Sussex wins ‘healthiest workplace’ award

Sussex won the Healthiest Workplace Award at the Brighton and Hove Business Awards (BAHBAs) last Friday (26 September).

Judges praised the University’s dedication to addressing its staff’s mental, spiritual and financial wellbeing as well as physical health. The Healthy Campus initiative was particularly commended for encouraging a healthy working environment.

Flexible working arrangements for staff with young children and a commitment to providing more nutritional food on campus were other initiatives congratulated by the judges. They said: “Sussex University doesn’t just introduce benefits, it considers the person and their individual working needs.

“It’s a real example of going above and beyond to ensure its people feel safe, inspired and cared for.”

Lunchtime campus walks, a weekly fruit and vegetables market, improved workplace risk assessment and free sports passes for new staff members are among new initiatives that have been introduced since the University lost out on last year’s award to Kemp Town estate agent Bonnett’s.

Head of Sussex Sport, Karen Creffield, said: “I think the award really demonstrates the breadth of good practice across campus and acknowledges the range of services available to staff and students to become more active, and enhance their wellbeing.

“I would like to thank the staff volunteers who make the Healthy Campus project a success – in particular, Alastair Brand, who gives up his lunch time every week to lead a walk around Stanmer Park; and Martyn Sterning, who, among other things, leads the guided boundary walk during healthy campus week.”

Healthy campus week takes place each February, during which staff and students can enjoy a plethora of free exercise classes, guided woodland walks, body

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Union Shop in Falmer House reopens after £110,000 facelift.

Sussex shortlisted for national education award

An innovative development programme for Sussex doctoral students is in the running for a national education award.

Sussex has been shortlisted in the Times Higher Education Awards 2008, in the category of ‘Outstanding Support for Early-Career Researchers’. The full shortlist, drawn up after a record number of entries from some 140 institutions, was published in the THE on 25 September.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel in central London on 23 October.

Among the guests will be Gill Johnston and Helen Hampson from the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU) and Catherine Reynolds from the Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC).

Working closely with research students, Directors of Graduate Studies and colleagues from IT Services, the three members of staff have collaborated in developing ‘Profolio’, a new development programme offered to doctoral students at Sussex.

The programme introduces participants to two innovative and complementary professional-development tools in the context of a series of workshops focused on the professional and career development of doctoral researchers.

Each student on the programme develops an individual online profile, hosted by their department, which provides an opportunity to promote their research to the online academic community and wider public and enhances their profile as an early-career researcher.

Each participant is also given a portable pendrive, loaded with the latest applications and custom-built templates, where they can store evidence of their research experiences, skills acquisition and career development.

The workshops give doctoral students the chance to network with fellow students, start building an academic identity and clarify their future career goals.

130 doctoral students – more than 50% of the full-time first-year cohort – took part in Profolio in 2007–08. Their feedback has helped to shape the programme for its second year.

For detailed information about Profolio, see www.sussex.ac.uk/sp2/profolio

Sussex submitted four entries for the THE Awards, which aim to raise awareness of and reward the huge contribution that British universities make to the economic and cultural health of the country. For more information on each of the Sussex entries, see www.sussex.ac.uk/communications/theward2008
Puzzle of ants’ suicide mission to protect the nest

Scientists studying social insect behaviour have discovered a remarkable example of self-sacrifice in a species of ant found in Brazil.

The Brazilian ant Forelius pusillus routinely seals the entrance to its nest each night. The entrance is first closed from the inside. One or a few ants remain outside and continue closing the entrance, carrying and kicking sand and soil into the hole in the ground.

Those ants that stay outside to complete the task are therefore unable to return to the nest and die (probably die due to the extreme heat at the soil surface) before the nest is re-opened from the inside each morning.

Social insects such as bees, ants and wasps are known for giving their lives to defend their hive or nest (e.g. a honey bee worker dies after stinging). This is the first observed example, however, of defensive self-sacrifice in which the sacrifice is pre-emptive rather than directed at a current threat such as a predator already at the nest.

