Map specialist flies out to aid earthquake relief mission

A University of Sussex geography research student is using his mapping skills to help get vital aid to earthquake victims in Pakistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan.

DPhil geography student Jonathan Douch flew out to Islamabad in Pakistan on 14 October as a volunteer for MapAction. The UK-based charity maps disaster areas so that rescue and relief missions can get aid and supplies quickly and efficiently to areas that need it most. It also assists with longer-term development and humanitarian programmes.

Mappers provide vital information about damage to transport links, infrastructure and local amenities as well as details about key locations and the local populations. Field workers head out to affected areas and, using global positioning systems (GPS), relay data back to base, where computerised maps are created and updated for use by the aid agencies who need them.

Jonathan is into the second year of research on heathland distribution and is also a tutor in geographical information systems (where computerised mapping techniques combining GPS information, satellite images and other data sources are used to create new maps) at the University. Now he is using his specialist skills to assist the relief effort. Jonathan is part of a team of eight, who have been helping since the earthquake struck, and he was expecting to spend a week to ten days with the operation. "The charity likes to get in early and hand over quickly," said Jonathan, before flying out.

He said: "I heard about MapAction from a colleague at Sussex, then saw how they got involved with the tsunami relief effort so, because of the work I do, I decided to sign up. This is the first time I've done this sort of thing so I don't know what to expect."

Jonathan added: "I know that there have been problems because of a lack of data, the political sensitivity of the area and a lack of helicopters."

Evelyn Dodds, Map Curator and Resource Centre Manager for the Geography department, who has raised funds in the past for MapAction, says: "Geography students at Sussex learn similar techniques, creating new maps of areas such as the Ashdown Forest using GPS devices and remote sensing (satellite imagery). It's got to know that things we do here can be so relevant in the outside world."

Spotlight on opera

This month, as the lights go down, the spotlight is on the University's well-established but growing links with Glyndebourne opera house in East Sussex.

Opera students in the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) spent the day at Glyndebourne on Sunday (30 October), studying Rossini's La Cenerentola (Cinderella). And next week Sussex students, staff and alumni will be indulging in the unique Glyndebourne experience at a special performance of a new operatic thriller, Tangier Tattoo.

CCE have been running joint day-schools with Glyndebourne since its production of Don Giovanni in 1996. Every October since then, an annual study day has focused on a particular production. In 2000, for example it was Harrison Birtwistle's The Last Supper.

Each day-school also features some of Glyndebourne's singers, performing excerpts (usually with a bit of stage action) in a way that reminds students of the theatrical life and power of the medium.

Rosemary Conely, who completed the Certificate in Opera this summer, says: "Study days at Glyndebourne were particularly enjoyable."

Now hundreds of Sussex students are looking forward to the special performance of Tangier Tattoo at Glyndebourne on Wednesday (26 October). The famous gardens will be open two hours before the performance starts, giving all the opera goes plenty of time to enjoy the views while mingling and swapping campus experiences.

And - who knows? - maybe some of them will acquire a taste for opera and a wish to learn more about it. If so, there's a CCE course designed just for them (and an annual day-school to go with it).
BOOKMARK

Raminder Kahlon (Lecturer in Anthropology, SocCul), Vininder Kaistra and John Hutnik

Diaspora and Hybridity
Sage, £19.99 (paperback)
ISBN: 0761973974

Dr Rohit Barot at the University of Bristol says: "The volume provides a refreshing, critical and illuminating analysis of concepts of diaspora and hybridity and their impact on multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies."

Barbara Lloyd (Emeritus Reader in Psychology, LifeSci) and Kevin Lucas (eds)

Health Promotion: Evidence and experience
Sage, £60 (cloth), £16.99 (paperback)

The publisher says: "Health Promotion is a major focus of government policy and an expanding area of practice involving a range of public health professionals. At the same time, there is much debate about what is meant by 'health' and the best strategies for improving, developing and promoting it. In light of these debates, Health Promotion offers a major reappraisal of health promotion activity, examining the evidence for what actually works and highlighting issues for improving efficacy."

John Lowerson (Research Reader in History, CCE)

Amateur Operatic: A social and cultural history
Manchester University, £55 (hardback)
ISBN: 0719051975

The publisher says: "Often the butt of disdain, amateur operatic groups have played a major role in extending musical theatre from the commercial stage into the lives of local communities. This major new study examines this fascinating outlet for the expression of popular taste, and will be of use to those working in the field of popular culture in Britain, as well as today's amateur operatics enthusiasts."

