University mourns colleague killed in plane crash

Colleagues at Sussex have paid tribute to the economist Dr Shimon Awerbuch, who has died with his family in a plane crash.

Dr Awerbuch, 60, a Senior Research Fellow in SPRU - Science and Technology Policy Research since 2004, was a financial economist of international standing with 30 years’ experience and an extensive record of published research to his credit.

Known as an energy economist, he specialised in the areas of utility regulation, energy and the economics of innovation and new technology, both as an academic and as an advisor to governments. At the time of his death, Dr Awerbuch was working as a senior researcher in SPRU’s Sussex Energy Group.

Professor Gordon Mackerron, head of the Sussex Energy Group, said: "We have all been deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden deaths of Shimon Awerbuch, his partner Maria and son Everett. All three were well known to us and were part of the life of the University. We send our condolences to all members of the families suddenly bereaved in this terrible way."

Dr Awerbuch was piloting a light aircraft from Shoreham Airport on holiday to France when it crashed in the Alps near Grenoble during snow storms on Saturday 10 February. Dr Awerbuch, his partner and his seven-year-old son all died in the crash.

"His intellectual passion was for small-scale, creative and innovative solutions to problems of energy policy and climate change.

"Shimon’s recent work involved creatively translating concepts from finance to energy policy, showing how renewable energy, as part of investment portfolios, was even more valuable in combating climate change than orthodox thinking supposes. He was about to make a major presentation on these themes to a major meeting of the European Investment Bank."

Prior to joining SPRU in March 2003, Dr Awerbuch served as Senior Advisor for Energy Economics, Finance and Technology with the International Energy Agency in Paris, and had also headed an independent financial economics practice specialising in energy regulation and new technology.

Fellow academics at SPRU will be meeting to discuss an appropriate memorial to Dr Awerbuch and his work.

Applications on the up at Sussex

Applications to Sussex are up by 2% on last year and schools including Life Sciences and Social Sciences are showing particular growth.

The number of applications to Sussex received by the UCAS deadline rose this year to more over 15,600, despite concerns about the potential impact of the introduction of 'top-up' fees for students.

Subjects that have grown in popularity include Biochemistry, which has a 21% improvement, Art History, which has had 20% more applicants, and Economics, with an increase of 25%.

Overall Life Sciences has seen an increase of 7% and Social Sciences and Cultural Studies has had 11% more applicants.

Although nationally the number of people applying to full-time undergraduate programmes increased by just over 6%, the University’s 2% increase is the fifth consecutive year of growth. Applications are now 25% higher than three years ago.

Rob Evans, Head of the Undergraduate Office, said: "It’s pleasing to see yet another increase in applications, especially given that the grades we require for admission have also been rising.

"Changes to the way we handle applications this year has also meant that we are now able to process the increased applications more quickly than ever before, therefore improving the service for future students."
BOOKMARK

Jenny Bourne Taylor
(Professor of English) (ed.)
Cambridge Companion to Willie Collins
Cambridge University Press, £16.99
(paperback)
ISBN: 0521549663

The publisher says: "Willie Collins was one of the most popular writers of the 19th century. He is best known for The Woman In White ... This Companion offers a fascinating overview of Collins's writing. In a wide range of essays by leading scholars, it traces the development of his career, his position as a writer and his complex relation to contemporary cultural movements and debates. Collins's exploration of the tensions which lay beneath Victorian society is analysed through a variety of critical approaches. A chronology and guide to further reading are provided."

Michael Morris (Professor of Philosophy)
An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
Cambridge University Press, £15.99
ISBN: 0521603110

The publisher says: "In this textbook, Michael Morris offers a critical introduction to the central issues of the philosophy of language. The range of topics covered includes sense and reference, definite descriptions, proper names, natural-kind terms, discourse necessity, propositional attitudes, truth-theoretical approaches to meaning, radical interpretation, indeterminacy of translation, speech acts, intentional theories of meaning, and scepticism about meaning."

Kenneth Miles (Professor in Imaging, BSMS), James D. Eastwood, Matthias Konig (eds)
Multi-Detector Computed Tomography in Cerebrovascular Disease: CT Perfusion Imaging
Taylor & Francis, £65 (paperback)
ISBN: 9781842413455

The publisher says: "Focusing on anatomy and procedural strategies for perfusion CT imaging in clinical neurology and cerebrovascular disease, this new text-atlas combines pictures and schematic diagrams to show how this new modality can be used to assess anatomy and guide therapeutic interventions."