The findings are published in the November issue of the American Naturalist journal. The project was carried out by an international team led by Dr Adam Tofilski of the Agricultural University of Krakow and Professor Francis Ratnieks from Sussex.

Francis, who is Professor of Apiculture at Sussex, where he also heads the new laboratory of social insects, says: “A few workers sacrificed per day would be a small cost for a large colony to pay for improved nest defence.”

But one big puzzle remains. What are they defending against by closing the entrance? Francis says: “It may be ants of the same species, parasites or predators. Or it may be to prevent water from the sudden heavy rainstorms from flooding the nest.”

Studying the kind of behaviour exhibited by the Brazilian ants, and the possible reasons behind it, could help scientists to understand the evolutionary importance of altruistic behaviour.

Business brainwaves on a beer mat

Entrepreneurial students are being asked to scribble their business brainwave on the back of a beer mat, in a new competition by the University’s enterprise team.

Special beer mats giving details of the Enter-Prize ideas competition appeared in campus bars and restaurants this week. To enter, students have to come up with a great idea for a business, not-for-profit organisation, charity or product and write it down in 50 words or fewer – short enough to fit on the back of a beer mat.

Entrants will then be given the chance to develop the idea before three finalists are chosen to present their finished proposal at a special black-tie event next March.

The competition forms part of the latest enterprise activities programme, which aims to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit among all Sussex students.

Later this term, Mark Koska OBE – who received an honorary degree from the University in the summer – will talk to students about his award-winning Star Syringe company, which manufactures disposable syringes to help combat the spread of HIV.

Neil Tomlinson, who developed Aquapax – a ‘planet and baby friendly’ drinking water – at the Sussex Innovation Centre on campus, and successful chocolate maker Sarah Payne are other guest speakers this term at the weekly Enterprise Thursday events.

To find out more and to see the programme of activities in full, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/enterprise

Good idea: To enter the Enter-Prize competition, students have to jot their entry down on the back of one of these special beer mats.
Sussex biggest climber in university league table top 30

Sussex was the highest climber out of the 30 top institutions listed in UK university rankings in the Sunday Times on 21 September.

The University leapt from 30th last year to 22nd place in the Sunday Times University Guide 2008, described as "the definitive guide for prospective students".

The table was compiled using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the National Student Survey, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, the national funding councils, head teachers, peers and the 120 higher education institutions in the UK.

Assessment criteria included student satisfaction, teaching and research quality, ratings from head teachers' and academic peer review, entrance qualifications held by new students, degree results achieved, student/staff ratios, graduate unemployment levels and university dropout rates.

The ranking was attributed to a "sharply improved" National Student Survey ranking; £1.0m worth of investment in new teaching buildings and social spaces; plans for a new School of Business, Management and Economics; and the success of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, which Sussex runs in partnership with the University of Brighton.

Professor Joanne Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), who has led initiatives to improve the student experience at Sussex, says: "We have been working hard over recent years to address our performance in various areas. This new ranking, coupled with our greatly improved performance in the National Student Survey this year, is tremendous news."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, says: "I am delighted by this result, which reflects the excellent quality of higher education at Sussex. As we prepare to welcome over 4,000 new students, we will continue to focus on making their experience the best it can be."

The new ranking follows on from the announcement last week that Sussex scored the biggest percentage improvement in this year's National Student Survey.

Work will now continue to build on these latest achievements. Projects in progress include:

- The Sussex Plus initiative, to help students to enhance and document the skills they develop through extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering and student societies;
- Creation of a state-of-the-art teaching building at the heart of campus for 2009–10;
- More student residences on campus, with high-quality ensuite provision;
- Better use of library space for both formal and informal learning;
- Improvement of cafes and catering on campus;
- A newly created senior post of Head of Student Support and Experience from autumn 2008.

Celebrating success at Sussex

With the campus looking magnificent and the sun shining over the welcome weekend, my colleagues and I were proud to meet over 3,500 new students with their friends and families, and to talk in glowing terms about what the University would offer them over the years ahead.

I know from meeting new students this week that we have recruited many of the brightest and best – and two of their individual stories are told here in the Bulletin.

