Sussex to help recession-hit businesses

The University has announced a 600,000-pound project to give fast-track support to Sussex's world-leading digital-media sector.

Working in partnership with Wired Sussex, the recession-busting scheme will help small and medium-sized businesses to attract, recruit and maximise the potential of the region's graduates. It will also support individual digital-media businesses in Sussex, especially Brighton, in boosting their business strategies.

The creative industries as a whole are growing at twice the speed of the rest of the UK economy. The Sussex area hosts a significant number of these businesses, with Wired Sussex membership numbering more than 1,300 companies. The content industries need to recruit graduates to work on software development, web, animation, games, e-learning, print, music, TV, film and advertising.

The project will provide:

- feedback from graduates and companies to inform curriculum development;
- an initiative that is industry-led and that delivers straightforward access to talent and expertise from universities and colleges.

This initiative builds upon the proven success of a previous Wired Sussex pilot. In the pilot programme, 40% of all interns were offered work with participating companies on successful completion of their internship.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), said: "We are delighted to be able to increase the business community's access to higher-education skills and funding with this project. It will bring high-quality, results-driven support to a vital area of our local economy and not just in the short term but for a long time to come."

£280,000 of the funding for the project comes from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) via its Economic Challenge Investment Fund and the additional monies from the University and a number of supporters including Brighton and Hove City Council and SEEDA (the South East England Development Agency).

New web design being rolled out

A new website for the University of Sussex went live on Thursday 16 April.

Over 400 members of staff and students, as well as web users outside the University, provided feedback on the test designs during March.

The main aim of the project is to ensure that the Sussex website is more user-friendly, audience-focused and accessible, and that the University is presented in the best possible way.

Key changes include the creation of distinct internal and external sites, and a greater consistency for the end user by better integrating web systems such as Sussex Direct, Study Direct and SPLASH with the main web pages.

The Web Team will be working over the months ahead with schools, departments and Professional Services to put all web content into the new design.

You can find out more about the website restructuring project at www.sussex.ac.uk/websiterestructure

A new web news and events system - called Broadcast - makes it much quicker and easier to add and manage news and events and to maintain a news archive. It also introduces new features such as small ads (personal ads) for staff and students. Go to www.sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/ to add your news, events and/or small ads.

The continued development of the Broadcast system over the coming weeks and months will provide an opportunity to review the way that news and events are communicated to Sussex staff and students. Staff in the internal communications team will be considering the future development of the Bulletin including whether academic events and small ads need to continue to appear in print.

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Decades of contradictions and paradoxes

It was a decade of major technological advancement, of huge growth for the wealthy, of obsession with celebrity — and it ended in bust. Sounds familiar?

American Studies lecturer Dr Susan Currell analysed in detail what is generally regarded as a lively and optimistic period of American history for her latest book, American Culture in the 1920s.

The starting parallels between the 1920s and the first decade of the 21st century became all too apparent when she reached the stage of describing the Wall Street crash. She says: “As I was finishing the book I was writing about the banks collapsing in 1929, at the same time as hearing about the current banking crisis on the news.

“What I was highlighting was that there was an underlying depression that was already going on in America at the time. We think of the 1920s as being a time of boom, but that was only happening for the top ten per cent of the population.”

Despite this, a cultural bonanza was in full swing, partly because of the development of commercial radio stations and the cinema. Radio brought jazz music to the entire country and cinema made modern life visible to even the most remote communities.

Sue says: “America went from having no radio stations in 1919, to hundreds by the end of the next decade, creating accessibility to music, opinions and events of the era. And the rise of the movie industry created celebrity culture.”

Other developments included America’s keen interest in psychotherapy and the popularisation of Freud, as well as the mass appeal of science, with films such as ‘The Einstein Theory of Relativity’

(1923) shown in cinemas throughout the nation.

Other popular developments highlighted growing tensions over race and religion, which included the rise of the Ku Klux Klan as well as debates over the changing role of women, epitomised in the emergence of the outrageous ‘flapper’.

Sue was approached by Edinburgh University Press to be one of its authors in a series about the decades of the 20th century as a result of her previously published works, The March of Sparro Time: The problem and promise of leisure in America during the 1930s (2005) and Popular Eugenics: National efficiency and American mass culture in the 1930s (2006, co-edited with Christina Cogdell).

