Geographers wage war on rubbish

Children combined forces last month with Sussex students and staff to clear washed-up litter along the coast of Silhouette, an island in the Seychelles.

Some 35 volunteers set off in the early morning sun and collected more than 50 sacks of accumulated drift-line rubbish from three beaches.

The majority of the debris consisted of discarded plastic drinks bottles, polystyrene packaging, oil cans and flip-flops, although oddities such as toothbrushes, a television and — rather ironically — a rubbish bin, were also removed.

The initiative was part of the island’s contribution to a worldwide ‘Clean Up The World’ campaign.

The University’s involvement came as part of the annual biogeography field-trip to Seychelles. Close links between the Geography department and the Silhouette-based Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles have, for the past five years, provided an annual opportunity for 12 undergraduates to visit the island and work on a wide variety of important ongoing conservation and biodiversity projects.

Trip organiser Dr Dominic Kniveton said: “For the children of the island it was undoubtedly a useful lesson in appreciating and looking after their unique island environment.

“For the Sussex students it was an appropriate way to thank the Silhouette community that welcomes them to the island each year.

“And for the environment it was a small victory on the long road to preserving the natural beauty of this exceptional island.”

Despite being the third-largest island in the central Seychelles group, Silhouette is almost completely undeveloped with regard to tourism: there are no roads, shops or bars. It is covered with lush vegetation, palm trees and plantations of tobacco, cinnamon and avocados.

On their field-trip, Sussex geographers study the island ecosystem and work on a series of conservation projects with members of the Nature Protection Trust of the Seychelles. Several days are set aside for independent project work and several students on past trips have published their results in professional scientific journals.

Laying on a big welcome

Fresher enjoy fortnight of fun

Campus has been buzzing in the last couple of weeks as more than 4,000 new students got their first taste of life at Sussex.

A packed programme of events has marked the official start of the academic year. Highlights included the Freshers’ Fair, with information stands from dozens of clubs and societies, and the Freshers’ Ball, which featured live music and DJs.

Dan Glass, USSU President, said that he hoped the “huge range” of Students’ Union events had been “a great introduction to union life” and added that it was “in anticipation of a year of eclectic entertainment to suit every interest”.

Inside

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Book details how the landscape of the South East has changed.

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The Institute of Development Studies celebrates 40 years.

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The Sussex Lectures programme begins – and continues – in style.

7 Last winter
Old towers fire up for last time before new heating is installed.
The unmistakeable impact of humans on the South East

The full effect of generations of people on Britain’s natural landscape including the South Downs is explored in a new book by a Sussex geographer.

Professor Brian Short looked at the physical environment, archaeology and history of the South East in a study covering hundreds of miles of land and thousands of years. The result is a detailed explanation of why the region looks as it does, in his new book, *England’s Landscape: The South East*.

The end of the last Ice Age around 10,000 years ago marks the first potential for the emergence of human communities. The generations of intervention that followed and the growing population of people living in and off the land in the South East is attributed by Brian as having the single greatest impact on the region’s landscape. This interaction has shaped the town and countryside irrevocably, with the impact visible in the patterns of flora and fauna and even the changing climate.

Brian says: “The 20th century has witnessed the greatest change in town and country, but there are still some areas untouched, such as parts of the South Downs, the New Forest, North Dorset and Wiltshire. The impact of population is well illustrated in Brighton, one of the places which changed most rapidly because of the influx of people.”

The book includes chapters on Land and People, Ways Of Life and Landscapes And The Creative Imagination.

Brighton’s rapidly-growing population is charted against its origins as a fishing town, originally in decline due to an eroding foreshore.

In a study of the long relationship between towns and their countryside, both Lewes and Chichester feature in the book. The buildings in High Street, Lewes, are highlighted as having frontages that mask the roots of their medieval past.

Brian describes how Eastbourne became the second-largest town in Sussex by 1891, with a seaward landscape that today still mirrors its late Victorian popularity.

The book is one of a series of eight volumes covering England’s regions.
IDS celebrates 40th anniversary

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has been hosting a series of events this year to mark its 40th anniversary and to consider what challenges the next 40 years might bring.

As well as a lecture series at the Brighton Festival, there have been international alumni meetings and a two-day conference from 20–22 September that aimed to ‘Reinvent Development Research’.

During the conference, more than 120 delegates looked at the key issues facing our globe in the next 40 years and asked how they can ensure that development research continues to shape thinking and action to tackle these challenges.