Prof Michael Farthing, Vice-Chancellor

Reflecting on the experience, and the recognition that has come our way this month, I am clear that we need to keep seeking out opportunities to celebrate publicly our achievements. Along with the arrival of enthusiastic new students, there has been much to celebrate in recent weeks.

The rise of Sussex up the most recent Sunday Times higher education league table to 22nd from 30th, on the strength of some of the most improved National Student Survey results in the UK (announced at the start of September), is one very positive step forward on which we can build.

It was an inspiration last week to attend an academic poster exhibition by 40 second-year undergraduates who, through our new Junior Research Associates scheme, worked this summer with leading academics at Sussex on research projects. At the exhibition in the Medical School I heard first hand of their impressive first steps into active research at Sussex.

Attracting bright and enterprising students means we continue to produce alumni who go on to excel in their chosen careers. Oily Laughland, for example, newly graduated from Contemporary History and Politics, has just this week been shortlisted in the 2008 Guardian Student Media Awards for his work on the badger student newspaper.

Our leading academics continue to be in demand for their expert views and perspective on world events. For example, just this weekend we have seen Professor Jo Boaler, from Education, in the national news. You can read more about her in the regular 'Broadcast' column in the Bulletin.

The Fulbright Commission also recently announced a prestigious new Fulbright–Sussex scholarship, reflecting the reputation that has attracted three Fulbright scholars from the USA to join us here at Sussex this year.

And celebrating success is not only limited to our academic activities. At the Brighton and Hove Business Awards, last Friday, 400 leading members of the local community saw Sussex win the Healthiest Workplace Award.

Looking nationally, we have just been shortlisted for the first time in the Times Higher Education Awards, in the 'Outstanding Support for Early-Career Researchers' category, for a suite of materials and workshops developed by our Teaching and Learning Development Unit with colleagues from the Career Development and Employment Centre.

The signals that these achievements send about the University to our community and to potential students, staff and external partners is vitally important. It enables us to continue to attract and work with the best, in our community and further afield.

One recent such opportunity is the exhibition curated by our students, working with Sussex resident and former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Healey. "Furniture of the Mind" is on now at InQbate on campus.

I am proud of what we can achieve together. I want us as a university to be outward looking and not shy in celebrating our achievements. When Sussex is rightly seen to be successful – in our academic work, in our professional services, in our student body, in our alumni – we all gain.
Busy summer for two exceptional freshers

Two exceptional Sussex freshmen are looking forward to starting their studies next week after experiencing very busy – but very different – summers.

Among the new intake is Callum Taylor from Morpeth in Northumberland. The 18-year-old, who is studying international development, spent the summer in China after being selected to take part in a governmental scheme for entrepreneurial teenagers. A new initiative, the Prime Minister’s Global Fellowship aims to allow youngsters to experience major new economic powers at first hand.

Callum spent two weeks experiencing family life, a further two based in a school and the final fortnight at an international company during the six-week visit to Shanghai in July and August. On his return he, and the other 99 school and college leavers chosen to take part, were invited to Downing Street to discuss their experiences with Gordon Brown.

Triathlete James Adams is hoping Sussex’s sports facilities will help him achieve his goal of competing in the London Olympics in 2012. The 19-year-old from Crawley starts a Contemporary History degree at Sussex this month after a breakthrough year that saw him qualify for the World Junior Championships in Vancouver. This year will be his first at senior level and he hopes that, during his time at Sussex, he can establish himself as the best in the country. He said: “I am optimistic but it is going to be tough.”

Sussex welcomes over 3,500 new students on campus this autumn, all looking forward to discovering what makes it one of the country’s most popular places to study.

New international students welcomed at airports

A team of staff and student helpers were at Heathrow and Gatwick airports on 27 and 28 September, welcoming international students and helping them with their travel to Sussex.

Pictured is Dr Philip Baker, Head of International Liaison (far left), with student helpers Susie Beck, Sophie McCarthy and Jessica Pinkett.

Philip said: "All the students we met were very appreciative of the friendly welcome they received.

"Feedback from the recent ISB [International Student Barometer] surveys indicates that Sussex’s initial welcome to the country has improved over previous years."

Welcome to Sussex

It’s been a busy week for the 3,500 new students at Sussex – and term hasn’t even started yet.

Welcome Weekend (27–28 September) kicked off a packed schedule of social and induction events.

The Students’ Union programme of campus tours, music and comedy culminated in the Welcome Sunday festival, which hosted the best of Brighton’s music scene in six arenas in and around Falmer House.

Events during the week have included Freshers’ Fair (a chance to check out more than 80 societies, 30 sports teams, and a huge selection of volunteering and media opportunities), a barn dance and a poetry night.

The grand finale tonight (Friday) features fireworks on campus at 7.30pm and the Freshers’ Ball at the Brighton Centre.
Bursary scheme gives students taste of research life

Student vacations usually conjure up images of backpacking, festivals and holiday jobs. But at Sussex, 40 undergraduates stayed on campus to work alongside academics as part of a new scheme to support the researchers of tomorrow.

The new Junior Research Associate (JRA) bursary enables talented and ambitious undergraduates interested in pursuing an academic career after graduation to get a taste of life during the summer months as a researcher.

The students were supervised by academics researching in subject areas as diverse as photography and literature, quantum physics and biology.

Each of the 40 students received up to £2,200 to support them in their work over eight to ten weeks. And last month the results of their labours were displayed in specially designed posters at an exhibition to celebrate the project’s first year.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) said: “I am delighted with the results. The quality of the majority of the applications is outstanding and reflects well on the scholarship this illustrates among our undergraduates.”

Participating students also benefited from a series of events organised by the Regional Development Office to introduce the concept of sharing research ideas and findings with the business community.

Funding for the scheme came from donations made by former students, medical charity the Wellcome Trust and the Nuffield Foundation.

It is hoped that the JRA scheme will be expanded in future years to provide opportunities for an even greater number of talented undergraduates.

Egg-laying behaviour in queen honey bees

Heather Moore worked in the new social insect laboratory to observe queen bees in special hives.

“The bursary was an amazing opportunity for me. I now feel much more confident for my final-year project. It was great to study alongside so many talented people, and I also took part in special interviews for BBC Two’s ‘Newsnight’ and Sky TV News.”

Heather’s supervisor Professor Francis Ratnieks (Biology): “Heather’s project has told us something new about honey bees. We will be publishing the results in a scientific journal. Heather has learned a lot about science by doing it and by being surrounded by other scientists.”

Lasers and locking for ion trap quantum computing

James Sayers helped to fine-tune lasers used in quantum physics research and also worked on developing a cheaper, more effective ‘cool’ laser.

“The JRA scheme allowed me to step through a different door away from day-to-day lectures into the world of research, including operating state-of-the-art lasers.”

James’ supervisor Dr Winfried Hensinger (Physics): “The JRA scheme was tremendously successful in advancing my research in quantum technology and giving the student a feel of what it takes to build a new type of computer based on the mysteries of quantum physics.”

Global wind and ocean water circulation

Juan Salazar Agulla designed and built a rotating table and glass vessel needed to conduct three experiments.

“It’s a great scheme. It gives a keen undergraduate an opportunity to learn about science research by carrying out a real project under the guidance of an established researcher, and it gives the researcher a chance to make his lab more productive. It’s a ‘win win’ combination.”

Synthetic vision for the blind by means of auditory display

Tom Macpherson tested computer software that converts visual images via a camera into sounds on blindfolded participants.

“I found the JRA research scheme to be an amazing opportunity, which gave me the freedom to explore an area of research that had sparked my interest.”

Tom’s supervisor Dr Jamie Ward (Psychology): “Our research has shown that blindfolded people can use sounds derived from visual images in order to explore the world. Our next step is to see how well blind people themselves can use this device.”

Shingle beach replenishment and sand dune evolution

Kjerstin Young conducted field work into coastal erosion on the Kent coast, using tracer pebbles and analysis of aerial photography.