“Like the 1930s, the 1920s is a decade of contradictions and paradoxes out of which what we consider as modern culture emerged,” she says. “While they seem like two distinct opposing eras, having worked on the thirties before I could see how the decades were more similar than is often recognised.”

“While everyone ignored the underlying economic problems during the 1920s, after the Wall Street crash of 1929 what was wrong about free-market capitalism became very apparent.”

As with recent events, “greedy bankers” were blamed then for the uncontrolled excesses that led to the economic ruin of the 1930s.

The eyes can’t lie

Changes in a person’s eyes can show that they’ve seen something before, even when they’re pretending they haven’t.

The research by Sussex DPhil student Becky Heaver, presented at the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton earlier this month, could be the key to exposing people who claim amnesia.

The research used eye-tracking techniques to compare changes in pupil size during a recognition memory test. Participants were given a list of words to learn and then presented with a test list that contained these ‘old’ learned words mixed up with an equal number of ‘new’ words.

Participants’ pupils dilated significantly more when viewing ‘old’ words than when they viewed the ‘new’ words. Importantly, this difference in maximum pupil size also occurred when the same participants were asked to pretend they hadn’t seen the words before and say ‘new’ to all words.

The findings suggest that the changes in pupil size are linked to the recognition memory process. This test may be able to distinguish people who are feigning amnesia from those with genuine memory impairments.

Becky commented: “It’s really interesting to find that pupils dilate more when people view previously learned items, even when they are pretending not to remember them. This could have implications for preventing fraudulent claims of feigning amnesia for financial reward.”
Sussex to appoint new PVC (International)

Sussex is inviting applications for a new senior post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) to join the executive team.

The creation of a third PVC post recognises the significant development of the existing PVC (Education) and PVC (Research) portfolios and the need to build additional capacity in the leadership team so that the new strategic plan can be fully realised.

The new post was one of a number of recommendations in a report for Sussex by International Education Consultants. Its director, Tim Rogers, is former head of the international office at LSE. He undertook an in-depth review of the University’s internationalisation activities – across leadership and management, professional services and support.

The new role will provide senior academic leadership for the internationalisation strategy that has been developed from the Rogers report. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) will develop the University’s worldwide partnerships and links and increase the number of international students at Sussex in a fast-changing and competitive market.

Like the other PVC posts, the PVC (International) will also have direct line management for a number of the new heads of school.

Executive search consultant Perrett Laver, which supported the appointment of all the academic members of the current executive team, is assisting again with this recruitment process.

The post was advertised in Times Higher Education on 16 April. Longlisting and shortlisting will take place during May and June, with interviews in early July, prior to a recommendation being made to Council, the University’s governing body.

The selection panel will be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, and will include an independent member of Council, a member of Senate, one of the new heads of school and an experienced external individual.

The successful candidate will be a leading academic in their discipline, with considerable experience of delivering growth in international activity. The aim is for an appointment to start in the new academic year 2009-10.

Prof Michael Farthing, Vice-Chancellor

The hard work this term comes in many forms for staff and students alike.

There is the continued work for all of us across campus in bringing the new schools into being. Much of my time in the coming weeks will be spent on the final stages of recruitment for the remaining new heads of school, so that we can complete the senior management team.

That recruitment work now also includes a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor to lead our internationalisation strategy, a positive signal of intent for the University.

For Professional Services staff in the schools, there is a great deal of work ahead in transitioning to the new support structures. And work is ongoing across Human Resources, Estates, IT Services and other central Professional Services teams to support these changes.

I want again to pay tribute to all colleagues for the professional and committed approach they have taken to bringing about these changes, which will be vital for the effective development of Sussex.

With senior colleagues, and with academic leaders (both new heads of school and heads of department), planning meetings are now underway to look at the challenges and opportunities. Where we have specific reviews with external support I am looking for them to report speedily so that we can have a clear way ahead.

Our students are facing challenges of their own, with second years and finalists in particular looking forward to the exam season; I wish all our students all the best in the weeks ahead.

But alongside this, the summer brings a welcome range of events and celebrations – events that need work to plan but deliver more immediate rewards.

This week the campus has been hosting a wide range of events for Green Week, including new initiatives such as ‘Sounding the Site’, which bring the community on to campus. This is particularly fitting as the University has just been successfully nominated for both a Green Gown Award and in the food awards run by Compassion in World Farming. And next week there are events for Diversity Week.

