In the nude in the name of nature

Students' Union President Roger Hylton has described how he is so bashful being naked, he tried to pose for a nude calendar with his clothes on! Roger is one of 13 game students who agreed to bare all for the first ever naked calendar of Sussex students.

Roger, February's star, was driven to Hen Heaven – a chicken sanctuary near Henfield – for the shoot. "I initially imagined I'd be shot with my top off and trousers on," he explains. "But then they wanted me to take my trousers off as well. We'd come all this way and I didn't want to be a spoilsport so I said 'OK, I'll do it.'"

The finished calendar, produced by the Environmental Society, features a bevy of Sussex's most outgoing students displaying all their wares in the name of ecological awareness. Each month has a green theme, encouraging us to do our bit for the Earth.

Roger's portrait draws attention to organic farming; biology student Ben Hart displays his meat and two veg (well, actually, a massive courgette and two apples) in the hope we will gulp down more locally produced produce; while Environmental Science finalist Miriam Rose straddles a bicycle in the buff to encourage us all to work up a sweat on the way to campus.

Miriam explains that the calendar has been in production for over a year, what with raising the money to produce it and actually taking the shots. And the project became a labour of love: "It was dedication," she says. "We had to get up at 5am for a week to get all the pictures. After all, you can't have someone starker outside the USU Shop at 9am."

But Miriam thinks the process has been worthwhile: "It's been really, really rewarding. As a society we do a lot of serious campaigning, but this aimed to show how campaigning can be fun."

"The calendar's message lies in with the fact that the campus is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and everything should be done to preserve it," adds Roger. "It comes at a poignant time when John Prescott has just said yes to the building of a stadium over the road."

The Environmental Society hope to raise £3,000 from the calendar, which will be split between Brighton Pease and Environment Centre, the Campaign for Climate Change and Roger's beloved Hen Heaven.

Little peckers: Face of Feb Roger Hylton feeds the chickens at Hen Heaven.
On your bike: May's star, Miriam Rose, suggests a bracing bike ride might be just the job.
Photos by students Paul Choy and Michael Alexander.

Calendars cost £5 each and are available from the Students' Union Shop, Falmer House or online at www.usu.net/environmentaltoursity

University Challengers trounce opposition

Sussex romped home to victory against Sheffield University on BBC TV's 'University Challenge' this month – beating the Yorkshire institution by the highest margin ever in the history of the quiz show.

But far from bragging about her part in the team's historic win (by 235 points to 100), Biochemistry student Anna Fuller says she felt quite sorry for Sheffield: "I'm so glad we did well, though I hadn't expected it to be by such a large amount. I felt quite bad for the other team; we were chatting before we filmed and they all seemed really nice!"

Anna and her three team mates – Chemistry student Noel Cooper, BSMS medic Remi Gullachan and PGCE student Nick Blackett (the team captain) – were chosen following heats masterminded by the University's Science Society.

They then ploughed through several untelevised heats before ending up in front of the cameras, the audience and Jeremy Paxman at Granada Studios in Manchester.

Sussex's programme was one of four shows recorded the day they were there and Anna and can confirm that Paxman is indeed akin to a "scary headmaster".

How did Anna feel when she realised they'd won? "I was so excited. But it was quite frustrating because we had to sit still while the credits rolled when I just wanted to jump about and release all of the stress."

The team's win means that the fab four will be back in action on BBC Two early next year, battting it out in the second round.

Inside

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The newsletter of the University of Sussex

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New grant marks four-decade partnership with Rolls-Royce.

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Is your aunt's Christmas pressie lurking on the back page?
Forty years of funding

Professor Peter Childs
Director of the University Technology Centre in Aero-Thermal Systems

The University Technology Centre in Aero-Thermal Systems, located in the Thermo-Fluid Mechanics Research Centre, has just been awarded more than £600,000 by Rolls-Royce plc. This grant extends the continuous funding of research at Sussex by Rolls-Royce to over 40 years.

During this time, research has concentrated on the mechanical engineering disciplines of fluid flow and associated heat transfer in jet engines, with a particular emphasis on cooling and sealing of rotating compressor and turbine components.

