Work continues on way ahead for Life Sciences

Funding can be released for posts in other schools

Senate meets today (12 May) and Council on Monday (15 May) to receive papers and to discuss the latest position on academic planning for the School of Life Sciences, including chemistry.

The Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) – the key joint committee of Senate and Council that oversees financial and planning issues – met on 4 May.

The SRC received a report from the Life Sciences review group (which had been set up in late March to review options for academic plans for the School) together with a commentary from the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive Group.

The Committee said they saw this work as an interim report requiring further development.

The review group presented a proposal to invest in chemistry; the Committee were not able to support this, as detailed work on looking at all the options in the remit for the review had not been completed.

The SRC took the view that further work was needed on the academic implications for Life Sciences, the financial detail and a risk analysis of the options for chemistry.

The SRC were not therefore in a position to recommend that decisions be made on investment in posts in Life Sciences at this stage, but asked that a clear timetable and process for taking those decisions be presented to Senate and Council.

The Committee welcomed the fact that the School of Life Sciences is seeking to work towards a sustainable plan for delivering excellence in the school, including chemistry. The Committee noted the strong commitment of the school to continue with chemistry programmes.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: "Academic plans in Life Sciences must provide a sound and sustainable basis for building excellence in the school. I very much want us to find an approach which maintains chemistry programmes at Sussex. Of course Senate and Council would need any such approach to be shown to be robust and sustainable."

Investment in arts and sciences

The SRC are proposing to Senate and Council that funding for eight academic posts from schools outside Life Sciences be released immediately. These posts, from phase one of the plans for Investing in Excellence, had been held back from the initial round of academic recruitment that started in March.

The Committee were able to make this recommendation because it was clear from an initial analysis that Sussex could, with tight management control, contain the financial implications of the range of different options being examined by the Life Sciences review group.

Subject to Council approval on Monday, this means that Sussex can press ahead with this further recruitment, as part of the £4.4m Investing in Excellence programme at Sussex.
Commuters shun public transport on emotional grounds

Getting to work on time and cost-effectiveness are not the only reasons commuters choose their cars over public transport, according to new research by Sussex psychologists Dr Eleanor Mann and Professor Charles Abraham.

Emotional factors, such as the ability to create personal space and retain control over their actions, may also be important, they say.

The findings of the study were published in the *British Journal of Psychology* on Monday (8 May).

Participants gave four main emotional reasons why they were reluctant to give up their cars:
- **Personal space** – time alone with no social intrusions, such as loud talking
- **A sense of being in control** – choice of route; ability to travel at will
- **Identity** – social status attached to car ownership
- **Past negative experiences** of using public transport – being too hot or cold; overcrowding; graffiti and litter; antisocial behaviour.

Charles said: "It is a combination of utility considerations, such as time and money, and emotional responses to public transport that govern how people choose to travel. Different people prioritise these concerns in different ways."

Eleanor and Charles argue that the government must consider these emotional factors as it tries to reduce car use, or efforts to lure drivers onto public transport will not be successful.

Eleanor said: "Of the four emotional reasons, a sense of being in control would be the biggest challenge for transport policy makers because, by its nature, very little direct control over a journey by public transport is possible and commuters are reliant on others."

"However, offering indirect control by giving passengers access to public-transport operators would make them feel valued and reduce stress levels."

"Furthermore, demonstrating that the operators and services are trustworthy would give people more confidence in public transport, meaning that they are happy to relinquish some control."

New website showcases university research excellence

A new web database offers businesses full details of research excellence offered by universities in the south-east of England.

The site, [www.researchexcellence.org](http://www.researchexcellence.org), lists 20 universities in the region including Sussex. It gives contact details for university commercial teams and technical experts.

Professor Tony Moore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Sussex, developed the idea with the backing of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

He sees the site as a substantial regional asset: "The enthusiasm for discovery and co-operation that exists between the universities in our region is a vital resource. Drawing on this shared energy to translate ideas, intuition and persistence into world-class innovation is essential for economic prosperity."

Businesses can now fast forward product and technological research ideas directly to the experts working in their field.

The site can also be used as a strategic tool to analyse gaps in research that need to be addressed by universities in response to emerging business sectors and needs in the region.

In return, students and academics may get the opportunity of working in commercial or industrial settings, widening their training and making new contacts.

The site is also intended to support British government offices and embassies abroad in their work to encourage overseas businesses to locate here. An important part of the relocation decision is often establishing links with a university specialising in industry-relevant research.
Select Committee report on Sussex is “partisan and contradictory” says VC

The University responded strongly to a report from the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee, published last week (4 May). The report was described as “partisan and contradictory” by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith.

“The University is getting on with the serious business of developing plans for excellence in the Life Sciences,” he said.

“This report adds nothing worthwhile to those discussions at Sussex.”

The report followed an oral “evidence session” that MPs held on 27 March with the Vice-Chancellor; the head of the Chemistry department, Dr Gery Lawless; and the acting head of HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England), Steve Egan. The University also presented detailed written evidence to the Committee on 21 March.

The Vice-Chancellor said he particularly regretted the fact that “the Committee has largely ignored the written evidence submitted by the University and the oral evidence that I gave to the evidence session”.

He added: “It is clear that the Committee has allowed itself to become part of a campaign rather than taking a dispassionate view of the real difficulties which universities face in provision for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.”

The Vice-Chancellor rejected all but one of the criticisms that the Committee made of the University’s handling of academic development in the School of Life Sciences, including chemistry. The report alleged “flaws” in the management of the process; secrecy of handling; an attempt to pre-empt discussion by public presentation of the plans; and historic “running down” of the Chemistry department.

He did accept that HEFCE should have been informed sooner of the proposed plans but noted: “The Committee calls for a mandatory 18-month notice period before. We notified HEFCE in March 2006 of changes which were due to take effect in October 2007 – i.e. the notice period in this case was 19 months.”

And he concluded with a strong defence of institutional autonomy: “It would not make for effective management and governance of universities if Select Committees were to attempt to undertake the detailed scrutiny of internal university processes and decision-making which this Committee has sought – and failed so comprehensively – to do in relation to provision at Sussex.

Vacation room bookings now online

Development of the University’s online system for room bookings means that staff will be able to use it to book General Teaching Space (GTS) rooms for the summer vacation.

This brings vacation bookings into line with term-time bookings and means that the system for booking is now the same all year round.

However, Student Systems retain control of room bookings during the academic year (including Christmas and Easter vacations) and Conference Services during the summer vacation. Room bookings during Freshers Week (week zero) are controlled by the Schools Liaison team; contact Tanya Shadrick.

Online bookings for dates between 26 June (the first working day of the summer vacation) and 30 July can be made from Monday (15 May).

Log in to ORBS (Online Room Bookings @ Sussex) at www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/roomrequest for details of dates when bookings for August and September can be made.

Informatics opens its doors

The Informatics department will be opening its doors to industry next week, with a series of presentations to business leaders and interactive displays of current research.

Hundreds of delegates from local IT-based and new-media businesses are expected to attend the event, which is aimed at making new contacts for future collaboration. Non-profit organisations such as local government and the BBC have also been invited.

When one of the department’s research groups held a similar event in 2003, it resulted in many new contacts and next week’s event aims to replicate that success.

There’s plenty for Sussex staff and students to see, as well. From 1pm onwards an exhibition on level 1 of Bramber House will display current research by 12 groups in the department.

The computer-literate non-techies amongst us should find plenty of interest (including intelligent robots) and will be able to get an idea of the potential applications of the research (such as how these robots will make our lives easier around the home).

Open to all staff and students, the exhibition will also include a poster display of work by DPhil students.

LETTERS

Important to maintain a broad curriculum

Alasdair Smith (‘VC’s voice’, 28 April) would have us believe that the alternative to “investing in excellence” is “investing in weakness”.

When people play with words in this way, rather than offering a reasoned case, it is a sure sign that they have lost the argument.

Professor Smith knows that those of us who oppose his plans do so not because we are against funding successful research, but because we also believe it is important to maintain a broad curriculum.

Turning universities into highly specialised, narrowly focused ivory towers may benefit the recipients of the extra funding, but will disadvantage those of us who want to study our chosen subject at our chosen university. If the Vice-Chancellor cannot accept that, or perhaps feels that we students do not matter, maybe it is time for him to move on.

Jim Grozier, Physics & Astronomy
BROADCAST ↓

The media’s interest in Sussex reached a new high last week when the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee published its report on the handling of plans to change chemistry provision.

Jacqui Bealing
Senior Press Officer

For the second time in just two months, the Vice-Chancellor was interviewed on BBC Radio 4’s ‘Today’ programme (4 May) to defend the University’s processes and position on the subject. The story was also covered by the THES, the Guardian and BBC Online.

Meanwhile, Professor Jennifer Temkin’s voice and face has also been all over the media – for very different reasons. As our resident expert on rape laws, Jennifer was called upon by ‘Panorama’, Sky News, BBC News 24 and BBC Live (all 10 May) to comment on government statistics that showed 40 confessed rapists in Britain last year were let off with a caution.

James Williams has clocked up the most hours of TV coverage for the past few weeks with his weekly appearances as a 1950s science teacher on Channel 4’s ‘That’ll Teach ‘Em’, accompanied by articles in the TES and the Argus (3 April) and an interview on BBC Southern Counties Radio (7 April).

Two lots of psychology research surfaced in the Guardian recently. Dr Helga Dittmar’s studies of consumerism were the subject of a ‘Work in Progress’ column (4 April), with Anna Taylor’s work on why dogs bark (2 May) snapping at its heels.

Andy Medhurst found himself on a BBC Radio 4 programme, ‘They’re Coming to Take me Away Ha Ha’ (27 April), talking about how comedy deals with mental illness.

And sociologist Dr Susie Scott’s shyness studies, in which she says society has too readily labelled shyness as an illness, made a big splash in The Times (8 May).

With the local elections in full swing last week, our resident political experts were in demand. Dr Tim Bale gave his predictions to Southern FM (5 May) and his verdict to Arrow FM in Hastings (5 May).

And finally ... Professor Charles Abraham was interviewed on Bright FM (8 May) about the work of one of his former DPhil students into why people prefer driving to public transport.

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

Actors spook their audience with artificial life

A researcher at the Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Robotics (CCNR) masterminded a Brighton Festival Fringe event this week that used artificial life in a piece of storytelling for adults.

Sarah Angliss worked with Stephen Wolff and Mike Blow to put the musical and digital elements together for a brand-new theatre piece, which mixed artificial life with old-fashioned storytelling. The trio met as postgraduates on the MSc in Evolutionary and Adaptive Systems.

Their eerie new show, Senster, paid homage to cybernetic sculptor Edward Ihnatowicz. His own robotic artwork, The Senster, wowed museum audiences in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Haunting vocals and monochrome backdrops gave the show a sinister feel. On stage, real actors and musicians worked with strange, responsive, cartoon-like entities that seem to have a mind of their own.

“We’ve been working hard to act plausibly when we’re surrounded by the computer-generated oddities,” said actor Colin Uttley. “Strangely, the more we work with them, the more convincing they become”.

The show ended with an opportunity for the audience to ‘meet the props’ and try out some of the artificial life first hand.

It was also packed with sonic curiosities, including the theremin (the B-movie favourite that you play without touching), music to shatter wine glasses and a rare performance of the ‘death frequency’, a deep, bass note thought by Cold War scientists to have extreme destructive powers.

Living? Sussex researcher Sarah Angliss works with seemingly alive props.

Liberty under threat?

“Liberty under threat?” was the question. In a passionately argued talk on 2 May, the director of Liberty (“Protecting civil liberties, promoting human rights”) gave her answer with examples ranging from ASBOs (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders), Guantanamo Bay and torture to illegal immigration, identity cards and electronic tagging.

“It’s heartening to see the turn-out here,” Shami Chakrabarti said of the capacity audience in the Arts A1 lecture theatre. They “left the sunshine and came into the gloom,” as she put it, to hear her articulate, topical and wide-ranging lecture, in which she spoke on the state of our rights and freedoms in Britain today.

Citing a number of recent “draconian” bills and laws in her argument that the government has become increasingly authoritarian, Ms Chakrabarti put the case for the rule of law and the right to a fair trial, privacy, free speech and peaceful protest.

Shami Chakrabarti’s visit to campus was organised jointly by the Students’ Union and the Sussex Law School. Dr Marie Dembou, who chaired the session, described it as a “wake-up call”.

Liberty: Shami Chakrabarti gave Sussex a wake-up call.
Meccano isn't child's play

It might be made from Meccano, but the process wasn't child's play. When four engineering students designed and built a prize-winning crane, they were preparing for the world of work.

In industry, most engineering major projects involve the construction of a model early on in the design process to get ideas accepted and to win contracts.

A competition for second-year students on the Design Modelling & Manufacture course replicates this way of working with a brief to build a model crane that can move a set load within a specified area and to a time limit.

Thirteen teams were involved in this year's competition. Hian Low, Yan Tardiff, Reiner Winderickx and Sotorios Spanos satisfied a judging panel that their design - fitted with motors for three degrees of movement and controlled by computer - was the best for the job.

A team of engineering undergraduates on the Design & Manufacture course have taken top prize in a competitive project to prepare a preliminary design for a low-cost air compressor. Mechanical Engineering student Nick Regan received the £150 prize, sponsored by Parametric Technology Corporation, on behalf of his multi-disciplinary team. Reflecting a real-world situation, they competed against other teams to prepare and present a design package. In the process they learned a number of design disciplines and gained experience in the application of engineering process, including management and developing a specification.

Above: The winning crane, fitted with motors with three degrees of movement.
Below: (L-R) Hian Low, Yan Tardiff, Reiner Winderickx and Sotorios Spanos, prize-winning engineers.

Sussex students win £3,000 for their ideas

MAD: Winners Kate Andrews and Josh Seal are on the road to entrepreneurship.

Sussex students Josh Seal and Kate Andrews came away with first and second prizes in the regional heats of a competition that invited them to Make a Difference on a local, national or even global scale.

The competition, run across higher education institutions (HEIs) in the south-east of England, attracted 180 entries from students eager to showcase their ideas.

Sharon Phillips, Regional Development Manager, was thoroughly impressed by the overall response from Sussex students: "We were delighted to have one of the highest number of entries from universities across the region."

Four teams from the University of Sussex were short-listed to go through to the regional heats, Sharon says: "With the short-listed teams we felt that we were putting forward four very strong but different ideas, from the areas of engineering, environment, music and IT."

At the regional finals in Portsmouth on 14 June, Josh and Kate will be competing against each other as well as seven other teams or individuals for the £10,000 top prize.

Josh's idea is based on a device that he has designed to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions from appliances left on standby.

Josh, who won £2,000 for his win in the regional heats, already feels as though he has come a long way since first submitting his idea: "By winning the regional heats I felt as if I had leapt a significant barrier on the way to developing an idea. The implications of winning become more significant each time I think about them."

Kate has already won £1,000 for her idea, which focuses on encouraging students to take gap years without making a detrimental impact on the environment.

The Make A Difference competition is sponsored by SEEDA (the South East of England Development Agency).
News in brief

IT’S move underway
IT’S staff from Chichester 1 and Sussex House are in the process of moving to their new building, finishing on Friday (19 May). IT’S is taking steps to minimise the disruption and keep services running, but while they are in transit there may be some delays in answering queries. IT’S Enquiries remains open in Chichester until being moved until the summer vacation.

On the buses
Major trenching work this summer means that buses will not be able to come onto campus throughout June, July and August. Passengers from Brighton will be able to get off at the bus stop on the A27 slip road; travelling in the opposite direction, buses will pick up passengers from the stop outside Falmer station.

Money for projects on young people with visual impairments
Internal applications are invited for projects that will promote research and teaching concerning the education of blind and partially sighted people, particularly children and young people. £25,000 is available each year for eligible work, which will be based at Sussex. This work is supported by an endowment held by the University known as the RM Phillips Settlement. To apply, submit a statement of intent and a brief outline of the work you propose to undertake to Professor Jonathan Bacon, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, by 31 May. Applicants who are considered eligible will then be invited to submit a fuller proposal, including budgets, before the end of June. Applications will be considered by a panel chaired by Professor Bacon. The successful applicant(s) will be informed by Friday 14 July and the work can start at any time after this.

Sussex top in physics and space science
Sussex takes two top spots in a new ranking of UK universities based on the average number of citations per academic paper from 2001 to 2005. The latest issue of Science Watch, published by Thomson Scientific, puts Sussex top of the table in both physics and space science. The Science Watch rankings are derived from Thomson Scientific’s United Kingdom University Science Indicators, a database containing publication and citation statistics on upwards of 150 UK universities and affiliated institutions in nearly two dozen main scientific fields.

Whistleblowing for health
Professor Geoffrey Sampson
Informatics

The NHS National Programme for Information Technology – recently rebranded ‘Connecting for Health’ – is the largest civil IT project ever undertaken anywhere. When complete it is due to automate a vast range of health service functions, from booking GP appointments to managing patient records.

It has had less media attention than it might, partly because NHS management has imposed strong secrecy requirements on the contractors. But straws in the wind suggest that not all is going well.

I became interested in the project when one of my MSc students, a GP in off-campus life, wrote a dissertation about it in 2005. I knew from the surveys he carried out that there is unease in his profession about the system (for instance, that it threatens patient confidentiality).

Issues like that lie outside my professional expertise. But there are also doubts about whether the system will succeed in executing its intended functions, and that is an informatics issue.

Connecting for Health is too big for failure to be accepted as just one of those things. It is projected to cost £6.2bn, about £1bn of which has been spent to date – even by public-sector standards a great deal of money. More important, success or failure will affect the welfare of almost every citizen.

So when a number of British computing academics decided to write an open letter to the House of Commons Health Select Committee, calling for a technical review of the project, I was glad to add my signature.

The response, when our letter with 23 signatories was published on 12 April, was astonishing. It received coverage on television and in papers ranging from The Times to the Mirror and sparked lively discussion in numerous medical and computing magazines.

And the tone of the comments, by people knowledgeable about the project but not themselves responsible for its success, was overwhelmingly supportive.

The man in overall charge of Connecting for Health, who would end up carrying the can if a review found serious shortcomings, is Richard Granger, Director General of NHS IT.

He responded to the open letter by inviting us to a meeting. This was prominently publicized in advance by the NHS, which I cynically took as a bit of government spinning to reassure the public that these sceptical professors’ doubts were being suitably allayed by the experts.

I was wrong. Once the Director General understood at the 20 April meeting that we were not querying the goals of Connecting for Health but only its execution, to our very considerable surprise he agreed that an independent review was appropriate; we shall be meeting again to settle methodology and terms of reference.

On the face of it we have achieved exactly what we aimed for. If our initiative causes £6bn of public money not to be wasted – still a big if – I would have to count my small share in the initiative as my best single career achievement.

I take two lessons from this episode. One concerns the role of the academic profession. The worries raised in our open letter included nothing that has not been raised by other individuals and organizations over many months, yet suddenly when these things were said by 23 "academic heavyweights" (as one paper called us) the country sat up and listened. Evidently we still count for something.

The other lesson is about the power of individuals. Individuals can seem nowadays to be puppets powerless to influence what happens in public life. Not true: if the country makes a mistake, individual initiative is the only way to put it right.

FIRST CLASS

A book co-authored by Professor Erik Millstone, called BSE: Risk, science and governance, has been commended in the Medical Journalists Association 2006 Open Book Awards.

Beryl Williams will be at the Banqueting Hall in London on 19 May for a reception to honour her and just 24 other historians who have been made Centenary Fellows of the Historical Association. Beryl is a past president and currently vice-president of the Association – which promotes the teaching, learning and enjoyment of history – and has been involved for 40 of its 100 years. She was a member of the History department at Sussex from 1963 to 2003 and is now an Emeritus Reader.
New course puts careers in the foreground

Positive feedback from second year students who piloted a new career-development course has encouraged staff to consider incorporating it into a range of undergraduate programmes.

The Career Development Course touches on all aspects of career planning to encourage students to think about their competencies and skills in relation to the wider world. It uses "blended learning" (a mixture of face-to-face and online learning) and carries six credits.

An evaluation event on 3 May explored whether the experience had helped the students who volunteered to pilot the course.
• "When I started the course, I didn’t know what I wanted to do, now I know." (History student)
• "It helps you to understand the skills you have and what you have to offer," (Sociology student)
• "Even if you don’t know what you want to do, it’s a really good starting place." (Informatics student)
• "You always have careers in the back of your mind, this really helps to put it in the foreground." (Informatics student)

During the course, the student volunteers attended two career-development workshops as well as a discipline-based careers forum with Sussex alumni and representatives from employers (including MTV, the Victoria and Albert Museum, LogicaCMG and American Express). They also used a bespoke e-learning resource and completed two assignments.

The course was developed with a Teaching and Learning Development Fund (TLDF) by a steering group made up of faculty from four academic departments as well as colleagues from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU) and the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC).

CDEC is currently in discussions with academic colleagues about the next phase and incorporating the course into the timetable with a range of undergraduate programmes. For further details, contact the CDEC project leader, Jacqui Shepherd, on ext. 3576.

A walk on the wild side

By far the most conspicuous of our late-spring wild flowers is Cow Parsley. Dense patches of the tall, handsome, white-flowered umbellifer fill the spaces beneath the trees bordering the car parks and the no-man’s-land between campus and Stanmer Park.

The broad umbrella-shaped flower heads typical of the family consist of a huge number of small five-petalled flowers. Unusually these consist of a mix of males and hermaphrodites, a condition pompously termed "andromonoecy". Male flowers always outnumber the hermaphrodites, a strategy that presumably saves on resources by limiting the number of seeds while maintaining the size of the floral display. Self-pollination is avoided by the stamens ripening before the stigmas.

Attractive as it is, it has to be acknowledged that it is not the most delicate smelling of plants. On warm days it fills the air with the sweet scent of stale dung, hugely attractive to a large assortment of short-tongued insects! A single umbel may be covered by a colourfulosting mix of hover-flies, bees and orange soldier beetles all busily competing for the nectar secreted at the base of the petals.

Unsurprisingly it has accumulated a large number of local country names. Geoffrey Grigson in his Englishman’s Flora lists more than 50, many of which would seem to indicate a traditional association with the devil. In Sussex it was known as Rabbit’s Meat or Coney’s Parsley as well as the more familiar Queen Anne’s Lace.

Several readers have recently spotted blue butterflies on campus. This early in the year, these were almost certainly Holly Blues, an identification that some observers confirmed by noting the pale blue under-wings. The behaviour of Holly Blues is also distinctive: they rarely visit flowers but search in tree canopies for the honeydew of aphids and scale insects.

At this time of year, the females lay their eggs on the flower buds of Holly. The caterpillars develop quickly to produce a second brood of adults, which fly from July to September, laying their eggs mainly on the flower buds of ivy. Once these summer caterpillars are fully fed, they crawl behind loose bark and hibernate as pupae.

Holly Blues are notorious for fluctuating wildly in numbers, partly for climatic reasons and partly as the result of parasitism of their caterpillars by a tiny wasp called Lissodromus nychthemerus. The female wasps lay their eggs into Holly Blue caterpillars so that the wasp larvae can feast on living flesh. Each infested caterpillar pupates as normal, but one or more wasps emerge instead of a butterfly.

Basketball was the overwhelming success story in the varsity matches, the annual sports tournament between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton. The men’s basketball team won 67-59 and the women’s basketball team won 86-50.

David Harper
Life Sciences

David Streeter
Life Sciences

Two soldier beetles enjoying Cow Parsley flowers.
Academic events

MON 15 MAY
2.30pm Neuroscience seminar: Matthias Landgraf (Cambridge), Neuronal dendrites in the drosophila CNS. Genome seminar room.

5pm Education seminar: Martyn Hammersley (Open). The problem of assessment criteria for qualitative inquiry. Arts E140.

TUE 16 MAY
12 noon Biochemistry, Genetics & Development seminar: Michelle West (Sussex), The Epstein-Barr virus nuclear antigens: Transcriptional control and cell-cycle deregulations. IMS LT.

4pm COGS seminar: Manuel Marques-Pita (Edinburgh), Conceptual representations of cellular automata that perform the density classification task. Pev 1A1.

WED 17 MAY
1pm Controversies on science and technology: Georgina Voss & Puay Tang (Sussex), Technology and the adult entertainment industry. Freeman Centre Social Space.

1pm Genome seminar: Mark Coldwell (Sussex), Using sRNA to investigate expression and novel binding partners of isoforms of the translation initiation factor elf4G4. GDSC seminar room.

2pm Music seminar: The voice in modernity. Harald Muenz (Brunel).

MON 22 MAY
2.30pm Neuroscience seminar: Alan Roberts (Sussex, Bristol). How a frog tadpole decides what to do. Genome seminar room.

5pm Education seminar: Debi Roker (Trust for the Study of Adolescence), Doing research, young people and families: Challenges, issues, dilemmas and a few ideas. Arts E149.

TUE 23 MAY
12 noon Biochemistry, Genetics & Development seminar: Guy Richardson (Sussex), Link proteins: Molecules required for hair follicle development and mechanotransduction.

4pm COGS seminar: Imran Harvey (Sussex), Cognition in the round. Pev 1A1.

WED 24 MAY
1pm SPRU seminar: Paul Nightingale (Sussex), The civic republican tradition in science policy: Reclaiming Adam Smith. Social Space, Freeman Centre.

1pm Genome seminar: Malcolm Taylor (Birmingham), ATM in tumour development. GDSC seminar room.

2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Allan Ahmed (SPRU) & Andrew Sumner (South Bank), 40 years of searching for sustainable development: Are we there yet? Freeman G24/G25.

3pm South Asia seminar: Prasanna Parthasarathy (Boston), Science and technology in 18th-century South Asia. Arts D730.

THU 25 MAY
4pm History seminar: Lucy Robinson (Sussex), Peter Tatchell's Body Politic: The Bermondsey by-election and leftist attitudes to sexuality. Arts A155.

6.30pm Controversies in science, technology and global development: Climate changing lives. Jubilee Library, Brighton.

6.30pm Professorial lecture: David Smith (Sussex), A proof of God's existence. BSMS LT.

FRI 26 MAY
2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Rene Kemp (MERIT), Energy innovation policy in the UK and the Netherlands. Freeman Centre G24/G25.

Small ads

For sale: Nissan Micra 1.3, 1994, 50k miles. Mot'7 Sep, tax 1 yr. New tyres, sunroof, £450 ono. E.g.e.crespi@sussex.ac.uk or G Gustavo on ext. 3592.

For sale: Bike, "16 frame" (older child or small adult), red Muddy Fox, 10-speed. £40 or offers. T 0748187, E zen58219@zen.co.uk.

To let: 2 rooms in shared house in Newport St. £304 pcm. E c.xidas@sussex.ac.uk.


Holiday let: Costa del Sol. 3-bed detached villa on hillside overlooking sea between Malaga and Nerja. £165-£240 p/w. T 472831.

To let: Lewis house nr South Downs. Sps3. 4. Available July-Dec. Suit visiting scholar or colleague starting at UoS. £500 pcm. Ext. 3202, E sfl@sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Removal boxes for house move. Can collect. Ext. 3267, E n.k95@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Sony Ericsson hands-free headset charger. Acme H806. Brand new. £55. T 07941 072337, E mm291@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: 5-door Suzuki Swift 998cc, white, 5 reg, 41K miles. MoT July, tax Aug. FSH. £700 ono. T 07816 655181, E cd27@sussex.ac.uk.


Wanted: Cheap typing. T 01826 767240.

Wanted: 2/3-bed house + garden in Lewes. To let to family with excellent refs. T Sharon on 01773 584583.

Wanted: Baby to observe from 0-2 years in the home environment, as element of psychotherapy training. T David Owen (CCE) - with no expectation of commitment - on 077709, E davidowen@macunlimited.net.

Wanted: Short-term accommodation for small family: mum, son (10yrs), house-trained dog. Consider house-sitting or house share. Lewes and surrounding area. T 07914 045173, E m.jane.williams@virgin.net.
In this edition we celebrate Cascade funding for Galaxylife, look at the changes in artists resale rights and report on the spring ATUM conference.

News in Brief

Patent Office conference places genetic diagnostic patenting under the microscope
The Patent Office recently hosted a conference for leading biotechnology and healthcare scientists across the UK to discuss issues in intellectual property (IP) protection in gene-based testing of medical conditions.

The event was set up due to the increasing importance of Genetic Testing Technology as an emerging science and the challenges it poses in terms of IP protection. The Patent Office, which has been building links with organisations in this field, took this opportunity to discuss the parameters for IP in this new and complex area with representatives from public and private sectors, as well as knowledge transfer and legal professionals.

The conference covered trends in gene patenting internationally, commercialisation issues, the licensing of genetic inventions and the UK's methods of examining genetic patent applications.

More information about the Patent Office's current policy with regards to genetic patenting is available on the Patent Office website.

http://www.patent.gov.uk/about/ippd/issues/biolinvent.htm

Mad Ideas
Two Sussex Students were winners at the sub-regional heat of SEEDA's MAD (Make a Difference) Ideas competition on 31 March. First place was secured by Josh Seal from Engineering and in second place was Kate Andrews from the History Department.

Josh and Kate will both compete in the SEEDA final on June 14th in Portsmouth for a prize of £10,000. In the mean time they will receive guidance from Sussex IP, RDO and other staff on progressing their ideas.

http://www.mad-ideas.co.uk

Funding for new galaxy
We are pleased to announce that Galaxylife Limited, a Sussex Innovation Centre tenant, has secured funding from the Cascade Fund to support further development of its unique Massively Multiplayer Online Game (MMOG) called 'Galaxylife'.

Based on the award-winning PureFlight platform, Galaxylife, due to launch in the Summer of 2006, is an innovative 3-D multiplatform game community. Aimed at diverse markets including traditional gamers, casual players and women gamers, Galaxylife will allow people to play and socialise in worlds they develop and personalise. Their worlds and characters change all the time, giving them fresh and new experiences.

The University granted a license to Galaxylife to use know how generated at the University in the field of vision and neural networks and will continue links with the company.

The Cascade Fund was created to stimulate entrepreneurial activity and provide financial and business assistance to commercialise, together with University technology transfer offices, opportunities that have a basis in the research undertaken in the five partner universities, of which Sussex is a member, comprising the Cascade Fund.

Anne O'Rourke, Operations Director of Galaxylife Ltd says: “We have world leading technology here that allows Galaxylife gamers to play anytime, anywhere – at home on their PC or on the move through their mobile phone. Know-how and continued ideas from the University together with the investment from the Cascade Fund is the key to our successful development.”

http://www.galaxylife.com
**Artist’s resale rights**

From the 14th February 2006, UK artists are entitled to receive a resale royalty every time their copyright-protected work is resold by a gallery, dealer or auction house. The Artist’s Resale Right Regulation 2006 has been introduced to comply with the EU Artist’s Resale Right Directive, which also serves to harmonise the UK’s laws with existing member states laws, such as the ‘droit de suite’ in France.

The resale right is available to every artist who has sold a piece of their work to a third party, this does not apply to works of art that have been created through employment and thus owned by the employer – so businesses cannot claim a resale royalty. In addition, the sale of the work must be for the equivalent of 1,000 or more, and this applies to the sales occurring throughout Europe and some other countries. This law currently only applies to living artists, but is expected to be extended to deceased artists in 2010.

Qualifying works of art will receive a set royalty depending on the value of the sale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sale price over €1,000</th>
<th>Royalty Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€0 - €50,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€50,000.01 - €200,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€200,000.01 - €350,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€350,000.01 - €500,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding €500,000</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The maximum royalty an artist can earn from a single sale is capped at 12,000 (which applies to work sold for 2 million or over). These rates are dictated by law so are not subject to negotiation, and cannot be applied retrospectively. To collect a resale royalty, artists must make a claim to collect their resale royalty through a collecting society, such as the Designs and Artists Copyright Society. Further information about the Artists’ Resale Right, Copyright and other intellectual property rights can be found at [http://www.patent.gov.uk](http://www.patent.gov.uk)

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**A better world at AUTM**

This spring, Helma Kaptein visited the AUTM (Association of University Technology Managers) annual meeting. This combined conference and trade show is the largest annual meeting for Technology Transfer Managers in the US.

This year, there was strong emphasis on improving society through Technology Transfer activities. Plenary Sessions covered policies and practices in Technology Transfer to improve Global Health and, various sessions highlighted how to work with PDP’s, Product Development Partnerships, assist in finding cures for diseases in the developing world, such as TB and malaria and other (contractual) ways to make technologies available for those that need them.

Sussex IP presented its technologies at the networking fair and attended sessions about policy and practice in Technology Transfer. There were interesting sessions about the way different offices marketed their technologies with some ‘hot tips’ on how to do this more effectively.

There were also policy sessions about the difference of Technology Transfer and Business Development that highlighted the difference between ‘earning money’ and other activities such as increasing research income. A session with plenty of ‘food for thought’.

At the meeting, AUTM also launched their ‘Better World Project’ which aims to promote understanding about the important role academic research and technology transfer play in making our world a better place to live.

AUTM’s global network of members represent more than 350 universities, research institutions, teaching hospitals and government agencies as well as hundreds of companies involved with managing and licensing innovations derived from academic and non-profit research.

[http://www.autm.net](http://www.autm.net)

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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 or omissions.