University experts question government energy review

Sussex energy experts have challenged the idea that the UK faces an 'energy gap' or that nuclear power is the only answer to our future energy needs.

The comments came this week from the Sussex Energy Group (SEG), a collective of academics who specialise in energy issues and are based at SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research. They are responding to a government consultation, issued on 23 January as part of its current energy review.

According to the SEG, the government risks asking the wrong questions – and jumping to the wrong conclusions – as the debate continues about the UK’s future energy plans.

Issuing a list of critical questions in the energy debate, many of them neglected to date, the Sussex Energy Group questions the hypothesis of an ‘energy gap’ (a shortfall in energy supply) and that nuclear power will be the single adequate response to our future energy needs, whether to help mitigate climate change or to promote energy security.

Questions asked by the SEG include the following:

- If the UK faces an ‘energy gap’, how much does it matter and in what specific ways?
- How should energy security be analysed, and what are the security implications of different options for energy supply?
- How do we compare the costs and risks of different energy technologies?

Professor Gordon MacKerron, director of the SEG, says: “Most people in the energy community are surprised by the government’s decision to hold another energy review only three years after its previous one.

“...main reasons for the review – higher oil and gas prices and a perception that energy security is threatened – do not provide sufficient grounds to change the direction set in the 2003 review. The policies set out in the previous review have had little time to start taking effect, let alone reveal their long-term potential.”

Dr Jim Watson of the SEG adds: “We do see some potential short-term problems with gas supply as new infrastructure is built, but none of the lurid predictions about industry shutting down are coming true. Such predictions have been part of a sustained campaign to re-open the energy question, largely to provide a rationale to re-visit the nuclear question.

“However, none of the fundamentals around the costs of nuclear power or its contentious nature have changed. It would take at least ten years or more probably 1.5 before new nuclear power stations could come online.

“In the meantime, a host of supply and demand options could help meet our objectives, including energy efficiency, renewables and micro-generation. Nuclear may have a part to play in a low-carbon future, but in the short term there is a serious risk that it will only serve to take attention away from these other options.”

Staff in Health & Safety and Estates have decided to arrange for the water system in all University-managed housing to be disinfected during 2006.

The decision follows a review of the monitoring and testing procedures used to prevent legionella bacteria from multiplying in the University’s buildings.

Routine testing of water supplies led to the discovery earlier this month of trace levels of legionella in two halls of residence on campus and in off-campus accommodation in Hove.

It is not unusual to find these bacteria in water supplies and students in Norwich House, Lancaster House and 42 Brunswick Place were in no immediate danger following the discovery.

However, it was necessary to disinfect the water supply in the affected sites. (Legionella is the bacterium that can – if not dealt with – cause a lung infection called legionnaires’ disease.)

A specialist contractor was brought in for this task, which involved shutting off the water supply completely so that tanks and systems could be flushed through with disinfectant and drained.

During this process, the affected students were provided with access to alternative washing facilities in neighbouring buildings.

The routine tests also revealed extremely low traces of legionella in Kulukundis House and Kent House. No immediate action was necessary, but Kulukundis House will be disinfected some time in the next six weeks and Kent House will follow suit during the Easter vacation.

Students and staff in other buildings were unaffected. The water supplies across campus are monitored routinely throughout the year and this will of course continue. Any necessary remedial action will be taken if water supplies elsewhere are affected.

Inside

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**BOOKMARK**

Peter Boxall (Senior Lecturer in English, Hums)

*Don DeLillo: The possibility of fiction*

Taylor & Francis Group, £65.00 (hardback)
ISBN: 0415309816

The publisher says: "One of the few available books of criticism on the topic, this monograph presents the fullest account to date of Don DeLillo’s writing, situating his oeuvre within a wider analysis of the condition of contemporary fiction, and dealing with his entire work in relation to contemporary political and economic concerns for the first time."

Carol Dyhouse (Research Professor in Centre for Gender Studies, SocCul)

*Students: A gendered history*

Taylor & Francis, £24.99 (paperback)
ISBN: 0415309818

The publisher says: "This compelling and stimulating book explores the gendered social history of students in modern Britain. Drawing upon wide-ranging original research, this book examines: gender differences in the expectations of higher education; the effect of equality legislation; demography; the impact of the 'sexual revolution' on female students; and the role that gender plays in shaping students' cultural life."

Dan Hough (Lecturer in Politics, SocCul) and Charlie Jeffrey

*Devolution and Electoral Politics*

Manchester University Press, £55.00 (hardback)
ISBN: 0719073308

The publisher says: "This book presents a comparative perspective on the new dynamics of electoral competition following devolution to Scotland and Wales. It brings together leading experts on elections, political parties and regional politics from Britain, Europe and North America to explore the dynamics and interactions of national and regional arenas of electoral competition."

Geoffrey Sampson (Professor of Natural Language, Informatics, SciTech) and Diana McCarthy (Research Fellow in Informatics, SciTech)

*Corpus Linguistics: Readings in a wider discipline*

Continuum International Publishing Group, £25.00 (paperback)
ISBN: 082648803X

The publisher says: "This volume reprints 42 articles on corpus linguistics by international authors, which comprehensively illustrate the directions in which the subject is developing. It includes articles that are already recognised as classics, and others which deserve to become so, supplemented with editorial introductions relating individual contributions to the field as a whole."

Peter Smith (Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology, LifeSci), Michael Harris Bond and Cigdem Kagitcibasi

*Understanding Social Psychology Across Cultures*

Sage, £22.99 (paperback)
ISBN: 1412903661

Patricia M. Rodriguez Mosquera of Brunel University says: "One of the best available texts on cross-cultural psychology. It reviews a large amount of cross-cultural studies and covers a wide range of perspectives on culture ... It reveals what is unique to cross-cultural psychology."

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**Physics turns a corner with three-point turn atoms**

You may think making a three-point turn in your car is easy, but how about doing the same with a single-charged atom?

That's what scientists have achieved for the first time, marking a major breakthrough for physics and a first step towards creating the complicated labyrinth of 'atomic motorways' needed for a quantum computer.

The microscopic motoring manoeuvre was performed by Sussex physicist Dr Winfried Hessinger with colleagues at the University of Michigan, USA. Details of the experiment are published in the January 2006 issue of the journal *Applied Physics Letters*.

The ability to shuttle ions (charged atoms) in a controlled environment is seen as an important demonstration of how to harness the seemingly magical properties of atoms. This development will help scientists to store and analyse the vast quantities of data used in highly sophisticated calculations – in super-fast quantum computers.

To be able to build this kind of computer, scientists need to trap ions – no mean feat in itself – then control their movements in a sophisticated labyrinth of 'atomic roads'. Such a process has previously been carried out for single ions along one line, but Winfried and the Michigan team have shown how they can make atoms turn a corner.

Keen for more driving pleasure, they even managed to switch two ions around by having them perform a three-point turn. This will hopefully allow eventually for the mass-manipulation of atoms, vital for the operation of a quantum computer.

Ion traps are made from micro-fabricated electrodes, in which ions are controlled by electric fields in an ultra-high vacuum chamber. The new construction, the first two-dimensional ion trap array, is the most sophisticated yet. The ions are steered inside a T-junction that is laser micro-machined in thin layers of a material called alumina.

Winfried says: 'This is big news because it is very difficult to trap atoms, let alone manipulate them in transit. This and other recent developments show that it should be possible to build a quantum computer with trapped ions. Now we can take two atoms and swap them around, which mathematically corresponds to a fundamental requirement for a quantum computer. This is the prerequisite to go from something academically interesting to something useful. This is a quantum leap in the development of the quantum computer.'

Quantum technology could be used in the future to understand chemical reactions, create medicines, ultra-fast communications systems and seemingly impossible simulations, such as the creation of our universe.

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**Ion trap T-junction**: Array used to shuttle single atomic ions around corners, with single atom close to junction.
VC's VOICE

Work on the development of a new resource allocation model for the University has been under way for several months. This will give us a much clearer financial basis for academic planning, and will be an essential component of the new strategic planning process launched by Senate and Council in December. That process will focus on academic excellence in teaching and research, within a framework that is financially robust and sustainable.

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor

The new Executive Group met for three days last week to consider how the planning process should be taken forward, and to develop proposals for investment in excellence. We reaffirmed the University’s commitment to the objective of achieving the highest academic standards: Sussex must continue to be seen as a leading university with a high international reputation.

We gave comprehensive and searching scrutiny to the full range of the University’s activity, paying particular attention to research performance, student recruitment and financial performance.

Of course, as everyone knows, we are operating within very difficult financial constraints, arising from the fact that the University has been running at a deficit for a number of years. These deficits and the resulting constraints result not from profligate expenditure but from a failure to grow and diversify our income.

We do have the option to do nothing. We could leave all vacant academic posts unfilled, abandon plans for new non-residential building, cut back maintenance expenditure to the bare minimum, and use new income from undergraduate fees and from research to plug the financial deficit. This would balance the books, but it would be disastrous for the long-term prospects of the University.

A positive investment programme is urgently needed. The research position of the University needs to be strengthened in advance of the next Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and we need to improve our research funding performance as the funding system changes. The Students’ Union are right to draw our attention to the need for investment in teaching and in student facilities.

New income must therefore be used for new investment, not for plugging deficits. So the deficits have to be met by reinroducing some existing expenditure. Investment in areas of strength requires disinvestment elsewhere. And those investment and disinvestment decisions must be evidence-based.

I want to emphasise that this is not a new round of ‘cuts’. It is a strategy for building the academic strength of the University by investment that focuses on strength.

The Executive will give leadership and direction to the process, but a detailed blueprint for building on strength cannot be handed down from on high. Those detailed plans to achieve growth must be developed from within schools themselves.

The immediate objective is to have an initial outline plan ready for Senate and Council in March. If the direction of the outline strategy is approved by Council, a more detailed round of strategic planning will take place from March onwards and in the summer term.

This is a very demanding timetable, given that a number of difficult decisions will have to be made. It is essential for the long-term health of the University that we tackle this agenda together, with urgency, determination and vigour.

Three new Pro-Vice-Chancellors to be appointed

The University will this term be taking forward a process of appointment of three Pro-Vice-Chancellors (PVCs), with an advert appearing in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) on Friday 3 February, and interviews scheduled for April.

As reported in the Bulletin on 16 December, papers presented to Senate and Council in December outlined new senior management arrangements for the University, with the creation of the VC’s Executive and a Senior Management Forum.

The three PVC roles within the executive will provide leadership on planning and resources, research, and teaching and learning. Two of the PVCs will also provide senior management support and advice to Deans. One of the PVCs will formally be appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) to follow on from Professor Tony Moore when his term finishes.

The new appointments represent a significant period of management development and change for Sussex. As already announced, PVCs Professor Rose Luckin and Professor Mary Stuart have taken up promotions to other UK universities in December and January.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: “The work which the current PVCs have done and will continue to do for Sussex has been outstanding.

“However, with new management structures being put in place and with the staffing changes which have come about, there is the opportunity to bring forward new academic leadership from within the University, as well as drawing in experienced and talented individuals from other institutions. We see this as an exciting opportunity, since the new PVCs will play a vital role in shaping and supporting the future direction and development of Sussex.”

Full details of the appointment and selection process will be published on 3 February on the Sussex website. The process will be supported by Perrett Laver, a leading higher education recruitment company. It is expected that applications for the posts will come from inside the University as well as externally.

SPRU's 40th anniversary

In 2006, SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research celebrates its 40th anniversary with a series of events including seminars, debates and presentations.

The events begin with a series of anniversary seminars to be held at the Freeman Centre during February and March.

In May, during the Brighton Festival, there will be a short series of debates in Brighton’s new Jubilee Library. These have been organised jointly with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), which also celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2006.

Later in the year, there will be further seminars and workshops with key speakers from around the world, and a range of short conferences, meetings and activities of interest to local schools, communities and business. The highlight will be an anniversary conference from 11-13 September.

The purpose of these events is to open up a new critical and collective dialogue, and to explore forward-looking approaches that will inform, lead and inspire the policy agenda.
No smoking near doorways

It's become a common sight on campus: the shivering or sunbathing smoker, hunched outside a doorway and puffing away on a fag. This is the result of the University's smoking policy, which has banned smoking in campus buildings (with the exception of some bars and student facilities) for some time now.

Now there's been a change to the policy, as a result of concerns raised by a number of staff last spring and summer about cigarette smoke drifting into their offices. Smoking is now prohibited not only in University buildings but also within two metres "of an occupied area".

Clive Parkinson, Director of Health, Safety & Environment, explains that some staff had been affected by people smoking either directly underneath their office (if it was above a doorway) or by 'bystander' smoke (if their office was next to an outside area where smokers congregated).

Attempts to address the problem by moving ashtrays away from doorways and posting polite notices had little effect, says Clive.

The issue was raised via the Health & Safety Committee and a consultation exercise was run late last spring so that views could be considered at its June meeting.

The committee considered all the comments received and decided that a two-metre smoking exclusion zone around campus buildings should be introduced in an attempt to stop this problem of 'bystander' smoke. The University of Brighton already had the same system.

Council (the University's governing body) ratified the decision at its December meeting, which means that smokers now have to go walk-about unless they are in one of the campus bars, one of the student residences (and even then not in offices in residential buildings) or the smoking section of the Students' Union common room.

So how do they measure the prescribed distance from a building? As and when budgets allow, Estates staff will paint a white line two metres from each entrance and provide some signage to remind smokers of the new policy.

PS Every Wednesday afternoon there are free sessions in the Sport Centre, offering advice and support for anyone who is trying to give up smoking. T 267397 for details.

A brisk walk is good for the heart and soul

As part of campus Health Week from 23–27 January, a group of Sussex students and staff braved the cold to take a bracing lunchtime walk to Falmer village.

Other activities on offer included meditation, kickboxing, kinesiology and aerobics.

LETTERS

Should SRIF money be spent on labs or loos?

I was intrigued to learn that 90% of the £28,000 cost of installing new toilets in Pevensey 1 came from HEFCE via its Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF). The purpose of SRIF is to "contribute to higher education institutions' long-term sustainable research strategies and address past under-investment in research infrastructure".

Is it that a lot of thinking takes place in the loos and is ultimately channelled into research papers? Or is it an attempt to emphasise that the University is a 'seat of learning'?

Jannie Roed, Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU)

Martin Green, Head of Projects and Development in Estates, replies:

The SRIF project for Pevensey 1 was approximately £2.1m and included offices, computer labs and a psychology suite. Toilets are a basic requirement and are a small but legitimate element of a SRIF-funded project such as this.

The toilets were the subject of an application for listed building consent, which Brighton & Hove City Council took an eternity to process; hence the work was carried out later than the original scheme. This seems to have highlighted them as something separate!

In fact all the SRIF projects are complete except for this work, which is due for completion at the end of January.

New cycle path is a "huge advance"

It's great to see and use the short stretch of resurfaced cycle path and footpath just north of Sussex House. The contrasting colours on the excellent new surface benefit both cyclists and pedestrians and are a huge advance on the miserable and dangerous pathed surface that continues to Bramber House.

Let's hope, though, that this small beginning will before too long be followed by an intricate ribbon of cycle paths around campus.

Professor Fred Gray, Sussex Institute

Chris Wadley, Transport Manager, replies:

The pedestrian and cycle route adjacent to Pevensey 1 was chosen for the first phase of our resurfacing programme because puddles frequently form there when it rains. This new surface will be extended across campus as maintenance and transport funds allow in the future. In the short term however, the existing cycle route and markings will be repaired.

Feng Shui and the Arts turtles/tortoises

Although I was once, long, long ago, a weekend hippy, I'm not particularly New Agey and don't know much about geomancy and the like.

However, whenever I pass the rather pleasing stone tortoises (or chelolians of some type) in the courtyard outside Arts A, I always get the uneasy feeling that they're facing the wrong way - they seem to confront each other quite aggressively and also point their back ends at the doors into the building.

Do we have anyone on the staff who could give us a Feng Shui opinion on their placing? After all, or so my house, putting things in their right place can sometimes generate financial as well as spiritual benefits.

Richard Price, Staff Welfare Officer
First Business Fellows for Sussex

Dr Mark Osborne spends his working day in the lab, detecting and manipulating molecules. He is a Research Fellow in Chemistry, after all. But in future he will also be out and about around campus, networking with his academic colleagues to identify business opportunities. Because Mark has become one of the first five Business Fellows at Sussex.

He has been approved as a Business Fellow by the London Technology Network (LTN), a non-profit body that aims to improve the range and quality of interactions between universities and business.

Funded by central government, the EU and two regional development agencies, LTN organises a networking group that brings together academics and business executives.

"It's not an open network," explains Mike Wyld of the Regional Development Office. "A university has to be invited to make nominations against set criteria, and the nominees then have to be approved by LTN."

All five of the nominees Sussex put forward have been appointed as LTN Business Fellows. In addition to Mark, they are Dr John Carroll, Reader in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence; Dr Andy Cundy, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science; Dr Elias Stipidis, Senior Lecturer in Engineering; and Dr Ben Varcoe, Reader in Optical and Atomic Physics.

"We were originally offered three places, plus a possible fourth, so of course it's a great vote of confidence that they have now awarded us five," says Mike. "This gives the University very strong connections with what appears to be a highly successful network."

The Fellows have been appointed for a renewable one-year term and are expected to work on average half a day a week for LTN.

- Internally they will use this time by networking with their peers in their own and cross-over fields, to map the strengths of the University.
- Externally they will attend themed networking evenings in London, where they will meet senior business executives in the technological field, as well as Fellows from other universities.

The Fellows are not themselves expected to progress any business opportunities they discover. They will report them to the Regional Development Office at Sussex, and also to LTN. The Regional Development Office will then locate appropriate academics in Sussex and arrange contacts with the prospective partners.

Do you want to Make a Difference?

Are you an ideas person? Do you want to Make a Difference on a local, national or even global scale? And be in with the chance to win £10,000?

Teams of up to five or individuals can enter the 'Make a Difference' ideas competition, which is open to all students and staff. (Staff must have four students from at least two disciplines on their team.)

Ideas should be on topics that will make a difference to quality of life in areas such as the environment, recycling, health, pollution, ageing population, global warming, etc. See www.mad-ideas.co.uk for details.

The competition is co-ordinated by the Regional Development Office at Sussex and sponsored by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Memories sought on the lost shanty town of Brighton

A little-known shanty town that existed briefly on a hill outside Brighton in the 1920s is the focus of new research by a Sussex lecturer.

Sweet Hill Estate developed on downland to the north of Patcham village to help cope with an acute housing shortage in Brighton after the First World War. The assortment of old army huts was home to around 24 families - and their farm animals.

Now Geoffrey Mead, who teaches landscape studies and local history for the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), is carrying out doctoral research to find out what happened to the community, and why the estate returned to downland within a few years.

"I have always thought of undiscovered territory as in the realms of Scott of the Antarctic and Livingstone," says Geoffrey. "Yet on Brighton's fringes was a largely unknown settlement, with a lost landscape and a human history that I am sketchily recreating."

Shanty towns were cropping up around Brighton during the early part of the 20th century, including at Shoreham Beach and Woodingdean, as a response to the housing crisis. The assortment of shacks and converted tram and railway carriages largely made way for more substantial development and the creation of permanent communities.

Applications to construct homes on Sweet Hill in 1921 were originally refused by Steyning Rural District Council on the grounds that the area had an inadequate water supply and sanitary provision. But the army surplus huts went up anyway, with many of the plots incorporating piggeries, goat pens and hen houses.

"It was this smallholding aspect of the estate that caused Brighton such anxiety and led the town to secure a compulsory purchase order on the land to protect the water supply," points out Geoffrey. He assumed that the huts were then demolished, as the hill now has only two modern dwellings. But his research has revealed that people were still moving to Sweet Hill in 1926.

"I would be very interested to hear from anyone else who lived at Sweet Hill or who remembers this part of Brighton's forgotten past," he adds.
The Sussex Lectures – from ceramics to space

Do social scientists have a responsibility to provide the 'best' possible evidence to inform the provision of educational and social services? That was the question addressed by Judy Sebba in her professorial lecture on Tuesday (24 January).

Judy is Professor of Education in the Sussex Institute, which has been involved in five interdisciplinary 'systematic reviews' in social work, education and adult learning. "THK's scientific community of the process and involvement of users of research, these are providing accessible evidence that can promote social justice in the public services as well as in the university and research communities," said Judy.

Her lecture was the first of this term's series of Sussex Lectures, which are given by prominent visiting speakers and leading Sussex academics, and illustrate the breadth and quality of research being conducted on campus.

The series continues on 8 February with a visit from well-known brain scientist Baroness Susan Greenfield to the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

As part of the Sussex Lectures season, art historian Dr Timon Screech will be giving the annual Barlow Lecture on 14 February. Each year, the Barlow Collection of Chinese ceramics on campus holds a lecture given by a distinguished scholar in areas of Asian art and architecture.

Two days later Professor Jim Shapiro will give the Centre for Early Modern Studies Lecture, focusing on just seven weeks in Shakespeare's life.

Then it will be the turn of two Sussex professors to explain their research to a lay audience. On 21 February ecologist Professor Sue Hartley will enlighten lecture-goers as to why the world is green (it's all to do with plants and the animals that eat them); and on 7 March space scientist Professor Paul Gough will explain the mysteries of space weather.

Contrast these topics with the subject of Professor Shamit Sagar's lecture in London on 16 March, and the wide-ranging subject matter of the Sussex Lectures programme becomes evident. He will be talking about political extremism within British Muslim communities – and whether the strategies to deal with it are realistic or sustainable.

The season concludes with Professor Mike Peters on 30 March, giving his inaugural lecture in the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Sussex Lectures and they are all free of charge. For details, email events@sussex.ac.uk, call ext. 8258 or see www.sussex.ac.uk/events.

The first meeting took place on 10 January in the 2006 national pay negotiations between UCEA – the universities employers’ association – and the trades unions representing staff in higher education. Negotiations would normally continue from spring and through the summer to agree a pay settlement, which would take effect from 1 August.

Although under the new framework agreement grading structures will be determined locally, national pay negotiations continue to operate, as the 51-point scale that underpins the framework is common across all higher education institutions.

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) had submitted a detailed pay claim on 9 January, following up its claim in October, which requested a commitment from universities to devote at least one-third of new fee income to staff pay and conditions.

The other unions representing support staff (which for Sussex are Amicus and Unison) provided an outline of the approach they would be making, but are not expected to submit a formal claim until later in the year, probably April.

The AUT, which represents staff on academic and academic-related salaries, is now proceeding with a ballot of its members, which was notified to the employers on 4 January, for strike action or “action short of a strike”. Employers will be notified of the outcome of the ballot after it closes on 16 February.

The union’s concern is that the management side nationally have not provided specific commitments on the proportion of new fees that would be allocated to pay and conditions. The management side is concerned that the AUT call for action is premature, as negotiations have only just started.

Further information will be provided to staff and students at Sussex once the result of the ballot is known and any action has been proposed by the AUT.


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If you haven't got a reason to join us in UNISON yet, then why not? To find out more contact your local UNISON officer or call UNISON on 0800 18 12 12.
Sussex student wins national fencing competition

Final-year psychology student Laurence Halsted has proved himself to be the best fencer in academia.

The 21-year-old swordsman competed against more than 100 other students in the British Universities Sports Association’s (BUSA) annual fencing competition in Nottingham last month to take the winning medal.

Laurence, who is ranked among the top ten fencers in the country and is hoping to compete in the next Olympics, is the first Sussex student to become a BUSA champion.

He says: "I came sixth in the competition last year, which was a real disappointment, so it was nice to win it in my final year."

Laurence received a sports bursary from Sussex to help fund his training and will be focusing full time on his sport when he graduates in the summer. "I obviously want to work hard for the last year of my degree, but after that I'll be with the British squad trying to qualify for Beijing and especially the London Olympics."

The son of two Olympian fencers, last year he represented Great Britain at the World University Summer Games in Turkey, as well as competing in Denmark, Cuba and China.

Luke Terrill, the University’s sports development officer, administers the bursary scheme and is Laurence’s sporting mentor. He says the bursaries offered to sporting students are paying dividends: “We have a good package here at Sussex, competing with some of the top sporting universities, and this means we are attracting better athletes, like Laurence."

Visually impaired young people get a sporting chance

The University has teamed up with the cream of Sussex sport to offer visually impaired young people aged 16-plus a chance to get active.

Brighton and Hove Albion FC, Sussex County Cricket Club and Brighton and Hove City Goalball joined with the University to offer specially designed instruction and coaching for visually impaired (VI) young people in football, cricket and goalball, a team sport devised with visually impaired players in mind.

The opportunity came with the award of a £10,000 grant from Brighton-based charity the Blatchington Court Trust, which helps visually impaired people under the age of 30 in Sussex to lead more active and independent lives.

To promote the initiative, the University held a VI sports festival on Saturday (21 January) at the Sports Centre. The event was open to VI students and any VI people aged over 16 from Sussex interested in taking up a team sport.

Would-be cricketers received coaching from Sussex Sharks (the VI arm of Sussex CCC) and inspiration from former Sussex student and cricket star Andy Dalby-Welsh. Andy played for England in the Blind Cricket World Cup in India in 2003 and has also represented his country in the West Indies.

The Albion, whose players train at the Falmer Sports Complex, is also looking to develop an adult VI squad to play competitively, should there be enough interest.

Simon Tunley, Deputy Head of Sport, said: "It is hoped from the sports festival we can establish a sustainable VI sports programme for the future.

News in brief

Survey of teaching space

The Student Systems Office will be carrying out another regular survey of seminar rooms on campus during the week beginning Monday 6 February. The aim is to assess whether the University is making best use of the stock of teaching space at its disposal, to inform plans to improve general teaching space (GTS). Student helpers will check on each room and the number of occupants on an hourly basis. They are under instruction to be as unobtrusive as possible and to cause minimum disruption to lectures and seminars.

IT Services PC software survey and review

IT Services (ITS) regularly reviews the software offered on the ITS PC desktop. To help to identify software for the new XP desktop that ITS is developing, you can complete a short survey by Monday 13 February. It is available in hard copy or at www.sussex.ac.uk/its/news/.

Take it, don't send it

Are you a member of staff who sometimes has to bank cash to the Cashiers Office in Sussex House? If so, the Finance Division would like to remind you that under no circumstances should you send cash in the internal post. For safety and security reasons, the University's financial regulations state that any money must be taken to the Cashiers Office with supporting receipts and back-up form.

Colin Evans

The Staff Development Unit has just learned of the death, in November 2005, of Colin Evans, who was a Reader in French at Cardiff University and more recently Staff Development Adviser at Birkbeck. Since retiring, Colin undertook various projects at Sussex and met many staff on campus through appraisal training sessions, team facilitations and action learning sets. "Colin met and worked with loads of staff here over the last two years, especially in helping academic units to get to grips with appraisal," says Sarah Strupinski, Deputy Director of Human Resources (Staff Development). "I know many stuck up a good relationship with him. He and his contributions will be very much missed.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_officerbulletin
Academic events

MON 30 JAN
1pm Geography seminar: Sharad Chari (IUSE), Race, space and livelihood politics in Punjab, Arts C175.
1pm IDS seminar: Joanne Ho (Sussex), Gendered interactions in Yi households. IDS 221.
3pm International Relations seminar: Peter Gowen (London), Would economic globalisation be a good thing and if so, how might this be achieved? Russell 30.
4pm Language seminar: Angela Pickering & Cathy Watts (Brighton), Drop-out from German foreign language study between AS and A2 levels. Arts D440.
4:10pm Economics seminar: David Evans (Sussex), Trade liberalisation with trade-induced technical change in Morocco and Egypt. Russell 28.
4:30pm Neuroscience seminar: Jo Martin (London), Neurons and phagocytes. Genome Centre Seminar Room.
5pm Education seminar: Louise Gaxley & Maredad Dunn (Sussex), Class in the classroom: Discourses of denial. Arts E419.

TUES 31 JAN
12pm Biochemistry & Genetics seminar: Lucas Bowler (Sussex), The Sussex Proteome Centre. JMS Lecture Theatre.
12:30pm: Life History seminar: Toby Butler (London), Sound walks, oral history & landscape. Library Meeting Room.
2.15pm SEI seminar: Jacqueline O'Reilly (Sussex), Service employment and labour market dynamics in Britain and Germany. EDB 121.
4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Laura Jeffery (Edinburgh), Changing representations of the homeland among displaced Chagos Islanders. Arts C233.

WED 1 FEB
1pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Mike Bartholomaei (Sussex), On tacit knowledge. Freeman Centre Social Space.
1pm Seminar: Jo Murray (Sussex), GSDC seminar room.
2pm Experimental Particle Physics seminar: Ofer Lahav (JULI), Neutinos in cosmology. Pevensey 1A1.
5pm Migration seminar: Thomas Lacroix (Warwick), Moroccan migrants' networks of development. Arts C233.

THU 2 FEB
4pm History seminar: Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary), The first evangelical tract society. Arts A155.
4:30pm Social and political Thought seminar: Darrow Schecter (Sussex), Towards a new philosophy of political legitimacy. Arts C233.

FRI 3 FEB
2.15pm SPRU anniversary seminar: Franco Malerba (Bocconi), A history-friendly model of computers and semiconductors. Freeman G24/25.

MON 6 FEB
1pm Geography seminar: Catherine Nash (Queen Mary), Race and relatedness in population genetics and genetic genealogy. Arts C175.
3pm International Relations seminar: Beate Jahn (Sussex), The tragedy of liberal diplomacy. Russell 30.
4pm Language and Linguistics seminar: John Carroll (Sussex), Recent research in computational linguistics of Sussex. Arts D440.
5pm Education seminar: Julia Sutherland (Sussex), Promoting group talk and higher-order thinking in pupils. Arts E419.

TUE 7 FEB
12pm Biochemistry and genetics & development seminar: Mark Pepys (JULI), The role of structural biology in drug design. JMS Lecture Theatre.
12:30pm Life History seminar: Krista Woodley (Southampton & Brighton), Southampton's Vesper Thorneycroft oral history project. Library Meeting Room.
2.15pm SEI seminar: Bill Stow (DEFRA), EU environmental policy—a UK perspective. EDB 121.
4pm CGDS seminar: Aaron Simian (Birmingham), Orthogonal competences in humans, robots and other animat. Pevensey 1A1.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Maia Green (Manchester), Accounting for some categorical practices in international development. Arts C233.

WED 8 FEB
10am Medical School lecture: Susan Greenfield (Hertford-Watson), Tomorrow's people. BSMS Lecture Theatre.
1pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Paul Nightingale (Sussex), On social science of welfae. Freeman Centre Social Space.
1pm Seminar: Andy Gore (IOR), Structural studies of non-homologous end-joining and base excision repair signalling complexes. GSDC Seminar Room.
5pm Migration seminar: Nick Van Heer (Oxford), The migration asylum nexus. Arts C233.

THU 9 FEB
1pm Seminar: Peter Cragg (Brighton), Chemical ambassadors: Monitoring biological activity with small molecules. GSDC Seminar Room.
4pm History seminar: Barbara Taylor (Monash), title TBC. Arts A155.
5pm Sussex Development lecture: Kwame Akusempong (Sussex), Developing education in rural sub-Saharan Africa. Chichester Lecture Theatre.

FRI 10 FEB
2.15pm SPRU anniversary seminar: Ian Miles (Manchester), Foreight—then and now. Freeman G24/25.

EXHIBITION
Wed 26 Jan—Sun 19 Mar
Magali Nougarede
Made on the English south coast and the French Côte d'Albâtre, this new body of work by Brighton-based photographer Magali Nougarede results from a series of chance interactions with members of the local communities. Her intensely coloured studies of young people and the elderly suggest two distinct and often alien generations. GAC.

Small ads
For sale: 26" Toshiba colour TV + stand: £700 ono. 20" colour TV + stand: £50 ono. Free-standing fridge/freezer, 58cm x 167cm x 61cm: £60. T 01903 532912. E anne.tolman@ntlworld.com.
To let: Detached 4-bed house in Lewes, for 1 yr from 1 July. 2 bathrooms, study, large garden. Possible use of car & garage. £1,200 pcm, reg. E.william.todd@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: Renault Laguna 2.0 RT (Nt, Mo Sept '06). E/eds, £5,995. T 07766 529953, ext. 2633. E taw61@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: York stone paving, Unused, random sizes, approx. 9m2. £200. E s.oliver@sussex.ac.uk.
For sale: Old solid pine table, 35" square. £30. T Helen on ext. 7275 or E helenfoss@hotmail.co.uk.
For sale: Silver Hyundai Coupe 2.0 SE, X reg (01). 38K miles, 6 mths tax, 12 mths MoT. 2-tone leather, abs, air-con, cruise control, electronic everything, fogs, alloys, FSH etc. £5,800. T John on ext. 2839, T 07780 150844, E jh226@sussex.ac.uk.
PC software survey and review

IT Services (ITS) regularly reviews the software offered on the ITS PC desktop. This year IT Services would like to take the opportunity to have a wider consultation with staff and students to help identify software for the new Windows XP desktop that is being developed. To contribute please complete the questionnaire below by Monday 13 February 2006 and return to IT Services Enquiries Desk in Chichester 1.

If you prefer to complete this survey online it is available at sussex.ac.uk/its/facilities/software/survey (NB: requires authentication with your IT Services username and password).

Your name (optional):

We have identified a number of groups that use IT Services PCs. Please identify your group(s) by selecting one or more from the following:

- Undergraduate course work
- Postgraduate course work
- Research Staff
- Staff using a PC in their office
- Teaching Staff

Please complete your department or unit details:

School/department or unit:

IT Services would like to know which of the following software applications are useful to you. Please tick the appropriate boxes:

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Please list any other software that you use on a regular basis that has not been included in the lists above:

Please list any other software that you would find useful for your academic studies or work in the future:

If you have further queries about the software on the IT Services PCs or anything relating to this survey please contact Patricia O'Brien (email: P.O-Brien@sussex.ac.uk).