Aleks Szczepanik (Lecturer in Contemporary European Studies, SocCul) and Sean Hanley

Centre-Right Parties in Post-Communist East-Central Europe
 Routledge, £65 (hardback)
ISBN: 0413547815

The publisher says: "[This book] makes a vital contribution to the broader research agenda on the Central and East European centre-right by focusing on one specific question: why strong and cohesive centre-right formations have developed in some post-communist states, but not others. The authors of these fresh case studies use a common analytical framework to analyse and provide fascinating insights into the varying levels of cohesion in centre-right parties across the region."

Clive Webb (Reader in North American History, Hums)

Massive Resistance: Southern opposition to the second reconstruction
 Oxford, £11.99 (paperback)
ISBN: 019517786X

The publisher says: "Massive Resistance brings together ten essays that critically assess southern white resistance to school desegregation. The collection examines in close detail the practice of massive resistance, revealing the ideological and tactical divisions that characterized the southern white response to civil rights protest as well as the illusion of the union of racial moderates and extremists in what has been called a solid white South."

New additions to Library Special Collections

The Library has accepted three new donations to its collections of archives, manuscripts and rare books:

- Dr Anne Wilmshurst, a scholar of Caribbean literature, has donated a small collection of correspondence including letters from 20th-century Caribean authors Kamau Brathwaite, Wilson Harris and V.S. Naipaul.
- Dr Al Thomson from the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) has donated all the research material - including diaries, letters, photographs and interview tapes - generated by his 'Ten Pound Poms' research project on migration from Britain to Australia after the Second World War.
- Seventy-five Penguin Specials published during the Second World War, each with the distinctive orange and white cover, have been donated. The items concentrate on contemporary political and social issues.

All of these collections will be available for research and teaching in due course. For more information, call Special Collections on ext. 8157 or email library.speccollections@sussex.ac.uk.

Bookmark is a regular review of new books by Sussex authors.

You can buy these books at the University Bookshop in Branner House, or order online at www.sussexunibooks.co.uk. Staff get a 10% discount on all products in the Bookshop on production of valid ID.
Celebrating the new science curriculum

It's been a long, hard road and there is still much to be done. However, after two years of work to review the entire undergraduate science curriculum at Sussex, considerable progress has been made. So earlier this month, staff from across campus gathered for an update on the review and to celebrate the achievements so far.

Members of academic staff from the School of Science and Technology and the School of Life Sciences gave short presentations on results from the three working groups: Programme Design, Employability, and Assessment and Feedback.

Dr Libby John outlined the new structure of all undergraduate science degrees, which from 2006 entry will have a common but flexible credit framework. This new framework has provided the opportunity to streamline and refresh the curriculum.

It has four strands, the first two being for core courses, the third for more core courses or subject options, and the fourth for options or a minor subject (allowing combinations such as Chemistry with Forensic Science or Psychology with Sociology).

"This fourth strand will enable departments to replace the Arts/Science scheme with something equally interesting but more flexible and tailored to students' interests," said Libby.

Increasing the employability of Sussex science graduates is also a key aim. Dr Sharon Wood outlined the thinking behind the new Year 2 career development course, which ensures career development for scientists within the curriculum.

This new course will be piloted in the spring term 2006 for delivery from 2006-07. It involves workshops by staff from the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC) as well as a web-based e-learning system and talks from employers.

The session on assessment and feedback highlighted the use of self-assessment and peer assessment by students, which have the benefit not only of cutting down on the time that faculty spend marking, but also of forming part of the learning process itself.

In addition, a number of faculty gave presentations on innovative teaching methods such as problem-based learning and e-learning.

For overheads used in the presentations, see www.sussex.ac.uk/ldu/sciencecelebration.
From Brighton to broadcasting

The global reach of the World Service meant that many international students were among the audience for Robin’s talk, which traced his formidable career in the media—from its beginnings on campus in the late 1960s. (Robin seems to have spent most of his undergraduate days writing for the then student newspaper, Wine Press.)

When he did have his nose in a book, he was studying politics, and one of his tutors was a young John Dearlove. John, now Professor of Politics and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, met up with his former student when he chaired last week’s session.

After graduating in 1970, Robin began his career as a foreign correspondent for Reuters in Madrid, Paris and Rome. He then spent 12 years on Britain’s oldest Sunday newspaper, the Observer. He has been at the BBC, where he expects to see out his journalistic career, since 1989.

Not surprisingly, budding journalists in the room were keen to hear what the seasoned ‘hack’ with 35 years’ experience considers to be essential qualities for working in the media. Top of Robin’s list were a thick skin (so that you keep on phoning people who don’t want to talk to you), the capacity to be briefly interested in things that don’t interest you, and a curious nature. A way with words helps, as well.

Robin also discussed how the media today covers politics and current affairs (round the clock, with an increasing use of “user-generated content” such as photos and eye-witness accounts).

And the future? With printed newspapers suffering from declining circulations, television dismissed as a vehicle for entertainment rather than news, and technological developments enabling listeners to access radio in various new ways (such as online and via their MP3 player), Robin was unequivocal: “The future is radio.”

Migrants neither “threats nor victims”, says professor at inaugural lecture

More than 200 staff, students and external guests packed into the Medical School lecture theatre to hear Richard Black deliver the first professorial lecture of the new term on Tuesday (18 October).

Richard is Professor of Human Geography and co-director of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research, an interdisciplinary research centre in the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies.

As director of a major DFID-funded ‘Development Research Centre’ on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, his work there draws together research partners in Albania, Bangladesh, Egypt and Ghana. Within the Development Research Centre, Richard’s own work focuses on international migration and ‘sustainable return’. As was clear from the audience, his research work at Sussex inspires teaching and learning for undergraduates and postgraduates alike.

Entitled ‘Migrants, refugees and public policy’, Richard’s lecture showcased the work of his colleagues as well as his own. He sought to challenge conventional stereotypical views of migrants and refugees as either “threats or victims”, seeing them rather as people actively making choices about their own lives. He also showed migration enriching the receiving nations and returning significant sums—$100bn on latest estimates—to poorer nations.

Richard outlined clearly how such research can support and drive positive policy change, in describing his work for the Home Office, the European Commission and the Department for International Development (DFID). He also noted how the last decade has seen a sea-change in public policy attitudes in UK and US governments and in transnational organisations such as the World Bank, with work by academics playing its part.

Professor Russell King, who recruited Richard to Sussex 10 years ago, gave the vote of thanks, and described the appointment as “one of the best Sussex has made”.

The Sussex Lectures season continues with the British Academy lecture on Thursday (27 October), given by Professor Pippa Skotnes of Cape Town University on the language and culture of the indigenous San people of southern Africa. See www.sussex.ac.uk/events.

Prejudice still widespread in sex cases, says law expert

Juries at trials of alleged sex crime can be “moralistic and judgemental” in their assessment of the behaviour of women who allege rape, Professor Jennifer Temkin told barristers and judges at the Bar’s annual conference on Saturday (15 October).

Jennifer, a Professor of Law in the Sussex Law School and an expert on sexual offences and the criminal justice system, said: “There are still abiding views about what is proper and appropriate female behaviour. There is a reluctance to accept gender equality in the sexual sphere.”

She was speaking at a workshop on why so many alleged sex offenders are acquitted. “In 2002, only 21 per cent of prosecutions for rape and attempted rape involving adults led to a conviction,” she reported. “The figure for children complaining of rape was 23%.” These figures show a downward trajectory: in 1998 the percentage for adults was 28% and for children it was 36%.

Some judges also have misunder-standings about the law, she said, and she called for more training for judges. Jennifer said some barristers shared this ignorance about the law, not knowing, for example, that they could not question a woman about her sexual history without making an application to the judge.

The police also came in for criticism. They often fail to collect evidence in the “golden hour” when women first complain, Jennifer said. And there is a common misconception that the police are always “just lovely” to complainants who report a rape. “That is not so,” she argued. “Some police officers have changed their ways, but others have not.”

Ken Macdonald QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said the Crown Prosecution Service was examining ways to tackle jurors’ prejudices about sex crimes.
Entente cordiale for geographers and linguists

Every year the Sussex Language Institute (SLI) and the Association for Language Learning organise a French study day on campus for local A level students who are studying the language.

This year for the first time, 150 students and their teachers came together with members of the Geography department who are involved in a research project about coastal erosion on both sides of the Channel.

The aim at the study day, which took place last month, was to find out about the attitude of the French to their environment and to learn about the 'Beaches at Risk' (BAR) project, which focuses on the beaches of Sussex and northern France.

The day was led by Jérôme Curoy, a DPhil researcher in the Geography department who comes from Bordeaux. He gave an illustrated presentation in French, ranging over policies to protect the natural environment of France from National Parks to botanical research departments, as well as showing what the French are doing to catch up in the recycling race.

"We saw how different flora were protected and animals such as wolves and bears re-introduced into habitats where they had died out," says Jenny Hill, Deputy Director in the Sussex Language Institute. "And we were fascinated by the idea that our recycled plastic bottles are made into duvets and fleecees."

Jérôme also talked about the Beaches at Risk project, showing slides of Cuckmere Haven and Seaford with pictures of himself and the team at work measuring the movement of the shingle.

"Students spent a challenging but fascinating day of French, learning not only about the environment of France but also of Sussex," says Jenny.

Fun, fun and more fun for first years

Residential Advisors (RAs) living in student accommodation on campus have decided that first years are just not having enough fun – so they’ve set up a new Social Committee.

The committee organises events throughout the academic year for first year students. Adele Burrow, a Residential Advisor in Lewes Court, explained the thinking behind it: "The aim is to facilitate first years to meet one another through fun and varied events, and to enhance the campus community feel."

This term there are four events: a walk from campus to Ditchling Beacon; a Halloween flat-decorating competition judged by the families on campus; a games tournament in East Slope bar and an 'Enchantments of the Sea' themed night at the Hothouse.

Events coming up in the spring and summer terms include trips to Alton Towers and paintballing centres, football and rounders tournaments, charity Hothouse nights, and pancake races.

"Big open busy sunny happy"

Spook for choice: A couple of open day visitors check the programme to see what to go to next.

Below left: One of the many Sussex students who helped make the open day such a success.

Around 4,500 prospective students and their families came to Sussex on Saturday (15 October) for the biggest open day the campus has seen. More than 150 academic and support staff, together with almost 100 student helpers, worked to make the event an effective showcase for all that the University has to offer.

Because the campus has limited capacity for a single large event of this kind, bookings had to be closed a month ahead of the day, with surplus demand moved on to the weekly campus tours and future admissions days.

As interest in Sussex continues to grow and the new fee regime makes potential students and their parents ever keener to see first-hand what is on offer, pressure continues on Schools and Colleges Liaison, who lead the event, to devise successful new ways to manage the crowds.

At this open day, for example, a new innovation was to offer open-access accommodation visits, rather than ticketed tours at set times.

Feedback from those attending was strong and positive: almost 90% said they were more interested as a result of attending and nearly three-quarters said this was the best open day they had attended.

Tanya Shadrick, Head of Schools and Colleges Liaison, said: "This was the result of good planning and a real team effort, with all parts of the University working effectively together.

"But the expectations of our potential students are increasing and we have to keep thinking afresh. We will now be reviewing arrangements for future events to seek to keep the Sussex open days among the best in the UK."

Comments from open day visitors

"This has been the best of our open day visits for both of my sons."

"The teachers and students completely sold it to me."

"The courses are taught by passionate people."

"Big open busy sunny happy."
New Conference Centre rates for internal users

New rates for the Conference Centre have been introduced for the academic year 2005/6. Call Sue Handley on ext. 2613 or see the Conference Services website (www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/conferences) for details. For a limited period there is a special offer for existing customers: confirm your next event before 30 November and 2004/5 rates will apply.

Allaway Scholarship

Want to win a $3,000 scholarship to the University of California? Just tell the International and Study Abroad Office why your degree or future career would benefit from the opportunity to spend a year studying there. The William and Olivia Allaway Scholarship is open to students on most undergraduate programmes. Exceptions include those on a mandatory year abroad, those entering their final year in 2006/07, and Law and Engineering students. Collect an application form and further information from Liz Wingfield in Mantell Building 1A25. The closing date is Tuesday 22 November.

Payment of expenses to staff

In recent weeks some staff have been asking for cheques to be drawn in respect of certain payments due to them, e.g. expenses, advances. Management Accounts remind all staff that any payments due to them will be paid directly into their bank accounts by Bank Automated Transfer as the preferred method of payment, with no exceptions. Cheques will be drawn only with the approval of the Deputy Finance Director.

New artworks for the Library

A local artist has donated several abstract paintings to the Library. Bob Brighton – who, somewhat confusingly, lives in Worthing – already has work on display in local hospitals, museums and schools. Three large canvases have been installed on the three-storey-high wall over the central reader spaces. Other works by Bob are now distributed around the Library building.

Everyday Sport is the name of the game

Sussexsport is challenging staff to get active with a new month-long initiative, Everyday Sport O’Games. It encourages employees to build activity into their working day.

The challenge – part of the recently launched national activity campaign, Everyday Sport – offers practical tips and advice on how to build exercise into your journey to campus, working day and journey home.

Workers have the chance to earn medals for their Everyday Sport efforts. For example, taking part in a team sport merits a bronze medal; an after-work kickabout, a walk or run in Stannier Park or a visit to the gym earns a silver medal; and getting off the bus/train early, taking the stairs rather than the lift, or a lunchtime swim scores a gold medal.

The office on campus that collects the most medals over the next month will get free massages for everyone in the office. And the University itself stands to gain, with prizes up for grabs for organisations who show they are changing the activity levels in their workplaces.

Everyday Sport Office Games runs from 17 October to 18 November. To sign up your office to take part, contact Cath Smeek on ext. 8345 or email c.l.smeek@sussex.ac.uk for your starter pack.

FIRST CLASS

Sussex linguistics undergraduate Rosalie Birch went to Buckingham Palace on Monday (17 October) to receive her winner’s medal for being part of the Sussex CCC squad that was victorious in the Frizzell Women’s County Cricket Championship this summer.

The British Psychological Society (BPS) is to give an Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Psychology to Dr Andy Field. The panel was particularly impressed with his “innovative teaching material, outstanding text and web-pages” and the inspiration he has shown students in a “core, albeit difficult, area of psychology” (statistics). The award confers on Andy free lifetime membership of the BPS.

New staff in the Students’ Union

The Students’ Union (USSU) has appointed a Commercial Services Manager. John Houlihan, who currently manages the Living Space centre in Waterloo, will be joining USSU towards the end of this term.

John will oversee the myriad of profit-driven ventures, such as the Students’ Union Shop and East Slope Bar. This new role will also see a named person in charge of Union entertainments for the first time in many years.

The post of Finance Manager has also been filled. Simon Machin, who currently works with the Peabody Trust in London, is expected to start at Sussex next month.

The new post of Students’ Union Director, with a long-term strategy and planning role, is yet to be filled. USSU is re-advertising and the aim is to have someone in place by the new year.

If you need a good reason to join us in
NELSON’S COLUMN ↓

Today (21 October) is Trafalgar Day, the 200th anniversary of the British navy’s victory over the Napoleonic French and Spanish fleet.

The focus of commemorative events this year has been Portsmouth, from where the British fleet sailed in 1805 and where Admiral Lord Nelson’s flagship, HMS Victory, is preserved. Today, the Queen and other VIPs will dine on board Victory.

On Sunday (23 October) the commemoration moves to London. After a service at St Paul’s cathedral, where Nelson is buried, 10,000 members of the public will gather for the grand finale beneath Nelson’s column in Trafalgar Square.

And just for fun, here on the Bulletin editorial team we’re marking the occasion with our very own version of Nelson’s column.

Ken Nelson
Psychology undergraduate

"I am West Indian; my English name Nelson (according to my family history), was given to us by traders from Nelson’s voyages to the Caribbean. I don’t know how true this is; it can only be on hand-me-down ‘hearsay’. Anyway it is quite a romantic link to the great man or not, especially if he had anything to do with the slave trade of the 1800s.

My involvement with the celebrations have been as an observer. I live in Bournemouth when not at uni so I have had quite close connections with the sea most of my life and have visited HMS Victory in Portsmouth on several occasions.

Death and war are not on my list of priorities, particularly when we seem to hark on and on about the then-great British Empire. I appreciate everything about this country, but do we have to always make such a big fuss about the great victories of the past when so, many people lost their lives fighting in them?

One must not forget the injustices that occurred during this time for those who lived during Nelson’s popularity. He was an A list celebrity in his era. History has a strange way at times of accentuating the best but dissolving and drowning the cruel, dark secrets of tragedy.

Nelson is a great name and it has been a very lucky surname for me. It is powerful in its recognition, I know that the name has enabled me to forge ahead unexpectedly, particularly in interviews when sometimes names are all employers go by.

I am proud to be a Nelson; however, I am not too sure that this pride has anything to do with Horatio."

England expects ... how maths did its duty at Trafalgar

The Battle of Trafalgar is the unlikely inspiration of the latest mathematics masterclass for children to be held at Sussex, on 19 November.

Donned in 1805 seamen’s dress, Hampshire teacher Peter Ransom and Madeleine Shiers, a BED student from the University of Winchester, will take 30 schoolchildren on a mathematical voyage of discovery.

Their lecture explores the mathematics used at sea, from the risks that Nelson took to secure his famous naval victory 200 years ago to the mathematics employed by sailors when firing cannonballs or rolling dice on deck. Plotting navigational maps, throwing skull-and-crosbones dice and even trying (wheeely-free) ship’s biscuits are all part of the fun.

The aim is to show young people how mathematics has always had an important part to play in life, whether it’s winning historic battles, taking that decisive penalty or a hundred practical applications in between.

Dr John Haigh, of the University’s Mathematics department and co-author of a book on the “hidden mathematics” of sport, will be showing 30 other schoolchildren how maths can help them find the best tactics in games of chance.

John is also giving the Royal Statistical Society’s Schools Lecture this year. He says: “I do enjoy trying to show young people how fascinating and useful mathematics is. I’ve always hoped that using sport will re-awaken interest in mathematics in, say, 14-year-old boys.”

The Royal Institution Maths Masterclasses at Sussex run for eight weeks on Saturday mornings during the autumn term and are organised and staffed by volunteers from the Sussex branch of the Mathematical Association. Different speakers lecture on a different subject each week to 60 12-to-13-year-olds from Sussex schools.

Professor Charles Goldie from the Mathematics department says: “Peter certainly looks and sounds the part of a Trafalgar sailor and the children love it. The maths masterclasses are inspiring, so it’s not surprising to find that young people who are bored with shopping are giving up their Saturday mornings to exercise their brains and have some fun instead.”
Academic events

MON 24 OCT
1pm Geography seminar: Sung Woo Lee, Daejin Jeong and Heung Jin Lee (Sussex), Short papers on research progress. Arts C175.

3pm International Relations seminar: Fedor Dufour (Sussex), Which modernity for racism and anti-Semitism? Arts C233.

4pm Psychology seminar: Colin Leach (Sussex), The politics of emotion: Guilt and anger about systemic injustice. Psy B3.

4pm Seminar: Si Wu (Sussex), Neural population coding: Strategy, speed and the art of noise. Genome Centre seminar room.

5pm Education seminar: Speaker and title TBA.
Arts E419.

TUE 25 OCT
4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Filippe Osella (Sussex), I am Gulf: The production of cosmopolitanism in Calcut, South India.
Arts C233.

WED 26 OCT
1pm Seminar: Luis Aragon (Imperial), Ribosomal DNA segregation: More than just removing cohesion. Genome Centre seminar room.

2pm Physics seminar: Chris Smith (Sussex), Status of MINOS. Pev IA1.

5pm Migration seminar: Sarah Redcliffe (Cambridge), Connecting development and migration: Itineraries of neoliberal reform. North and South.
Arts C233.

THU 27 OCT
10am Language and Linguistics seminar: Marcin Grygiel (Rzeszow, Poland), Problems of semantic change in historical perspective. Arts D440.

2pm SEI/Politics seminar: Andrew Geddes (Sussex), The Europeanisation of British immigration policies. EDB 121.

2pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Marcin Grygiel (Rzeszow, Poland), In search of a cognitive model of semantic change. Arts D440.

4pm History seminar: Nigel Goose, Poverty, old age and gender. Arts A155.

2pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Marcin Grygiel (Rzeszow, Poland), Semantic development of English historical near synonyms of MAN/MALE/HUMAN BEING and its implications for the theory of semantic change. Arts D440.

4.30pm Social & Political Thought seminar: Andrew Chitty (Sussex), Hegel on consent and democracy.
Arts C233.

5pm Development lecture: Stephan Klasen (Gottingen, Germany), Gender and growth in Africa: Evidence and issues. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

6.30pm British Academy lecture: Pipa Skinner (Cape Town), Finding the real presence of the San (Bushmen): The legacy of WHi Blake and UC Lloyd. BSMS Lecture Theatre.

FRI 28 OCT
2.15pm SPRU/ CENTRIM seminar: Michael Hall (Sussex), Knowing a product into shape: The unexpected contribution of gender-specific routines to new product development; and vice versa. Freeman Centre G24/25.

MON 31 OCT
1pm Geography seminar: Tamzin Watt (Sussex), Monitoring mixed beach behaviour: A case study for south east England. Arts C175.

3pm International Relations seminar: Marc Williams (New South Wales, Australia), Framing consensus and organizing resistance: The politics of GM food in Australia.
Arts C233.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Trevor Burdard (Sussex), Race and naming practices among whites and blacks in mid 18th century Jamaica. Arts D440.

4pm Psychology seminar: Jonathan Smith (Brinibeeck), What phenomenology can offer medicine.
Psy B18.

5pm Seminar: Jens Krause (Leeds), Social networks in fish. Genome Centre seminar room.

5pm Education seminar: Diana Laurillard (Institute of Education), E-learning, Arts E419.

TUE 1 NOV
1pm Biochemistry seminar: Martin Masters (Oxford), Bacterial population structure and public health. BSMS Lecture Theatre.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Peter Holmes and Anna Sydorak (Sussex), Rivalry and cooperation in European competition policy. EDB 121.


15pm Anthropology seminar: Wob Keane, On studying global Christianity.
Arts C233.

WED 2 NOV
1pm IDS seminar: Paul Feast (Sussex), Working to reduce University carbon emissions, IDS 120.

2pm Physics seminar: Klaus Eitel (Forschungszentrum, Karlsruhe), KATRIN - the next generation beta decay experiment. Pev IA1.


THU 3 NOV
4pm History seminar: Bill Doyle (Bristol), The French Revolution and the abolition of the nobility. Arts A155.

5pm Development lecture: Dominic Kniveton (Sussex), Climate change in southern Africa. Problems of a multidisciplinary approach. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

Small ads

To let:-seatfront 1-bed balcony flat in Lancing, Part furnished, gas CH, off-road parking. Available now, min 6 mths. £525 pcm + bills. No pets, no smokers. E: sorton@sussex.ac.uk.


For sale: 2 oil-filled heaters. £20 each. Siemens M600 mobile phone, as new, £30. Ext. 7334, E: reby@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 2-bed top-floor furnished flat, Kemp Town, GCH. Available Nov. Suit NS professional couple or mature students. £800 pcm.
E: frederica.nottley@gardnerarts.co.uk or T: 02423431.

For sale: 2 yr-old Zanussi washing machine FLA 1002W, £60 ono. T: Jane on 07796 110517.

For sale: Washing machine. £80. Available 1 Nov. Ext. 2302/6641 (day), ext. 8135 or T: 0818722 (even/weekends) or E: dep21@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: Single room nr Hanover, off Lewes Rd. Available ASAP. Share with 2 professionals. Suit PG/staff. £275 pcm + GT & bills.
E: mainer@sussex.ac.uk.

E: 07884 057388.

For sale: 3 dr Nissan Micra 1.0 Y reg. (2001), 21.2k miles. 8 mths Mot/tax, FSH. £2,250 ono.
T: 07779 958966 or E: sarah81n@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Students from Bulgaria/Romania, to discuss land/property investment possibilities nr one of the major motorways. Nr western border or Black Sea pref. E: rnmfdf@sussex.ac.uk or T: 077748 209826.

Arts events

PERFORMANCE

Fri 21 & Sat 22 Oct 8pm Collective Artists, Young Vic and BITE-05, Barbican - The Lion and the Jewel
A subversive comedy reflecting the vitality of Nigerian village life with dance and song.
Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

Mon 24 - Sat 20 Oct 8pm Small Wonder
Bringing the outdoors inside, this multi-sensory dance piece leads you on an atmospheric journey into the natural world. Be prepared to be surrounded by the elements. The Palm House, Stammer Park.

Wed 26 Oct 7pm Tangier Tattoo
A special performance of this operatic thriller, for the students, staff and friends of the University of Sussex. Glyndebourne.

Tue 1 Nov 6pm 1157 - HA 1A HA
Camp theatrically opening up the lives of Noel Coward, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. GAC.

Thu 3-Sat 5 Nov 7pm 1157 - HA 1A HA
The Chinese Garden
Get on board a magical carpet for a mes-masuring journey far away to the wondrous world of a Chinese Garden. GAC.

FILM

Sun 23 Oct 2pm Madagascar
(U), GAC.

5pm The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
(PG), GAC.

8pm Sin City
(18), GAC.

Wed 26 Oct 8pm Madame Brouset (15), GAC.

Fri 28 Oct 8pm Maangamizi: The Ancient One
(15), GAC.

EXHIBITIONS

Until Sun 27 Nov Euan Duft, Susan Night & Peter Mitchell: Archives from the New British photography of the 70s
Welcome to the first edition of the Sussex IP Bulletin for the 2005-6 year. This month we look at joint research funding, staff development, patents legislation and ecosystem selection.

Staff development
Sussex IP will run two new courses in the Staff Development programme for 2005-6.

Protecting and commercialising innovations and inventions
This seminar is aimed at staff who have an interest in finding out how they can protect and commercialise innovations and inventions arising from their research. All new staff are required to attend.

The seminar covers the protection and use of intellectual property rights arising from your research and the opportunities for commercialisation of innovations and inventions. Specifically, you can expect to learn about:

- Recognising the commercial potential in your research
- How you can protect your innovations and inventions
- Funding and grants
- How intellectual property rights are relevant to all stages of a project
- University rules on the exploitation of research

Making the most of interactions with business at Sussex
The University is keen to encourage academic interaction with business and offers a range of enabling services. This seminar describes the services, including Sussex IP and the Regional Development Office, run by the University and is aimed at anyone who wishes to learn more.

Specifically, the seminar will introduce:

- How to develop and increase industry relationships to encourage research activity,
- Working with business to develop your research activity and enhance student opportunities, including the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Scheme and the Shell STEP Scheme,
- Routes for commercially developing your research; exploiting and protecting innovations through Intellectual Property Rights, funding and investment opportunities,
- Access to networks and business incubation on campus, how and where to start.

For course dates and times please call Julia Fallon on x3149. e-mail: j.fallon@sussex.ac.uk

Pocket money for joint research opportunities
The ability for universities to undertake joint research with Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the South East of England has been given a boost with the creation of a new stream of funding, the Proof of Concept Knowledge Transfer fund (PoCKeT).

Co-financed by South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the European Social Fund (ESF), PoCKeT aims to transfer knowledge from universities into the business community, in order to generate new and innovative products and services.

SEEDA’s Head of Science, Technology, Enterprise and Management, Ed Metcalfe has commented, ‘Lack of funding at the proof of concept stage is a major barrier to innovation and commercial development both inside and outside of Higher Education Institutions. With all Regional Development Agencies now placing knowledge transfer high on their agendas, this new stream of PoCKeT funding is an excellent example of how SEEDA plan to enable a greater degree of co-operation between the universities and the SME community in the South East.’

PoCKeT will make awards of up to £30,000 to innovative SMEs to fund activities such as:

- Developing a prototype
- Using university equipment and facilities
- Buying-in specialist knowledge or skills
- Undertaking market research
- Testing the technology with experts

To be funded, the intention should be the joint exploitation, between the business and a university, of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) at the proof of concept phase of commercialisation.

The Fund is unique as there are no other proof of concept funds of this kind that directly support collaboration between SMEs and universities.

If University staff wish to develop joint research opportunities with an SME they are encouraged to contact Sussex IP for further details of this fund.
No to software patents

Over the summer, the EU Parliament voted overwhelmingly, by a majority of 648 to 18, to reject proposed legislation that, critics argued, would have allowed the widespread patenting of software in Europe.

The Computer Implemented Inventions Directive was designed to introduce a common approach to software patenting across the states of Europe and has been one of the most controversial pieces of legislation in the history of the EU. Opponents, including many from the open source software community, argued that it would allow a wide range of computer programs to be patented and given large technology vendors too much power in the software market while proponents from the IT and telecoms industry welcomed plans to protect their intellectual property. French Socialist MEP Michel Rocard, who drafted the Parliament’s position on the directive, said that the vote had been about the fundamental issue of the ‘free circulation of ideas’, which software patents would have prevented.

A spokesman for the UK Patent Office said the directive was intended to clarify the situation and prevent a drift towards the more liberal regime of the United States. The directive was aimed at maintaining the status quo rather than making all software patentable. ‘Inventions involving the use of computers would be patentable only if they make a ‘technical contribution’. This includes inventions directed at solving a technical problem – e.g. software that improves the control of a robot arm – but excludes inventions directed at solving a business problem – e.g. software to run a new financial system. Of course, to be patentable the invention must also be new and inventive’.

This is pretty much the UK system, as it exists at the moment. While the EU directive would have banned business method patents in Europe, the UK Patent office maintains that adopting the directive would not have resulted in Europe following US practice of allowing the patenting of non-technical software and business methods.

With the demise of the directive, the member states will continue to treat software according to each state’s individual patent law. Copyright continues to protect software of any kind in all states, by making it illegal to copy the source or object code, but fails to protect the innovative solution or technical effect.

Opinions on the directive vary, but it is just possible that the draft legislation was well intentioned, failed to clarify the law and, ultimately, was voted down on political grounds.

Seeding systems change at Sussex

Interdisciplinary research, between two University of Sussex departments and one of Europe’s leading providers of telecommunications services, has brought innovative theoretical ideas out of the lab and integrated them into two new and surprising developments in sustainable soil improvement and ICT systems design.

Alex Penn, a BT CASE-funded DPhil student in Biology and Environmental Science, has been applying the concept of ecosystem selection in a new project that has enormous practical potential.

Drought combined with overgrazing and de-vegetation leads to poor soil fertility and soil erosion, limiting soil productivity in many areas worldwide. Ecosystem selection offers a solution tailored to the local conditions. Along with her collaborators at Sunseed Desert Technology, Alex has been testing the concept in the field with particular reference to sustainable food production.

If whole microbial ecosystems are subject to selection in the lab, they can produce useful ecosystem-level properties, such as improved plant growth or biodegrading pollutants in water ecosystems. In Alex’s experiments local soil ecosystems are ‘bred’ and selected to provide the optimum beneficial ecosystem for particular plants in particular environmental conditions. Sparse levels of nutrient-enhancing organisms naturally present in the local soils are multiplied and used to increase the fertility of food crop fields. This sustainable means of improving soil fertility has the potential to improve the livelihoods of people living and working under harsh climatic conditions.

In a parallel development, BT is applying these concepts to design robust and scalable ICT by showing how artificial systems can be designed to adapt and evolve to meet changing circumstances.

Dr Richard Tateson, BT’s nature inspired computing expert, said: ‘This work has achieved the rare feat of closing the loop between nature and theory. Ideas drawn from biology are finding immediate application in sustainable development while planting the intellectual seeds for BT’s future ICT systems.’

Alex, who has joint supervision from the Department of Informatics, is currently seeking additional funding to extend the research to ensure that this innovative technology is applied where it is most needed.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Alex on alexp@sussex.ac.uk.

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