As part of its 40th anniversary celebrations, IDS has also been hosting a series of informal interviews called ‘Icons and Iconoclasts’. The series has brought groundbreaking researchers and activists to IDS to talk about what’s inspired their work and what they see as the key challenges for international development in the next 40 years.

In the most recent in the series, on 21 September, veteran politician and campaigner Tony Benn (pictured above) was in conversation with BBC presenter Natasha Kaplinsky.

IDS student Ian MacAuslan, who was among the audience, said: “Tony Benn retired from the House of Commons to devote more time to politics and now feels he can say what he wants yet I felt he rarely answered the questions, slipping instead into beautifully delivered anecdotes. But no one seemed to mind.

“He was wonderfully frank on two issues. Firstly the war on terror. There is no difference, he said, between a stealth bomber and a suicide bomber. He’s passionately opposed to war, very sceptical about the motives for Iraq, which is immoral and unwinnable, and concerned about Afghanistan, equally unwinnable.

“Tony’s keen sense of history was always evident but perhaps nowhere more critically than when talking about British foreign policy. We invaded Afghanistan in 1834, he said, and had to leave, defeated, a year later. The Russians invaded with over 100,000 troops. How did a handful of British and American forces have a hope?

“Secondly, on New Labour: ‘New Labour isn’t really a socialist party … of course there are socialists in it, just like there are Christians in church’. And ‘the church was England’s first nationalised industry’. Tony wasn’t sure whether he was an icon or an iconoclast but these answers removed any doubt from my mind.”

The Institute of Development Studies

The Institute of Development Studies is a global organisation for research, teaching and communications on international development.

Founded in 1966, its purpose is to understand and explain the world, and to try to change it – to influence as well as to inform.

At any one time the Institute is home to approximately 100 researchers, 70 knowledge services staff, 65 support staff and about 150 students. IDS hosts five research teams, eight postgraduate courses, and a family of knowledge services.

IDS in party conference mode

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) made the most of the opportunities provided by the party conference season last month, with the Liberal Democrats in Brighton and the Green Party in Hove.

A fringe event during the Liberal Democrat conference was chaired by the director of IDS, Professor Lawrence Haddad. Billed as ‘International Question Time’, it provided the chance to quiz panelists such as Kate Allen (director of Amnesty International UK) and Susan Kramer MP (the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on international development) on key issues facing developing countries.

Susan Kramer had already been in the hot seat a few days earlier, when IDS hosted a panel discussion in Brighton involving her and fellow MPs Hilary Benn and Andrew Mitchell (Shadow Secretary of State for International Development), as well as Green Party MEP Caroline Lucas.

The event provided an opportunity to find out the politicians’ vision for international development.

Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, said that development’s key challenge is “good governance”. His vision included fighting corruption and ensuring economic development and stability as a prerequisite for providing free health and education, as we do in the UK.

For Caroline Lucas, human rights was the bottom line in any vision of development. And on the UK aid budget, she concluded: “Stop undermining development, stop subsidies to arms exports.”

Bus named after development economist

Brighton and Hove Buses has named one of its 18 new jumbo double-deckers after development economist Professor Sir Hans Singer, who died in February at the age of 95.

The company’s buses are traditionally named after eminent local figures. The ‘Sir Hans Singer’ bus will run along an appropriate route between Brighton city centre and the University campus.

Hans had been with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) since 1969 and was an IDS Professorial Fellow as well as an Emeritus Professor of the University.
Entrepreneurial Sussex students prepare for trip to USA

Two Sussex students and aspiring entrepreneurs are about to begin making preparations for a six-month visit to the USA as part of a scholarship programme.

Joshua Seal and Will Griffiths have been selected by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to be part of its new Entrepreneurship Fellows scheme. In June they secured two of just 15 places on the scheme after presenting their business concepts to an interview panel in London.

Joshua Seal, who has just graduated with an MEng in Robotics, Cybernetics and Process Automation, has a deep fascination with the environment. He is developing an energy-saving device for the hotel industry for TVOs on standby.

Will Griffiths, a new graduate from the MEng in Engineering, is aware that environmental issues are becoming increasingly critical to the way in which commercial and residential buildings are developed and maintained. He is developing a wireless remote control valve for central-heating systems, to address energy wastage from unoccupied rooms.

Once Joshua and Will arrive in the USA in January, their six-month stay will include interaction with leading scholars and thinkers, policy leaders, innovative researchers and business founders. They will be supported in developing commercial know-how and relevant new business contacts.