“The JRA scheme has equipped me with first-hand experience of the realities of research and working within the academic community, which will be invaluable in the future as I am now hoping to progress to postgraduate study. I’m very grateful to everyone who has made the scheme possible.”

Kjerstin’s supervisor, Dr Cherith Moses (Physical Geography): “Kjerstin’s work has really helped give us a clearer understanding of the processes she investigated.”
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, 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/studentreperelections

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.

Staff can also encourage students to find out more by looking at the USSU website, www.studentreps.co.uk

The Students' Union will run an online nomination and voting system via the studentreps.co.uk website. Nominations opened on Monday (29 September) and will close on Thursday 17 October. Voting will take place between Tuesday 21 October and Thursday 23 October at 12 noon.

Honorary degree nominations 2008–09

Nominations are invited for the award of an honorary degree for summer or winter ceremonies.

The Honorary Degrees Committee will meet in early November and welcomes nomination of individuals from all members of the University, so please don’t feel shy about making suggestions!

The criteria for awards and the nomination form are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/governance/1-4-13.html

Completed nomination forms should be submitted in confidence to the Vice-Chancellor by Friday 24 October.

If you are in any doubt about the criteria or whether a particular person has already been nominated or recognised, contact Alan Soutter, secretary to the Honorary Degrees Committee, on ext 3732 for further information.

Library archivist retires

Distinguished archivist Dorothy Sheridan is retiring from her full-time post after 34 years at Sussex.

Dorothy is Head of Special Collections & Research Services in the Library, a role she added in 2005 to her work as director of the Mass Observation project, which collects writing by people all over the UK to create a record of everyday life.

Her scholarly renown as an archivist has brought Dorothy an MBE, an honorary doctorate from the Open University, invitation to a "Women of the Year" lunch at London's Savoy Hotel, and election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

This reputation stems partly from Dorothy's record of research and publication. She has written and edited a number of books and articles based on the Mass Observation archive material, including an anthology of women's experiences of the Second World War. Published in 1991, Wartime Women is still popular and is about to be re-issued for the fourth time.

It was around this time that Dorothy also started to teach students from both Sussex and further afield, using material from the archive. She proved herself to be an inspirational teacher, receiving a University of Sussex Teaching Award in 1998 "for her interactive and creative style of teaching and her achievements with a wide range of students, especially in developing their sensitivity to using documentary material and their ability to learn independently".

At postgraduate level, Dorothy helped to set up the MA in Life History Research at Sussex; she is a member of the University’s Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research.

As well as researching, writing and teaching, Dorothy has been for many years the public face of Mass Observation and is frequently to be heard on radio and seen on TV.

At a celebratory retirement event on 26 September, Mass Observation trustee Professor Brian Street drew attention to Dorothy's "long career of publication and publicity for M0" and highlighted her "librarianish and interpersonal skills".

To Dorothy's delight, Brian and the other trustees have invited her back part-time to work with colleagues in Special Collections on developing and supporting Mass Observation.

And the University has recognised Dorothy's academic contribution with the unusual step of making her an honorary professor, affiliated to the History department.

Fiona Courage, Special Collections Manager, says: "Dorothy is a mentor and an inspiration to us all and we look forward to working with her in her new capacity."

FIRST CLASS

Former badger journalist Oliver Laughland has been shortlisted for Student Travel Writer of the Year in the Guardian student media awards. Oliver, who graduated in Contemporary History and Politics this summer, is one of five journalists on the shortlist. Award winners will be announced at a ceremony on 26 November.

Business and Management Studies student and show jumper Emily Llewellyn has won two gold medals at the 2008 Young Rider European Eventing Championships in Germany. Emily, who receives a sports bursary from the University, came first in the individual event and was also part of the winning Great Britain equestrian team at the championships on 25–28 September.

The Science Council has recognised the professional standing of James Williams, science lecturer in the Sussex School of Education, by awarding him Chartered Science Teacher status. The chief executive of the Association for Science Education invited James to apply for this recognition because of his prominence in science education nationally and the work that he does with the Association for Tutors in Science Education.
Shiny new Union Shop

The Students' Union Shop in Falmer House has reopened after a £110,000 refurbishment.