Martin Shaw (Professor of International Relations and Politics)
What is Genocide?
Polly, £55 (hardback) £16.99 (paperback)
ISBN: 0745631827 (hardback),
0745631835 (paperback)

The publisher says: "The first book to really get to grips with the concept of genocide. Argument is vividly illustrated from a wide range of recent and historical episodes, including Darfur, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia. Looks at wide range of political violence, helping the book to appeal more widely."

W H Auden's centenary celebrated at literary conference

Although considered one of the most significant literary figures of the 20th century, with 'September 1, 1939' and 'Stop all the Clocks' being among the best-known of his poems, W H Auden's works are rarely taught in schools and universities.

A one-day conference, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Auden on 21 February, re-examines his overlooked legacy to literature.

The event, organised by Sussex lecturer Dr John David Rhodes in association with the University of York, takes place on Saturday (24 February) in York.

Speakers include the psychotherapist and writer Adam Phillips and poet Peter Porter, as well as academics from Sussex, York, Nottingham Trent, and the United States, who will talk about Auden's work in relation to film, industrial Britain and the poetic form.

John says: "Auden left a massive body of work, much of which is relatively unfamiliar to contemporary readers. He is seldom taught these days, perhaps because his work does not map neatly onto the high modernist poetry that preceded him and to which his own work, which is superficially more 'traditional' or 'conservative', responded."

"He produced some of the most memorable and often-quoted poems written in English in the last century. This event promises a reconsideration of his legacy from a variety of perspectives, considering not only his work in poetry, but also in music, theatre and film."

'Night Mail' was written as a voice-over for a GPO film about a mail train's journey from London to Scotland, with a score by Benjamin Britten.

'Stop All the Clocks', written in 1935 and originally entitled 'Funeral Blues', was famously recited by John Hannah in the nineties romantic comedy Four Weddings and a Funeral and spurred a renewed interest in Auden's love poetry.

'September 1, 1939', written at the outset of World War II, has also become a poetic anthem for 9/11.

But many of Auden's other works, including the verse play 'The Ascent of F6' (in which 'Stop all the Clocks' appears) and his oeuvre of more than 400 poems and as many essays, have received little public attention since his death in 1973.

John adds: "His work is the object of consistent and serious scholarship, but he has received nowhere near the amount of attention afforded to other modernists such as T S Eliot and Virginia Woolf."

W H Auden: A conference has been organised to celebrate the centenary of his birth.

Bookmark is a regular review of new books by Sussex authors.

You can buy these books at the University Bookshop in Bramber House, or order online at www.sussexunibooks.co.uk. Staff get a 10% discount on all products in the Bookshop on production of valid ID.
In this column I have often emphasised the importance of strong student recruitment for the University. Strengthening our student recruitment has been a key strategic objective for the past eight years, and much has been achieved. So it is good to report even stronger signs for the future.

The postgraduate open day held in January was a great success. Over 400 potential students turned up to a very well-organised event that presented an excellent picture of the strengths of the University in teaching and research.

The new online postgraduate application system is working well, speeding the processing of applications, and freeing up staff time for personal communications with prospective students.

Undergraduate applications continue their strong upward trend. Applications to Sussex are up 2% overall, with very strong growth indeed in some subjects, including Art History, Biochemistry and Economics.

Comparisons with national trends are complicated by the fact that national applications had an upward blip in 2005 in advance of the introduction of the new fee regime in 2006, a downward blip in 2006, and are now growing again in 2007; while applications to Sussex grew in each of these years. Taking the three years together, Sussex applications grew by 25% compared with the national growth of 13%.

With undergraduate applications too there has been a significant improvement in systems: most decisions are made by admissions staff in the Undergraduate Office on agreed criteria, and admissions tutors can focus their efforts on dealing with individual applicants.

This year, for the first time, we are participating in the International Student Barometer, and more than 2,000 Sussex students responded to this independent survey. There are messages about areas where we need to respond better to student needs, but there are also very strong positive messages about the Sussex student experience, with Sussex coming top as the 'best place to be'.

Finally, there is excellent news about the composition of our 2006 undergraduate entry, as I mentioned briefly in my previous column (Bulletin 26 January). This cohort has the highest-ever proportion of black and ethnic-minority students, disabled students, and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, where we have exceeded our national benchmarks for the first time.

This progress has been made at a time when many commentators feared that the new student funding regime might deter students from less advantaged backgrounds. And it has happened at a time of rising overall applications and rising academic standards, showing that there is not a conflict between rising standards and widening participation.

The outcome is a tribute to the excellent work done with local schools and with schools in inner London under the Sussex Education Access Scheme (SEAS).

All these items of good news show that we can make excellent progress as an institution when we have clear strategic objectives, and when academic and support staff work closely together to plan and deliver programmes to meet these objectives. There is an important message there for the rest of the University’s work.

At the open meetings for staff this month, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, noted a range of national policy developments with significant future implications for higher education — including the development of the 14–19 curriculum and the introduction of A star grades at A level.

Other issues on the agenda included new planning arrangements for the University:
- the development of the teaching and research strategies
- the professional services review, which is now underway (see page 4 of this Bulletin)
- latest developments in the appointment of a new vice-chancellor: the post has now been advertised nationally and search activity is underway, following widespread consultation inside the University and externally.

The Vice-Chancellor also reported good progress on reaching agreement locally on the implementation of the framework agreement: the pay and grading structure has been agreed in principle with the local campus trade unions. One particular issue remains to be resolved in relation to job evaluation for one group of staff (associate tutors). Proposals would next need to go to the union national executives for approval, which could take a number of weeks. They would then go out for formal ballot with union members locally next term.

The Vice-Chancellor also reported that discussions were underway with the Students' Union (USU) on reaching an agreement on the good management of student protests following the Library occupation in November 2006, the third protest on campus in the last 18 months.

In response to concerns raised in relation to potential legal action — rather than just disciplinary steps — being taken against those who had occupied the Library, the Vice-Chancellor said that the University had a duty of care to staff and to students who were adversely affected by such protests. Staff who found such occupations — and the atmosphere they engendered — intimidating and threatening needed to know that the University would take steps to protect their interests, and he hoped that the campus trades unions would make clear their opposition to occupations by students.

The Registrar explained that the occupation in 2006 of the Sussex Innovation Centre (SiC) on campus had caused real problems — with some of the small companies in SiC whose business had been seriously disrupted considering legal action against the University for failing to take all measures possible to prevent the occupation. He also noted that a number of those taking part in occupations were from outside the University, and that disciplinary measures alone would therefore have no effect. These considerations made legal steps a regrettable but necessary part of the University's response.

A number of questions were raised about the latest position on planning decisions in relation to the possible construction of a football stadium in Falmer. The Vice-Chancellor explained that the University’s neutral position on the Falmer stadium was clear, had been fully explored and had stayed consistent for the last six or more years since the initial proposals were made. If the stadium were to go ahead, there would be potential infrastructure benefits in terms of improved road access on and off campus, and agreements on the use of car parks by Brighton season ticket holders would be very carefully managed.

Asking about progress on the Investing in Excellence initiative and the University’s financial position, the Vice-Chancellor said that Investing in Excellence had laid the foundations for the academic plans that are being taken forward as part of the new planning arrangements. Significant academic recruitment has taken place. The financial position of the University has strengthened, he said, thanks to extensive efforts by all units.

The presentation from the open meetings is available at www.sussex.ac.uk/ vc/1-4-2.html
Academic strategies published

Draft academic strategies on teaching and learning and on research have been published for consultation with staff and students. The strategies will be presented to Senate and Council at the end of this term.

Professors Bob Allison and Joanne Wright, respectively Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research and for Education, developed the strategies in light of extensive consultation with staff and students. They are inviting all members of the University community to comment on the drafts over the coming weeks.

The two strategies taken together are intended to build a strong academic strategy for the University.

Reflecting on the consultation and discussion that has led to this position, Joanne said: “Both Bob and I have been impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement shown by staff and students alike in looking to develop a strong academic future for Sussex. We hope that these strategies and the actions needed to deliver them will provide a clear line of development for the University.”

The priorities set out for the research strategy are:

- Building strength in recognised centres of research excellence;
- Demonstrating research of international standing in all subject areas;
- Developing an infrastructure and culture that supports research quality;
- Working to exchange knowledge and ideas nationally and internationally.

The priorities for teaching and learning are:

- Ensuring teaching and learning at undergraduate and postgraduate level are enriched by international standards of curriculum design and by Sussex research;
- Creating sector-leading systems for recognising and rewarding teaching, learning and academic leadership;
- Developing integrated student support services, geared towards demonstrated student need;
- Aligning services and the learning environment to support high-quality teaching.

Each strategy outlines clear actions for the University towards achieving these priorities, supported by targets with performance measures, and lines of overall management responsibility. This explicit link between strategy and action is seen by the Pro-Vice-Chancellors as critical for the success of the strategies.

As well as inviting comments from the Sussex community, Bob and Joanne are now also looking to schools, departments and professional services to reflect on the proposed strategies and consider how their own planning and priority setting for the future would reinforce and reflect the direction set by these overall strategies. Copies of the draft strategies are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/spg.

Comments are welcome from all members of staff and students and should be sent to James Birkett, email j.r.birkett@sussex.ac.uk, by Wednesday 7 March.

Review of professional services under way

A range of reviews across the professional services are under way this term, led by a number of senior academic and professional services managers.

The term “professional services” covers all units reporting to the Registrar and Secretary, as well as Finance, IT and the Library. The relevant functions also include the directly related activities that are undertaken by staff within schools and departments.

The reviews are intended to ensure that professional services are aligned to support the academic mission of the University and its schools and departments.

The reviews will be overseen by a board: chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Layzell, it includes a dean and two heads of department and is supported by Southern Universities Management Services (SUMS).

The role of the board will be to challenge and guide, and to ensure a consistent approach is taken to each review. Recommendations from the board will be made to the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive Group (VCEG) and to appropriate University committees.

Each review will engage with staff and service users in a variety of ways – including questionnaires, open meetings and one-to-one discussions – to ensure that key issues are understood and positive ideas for development are put forward. Most reviews will also draw on external advice and guidance.

The work of the reviews will inform the plans developed by professional services as part of the new planning arrangements. Where areas of review are closely related – such as admissions activity and recruitment activity – the review teams will jointly discuss the areas of overlap, aided by the board.

Although reducing the overall spend on professional services is not the primary purpose of the review, all areas will need to achieve a 4% efficiency saving on professional services budgets, to deliver the £1m savings on the £25m overall budgets that were approved by Council in summer 2006.

There will be a small fund to support proposals for areas of investment; larger scale investments needed to support systematic improvements (such as new or replacement IT systems) will be considered as separate strategic investment.

The first phase of the reviews through to the end of March will be to identify key issues to be addressed and to set a “direction of travel” for the development of these services. The board will receive an interim report from each review by the end of February.

The next phase in the summer term and the following year will be to implement change and explore longer-term development ideas – and is likely to include work to improve business processes across the University.

Full details of the review process overall and information on each area of review, including a key contact point for each area, are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/vc

FAQs will be added to the site. Staff with questions about the review overall can email psr@sussex.ac.uk.
Record turnout in sabb elections

More than 2,500 students voted in the cross-campus ballot this month to decide who should be next year’s sabbatical officers in the Students’ Union (USSU).

That made it the highest voter turnout ever, despite there being fewer candidates than last year: just 21, compared to 36.

Current USSU Communications Officer, Emma Reynolds, was pleased with the results. She said: “It is vitally important that as many students as possible have a say in who leads the Union, since it exists to support and represent all students.”

The elected officers will take up these full-time, year-long positions from July.

President – Daniel Vockins
Daniel’s manifesto has promised four things. These include making “the Union more accessible by forging better, closer links between staff and students, bringing back a sense of belonging and the Sussex spirit in Union activity” and “maintaining our principled objection to top up fees”.

Finance Officer – Polly Jackson
Polly has described Sussex as “not just being about studying”. She says she is dedicated to giving the students a better experience from their union as well as their university.

Communications Officer – Koos Couvéé
Koos has pledged to “focus on widening participation in student media, organising workshops, improving inter-society communication through network sessions, increasing viability of cultural diversity on campus and overall contributing to a livelier environment”.

Welfare Officer – Timmy Konar
As well as being a pro-active member of the Environmental Society and a volunteer for UNISEX, Timmy’s main concerns for action include “introducing a cap on both the cost of ‘university managed accommodation’ and tuition (top-up) fees” and “improving access to cheap, quality, nutritious food on campus”.

Education Officer – Saul Reid
Saul’s manifesto states that he will “challenge the university on all issues of slipping standards” including the furthering of the creation of a student charter, chasing library funding, and creating a database facilitating peer-to-peer learning.

Activities Officer – Michael Alexander
Michael was the only sabbatical officer running for re-election. He says that he will be building on the success of this year’s Fresher’s Week by organising large-scale social events such as balls and live music events as well as improving the Union’s accessibility through more efficient, face-to-face publicity.

Students say yes to NUS

Students at Sussex have voted for their union to remain affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS).

An overwhelming majority of students (91.6%) voted to stay with the NUS and only 8.4% wanted to leave. In total 2,356 students voted.

The voting may show that students don’t wish to leave the NUS, but the view of the Students’ Union is that something needs to change.

Emma Reynolds, Communications Officer for the Union, said: “USSU is pleased to see so many students voting on this important issue. Our affiliation to NUS is not something to be taken lightly and it is useful to question and challenge the NUS to make sure it is meeting the needs of students.”

“It was unfortunate after a majority vote against NUS at the AGM that no students were willing to take on the ‘No’ campaign, perhaps resulting in a one-sided referendum. The students who were interested stepped down in protest at the fact the NUS could give support to the ‘Yes’ campaign at Sussex.”

She added: “We now want to identify the areas in which NUS is failing students at Sussex and not achieving the high standards of support and representation we expect from our national Union.”

“We are keen to lobby NUS to improve the services, advice, training and campaigning power it provides to students in the UK.”

“We hope many students will stand to represent Sussex in one of seven positions at the NUS Annual Conference in Easter.”

Gemma Tumelty, President of the NUS, said: “We believe the majority of students value the national voice and lobbying capacity that NUS lends their core concerns, the huge amount of work we put into training and development of student unions and also the proud history NUS has in being an organisation run by students, for students.”

“We really are delighted that for a huge range of reasons students at Sussex chose to say a resounding yes to their membership.”
A remarkable intellect and polymath

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the recent death of Tony Nuttall [see Bulletin 9 February]. He was one of the most intelligent and impressive people it was my privilege to know during my time at Sussex (1966-2000).

In many ways I thought it an appropriate tribute to Tony that Larry Learner should commence his obituary in the Independent (8 February) with a memory of a Nuttall lecture on Darwin. I taught in the School of Biological Science and I heard Tony speak on biology a number of times, read some of his writings on the subject and was subjected to a penetrating critique by him of some of my own writing. Tony's grasp of theoretical biology would have been pretty good in someone with a professional training in the discipline. In someone who lacked that training it was quite extraordinary.

Tony's lectures - usually delivered in short sleeves - were quite brilliant, no matter what the topic. Learned, lucid and witty, they were a joy to listen to.

I suspect that he was a reluctant administrator but I know from personal experience that he was a good pro-vice-chancellor who played a vital role in securing the future of the Human Sciences degree at Sussex.

To remember Tony is to remember a time when the University was still relatively small and it was possible to know and interact with people from the whole range of disciplines and to organise exciting and wide-ranging interdisciplinary seminars.

Tony was not only a remarkable intellect and polymath, he was also a lovely man. I suspect such people don't exist any more and he will be much missed.

Dr Gerry Webster, former Lecturer in Developmental Biology

Keep an open mind

It was saddening to read [Bulletin 9 February] of Professor Tony Nuttall's recent death, for he, along with leading biologist John Maynard Smith, who also died recently, changed my life quite profoundly back in 1972 as an engineering undergraduate.

I was bored with electronics and not enamoured with Wednesday afternoon field games. A widely publicised debate promised an intellectual skirmish in place of mudbathing. As I recall it 35 years on, Tony Nuttall proposed the doctrine of teleology while John Maynard Smith defended the position of biology.

This debate was astounding. For me, an applied scientist, it was initiation by fire into a new, fascinating and challenging sphere of study and ideas.

It convinced me to change direction at Sussex, too and I switched to Engineering with Social Sciences, graduating in 1974. More significantly, it taught me the importance of inter-disciplinarity in learning.

Subsequently I have studied psychology and human sciences, computing and IT, telecommunications, English, art history, management, economics, trade-union studies, law, journalism and much more. My encouragement to all learners is to keep an open mind to all new ideas and all fields of study. As a former manager, I value most those people who have breadth as well as depth in their education and background.

Thank you Tony Nuttall and John Maynard Smith, for so enriching my life-long learning experiences.

Keith W D Jago
Sussex graduate, Engineering with Social Sciences (1974)

Retirement event marks contribution to Education at Sussex

Dr Viv Griffiths, head of Sussex School of Education

Last month more than 100 people gathered in the newly refurbished Chichester lecture theatre to hear Professor Michael Erast's inspiring and scholarly lecture, 'Professional Learning in the Workplace', about his pioneering research over ten years into learning in the professions.

Afterwards, friends and colleagues joined Michael in the Meeting House for a celebration of his work at Sussex over 40 years, to mark his 'retirement' from the Sussex School of Education.

Speakers at the party represented the history of Education at Sussex from 1964 onwards, including Tony Bailey, one of the first chairs in Education, who talked about Michael's early work with Professors Boris Ford and Norman Mackenzie.

Michael's contribution to Education at Sussex has been, and continues to be enormous, including a period as director, substantial research supervision, as well as a large number of research projects that are influential nationally and internationally.

Gender on the agenda

All staff and students - both male and female - are being invited to have a say on the most important gender issues at Sussex.

That's because the law is about to change: from 6 April, public-sector organisations (including universities) will be required to promote gender equality and have "due regard" to the need to eliminate sex discrimination, including harassment.

This is the biggest change in sex equality legislation in 30 years, since the introduction of the Sex Discrimination Act itself in 1975.

In addition, the University is required to prepare and publish a 'gender equality scheme' by 30 April.

The scheme will set out the University's priorities on gender equality in the form of an action plan to be delivered over three years.

And that's where staff and students come in. Jackie Rymell, Assistant Director of Human Resources, says: "In developing our gender equality scheme, we want to ensure that we have a clear picture of the most important gender issues at Sussex."

To have your input, take just a few minutes to complete an online questionnaire; see www.sussex.ac.uk/units/staffing/ges-questionnaire.

All responses will be held anonymously and securely and will be used solely to inform the development of the University's gender equality scheme.

The closing date for responses is Monday 5 March.
Chinese students celebrate New Year at Sussex

Chinese students at Sussex, many of them away from China for the first time, celebrated Chinese New Year together at Falmer House with an all-day party on 17 February.

Around 150 guests enjoyed food and karaoke to celebrate the most important traditional Chinese festival - also known as Spring Festival or Lunar New Year.

The party, organised by the Students' Union Chinese Students and Scholars Society (CSSS) and sponsored by the International and Study Abroad Office, gave students a chance to celebrate a time traditionally spent with families and friends at home.

CSSS vice-chairperson Pengjin Li explained: "It's like Christmas is here. Many people travel back home to be with their families."

In fact, Chinese New Year is reputedly the time of the largest human migration on earth, as overseas Chinese travel from all over the world to have traditional reunion dinners with their families.

Pengjin says: "It's a big occasion - people used to stay up all night eating, drinking and talking. Now, we watch the New Year programmes on TV, and have a midnight meal, including special dumplings, at midnight."

Other traditions include presents, usually of money in red packets or envelopes, called Hong Bao, usually handed out to the younger generation by their parents.

Many of the students have missed out on these treats - getting to grips instead with an English seaside February, English lessons and their studies.

Pengjin Li, 24, from Tianjin on China's north-east coast, is studying for a Masters degree in Technology and Innovation Management and improving her English.

This is her first trip outside China and she is enjoying the challenge. "I've been here six months and I think I have adapted very well to the people, the culture and the work. I'm very busy with my studies - too busy to explore just yet. But I hope to see more of England and the rest of Europe later in the year."

Pengjin hopes to work in the United States before returning to China, where she would like to work in research and development.

The University currently has 122 students whose nationality is given as Chinese. Of these, 69 are undergraduates (including those on the International Study Centre foundation programme). The subjects studied by the majority are Engineering, Media Studies, Business and Management, Computing, English Language Teaching, and Law.

Change today, choose Fairtrade

The theme is 'Change today, choose Fairtrade'. The campaign is Fairtrade Fortnight 2007, which runs from Monday (26 February) to 11 March.

And the idea is that Sussex staff and students - along with everyone else in the UK - switch to buying products that give disadvantaged producers in the developing world a better deal.

All University-run catering outlets now offer a range of Fairtrade products such as coffee, tea, chocolate and cereal bars.

Paul Knight, manager of campus trading services, and David Chick from Catering are working closely with the Students' Union and other campus catering providers to introduce more Fairtrade products.

Paul and David also represent the University on a Fairtrade Steering Group that was recently set up with the Students' Union and their Fairtrade Society. One of the group's main objectives during 2007 is to achieve Fairtrade status for the University.

To become a Fairtrade university, Sussex must achieve five goals, which include setting up a Fairtrade Steering Group and creating a Fairtrade policy. In addition, Fairtrade foods must be used in all catering outlets on campus and made available for sale in all campus shops. Fairtrade products must be served at all meetings hosted by the University and the Students' Union and in all management offices. The final goal is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.

For details of the University's Fairtrade policy and the main objectives of the Steering Group, see www.sussex.ac.uk/catering.

Have a heart for the environment

Sussex students and staff marked St Valentine's day on 14 February by forming a giant heart shape in the Falmer House courtyard.

It wasn't a red heart, though: the group wore green clothes and ribbons in a bid to draw attention to environmental issues.

The event was just one part of the University's Environmental Awareness Week, which ran from 12–16 February and included film showings and campus tours as well as roadshows on energy, recycling and sustainable transport.
Academic events ↓

MON 26 FEB
1pm Geography and IDS seminar: Bob Ash (SOAS), China's food security: Domestic and international implications. Arts C233.

4pm Economics seminar: Victoria Prowse (Oxford), Heterogeneity in multinationally owned models, with an application to a study of employment dynamics. Russell 28.

4.30pm Neuroscience seminar: Martin Oopert (Cologne), Auditory transduction and amplification in Drosophila. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

5pm Education seminar: Caroline Daly (Institute of Education), The agenda for gender in English. Arts E 419.

TUE 27 FEB
12noon Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Malcolm Crench (Sheffield Hallam), Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionisation Mass Spectrometry Imaging. JMG lecture theatre.

1.15pm SEI seminar: Susan Milts (Sussex), The domestic implementation and impact of the European Convention on Human Rights decision. Arts C233.

4pm COGS seminar: Steven Mitten (Reading), Seven steps of the human imagination. ENGS1 AS2.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Wendy James (Oxford), Songs and dances from the Blue Nile. The refuge context. Arts C233.


7pm Institute of Physics lecture: Matt Pitkin (Glasgow), The search for gravitational waves. Pearseyes 1.1A7.

WED 28 FEB
10am Visiting Professor lecture: Kay-Tee Khaw (Cambridge), Ageing: a modifiable? Choulen lecture theatre, BMS.

12.30pm Seminar: David Mann (Imperial), Overcoming infections: Viral cytokines and mammalian cell cycle control. GDC Seminar Room.

1pm Controversies on Science & Technology seminar: Andrew Grantham, How the game industry develops ahead of demand. Freeman Centre.

2pm Politics seminar: Lauren McLaren (Nottingham), Perceived threat and public opposition to Turkey's EU membership. Chichester 1.003.

3pm Law seminar: Emily Haslam (Kent), Civil society protest and the expansion of international criminal law. Arts A11.

4.30pm Art History seminar: Margit Thonker (East Anglia), Some thoughts on Hendrick Goltz buts and his influence on Lutheran artifice. Arts A5.

5pm Migration seminar: Ruthica Andrisjevic (COMPAS, Oxford), Sex trafficking and the politics of mobility in Europe. Arts C233.

5.10pm Media and Film seminar: Paul Ryan (Brighton), Academics discover the videogame. EDS 341.

THU 1 MAR

4pm Psychology seminar: John Parkinson (Wales), Exploring the brain mechanisms of appetite motivation. Pevensey 1.23.

FRI 2 MAR
2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Sarah Kaplan (Pennsylvania), Assessing firm response to the fiber-optic revolution. Freeman Centre.

MON 5 MAR
1pm Geography and IDS seminar: Le Yin Zhang (UCL), The emerging Chinese economy and its global impacts. Arts C175.

3pm International Relations seminar: Zdenek Kavan (Sussex), Dealing with the past in post-communist Czech Republic. Arts C233.

4.30pm Neuro-science seminar: Neil Burgess (UCL), The role of the hippocampus in navigation and memory. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

5pm Education seminar: Val Gillies (London South Bank), Parents and education: Exploring classical experience of school involvement. Arts E419.

TUE 6 MAR
12noon Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar: Dorothy Crawford (Edinburgh), Cell immunotherapy for EBV associated tumours. JMG lecture theatre.

12.30pm Life History seminar: Mark Bhatti & Amanda Claremont (Brighton), Writing the landscape of everyday life. Library Meeting Room.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Sabina Avlag (Sussex), The role of the state in shaping new European capitalism. Arts C233.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Lawrence Taylor (Ireland), Walking with the O'odham to Magdalena Sonora. Arts C233.

6.30pm Professorial lecture: Corin Klos (Sussex), Developing an ear for music: From hair cells to Beethoven. Challen lecture theatre, BMS.

WED 7 MAR
5pm Seminar: Michael Baum, Trials and tribulations surrounding complementary medicine in particular. BMS lecture theatre.

12.30pm Seminar: Noel Lowndes (Galway), Sensing and responding to DNA damage in model systems. DSC seminar room.

5pm Migration/Gender Studies seminar: Anne-Meike Flecher, Katie Walsh, Anastasia Christou & Lyla Mehta (Sussex), Roundtable on gender and migration. Arts C233.

5.30pm Media and Film seminar: Lizzie Thynne (Sussex), The process of documentary making. Grieron's 'creative treatment of authenticity' revisited. EDB 341.

THU 8 MAR
4pm Psychology seminar: Thomas Kessler (Jena), Ingroup projection and group acceptance by minorities and majorities. Pevensey 1, 183.

5pm Developmental lecture: Geert De Neve (Sussex), Reflections on local and international labour activism. Arts A1.

FRI 9 MAR
2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: J.S. Metcalfe (Manchester), Alfred Marshall's evolutionary economics. Freeman Centre G24/25.

4pm South Asia seminar: Jonathan Goodhand (SOAS), Border games on the Afghan-Pakistan frontier. Russell 27.

Small ads ↓

For sale: Buffy the Vampire Slayer videos, complete boxed set, all mint condition: £50. Electric guitar in soft case + basic amp: £75. PlayStation 2, boxed + 2 games, 2 memory cards & controller: £99. T 2069507.

For sale: Mountain bike, unisex, 21 gears, Kamikaze/Acme, yellow-red, £90. Buyer collects from Lewes. E st79@sussex.ac.uk, T 07794 542866.

Wanted to let: 1- or 2-bed property in Lewes or surrounding area + parking for mature F/Writer/DPhil student, N/S, no pets, no children, just lots of books. E k.e.lasky@sussex.ac.uk.


For sale: Air mattress (single) + built-in foot pump & pillow: £10. Single folding guest bed, new; tubular steel frame: £40. T 686996.

To let: 3-bed house. T 07994 497907.

For sale: DSLR Nikon D70s 6.1 Megapixels body only perfect + 2 memory cards (1GB & 2GB) & all accessories, £300. T Gianluca on 07896 368535, E g.calcagni@sussex.ac.uk.

Arts events ↓

PERFORMANCE
Tue 27 Feb
8pm Lone Twin - Nine Years
Two friends travelled the world, giving theatrical presentations to the people they met. Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

Wed 28 Feb
8pm An Evening With Janet Street Porter GAC.

Tue 6- Wed 7 Mar
8pm Ultima Vez - Spiegel
Nine dancers in a fusion of live action, film and music. GAC.

FILM
Sun 25 Feb
4pm Miss Potter (U). GAC.
7pm A Night At The Museum (U). GAC.

Sat 4 Mar
4pm Ghosts (15). GAC.

7pm Apocalypyo (18). GAC.

EXHIBITIONS
Until Sun 31 March
Will Nash - The Footprint Project
Sculptror Will Nash asked visitors to Stanner Park to mark their routes around it on a map. See www.footprintproject.co.uk, GAC.

The Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and Lisa Merry, with contributions from Jacqui Beal, Maggie Clune and Rob Red. 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 9 March, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 2 March. Please contact the Press & Communications Office in Sussex House, ext. 8888 or email bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.