Archaeology student discovers ancient mosaic in Israel

An ancient floor mosaic uncovered in Israel by a Sussex student is being heralded as a major archaeological find.

Diarmuid Walsh, an MA student in Field Archaeology with the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), made the discovery while serving as a volunteer in field work for Tel Aviv University’s Institute of Archaeology during the summer break.

The beautifully designed mosaic, measuring 8m by 8m and dating back to the sixth century, depicts fruit trees, grapes and wine jugs. It was found by Diarmuid as he excavated a room of a building at the historically important Yavneh-Yam site, near Tel Aviv. It is thought that the high-quality mosaic was the floor of a dining room in a major Byzantine villa, possibly owned by the wife of a Byzantine emperor.

Diarmuid, who was able to join the dig for four weeks thanks to a travel bursary from CCE, said it was a once-in-a-lifetime discovery and a dream come true.

He says: “There were several demolished buildings on the site and we had to sift through a lot of rubbish by hand. Pieces of mosaic kept turning up, so we knew something was there, but thought it had been destroyed. I found a piece of wall, traced it down to its base and came across what looked like a white plastic surface. Then I realised we’d found an actual mosaic. Then everybody got excited. Mosaics are a rare find.”

The excavation is providing new insights to life in the ancient port how it developed into a major site for Christianity.

Yavneh-Yam was a seaport in Biblical times, and a hub of the Byzantine empire. Little trace of this early Christian past remains, which adds to the importance of the latest archaeological find, as it points to the port’s prestigious royal links. Numerous artefacts – many bearing Christian imagery – have also been uncovered at the site, providing evidence of trade ties with Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus and the Greek Isles.

The discovery caused great excitement in the Israeli media, as the site is not officially protected and may be under threat from development.

There was also a visit from the Georgian ambassador to Israel and a Georgian state television company, which is planning a documentary about the site. The site has important religious and historical significance for the former Soviet republic. A Christian bishop of Palestine of Georgian origin – Peter the Iberian – led a religious community there and is an important figure in the Georgian Orthodox Church.

The excavations on the site will continue in July/August 2008, when Diarmuid will be leading a team to assist in the excavations. If you would like to join him on the Yavneh-Yam dig in 2008, email dwalsh5@hotmail.com or see the Yavneh-Yam web pages at www.tau.ac.il.

New vice-chancellor starts work

Professor Michael Farthing officially took up his post this week as the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex.

Professor Farthing, 59, has a distinguished background in medicine, both as a physician and as an academic, in a career spanning more than 30 years. Before coming to Sussex he was Principal of St George’s, University of London, which specialises in medicine and health sciences. He was also Provost of Jesus College, Oxford.

He said: “It is a great privilege to join the team at Sussex. The University should be proud of its achievements over the last 40 or more years, but not satisfied. I would like to see the development of innovative approaches to education, enhancement of research quality, expansion of the enterprise culture, and steady, sustainable growth through strong partnerships.”

Professor Farthing’s appointment was announced at the end of April after a rigorous selection process. This was led by Simon Fanshawe, who is chair-designate of Council, the University’s governing body.

He said: “Professor Farthing has a proven track record in leading and developing academic institutions in partnership with others. He has a strong vision, and is ambitious for the University. I am confident that Sussex will thrive under his leadership.”

Professor Farthing succeeds Professor Alasdair Smith, who stood down in the summer after nine years as Vice-Chancellor.
A bug’s life

The geographical distribution of insect species across the vast tropical forests of Papua New Guinea is helping scientists to better understand the world’s rainforests.

The findings of an international team, which includes Sussex ecologist Dr Alan Stewart, were published in science journal *Nature* last month. They show that plant-eating insects in tropical rainforests are not fussy foodies who stick to a local menu of plants, but foragers of a broad range of plants, across hundreds of miles.

The results could have important implications for the study of ecological processes and extinction patterns – vital for the effective conservation of environmentally rich yet endangered areas of the world, such as rainforests.

Alan collaborated with colleagues in the Czech Republic, the USA and Panama and helped to build and train the team of locally recruited field biologists who collected the voluminous data.

He says: "Studies on such a vast scale have rarely been achieved before but are vital for unpacking the mysteries of rainforest ecology and understanding how best to preserve these globally threatened habitats.”

The team sampled different caterpillar communities, comprising 500 identified species, but also many new species that scientists have not yet fully catalogued, across the Sepik-Ramu river basins, a vast area of lowland rainforest in New Guinea equivalent to the size of Ireland.

"Large areas of Papua New Guinea are still untouched by modern threats to natural habitats – 70 per cent of the original pristine rainforest habitat is still intact. This, together with its designation as one of the three main tropical wilderness areas of the world, makes it an ideal location for carrying out such studies," explains Alan.

Analysis of the data revealed remarkably little change in species composition of caterpillar communities across hundreds of miles of stable and undisturbed lowland forest. By contrast, species composition was radically different at sites high up in the central mountain range running through the country, where the climate is very different. Comparable data on fruitflies and bark beetles produced similar results, adding credence to the general pattern.

Assessing biodiversity through the study of insects is challenging because around 80-95 per cent of the insect world has yet to be identified and classified. This gap in knowledge is one of the major barriers to building a model with which predictions about biodiversity or extinction can be made.

Alan concludes: "The results are very relevant to deciding how best to conserve these unique forests. If species composition of plant and animal communities doesn’t change much over large distances, limited resources available for setting up protected areas or reserves should prioritise a few large areas rather than lots of small and isolated ones in which species will be more vulnerable to extinction.”

History shows degrees are worth more than a bigger pay packet

Ten years after the Dearing Report, which paved the way for tuition fees, a new University of Sussex study challenges the current ‘market place’ approach to higher education policy.

In ‘Going to university: Funding, costs and benefits’, Professor Carol Dyhouse demonstrates that the long-term benefits of higher education to the individual and the economy take time to materialise, making them hard to factor into the kind of cost-benefit analyses promoted in current policy debates. The long-range benefits include a diminution in crime rates, better parenting skills and enhanced awareness of citizenship and social cohesion.

Historian Carol shows that students have always gained different advantages from their degrees depending on their gender and background. Since they were first admitted to universities in the late 19th century, women have benefited less in straight economic terms from their degrees than men, but have still considered the experience "a gift beyond price".

Carol’s study is published on the website of History and Policy, an independent initiative working for better public policy through an understanding of history.

The paper traces the history of university funding from grants to top-up fees. She shows how the university experience has changed over the past century; one hundred years ago the ‘typical’ student was a full-time male undergraduate, now female part-time students are more representative.

Carol said: “Before the First World War, two per cent of 18-year-olds went to university. Now the government wants 50 per cent to experience higher education.

“The continuing debate about funding and widening participation would benefit from being informed by the experiences of past students. History shows there can be no single measure of the ‘value’ of university education, despite the recent tendency to focus exclusively on graduates’ earnings.

“The experiences of students over the last 70 years demonstrate clear variations in the financial benefits according to students’ gender and class, but all shared an appreciation of the less quantifiable benefits of higher education. The recent tendency in policy debates to quantify the ‘value added’ by a degree obscures these wider effects.”
Physics students are finalists for national science award

Two outstanding Sussex physics graduates are vying for a top science prize.

Robert Zietal and Paul Skrzypczyk were chosen from hundreds of students for the Best Physics Student category in the Science, Engineering and Technology Students of the Year Awards (SET Awards).

The National Physical Laboratory Award for the Best Physics Student is awarded by a panel from the Institute of Physics to the student judged to be the best final-year undergraduate.

Paul and Robert represent Sussex on a shortlist of just three students. Claudia says: “Getting not just one but two students on a shortlist of three is an outstanding achievement.”

Each student now faces a final interview before the winners are announced at a special dinner at Alexandra Palace in London on 20 September, attended by leaders from business, technology and the media. An overall winner from all the category winners will also be named SET Student of the Year.

Robert worked as a chef to support himself through his studies for an MPhys in Theoretical Physics. He assisted Dr Claudia Ebetino on a research project, which became his final-year project. The work was published this year in Physical Review and Robert graduated this summer.

Claudia, who nominated both Robert and Paul for the award, says: “Robert’s standard of work is well above not just that of undergraduates but even that of most graduate students. He is a brilliant student, but what really makes the difference is his unrivalled dedication to research. Working long hours in a hot kitchen is hard, but he still had the energy and dedication to study to exceptionally high standards.”

Robert is now continuing research as a DPhil student, and will be working with Claudia on a new research project, looking at the behaviour of single atoms.

Paul, who is now studying for a doctorate in quantum information at the University of Bristol, also graduated with an MPhys in Theoretical Physics. He impressed both Claudia and his supervisor, Professor Gabriel Barton, with his outstanding research and exceptionally high marks throughout his four-year degree programme.

Claudia says: “Paul’s project work and thesis almost reached the standard of a doctoral thesis.”

It is not the first time that the Sussex Physics department has seen success at these awards. In 2000, physics student Emma King made history by winning both the Physics Student of the Year award and the overall SET Student of the Year award.

Sussex graduate takes fencing bronze at World Student Games

Sussex graduate and British Olympic hopeful Laurence Halsted won a bronze medal at the World Student Games in Bangkok last month.

Laurence, 23, took third place on 13 August after losing to the eventual gold medallist in a closely fought contest.

After the competition, he said: “I was initially disappointed as I was close to fighting for gold, but I’m still happy to have won a medal – it’s what the aim is when you come to a competition like this.”

Laurence is ranked among the top five of Britain’s fencers and is seen as a medal hope for both the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympics.

Laurence’s parents both competed as fencers in two Olympics, and now their son hopes to follow in their footsteps. He says: “If I stay in the British team I’m hopeful I can qualify for the London games, but before that, of course I’ll try my hardest to qualify for Beijing.”

While at Sussex, where he studied Social Psychology and graduated in 2006, Laurence was awarded a Sussex Sports Bursary, which gave him a training fund, access to sports facilities free of charge and dedicated support from sport staff.

Luke Terrill, the University’s Sports Development Officer, administers the bursary scheme and was Laurence’s sporting mentor. He says: “I am really happy for Laurence. This is an excellent achievement for him and indicates the calibre of athletes who are now attracted to the University of Sussex. Let’s hope he is as successful in Beijing.”


Sussex student wins international competition

A SPRU student has won a competition run by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Stelios Papadakis won the 2007 ITU Young Minds in Telecoms competition with his paper entitled “Technological convergence: Opportunities and challenges”.

The competition was open to graduate students and recent graduates in economics, political science, law, literature, telecommunications, computer science, information systems and related fields.

The objective of the Young Minds programme was to give young people exposure to the international telecommunication environment and to the work of the ITU.

Stelios, a postgraduate on the MSc in Public Policies for Science, Technology and Innovation, was thrilled to hear he had won. He said: “When I got the email announcing me as the winner, I just could not read all of it. I jumped from my chair and went back again to check if that was true.”

“From the time I entered the competition I had a strong feeling that I could do it. I really don’t know why, but I was very confident.”

“Maybe, it is that my background, my interest on the topics proposed for the competition and being at a highly reputable school such as SPRU gave me reasons to feel confident. But in an international competition, you never know.”
Why bullies carry on bullying

Young male bullies are aware of the damage that they cause their victims but carry on to guarantee their own personal gain.

Sussex psychologists David Smalley and Dr Robin Banerjee presented the findings of their research on 31 August, at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society's Developmental Section.

Previous research has shown that bullies tend to be aware of the damage that their behaviour has on their victims. This study investigates why they continue to victimise their peers despite this understanding.

Fifty-five children aged seven to nine were assessed on their social understanding using a 'faux pas' task and then scored for bullying/victimisation.

The study found that bullying by both boys and girls could occur despite the fact that they understand the feelings of the person they are bullying. In particular, the results showed that male bullies had a general tendency to focus on their own personal gain in these situations.

David said: “Previous research has found that bullies may have mature social understanding and therefore know the upset and damage that they cause to their victims. We are now investigating why they continue with this behaviour.”

Scientific research for TV show

“Findings of this preliminary research suggest that bullies may have different goals in social situations compared with other children, focusing especially on self-gain.

“By studying the way bullies reconcile their awareness of the harm they do, we hope to be able to help anti-bullying initiatives understand this behaviour – and benefit bullies and victims alike.”

In the film world, Andy Medhurst’s words and wisdom cropped up on the major BBC 2 series ‘Film Forever’ this summer, with his face appearing alongside major movie stars and directors, while Dr John David Rhodes appeared on Radio 4’s ‘Last Word’ (3 August), discussing the work of recently deceased filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni.

And just in case you’re wondering, Dr John Gribbin wrote in the Daily Telegraph (9 August) that time travel is highly unlikely for the simple reason that we haven’t yet been visited by people from the future.

All articles are also featured on the internet at www.sussex.ac.uk/press_office/bulletin
100th anniversary of Basil Spence's birth

Monday 13 August was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir Basil Spence, the architect who designed the Sussex campus.

Sir Basil was appointed architect in January 1959 and began the task of designing the campus not long after finishing Coventry Cathedral. His brief was to prepare a master plan, with room for further growth.

A lot of Spence’s ideas were inspired by the surroundings of the campus. Being a great believer in the use of local resources, he sourced local bricks and used Sussex flint, which was ‘knapped’ on an internal wall of Falmer House.

Maurice Howard, Professor of History of Art, said: “Spence’s buildings were designed with more care and more respect for materials than any other of their period. He worked locality into the modernist repertoire of forms in which he initially trained.”

None of the original buildings is higher than a certain point, allowing a distinct view of the surrounding countryside. The idea was that wherever you looked, the structures would not break the line of the Sussex Downs.

The aspect Spence enjoyed the most was the design and creation of Falmer House (formerly College House), which he described as “a building which would father and mother the undergraduates”. It was the first building to be built and the idea was to provide the campus with a lasting focus and house much of the teaching and social accommodation for its early years.

Urban myths abound about the layout of the original buildings, with many newcomers told that the view of the Library building from above is meant to look like an open book and the exit road a curling tail.

“It’s great that these buildings are still being talked about and I’m sure Spence would have really enjoyed hearing the myths that have long been around relating to the design of the campus,” explained Maurice.

“Although they’re not strictly true, this demonstrates how the buildings can excite the mind. There are elements of the design that Spence had hoped would grow into ‘meaning’ something as the University flourished. The pillars introducing the Arts blocks for example are meant to represent ‘the onwards and upwards of never ending learning’.”

Ten Spence buildings were ‘listed’ by English Heritage in the early 1990s as part of a policy to designate post-war buildings for the first time. (1939 was the previous cut-off point.)

The listed buildings, largely around Fulton Court (Library Square), are the greatest concentration of higher-grade listed 20th-century buildings in the country. Falmer House became a Grade 1 listed building in 1993, a status granted to only two per cent of listed structures in the UK.

To celebrate the anniversary of Basil Spence’s birth, members of the 20th Century Society are coming to campus for talks and a site visit on 17 November.

Original sketches of Falmer House courtesy of Special Collections, thought to be by David Rock, who worked with Spence.
Obituaries

Historian Professor Norman Cohn, who died on 31 July aged 92, was best known for The Pursuit of the Millennium: Revolutionary millenarians and mystical anarchists of the Middle Ages, published in 1957.

In 1963 he became a professorial fellow at Sussex and director of the University's Columbus Centre for studies of persecution and genocide. At Sussex he researched and wrote Warrant For Genocide (1967), which examined one of the most important sources of Nazi anti-Semitism, the forged document known as 'The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion'.

From 1973 to 1980 Cohn was Astor-Wolfe Professor of History at Sussex, then emeritus professor.

Dr Richard Lewis, Emeritus Lecturer in Mathematics, was a lecturer at Sussex from 1966 to 2003; he died on 26 July from lung cancer soon after his 65th birthday.

He was a talented mathematician and a willing colleague. Richard enjoyed all aspects of mathematics and communicated this to the students in the many different courses that he taught. He was a popular supervisor for student essays on mathematical games and played the game Go to a respectable standard.

Unusually for a mathematician, he changed his area of research; in his case, it was from algebraic topology to number theory, both fields of pure mathematics prominent in current mathematical activity. Richard completed a DPhil at Sussex in 1991.

His published output was distinguished by his elegance, even among the generality of papers in his field, where such a quality is often noted. Richard continued to publish up to and beyond his early retirement, his last papers appearing in 2003 and 2004.

James Hirschfeld, Professor of Mathematics

Student rep elections

Teaching staff are being asked to promote the nomination and election of student representatives for each department and year group at the beginning of the autumn term.

Student representatives can provide helpful feedback to staff about courses and programmes; raise concerns in a constructive manner and give feedback to other students on why particular decisions are made; and help to prevent concerns from becoming serious issues.

"Good publicity is essential to having the best reps and making sure the scheme works effectively," says Tracey Beck, the University staff member who works with the Students' Union to run the scheme. Information and guidance on how staff can publicise the elections can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/academicoffice/studentrepelections.

The site includes a link to a PowerPoint presentation designed for use in lectures in weeks 0-3, with which teaching staff can encourage students to participate, nominate themselves for election and vote.

Librarian to depart for Imperial

The University's Librarian, Debby Shorley, will be leaving Sussex in mid-October to take up the post of Librarian at Imperial College, London.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Layzell, said: "It is with considerable regret that we shall see Debby leaving Sussex and yet her recruitment by one of the country's leading universities is a positive reflection on both Debby and the wider Sussex Library team."

A farewell celebration for Debby will be held on Thursday 27 September at 3.40-6.30pm in Gallery Room 1, The Terraces, Bramber House. The celebration will begin with drinks and canapés followed by a presentation by Alasdair Smith at 5.15pm. If you would like to attend, RSVP by 14 September to Alison Timoney, ext. 8158, a.timoney@sussex.ac.uk.

To contribute to Debby's leaving present, send a cheque, made payable to University of Sussex, to Alison Timoney in the Library.

A replacement for Debby cannot be secured in time for her departure, so there will be interim arrangements for leadership of the Library and to ensure that there is senior representation from the Library in all relevant committees and groups.

The senior Library team of Sally Faith, Adrian Hale, Cath Morgan and Dorothy Sheridan will cover between them the various duties of the Librarian, with Cath Morgan taking on the role of Acting Librarian. These arrangements will take effect from 16 October.

Paul has formed a small steering group to oversee the appointment process for the new Librarian, including a review of the key challenges for the Library over the next five to 10 years.

Cafédirect comes to campus cafés

A new supplier is providing campus cafés with Fairtrade coffee, tea and chocolate drinks.

As part of a three-year contract, Peros has replaced and upgraded the cafés' existing equipment for hot drinks and is offering a new range of Cafédirect products.

Paul Knight, Campus Trading Services Manager, says: "We have been receiving some excellent customer feedback from both students and staff indicating their preference for a wider range of Fairtrade and ethically produced products. This new supplier will help us to meet our Fairtrade needs and aspirations.

"We are also planning to run campus-wide coffee loyalty promotions later on in the year as well as looking at other ways of making each visit to our cafés far more enjoyable."

Campus Trading Services run the cafés in Chichester 1, Pevensey 1 and the Sussex Institute, as well as The Bridge (Pevensey 2), The Dhaba (Arts C), Doctor's Orders (BSMS), EDB Espresso and Library Cafe Espresso (formerly The Bothole),

Peros is also supplying the Baguette Express and Coffee Shop in Bramber House and Conference Services.
LETTERS

New access road to campus

I read with interest the report of the go-ahead for the Falmer stadium (Bulletin 27 July), and I was astonished to see that a new access road, via Stannmer Park, was a part of the project. If this can be built now, why was it not constructed many years ago, to ease the appalling problem of exit from campus every weekday from 4pm to 6pm?

I have been here now for six years, and I have been utterly bewildered that nothing has been done about this problem, apart from a very short-lived experiment with traffic lights in 2001. Has anyone calculated the carbon footprint left by thousands of vehicles, each queuing for up to 15 minutes every evening? It should have been a very high priority for action, and now it turns out that there was a solution all along - a second exit route. Words fail me!

Dr Roger Luther, Maths

David Kirkwood, Director of Estates, replies:

The proposed campus access road will not be built unless the football stadium at Falmer goes ahead: it forms part of the transport infrastructure associated with the stadium and will be paid for by Brighton & Hove Albion, together with the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). It is very unlikely that these works would have been agreed to just for the benefit of the University.

Even though the government has now given planning permission for the stadium, the football club must secure the necessary £50m funding and finalise deals with landowners including Brighton & Hove City Council and the University of Brighton. This preparatory work could take between six and 12 months.

Work on the road scheme - which also includes improvements to the A27/A270 junction - will not therefore start until next year at the earliest.

Revamp for fitness room

The main fitness room at the Falmer Sports Complex is to be refurbished this month, ready for the autumn term.

This means that from Monday 17 until Sunday 23 September the fitness room will be closed as new gym equipment is installed.

The new gym will have a new layout, with state-of-the-art cardiovascular (CV) and resistance equipment split between two floors.

New CV kit will be installed including up to ten joggars, which will include integrated TV screens providing a number of TV and music channels to choose from, as well as iPod compatibility.

In addition, a strength and conditioning room is being created in one of the squash courts. This will have Olympic bars and benches and a smith machine for weight training, as well as cable machines and a wide selection of dumbbells.

In addition, a small fitness facility is being set up at the Sport Centre. This will have around 25 pieces of the present CV and resistance equipment and will also incorporate the latest circuit series from Life Fitness, which enables exercises using machines that are suited to new users. Sussextown will be running classes using this equipment during the autumn. Information about opening hours, which will be different to those for the main fitness room, will be available shortly.

For more information, contact Simon Tunley, Acting Head of Sport, on s.f.tunley@sussex.ac.uk.

A walk on the wild side

The various excavations necessitated by the refurbishment of the campus heating system have provided us with several topics of interest for recent columns of 'A walk on the wild side'.

The latest involved a large mystery plant that appeared on the side of the trench alongside the steps leading to the main entrance of the John Maynard Smith Building.

When it first attracted our attention it consisted of a bunch of enormous (well relatively) broad leaves with no hint of flowers. As it grew this strange vegetable took on a brachched bushy appearance about 1 m tall that quite defied our joint botanical expertise. Once the 'flower buds' started to appear it began to dawn on us that what we had was a large composite (a member of the daisy and dandelion family), but the only thing that we could think of large enough to be a candidate was a Sunflower. However, as everyone knows, Sunflowers have tall, unbranched stems and this thing was bushy with up to about ten flower heads.

Eventually all became clear. It was indeed the familiar Sunflower, Helianthus annuus, which must have been damaged in its youth to produce a quite spectacular sunflower bush!

Sunflowers quite commonly appear on waste ground, usually originating from birdseed or as relics of cultivation. It was one of the first introductions from the New World, having been grown in this country since 1596.

Our sunflower met a premature demise when the trench was filled in. Within two hours a Black-headed Gull was foraging on the freshly disturbed soil around the shattered flowers. This gull is a winter visitor to campus and is much daintier than the familiar Herring Gulls that nest on the roofs. In winter plumage its head is white with a dark ear spot.

Several readers have commented on the dramatic spikes of vivid orange berries (left) arising from the ground in woodlots on campus. These belong to the Lords-and-Ladies, Arum maculatum, that we mentioned flowering in our column on 20 April.

The berries, which are very variable in size, are poisonous to mammals but popular with a range of birds especially in hot weather. Larger species, e.g. Blackbird and Mistle Thrush, tend to strip the fruit while standing on the ground and so leave the berries on the tip of the spike. Smaller birds, e.g. Robin and Chiffchaff, cannot reach the berries from the ground and so snatch at them while flying past, concentrating on the higher ones.

In late August we received many emails when English Elm number 240 - the magnificent partially hollow tree with conspicuous bracket fungi outside the Post Office in Bramber House - lost several major limbs and a ring of its bark. Sadly, it is the latest victim of Dutch Elm Disease on campus. The only comfort is that Estates will replace it: watch this space.
Your chance to find out about the Students' Union

The Students' Union (USSU) is inviting all staff to attend one of two open days in Falmer House this month.

On Tuesday 11 September and Monday 17 September USSU will be throwing open its doors for an interactive presentation of the Activities Centre, Student Advice Centre and trading activities.

The USSU President, Dan Vockins, said: "The aim of these open days is to promote better understanding of the Union's value, activities and contribution to University life."

The Union is running two 90-minute sessions, one from 11am-12.30pm and the second from 1.30-3pm, with a light buffet lunch in between.

Each session will consist of a short introduction to the Union by the President, Dan Vockins, and the Director, Paul Newton, followed by a guided tour of Falmer House with the 07-08 sabbatical team and area managers.

Professor Joanne Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), said: "I would urge as many staff as possible to take up this invitation. Initiatives such as this will build on our sense of community and contribute immensely to enhancing the student experience."

If you are interested in attending, email Sue Comford on s.e.comford@sussex.ac.uk, specifying whether you would like to attend the morning or afternoon session on either date.

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Nominations invited for honorary degrees

Nominations are invited for the award of an honorary degree. The criteria for awards and the nomination form are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/secretariat/1-2-1-11.html. If you are in any doubt about the criteria or whether a particular person has already been nominated or recognised, contact Alan Souther in the Secretariat (ext 3732). Completed nomination forms should be submitted in confidence to the Vice-Chancellor by Friday 21 September. The Honorary Degrees Committee will meet in early October.

New bus route between Brighton and Falmer stations

A new bus company has started a service between Brighton station and Falmer station. The Big Lemon number 42 service runs every half hour between 7am and 7pm, every hour until 1am. A single ticket costs £1 and an all-day ticket £2. Customers with saver and season tickets from the Brighton & Hove Bus company, which runs the rival 25 service, pay half price. For the timetable and full fare details, see www.thebiglemon.com.

IT refresher workshops

ITS/MSU is offering a short pre-sessional AV skills refresher workshop on Friday 21 September, with sessions at 10am, 1.1am, 2pm and 3pm. AV skills refresher workshops for teaching staff will also be available every Wednesday afternoon through the autumn and spring terms. In weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, they’re on Wednesdays from 3–3.50pm in EDB 121; and in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 they take place on Wednesdays from 4–4.50pm in the Chichester Lecture Theatre. Email msu@sussex.ac.uk if you’d like to sign up for a session.

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

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Small ads

WANTED: 1-bed flat to rent Sept 07 - June 08. For teaching fellow. E c.weskup@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Meadville Wales men’s walking boots. Size 11. Dark brown leather. Gore-Tex. £25. E j.c.paulin@sussex.ac.uk, ext. 7636.

TO RENT: Room in Hove house with garden. £340 pcm incl. Suit DPH, staff, researcher. 6 mths min. E Charlotte on c.m.hary@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: New players for Hove Women’s RFC. Beginners welcome. Training Tue & Thu even 7–9pm at Hove Rec, Shirley Drive. T Sophie on 07739 02395 7 or E s.j.a.will@btms.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Rear sliding door wardrobe & dining chairs. 6 mths old. E s.avdasgijc@sussex.ac.uk, T 0292680 07944 862064.

WANTED: Cute kitten. Contact Bente on ext 3038 or E b.k.j.mynott@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 3-bed furnished house, Woolingdean. T 01273 691790.


FOR SALE: Bosch washing machine, bedroom furniture, curtains, small appliances. For full list see http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ - sb207/set.html. T 877 7493 or E s.beritone@sussex.ac.uk.


WANTED: French family for English au pair to live with to improve language skills. Pref in Paris, for gap year to June/July 08. E kittybrandan-james@hotmail.co.uk or p-drake@sussex.ac.uk.