At the end of the programme Joshua and Will are expected to bring what they've learnt back to the UK, not only as a means of developing their own ideas but also to share with other aspiring entrepreneurs and educators within Sussex and across the region.

Commenting on their success, Will said: "We are delighted to have been selected as Fellows. Being able to develop and pursue our business ideas in both the UK and the USA will be a great opportunity and give us the guidance we need to help mature our concepts.

"It will be fascinating to learn about entrepreneurship in a country where it's held in such high esteem and we look forward to bringing the lessons back to share with our fellow students across the University."

Vanessa Redgrave visits Sussex in support of UNICEF

Students and staff will be able to quiz Oscar-winning actress and human-rights activist Vanessa Redgrave about her voluntary work with UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) when she appears at Falmer House on Monday (9 October).

Ms Redgrave will highlight the international charity's recent campaign to help children affected by AIDS and its work to provide clean water for people across the globe.

Ms Redgrave, who has won international acclaim for her stage and screen performances, first got involved with UNICEF in 1991 and became a Goodwill Ambassador in 1995.

The event is being organised by the student UNICEF society at Sussex. It will be chaired by Professor Sir Richard Jolly, honorary chairman of UNICEF on Campus, as the society is known.

Sir Richard, a former director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and deputy executive director of UNICEF Worldwide from 1982 to 1996, says: "Vanessa Redgrave is one of the most committed and forefront of all UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassadors and is extremely knowledgeable about the organisation's work."

"If children are going to get a better deal in the world you need to reach out to young people and old people alike and make them realise what we can do something.

"I hope UNICEF on Campus continues to raise awareness and encourage a better understanding of children in developing countries and perhaps some of those involved will even decide to dedicate their lives to helping children."

UNICEF on Campus was launched at Sussex in 2004, when the University became the first-ever higher education institution in the country to work in partnership with the charity.

Since then more than 30 other branches have been set up at universities in the UK. The role of these groups is to promote awareness of child rights and global issues, encourage interaction between students, and the charity, and empower people to represent the organisation among their student peers.

The UNICEF talk with Vanessa Redgrave will be held at 1.15pm in the Falmer House Debating Chamber. Entry is free but numbers are limited.
Sussex Lectures autumn 2006

The series of Sussex Lectures for the new academic year kicked off on Wednesday (4 October) with the annual Marie Jahoda Memorial Lecture, given this year by Sir Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of England.

The lecture, which was organised by SPRU, focussed on the new approaches to the exchange of knowledge that lie at the heart of public policy on science and innovation, and the implications they have for universities.

The lecture series will continue with the Centre for Early Modern Studies Annual Lecture on 18 October, when Professor Quentin Skinner from Cambridge will talk on Shakespeare and a figure of speech known as ‘rhetorical redescription’.

Economist Sherman Robinson’s professorial lecture on 7 November will look to the future and explore the major potential drivers of economic development in the 21st century.

Looking back in time, renowned historian Professor Norman Davies will re-evaluate the received interpretation of the outcomes of the Second World War in Europe in the inaugural Founding Historians’ Lecture on 9 November.

The topical, and highly debated, subject of physician-assisted suicide will be the subject of Baroness Ilora Finlay’s lecture when she delivers the South Downs NHS Trust Annual Discourse (organised in conjunction with BSMS) on 15 November.

For his professorial lecture on 28 November, Peter Childs, Professor of Engineering Design, will examine the application of creative techniques and methodologies to product design and engineering.

An exciting new addition to the programme this term is an evening ‘In conversation’ with Sussex alumna and best-selling author Philippa Gregory, who will be interviewed by fellow Sussex graduate Julia Somerville. On 29 November Philippa will be talking about her career and the publication of her latest Tudor novel. There will be Tudor-style entertainment and an opportunity to buy a signed copy of The Boleyn Inheritance.

For details of all the lectures, see www.sussex.ac.uk/events.

The Sussex Lectures are co-ordinated by the Development and Alumni Relations Office as part of a programme of activities aimed to promote Sussex’s research and teaching, and to provide opportunities for the University’s alumni and friends to celebrate and support this work.

The lectures are free and open to all, but it is essential to book email lecture@sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 7707.

N.B. Please note that Professor David Allan Mellor’s lecture, scheduled for 17 October, has been postponed until further notice.

Blast from the past

Nearly 100 alumni from the 1981 and 1982 intakes came back to Sussex last month for the annual alumni reunion.

A packed programme of events was organised for them by the Development and Alumni Relations Office and they stayed in campus accommodation overnight.

“Most of the guests had not visited the University since graduating 25 years ago,” said Sue Hepburn, who organised the reunion. “They all thoroughly enjoyed their weekend trip down memory lane.”

Computer offers for students

IT Services has negotiated schemes with Apple and Dell to supply students with computers at competitive prices. For details, see www.sussex.ac.uk/pcoffers/.

Library book sale 10 October

Books from most subject areas will be available in the Library’s sale of withdrawn books (extra copies withdrawn from the collection following review of usage figures). The sale will take place in the Library foyer on Tuesday (10 October), with hardbacks at £2 and paperbacks £1.

Help with quitting

Smoking cessation drop-in sessions will be held at 4pm on Tuesdays at the Sports Centre, starting on 17 October. A specialist nurse from the South Downs NHS Trust will be available to offer information, advice and support to anyone intending to quit smoking. For general information and details about the programme, contact Clara Nyman on 01273 267397, or email stopsmoking@southdowns.nhs.uk.

Who deserves an honorary degree?

On 17 October the Honorary Degrees Committee will review nominations for awards to be conferred in January or July 2007. If you have any ideas, send them to the Vice-Chancellor as soon as possible. For the nomination form and information about eligibility, see www.sussex.ac.uk/secretariat/1-2-11.html.

Wear it pink

The Sport Service is encouraging all members of the University to wear pink clothes on Friday 27 October, to show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Contact Tony Cooper on ext. 8345 or see www.leanpink.co.uk for further details.

Lepper to quit as MP

David Lepper, Labour Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion, has announced his intention to stand down as an MP at the next general election. David trained as a teacher at Sussex from 1968-69 and taught at local secondary schools until his election in 1997. While serving as an MP David then studied for a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Media Education from 1990-91.

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

Alan Soutter, Academic Information Manager, has been appointed as an audit secretary for the forthcoming round of institutional reviews conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Alan’s appointment is for an initial period of two years, during which time he will undertake up to three audits of higher education institutions. Paul Cecil, head of the Academic Office, said: “As well as supporting the sector in this important role, the appointment provides Sussex with a valuable insight into the audit process, which will enhance our own preparations for the QAA audit of Sussex in 2008.”

Sussexsport has successfully maintained its recognition as an Investor in People (IIP), which means that it has met the requirements of a set of principles for effective staff and organisation development. The Sport Service was judged against a new standard that came into effect last year and achieving the award involved much more effort and commitment by the department in implementation and assessment of management capabilities than before. “A lot of work went into this year’s assessment,” says Karen Greffield, Head of Sport. “I would like to thank all the Sussexsport staff for their commitment to maintaining the award, their efforts to improve standards, and their levels of team work and motivation.”

Sussex careers adviser receives prestigious national teaching award

Catherine Reynolds, from the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC), received a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) award at a ceremony in London last month.

Catherine was one of just 50 winners nationwide, who each received a cheque for £10,000 to support their learning and teaching.

The award recognises Catherine for her excellence in teaching and for inspiring others in her profession. She is the only careers adviser among this year’s NTFS winners, who were selected from a record 242 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England and Northern Ireland. Also receiving an award was Evelyn Welch, now Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary, University of London but previously Provost of the University of Sussex.

Evelyn’s award was based partly on work carried out at Sussex. In 2000 she was awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Getty Foundation to build a model of collaborative research, in which scholars at different stages in their career worked towards a common goal. A team of scholars from different disciplines undertook research into cost and consumption in the Italian Renaissance.

Evelyn used the experience gained on this project to extend training in project management, networking and team-work to postdoctoral students at Sussex.

Retiring staff say goodbye

Before a new academic year can begin, the old one has to come to an end. And the turning point is marked by the retirement of some long-serving staff.

Pride of place this year goes to Professor Tony Fielding, who came to the then Redding University in 1964. Yes, that’s 42 years ago, Professor Russell King, head of the Geography department, says "Tony’s contribution to the development of Geography at Sussex has been immense".

Faculty in the Mathematics department may not be able quite to match Tony’s length of service, but Professor James Hirschfeld (left) and Dr John Haigh have both just retired after no fewer than 40 years at Sussex. Dr Roger Fenn isn’t far behind with 39 years, but Dr Derek Robinson is a relative newcomer, having arrived in 1989.

Another employee who first came to Sussex as a student is Hazel Lintott. After a BA and an MA in Geography, in 1995 Hazel started work in the Cartographic Unit, where her professional output has included all kinds of maps and diagrams for Sussex geography faculty, as well as typesetting of books and editing of digital images.

As Deputy Director of Modern Languages, Jenny Hill oversaw all undergraduate language courses and was responsible for the open language courses. She had been involved in language courses at Sussex since 1985 and even now will continue to teach a few classes.

And finally… in Estates, Les Edwards has retired after a career as an advance fitter – including 13 years of welding, plumbing and maintenance on the Sussex campus – while porter Keith Fowler has called it a day after 15 years at Sussex.

In recent weeks there have been a number of ceremonies across campus to say farewell and thank you to these and other staff who are moving on. With apologies for any unintentional omissions, the Bulletin sends good wishes to them all.

New Deputy Finance Director to be appointed

After two years as Deputy Finance Director, Ian Child started a new job on 1 October as Director of Finance at the University of Chichester.

Before his departure Ian said: “There are many things that I am going to miss about Sussex, the majority of which relate to the people who work here. I have learnt a lot from the experience!”

Allan Spencer, Director of Finance, said that Ian had made a huge contribution to the process of strengthening financial control and planning at Sussex. “We have made significant improvements to our financial and planning systems,” he added, “with managers now more responsible and accountable for their budgets. Much of that change is down to Ian’s hard work.”

A new Deputy Finance Director is being appointed and Allan hopes to be able to announce Ian’s successor by the end of this month.
One more winter for the campus boilers

Friday 29 September was a historic day on campus, as boilerman John Goldsmith fired up the ageing boilers in the central Boiler House for the very last time.

Next summer the five boilers will be replaced with new plant and a new combined unit that will provide the campus with electricity as well as heating and hot water.

This new energy centre and plant rooms around campus will then be linked up to the 7 km of pipework that has been laid over the last few months.

Completion of the entire project is due for September 2007. This means that John—who has operated and maintained the central boilers for the last 28 years—needs to nurture them thorough just one more winter.

Next spring he will be able to retire, secure in the knowledge that staff and students can look forward to enjoying the benefits a modern, sophisticated, energy-saving and reliable heating system from the 2007-08 winter onwards.

Meeting House is 40 years old

The Meeting House—a centre for spirituality, social action, counselling, music, prayer and people—is 40 years old this month.

Construction work began on the circular building, designed by architect Sir Basil Spence, in 1965 and it was dedicated in October 1966.

Three years later the Meeting House won a Civic Trust Award for its "exceptional contribution to our built environment". It is now a listed building, which means that the government recognises it to be "of special architectural or historic interest".

A walk on the wild side

We welcome new readers to our regular chats about the natural history of campus. Please ask us questions and tell us what you have spotted; our email is david@sussex.ac.uk.

Not all new arrivals on campus are as welcome. An example is the Harlequin Ladybird. This large East Asian species has been repeatedly released in North America and Europe as a 'biological control' for aphids. It is indeed a voracious predator, easily out-competing smaller ladybirds for food. But when it runs out of aphids, it turns on other prey including other ladybirds: a 'double whammy' that means it becomes the most abundant ladybird while many native species become very scarce. This grim tale makes a mockery of its scientific name being Harmonia, the Greek goddess of concord!

The Harlequin Ladybird was first recorded in Britain in 2004 and is spreading fast. Our first sighting on campus was an adult in the Science car park this September; we have since found many adults and larvae, particularly on Sycamore trees.

Our second group of students on the MSc in Biodiversity Survey will find monitoring them is a challenge because this species is incredibly variable in coloration. Key features are its large size (by ladybird standards) of 7 mm in length and its brown rather than black legs.

We thank Dave Randall, who operates the University's scanning electron microscope, for the aphid's eye-view of the business end.

Recently we received a message from Professor Nigel Llewellyn. He had detected an unusual aroma in his office in Arts B and finally traced it to a dead bat. By the time we arrived, the festering corpse had been put out in the rubbish and, despite valiant efforts, could not be relocated. Luckily Nigel recalled that the bat had long ears that met above its forehead. This identified it as one of Britain's two Long-eared Bat species.

Grey Long-eared Bats are rare, so it is much more likely to have been a Brown Long-eared Bat, which is a common species around campus. Both species enter buildings but are otherwise hard to detect: they fly only long after sunset and their ultrasonic echolocation calls are so quiet that even sophisticated electronic bat detectors often fail to pick them up.

The commonest bat on campus seems to be the Common Pipistrelle. This tiny bat, which weighs about the same as a 10p coin (6.5 grams), is easier to detect than Long-eared Bats are. It often emerges within minutes of sunset and its loud echolocation calls are easy to pick up on a bat detector. Pipistrelles often forage around bright lights on campus, something that Long-Eared Bats never do.

We will soon be able to give you better information about the bats on campus. Biology student Tom McQuade is surveying them for his final-year research project, supervised by Dr David Hill.
Academic events

MON 9 OCT
3pm International relations seminar: Rita Abrahamson & Michael Williams (Wales), Security threats and global governance. Arts C233.

TUE 10 OCT
1pm International relations lecture: Achin Vanaik (Delhi), Political terrorism and the US imperial project. BSMS LT.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Alan Mayes & Jim Rolfo (Sussex), The future of EU enlargement. Arts C233.

4pm COGS seminar: Robin Dunbar (Liverpool), The evolution of the social brain. Pevensey IA.3.


WED 11 OCT
12noon Chemistry seminar: Tony Kez (Leeds), Did nature exploit reduced oxidation state phosphates as an route to life? (Aud. 401).

12.30pm Genome seminar: Luis Blanco (Madrid), DNA polymersases that repair 'DNP' double strand breaks. GDSC Seminar Room.

1pm SPRU seminar: Martin Meyer (Sussex), Nanotechnology: Between hype and path dependency, Freeman Social Space.

1pm IDS seminar: John Humphrey & Sherman Robinson (IDS), Regional trade agreements and deep integration. IDS 221.

THU 12 OCT

FRI 13 OCT
2.15pm SPRU seminar: Andy Neely (Cambridge), AIM Programme - phase II. Freeman G24/25.

MON 16 OCT
4pm Cancer Research seminar: Tony Howell (Manchester), Making sense of endocrine therapy in breast cancer. POG library.

4pm ROLLS seminar: Lynne Murphy (Sussex), Why do we say five metres tall, but not five kilos heavy? Arts D4/40.

5pm Education seminar: Joan Murray (Brunel), Exploring diversities in academic and professional identities. Arts E4/19.

TUE 17 OCT
2.15pm SEI seminar: Kenneth Dyson (Cardiff), European states and the Euro area. Arts C233.

2.15pm Anthropology seminar: Stef Jansen (Manchester), Misplaced masculinities: How Greek refugees lose localised recognition. Arts C233.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Andreas Gohmann (Osnabruck), Supercoplaid ligand complexes: Active or amputee? Art. 401.

12.30pm Genome seminar: Alan Nicolas (Paris), Targeted modification of recombination sites in yeast minios. GDSC Seminar Room.

1pm SPRU seminar: Ben Martin (Sussex), The future of the RA. Freeman Social Space.

6pm Centre for Early Modern Studies lecture: Quentin Skinner (Cambridge), Shakespeare and the rhetorical desecration. BSMS LT.

THU 19 OCT
6pm English lecture: Molara Ogundipe (Leeds), An African response to Julia Kristeva and Catherine Clement. BSMS LT.

FRI 20 OCT
2.15pm SPRU seminar: Horndimos Tsioukas (Sussex), How is new knowledge created in organisations? Outline of a theory. Freeman 24/25.

Small ads

Holiday let: 1-bed flat in Woking. Slips up to 4.10-15 mins' stroll along river to square. From £40 a night. E Beimand at b152@sussex.ac.uk.


To-let: 4 bed house in Stirling Pl, Hove. Long let. Suit PGs or mature UGAs. £1.00 per week excl. T Julie on 07901 812412.

For sale: 2 low-back bar stools with tubular chrome frames & beech-colour seats. Height to seat: 75 cm. £20 the pair. E s.burharn@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 7900.

For sale: Vaillant Corsa Breezy, metallic blue, reg. 299k miles, new MOT, FSH. £2.495 o.n.o. T 07952 410036.

For sale: Teak shelf unit + base cupboard £50; IKEA Malm king-size bedframe £50 (mattress available); IKEA grey dining table + 4 chairs £35. E m35@sussex.ac.uk, T 07813 534731.

Free: A1 drawing board. Buyer to collect. E lvy.violanti@sussex.ac.uk, T Yamane on ext. 3417 or 07941 416637.

News in brief

Conference Centre rates for internal users

New rates for the Conference Centre have been introduced for the academic year 2006-07, but confirm your next event this month and 2006-07 rates will apply – call Sue Handley on ext. 2613 before 31 October to check availability and make a booking. See www.sussex.ac.uk/units/conference/ for details of the new rates.

Memorial celebration for Manny Eppel

At 2.30pm on Friday 20 October, colleagues and former students will gather at the Meeting House for a celebration of the life of Professor Emmanuel (Manny) Eppel, the founding director of the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) between 1968 and his retirement in 1986. Manny died on 18 February this year, aged 85.

VC's open meetings with staff

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, will be holding two open meetings for staff for this month: on Tuesday 24 October at 11am in the Terrace Room, Bramber House; and on Wednesday 25 October at 2pm in the Chichester lecture theatre. Tea and coffee will be available before both meetings, which are open to all staff. As usual, there will be an opportunity for staff to ask questions; if you’d rather not ask your question in public, you can email internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk in advance or hand in a written question on the day.

Introduce an international student to British life

Many international students would welcome the opportunity to engage with local people – including Sussex staff – to experience the British way of life, practise their English and make friends outside the University environment. The Development and Alumni Relations Office is building up a network of volunteers, including staff and alumni, who would be willing to invite an international student into their home for a day or an afternoon; there is no further commitment than that. You can sign up using the online form at www.sussex.ac.uk/units/alumni/pages/host_scheme_info.html. For further information, contact Piia Toikka on ext. 7708.

The bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Claire Potter, with contributions from Jacqui Bealing, Jessica Mangold 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 20 October, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 3 October. Please contact the Marketing & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.
Career Development Course

What it is
The Career Development Course (CDC) is a blended e-learning course consisting of:

- two workshops
- a careers forum
- an e-learning resource, afterSuss
- two assignments

It is aimed primarily at undergraduates in their second year of study and it carries six credits for those subjects that have chosen to adopt it.

What it covers
The CDC offers integrated career development learning within the undergraduate curriculum. It touches on all aspects of career planning to encourage students to think about their competencies, skills and knowledge in relation to the wider working world and their role in it.

Taking action
The second workshop picks up on the students' current career thinking and progresses to how to approach employers. Students are helped to identify gaps in their experience or skills and opportunities to develop those areas are discussed.

An overview of effective applications including CVs is covered as well as understanding a range of selection tools that an employer might use.

The e-learning resource afterSuss
During the first workshop the students are introduced to the e-learning resource afterSuss, which they...
access through Sussex Direct and are encouraged to use in the preparation of their assignments. There are opportunities to undertake on-line self-assessment questionnaires as well as find out more about opportunities with their degree subject and the wider labour market beyond.

The assignments
My Vocational Profile and Job Study
CV and Covering Letter

Careers forum
Each department organises a careers forum event where alumni or specific employers are invited to speak about their own career experiences. This might involve between three and six speakers from different career areas and takes place during an afternoon.

The story so far
The CDC project was funded by the Teaching and Learning Development Fund.

It has been piloted in four subject areas (History, Sociology, Informatics and Engineering & Design) with small numbers of students to test out the materials.

... made me more optimistic and gave me hope.” (Sociology student)

“I didn’t realise I could do so many things and it is opening doors in my world.” (Informatics student)

“... the assignments gave me an opportunity to identify my own skills and ideas as to where I want to work.” (Sociology student)

“This academic year 2006/7, the Mathematics and Engineering & Design departments will be enrolling all their second year students on the course, making a total of 180 in the first ‘live’ year. The students will be eligible for the six credits.

Physics & Astronomy, Life Sciences and Anthropology will also be involved in the developmental phase this year before their second year students take part in 2007/8.

What they said
“... you always have careers in the back of your mind that you should be getting on with it, this really helps to put it in the foreground.” (Informatics student)

“I realised how to present all the skills I have gained in the most effective way and how to research everything to get ideas.” (History student)

“I found them [the assignments] very helpful and interesting – I learnt a bit more about myself and certainly gained a better understanding of the graduate labour market.” (History student)

The Career Development & Employment Centre (CDEC) will be working with schools and departments to introduce this curriculum development initiative to the University. CDEC has developed a Course Convenors’ Pack and will be pleased to meet with departments.

For further information, please contact:

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