Gorillas are the video stars of Sussex language research

Gorillas took the starring roles in Sussex video research into ape communication, presented at the British Association for the Advancement of Science Festival in Dublin this week.

Dr Gillian Forrester, a Research Fellow in Psychology, used a novel video observation technique to look at how gorillas communicate with each other.

The visual, tactile and auditory gestures of four individual gorillas were observed with one camera in close-up, while another wide-angle camera observed the responses of other gorillas in the group. Gillian will be examining the footage for regular patterns in gorilla gesture behaviour that may reveal complex communication in apes. These patterns may also hold vital clues about early human communication strategies and the evolution of speech.

Gillian says: "The way to understand the rise of verbal language is to study our closest living relatives – the great apes. Maybe because they share a similar genetic make-up, we assume they may be capable of human-like language, but this anthropomorphising approach has not been successful in understanding how speech evolved. We need to approach communication from the animal's perspective, focusing on non-verbal communication, which both humans and apes use."

The video project, involving a group of western lowland gorillas at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent last year, differs from previous studies because the observer gets two points of view at once: that of the gorilla making the gestures, and of the other gorillas with which it is interacting. This sets the signalling used in its unique context and helps to build a clearer picture of the complexities and subtleties of the communication.

Gillian explains: "You can't really analyse a single sensory signal and think that you are getting the whole picture. It's like facing a burglar with a knife in a hostile posture and assessing the situation based only on his/her saying, 'Hey, trust me, I'm not going to hurt you.'"

Her initial visual observations show that gorillas, like us, constantly use multi-sensory signals to negotiate complex social networks and have developed communication strategies for keeping order within their social hierarchy in their everyday lives.

Now that the video has been formatted and custom software has been created to code for all multi-sensory signals, Gillian can begin work on analysing her data. She says: "Although at this stage the content of what gorillas are saying to one another is out of reach, our ongoing research may help us to find some regularities in gorilla communication and learn how complex communication evolved in humans."

Sussex hurricane students safe

Three Sussex students who had gone to the USA to start their year abroad have been affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Two of the students were due to study at Tulane University (which is very seriously affected and currently closed), in New Orleans. The third student was due to enrol at Louisiana State University (which is much less affected), in the state's capital, Baton Rouge.

Sussex staff are in communication with the students and their parents. All three students are safe and well, and well distanced from immediate danger, but facing variably awkward situations to do with temporary accommodation, retrieval of belongings, and of course what happens about their year abroad.

Owen Richards, Academic Registrar, said: "For the Tulane students, we are urgently investigating options for a quick switch to another US college with convenient term dates, but the possibility of remaining at Tulane has not yet been ruled out.

"The students seem clear at the moment that they want to see through their year abroad, but we also have fall-back options if they decide to return to the UK."

He added: "The University has also contacted current students from the USA whose homes are in the affected area, and will provide any support that we can."

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Australia's migrant plea recalls 'Ten Pound Pom' story

This summer Australia unveiled plans to admit 20,000 foreign skilled workers to boost the economy. Can today's migrants learn any lessons from the experiences of Britons who left for the promise of a better life down under in the decades after World War II?

Sussex historian Dr Al Thomson is co-author of a book on these 'Ten Pound Poms', so-called because they each paid £10 for a one-way ticket. He says: "In many ways, British people who emigrate to Australia in the 2000s will have it easier than their predecessors. They won't face the acute housing shortage of post-war Australia and they should be able to afford to buy a new home, so they won't end up in the notorious migrant hostels."

"In the 1950s, Australia seemed as far away as Mars; today's migrants can travel relatively easily between the two countries, while email and mobile phones have made communication much simpler than it was in the days when a phone call 'home' was an expensive, annual affair."

But, he adds: "The new generation of migrants will still be lured by images of a sunny paradise, and like their predecessors they will need to realise that Australia is not just like 'Britain in the sun'. In subtle but powerful ways Australia will be profoundly strange: all the smells and tastes will seem 'wrong'; the Australians speak a different 'English'; they live and work in different ways, and they can still be brutal to 'Rammy' newcomers."

"Perhaps most importantly, the new British immigrants will face the universal problems of all migrants: family dislocation and homesickness. Twenty-five per cent of Ten Pound Poms returned to live in Britain, mostly because of a desperate longing for family and friends or a nostalgic sense of 'home'."

AI would expect a similar return rate in the 2000s, though he acknowledges that the ease of global travel may make it easier for 'boomerang migrants' to move back and forth between the two countries.

Stringent requirements for entry to Australia and an ageing Australian population are seen as a reason for the need to plug the skills shortage. It was a similar gap in the labour market that led to the Ten Pound Poms initiative - a solution as controversial in Australia then as it is today.

Wanted: working-class academics

A Sussex sociologist is appealing for academic colleagues to help her with her latest research project.

Dr Paula Black is investigating the effects of original class background on academic and research careers. In particular, she would like to speak to any academics or researchers who would describe their background as "working class". "I leave this definition open to interpretation," says Paula, "and this is one of the things that will be explored in the research."

Paula is interested to find out whether academics and researchers believe that their career progression, and how they feel about working in universities, has been affected (either positively or negatively) by their class origins. Do they feel that somehow they don't belong? Or do the skills they have learnt equip them in some ways that are useful? Do they feel that class is still relevant? Do things such as the type of school attended, or accent spoken, still matter?

She will conduct interviews with individuals at the universities of Brighton and Sussex who are at different stages of their career and across all disciplines.

She will also look at CVs to analyse the patterns that careers have taken. For example, do those from particular class backgrounds have different trajectories through higher education? (These could include more time spent working in other areas, more career breaks, varied routes into lecturing, or entry at an older age.)

Paula's study is funded by the Society for Research into Higher Education. She guarantees that material will not be available to the University in any way. All future publications will be anonymised, removing references to identifiable names, places or events.

If you can help, contact Paula on p.a.black@sussex.ac.uk.

Trick of the eyes wins perception prize

Professor George Mather's research focuses on human visual perception, particularly the perception of motion and depth. And now his expertise on how we see things has won him a prize at an international conference.

George, an experimental psychologist, travelled to La Coruña in Spain last month for the European Conference on Visual Perception. The conference hosted a competition to find the best visual illusion and George's entry was awarded one of the top three prizes - an attractive sculpture by a Spanish artist and a place in the La Coruña Science Museum.

George's prize-winning illusion, called 'Two-stroke motion', was first shown at his professorial lecture in May this year, and is now on his home page at www.lifesci.sussex.ac.uk/home/George_Mather/TwoStroke.htm.

The illusion contains two pattern frames depicting a moving image (hence two-stroke), which are displayed using a technique that creates an impression of continuous forward movement.
Sussex archive reveals secret sex lives of 1940s Britain

Britain's first-ever sex survey, part of the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex, is the subject of a revealing BBC documentary to be screened this autumn.

The sex survey was based on the candid responses of just over 2,000 men and women in 1949 and intended for publication in a national newspaper. The survey is also one of many studies and surveys housed in the Mass-Observation Archive at Sussex, which catalogues the private lives of ordinary men and women and their attitudes to events and trends of the day.

The survey included a questionnaire put to a panel of regular contributors to the project, along with 'man in the street' surveys and polling of doctors, teachers and clergy. The level of candour in the responses contradicts the perception of the era before the 'permissive society' as being prim and proper.

The survey, which was ultimately deemed too shocking for publication, revealed that:
- One in five men had had a homosexual experience;
- One in four men admitted to having sex with prostitutes;
- One in five women admitted to an extra-marital affair;
- One in three children were conceived outside of marriage.

The BBC film, entitled 'Little Kinsey' (because the report was published in 1949, a year after the groundbreaking Kinsey Report on sexuality in the USA), draws on this archive material and features an interview with Dorothy Sheridan, who oversaw the work of the Mass-Observation Archive.

'Little Kinsey' producer and director Steve Humphries vowed to make use of this archival treasure after coming across the report while researching his DPhil at Sussex in the 1980s.

Unlike the American Kinsey Report, which concentrated only on male sexuality, the sex survey also featured the opinions and experiences of women. Steve says: "I was most surprised at the candid views of married women, many of whom disliked or were disgusted by sex with their husbands."

The British report also differed from Kinsey in that fewer Brits admitted to affairs, homosexual experiences and visiting prostitutes than the Americans.

Steve says: "Dorothy Sheridan and her team helped enormously with the research. I think the Mass-Observation Archive is a national treasure, providing a unique insight into the lives of ordinary British people in the 20th century and beyond."

Research into frog's croak aids native species come-back

Ten years of painstaking research by Sussex academics have helped to bring about the re-introduction of a long-lost native species of frog to England.

The decade of detective work helped to identify the northern pool frog (Rana lessonae) as a native English species, linked to colonies in Scandinavia by genetic evidence – and a distinct Norfolk accent.

The team – molecular ecologist Professor Trevor Beebee and postgraduate research students Inga Zeisset and Julia Wycherley – are part of the Pool Frog Species Action Plan, led by English Nature and the Herpetological Conservation Trust, which has reintroduced 75 northern pool frogs from Sweden into the wild at a secret location near Thetford, Norfolk. It is hoped that these 75 frogs will mark the return of a lost native species in England.

The Swedish frogs were used to start the new English colony after researchers clinched a genetic link between the northern pool frog population in Norfolk, which died out in the 1990s, with present-day colonies in Sweden and Norway. The research also showed that the Norfolk population was indeed the last of a native variety of frog, and not a "foreign import", as had been previously thought. It was also found to be part of a wider family or "clade" of northern pool frog, which includes Scandinavian frogs.

Trevor's team analysed the genetic make-up of Scandinavian and Norfolk frogs and examined and compared the frogs' mating calls, which identified a "regional calling accent" that was distinct to the northern clade. This work provided crucial evidence supporting the frogs' historic native status in Britain, thus justifying the reintroduction to Norfolk, from Sweden.

Dr Julia Wycherley, who carried out the bioacoustics research into the mating calls, says: "It was fascinating to detect subtle differences in the mating calls as I sampled pool frog populations across Europe. Those of Norfolk and Scandinavia generally had a lower frequency (pitch) and this in turn gave the calls a unique 'accent'."

Trevor, who is an authority on the molecular ecology and conservation biology of amphibians, and who has been involved in the project since its inception a decade ago, says: "Britain has very few native amphibians, indeed only six discounting the pool frog. By showing that pool frogs were recent inhabitants of this country we helped pave the way for the re-introduction, which if it works will increase our British amphibian diversity significantly."
Sussex alumnus Eugene is ‘Big Brother’ runner up

Sussex graduate Eugene Sully came second in Channel 4’s ‘Big Brother’ this summer after being widely regarded as by far the least repellent person in the house.

As asked by host Davina McCall why he managed to come so close to clinching the top prize, Eugene said: "Probably because I was pretty much myself, I'm quite a nice person and most of my friends like me. I tried to be reasonably helpful."

The lovable geek studied Electronic Engineering at Sussex from 1997 until 2000. A radio buff, he put the skills learnt during his degree to work at campus radio station University Radio Falmer (URF). Eugene soon became programme controller at URF, the oldest university radio station in the country.

While at Sussex, Eugene was a key figure in bringing the prestigious national Student Radio Conference to the campus in 1999. It was also during his time at Sussex that Eugene practised his infamous stunt of throwing various household objects off cliffs and recording the sound they made as they crashed against the rocks below. This would then be played on URF for all of (a slightly perplexed) campus to hear.

After leaving Sussex, Eugene continued his love of radio by working for a number of stations including Scotland's Beat 106, Mercury FM in his home town of Crawley and Brighton's own Surf (now Juice) 107. More recently, he put his engineering degree to good use by working for the BBC’s research and development arm in Surrey.

The Eugene2Win.com website was set up by fellow Sussex graduate Steve Piftold, who met Eugene at the student radio station. On the site a friend of Eugene from his campus days (described only as 'Brightonian') describes Eugene's time at Sussex: "I've heard Eugene talking about these [Sussex] days in the BB house, and I know he used to love the student lifestyle."

Those on campus who knew him suggest that Eugene may eschew the minor-celebrity path trod by other 'Big Brother' housemates. Instead, he might return to his first, true (and seemingly, only) love - that of radio. But some think his 'geek-chic' coolness may lead onto other things: "He'd probably be good presenting something like 'Nerds Reunited!'" said one of his friends.

BIMM honours its first graduates of rock’n’roll

The Grammy and MTV stars of the future will be getting in some early award-ceremony practice when they graduate from the Brighton Institute of Modern Music (BIMM) this week.

The school's 20 music graduates will be sporting mortar boards and gowns in place of the usual grunge and glam today (Friday) at Audio in Brighton, at the first-ever BIMM graduation ceremony.

All 20 students will receive BA Honours in Professional Musicianship awarded by the University of Sussex. The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, will confer the degrees.

He says: "I am delighted to be presenting these degrees. I look forward to hearing of the further successes of these first students and also to the continued success of the academic partnership with BIMM."

Students at BIMM combine rigorous academic study with experience of the competitive music business, and the first cohort to graduate have set a high standard, notching up chart hits, record deals, TV appearances and session work along with their degrees.
High-calibre students snap up their places at Sussex

The University has been busy confirming places for more than 2,300 undergraduate students who received their A level results last month and who will begin their degree programmes in October.

There has been a record hike in demand for undergraduate places at Sussex in the past year. A total of 17,500 prospective students applied, an increase of almost 3,000 (20 per cent) on the previous year. The national average increase in undergraduate applications is 8 per cent.

As a result, the scope for Sussex to admit home and EU students via Clearing is (for the third year running) limited to programmes with a foundation year. In fact, the prospective students who had already accepted offers from Sussex did so well in their A levels and other exams that many departments have been unable to accept anyone who failed to achieve the required grades, even by just one point.

Because of this, the University expects this year’s intake to be one of the highest quality, with a significant further rise in the A level scores of those starting at Sussex, as it attracts increasingly well qualified candidates.

The success in securing strong take-up at Sussex is attributed to a variety of factors, including a more dynamic approach to recruitment through open days, campus tours and publishing materials, such as the new-look prospectuses and online resources.

Interest for 2006 entry at Sussex is already strong, as the University continues to develop innovative new degree programmes such as Engineering for Society, designed to attract more women into engineering and backed by £500,000 support from central government.

2006 will also see the start of the new science curriculum, which aims to increase the number of applicants, improve the quality of the intake and bolster student retention.

The next Open Day is on Saturday 15 October; the recruitment cycle starts now!

Universities short-listed for first dental school in south-east

A joint bid from the Universities of Brighton and Sussex to establish the first dental school in the south-east outside London has been referred to Stage Two of the bidding process by the Department of Health and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The proposed dental school forms part of the government’s plans to tackle the national shortage of dentists.

The universities, in partnership with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), plan to found a new school of dentistry in Brighton. A key component of the bid will be a novel and innovative curriculum based on a graduate entry programme lasting four years (rather than the usual five years of study). Alongside the dental students will be a new programme to train dental therapists and hygienists.

“We want this to be a truly innovative programme that will produce a new breed of dentists for the future, working as a team with other dental professionals,” says Professor Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS.

“The bid draws on the combined strengths of Brighton and Sussex Medical School with the education and research strengths of the Universities of Brighton and Sussex. In addition to educating a new generation of dentists in the south, the new school will have a strong research agenda and inform future oral health policy.”

The bid to build the new school of dentistry in Brighton has the support of the Surrey and Sussex Health Authority, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and the local Primary Care Trusts, which share the universities’ commitment to improving dental services and dental health for the community.

A final decision by HEFCE is expected in early 2006.

Sussex ranked again among world’s top universities

The University has maintained its strong position as one of the world's leading universities, according to an annual league table. It continues to be ranked among the top 150 in the world, the top 60 in Europe and the top 15 in the UK, in a survey by the Institute of Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong.

Researchers produced the 2005 results after looking at 1,000 institutions worldwide. The top 500 universities were ranked according to the quality of education, the quality of faculty and their research output.

Information such as the numbers of Nobel prize winners among faculty and students, and citations and articles, were also taken into account.

The world’s top university, according to the survey, is Harvard. Cambridge is the highest UK entry at number 2. It is also the highest-ranking European institution. Sharing Sussex’s ranking in the league are the universities of Liverpool, Leeds and Glasgow.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: “I am delighted that the high quality of teaching and research at Sussex continues to be recognised by this objective international study, which confirms the basis of our strong international reputation.”
Obituaries

Patricia Bone

Patricia Bone, lately Progress and Welfare Co-ordinator in the Sussex Institute (SI), has died. She joined the University in 1990 and retired in 2003 for reasons of ill health.

Sybil Marshall

Sybil Marshall, who died on 29 August, was Reader in Primary Education at Sussex from 1967 until her retirement in 1976.

For many years she had been a primary-school teacher and at the age of 80 became a successful novelist. Sussex awarded her an honorary degree in 1995. William Lambont, Emeritus Professor of History, recalls in his obituary of Sybil (published in the Guardian on 31 August) that, “Pride of place in her house remained a photograph of the then vice-chancellor of Sussex University, Gordon Conway, presenting her honorary degree. Her ritual was never to pass it without saying ‘Good morning Gordon’ and then to exclaim ‘However nicely I say it, you never answer me back.’”

Sheila Maynard Smith

Sheila Maynard Smith, who died on 1 August, was a researcher in the Biology department for more than a decade.

She contributed to the bacterial genetics research programme, in addition to being an ambassador for the University as she travelled the world with her husband, Professor John Maynard Smith (the first Dean of Biological Sciences and an active member of the department until his death last year).

Jama Mhlanga

Today (9 September) marks the first anniversary of the death of Dr Jama Mhlanga, who studied for his BSc and DPhil in Biochemistry at Sussex.

"Jama is not only remembered as a dedicated African scientist but as a very popular figure around campus," says Dr Mairead Dunne. "He was known for his sharp sense of humour, his witty and entertaining conversation (especially over a drink in IDS bar), the time he always had for people and his obsession with jazz."

Joseph Soggiu

Joseph Soggiu, who had been a cleaner in the Ancillary Unit since December 1998, died at the end of August.

New legacies programme launched

The generosity of staff, alumni and friends over the years has helped enormously in making Sussex one of the UK’s leading research and teaching institutions. Now the University is launching a new legacies programme to build on that generosity.

"Leaving a gift in one’s will is often a simple and cost effective way for individuals to make a larger gift to Sussex than would normally be possible in their lifetime," explains Maxine Peel-Vates, Legacies Development Officer. "It’s an enduring way to make a real difference to the lives of many new generations of Sussex academics and students."

The hope is that increased financial support from lifetime and legacy gifts will help the University to look to plan ahead with greater confidence.

Audrey Gates (pictured above) is currently undertaking postgraduate research in life history and has decided to leave a gift in her will. As Audrey says, "I’ve decided to leave a legacy to Sussex because I feel its work is life enhancing. I shall be happy knowing that my bequest will help another older disabled student to enjoy the pleasures of research."

And as charities (including the University of Sussex) are exempt from Inheritance Tax, there’s a financial benefit: leaving a legacy to charity reduces the beneficiary’s liability to Inheritance Tax.

For further information about wills and legacies and/or to request a brochure with information on leaving a legacy to Sussex, call Development and Alumni Relations on ext. 8258.

Changes in senior management

The former Head of Human Resources at Carlton TV is to be the University’s new Director of Human Resources. Jane Summerville will take up her post on 1 October, replacing Barbara Bush, who left at the end of August.

A former pupil of Brighton & Hove High School, Jane has a BA in English and Drama from Royal Holloway and a BSc in Psychology from Birkbeck. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

Meanwhile, an advert for making a permanent appointment to the post of Registrar & Secretary appeared in the Times Higher Education Supplement last week and in the Guardian this week.

The University is seeking to appoint someone who can “provide strong leadership and direction for the administration” and “carry through significant change and development to ensure we continue to deliver high-quality and professional support for our research and teaching mission”. The postholder will work closely with the Vice-Chancellor as part of the senior management team and “play a leading role in re-shaping strategic planning and development for Sussex”. Full details are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs.

The closing date for applications is 26 September and interviews will be held on 20 October.

Wyn Davies, former Secretary and Registrar of the University of Surrey, is acting as a consultant for the appointment.

As reported in the Bulletin on 1 July, the administration is being led by Dr Philip Harvey until a permanent appointment is made. Philip is on secondment from the University of Exeter for nine months.
Changes at the top for USSU

The Students' Union is undergoing a major restructure. USSU Communications Officer Tom Harle says the new structure will "enhance the frontline service the Union provides to its members".

A new role of Union Director is to be created, which Tom describes as "General Manager plus". It will comprise many of the General Manager's current duties but with more of a long-term strategy and planning role.

Reporting to the new Union Director will be a Finance Manager, Commercial Services Manager and Membership Services Manager - the latter two roles being completely new.

The Commercial Services Manager 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 Membership Services Manager will be the line manager for all staff involved with core Union activities such as clubs and societies, the Student Advice Centre, student media and representation.

The Union Director will be appointed at grade 5 on the pay scale for admin faculty and the other three roles will be at admin faculty grade 3.

Tom Harle sees the changes as a good opportunity to simplify what has become a somewhat unwieldy management structure. "At the moment the General Manger line manages, for instance, the manager of the Union Stores and the Student Advice Centre manager but not many other staff in similar roles. The new structure should make line management much simpler."

But what role will the elected sabbatical officers, such as the President, have under the new structure? As at the moment, sabbaticals will have no line-management duties. However, they will continue to have a major role in the day-to-day running of the Union, representation and setting future policy.

Applications for the roles of Union Director, Finance Manager and Commercial Services Manager are currently being invited, with the aim of having a new Director in place by the new year.

A walk on the wild side

The new flower border on the south-east corner of Bramber House (pictured below) illustrates the boost that the garden areas of campus give to local insects.

In late summer this will be vividly pink and purple, thanks to the flowers of 'Purple Emperor'.

Stonecrop, Caucasian Germander and Japanese Burren. None of these plants are native to Britain: the first is a cultivated form of a yellow-flowered species from the western USA and the other two are from south-west and north-east Asia. Despite their distant homelands, the new flowers attracted butterflies, bees, wasps and hoverflies within a day of being planted in mid-August.

Cultivated areas also provide a refuge for arable weeds, a group that has suffered particularly severely over the last 30 years or so. A combination of cleaner crop seeds, the introduction of the phenoxyacetic acid herbicides and autumn drilling has reduced many once-familiar plants such as Corncockle and Cornflower to the verge of extinction.

This summer the campus borders have sported a particularly fine array of arable weeds and the various invasions around East Slope have provided even more opportunities for an evanescent and colourful display of poppies, mayweeds and goosefoots.

One favourite that has been particularly noticeable is the Scarlet Pimpernel. Its habit of staying closed in dull weather and opening its flowers about eight in the morning and closing shop in the early afternoon has earned it a whole host of local names such as 'grandfather's weather glass', and 'shepherd's clock'. Earlier in the summer the rare lilac-flowered subspecies, Blue Pimpernel, turned up in the rough ground outside Faifer station.

However, perhaps the most striking feature has been the abundance of the attractive pink flowered Fumitory, known in the Middle Ages as fumus terreae, smoke of the earth. The clouds of divided bluish leaves are supposed to give a smoky appearance when viewed from a distance. All our plants appear to be Common Fumitory, but we live in hope that, one day, one of the rare species that still occurs on the downs behind Peacheaven may turn up on campus.

Look out for birds migrating south for the winter. September is the peak month for many species. Although some migrants such as Swallows pass over campus by day, most fly by night and refuel by day. The many berry-laden bushes on campus act as a magnet for these temporary guests, some of which are far from their usual haunts.

A surprise this year was a Wryneck taking Elder berries and ants near Pavilion Road on 31 August. This heavily camouflaged woodpecker, which winters in West Africa, was once a common breeder in Britain. Writing only a century ago, Charlotte Yonge said that it could be heard "all round the woods". Now it rarely - if ever - nests in Britain, despite being common across most of Europe. Nobody knows why.
Monar off to Strasbourg
The Sussex European Institute (SEI) is in the process of making a permanent professorial appointment to replace Professor Jörg Monar (joint director of SEI), who is taking leave for three years as Marie Curie Professor at the University of Strasbourg.

Staff changes
In the School of Social Sciences & Cultural Studies (SoCSci), Dr Kevin McCormick (Sociology) has replaced Dr Janice Winship as Director of Student Support.

Century for science writer
Dr John Gribbin, Visiting Research Fellow in Astronomy and a renowned science writer, has celebrated the publication of his 100th book. The Fellowship: The Story of a Revolution, tells the story of the beginnings of science as we know it.

Sports for visually impaired people
Do you know someone (aged 16+) who is visually impaired? A sports taster day on campus on 15 October offers the chance for them to have a go at goalball, tennis and cricket. Funded by the Blatchington Court Trust, the activities are free of charge. For more information, contact Simon Tunley on ext. 7230, email s.t.tunley@sussex.ac.uk.

Get your blood pressure tested
The Blood Pressure Association will be at the Falmer Sports Complex on Friday 16 September for a free drop-in from 10am-5.30pm. How high is yours?

Double gold for Sussex student
David Stone, an undergraduate in Social Care and Social Work, is celebrating after taking gold medals in both the 24.6km road race and the 8.2km time trial at the European Paralympic Cycling Championships in Holland last month.

Honorary degree nominations
The Honorary Degrees Committee will meet on 19 October and nominations are welcome, so don’t feel shy about making suggestions!

Criteria and the nomination form are online at www.sussex.ac.uk/secretariat/1-2-1-11.html. If you are in any doubt about the criteria or whether a particular person has already been nominated or recognised, the Secretariat can help: call ext. 8427. Completed nomination forms should be submitted in confidence to the Vice-Chancellor by the end of September.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Benedict Brook, with contributions from Jacqui Bealing, Maggie Clune and Rob Read. We welcome any news, story ideas, letters or small ads from the staff and students of the University. The next issue will be out on 23 September, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 16 September. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.

Small ads

Wanted: Private tutor to teach GCSE double science and maths. T Sue on 07753 611736 or E m.chisholm@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 2-bed Hove flat, 9-mth/1 yr let. £830 pcm inc. T Geraldine on 07795 071658, G.geraldine@eurolansolutions.com.

For sale: Mountain bike. 18 gners, German make, 2.5 yrs old. £20. T Andrei on 07906 761426, A. micu@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: 4-bed house in Stirling Place, Hove. Long let from 2 Oct. Suit PGs or mature UGs. £1,400 pcm. T Julie on 07901 812412.

For sale: Double mattress, sprung, brand new/still wrapped. Paid £159, accept £90. T hsp83@sussex.ac.uk.


Free: Small 'Pet Black' sneaker/pool table, balls & cues. For sale: As-new expandable garment rail, £5. Two sets metal shelf units: 65cm (H) x 62 cm (W), £5 the pair. T 0741841 40 (even/weekend).


For sale: Fiat Cinque, N reg., new MoT, 29K miles. £650 ono. T susseus@beols.sussex.ac.uk.

To let: Unfurnished 2-bed house in Kemp Town, Suit academic faculty. No pets, no smokers. £995 pcm. T 0700708, E c.j.harland@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: GF studio flat in Lewes, from mid Sep. En-suite bath/shower. £390 pcm incl. T 477319, E abigailcmw@eurobelit.co.uk.

To let: Large bed-sitting room + en-suite shower room, own cooking facilities. Lewes. Suit N/S mature student, PG or faculty. £90 p/w. T rosemary@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: Unfurnished 3-bed house in west Worthing, £800pcm + bills. T Marina on 07986 881237.

Academic events

SAT 17 SEP
10am Open lecture: Casper Johnson and Geoffroy Mead (Sussex, Sussex) archaeology and history. University Centre Hastings lecture theatre.

MOR 26 SEP
1pm IDS seminar: Hilary Benn MP (Secretary of State for International Development), Raphael Kaplinski and Farhana Yamin (IDS), 2005: A turning point for international development? Friends Meeting House, Brighton. Contact Laura Turquet on ext. 7752 to attend.

Arts events

PERFORMANCE EXPERIMENTAL
Tue 20 Sep 7pm, Wed 21 Sep 2pm
Yellow Earth – The Nightingale
A new version of Hans Christian Andersen’s classic tale about love, loyalty and freedom.

PERFORMED IN ENGLISH (WITH SUBTITLES), THE SHOW WILL MESMERISE CHILDREN AGED 6 AND OVER WITH SHADOW PUPPETS, SPECIAL EFFECTS, MUSICAL MUSIC, DANCE, AND DRAMA. GARDNER ARTS CENTRE.

Just £5 to get rhythm
Special price tickets are available for Sussex students and staff to attend European Percussion Day at the University of Brighton’s Sir John Banstaff Theatre in Grand Parade. Tickets are available in person or by calling 01273 640099.

If you need a good reason to join us in

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the public service union

You earn more in a unionised workplace - average earnings are around 8% higher in unionised workplaces.

Will that do? To join Unison, contact Felicity Harrison on 8895 or F.A.Harrison@uds.ac.uk.