The new layout is aimed at improving customer flow around the shop to provide faster service, with a separate browsing area for clothing and stationary items.

The improved retail offer includes an expanded drinks and sandwiches range, hot-drinks facility, a new range of international foods from the Korea Foods Company, and the 'Meal Deal' (a sandwich, drink and crisps for £2.89).

The shop is open Monday–Friday, 8am to 8pm.

Online resources will help students find their feet

A new website aims to help Sussex freshers settle into academic life this autumn.

Study Success at Sussex (S3) was launched this week, providing a single online gateway both to existing study resources and to new interactive tutorials, which have been specifically created for this project.

Developed by the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU), S3 offers first-year undergraduates:

- advice on preparing for study and getting the most from teaching and learning at university,
- tips from existing Sussex students,
- online study-skills tutorials.

Project co-ordinator Clare Hardman will continue to work with staff and students over the next year to create more online resources.

For more information, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/s3

A walk on the wild side

Welcome to our first column of the new academic year. These regular jottings about campus wildlife began in 2001; the previous 83 columns are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/walkonthewildside

We are fortunate to work and live in what many people claim to be the most attractive university campus in the country. We owe this to a combination of the natural topography of the South Downs, of which we are part, and the landscape designers engaged by the Pezham family in the 18th century.

Formal confirmation of the success of their achievement came in 1965 when the campus was included within the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Sussex became the only university in the country to be wholly located within an AONB.

When designing the University, architect Sir Basil Spence was careful to maintain the line of mature trees that ran north-south through the floor of the valley and is still a dominant feature of the campus. In so doing, he co-incidentally afforded protection to a large population of English Elm, Ulmus procera. Sadly, the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease have taken their toll and few now remain but, of those that do, some are among the finest specimens left in the country.

The chalk and our location on the south coast are the two most important influences on the campus wildlife. Chalk is a remarkably pure limestone and weathered to produce a pretty infertile soil as the bedrock contains such small amounts of essential plant nutrients. Paradoxically, it is this infertility that is partly responsible for the famous wildflower-rich downland turf.

The chalky soil also means that campus is a dry environment. Professor Trevor Beebee has long championed the creation of wildlife ponds on campus. The first was a dip pond built to the south-west of the main library in spring 2005. This summer the estates staff created a new pond near the woodland walk between Engineering II and the Hastings Building.

The new pond is in a depression on the edge of the unimaginatively named Square Copse. To prevent the water becoming filled with leaves every autumn, a few trees had to be felled. This work was timed in late July to avoid nesting birds, and the timber stacked nearby to provide wildlife habitats. The clearance work had an immediate impact: later the same day several Holly Blue butterflies were dancing around the newly sunlit ivy, which is the food plant for their summer brood of caterpillars.

Over the next week the pond was dug out, lined and finally filled on 8 August. The next day, even before the sediment had settled in the water, we saw our first bird (a Wood Pigeon) and first dragonfly (a male Southern Hawker) visit the pond, confirming its attractiveness to wildlife.

Please email david@sussex.ac.uk to report your sightings and ask us any questions.
Academic events ↓

TUE 7 OCT
12noon Sussex Energy Group seminar: Alexandra Mallet (Sussex), Re-examining the adoption of Renewable Energy Technologies in urban Latin America. G23, Freeman Centre.

4pm Cognitive Science seminar: Glen Hopkins (King's College London), Psychoanalysis, dreams and biorepresentation. Pevensey 1 IA7.

TUE 9 OCT
4pm Maths seminar: Konstantin Byluss (Keele), Stability and bifurcations in a model of antigenic variation in malaria. Mantell 2 AO1.

WED 10 OCT
12.30pm GDSC seminar: Tim Hunt (Cancer Research UK), Getting in and out of mitosis. BSMS lecture theatre.

Centre seminar: Harrof Grupp (Kiel), New achievements in measuring technology and innovation output. Freeman Centre, G24/25.