The Students’ Union has continued to expand social events for the student community – with Unifest this weekend among them.

An exciting range of Sussex Lectures kicked off this week with the London Lecture, given by Professor Andrew Liddle. Although the Sussex Lectures are already well attended, I nonetheless encourage all staff and students to attend, as they show the best of what Sussex research and scholarship has to offer.

That research will be further celebrated at the second biennial research dinner, which we will be holding in June.

And Sussex will be playing its part again in the Brighton Festival, with the University sponsoring one major event at the Dome, and staff and students involved in a range of other events. In a new initiative, four leading Sussex researchers will be collaborating with artists in the Art in Science events at the Adur Festival in June.

I am also pleased to see a range of sports events for staff that Sussex sport have been developing, including the revival of the staff sports day in June. And good luck to all the student sports teams this weekend for their annual varsity matches against the University of Brighton.

Of course the celebrations this summer will reach a climax with the inauguration of Sanjeev Bhaskar as our new Chancellor and his first graduation ceremonies.

All of these events and more can be found on the new events diary on the revamped staff and students pages of the Sussex internal website, to which you can add your own events too.
Sussex shortlisted for Green Gown Award

Sussex has been shortlisted for the final stage of the prestigious Green Gown Awards 2009.

In their fifth year, the awards recognise exceptional initiatives by higher and further education institutions across the UK to become more sustainable.

Sussex has been shortlisted in the new ‘Research’ category, for cutting-edge policy research by the Sussex Energy Group (www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexenergycroup) on low-carbon technologies to tackle climate change.

The shortlisted applicants underwent a rigorous assessment, involving 30 expert judges drawn from a range of relevant institutions including the Carbon Trust, the Learning and Skills Council and Universities UK.

Sussex and the other successful institutions have been invited to submit a stage-two application along with additional support materials.

The winners will be announced at an awards dinner at Imperial College London on 23 June in the presence of the Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property, David Lammy MP.

The Green Gown Awards are administered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and are sponsored by the Carbon Trust, College and University Business Officers (CUBO), the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Salix Finance.

Summer term sports events

An array of campus sports events are taking place this summer term.

The annual campus boundary run on Wednesday 6 May, as well as a long and short boundary walk, is open to all staff and students; the University is allowing an extended lunch break for any staff who wish to take part. The run (three miles) starts at 12 noon from outside the Sportcentre, with the full walk (three miles) starting at 12.15pm and the short walk (one mile) at 1pm.

After the success of the last two years’ events, Yellowwave Beach Sports Centre will again play host to the annual staff beach volleyball evening. The event is an excellent team-building and social opportunity, catering for all standards. Free for all staff, it takes place on Wednesday 17 June, from 6-9pm. Teams of six are invited to enter.

On Wednesday 1 July, the popular staff sports afternoon returns. The format this year is mini tournaments in mixed rounders, men’s 6-a-side football, women’s 6-a-side football, mixed netball, pool and darts. Taking place from 2-5pm at Falmer Sports Complex, all participating staff will be able to finish their working day at 2pm.

Sussexsport will also be running a series of intramural sporting competitions for the summer term. Outdoor 6-a-side football, squash, futsal, rounders and netball tournaments are open to all staff and students, giving the opportunity to enjoy regular sport throughout the term. Deadlines for entries vary but are all in early May – see www.sussexsport.com for details.

Players are also needed for a staff cricket match on 23 June and the Temple Cup on 8 July, in which Sussex staff will compete with local companies in a variety of sports.

For more information on sports at Sussex, go to www.sussexsport.com or email sussexsport@sussex.ac.uk.

Celebrating campus diversity

From 27 April to 1 May, five days of events will celebrate the multitude of cultures, lifestyles and backgrounds represented by Sussex’s staff and students.

A diversity fair will be held in Library Square on 28 April, with stalls of different themes offering displays and information.

The Career Development and Employment Centre (CDEC) will offer CV advice to mature students on 30 April and career-planning information to international students on 1 May, and will host a taster session on 28 April for anyone interested in a career in advice.

The successful ‘Media That Matters’ film festival – highlighting the most important issues of the day in films lasting 12 minutes or less – will stop at the Meeting House at 5pm on 28 April.

On Wednesday 29 April, renowned Brighton-based gay author Neil Bartlett will be giving a reading and, on 30 April, there will be an all-inclusive sports afternoon where staff and students can try out accessible sports such as goalball, boccia and new age curling.

The comedy act Abnormally Funny People will hope to entertain the campus audience on 30 April, with a performance in Falmer House Debating Chamber.

The week culminates with a ‘world barbecue’ on Friday 1 May, featuring live music and DJs outside Falmer Bar.

The week-long Diversity Festival has been developed by Richa Kaul Padte, the Students’ Union Welfare Officer, and Abi Salmon, Equality and Diversity Coordinator, who is keen to make it clear that events are open to all.

She said: “Events are being held by a variety of student societies, staff members and other groups.

“The aim is to celebrate the University’s diverse staff and student body and we invite you to engage in as many activities as possible.”

Richa added: “It is important for our campus community to come together in a discussion and celebration of ‘diversity’, in the loosest sense of the word.

“We hope to raise awareness around cultural, political, ethnic, sexual and other diversities that exist at Sussex and in our local, national, and global surroundings.”

To see the full programme, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/equalities/1-5-9
Sussex renews partnership with BIMM

The University has renewed a highly successful collaboration with one of its growing partner institutions, the Brighton Institute of Modern Music (BIMM).

After six years of partnership with BIMM, in March the University re-recognised the Institute as a partner for a further five years.

And at the beginning of April Sussex agreed to continue to validate BIMM’s BA (Hons) in Professional Musicianship and its Foundation Degree (Arts) in Professional Musicianship. All successful students receive awards of the University of Sussex, as the degree-awarding body.

The 180 Sussex-registered Foundation Degree students belong to the Informatics department and many progress onto the BA programme for an honours year.

The 150 students on the BA are registered directly with BIMM, which delivers the programmes and is responsible for all aspects of student support and administration.

They have access to a range of student services at Sussex, including Students’ Union membership, library and IT provision, and sports and recreational facilities including band rehearsal rooms.

The University is responsible for ensuring the quality and standards of the two programmes, ensuring that the curriculum content and all teaching, learning and assessment is at an appropriate level for the award.

The University also ensures that BIMM has mechanisms for assuring and enhancing the delivery of the programmes and the overall quality of the student experience, as well as appropriate resources.

Recent BIMM developments include the opening of a Bristol site, where the Sussex BA programme will be delivered from 2009-10.

University of Sussex helps to shape festival culture

Sculpture, drama, opera, debate, music and art come together to make up a rich and varied cultural offering from University of Sussex staff and students as festival fever hits Brighton.

Sussex is well represented in 2009’s Brighton Festival and in the Brighton Festival Fringe, both of which run throughout the city during May.

University-sponsored events include a performance by Bimby composer and Lecturer in Music, Dr Ed Hughes, will reveal his new opera in-progress Cocteau in the Underworld (left) and (right) the Brighton Festival 2009 brochure.

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University-sponsored events include a performance by Bimby composer and Lecturer in Music, Dr Ed Hughes, will reveal his new opera in-progress Cocteau in the Underworld, will be revealed in selected scenes at the Pavilion Theatre, and at 9pm on Monday 4 May. The audience will have a chance to offer critical feedback on the work so far, which is inspired by the life of surrealists Jean Cocteau and the myth of Orpheus.

Climate change is one of the talking points of this year’s Festival Fringe. "Hopeful Futures" takes place at the Jubilee Library at 6pm on Thursday 21 May and features University of Sussex energy experts.

The student flag will fly at the Fringe with a production by Sussex University Drama Society (SUDS) of Shakespeare’s Othello, at the Brighton Unitarian Church at 6pm from 18-22 May. Expect a contemporary take on a classic play, with nods to celebrity culture and its impact on people’s lives.

Student artwork forms the basis of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School’s contribution to the Fringe mix. ‘Art and Medicine’ comprises performances, painting, sculpture, photography and video inspired by medical matters. Visitors to the BSMS teaching building will be able to view works between 11am and 4pm on 2 and 3 May.

The tenth anniversary of the Soho pub bombing, in which three people died, is marked by a new play, The First Domino, to be premiered at the Fringe. It’s written by Jonathan Cash, a graduate from the Sussex MA in Dramatic Writing and a victim of the nail-bomb blast in 1999. The play explores the mind of a lone terrorist – and our own fears and judgments. Produced by Brighton Theatre, it is showing at the Latest Music Bar at 7pm from 19-23 May.

Convenor of Creative Writing and Summer School Co-ordinator Chris Sykes and his band will be presenting a mellow hour of songs, poems and music counting the joys of getting on with a show entitled ‘I’m Not Dead – I’m 55!’ It’s at the Friends’ Meeting House on Saturday 9 May at 7.45pm and on Sunday 10 May at 2.15pm.

Desirable-yet-affordable items for sale at the West Hill Hall in Compton Avenue on the first four Sundays in May (12noon to 5pm) include artwork by three members of staff: Dorothy Lamb’s calligraphy, mosaics and stained glass; Pippa Robinson’s shawls, brooches and pictures; and Andrew Wilkey’s narrative paintings.

For full listings, see the Brighton Festival brochure and the Brighton Festival Fringe brochure.
Obituary

Beynon John, Reader in French and one of the ‘founding fathers’ of the University, died on 6 April after a long illness, aged 85.

He came to Sussex in 1961, bringing with him his broad experience from the WEA (Workers’ Educational Association), and instruction in French language and culture at the London School of Economics.

At Sussex, he was quickly involved in helping to equip the Library from scratch and in mapping out the intellectual structures of the School of European Studies, taking especial responsibility for the ‘Modern European Mind’ course, which became one of the defining features of the student experience.

His wisdom, support and guidance were invaluable to successive Deans of the Scronal, who frequently turned to Beynon for counsel, and were always rewarded with much wit and common sense.

In retirement, he continued to work and to publish on modern French theatre and on the vast output of Jean-Paul Sartre. He will be sorely missed, for the warmth of his commitment to both his students and his colleagues was remarkable.

Friends and colleagues are welcome to attend a memorial service in the Meeting House on Friday 1 May at 10.30am.

Margaret McGowan, former Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor

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Event to celebrate entrepreneurial spirit

The founder of Just Drinking Water will speak at the grand celebration of Enterprise Thursday on Thursday 7 May.

Neil Tomlinson will be one of the keynote speakers at the networking event, which marks the culmination of a series of interactive seminars featuring talks by inspirational leaders from business, charities and social enterprises.

Tony Ellis and Judy Ellis of Concepteering; Sophie Major, head of the International Yahoo! Developer Network; and Sarah Payne and Rory Payne, founders of Cocoa Loco, will make up the guest-speaker panel.

The programme includes presentations from student and graduate entrepreneurs, as well as a discussion on the question ‘Is the current recession an opportunity or a challenge for entrepreneurs?’.

All staff and students are also invited to suggest a ‘burning question’ for the panel. The most original and topical question will win a bottle of bubbly and will be asked on the night. Email your question to michelle.downs@sussex.ac.uk by 30 April.

All Sussex staff and students are invited to the evening, which begins at 5.30pm in the Chichester 1 lecture theatre and foyer. It is also open to alumni and members of the business community.

The event includes refreshments and is free to attend, but booking is essential; go to www.sussex.ac.uk/enterprise

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Sussex in Summer offer for staff

Short courses on campus this summer are available to University of Sussex staff and family at a special offer price of £250 (non-residential).

Each course runs over six days: choose from 9–15 August and 16–22 August.

Courses on offer include The Romans in Britain, Virginia Woolf, English Parish Churches, The Normans and their World, Shamanic Consciousness and Thomas Paine and more as well as courses on science, art history and creative writing.

This special offer is made on a non-residential basis and includes all lectures, all optional evening lectures and events, and dinner each evening. Field trips associated with each course and optional afternoon trips incur an additional cost.

For details:

- pick up the printed brochure (available at key locations on campus including Sussex House reception, Essex House reception, the Library, the Sportcentre and the Meeting House)
- see www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexinsummer
- or call 01273 877299 or 01273 678454.

The offer is open until 7 May and cannot be used in connection with any other offers.

Register now and remember to include your name, department name and job title.
Boost for honeybee research as lab opens

The government’s former Chief Scientific Advisor called on it to invest in university research into invertebrates such as honeybees when he officially opened the new Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) at Sussex.

Speaking at the launch event on 7 April, Lord May of Oxford welcomed the laboratory as a much-needed resource for the relatively neglected study of insects. He said: “If you are interested in fundamental questions, the social organisms [such as bees and ants] are the most illuminating. It’s the small things that run the world.”

Professor Francis Ratnieks, the UK’s only Professor of Apiculture, believes that a holistic approach to research on social insects – covering both pure scientific study and research that has practical applications – can help to resolve the problems faced by honeybees and beekeepers.

The British honeybee is under threat from pests, diseases and a loss of flowers in the countryside. This has resulted in reported hive losses up to 30% in the winter of 2008. The situation is worse in other countries, but Francis, along with other scientists and beekeepers, advocates action now to avert a more serious threat to UK bees in the future.

As the Bulletin went to press, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs had just announced plans to invest £10m of public funds in research on honeybee health.

The National Audit Office cited work at Sussex in its recent report on the health of honeybees, and recommended that the government supports the work of higher education institutions to help address the principal threats to honeybee health.

An audience of around 200 guests toured the new laboratory, which will conduct research into honeybees and other social insects such as ants, wasps and other bees.

NSS closes

30 April

The National Student Survey (NSS) closes for Sussex finalists next Thursday (30 April) and, so far, over 1,450 have responded.

This means that the University is currently showing a response rate of just over 62.5% (correct as on 20 April), compared to around 71% at the same point last year.

This means the gap has increased to around 9%, after narrowing to just 1.5% by 27 March.

Schools and departments are now leading a final promotional push, as the University aims to exceed the 75% response rate achieved in 2008.

Central teams are providing support with a big promotion in the Library each day until the survey closes, follow-up emails, promotion on the new student intranet (www.sussex.ac.uk/students) and coordinated promotions with the Students’ Union.

The survey can be completed online in just five minutes at www.thestudentsurvey.com

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

Undergraduates benefit from research windfall

A panel of experts from across the University has granted 29 research bursaries, worth up to £1,800 each, to Sussex undergraduates.

Funded by the University, with support from alumni donations, the Junior Research Associate (JRA) scheme ran for the first time in 2008. It aims to provide bright undergraduates with the opportunity to get a taste of life as a researcher by working on a summer research project in tandem with research-active faculty at Sussex.

The bursaries are being awarded following a competitive application process that received over 80 submissions from a broad spectrum of disciplines.

Applicants had to demonstrate the value of their proposed projects as well as a real interest in pursuing postgraduate study at Sussex following graduation.

Last year, 69% of JRA applicants said they were seriously considering applying for postgraduate study at Sussex as a direct result of participating in the scheme.

Among the successful applicants this year is Alice Buckley, who will be working with Cath Holmstrom in Social Work and Social Care on evaluating the impact of Business Action on Homelessness – an organisation that tackles the difficulties homeless charities face with helping hostel residents successfully to reintegrate back into society. The project aims to provide evidence for securing funding, without which the organisation would likely cease to exist.

Alice was thrilled at the news of her award. She said: “I’m delighted to be given this opportunity. I’m really excited that I’ll be working alongside an organisation that does such innovative work in the local community.”

Equally pleased with the news of a JRA bursary is Dr Tim Chevassut in BSMS, who will be supervising undergraduate David McGowan as he investigates the effects of a new compound that has the potential to significantly improve outcomes in leukaemia treatment, such as reducing the rate of relapse in patients.

Tim said: “This is an exciting project that we hope will explore novel ways of targeting the leukaemia stem cell. The JRA scheme is a great opportunity for students to conduct their own research projects and I eagerly look forward to my role as supervisor.”

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Bob Allison, chaired the awarding panel. He added: “Once again, the quality of applications was outstanding and this reflected well on the scholarship among our undergraduates.

“It is very encouraging to see how many of our undergraduates are already intending on pursuing postgraduate study at Sussex and I very much look forward to the annual JRA poster exhibition in September, which will show off their hard work to the community.”

More information – including a full list of this year’s winners – will be available in due course at www.sussex.ac.uk/scholarships_and_bursaries/ug/uk/jra.php
Academic events ↓

MON 27 APR
6.30pm Medical lecture: David Pencheon (NHS). Climate change as the most serious long-term threat to health. BSMS lecture theatre.

TUE 28 APR
1pm Development seminar: Nadège Bagyiko-Penone (IDS). The challenge of police reform in security sector reform. IDS 221.

2pm SEI seminar: Kim Bayron (Sussex) and Gabriel Swain (Kent). The Strasbourg Court, democracy and the human rights of individuals and communities. Arts C233.


6.30pm Professional lecture: David Warman (Sussex). Telling stories about nature – with mathematics. BSMS lecture theatre. RSVP essential to events@sussex.ac.uk

WED 29 APR
2pm Music seminar: Ben Oliver (Sussex). A year in the making. Meeting House.

5pm Migration seminar: Philippe Legrain. Immigrants: Your country needs them. Arts C233.

THU 30 APR

4pm Maths seminar: Martin Vohralik (Paris-Sud). Guaranteed and robust a posteriori error estimation in different numerical methods. Manton 2A01.


5pm Sussex Lecture: Bill Banks-Jones (Opera and Music Theatre Forum). The future of opera. ASA Briggs lecture theatre (formerly Arts A2). RSVP essential to events@sussex.ac.uk

TUE 5 MAY

2pm SEI seminar: Anastassios Chardas (Sussex). The implementation of the EU cohesion policy in Greece. Arts C233.


WED 6 MAY
4pm Cultural Studies seminar: Katherine Johnson. Visualising queer mental health. EDB 341/315.


6pm American Studies lecture: Richard Follett (Sussex). Legacies of enslavement: Plantation identities and the question of freedom. ASA Briggs lecture theatre 1 (formerly Arts A1). RSVP essential to events@sussex.ac.uk

THU 7 MAY
4pm History seminar: Elke Side (Sussex). Growing up communitarian in Holland and Britain, 1940–70. Arts A155.


4pm Psychology seminar: Gustav Kuhn (Durham). The science of magic. Pevensie 1B3.

Small ads ↓

For sale: Lightweight wheelchair. Argos model FSP 4661. Cost £199, used only 3 times. £80 ono. T 6896966.

For sale: Black Vespa PX125 scooter (2006). Serviced, MoT, taxed. £1,600. E sg22@sussex.ac.uk, T 07525 617481.

To let: Room in Lewes. Quiet street nr centre. £90 per pm. T Sarah/Ted on 411329.

For sale: 3-bed detached family house in Alfriston + large equipped model engineering workshop. E m.c.jones@sussex.ac.uk

Summer term lectures

Staff, students and visitors can enjoy a wide-ranging series of free lectures on campus this summer term.

The Sussex Lectures, which are put on throughout the year to highlight the University’s research expertise, will start again on 28 April with a Professional Lecture on ‘Telling stories about nature – with mathematics’ by David Waxman, Professor of Biology.

There will be two other Professorial Lectures – by Barbara Einhorn, Professor of Gender Studies, on strangers and citizenship (9 June); and Jenny Bourne Taylor, Professor of English, on Victorian fiction and the art of conversation (23 June).

The ‘future of opera’ will be discussed by Bill Bankes-Jones, chair of the Opera and Music Theatre Forum, on 30 April in the Tony Dummett Memorial Lecture.

‘Legacies of enslavement: Plantation identities and the question of freedom’ is the topic of the Marcus Cunliffe Centre for the Study of the American South lecture on 6 May. Dr Richard Follett, Reader in American History, will lead the discussion.

Speakers from the University, the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, and Transition Brighton & Hove, among others, will question what positive visions might help humanity find a solution to climate change in a lecture on 21 May.

A Centre for Early Modern Studies lecture on 2 June – by Professor Deborah Howard (Cambridge) – will look at ‘Sound and space in Renaissance Venice’ by discussing the results of a three-year research project on Venetian churches and their architects.

In a lecture on ‘Parametric electrical impedance imaging’ (10 June), Wei Wang, Reader in Biomedical Engineering, will question whether this technology represents a step forward toward virtual biopsy for early detection of breast cancer.

The lectures are free of charge and everyone is welcome to attend, but you are asked to RSVP as indicated for each lecture. For details, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/newsandevents/index.php

Selected lectures will be available online a couple of weeks after the event and can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/newsandevents/sussexlectures/current.php

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

bulletin

The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and James Hailes. The next issue will be out on 8 May, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 1 May. We welcome any letters 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. 88988 or email internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk