Reducing energy consumption will make us better off

Have you noticed how much your energy costs at home have risen in the last couple of years? On campus, utility costs are increasing at an alarming rate at a time when the University is facing a difficult financial position. So, what is the University going to do about this situation?

In partnership with the Carbon Trust (a government-funded company that helps organizations to reduce their carbon emissions), the University is running a week-long Energy Awareness Campaign from Monday 20 February.

During the week the Carbon Trust will be providing energy-awareness training. The Energy Awareness Campaign will also include presentations and tours of buildings such as the campus Boiler House. Students in residential accommodation on campus will be participating in an energy-reduction competition.

Paul Feast, Head of Estates & Infrastructure in Estates & Facilities Management, says: "The purpose of the Energy Awareness Campaign is to raise the profile of energy and to cut costs by reducing consumption of electricity, gas, and water. This will bring added environmental benefits such as lower emissions of greenhouse gases."

Paul and his colleagues have been working with the student body to plan the campaign. Paul says: "I was particularly keen to engage with students as they are the largest group on campus and, as such, will be able to generate the most energy savings from our campaign."

Paul adds: "As part of the Energy Awareness Campaign the students were keen to adopt the phrase 'Better off'. Reducing consumption, utilities expenditure and emissions of greenhouse gases will result in the University being 'better off' financially. The environment will also be 'better off' as emissions of carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas, will be reduced."

The campaign will also encourage staff and students to switch off electrical equipment when it is not in use. "As much as 50% of electricity can be consumed when equipment is in standby or sleep mode," explains Paul. "Our aim is to say 'Goodbye to standby' so that we can all be 'better off'."

"This means that instead of leaving a monitor or printer on standby while I attend a meeting, I will switch them off. I will also ensure at the end of the working day that I switch off all office electrical equipment - including my PC, printer, the photocopier, etc. - at the socket outlet. I hope that the Energy Awareness Campaign will encourage others to follow this example."

For further details on the Energy Awareness Campaign, contact Paul on ext. 82662 or email e.p.feast@sussex.ac.uk.

"How can I improve on Aristotle?"

Students and staff are being asked to consider why "it's sloppy to copy" during the first ever Plagiarism Awareness Week (Monday 13 - Friday 17 February).

Contrary to popular belief, students who get caught copying ideas or texts without acknowledging the source haven't all been single-mindedly setting out to fool their tutors.

"Many students are plagiarising simply because they have poor study skills or they don't know how to reference properly," says Tracey Beck, secretary to the Working Group on Plagiarism.

"Others come from countries with different academic cultures, where it is more acceptable to quote vast swaths of text from elsewhere. "How can I improve on Aristotle?", they ask. In the UK, however, this would be plagiarism if unattributed to the writer, so students do need some guidance."

The focus of the awareness week is to get students and staff thinking about plagiarism and to help identify issues on which students may need further clarification.

Teaching staff have been provided with a Powerpoint presentation (www.sussex.ac.uk/academicoffice/1-4-1-8.html) to aid discussions with students; and students are being asked to complete an online tutorial (http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/) to test just how much they really know about plagiarism.

For further information about prevention, detection and academic misconduct procedures, see www.sussex.ac.uk/academicoffice/plagiarism.

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7 BSMS
A new building for the med school, but dentists are unlucky.
Brighton Science Festival 2006

Sussex academics and alumni play a large role in the second Brighton Science Festival this month.

Rough Scientist:
Dr Jonathan Hare, Sussex Research Fellow and speaker at the Brighton Science Festival 2006.

It's the 30th anniversary of Richard Dawkin's influential and accessible work *The Selfish Gene* and, to celebrate, the festival has a strong life sciences thread – although there are presentations in all areas of science. Sussex geneticist Dr Mark Macnolochie will be discussing the book on 24 February.

In *The Selfish Gene* Dawkins argues that ideas, or 'memes' as he calls them, are rather like genes; they are 'genes of meaning' that replicate too. For his doctoral research at Sussex (completed in 2000), Dr Paul Marsden examined the negative effect of an infectious meme by focusing on copycat suicides. On 24 February Paul will talk about 'viral marketing' and how new advertising techniques use infectious 'memes'.

Another Sussex graduate taking part in the festival is journalist Leo Hickman, who was challenged to transform his average consumer life to that of an 'eco warrior'. He chronicled his experiences in a Guardian column and speaks about his project on 24 February.

Also speaking on 24 February is neuroscientist Professor Michael O'Shea, who will give "an easy introduction to the brain."

On the last day of the festival (26 February) you have presentations by three Sussex faculty to choose from: James Williams (Lecturer in Education) on creationism and evolution; Visiting Research Fellow Dr Jonathan Hare on his adventures and scientific triumphs during the popular TV series 'Rough Science'; or Professor Malcolm Heggie on the chemistry of smell, taste and sex.

If none of these is your thing, the monthly Café Scientifique (organised by Sussex Physics and Astronomy tutor Jim Grozier) plays host to Dr John Gribbin on 21 February. The respected scientist and author (and Visiting Research Fellow at Sussex) will speculate on life outside our solar system.

In addition to the 'grown up' programme, the weekend also sees two fun family days at City College. Among the attractions will be robot racing with Bill Biggs from the School of Science and Technology.

Events take place at venues in Brighton city centre; for further details visit www.brightonscience.com.

A Mexican wave goodbye

Not quite ready to drink: The Sussex tequila plants, which have found a good home at the Eden Project.

Mexican tequila plants reared for a biology research experiment at Sussex have found a new home – as prize exhibits at the world-renowned Eden Project in Cornwall.

Eight giant Agave tequilana plants, weighing more than 80kg each and measuring 2m across, plus 15 smaller specimens, had outgrown their home in specially adapted greenhouses at the Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences.

The plants, commonly known as blue agaves, are thought to be the only examples of their type in Europe. They were originally imported and cultivated to explore their unusual properties, as part of a doctoral research project by Mexican postgraduate student Ivan Saldana. The tequila plant produces sugars that are an essential ingredient in the production of tequila, worth $500m annually to the Mexican economy. Once his studies were completed, Ivan returned to Mexico to work in the tequila industry.

The plants, however, were in need of a new home that could provide the conditions found in their native Mexico. Dr Martyn Stenning explains: "All the time Ivan was working on the plants, their cultivation and maintenance in a controlled-environment glasshouse – mimicking a Mexican semi-arid habitat – was funded by a grant. Continued cultivation on this scale is now unsustainable, so I approached the Eden Project, who were delighted to take them on. Digging them up was a huge task!"

Dr Alistair Griffiths, Scientific Officer for Living Collections at the Eden Project, says it was a "great surprise" when Martyn got in touch to offer the tequila plants. "These plants have always been on our wish list," he says.

Dr Griffiths and a colleague collected the plants at the end of January. They will spend five months in quarantine to ensure they pose no disease risk to other species at the Eden Project, which exhibits plants from around the world in two giant greenhouses, called biomes. "It is hoped that they will play an important role in the proposed new Dry Tropics Biome," says Dr Griffiths.

Specimens remaining at Sussex will be used in exciting new research under Dr Stephen Pearce, who will also have access to the Eden specimens. The blue agave, though vital to the tequila industry, and now thought to have properties that could reduce blood pressure and aid digestion, are also vulnerable to disease and pests. Stephen's team, together with blue agave breeders in Mexico, is therefore looking at identifying related species that could be bred with the blue agave to produce more robust, genetically diverse plants.

Stephen says: "Although the first chapter of the tequila project has come to an end, and our largest (and most painful!) plants have now been 'retired' to Cornwall, a collection of second-and third-generation plants continues to grow in our glasshouses, ensuring that Sussex will play a role in the development of this unusual, fascinating and highly productive plant."

Ouch! Dr Stephen Pearce tend the agave plants.
Positive discussions between the Students' Union (USSU) and the University have been under way following the submission by the Union to Council on 16 December outlining a range of issues that they wanted the University to address.

Students and USSU sabbatical officers met the chair of Council and three other lay members in late January. A further meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, was held in early February to discuss a draft management response. The detailed management response to the submission will be presented to the Union today (Friday 10 February).

The Council members and the Vice-Chancellor all welcomed the positive and committed approach that the Union had taken. In responding to the student submission, the Vice-Chancellor said: "We welcome the fact that many of the issues raised in the submission are ones which we ourselves as a University are looking to address, and we would want to work with students to make progress on them."

The action plan that grows from this submission will look to address a wide range of issues, such as strengthening academic support, improving facilities and developing better student feedback mechanisms on the quality of provision at Sussex.

The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged that the fact the Union felt the need to take issues collectively to Council suggested that work was needed to ensure that student views and feedback work effectively at all levels throughout the University. He noted in particular that student concerns about contact hours have not been adequately picked up in existing procedures for student feedback and programme review.

A range of measures for improving the dialogue and engagement between the University and the student community are being developed. Students will have representation on all the committees within the new committee structure, including the new Strategy and Resources Committee, the most important joint Council and Senate committee.

Also newly proposed is a twice-a-term meeting between USSU sabbaticals and the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive, which would become the main forum for the Union to work with senior management on University issues.

Roger Hylton, president of the Students' Union, agreed that meetings had been productive and welcomed the positive approach, but said the Union would want to see specific action and commitments in the management response. Students will for the time being continue with their campaign to keep attention focused on the issues.

Full details of the management response will be published online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units-vcoffice.

Lesson in development from activist

European hero: Sussex graduate Jake Zarins (left) with Sir Bob Geldof after receiving an award from Time magazine.

Jake Zarins, Sussex Ecology and Conservation graduate, knows more about development than most. Jake and his brother Aleksis were staying in a coastal resort in Sri Lanka when the Boxing Day tsunami hit in 2004.

Yet instead of returning on the evacuees flights, the pair stayed on the island and set up their own charity, Friends of Unawatuna. This led to Jake and Aleksis being named as 'European heroes' in Time magazine last October.

Last week (2 February), Sussex's real-life hero Jake returned to his alma mater to offer guidance and advice to students of development.

His advice was clear: your degree in Development Studies is only the start and the battle for gainful employment in the field is a long one. He said, "Volunteering for a charity is a great way forward but competition is fierce."

"Don't expect that you can single-handedly save the world. Many people are disappointed with the work required to carry out a project. There is a place for distributing food and medicine to babies, but without the volunteer who inputs the accounts data, there would be no food to give."

Jake found his time at Sussex to be invaluable in his work in Sri Lanka. He said, "I learned how to communicate with people of different backgrounds to my own and I would have been unable to carry out my work without that skill. The confidence I gained at Sussex allowed me to set up the charity, which raised £220,000 for the victims of the tsunami in Sri Lanka."

To learn more about Jake's work, visit www.friendsofunawatuna.org.uk.

News in brief ↓

Honorary degrees

Among the graduates at the Brighton Dome on 24 February will be two recipients of honorary degrees. In the morning Professor Harry Rajak will present Lord Lloyd of Berwick for an honorary Doctor of Laws, and in the afternoon historian Norman Davies will receive an honorary Doctor of Science.

Student wins a stay at Amherst Hotel

A simple bit of research has won an undergraduate a stay at one of Brighton's newest hotels. Marie-Anne Kamikazi had to do was answer just one question: what is the University of Sussex rate for a single-occupancy double room in the Amherst Hotel? She found the correct answer (£55) by looking at the online list of University-approved hotels and guest houses, available at www.sussex.ac.uk/about/hotels. Marie-Anne's lucky entry in the campus prize draw has won her a two-night midweek stay.

New sabbaticals elected

Sussex students have just elected a new set of six Students' Union sabbatical officers to represent them on campus from June of this year. The results came too late for the Bulletin, but read all about them online on the pages for students and staff.

Access your staff development record through Sussex Direct

Sussex Direct now includes a new staff development page, which lists staff development events and activities you have taken part in 2001 to the present. This might be particularly useful for staff preparing for their 2006 appraisal. Log on to Sussex Direct, go to your 'Personal' pages and click on 'Staff Development'. If you have any queries about the information on your staff development record, email the Staff Development Unit at sdu@sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 4806.

Sussex cottage to let

A University-owned two-bedroomed flint cottage has become available to let. This is a listed building at the front of campus. If you are interested, contact Janet Nazempour on j.nazempour@sussex.ac.uk or ext. 7526.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin.
Work begins on new student residences

After what seems an eternity, you've probably noticed the first signs of spring on campus (daffodil shoots poking up, birds twittering, etc.). And the coming of the nesting and breeding season means that work begins this month (12 and 19 February) on removing some trees and shrubs around the Bramber House car park.

The greenery needs to be removed to allow work on a new student residence to proceed. Martin Green, who manages major campus building projects, explains why: "The contractor will not start work on site until early June but a standard condition of the planning approval is that, where trees and shrubs need to be removed, that must be done before the start of the bird nesting season."

From June onwards the area will be a building site for more than a year but, when the new student residence has been completed (ready for the start of the academic year 2007), new planting and landscaping will replace the greenery that has been removed.

Up to 250 students will live in the new residence, in flats of four to seven study bedrooms (each with an en-suite bathroom).

Initial work has already begun on building a new student residence next to Falmer railway station, just across the A27 from campus. This should be finished by September 2007 and will consist of three cross-shaped blocks containing 440 bedrooms, each with en-suite bathroom facilities.

Although the development is being undertaken by an external private partner, the Falmer station residence will be managed by the University.

These two developments will lift the proportion of rooms with en-suite facilities from 10% to nearly a third of all housing stock, closer to what other universities offer.

And the intention is that construction doesn’t stop there. New student residences with up to 300 bedrooms are being considered for North Field (at the top end of campus, north of Lewes Court) by 2008; and the plan is to redevelop East Slope (in phases) by 2010.

New heating system in the pipeline

Have you shivered your way through the last few wintry weeks? Or do you come on to campus wearing little more than a t-shirt from the Union shop?

For all staff and students who are feeling too cold or too hot, here’s the good news: a modern, sophisticated, energy-saving and reliable heating system for campus is due to replace the University’s 1960s pipework and ageing boilers, plant and equipment.

But here’s the drawback: from May of this year we’ll all have to put up with five months of trench digging and pipelaying to make it possible.

“This will be a major engineering project and logistical challenge for the University,” explains Paul Feast from Estates & Facilities Management. “The work will have to be carried out in phases and new heating mains will be needed throughout campus. This will necessitate excavations and the opening up of existing ducts."

So just at the time the campus would normally be at its best – sunny, warm, green and blooming – gangs of workers will be digging trenches all over the place. These trenches will be a metre deep and up to 100m long at any one time, before the workers lay a pipe in each one and fill it in again.

The route has been carefully planned and trenches will predominantly be in soft ground (taking the location of trees and roots into account), although some will inevitably have to cross pathways and roads. Timing of the work will also be planned, to minimise disruption to key University events such as student exams and the annual open day.

Altogether the contractor will be laying 5km of pipes around campus. This first phase should be completed by the start of the academic year 2006-07.

Unfortunately, despite all the work and expense we won’t actually have a new heating system in place for next winter. There will be plenty more still to do.

In summer 2007 the five ageing boilers in the central Boiler House will be replaced with new boiler plant and a new combined unit that will provide electricity as well as heating and hot water. The new system will generate around 20% of the University’s electricity requirement at only marginal cost. Meanwhile, the new pipework will be connected to plant rooms in a number of buildings on campus.

Completion of the entire £6 million project is due for September 2007, which means staff and students will enjoy the benefits of a reliable new heating system from the 2007-08 winter onwards. Try to remember that this summer, when you’re sunbathing in view of unsightly trenches.
What's the policy on posters?

Ever since I started at Sussex three years ago, I have been puzzling over the University's attitude to posters. In some parts of campus, the life expectancy of a poster - even an ordinary A4 sheet whose subject matter is totally innocuous and uncontroversial, such as a physics lecture - is numbered in hours rather than days.

One might think that this is part of a policy based on a concern that flyposting may get out of hand, if it weren't for the fact that every year at around this time it does get out of hand, with 'Vote for Me!' posters in every common area of the campus. The message is clear: if you are a money-making nightclub owner, the Council will help you make even more money. If you are standing for a sabbatical post at the Union, the University authorities will pander to your oversized ego. But if you are an innocent man incarcerated by a brutal regime without trial, you will get no help from either of these bodies.

Jim Grozier, Physics and Astronomy

Tom Harle, Communications Officer in the Students' Union, replies:

Jim's letter paints a fairly accurate picture of the current situation around poster and flyering on campus, but significant improvements are being made - with the intention of a clearer joint policy between the Students' Union and the University.

Many of the Students' Union's constitutional aims revolve around facilitation, communication and participation, so the Union maintains a number of boards solely for Union news and society posters. It also runs a successful poster scheme for external companies to reach the student market, with all revenue being reinvested in the Union's core services such as representation, advice, etc.

The Communications Officer checks all of these posters for any offensive content before allowing their distribution. There is currently a review of the placement of these boards to see if they can be made more effective for those who use them, both displaying and seeking information.

Many schools and departments also run their own notice boards to inform students and staff on various issues, and the content of these boards is a matter for those departments. In many cases staff seem happy to display information that they deem to be relevant.

Jim is right that a number of posters could slip between Union news and department news, but there are other notice boards around campus that haven't been officially 'claimed' and could serve this type of publicity.

Following guidance from the city council, we are advising all Union groups that fixing notices to external faces of buildings, trees, bins, etc., is unacceptable and in many cases is in breach of environmental protection laws.

Will I be punished for smoking near doorways?

It's been a while since I've read an article (Bulletin 27 January) and actually chuckled out loud. I've spent a significant amount of my life both as a smoker and a non-smoker, as such I'd like to think that I had some kind of perspective from both sides of the line.

I also, once, spent a significant amount of time at primary school, where drawing lines on shared desks to mark out territory was a common, fiercely fought and undeniably petty practice.

"As when hojogets allow, Estates staff will paint a white line two metres from each entrance." I sincerely hope that this is a token gesture, and that somebody somewhere with control of the budget is quietly acknowledging that the budget will never "allow" for this gross waste of resources.

By all means put up signs. I don't object to making smokers move away from the doorways; if nothing else, smokers tend to cause an obstruction - which is certainly annoying enough to warrant a few signs reminding us of our place.

But painting a physical line on the ground? What's going to happen when people unwittingly step foot over the line? Can I expect campus security guards to thwack me around the back of the head with a ruler and throw my lunchbox on the floor, by way of punishment?

Rob Swan, Web Team

Parking charges for lower-paid staff

Why has the £12,000 cut-off figure for parking charges not been increased in line with inflation? It has been the same for two years.

People who were on the lower wage scale (so didn't pay parking charges) and just had a pay increase have gone over the figure by £57; they will have to pay the same as someone on £22,000.

The people who earn over £22,000 will not be paying the charges monthly as it will be cheaper to pay daily, so we are effectively paying the same as someone earning over £22,000.

J. Thorogood, Catering Supervisor

Chris Wadie from Transport Management replies:

All aspects of payment methods and associated salary levels were considered at the conception of the new charges. It was decided that maintaining the level for exemption at £12,000 (ITE) was not unreasonable.

As with all systems that use segmentation points in calculations of payment scales, those who edge into new levels often feel the effect most; this is unavoidable.

The aim to promote alternative modes of transport other than the car for commuting to campus remains a priority. The changes will minimise the cost of administering car parking while increasing funds for initiatives included in the travel plan.

E-learning to be integrated with other systems

A new project aims to improve the delivery of e-learning for Sussex students by integrating it more closely with other computer systems on campus.

This means that, for example, when students log on to Study Direct – a virtual learning environment that is being used to support a number of university courses – they will already be automatically enrolled in all the courses that they are taking.

The project will benefit other institutions too, as the source code will be released under an Open Source licence and so will be freely available for use across the Sussex community, other higher education institutions and beyond.

The project started in January and will complete in July, ready for the new intake of students in September. It will be run by IT Services and the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU).

The team who will deliver the project is being assembled. Working on it will allow staff to extend their knowledge of specialist software as well as web service technologies – all skills that the institution will benefit from in the rapidly moving world of e-learning.

The project is funded by £47,000 from the JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), which supports higher and further education institutions in the use of information and communications technology.

Carol Sargood and Tessa Rogowski from IT Services prepared the successful bid. "IT Services have not won a bid from the JISC before, so it is very good and different news for us," said Trevor Potter, Director of IT Services.
**Trial of electronic purchase ordering proves a success**

A new electronic ordering system for staff who make purchases on behalf of the University is proving a success.

Each year the University spends over £40m of publicly funded money on a very wide range of goods, services and works. To streamline the purchasing process, a new electronic ordering system is being developed and released through Sussex Direct across all units during 2005-06.

There has been positive uptake and a smooth implementation in Estates and Facilities Management (EFM), the first area to go live.

Michelle Whiteman, EFM Finance Manager, is a keen supporter of the new system: "The results are already evident in reinforcing the key message of financial management and budgetary control. Better information on commitments for goods and services will facilitate forecasting and ultimately enable us to better manage the delivery of our budget allocation."

Mike Harmer, Head of Procurement, comments: "The introduction of approved suppliers, an integral part of this new buying tool, is a real benefit, delivering both value for money and the added benefit of working with suppliers who are committed to delivering a good service to the University."

Student Services will become the next area to adopt the new purchasing system. Over the next few months, it will be rolled out across all schools and units: the target is for all areas to be fully operational by 1 August.

The focal point in each school and unit is the designated purchasing co-ordinator. While their exact role may vary, they can provide local advice about purchasing, and other assistance such as consolidating orders to reduce costs.

Planning has begun on stage two of the new purchasing system, which will deliver substantial savings in staff time through more efficient processing of back-office functions.

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**Small ads**


**For sale:** 1992 BMW 3 series 318i 5-dr Coupe. ABS; electric windows, sunroof & mirrors. 17" M3 alloy wheels, M3 rear spoiler, M-Tec bodykit. MoT June, no tax. £1,750 ono. T Vassilis on 07888 742313, E vstefanis@sussex.ac.uk.

**To let:** Room in house off Lewes Rd Cleanr, wireless broadband, unrestricted parking. Share with female & dog. Pref female 30+. £350 pcm incl. + phone. T Marie on 679528 or 07793 733568, E marie@mglink.com.

**To let:** Studio flat in Lewes. Great views, new kitchen. £500 pcm. E J aspey@sussex.ac.uk.

**For sale:** Modern pine console table 100cm long. £35. Chapel chairs, painted, £18 pair. Tall white bookcase, £10. T Clare on 01825 767240.

**Wanted:** Occasional lift to/from campus from Uckfield. Also any assistance with typing for reasonable cost. T Clare on 01825 767240.

**Opportunity:** For mature, experienced woman to have part time of lovely grey gelding (15.1h) kept in Stannar Park. T Julie on ext. 7049, 07980 101293 or E j c coulter@sussex.ac.uk.

**To let:** 2-bed furnished flat nr Western Rd. Gas CH. Suit postdoc or research student/fellow. No smokers or pets. £725 pcm. T 728162, E Bernhard.wheaton@uzat.at.

**To rent:** Room in 4-bed Patcham bungalow. On 86 bus route to campus. Share with 2 females, 1 male (all mid 20s) & 2 dogs. Non-smoker. Available 23 Feb. £300 pcm incl. + phone. T James on 07875 617237.

**Wanted:** Employment/stay with English family July/Aug for French girl, 18, to improve English skills. Childcare, housework, cooking, etc. Contact Mrs Audrey Ragun, 3 Impasse de la Morelliere, 37290 Veigne, France. T 00 33 247 698 248fr (mob) 00 33 671 395 583.

**To let:** 2-bed flat with parking, overlooking Preston Park. Suit PG/Sec. Staff. £750 pcm. Available now. T Emma on 07918 660888, Simon on 07918 660887.

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**Obituary**

Roger Taylor, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry

Roger Taylor, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, died on 1 February, aged 70. He published 350 scientific papers and six books and made a significant contribution to the high international reputation of chemistry at Sussex.

Roger was appointed in 1963, and through a meticulous series of studies became a leading authority on electroplastic aromatic substitution. His painstaking work on chromatography made possible the separation of the fullerenes C60 and C70, a crucial step in the wider studies for which Professor Harry Kroto was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1996. In the later part of his career Roger combined these two areas and became a major contributor to the rapidly developing physical organic chemistry of the fullerenes.

He was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry Loschmidt Prize in 2002 and another as a most highly cited researcher. Roger collaborated widely with institutes throughout the world, contributed frequently to international symposia, and in his last year or two was appointed to a senior position in a research institute in China.

He was a DIY enthusiast, a serious gardener, a talented tennis player and a pianist and drummer in the University jazz group the Sussex Trugs. He was a formidable organiser with an amazing ability to attend to the smallest details, as those who remember his organisation of the British Association of Science meeting at Sussex will testify, and always a reliable source of advice about practical matters.

One of his books was a history of Kingston, the village where he lived for over 40 years and where he worked tirelessly to improve the amenities and promote community activities.

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**Your quick exit – my stolen laptop**

Unfortunately thieves are again active on the campus.

One of the attractions is the ease of entry into buildings during the dark evenings; the number of insecure buildings being found by patrolling security officers is high.

"At the end of a hard day we all wish to leave work as quickly as possible," says David Lamp, Head of Security Services. "However, it would be appreciated if you could just spend a minute securing the windows and door of your work area and switching off the light (which helps us to identify possible intruders)."

The main problem is people taking short cuts through fire exits and leaving them open. David urges: "Please use the proper routes when leaving your building and ensure the final exit doors are closed behind you."
New building for trainee doctors

Medical students got their first look at a new £1.75 million study centre last month.

The students, all in their second year at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), took a break from their studies to join the Dean of BSMS, Professor Jon Cohen and hospital staff at the new centre being built in the grounds of Hove's Mill View Hospital.

Known as the Sussex Education Centre, the new building is expected to be fully operational by May. It includes an 80-seat lecture theatre, library, seminar and meeting rooms and will be a base for 30 trainee doctors as well as a learning centre for local NHS staff such as district nurses and health visitors.

It is a joint project between South Downs Health NHS Trust, which provides mental-health services in Brighton and Hove, and BSMS.

Late on 2 February, Dr Teresa Knapp reported a bird in her office in the John Maynard Smith building.

David Harper
Life Sciences

David Streeter
Life Sciences

It was a Goldcrest, which is Europe's smallest bird and identified by its yellow crown with black borders.

Some of the yellow feathers on males have orange bases that are revealed during display.

The tiny stray was a female with uniformly yellow feathers. How she got into a room with closed windows is a mystery, but her adventure ended safely when she flew into a nearby Yew tree at sunrise and began foraging. This may have been her home; this Yew is under a row of six Monterey Cypresses where Goldcrests nest each summer.

Goldcrests are strongly associated with conifer trees. They thrive in dense stands of spruces and pines, and their numbers in Britain soared with the spread of douglas fir plantations. Three centuries ago, pioneering naturalist Gilbert White regarded Goldcrests as "almost as rare as any bird we knew".

sites such as campus with conifers dotted around deciduous woodland are only an 'over-spliff' habitat for Goldcrests. On the continent, similar habitat is often home to their slightly larger relatives, Firecrests. These have a black eye stripe separated from the crown patch by a broad white band. They are rare in Britain, where they first nested in 1962. Single Firecrests occasionally visit campus between September and April. This month we have seen both a male and a female. We live in hope!

New study centre: Second year medical students join Professor Jon Cohen (second left) of BSMS on the building site at Mill View Hospital in Hove.

New dental training places allocated to shortage areas

A joint bid from the Universities of Brighton and Sussex to establish the first dental school in the south-east outside London has been unsuccessful, despite getting to stage two of the bidding process.

The Department of Health and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced on 26 January that funding for 100 new dental training places will be allocated in the north and south-west of England, giving priority to areas of high need. The increase in training places forms part of the government's plans to tackle a national shortage of dentists.

The Universities of Brighton and Sussex, in partnership with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), had planned to found a new school of dentistry in Brighton. The bid had the support of the Surrey and Sussex Health Authority, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and the local Primary Care Trusts.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: "While we are disappointed not to be hosting a dental school, there are locations where there is a greater shortage of dentists than in the south-east. We support the move to create more training places around the country."

The Monterrey Cypresses by the JMS Building (pictured above) predate the University, having been planted by the previous owners, the Pelham family of nearby Storner Manor. In the wild Cypresias macrocarpa is extremely rare, being confined to just two coastal promontories in California near Monterey and Carmel. The larger grove lies between Point Cypress and Pescadero Point on the north side of Carmel Bay while the smaller lies on the south side, protected by the Point Lobos State Reserve.

The wild trees grow on exposed headlands with almost constant onshore winds and dank sea fogs. With such an unpropitious home climate, it is hardly surprising that they thrive in the mild and more oceanic parts of temperate Europe, although they can suffer from late spring frosts. In Britain, where they were introduced in about 1838, they do best in coastal areas of southern England. There are good specimens in several large gardens in Sussex, as well as on campus. Sadly, campus lost two whole rows of Monterey Cypresses in the Great Storm of 1987.

In 1888 a Monterrey Cypress became overly friendly with a com-patriot from western North America, the Nootka Cypress Chamaecyparissus nootkatensis, in the garden of Leighton Hall in Montgo-mereshire. The result of this ill-judged liaison was the notorious Leyland Cypress, C Chamaecyparissus leylandii (the cross indicates its hybrid origin), arguably the most vilified tree on the planet.
Academic events

MON 13 FEB
1pm Geography seminar: Linda McDowell (Oxford). Latvian women workers in the post-war era. Arts C175.

3pm International relations seminar: Anastasia Nesvetailova (Sussex). Are we heading for another great depression? Russell 30.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Joan Swann (Open)., title TBA, Arts D440.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Collette Harris (IDS), Youth and translation in Tajikistan. Arts C233.


WED 15 FEB
1pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Markku Lehtonen (Sussex), Evaluation of environmental policies. Freeman Social Space.

1pm GDS seminar: Nigel Jones (Liverpool). The ABC (and D1, D2 and G) of protein complex formation in the cancer-prone syndrome Fanconi anaemia. GDS seminar room.

5pm Migration seminar: Laura Agustin (Leicester), title TBC, Arts C233.

THU 16 FEB
4pm History seminar: Fania Qe-Salabeger (Haifa). A 17th-century political Hebraism as a 'missing link' in the history of Republican thought. Arts A155.

4.30pm SPT seminar: Samuel Knafo (Sussex). Marx and the problem of difference under capitalism. Arts C233.

5pm Development lecture: Hubert Schmitz (IDS). Does local cooperation matter for competing in local markets? Chi Li.

6.30pm Centre for Early Modern Studies lecture: Jim Shapiro (Columbia). Seven weeks in Shakespeare's life. BSMS LT.


FRI 17 FEB
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Raphie Kaplinsky (Brighton). Innovation: Does China make a difference? Freeman G24/25.


MON 20 FEB
3pm International relations seminar: Libby Assassi (Sussex), Empowerment through financial inclusion. Russell 30.

4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: Sandra Piai (Sussex), Action research and classroom observation instruments. Arts D440.


4.30pm Neurosience seminar: Adrian Oyer (La Trobe). Bees' colour vision. Understanding visual capabilities and cognition possible with the mini brain. GDS seminar room.

5pm Education seminar: Sharon Gewirtz & Alan Cribb (King's). What difference should identity make to educators? Arts E419.

TUES 21 FEB
12noon Biochemistry seminar: Lisa Roberts (Surrey). It's all in the translation. JMS LT.

4pm COGS seminar: Mercedes Lahatstein (Imperial). Researching the developmental nature of emotions with robots. Pav 1A1.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: David Mose (SOAS), Anthropologists in the World Bank. Arts C233.

6.30pm Professorial lecture: Sue Hartley (Sussex). Plants and their herbivores - why the world is green. BSMS LT.

WED 22 FEB
1pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Theresa Larsen (Copenhagen). When markets fail: Why generic technologies need public science. Freeman social space.

1pm GDS seminar: Majid Hosepi (Sussex), GDS seminar room.


2.15pm SEI Politics seminar: Jonathan Hopkin (LSE). The transformation of the European Left. EDB 121.

5pm Migration seminar: Russell King & Julie Vullietari (Sussex). The impact of mass migration on older people in rural Albania. Arts C233.

THU 23 FEB

6pm Development lecture: Robert Chambers (Sussex), Interdisciplinary research and development. Chi LT.

ARTS EVENTS

PERFORMANCE

Wed 15 Feb - Sat 18 Feb
7.30pm Sussex Musical Theatre Society (SMuTS) - Copacabana
The most extravagant musical ever written for stage. Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

Tue 21 Feb
8pm Ricochet Dance Productions - Man & Woman
Designer John Napier's sculptural sets provide a shifting surface for Fin Walker's visceral choreography in this emotional new work, performed to Ben Park's pulsing percussive soundtrack. GAC.

Thu 23 Feb - Sat 25 Feb
7.30pm, matinee Fri 1.30pm
Northern Stage - Great Expectations
The nightmarish atmosphere of the marshes, the magnificent gothic mystery of Satis House and the bustling thrill of London are recreated using film, music and ensemble storytelling in this adaptation of Dickens' compelling story. GAC.

FILM

Fri 10 Feb
8pm Elizabeththown (12A). GAC.

Sat 11 Feb
8pm British Animation Awards 2006 (18). A showcase of animation shortlisted for this year's awards, with an opportunity to vote for your favourites. GAC.

Sun 12 Feb
2pm Pride & Prejudice (U). GAC,
5pm Thumbersucker (15). GAC.
8pm Dear Wendy (15). GAC.

Sun 19 Feb
2pm Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG).
5pm Lo Grand Voyage (PG). GAC.
8pm Me and You and Everyone We Know (15). GAC.

EXHIBITION

Until Sun 19 Mar
Magali Nougarede
These intensely coloured studies of young people and the elderly by a Brighton-based photographer suggest two distinct and often alien generations. GAC.

If you need a good reason to join us in

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You will be part of an international network helping workers defeat exploitation and intimidation.

Will that do? To join Unison, contact Felicity Harrison on 0888 or F.A.Harrison@sussex.ac.uk

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Claire Potter, with contributions from Jacquie Bealing, Maggie Cluene 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 24 February, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 17 February. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
2006 has started with a bang. Sussex IP has successfully licensed a number of products, we have two new patents and the University has its first KTP Associate.

Sussex successes

3D Software
Sussex IP have sold the first of what is hoped to be many, software licences to the National Museum of Agriculture and Agricultural Food Industry in Szerwina, Poland. The software itself, ARCO (Augmented Representation of Cultural Objects) has been developed under the European Union funded project led by Dr Martin White in the Informatics Department.

ARCO is an innovative technology for creating virtual representations of museum artefacts using a combination of bespoke software. The technology will be used by museums and galleries to present 3D virtual exhibitions remotely as well as in situ. ARCO has been piloted by the Victoria & Albert Museum and more locally by the Sussex Archaeological Society.

For further information visit www.arco-web.org

Patent Licensed
Sussex IP concluded an inter institutional agreement with the University of Virginia Patent Foundation in relation to an invention jointly made by researchers in the School of Life Science at Sussex (Prof Dai Stephens and Dr Andy Mead) and the University of Virginia from which a US patent application has been prosecuted. The first worldwide, non-exclusive license for the patent has been secured with the US firm Lafayette Instrument Co.

The University of Virginia Patent Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that evaluates intellectual property generated in the course of research at the University of Virginia (UVA), promoting the entry of technologies into the commercial marketplace, an endeavour that is designed to generate royalty income used to fund additional research at UVA.

Sussex IP and UVF have cooperated in the filing and prosecution of the US patent application and as joint owners of the patent intend to equally share the proceeds of all revenues generated from licensing activities.

Two way transfer

The University of Sussex has its first KTP application in the pipeline. Andy Cundy, from Life Sciences (above), is the lead academic on a project with AWE Aldermaston looking at methods for reducing radioactive decontamination in soil.

A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) is a collaborative partnership to enable a company to become more innovative, effective and efficient with the aim to boost profits and commercial value. The KTP scheme is a tripartite partnership between an organisation, a University academic, and a graduate (or KTP Associate). The national KTP scheme is part-funded, primarily by the DTI, but other research councils can act as sponsors too. It covers all disciplines, technical and non-technical, spanning both science and technology through to the arts.

The KTP scheme is about applying academic knowledge for the direct commercial benefit of business. The knowledge required to input into the project may require just one academic specialist, or it may require input from several different subjects, and it is quite common to have a team of academics supporting a particular project, though one is deemed the lead academic and supervisor.

So what are the benefits of getting involved with KTP?

For the academic:
- An understanding of applying academic knowledge into industry
- Staff development opportunities
- The student project could result in a postgraduate degree being awarded
- Publishing of academic papers (where appropriate and agreed with the company)
- Links with industry
- Points to RAE ratings

For the graduate:
- Fast track career and personal development
- NVQ management training modules completed through the KTP scheme
- Opportunity for recognition higher degrees at postgraduate level
- Real industry project work applying knowledge

Examples of KTPs: Designing a new product range, improving manufacturing process, providing a responsive and dynamic business strategy, increasing business capability through e-commerce, reducing costs through waste elimination and better management of resources.

If you are an academic and have links with industry and have potential projects that would be suitable please contact Angela Rabone to discuss.

Regional Development Office, 01273 877970 or email angela.rabone@sussex.ac.uk
Business Plan Competition

The Oxford University Business Plan Competition will be officially launched on 25 January 2006. So now is a good time for you to start thinking about your ideas and/or forming a team around which you can build a business.

Anyone can enter the Business Plan Competition; individuals, new companies, existing companies creating spin-offs, scientists, students and entrepreneurs. Ideas can be science, technology, medicine or design-based.

As in previous years, there will be tremendous opportunities for all participants to access a wide network of valuable contacts and a chance to engage in training through a series of workshops on the process and stages of Business Planning.

The final will be held during Venturefest 2006 (3-4 July) at the Said Business School in Oxford.

Six high-potential businesses were shortlisted from 106 entries from around the world to compete for the £20,000 prize. The finalists were:

- Biomers - translucent wires for orthodontic braces
- Oshi Life - floating hotels - aimed to be completely energy self-sufficient
- Concrete Canvas - instant shelter - inflatable concrete shelters for humanitarian use
- Intelliglass - smart coating for glass
- MicroBioBotics - nanometre-precision injection of individual cells
- Omilicon Technologies - the winning organisation, who are commercialising a breakthrough in Teflon® technology which allows Teflon® to be injection moulded.

All the finalists are in the early stages of setting up their businesses and will use the competition as a launch pad to raise investment, adding to the UK's fast-growing technology business sector.

The 2005 Oxford University Business Plan Competition received a record 106 business plans, a 12% increase on last year. Entrants to the competition included science researchers, lone inventors, small companies and entrepreneurs from around the world. The ideas make significant use of science, technology or design and range from wireless communications to environmental solutions to novel materials.

For further details visit: http://www.science-enterprise.ox.ac.uk

Omidicon Technologies: Injection moulding of Teflon (left) and Teflon chips (right).

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, but no responsibility is accepted for errors and omissions.