THU 11 OCT
11am IDS seminar: Robert Chambers and Ian Scoones (IDS), Sustainable livelihood approaches: What have we learnt? IDS room 221.

TUE 14 OCT
4pm Cognitive Science seminar: Kevin Warwick (Reading), Robots with biological brains and humans with part machine brains. Pevensey 1 IA7.

FRI 17 OCT
2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: John Barber, The evolution of UK technology and innovation policy since the late 1970s. Freeman Centre, G24/25.

News in brief ↓

Open Day Saturday 11 October
Campus will be very busy on Saturday 11 October, when the undergraduate Open Day is expected to attract 3,000 prospective students and their families. Visitors arrive from 9am and the event ends at 3pm. Science, Biology and Marine car parks will be open only for visitor parking.

Library book sale
On Tuesday 14 October the Library is holding a sale of withdrawn books (extra copies withdrawn from the collection following a detailed evaluation of usage figures).

24-hour opening continues
The Library is to continue to offer weekday 24-hour opening during term time. It will be open from Monday 8.45am right through to Saturday 7.30pm, and then on Sunday 12.30pm to 7.30pm. For vacation and bank holiday times, see www.sussex.ac.uk/library/

Win a night's stay at the Jury's Inn
The latest in the University's series of hotel competitions gives you the opportunity to win a night's bed and breakfast at the Jury's Inn Hotel for two people sharing a double room (subject to availability, valid until 31 January 2009). To enter, just answer these questions: where is the Jury's Inn Hotel, and what is the University of Sussex rate? The answers are in the list of University-approved hotels and guest houses at www.sussex.ac.uk/about/hotels. Send your answers with your name, status (e.g. member of staff/student/alumnus) and contact details to hotelcompetition@sussex.ac.uk. The closing date is 17 October.

Tai chi classes
The USUS Traditional Tai Chi Society is open to both students and staff. Come to the informal first session, which starts at 6pm on Tuesday (7 October) in the Meeting House, email taichi@sussex.sussex.ac.uk or check out www.shenlongtaichi.co.uk

Small ads ↓

For sale: Beech dining table: 140cm L, extends to 240cm. 50cm W, 76cm H. Plus 4 matching ladder-back chairs (cream calico padded seats). Collect from Fivesways area. £130 ono. T 07796 133860.

Wanted: Self-contained double-bed accommodation in B'ton (pref Kemp Town/Hove/ 7 Dials) 5 Oct–12 Dec, by visiting post-doc researcher. E l.a.petersen@sussex.ac.uk

To let: 3-bed house in Preston/Surrenden area. Available early Oct. T 558230 or 07980 557272.

For sale: Whiteboard (120 cm x 90 cm) + 10 coloured marker pens + 3 erasers (all new!). £15. Contact Mike Barrow, ext 2459 or M.m.barrow@sussex.ac.uk

Wanted: Temp 2-bed accommodation for 10 weeks while house is repaired. Jan-Mar. Lewes, Firle, B'ton or surrounding area. T 07776 278550.

New protocols for servicing committees
A new guide for the servicing of committees has been published by the Governance Office.

The procedures are intended to ensure that all committees in the University adhere to a common set of protocols and are for introduction from the start of the academic year 2008.

The main items are:
- the adoption of a common format for setting out agenda, minutes and papers;
- the inclusion of a standard template to be attached to every paper being considered by a committee. This template makes clear what action the committee is being asked to take;
- a numbering system for minutes of meetings which is systematic for easy referencing;
- a guide to publishing agenda, papers and minutes on Sussex Direct.

The protocols are available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/governance/1-4-4.html

For further information, assistance or training, contact Alan Souther in the Governance Office on ext 3732, E a.souther@sussex.ac.uk

bulletin

The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and James Hakner, with contributions from Jacqui Bealing, Maggie Clune and Rob Read. The next issue will be out on 17 Oct, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 10 Oct. We welcome any letters or small ads from staff and students of the University and can advise you on ways to tell people about your news or story ideas. Please contact us on ext. 8888 or email internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk.