected should already have been involved in discussions about voluntary redundancy or redeployment, so no individual members of staff should receive unpleasant surprises as a result of next week's decisions. (But it is worth remembering that not all applications for voluntary redundancy are guaranteed to be approved.)

This term's work will not conclude the business of the Savings Review Group. The University will need to continue to find further savings. We have embarked on a longer-term programme of seeking efficiencies in the way that the University administers its business and it will take some time for that programme to bear fruit. Furthermore, the strategic issue of how the University divides its limited resources between existing academic activities, new academic activities, support costs and infrastructure costs will continue to require careful thought. Ideally we'd like to provide better resourcing for all our priorities, and our current dilemmas underline the importance of increasing the University's income further.

Financial issues should not however obscure the strong academic position of the University. The latest news on undergraduate applications is very positive. For the third successive year, applications to Sussex have run well ahead of the national average; and this year, application to science subjects are growing strongly. Over the three-year period, applications per place have grown by over 50%. This single statistic should make us all feel proud of what has been achieved over the last few years and optimistic about the future.

Vice-Chancellor’s open meetings

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, held his termly open meetings with staff on 15 and 24 February. The main focus of the meetings was the progress of the 2005 savings review.

On the savings review he said he was confident that the interim report to Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&G) in March will show that good progress is being made to meet the savings targets set in December. Schools and administrative units had engaged positively and put in a lot of hard work. It had not been an easy process, but it was necessary if Sussex is to sustain investment in its high-quality teaching and research.

In response to concerns about staff uncertainty, he said he did appreciate that this is a time when staff are anxious and uncertain. He had sought to be entirely open about the whole process and to move as quickly as possible to make recommendations to F&G and then immediately report outcomes to staff.

Asked about voluntary redundancy, the Vice-Chancellor reiterated that savings in staff costs are being looked for from early retirement, voluntary redundancy and redeployment. It looked as though proposals being made to F&G would not be based on any compulsory redundancies. Feedback on initial applications will start to be made as soon as possible in the week after F&G had met.

Asked about concerns that spend on tutorial funds would be targeted, the Vice-Chancellor said that all areas of spend had to be looked at. Associate Tutors play an important role in delivering teaching to undergraduates at Sussex and there will be no attempt to cut back their conditions of service. However, as the University had protected academic posts and as the old arts curriculum is now being taught out, the need for as much spend overall has reduced. The University will want to focus its spend on Sussex graduate students.

In relation to new buildings, he reminded staff of the ambitious plans to construct a new teaching block and student residences. The cost of borrowing money for this is around £1m each year. The Savings Review Group had therefore been looking hard at the potential impact of a short delay, compared with seeking such a further level of savings from schools or units.

As long as there are plans to increase car-parking charges, the Vice-Chancellor said that he could not rule out an increase. There has been no increase in charges since they were introduced in October 2003.

Asked when the Registrar post would be advertised, the Vice-Chancellor said he wanted to look at what the right structure is for the administration. The savings review process had been very valuable in identifying a range of issues that should be considered. He provisionally aimed to present a structure and role to Council at the end of March. In practical terms, Sussex would not be looking at an appointment until January 2006.

• An extended version of this report, covering all the issues raised, is online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/vcoffice/.

Savings review update

The Savings Review Group is submitting its interim report to the University's main finance committee for their meeting on Wednesday 9 March.

As soon as possible in the days after the meeting, an email will be sent to all staff and briefing on the outcomes will be published on the savings review website: www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/position. An open meeting for staff with the Vice-Chancellor will be held on Tuesday 15 March – time and place to be announced.
Cheers and tears at graduation

Winter graduation (25 February) was both an uplifting and a moving event this year. Not only was it one of the first times that the Chancellor, Lord Attenborough, had been seen in public since his granddaughter Lucy and daughter Jane, herself a Sussex graduate, died in the Indian Ocean tsunami; it was also a family occasion as he presented his son Michael with an honorary degree.

Lord Attenborough opened the ceremonies by asking those gathered to remember what a happy occasion graduation is: "Today is importantly a day of celebration. What happened to my family and hundreds of others should not dent your happiness, sense of achievement and right to enjoy yourselves."

Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Sharp and European Union (EU) commissioner, Danuta Hübner, were on the list to receive honorary degrees. "Today marks a highpoint in my life," said Ms. Hübner. "It is a remarkably rewarding experience to receive an honorary degree from a distinguished university." However, she ruffled some feathers in the EU as she jaunted off to the Dome: "To the distress of my staff in Brussels I immediately cancelled all my appointments to be here today.

Now artistic director of London’s prestigious Almeida Theatre, Michael Attenborough developed his love of the theatre when he was president of SUDS, the campus drama society.

It wasn’t just the arts he loved at Sussex, it was also that many on campus lived life at their own pace, which was sometimes very slow indeed: "I was walking down towards Falmer House one day," reminisced Michael, "when I spied a teacher. We chatted for five minutes when he said to me, ‘When you saw me, was I coming in or out of that building?’ You were coming out. ‘Good,’ he said, ‘that means I’ve had lunch, then.’"

Although his father had expected him to go to Cambridge, Michael had other ideas and decided the "finest university in the world was Sussex", although he now admits his choice was swayed by the "radical Sussex chic".

As he received his degree he dedicated it to his late sister and Attenborough father and son emotionally embraced one another in a front of a visibly moved audience.

HONORARY GRADUANDS

Danuta Hübner, Poland’s first European Commissioner, was a visiting scholar to the University’s Centre for European Studies in 1974. She is one of her country’s foremost economists and policy-makers and has played a key role in the enlargement of the European Union (EU).

Her roles in Poland’s government during the past ten years have included Minister for European Affairs (2003–2004); Head of Office of the Committee for European Integration and Secretary of State for Poland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2001–2003); and Minister Head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland (1997–1998).


Theatre director Michael Attenborough graduated in 1972 with a degree in English from Sussex, where he was also president of the drama society. From 1972–1980 he was associate director of Colchester’s Mercury Theatre, Leeds Playhouse and the Young Vic.

In 1980 he was appointed artistic director of the Palace Theatre, Watford, where attendances during his five years' tenure averaged 92 per cent capacity. From 1984–89 he was director of the Hampstead Theatre, where five of the 33 plays he produced transferred to the West End and one to Broadway. The theatre won 23 awards under his directorship.

He spent 12 years with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), where he was principal associate director and executive producer.

Michael Attenborough became artistic director of the world-renowned Almeida Theatre in London in 2002. He is currently vice-chairman of RADA (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art).

Margaret Sharp’s career has spanned both academic and public service. In 1981 she came to Sussex to lead a study at the Sussex European Research Centre (now Sussex European Institute) on Europe and New Technologies.

She subsequently joined SPRU (then known as the Science Policy Research Unit), where she led work on the development of biotechnology and the importance of university links with industry. Working closely with the late Keith Parvitt, she did much to raise SPRU’s international profile. She retired from the post in 1999, but retains an honorary fellowship.

Her political career has run in tandem with her academic one. She joined the Social Democrat Party in 1981. When the party merged with the Liberals, she played an active part in policy making with the party leader, Paddy Ashdown.

In 1998 she entered the House of Lords as a Liberal Democrat peer and became a front-bench spokesperson in 2000; she speaks on education, skills and science policy.

Baroness Sharp has been a member of the Lords’ Select Committee on European Economic Monetary Policy and is currently a member of its Science and Technology Select Committee.

MP took MA to help his government role

Tony Baldry MP attended his third Sussex graduation ceremony last week. He first studied at Sussex in the 1970s, gaining a BA in Social Studies followed by an LLB; this time he received an MA in Development Studies.

The Conservative MP for Banbury chose the course after he was appointed chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on International Development, at the beginning of this Parliament.

He says: "I realised that academic witnesses that were coming to give evidence to the Committee were often speaking a language – a sort of ‘development-speak’ – that the rest of us didn’t understand. It struck me that it was important that I got to know this language, and how better than a two-year part-time MA in Development Studies at Sussex?"

It proved, however, to be quite a commitment: "I had to get out of bed very early indeed to get the earliest train down from Victoria to Falmer for the earliest seminar group of the day so that I could be back at Westminster for the beginning of the Parliamentary day.

"But the course work was extremely interesting and much of it, such as work on HIV/AIDS or migration policy, chime in with work that the Select Committee was doing at Westminster. And my dissertation took me to Sierra Leone, where I spent some time cast adrift in a boat!"
Family tragedy inspired study

The tragedy of her son's suicide seven years ago was a turning point for Benie MacDonald. After years of dead-end jobs in insurance and a spell working for a Brighton sandwich-making business, she decided to do something positive with her life.

After an Access course she took an undergraduate degree in psychology, for which she gained a first, and went on to study for a doctorate. Last week 53-year-old Benie, who now teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Sussex, received her DPhil at the graduation ceremony.

Benie says: "My son Guy killed himself at the age of 23. It was a terrible time, but I realised I had a choice. I could choose to recover from it. My greatest incentive was to do something positive. I was a single parent and I had my four other children to think about."

For her DPhil thesis, Benie looked at how the moods of those suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD) affected their repetitive behaviour. Her DPhil supervisor, Professor Graham Davey, says: "Hopefully, Benie's findings will lead to the development of more effective therapies for compulsive disorders like OCD."

Seed bank course bears fruit for biologist

A chance to work on an international project to protect the planet's plant life proved one of the highlights of a new degree for postgraduate Emma Cox.

Emma successfully completed the MSc in Plant Conservation and Seed Banking at Sussex and graduated last week.

Part of the course involved some training at Wakehurst Place in West Sussex, home to the Millennium Seed Bank and outpost of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.

The Millennium Seed Bank is the world's biggest seed bank. It aims to preserve around 24,000 plant species that might be in danger of extinction in the future by carefully collecting, preserving and storing their seeds. Virtually all of the UK's native flowering plants have now been protected in this way.

"It was an incredibly intensive course," says Emma, who now helps out with outdoor education projects for Sussex Wildlife Trust and is preparing to become a biology teacher. "It took you through the whole process, with lectures and practicals.

"We learnt how to gather seeds in the wild, how best to store them and check whether they will be able to germinate after being stored in the cryogenic freezer and how they break out of their dormancy.

"We also looked at how to set up a seed bank in a developing country, where the need for such a project is potentially greater."

A novel approach to learning

Jonathan Simmons took a lifelong passion for poetry a step further by taking the Certificate in Creative Writing at Sussex — and now he's writing a science fantasy novel.

After a long period of illness, Jonathan was looking for a positive and inspiring challenge when he spotted the course advertised in a local library.

"I've been writing ever since I was a child, particularly poetry, and have even had a couple published. University is a great way to develop an interest or passion further. I was able to mix with like-minded people and my writing style definitely improved as a result."

Jonathan combined his studies with working at an antique centre in Lewes and part-time fundraising for the Royal National Institute of the Blind.

Now Jonathan, a fan of ghost-story writers M R James, H G Wells and J G Ballard, is tackling a science fantasy novel. "The genre allows me to really indulge my imagination. I'm three chapters in and really loving it."

Teachers learn how to teach

When media production tutor Dee Kilkeely found out he had to go on a course to improve his teaching, he wondered if it was going to be of any benefit at all. "I used to think that all I had to do was stand there and talk about things," he recalls. But as a new member of staff with fewer than three years' teaching experience, attendance was compulsory. And he soon realised he was being "slightly arrogant."

Two years on, Dee is one of the first five graduates on the University's very own Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. "There are always ways to improve your work," he says now, "and the better you are at your job the more enjoyable it becomes."

Graduating last week with Dee were the other four Sussex pioneers: Dr John Drury (Psychology), Dr Adam Hedgcock (Sociology), Dr Anne Hole (Media and Film) and Wilma de Jong (Media Studies).

As John was not a new member of faculty, he could have simply submitted a portfolio, but chose to take the course because he wanted to improve his teaching skills. "In the short time since I was an undergraduate, the student experience has changed so much that reliance on tradition and intuition is not enough — I wanted to learn more about current thinking on teaching methods with today's students."

And having completed the course, he thinks all Sussex teaching staff should do it: "Education is a topic that can be researched and guided by theory like every other topic we teach here at Sussex."

Anne would also recommend the experience to her colleagues. "The course really inspired me," she says. "Over the years I had found for myself various things which seemed to work (or not) in my teaching, but this course offered explanations. My teaching became much more focused and effective."

And the result, of course, is that students benefit. Some of the techniques that Dee learned "have worked a treat", he says. "They have enhanced the atmosphere in class and allowed students to interact on a much more productive level."

But there are also benefits for the five graduates themselves, who are now eligible to join the Higher Education Academy (with the University paying the joining fee and first year's subscription).

And this is just the start: Sue Clayton from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU), which developed, manages and delivers the new programme, hopes about 10 faculty will graduate next year and increasing numbers in the following years. "It represents the commitment the University has to teaching and learning," she says.
Visual identity celebrates first birthday

The University's visual identity, which brought in a fresh new look and feel for Sussex, is one year old. The Bulletin asked Katy Hiles, Publications and Brand Manager, to tell us how the first year has gone.

"A year ago, delivering a whole new set of materials on time was immensely challenging," recalls Katy. "After that, there was an almost inevitable sense of anti-climax, and since then the main challenge has been making the new identity work and keeping up the momentum."

To do this, Katy and her team have been working with staff across campus. "The most important thing is communication: understanding what people need and how we can better support them," she says. Now she wants to consolidate the stronger working relationships that have been built up over the past year, and work more closely with colleagues in the schools and departments.

The focus for the summer will be the 2006 edition of the postgraduate prospectus, and ensuring that it is consistent (both in content and presentation) with other recruitment materials for prospective graduate students. Working with Will Barker in the Print & Reprographics Unit, publications and branding staff also hope to help minimise costs.

By the start of the summer term, comprehensive brand guidelines should be available online. These will be useful for anyone who is involved in applying the visual identity to new materials, in print or online. They include information on templates, colours, use of photos, positioning the logo, etc., and are sufficiently detailed to be used by professional graphic designers working on commissions for the University. And most importantly, says Katy, "We've tested the guidelines over the past year, so we know they work."

The next phase of roll-out will also involve giving a number of specific items (such as t-shirts) the new look. "What we're trying to do is to allow the visual identity to evolve, so that it doesn't get boring and static, but at the same time maintaining its integrity."

And looking back over the first year, what have been the successes? "We've achieved a number of things," says Katy. "But I suppose the key thing is our role in the application figures. We're delighted that the prospectus and the design of other student-recruitment materials have contributed to the rise in the numbers applying to Sussex."

- For advice on using the visual identity, call Katy's colleague Scott Appleton on ext. 2560, email s.a.appleton@sussex.ac.uk.

Update on Associate Tutors

At its spring term meeting on 16 March, Senate will receive a progress report on work to improve the conditions of Associate Tutors at Sussex.

In response to concern at senior management level about the ways in which hourly paid tutors (the former job title of Associate Tutors) were being employed, a review group led by Carol Kedward was set up in autumn 2003. The so-called Kedward Report, which was presented to Senate in June 2004, made three sets of recommendations:

1. Specific recommendations concerned recruitment, appointment, training, management and support needs and improvements in the issuing of contracts and promptness of payment. Hourly paid tutors were to be renamed 'Associate Tutors' and provision was to be made for Associate Tutors to be properly represented at all levels of University functioning.

2. Systemic recommendations sought to create the infrastructure to deliver the specific recommendations. Deans, School Administrative Managers, Heads of Department and Directors of Graduate Studies, co-ordinated and led by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, were to embed the process at departmental and school level.

3. Policy recommendations urged the University to regularly review its policy on the use of Associate Tutors, and Senate to require a progress report in 2004–05 on the Kedward Report's implementation.

Following the Senate meeting, an Associate Tutors Monitoring Group was set up to oversee the process of implementation. Academic faculty and support staff have been working together from the outset and a key member of the group is Jackie Rymell, Assistant Director of Human Resources.

A number of improvements have subsequently taken place:

- The transfer of a significant number of Associate Tutors from fixed-term to open-ended contracts;
- The establishment of a more efficient system for accurate payment;
- Greater parity with other staff groups in terms and conditions of employment (superannuation, maternity/paternity/adoption leave and pay);
- Improved induction, including specific training delivered by the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU);
- Regular monitoring in schools by Directors of Graduate Studies (or nominee) and a senior administrative officer;
- Inclusion in the University's annual monitoring processes (e.g. Periodic Reviews).

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor responsible, Dr Rose Luckin, says: "The members of the Monitoring Group are very aware that while significant progress has been made, there is some unevenness in terms of implementation, and that good practice, though increasingly evident, is not yet universal. We are committed to continuing to make every effort to see that it becomes so."

The Group will remain in place at least until the end of the academic year 2004–05. "Seeing this through is one of my highest priorities," says Rose.

A copy of the Kedward Report is available at www.sussex.ac.uk/secretariat/documents/kedward_report.pdf.

FIRST CLASS

Nearly half of the 24 ministers joining a new Palestinian Cabinet last week hold doctorates – many from top-flight universities in the West. The new housing and public works minister is Dr Mohammed Ishtayeh, who studied economic development at Sussex and heads the economic development council of the Palestinian Authority.

Emeritus Professor Roger Taylor from the Chemistry department has been appointed chair of a panel of five non-Portuguese scientists to evaluate all of the research grant applications submitted to the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (the Portuguese equivalent of EPSRC).
President flies in to some tricky questions

His Excellency President Festus Mogae of Botswana visited his alma mater to deliver a lecture last week (21 February) and was treated to a true Sussex welcome by being challenged by the audience on his economic and social policies.

An alumnus of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), President Mogae praised the academics at IDS and Sussex for giving him the knowledge to take part in Botswana’s development.

He told a standing-room-only crowd at the BSMS lecture theatre about Botswana’s journey from being one of the world’s poorest nations to one of Africa’s high-fliers, and how the country had progressed from a gross domestic product of US$80 per head in 1966 to US$3,500 today. He also told the audience about how proud he was of Botswana’s education and health systems and the fact that the country has been a fully functioning multi-party democracy since independence. “It is true,” said President Mogae, “that only one party has ever been in power, my party. But that suits me fine.”

The president also touched upon areas where Botswana is struggling, such as the battle against HIV which has seen people’s life expectancy cut by a decade: “Whether it’s 10%, 20% or 40% of people with HIV – it’s too much,” he said, adding a plea for “all humanity” to help fight the virus.

Left: Botswanan president Festus Mogae (he’s the one in the suit) surrounded by current IDS students.

When it came to questions the audience put on a typically boisterous Sussex show, scrutinising the president on issues such as the economy and the relocation of bushman tribes.

To the latter question he replied: “We did not force them to leave, we persuaded them.” He said just one tribe had been moved from the Kalahari nature reserve and this was because they were illegally hunting protected animals. “I’m not saying we’re perfect [but] we have nothing to hide,” said President Mogae.

When asked about ideas to diversify the economy away from diamonds, the president laughed: “You tell me! Industrialisation was not successful. Then we tried to make Botswana a tax haven, but the Brits and the Americans didn’t like that.” He suggested tourism was a way forward and praised Kenya’s diverse economy.

As the audience left the talk, they were treated to a rare sight on campus: a presidential motorcade. There was little doubt to whom the silver Mercedes on North-South Road belonged: the number plate ‘BOT 1’ rather gave it away.

News in brief ↓

Find out about the framework agreement
Online information about the framework agreement on pay and grading is now available at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/framework. If you have any questions, contact Helen Bonnick, Iain Bailey or Kelly Lewis in Human Resources or email them at frameworkAgreement@sussex.ac.uk.

Eating Disorders Self Help Group
The meeting time of this group has changed. It now meets every third Wednesday of the month from 6–7.15pm, at the UNISEX drop-in on campus. The aim of the group is to offer a safe environment and shared understanding for those affected by eating disorders. Contact Mel on ext. 3034 or Robbie on ext. 3029.

Memorial for Joan Astill
A memorial event to celebrate the life of Joan Astill will be held on Friday 22 April at 3pm in the Meeting House. After graduating in 1988 Joan held a number of posts at Sussex, most recently in the School of Humanities. She died in November 2004, barely a month into retirement. There is no need to RSVP for the memorial event, but for more details contact Trudy Robinson in Arts A30, ext. 8025, T. robinson@sussex.ac.uk.

English language teacher training
The Sussex Language Institute (SLI) expects to run four intensive four-week programmes leading to the award of the Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, one of two qualifications recognised by the British Council. Start dates are 18 April, 16 May, 4 July and 1 August. The SLI also offers a one-week ‘taster’ course (Introduction to English Language Teaching) starting on 11 April. For details contact Mike Doneelan on m.doneelan@sussex.ac.uk.

LETTERS ↓

But seriously, folks ...

I am writing re. the letter from Dr Andy Medhurst (Bulletin 18 February), ‘Heard the one about the new book’.

Firstly, the publishers (Routledge) have advertised this title for nearly three years as forthcoming. The University bookshop first placed orders in January 2002, but in their defence they have kept us informed that publication had been delayed, awaiting the manuscript from the author.

Secondly, there will be no need to queue in Waterstone’s as the University bookshop will have plenty of copies in stock when the book is finally published, but I am sure Andy was only joking!

Kristian Berggreen, Bookshop Manager

EDB coffee bar goodbyes

I saw the letter (Bulletin 4 February) from Jenny

Money (thank you for your support) and felt the need to reply personally.

In all the years I worked in the EDB coffee bar I never had any complaints from my customers. I had a very good hygiene record and I would dearly love to be supplying fresh ‘edible’ sandwiches to you all.

I was on certificated sick leave for several months suffering from stress due to the upheaval caused when Catering Services were forced to take over the coffee bar. I also suffered a broken wrist, which prevented me working for some of those months.

I decided, after much thought and discussions with my family, to take my doctor’s advice and tender my resignation. I will be on medication for the foreseeable future but I’m feeling more myself again.

The coffee bar was like a home from home to me, with a whole new second family. Thank you to all my loyal customers and friends for your support and friendship over 12 very enjoyable years.

Liz Allen, ex-Supervisor, EDB coffee bar

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The meeting time of this group has changed. It now meets every third Wednesday of the month from 6–7.15pm, at the UNISEX drop-in on campus. The aim of the group is to offer a safe environment and shared understanding for those affected by eating disorders. Contact Mel on ext. 3034 or Robbie on ext. 3029.

Memorial for Joan Astill
A memorial event to celebrate the life of Joan Astill will be held on Friday 22 April at 3pm in the Meeting House. After graduating in 1988 Joan held a number of posts at Sussex, most recently in the School of Humanities. She died in November 2004, barely a month into retirement. There is no need to RSVP for the memorial event, but for more details contact Trudy Robinson in Arts A30, ext. 8025, T. robinson@sussex.ac.uk.

English language teacher training
The Sussex Language Institute (SLI) expects to run four intensive four-week programmes leading to the award of the Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, one of two qualifications recognised by the British Council. Start dates are 18 April, 16 May, 4 July and 1 August. The SLI also offers a one-week ‘taster’ course (Introduction to English Language Teaching) starting on 11 April. For details contact Mike Doneelan on m.doneelan@sussex.ac.uk.
Academic events↓

12.30pm Centre for Life History seminar: Jayne Lawson (Kent), Engaging community groups in HE through local history. Library meeting room.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Aurore Varin (Centre for European Reform), The referenda for the European Constitution. Arts 2.14.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Christian Lund (Roskilde, Denmark), Negotiating ‘space’ and ‘the past’ in land struggles in northern Ghana. Arts 223.

4.30pm German-Jewish Studies seminar: Susan Cohen (Southampton), Rescue the perishing. Arts B127.

6.30pm Professorial lecture: Peter Cheng (Sussex), Diagrams: Cognition, discovery and invention, BSMS lecture theatre.

WED 9 MAR

1pm IDS seminar: Anton Smanorowski and Alyson Brody (IDS), Microfinance: A silver bullet or just good business? IDS 221.

5pm Migration seminar: Michael Samers (Nottingham), An emerging geopolitics of ‘illegal’ immigration in the European Union. Arts C203.

THU 10 MAR


5pm Q-Soc colloquium: Kathy Rimer (Sussex), Chasing the big bang from the South Pole and from space. Pev 11A.

FRI 11 MAR

2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Francesca Sanna Randaccio (Rome, Italy), The Referendum - a valuable weapon for centralised versus de-centralised R&D. Freeman Centre G2/24.

SAT 12 MAR

9am Archaeology symposium: Chichester lecture theatre.

MON 14 MAR

9am COGS symposium: Art, bodily, embodiment. BSMS lecture theatre.

3pm International Relations and Politics seminar: Earl Gammon (Sussex), The psychogenesis of modern political economy and the demise of Christian moral economy. Arts 223.

5pm Education lecture: Peter Neumann (Oxford), Mathematically challenged: children of all ages. Arts 813.

TUE 15 MAR

8am Archaeological Society talk: Peter Drewett & Dick Tapper (Sussex), Black Patch revisited. Arts A5.

12noon Biochem- istry and Genetics & Development seminar: Stan Burgess (Leeds), The molecular motor dynein. JMS lecture theatre.

1.15pm Anthropology seminar: Joel Robbins (California, USA), San Diego, time and the problem of Christian culture. Arts C233.

WED 16 MAR

10.30am Bible and Literature day: Gabriel Jasplovi (Sussex), Vibrant spaces. Oman Rotem, From Eden to Babel. Meeting House.

2pm Music seminar: Cecilia Wei (Sussex), Some musings on music and performance arts’ relationship with recording technology. Fairclough Hall 120.

5pm Migration seminar: Shanmit Sagar (Sussex), British Muslim communities and social exclusion. Arts C233.

THU 17 MAR

4pm Social Psychology and Health Psychology seminar: Gillian Bendelow (Sussex), Emotional bodies in health and illness. Pev 11B.

5pm Sussex Development lecture: Ingo Kaul (UN Development Programme), The role of global public goods. Arts A1.

6.45pm Professorial lecture: Jonathan Cohen (BSMS). The leopard changes his spots: From childhood fever to flesh eating bacteria. Wellcome Trust Lecture Hall, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 1AG.

FRI 18 MAR

2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Jeff Readman (Brighton), Title TBA. Freeman Centre G2/24.

Small ads↓

Childminding/housekeeping: Offered in B'twn/Hove by Romanian wife of research fellow. E 9am8@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 2 rooms in 4-bed house. Suit PGs or mature UGS. 1 large room £240, 1 smaller room £274 pmm + bills. Linda Martin on 07743 554043. E Sandy at rebelcollective@hotmail.com or Stuart at s.cameron@ids.ac.uk.

To let: Large sunny room in huge flat. Private entrance & bathroom. Available 1 Mar. £500 pmm incl. Suit staff or PG. T 0203975.


Paperbacks £2, hardbacks £4. Lst available. E p. jeffery@ids.ac.uk.

For sale: Private collection of over 100 recent & new German books & novels. Pp. cover - £40. Photo available. E p. jeffery@ids.ac.uk.

For sale: 3rd de Vauhall Consa 1.2 16V comfort 51 reg. (2001). Air con., 30K miles. Tax & MoT Sep. £4,500 ono. E hobil53@sussex.ac.uk.


Wanted: Lodger to share flat on B'ton/Hove border with professional female, Double room + large balcony, TV set, wide broadband. Available Mar. Veggie & N/S. £50 p/w + share bills. T 07789 595966 or E sarah1811@hotmail.com.

Arts events↓

EXHIBITIONS

Until 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 match between an individual’s isolated perception and van der Meer’s camera’s more distant view of our behaviour. GAC.

FILM

Sun 6 Mar 6pm

Heart Huckabees (15). GAC.

8pm The Manchurian Candidate (PG). GAC.

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

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