Postgraduate Open Day attracts strong interest

Nearly 400 potential postgraduate students packed the conference suite in Bramber House when the University held its annual Postgraduate Open Day on Wednesday 17 January.

Organisers reported strong interest from outside the University, with two-thirds of those attending coming from off campus.

Even the weather turned out alright on the day, with sunshine breaking through during what was otherwise a stormy week of winter weather.

Now in its tenth year, the Open Day is the single most important postgraduate recruitment event held at Sussex. A quarter of those who attend can be expected to go on to register for a Sussex degree.

The mood on the day was upbeat, with representatives from across the arts and sciences, and from professional services such as CDEC and the Library, being kept busy as soon as the doors opened at 10am.

Professor John Dearlove delivered presentations on the quality of postgraduate education, including Sussex’s ranking as one of the UK’s leading universities and its record of producing research of national and international excellence.

Event organiser Terry O’Donnell, who worked with colleagues from the newly created Student Recruitment Services team, was pleased with the response from potential students and from staff working at the event: “People from across the University put a lot of hard work in to preparing for the event and it’s great to see the numbers coming through and making the best of what we can offer.”

The University also took the opportunity to promote heavily the new online application system that has been developed for postgraduates and was launched in the autumn.

With application rates online already running at 40%, the University is confident this can be pushed up further, improving the experience for applicants and for staff involved in handling admissions work.

Terry added: “It’s important that we continue to build on the interest created by events like this not just by swiftly turning around applications, but then keeping applicants warm. Initiatives such as the e-newsletter for postgraduate applicants have started again from this January.”

Details of the online systems and the e-newsletter can be seen at www.sussex.ac.uk/pgstudy.

Staff and students give input on new VC

Preparations and planning for the recruitment of a new vice-chancellor moved on apace this week, with scores of staff and students sharing views and ideas on what the University should be looking for in its next vice-chancellor.

Over three days this week, academic and professional services managers and staff, staff unions, the Students’ Union, student representatives and a range of close external partners kept a team from Perrett Laver busy with their thoughts as the executive search firm started its work with Sussex.

Responses have also been coming in steadily to the dedicated email address, newvc@sussex.ac.uk, set up for staff and students to offer their views on the appointment.

Simon Fanshawe, who is chairing the selection committee, and to whom all responses are being directed, said: “I am delighted that the Sussex community is heavily engaged in this vitally important process. The responses show a real passion and a commitment to the future of the University. I am confident that we will be able to set out a strong and positive platform for potential candidates.”

The selection committee meets for the second time on Monday (29 January) and will be considering a draft job description and person specification for the role, prepared in light of this extensive consultation. Those documents will then be shared swiftly for comment within the University, before external adverts are published and searches start in the first part of February.

The outline timetable that was published in December will be revised and updated following the 29 January meeting.
BOOKMARK

Allam Ahmed (Lecturer, SPRU) (ed.)
World Sustainable Development Outlook 2006: Global and local resources in achieving sustainable development
Interscience, 160 Euros (hardback)
ISBN: 9-07776-29-9


Paul Basu (Lecturer in Anthropology)
Highland Homecomings: Genealogy and heritage tourism in the Scottish diaspora
Routledge, $44.95 (paper), $120 (hardback)
ISBN: 9781844721276 (paper), 9781844721283 (hardback)

The publisher says: "Highland Homecomings examines the role of place, ancestry and territorial attachment in the context of a modern age characterised by mobility and rootlessness. People of Scottish descent are dispersed throughout the world: Paul Basu explores the journeys they make to the Scottish Highlands and Islands to undertake genealogical research and seek out sites associated with their ancestors. He argues that through these genealogical journeys, individuals are able to construct meaningful self-narratives from the ambiguities of their diasporic migrant histories, and so recover a more secure sense of home and self-identity."

Stephanie Newell (Reader in English)
The Forger's Tale: The search for Odeziaku
Ohio University Press, $22.95 (paper), $46.95 (hardback)
ISBN: 082141710X (paper), 0821417096 (hardback)

Stephanie Newell says: "The book charts the story of the English novelist and poet John Moray Stuart-Young (1881-1930) as he travelled from the slums of Manchester to West Africa, leaving behind a criminal record for forgery and embezzlement. In Nigeria, he became a wealthy palm-oil trader and he established a series of relationships with young local men. The book asks how it was possible for a boy-loving man to survive (and thrive) in colonial locations."

Kees Van Der Pijl (Professor of International Relations)
Global Rivalries from the Cold War to Iraq
Pluto Press, £25 (paper), £75 (hardback)
ISBN: 0745325416 (paper), 0745325424 (hardback)

Thomas Ferguson, University of Massachusetts, Boston, says: "Just when you thought International Relations as a field was dead, along comes Kees van der Pijl's new book."

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.

Spring lectures

The spring term Sussex Lectures got off to a strong start over three consecutive days this week with lectures by leading Sussex academics on transnational classes and global political economy, anatomy of feeling, and professional learning in the workplace.

Since their creation in 2005, the Sussex Lectures series, bringing together professional lectures and other leading lectures on campus, have provided a showcase for both new and long-standing academics at the University.

Corporate Events manager, Sue Hepburn – part of the team from the Development and Alumni Relations Office that has led the creation of the Sussex Lectures series – said the quality and range of the lectures continues to impress, and audiences are responding in ever greater numbers.

Open to the campus community and the wider public in Sussex, each event can now draw crowds of 200 or more, attracted by the quality of the speakers and the academic and social interaction they provide.

Sue said: "We see the lectures as a way of celebrating and sharing the knowledge and understanding of some of our finest academics with their colleagues across campus and with friends and supporters of the University. I am delighted that they are becoming firmly established as leading events in the life of the University."

The Michael Chown lecture theatre in the medical school and the Chichester lecture theatre play host to the events, which this week included lectures from Kees Van Der Pijl, Professor of International Relations; Professor Hugo Critchley, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS); and Professor Michael Erut, Education. Art historian Professor Maurice Howard also spoke at Michael Erut's lecture, which was held in the Chichester lecture theatre to celebrate its refurbishment.

The Development and Alumni Relations team have started to maintain an online archive of the lectures, including slides and presentations as well as recordings of the lectures themselves. This is available at www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexlecturesarchive.

The Sussex Lectures series continues on 6 February with Professor Paul Tofts of BSMS speaking on magnetic resonance imaging of the human brain.

University reflects on lessons of the Holocaust

A Holocaust survivor's incredible account of the Krakow ghetto forms part of a special commemoration at Sussex on Wednesday (31 January), to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (Saturday, 27 January).

Born in Krakow, Poland, Janina Fischler Martinho escaped from the ghetto as a child with the help of her older brother. She then had to fend for herself in the countryside until she managed to escape to Britain in 1946.

She was later reunited with her brother, but did not tell her story till 50 years later, in her Holocaust memoir Have You Seen My Little Sister? Janina will give a personal account of her experiences, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Also speaking at the event is Helen Bamber, founder of the Medical Foundation for the Care for Victims of Torture, who will talk about the impact on her life of her relief work with survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Helen was 19 when she volunteered to help Holocaust survivors at the end of World War II, listening to their devastating accounts of unimaginable cruelty. She went on to join Amnesty International, exposing torture practised by regimes around the world. Today she is one of the world's leading campaigners against the use of torture.

Chana Mosheńska, Director of Educational Programmes in the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, says: "Our speakers this year are two remarkable women. Through their lives they show us the importance of learning the lessons of the Holocaust: that genocide begins with racism; that robbing people of their dignity is the first step to robbing them of their freedom and then their lives; and that individuals can make a difference."

The day starts with the two speakers at 1.45pm in the Medical School lecture theatre, it concludes at 5pm in the John Maynard Smith lecture theatre with an award-winning documentary film about the former Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Director Rex Bloomstein will also take part in a question-and-answer session. The event is organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees. Entry is free of charge.
VC's VOICE

Newspaper headlines last week reported that some vice-chancellors are looking forward to an early increase in full-time home undergraduate tuition fees, which were raised to £3,000 in October 2006. The figure of £10,000 was quoted as a possible new fee ceiling.

I came in for some criticism for my open support for the changes that were introduced last October, but I made and make no apology for saying what I think. On this occasion, my view is that it is ridiculously premature to be advocating radical change to a system that has been in place only since the beginning of this academic year. I do not support an increase in the fee.

The big question about the new system is what effect it will have on access to universities to students from less advantaged backgrounds. It is important to emphasise that there are now no 'up-front' tuition fees for full-time home undergraduates; the fee can be paid through the student loans scheme, so effectively being paid by graduates after they have started earning.

Of course, this means that student have higher debts, and there is concern that fear of debt will deter students from poorer families. But a debt is less of a deterrent than an up-front fee; the student loan scheme enjoys a subsidised interest rate; and students from the least well-off backgrounds benefit from government grants and university bursaries.

The first year of the new system was a good news story for Sussex. Applications increased, while nationally there was a small decrease so, for the fourth year in a row, our applications were significantly above the national trend. Even better, given the concerns about the impact of the new fee regime, there was a welcome jump in the proportion of our first-year students from less well-off families.

This is indeed very welcome news, but it would be a mistake to deduce too much from one year's experience in one university. We need to have several years' experience across the whole national higher education system before we can start to make sensible judgements about how the new student finance system is working and how it might be changed. The government has promised a major review in 2009 and that review will be the occasion to have the debate about whether the 2006 change was a disaster that needs to be reversed or a success on which we can build.

And when the system is reviewed in 2009, there will be more to consider than just the level of the fee. There is a serious question to ask about the blanket interest-rate subsidy, which is expensive to the government and which benefits all students whatever their family background and whether they get a job with Goldman Sachs or an inner-city primary school.

But the time to ask these questions is not now. The funding priorities for the immediate future should be the best possible deal for the funding of teaching and research in this year's government spending review, and a better deal for part-time students, whose interests were largely forgotten in the 2006 changes.

DVC pushes ahead with new planning processes

While new pro-vice-chancellors have been opening up consultation on research and teaching and learning strategies for the University, the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the new Director of Planning have been busy putting in place new arrangements for strategic development and planning at Sussex.

Work since the arrival of Professor Paul Layzell and Louise Nadal in September 2006 has moved at pace, with a comprehensive range of plans and processes approved by Senate and Council in December.

These plans and processes cover both strategic and operational planning and are supported by a comprehensive set of data from across the University. This joined-up approach has been widely welcomed by school deans and heads of department.

Interim strategic plan

Building on the Investing in Excellence plans, an interim strategic plan – setting out key aims and strategies for Sussex – was presented to and approved by Council in December.

It has been published on a new website for the strategy, planning and governance team, which Louise heads, at www.sussex.ac.uk/spg.

Paul is at pains to stress that this is an interim step: "I see this as a stepping stone, from the Investing in Excellence plans in 2006, towards the development of a full strategy to be developed through wide consultation by December 2007.

"It does however provide a framework for our thinking, to ensure we are clear what the immediate areas of focus should be." 

Key priorities for 2007–08

Alongside this document, Council also agreed key priorities for 2007–08:

- growing income
- improving the student experience
- more positive engagement with staff
- fit-for-purpose professional services.

For details on each of these areas for action, see www.sussex.ac.uk/spg.

New planning process

The new planning process, while necessarily detailed, is intended to simplify the strategic planning and review processes for schools and departments, with plans being set in the spring and reviewed 18 months later, after completion of the academic year.

It is also intended to connect top-level strategy with operational delivery by schools, departments and units in the professional services. A key aim is to reduce the dialogue on schools, departments and the supporting professional services to a couple of points in the year.

The planning team centrally will support the process by bringing together comprehensive planning data in consistent formats for schools and departments, permitting well informed discussions throughout the process.

Director of Planning, Louise Nadal, says: "The University has a great opportunity to connect its strategic thinking and operational activity through these processes. The discussions we have had with schools and departments so far, and the welcome that they have shown to the approaches we’re adopting, makes me confident that we’re setting off in the right direction."

Full details of the planning process are published online at www.sussex.ac.uk/spg.

Planning conference 2007

In the spirit of collective engagement, in mid January a first planning conference was held involving all deans and directors in schools, heads of department, the event provided the first opportunity for academic leaders and professional support teams to engage collectively in looking at the new planning process and to discuss some of the challenges ahead for Sussex.

With presentations from all members of the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive Group (VCED), and lively contributions from deans, directors and heads of departments, the event provided the first opportunity for academic leaders and professional support teams to engage collectively in looking at the new planning process and to discuss some of the challenges ahead for Sussex.

With an immediate follow-up event involving finance managers and school administrative managers, and with heads of department feeding back to their departmental meetings in week 3, responses to involvement in the conference were positive. Managers said they looked forward to similar cross-University events in the future.

Presentations and information from the conference are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/spg.
Graduating with honours
1,800 to receive degrees at Brighton Dome

Around 1,800 students will be awarded their degrees at the winter graduation ceremonies at the Brighton Dome on Tuesday (30 January). Together with their friends and families, students will attend two ceremonies, presided over by the University's Chancellor, Lord Attenborough, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith.

Lab technician Gillian Carpenter overcame breast cancer and the demands of juggling work and her studies to earn her place at Tuesday's graduation ceremony.

And it was thanks to the support and encouragement of her supervisors, says Gill, that she was able to complete her MPhil in Biochemistry after six years of hard work.

Gillian had previously gained vocational qualifications so she could work as a lab technician at Sussex, preparing materials and running experiments for research scientists.

However, she decided she wanted to understand more about the science behind the experiments she prepared. "I felt very fortunate to work in this kind of environment – but I found it hard to progress further without the knowledge and understanding a research degree would give me," she says.

Gill was taking time out from her MPhil in order to overcome technical problems with her everyday experimental work when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003.

She says: "Jennifer Pain and Simon Morley were both wonderfully supportive, allowing me to send drafts of chapters to them both to check. I cannot speak highly enough of them both for the way they looked out for me."

"What really impressed me was that Jenny came to see me while I was signed off from work for my breast cancer treatment.

"She suggested that I should start writing up my research. It would give me something to focus on. She gave advice on how to access research papers online from home and I was able to use email to complete my work.

"Studying helped me to cope with what I was going through."

Hated by farmers, feared by the public, snared and shot by poachers – the boar, one of our biggest native mammals, has not had the best reception since returning to the wild in the UK after an absence of at least 300 years.

They’re even blamed for vandalising areas where Britain’s best-loved flower – the bluebell – grows, because they love eating the bulbs in their woodland habitat.

But it is precisely this activity that has led research student Tasha Sims to champion the much-maligned porkers. Tasha’s scientific study of the wild boar population living on the Sussex and Kent borders has revealed that the digging and scraping they perform has big benefits for our fast disappearing woodland.

Tasha, who graduates with a doctorate on Tuesday, analysed soil turned over by the animals while rooting for food on the woodland floor. She found that while boar are demonised for damaging farm grazing land and digging up bluebells in their search for food, they have a more positive effect on woodland ecology.

Tasha says: "Rooting results in significant increases in plant species richness, plant mass and biodiversity by aiding decomposition of leaf matter and the turn-over of soil nutrients, which significantly alters the structure, dynamics and performance of the woodland community.

"The boar act as gardeners, keeping the forest in peak condition, helping to preserve the richness of our woodland."

Tasha is now considering a career that combines conservation, wildlife and the media. She says: "I love large mammal ecology and animals. I lived in the area where the boar are for 20 years. I was one of the first people who noticed their arrival, so this study has personal significance for me."

There will be a double celebration as husband and wife Mark and Katherine Giffard-Lindsay graduate.

Mark will be receiving an MA in Governance & Development from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Katherine will receive an MA in International Education from the Sussex Institute.

"IDS has a world-class reputation and was recommended to me by my former boss," says Mark. "IDS has exceeded my expectations in terms of the level of input from the Fellows, and the course has been excellent."

Mark and Katherine met five years ago and have worked overseas together in India, Nepal and Tibet.

After years of working in challenging environments they are now keen to put down roots in Brighton, especially now they have a new baby (born on 28 December).

Mark worked in IDS while studying there and now works as a freelance consultant on international development issues.
Chambers and Chownen to receive honorary degrees

Two honorary doctorates will be presented at the graduation ceremonies.

- Professor Robert Chambers, whose work at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has focused on development issues in Asia and Africa, will be made Doctor of Letters.
- Sussex businessman Michael Chownen, formerly owner of Sussex Stationers, will be made Doctor of the University in recognition for his charity work.

Professor Robert Chambers is a research associate in the Participation, Power and Social Change Team at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

His main operations and research experience has been in East Africa and South Asia.

Educated at the Universities of Cambridge and Manchester, he joined IDS in 1972 and has worked extensively with development organisations both here and abroad, including membership of the Band Aid/Live Aid Project Committee and the Advisory Panel on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment for the World Commission on Environment and Development.

His work has included aspects of rural development, public administration training, seasonality, irrigation system management, agricultural research and extension, perceptions of poverty, professionalism and participation.


He is currently working mainly on participatory methodologies, how we know, do not know, and get it wrong in development, community-led total sanitation, and personal and institutional learning and change.

Sussex businessman Michael Chownen has worked with and supported local charities for a number of years.

Born in Birmingham, Mr Chownen attended King Edward VI Grammar School in Edgbaston and went on to study civil engineering at Birmingham University.

From 1961 until 1970 he was employed by Gross Cash Registers Ltd in Hollingbury, Brighton. In 1971 he bought a shop, trading as Sussex Stationers, in Haywards Heath and built up the company with his brother, until they had 50 outlets, employing more than 1,000 people. The brothers sold the company, renamed British Bookshops and Stationers, in 2005.

Mr Chownen's interest in supporting health and education led to him donating monies to the Brighton and Sussex Medical School in order to establish a new imaging department, opening early this year and also to create an important new department in clinical oncology.

Graduation day is very much a family affair for the Davoodis.

DPhil astrophysics student Payam Davoodi, 26, spent the first three years of his life with his parents on the Sussex campus, where they were living in the Park Village residences while his father Hassan was studying for his own DPhil in Geopolitics. When he was three, Payam saw his father awarded his degree at a ceremony at the Brighton Centre in 1983.

Now proud father Hassan, wife Betty and brother Nima, also a Sussex student, will see Payam graduate at the ceremony on Tuesday.

Both sons already have first class science degrees from Sussex and Nima is due to complete his doctorate next year.

Payam's doctoral research involved working for the largest infrared survey undertaken by NASA's Spitzer satellite, which was launched into space in August 2003.

He says: "Studying a DPhil at Sussex has given me the opportunity to work in an exciting environment, alongside some of the top scientists from around the world. It has also allowed me to develop a range of skills, therefore widening the career opportunities now available to me.

Left: Three-year-old Payam Davoodi saw his father awarded his degree at a ceremony at the Brighton Centre in 1983. Below: Payam in Park Village when he lived on campus as a child. Above: Now fully grown, Payam Davoodi will receive his doctorate in astrophysics at the Brighton Dome on Tuesday."
News in brief

Audit of teaching space

The University will be carrying out an audit of seminar rooms on campus the week beginning Monday 5 February. Student helpers will check on each room and the number of occupants on an hourly basis. They are under instruction to be as unobtrusive as possible and to cause minimum disruption to seminars. Student Systems thank you in advance for bearing with any inconvenience caused.

Win a hotel stay

It's competition time again: this time you have the chance to win a one-night stay (bed and breakfast) at the four-star Holiday Inn on Brighton seafront. To enter, all you have to do is answer the following question: What is the University of Sussex rate to stay at this hotel? The answer is in the list of University-approved hotels and guest houses at www.sussex.ac.uk/about/hotels. Send your answer with your name, status (e.g. member of staff/student/alumni) and contact details to c.lehany@sussex.ac.uk. The closing date is 23 February.

Bookshop news

The campus bookshop is having its biggest sale ever, with more than 14,000 titles, across all subjects, reduced to half price. The bookshop is also now buying used textbooks, paying 33% of the retail price. In addition, customers can now buy secondhand books; it is intended that this will, as stock builds up, form a major part of future business. This term the bookshop will stay open until 6.30pm.

Lord Cockfield dies

Lord (Arthur) Cockfield, an honorary graduate of the University and a benefactor to postgraduate students in the Sussex European Institute (SEI), died on 8 January aged 90. The University granted Lord Cockfield — architect and builder of the European single market — an honorary degree in 2002 in recognition of his contribution to European integration. Lord Cockfield was also a strong believer in the benefits of scholarship: since 1995, 25 students in the SEI have benefited from support from the trust that he had set up in memory of his wife Monica.

Research

Training is available on Monday (29 January) on how to use the funding database ResearchLink. To book a place on one of the four sessions, contact the Staff Development Unit.

Sussex voted “Best Place To Be”

Students have voted Sussex “Best Place to Be” in a survey of 40 leading UK universities conducted last autumn. The findings come from the International Student Barometer (ISB), conducted by i-Graduate, in which the University participated for the first time.

The information from the survey provides much more than just good headlines for the University, however. With more than 800 overseas and 1,300 home undergraduate and postgraduate students from Sussex responding to the independent survey, the results provide a wealth of information about how students find the quality of the education and services that Sussex provides.

Sara Dyer Head of International Student Support, is pleased that the ISB has provided such a detailed picture of students’ perceptions of the University. “This tells us in detail not only what students here think, but also how this compares with students at other universities, with detailed comparisons available for the 1994 Group universities that took part.”

The University can take heart and confidence from many of the findings, which suggest Sussex is providing a good-quality service to its students, both home and overseas:

- In making their choice of university, international students rated the University website, prospectus, alumni and visits to campus as more helpful than the average across the 1994 Group;
- They also rated their arrival and induction experience at Sussex as strong and above the 1994 Group average;
- The overall satisfaction rating by international students for the learning experience at Sussex was over 80%, matching the results from other 1994 Group and Russell Group institutions;
- The quality of academic teaching and course content was highly rated and above the 1994 Group average;
- The survey gives especially positive feedback on the friendliness of the University generally, its location and facilities – all of which contribute to the ‘Best Place to Be’ rating;
- Finally, over 87% of Sussex students would recommend it to a friend (compared to an average for the 1994 Group of 84%).

The survey also signals and reinforces areas for improvement at Sussex, including support for students in opening bank accounts and engaging with the student accounts system, and provision of catering services for students on campus.

The survey results also highlight a growing issue, common for all institutions, in relation to the expectations of overseas students around what universities offer in terms of careers support and work experience.

"It’s important that we look carefully about what this survey is telling us we are doing well and where we can improve the service we offer," says Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Joanne Wright. “But I’m delighted it has confirmed the high quality of the education and living experience we offer.”
Staff member donates sculpture to Library

Tom Fell, Web and Information Assistant in the Sussex Institute, has donated a piece of his own sculpture to the Library.

Tom’s work, entitled ‘8 pieces’, was installed last month in the South Courtyard and was designed specifically for the space.

The sculpture, which can be clearly seen from the photocopying area, will be in place indefinitely.

“I’m interested in the process behind making the piece,” says Tom. “My work is homeless in that I can do it anywhere and I like my designs to be self-installed and moveable.”

The piece is in eight sections, each weighing about 70 kilos, which are bolted together to form a sphere. It is made from cast iron so will change in appearance as it weathers, with the bright orange colour of the initial corrosion gradually turning a much darker shade.

Tom describes his work as “a recognition and celebration of industrial manufacture”. He adds: “The whole process from start to finish is a blend of industrial design, craft and production with visual interpretation, aesthetics and natural progression.”

Tom studied fine art at Nottingham Trent University and graduated in 2003 before moving to Brighton.

“I’m no art critic, but it’s certainly unusual and will provoke discussion,” says Library buildings manager Jeff Collington.

“We are always keen to support local artists be exhibiting their work in the library,” says Librarian Debby Thorley.

“Tom’s sculpture is particularly suitable for the courtyard and I hope people take the time to come and see it.”

Enterprisers Australia 2007

Two Sussex students are heading down under next week to take part in a programme to foster enterprising behaviour.

Thomas Barnard (2nd year Law with Management) and Andrea Drovaska (2nd year Linguistics and Contemporary European Studies) will attend Enterprisers Australia 2007 at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland from 29 January to 3 February.

“I’m not really sure what to expect,” says Thomas. “So I’m going with an open mind and hopefully it will give me some ideas for my future.”

Enterprisers Australia 2007 is an intensive four-day residential programme, designed to take students on a journey towards becoming more enterprising in their chosen field.

This could be a business start-up, a community project, a student society, a research project, the voluntary or social sectors or within a large established public or private organisation.

“I’m hoping this will help me gain confidence to perhaps one day start my own business,” says Andrea, who is originally from the Czech Republic.

Thomas and Andrea’s places on the programme came about through the Regional Development Office’s ‘Enterprise Thursday’ events in November, at which participants worked on personal development folders.

These folders were judged by the Regional Development Office staff and Diane Simpson-Little from Engineering & Design, with the top two winning places on the Australian programme.

Sussex hosted the Enterprisers programme in the summer of 2005 and 2006. Learning activities on the programme include active participation, reflection, one-on-one conversation and large-group discussions and activities.

Blu Tack: just say no

A campaign is being launched to wean students and staff off using Blu Tack on the campus walls and brickwork. With much of campus building design utilising exposed brick, use of the pliable, reusable adhesive for mounting posters is a real problem.

Easy to put on, but nearly impossible to remove, Blu Tack either leaves a residue in marks all over brickwork, takes patches off paint when removed, or incurs significant cleaning time and costs.

Andy Jupp, Head of Facilities Management in Estates, says: “There are some areas where years of Blu Tack marks on brick have come off only where we have been able to do a thorough steam-clean as part of formal refurbishments.”

Fortunately Student Recruitment Services (SRS), who run the large open days, have come up with a solution – double-sided masking tape – which they have been using for a number of years.

Andy says: “We’re not putting Blu Tack on a list of banned substances, but we’re seriously asking staff and students involved in events to make sure they don’t use it unless they are sure it’s OK for the surface. If in doubt, follow SRS advice and use double-sided masking tape.”
Academic events↓

**MON 29 JAN**
3pm Research seminar: Martin Shaw (Sussex), Book launch: What is Genocide? Arts C233.

**3pm International Relations seminar:** Julie Heame (Lancaster), Theorising African NGOs: Exploring a Comparator perspective. Arts C233.

**4pm Economics seminar:** Adrian Wood (Oxford), The real economic impact of China on the rest of the world. Russell 28.

**4.30pm Neuroscience seminar:** Idiko Kermens (Sussex), Non-synaptic neuronal plasticity and long-term associative memory. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

**5pm Education seminar:** Rosemary Deen (Bristol), What is a ‘world-class’ university in the context of Europe and Asia and does it matter? Arts E419.

**TUE 30 JAN**
4pm COGS seminar: Richard Hopson (Southampton), What can sexules do that asexules can’t? Biologically real assumptions meet computational complexity. ENGS 152.

**4.15pm Anthropology seminar:** Melissa Parker (Brunet), Resisting control of neglected tropical diseases: The case of neglected tropical diseases in Uganda. Arts C233.

**WED 31 JAN**
12.30pm Seminar: Peter Kornan (Clare Hall), Higgsines and therapy-related cancer. GDSC Seminar Room.

**5pm Education seminar:** Rosemary Deen (Bristol), What is a ‘world-class’ university in the context of Europe and Asia and does it matter? Arts E419.

**THU 1 FEB**
1pm Controversies seminar: Jonathan Sapsed (Sussex), Why routine work is essential for creativity. Freeman Centre social space.

**2pm SEI/Politics seminar:** Kalypso Nikolaidis (Oxford), Should we rescue the European constitution? Why? How? In whose name? Russell 24.

**5pm Migration seminar:** Katie Walsh (Sussex), Britishness in the Gulf. Arts C233.

**2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar:** Vicky Pyce (DTI), title. TBC, Freeman Centre.

**MON 5 FEB**
1pm Geography & IDS seminar: Godfrey Yeung (Sussex), The emerging Chinese economy & its global impacts. Bob Benewick (Sussex), Decoding the harmonious socialist society or walking the dog. Arts C175.

**3pm Seminar:** Martin Shaw (Sussex), Book launch: What is Genocide? Arts C233.

**3pm International Relations seminar:** Toby Dodge (London), The causes and consequences of US defeat in Iraq. Arts C233.

**4pm Languages and Linguistics seminar:** Max Wheeler (Sussex), Explaining emergence in inflectional paradigms, with examples from Apes- Martians Ocotoc. Arts D440.

**4.30pm Neuroscience seminar:** Sarah Hammond & Michael O’Shea (Sussex), Fight initiation in the fly. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

**5pm Education seminar:** Caroline Lodge (Sussex), Enquiring into learning with children, their photographs and their drawings. Arts E419.

**TUE 6 FEB**

**2.15pm SEI seminar:** Tony Hadaway (Edinburgh), Dancing solo in EMU: An independent European Central Bank in an asymmetric EMU. Arts C233.

**4pm COGS seminar:** Murali Ramachandran (Sussex), The invalidity of Modus Ponens. ENGS 152.

**1.45pm Anthropology seminar:** James Liddaw (Cambridge), An anthropology of the self: Anti-anti-anti-relativism. Arts C233.

**6.30pm BMSMS inaugural lecture:** Paul Tofts (BSMS), Measuring inside the human brain using quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Westlake House lecture theatre. University of Brighton, Falmer.

**WED 7 FEB**
12.30pm Seminar: Tracy Barrett (Birkbeck), Lesion tracking and damage detection in the UnABC pathway. GDSC Seminar Room.

**1pm Controversies seminar on Science & Technology:** David Dyker & Nick von Wright (Sussex), The academies of sciences in the transition countries should be closed down. University Centre social space.

**2pm Politics seminar:** Tim Bale (Sussex), The Conservative Party: Shock, structure and strategy since 1945. Chichester 100.

**4.30pm Art History seminar:** Sarah Posey (Brighton Museum), Weaving relationships: Textiles, belief and community in rural Romania. Arts A5.

**5pm Migration seminar:** Alison Brody (Sussex), Revisiting remittances and empowerment in the context of Thai rural women’s migration. Arts C233.

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**Arts events↓**

**PERFORMANCE**

**Tue 6 Feb**
8pm Vincent Dance Theatre – Broken Chords
A visually striking, hilarious portrait of breaking up and breaking down, performed by an international, multi- tasking ensemble. Gardner Arts Centre (GAC).

**Fri 9 Feb**
8pm Seann Sean Battle Free: Pool table + cues. Available end June. Collect from Holland House, Holland Rd, Hove. 5:30-8pm.

**Small ads↓**


**for sale:**
- IREA tuition + blue cushion. £40. Buyer collects from BT04B. en.simm@gmail.com.
- To let: Room in 2-bed flat, Betley Way, Torquay. £300 p/w. en.rose123@live.co.uk.
- To let: 2-bed renovated UF 3-storey Kemp Town house. Roof terrace, integrated garage, oblique sea view. £1,200 p/m. 07706676151.
- To let: 1996 Hyundai Accent coupe i, 1.3L metallic green, 150k miles, 4-wheel drive, air-con, CD player, alloys, £4,500. 01293 506150.
- To let: 2-bed renovated UF 3-storey Kemp Town house. Roof terrace, integrated garage, oblique sea view. £1,200 p/m. 07706676151.
- To let: Room in N/S shared PG house, N London Rd station, Broadbrand, Wi-Fi, garden. Available 3 Feb – Mar (price to be agreed). £350 p/w. en.hero@btinternet.com.
- To let: Room in family house, W. Hove. £400 incl. 01273 776949.
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