The behaviour of such rotating flows can be counter-intuitive because it is complicated by the influence of Coriolis forces. Although sophisticated computer modelling techniques are used as design tools to predict heat transfer and flow behaviour, these models need validating with experimental data.

To achieve this, a unique combination of facilities have been developed at Sussex. These include Particle Image Velocimetry, Laser Doppler Anemometry, thermal imaging, high-speed data acquisition, traceable laboratories and air supplies, which are capable of providing up to 12 kg/s of air flow at three atmospheres of pressure.

Current research will concentrate on providing data to validate and to improve design tools applied to predicting the frictional loss of rotating components and the heat transfer from compressor and turbine discs.

This work is very important for the new higher efficiency and quieter engines such as the Trent 900 and Trent 1000, which have been selected for the double-decker Airbus A380 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner respectively.

Artistic feel for University Christmas card

The University’s extensive art collection has been raided to find a design for this year’s Christmas card.

One of a series of 12 pieces by local artist Bob Brighton was chosen. The design features a series of symmetrical and brightly coloured rectangles—reminiscent, some suggest, of the coloured bricks on the campus’ celebrated Meeting House.

Called simply ‘414’, the work (along with its 11 siblings) was donated to the Library this year. Bob’s inspiration for the series, he says, is the wholeness of life. “If I want to say something universal, expansive and total, I use 12 pieces— it’s a comment on totality.” Bob is a prolific local artist whose works can be found as close to home as Vamadev College and as far afield as the Hospital Roberto del Rio in Santiago, Chile.

Christmas cards are available at 60p each. Simply call Chrissie Anthony on ext. 8888 or email c.m.anthony@sussex.ac.uk with the relevant budget code. They are also available in the Bookshop and Students’ Union Shop, Falmer House.
The past year has been a difficult one for the University, but we have made significant progress in addressing the main challenges we face.

Student recruitment has gone well this year; undergraduate recruitment continues to strengthen and overseas numbers are very close to target, though postgraduate numbers have been a bit disappointing in some areas.

But our financial position remains quite fragile, not least because rising costs are adding almost £1m per year to our bills for electricity, gas and water. Towards the end of last year, we identified the need for savings from 2006 onwards of perhaps £2.5m per year, on top of the savings achieved for 2005-6, in order to create headroom for investment in academic posts and in infrastructure. Rising utility costs give us a more stretching target but do not change the essential nature of the challenge. The need for continued economies needs to be emphasised—every pound of inessential spending is a pound less available for high-priority needs.

I know that the continuing financial stringency is a source of frustration to everyone who sees pressing needs to address, particularly in relation to the next Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). It is, however, important to emphasise that decisions on new academic investment and on refilling empty posts are not simply being parked on financial grounds; on the contrary, a very active programme of work is being undertaken in preparation for key decisions next term.

Our current budgetary and resource allocation mechanisms need fundamental revision before they can adequately guide strategic investment decisions; and that revision is currently being undertaken by a group chaired by Professor Mary Stuart.

We also need to strengthen our decision-making mechanisms, and proposals for a significant rationalisation of the committee structure are being developed by Dr Phil Harvey for consideration by Senate and Council at the end of this term. We are aiming to strengthen the links between senior management, Senate and Council in the committee structure, to align that structure more closely with the University's strategic priorities in teaching and research, and to achieve a significant reduction in the number of committees.

Our present structure wastes a great deal of valuable staff time in preparing for and attending committees, much of whose business would be more effectively and efficiently dealt with by individual action by heads of department, directors of studies, heads of professional divisions, and others.

I am also proposing some re structuring of senior management, bringing the senior managers of the professional services as well as of the academic units into the senior management group, and locating central decision-making responsibility more clearly with a smaller Vice-Chancellor's executive team, consisting of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor/Pro-Vice-Chancellors (PVcas), the Registrar & Secretary, the Finance Director and the Director of Human Resources.

The detailed responsibilities of PVcas will be restructured and will include stronger links with schools, with one being responsible for the social science and arts schools, one for the science schools. New appointments will be made to the PVC positions, which will be advertised externally as well as internally.

Not all of these changes can be made immediately, but I hope, with the approval of Senate and Council, to make a substantial proportion of the proposed changes from January, and to phase in the rest by October, so that the University’s decision-making mechanisms are in good shape to face the challenges we face in 2006.

National recognition for CDEC's work

Staff in the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC) have received national recognition for their work.

At the National Careers Awards ceremony in Bristol this month, Catherine Reynolds and Claire Ward received the second prize (highly commended) from the Institute of Career Guidance for CDEC's student development work, which involves three schemes:

- Student Development Fund (SDF)
- Student Tutoring and Mentoring Project
- Student Work Shadow Programme

All three schemes offer students the opportunity to develop self-awareness, explore their career decisions, build self-efficacy and confidence, develop transferable skills and recognise the importance of personal qualities such as tenacity and team-work.

Catherine had already been named a runner-up in the Innovation Award from the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) for her work on the SDF.

The SDF invites students to bid for money to implement a group project that has personal and community-development outcomes. It receives around 24 applications a year and recent projects have included making videos, producing a political magazine, editing and publishing a magazine of creative writing, sending musical instruments to a music school in Cuba, and organising drama productions.

One student team selected for the SDF commented: "We did this entirely on our own initiative. We have learned so much about people, about entrepreneurship and about how to put on a successful event. This has been an amazing learning experience."

Another CDEC staff member recognised by the AGCAS was Bridget Millmore, who received its Research Award for her contribution to a published report on the value of postgraduate study. Bridget worked on Higher Degrees of Freedom: The value of postgraduate study with the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), which is based on the Sussex campus.

Questionnaire data was supplemented with 15 hours of semi-structured telephone qualitative interviews by Bridget. The study provides insights into study outcomes, labour-market expectations, career routes and decisions.

LETTERS

A welcome development

The Deputy Prime Minister's decision to grant planning permission for the Falmer stadium (see Bulletin 4 November) is a welcome development.

It resolves a long period of uncertainty for the football club, and offers the University new opportunities to raise its profile in the wider local community. Notices and adverts in the car parks, stadium, programme, etc. can only encourage more local people to enrol at Sussex. Perhaps some revenue from match-day parking could be used to sponsor local students? Traffic flow during working hours should hopefully not be drastically affected, though the stadium should offer an opportunity to improve campus access.

Professor George Mather, Psychology

A memorable occasion

May I thank everyone who came to my leaving party and contributed to my farewell presents. It was a memorable occasion and one I shall always remember. When sitting in the members' enclosure at the County Ground next season I shall be reminded of my colleagues at the University who made this possible. I enjoyed my 36 years at the University, particularly working with you all. May I wish you the very best for the future.

John Golds, former Head of Research Finance Office

If you need a good reason to join us in UNISON

You're less likely to be sacked - trade union members are only half as likely to be sacked as non-members.

Will that do? To join Unison, contact Felicity Harrison on x8968 or F.A.Harrison@hrs.ac.uk

VC's VOICE

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor
Academic events

MON 21 NOV
1pm Geography seminar: Tony Wakeford (Sussex), Time travel with the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. Arts C175.

1pm IDS Feminism in Development seminar: Becky Einhorn (Brighton), Gendered resource struggles in Indonesia. IDS 220.

3pm International Relations seminar: Johanna Montgomery (Sussex), A new finance-led mode of regulation? Accumulation, regulation, Rusell 30.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Richard Coates (Sussex), Historical and archival methods in linguistic research. Arts D440.

4pm Psychology seminar: Cigdem Kagitcibasi (Koc University, Istanbul), Psychological contributions to enhancing cognitive competence. Pev 183.

4.30pm Seminar: Noboru H Komiyama (Cambridge), Genetic dissection approach to study RNA receptor signalling pathways. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

5pm Education seminar: Louise Morley (Sussex), Gender equity in Commonwealth higher education. Arts E419.

TUE 22 NOV
12.30pm Life History seminar: Al Thomson & Sandra Koe-Wing (Sussex), Developing a Mass-Observation digital resource for teaching learning, Library Meeting Room.

2.15pm SEI Seminar: Nick Sitter (Norwegian School of Management), Norway and the EU. EDB 121.


5pm New Metaphysical Poetry at Sussex: Jule Cederton (author), The art of creative writing, Quest Room, Meeting House.

WED 23 NOV
1pm SPRU/CENTRIM seminar: Piera Morbach, Socially sustainable technologies in medicine. Freeman Centre Social Space.

1pm Seminar: Tony Carr (Sussex), title TBA. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

1pm IDS Seminar: Philippe Sands, QC, America and the making of global rules. IDS 221.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: John C. Wells (UCL), How we use intonation in English. Arts D440.

5pm Migration seminar: Kira Kosnick (Nottingham Trent), Queenie migrant club cultures in metropolitan spaces. Arts C233.


THU 24 NOV
1pm IDS Seminar: Mark Robinson (IDS), The politics of state capacity, IDS 121.

4pm History seminar: Alexander Gbppert (Free University Berlin), The British Empire and Exhibition at Wembley and other European exhibitions, 1880-1930. ArtsA155.

4.30pm SPT seminar: Daniel Chemsel (Santiago de Compostela, Spain), Empire, internationalism and the crisis of the mid 20th century. BMST lecture theatre.

FRI 25 NOV
1pm IDS Environment seminar: Mari Martiainen (British Wind Energy Association), Should IDS embrace the revolution? IDS 120.

2.15pm SPRU/CENTRIM seminar: Andrea Mina (Manchester), Mapping evolutionary trajectories: An application to the growth and transformation of medical knowledge and medical markets. Freeman Centre G24/25.

4.30pm Russian Society seminar: Natali Murray (State Hermitage Museum), Through Malevich's black square. Arts A155.

MON 28 NOV
3pm International Relations seminar: Duncan Wilgan (Sussex), An international political economy of derivatives. Russell 30.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Mark Robinson (IDS), Formal methods in linguistic research. Arts D440.

4pm Economics seminar: Mike Sumner (Sussex), Money demand in Thailand. Russell 28.

5pm Education seminar: Peter Thomson (Nottingham), School front offices as frontier space. Arts E410.

TUE 29 NOV
12.30pm Life History seminar: Katherine Campbell (producer), 'WW2 People's War' at BBC Library Meeting Room.

1pm Seminar: Paul Evans (Imperial), Regulation of pro-inflammatory signalling by ubiquitin. BMST lecture theatre.

2.15pm SIE seminar: Alan Mayhew & Jim Roll (Sussex), EU budget roundtable. EDB 121.

4pm German-Jewish studies seminar: Eduard Tirim (Sussex), Adventures in the archives: From Kafkaesque attics and Krausian notebooks to Freudian memories. Arts B127.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: James Fairhead (Sussex), When global technoscience meets poverty? Pharmaceutical research and an economy of blood in The Gambia. Arts C233.

6.30pm Professional lecture: Lindsay Smith (Sussex), Lewis Carroll's photographic imprint. BMST lecture theatre.

WED 30 NOV
1pm Seminar: Kevin Prise (Gray Cancer Institute), The role of non-DNA targeted responses in low dose radiation exposure. Genome Centre Seminar Room.


5pm Migration seminar: John McGregor (Reading), Zimbabweans in the UK: Negotiating work and family. Arts C233.

THU 1 DEC
4pm History seminar: Laci Loeb (Sussex), Rezo Kazeev's rescue of 1,670 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis. Arts A155.

FRI 2 DEC
2.15pm SPRU/CENTRIM seminar: Erik Milstone (Sussex), Mad cows and Englishmen - part 2. Freeman Centre G24/25.

4.30pm Philosophy Society: Margaret Boden (Sussex), Creativity and conceptual art. Arts C233.

Small ads


For sale: Toshiba Satellite laptop, 248 Mb RAM, Intel Celeron 1.06 Ghz, 14" (1024x768), display, 16 Gb HDD, Windows XP, Microsoft Works, CD-RW/DVD, floppy disk, 2 USB ports, £300. E: rm.pilkington@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Round dining table + 4 kitchen chairs. No frills. £300. T: 491073.

For sale: Renault Clio. N reg. (96) 3 dr hatchback. MtTrax June 06. FSH. £995 ono. E: a.m.blake@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Mountain bike, 26" wheels, 15 gears, crossbar. £75 ono. E: a.milts@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 8447.

To let: U/F double room in 3-bed house off Lewes Rd. Share with 2 professionals. Suit PG/staff/mature student. £333 pcm + bils. T: 07905 096719 or E: hg64@easysurf.com.

To let: Double room in 2-bed 1st-floor flat in Seven Dials, Hove. Share with female PhD student. Double glazing, GCH, broadband, etc. Suit PG or postdoc. £390 pcm. T: 07987 543490, E: georgina.arken@gmail.com.

For sale: LMAX Astro 12205 flatbed scanner/cooper (+$500 cable, mains adaptor, Aroche Photolab 15 £200). T: 07905 096719 or E: a.j.woodbridge@sussex.ac.uk.

Holiday let: Detached 3-bed villa on hillside, Sea 300m. Between Malaga and Nerja on Costa Del Sol. From £165 p/w, T: 07905 096719.

For sale: 2-bed Victorian terrace house + garden in Nevill Rd, Lewes. £229,950. See ad in The Argus, E: davebriet@gmail.com or T: 07971 987966.

For sale: Mobile phone, Sony Ericsson J750i. Unused, boxed + accessories. Use your own Orange sim card. £175, E: c.i.farley@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 3895.

Arts events

FILM
Sun 27 Nov 8pm 36 Hour Film Rush (18)
Films by Sussex students who have taken us up the challenge to make a film in 36 hours. Gander Arts Centre (GAC).

EXHIBITIONS
Until Sun 27 Nov
Euan Duff, New Society & Peter Mitchell: Archives from the new British photography of the 70s
Three key archives of 1970s photography including Euan Duffs pioneering work (some of which is drawn from the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex) and Peter Mitchell's early colour documentary in Yorkshire. GAC.

Sat 19 Nov to Sun 19 Dec
Impossible Geographies 1.1: Memory
An interactive installation by Petra Geminboeck with Sussex lecturer Mary Agniesz Kiel. Fabrica gallery, Duke Street, Brighton.
The Project Office

Formed when ITS was restructured in March 2005, the Project Office’s main role is to manage the continuous programme of change necessary for the University to fully exploit IT in its core business, and to use the expertise of all ITS staff to identify, specify and implement new systems. The Project Office brings a more formal approach to the management of projects, and involves individuals developing their expertise in project management. Implementing new systems is always a challenge as it involves a degree of uncertainty, but the Project Office’s experience in managing risks will ensure that projects deliver at the required quality, on time and within budget.

To formalise and build on its experience in project management, ITS is adopting the PRINCE2 methodology which is owned by the UK Office of Government Commerce, and used throughout the public sector, including a number of UK universities. A major function of project management is procurement, so this is another Project Office role, consisting of two main aspects. Firstly, to ensure that ITS obtain excellent value for money when purchasing new equipment, and secondly to collaborate with the University’s Procurement Office to help other Schools and departments to ensure they purchase the best solution to their IT needs at the minimum cost.

The most valuable asset of ITS is the expertise and skill of its staff, so the third major role of the Project Office is to ensure that everyone in ITS continuously develops their skills to meet the present and future needs of the University.

Another major aspect of project management is quality, ensuring that products are “fit for purpose” and this includes compliance. Therefore the Project Office is responsible for dealing with issues such as the use of the email system to send unauthorised mass mailings. You are reminded that you should report such compliance issues to the Enquiry Desk in Chichester 1, or by email to support@its.sussex.ac.uk.

Staff changes

Simon Barnes, Leila Burrell-Davis, Jenny Hopkins, Richard Inskip and Jamie McDonald all left IT Services this summer. We would like to wish them luck and welcome the new staff below.

Kes Khurshedd recently joined Workstation Services as Workstation Environments Officer. In the Project Office, Amy Walker joined from the Sussex Institute as a Project Officer and Ann Fletcher from Informatics as Resource Manager. Sarah Moult also joined the Project Office as Logistics Officer. In September, Rosalind Aloor started as Business Applications Developer in Business Information Services and Tessa Rogowski started in October as Head of Workstation Services.

In November Patricia O’Brien starts as Software Applications Manager in Client Services and Simon Davis moves from Engineering to take up the post of Storage Officer in Infrastructure Services.

ICT Induction

All new students - undergraduates and postgraduates - were given the opportunity to attend a short IT induction at the beginning of the Autumn Term. This included information about the IT facilities specific to the Sussex campus (login to an IT Services computer, change passwords, login to and use of Sussex Direct, email and the Sussex printing system). Any student who missed these sessions can pick up a Welcome CD and booklet from IT Services Enquiries in Chichester 1.

1178 undergraduates (out of a total of 2878) and 465 postgraduates (out of a total of 1276) attended these sessions. A full breakdown of numbers is as follows:

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<th>School</th>
<th>Attended</th>
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<tr>
<td>BSMS</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hums</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1188</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>LifeSci</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>643</td>
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<tr>
<td>SciTech</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>583</td>
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The results of the evaluation at the end of the induction found that the general view was that the information was a useful introduction to using IT at Sussex.

Welcome CD 2005

This contains information about how to get started with our IT services as well as a range of useful software for both PC and Mac users. Staff and students can pick up a copy from IT Services Enquiries, Chichester 1.

Please send any contributions for the next (Spring 2006) issue of ITS News to Chris Limb at C.Limb@sussex.ac.uk by the beginning of Spring Term 2006. ITS News is normally published termly and is online at sussex.ac.uk/its/itsnewslitter. New services or changes to existing services, and announcements of any urgent changes that cannot be published in advance in ITS News will be advertised in Latest News at sussex.ac.uk/its/news, also available as an RSS Newsfeed at sussex.ac.uk/its/news/rss.xml.
Fighting spam at Sussex

Almost everyone who uses email will be familiar and frustrated with the endless slew of unsolicited emails pushing cheap prescription drugs, attempting to defraud them, offering chances to partake in get-rich-quick schemes and selling dodgy financial products that clog up their inboxes: spam.

Spam - which derives its name from Monty Python’s 1970 Spam Sketch in which the word “spam” was endlessly repeated and sung - is now responsible for over 60% of the internet’s email traffic. Despite being reviled almost universally by its recipients, spamming remains a popular sales technique mainly because it costs the sender so very little - most of the cost of sending email is picked up by the internet service provider and the recipient. In addition, even if 9,999 spam emails out of 10,000 are ignored and deleted, spammers send messages out in such bulk that it remains worth their while - a single spam email can be sent to millions of recipients.

It’s almost impossible to avoid spam altogether, but there are ways in which you can cut down on the amount you receive. Be cautious with your email address - don’t just give it out willy-nilly. If possible, use two email addresses, one for personal and/or official correspondence and one for providing to online services such as shopping or mailing lists that require an email address to subscribe. Avoid publishing your personal email address on the web, and where this is necessary, “encode” it so that it is not recognised by the automatic “spambots” that trawl the internet looking for fresh targets. This is the method used in the Sussex online Staff and Student directories.

Here at Sussex we subscribe to and use all three levels of the Mail Abuse Prevention Scheme (MAPS) email blocking service:

\[\text{mail-abuse.com}\]

We also maintain a local blacklist of spammer addresses. Sources of spam are added to this list by members of the IT Services Systems team, mainly when large amounts of spam show up in the mail queues.

Finally, we run a system on the mail server called Bogofilter which tries to identify spam by looking at the whole content of the message. At present we have configured it to mark the subject lines of suspected messages:

\[\text{***SPAM***}\]

You can therefore filter any messages thus marked either using filters internal to your email “client” (program) or by using Exim filters on the server itself. Details of how to set up the latter can be found on our web pages at:

\[\text{sussex.ac.uk/its/email/filtering}\]

In brief...

PC clusters

Over the summer vacation, a number of changes were made to the IT Services PC clusters across campus.

The clusters Arts D202 and ENGG2 389 have been closed, PC numbers being increased in other clusters to compensate. The machine for crediting printing accounts (PABS) in Arts D202 has been moved to Arts C168.

80 new PCs have been installed in several areas, these include DVD “burning” facilities. For a detailed list of facilities available in each of our cluster rooms, please see the web page at:

\[\text{sussex.ac.uk/its/facilities/pc/pclusters}\]

Workstation Services staff are currently investigating new and more flexible methods of installing software on cluster PCs in preparation for the delivery of a new desktop for the academic year 2006/2007.

Please remember that PC clusters are intended to be “quiet areas”, so if you wish to collaborate and chat with colleagues whilst using your laptop, please take advantage of the IT Services wireless coverage in many of the campus cafés and common rooms.

Free IT training

IT Services will no longer charge for staff and students to attend IT training sessions.

However, those who book a course but do not attend (and have not cancelled the course within 24 hours of the course) will be liable to pay a non-attendance fee of £25 for staff and £5 for students.

For details of the courses available, please see our web pages at:

\[\text{sussex.ac.uk/its/training/courses}\]

If a course you wish to attend has no date listed, please add yourself to the waiting list by clicking the appropriate link on the above page. You will be contacted by IT Services as soon as a date for that particular training session is scheduled.

IT surgeries

Gillian Powell will be holding IT surgeries for staff with specific IT queries on Word, Excel or Mulberry every Wednesday morning from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

If you would like to book a place, please email:

\[\text{training-matters@sussex.ac.uk} \]
Buying Microsoft Software from ITS

Student scheme

Students at Sussex will be able to purchase Microsoft Office Professional 2003 for Windows or Microsoft Office Professional 2004 for Macs for only £30 and Microsoft Visual Studio 2003 for Windows for only £16. IT Services are able to offer this low price only if we make a bulk purchase of 300 CDs and licences. Each student is entitled to purchase one copy of each, so we need to know how many students are interested in taking up this offer. If you want to register your interest in this scheme you should visit the online form at:

sussex.ac.uk/its/facilities/software/interest

(requires authentication) and indicate which software you would be interested in purchasing.

Once 300 or more students have registered their interest in this way, we will order the software and let you know by email when it's ready to purchase.

If you subsequently decide you do not want to purchase the software then please return to the form and remove yourself from the list.

Staff scheme

IT Services is also able to offer staff the opportunity to purchase Microsoft Office Professional 2003 for Windows or Microsoft Office Professional for Macs at a reduced price of £15. The offer is designed to enable staff to work at home using Microsoft Office on their own computer.

Please note that the offer is only available to University of Sussex staff who need the use of a computer at home for their University work. This includes:

- all academic staff except those who are Visiting or those employed as Associates
- other staff who use a computer for their University work
- part time staff who work more than 200 hours per annum and meet the other two conditions mentioned above

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please visit IT Services Enquiries in Chichester 1 for clarification or see:

sussex.ac.uk/its/facilities/software/msstaff

Wireless and ResNet

The "Roaming Network" at Sussex is used to deliver both the Wireless and ResNet networks. However, there are significant differences between the two services.

Wireless coverage is provided around campus by IT Services as a way of allowing large numbers of students and staff to connect during their working day and is currently available in many locations around campus (including most of the library) listed online at:

sussex.ac.uk/its/roaming/locations#wireless

NB: there is no wireless access in the campus residences apart from in the ITS PC cluster in York House. This is provided as a way of extending the number of students who can access our systems when working there.

ResNet (the Residential Network) has a remit to provide students with a dedicated connection within their living space by extending wired connectivity to all student residences on campus. Please note that this facility is not provided by IT Services but by Residential Services. ResNet is available now on-campus in Lewes Court II (61-125) and off-campus in Holland House/King's Road. Access to ResNet in all other residences is dependent on cabling works being undertaken by contractors on behalf of Residential Services. IT Services are currently awaiting confirmation as to when these works will take place.

Until this has been done, access to the Residential Network is only available on campus in Lewes Court II. For further information see:

sussex.ac.uk/its/roaming/resnet

The Roaming Network also provides a number of designated wired network points around campus indicated by the above sticker. These locations include General Teaching Space (for example the Russell Building) which may be useful for lecturers who wish to use their laptops whilst teaching.

sussex.ac.uk/its/roaming/locations#wired

Coming soon...

Improvements to personal storage facilities

Recently the demand for file space has greatly increased. Initially we were able to allocate extra storage to staff and students who had a genuine work related need. However this resulted in the servers which held the N drives becoming overloaded. Consequently at the end of the Summer Term 2005 it became necessary for IT Services to temporarily refuse all requests for increases in staff and student personal storage space (N drives).

You will be pleased to hear that the situation is now in the process of being resolved. Within the next few weeks we will be moving the N drives to the new SANs (storage area networks), which will result in a more reliable service and the lifting of the 40MB size restriction on the N drive. Watch out for further information on IT Services Latest News.

Christmas and New Year opening hours

The majority of IT Services open-access facilities will close by 3.00pm on Friday 23 December 2005 and will re-open at 9.00am on Wednesday 4 January 2006. IT Services plans to keep 24-hour access PC cluster in York House open throughout the closure as long as Security is staffed. Please note that the 24-hour PC clusters in Chichester 1, Pevensie and John Maynard-Smith will not be available during the holiday period and will be closed along with other clusters on Friday 23 December. During the holiday closure period the networking and central computing facilities provided by IT Services, such as email and web site, will be left running. There are no arrangements for cover. Please report any fault or problem to the Fault Line (email: faults@its.sussex.ac.uk; telephone: 4141 and leave a message). Any faults will be investigated after IT Services staff return on Wednesday 4 January 2006.
Trevor’s news
I am writing this informal column for ITS News as an update on what I have been doing and future developments that may affect the services that ITS will be providing for the University.

We have had several staff changes since the last ITS News, see sussex.ac.uk/its/staff/ for our latest organisation charts.

To make it easier for people to book meetings and appointments with me we have also set up a special email address:

Trevor.Potten.Appointments@sussex.ac.uk

Sally Fairhall manages this for me and updates my diary.

My recent activities

Apple
I have recently been discussing several things with Apple computers. They are currently very interested in working with more educational establishments, and I am keen to ensure that Sussex is represented. We had a ‘get to know you’ meeting with their UK folks recently, and a good number of IT Services folks were able to attend. In particular we may be doing an experiment with Richard Stobart’s team and a team from SocCul around using Apple machines. More to come!

LeNSE
Some of you will know that I am a Director and board member of LeNSE, the company that supplies our JANET connections. This team has been discussing some new ideas about security and disaster recovery on a regional basis.

Important projects coming up

Document Management
A working party has begun to look at Document Management (DM) and how it might benefit on an enterprise basis the whole University. Projects in eLearning, Research Assessment Exercise and Institutional Repositories are being set up and DM is a key part of this structure.

Student residences networking
Amy Walker, our new Project Manager, has now taken on the Project Management of the ITS involvement in the Residential Services project to provide networking access in student residences. I look forward to us having a strong project and then a great service to students.

Trevor Potten
Director of IT Services

IT Services: contacts

General enquiries
Online: sussex.ac.uk/its/helpdesk
Email: support@its.sussex.ac.uk
Tel: (07) 8090

Enquiries and help desk: Chichester 1, Monday - Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm

Reporting faults on IT Services maintained equipment
Please check Latest News at sussex.ac.uk/its/news before reporting a fault. If Latest News is unavailable, there will be a recorded message on the Status telephone line giving the current status of services (07) 8776

Online: sussex.ac.uk/its/faults
Tel: 4141

IT Services (Media Services) - for GTS equipment enquiries
Online: sussex.ac.uk/its/msu
Email: msu@its.sussex.ac.uk
Tel: (07) 8022, (07) 2519

Media Services: EDB 252, Mon-Thu, 9.00am-5.30pm, Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

IT Services: for staff in the Arts schools
Online: sussex.ac.uk/its/arts
Email: arts.support@its.sussex.ac.uk

IT Services: for staff in the Administration
If your enquiry relates to new user accounts, passwords, induction and training courses, email, office, or similar services, please email support@its.sussex.ac.uk
If your enquiry relates to an equipment fault or problem, please ring (07) 8800.

IT Services: BIS
If your enquiry relates to Management information, the use of the business systems, the database, Oracle forms, Impromptu Web Reports, Sussex Direct or any reporting or business information needs, please email bishelp@its.sussex.ac.uk
Online: sussex.ac.uk/its/help/admin
Email: bishelp@its.sussex.ac.uk
Tel: (07) 8800

Enquiries and help desk: Chichester 1, Mon-Fri, 9.00am-5.30pm

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http://mail.sussex.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/its-news

and follow the simple instructions. You will receive an automatic acknowledgement when you have been subscribed. Instructions to unsubscribe are also available at this URL.