What do you think of the new website?

A new website for the University of Sussex is in the final stages of development and is due to go live from Wednesday 15 April.

All members of staff and students will be invited to test out the new website before it goes live and send any feedback to the University’s Web Team, who are responsible for the restructure. Staff and students will be emailed a link to the new site on Monday 2 March.

Detailed information about the website restructuring project – including a test version of the new design – can already be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/websiterestructure

The Web Team has been conducting numerous presentations and user feedback sessions across campus in recent months, which have generated some useful ideas. Web Team Manager, Tony Hudson, said: “Feedback was generally very positive and all seemed very pleased that changes to the current website were planned.”

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 development 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.

Tony says that the new system will make it much easier to add and manage news and events, and also takes advantage of the latest web technologies to allow users to decide and control the amount and type of information they want to receive. Tony said: “Users will be able to subscribe to various ‘channels’.

“For example, a member of staff with a particular interest in sports could opt to hear about all news and events to do with sport on campus. At the same time, someone with no interest in sport could choose not to receive any of these announcements by not subscribing to the sports ‘channel’.

Feedback can be sent to webteam@sussex.ac.uk until the launch on 15 April and also after that as ongoing developments are made to the site.

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5 Documentary Sussex film-maker enters festival alongside award-winning talent.

6 JMS honour John Maynard Smith awarded posthumous Darwin-Wallace medal.

Ground-breaking ceremony for new teaching building

To celebrate the start of work on the new teaching building at the heart of campus, contractor Morgan Ashurst let the Vice-Chancellor loose at the controls of what he described as a ‘diminutive digger’.

Professor Michael Farthing was the guest of honour at the traditional ground-breaking ceremony, which took place on the construction site on 9 February. He said: “They let me have a go, which was fantastic. I really recommend it. It was great fun.”

Work on the new teaching building, alongside the Swanborough student residences, started in January. It is due to open during the academic year 2010-11 and will provide 3,000 square metres of teaching space across three floors, including two new lecture theatres and a mix of different sized seminar rooms.

On the ground floor, the design incorporates a flexible social and meeting space that will complement the dedicated teaching spaces in the rest of the building.

Once completed, it will enable the removal of the short-life Russell Building on the west side of campus, which has provided a significant part of the University’s seminar space since 2003.

The design of the new teaching building with red brick and glass matches the Swanborough buildings and echoes the original designs by Sir Basil Spence for the core campus buildings, particularly the Pevensey building.

The building has also been designed to minimise impact on the environment, with concrete floors acting as heat sinks, and natural ventilation systems.

In line with the campus masterplan to ensure further development of the green spaces on campus, the site also includes the creation of a new grass courtyard at the eastern corner of Arts Road and Refectory Road.

For further information about the range of recent and future building projects on campus, see www.sussex.ac.uk/efm
BOOKMARK

John Gribbin and Mary Gribbin
(Visiting Research Fellows in Physics and Astronomy)
He Know He Was Right: The Irresistible life of James Lovelock and Gaia
Allen Lane, £20 (hardback)
ISBN: 9781846140167

The publisher says: "Jim Lovelock is an iconic figure in British science, a prophet whose prophecies are coming true. This is his definitive authorised biography."

Michael Lappert (Associate Research Professor in Chemistry), Andrey Protchenko, Philip Power and Alexandra Seeger
Metal Amide Chemistry
John Wiley & Sons, £90 (hardback)
ISBN: 978-0-470-72184-1

The publisher says: "Written by internationally recognised leaders in the field, Metal Amide Chemistry is the authoritative survey of this important class of compounds, the first since Lappert and Power's 1980 book Metal and Metalloid Amides."

Christian Wiese (Professor of Jewish History) (ed.)
Hans Jonas Memoirs
University Press of New England, £29.95
(paperback)

The publisher says: "This memoir, a collection of heterogeneous unpublished materials - diaries, memoirs, letters, interviews, and public statements - has been shaped and organized by Christian Wiese, whose afterward links the Jewish dimensions of Jonas's biography and philosophy."

MP visits campus as part of science partnering scheme

Local MP Dr Des Turner got to grips with the complex challenges of computational neuroscience when he met Sussex researchers as part of an annual Royal Society programme.

The scheme's aim is to improve understanding between science researchers and policy makers in government. Dr Thomas Nowotny visited Dr Turner at the House of Commons last November to learn about the processes of Parliament and policy making.

The MP for Brighton Kemp Town spent 6 February with Thomas in the Informatics department, where he watched a demonstration of an evolutionary robotics controller for kites developed by DPhil student Allister Furey, and was introduced to the hybrid computer-brain systems research being undertaken by Thomas and Sussex neuroscientist Professor George Kemenes.

Kite energy harnesses the wind's power at higher altitudes than conventional wind turbines. The novel robotic control developed at Sussex will help advance this cutting-edge technology and move it closer to commercial viability - something that was sure to interest Dr Turner, who is keenly interested in energy policy.

Hybrid computer-brain systems research is the science driving developments in prosthetics and medical diagnostic techniques of the future and Dr Turner's introduction to the research projects at Sussex gave him a taste of what's to come.

Dr Turner has been a leading member of the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee, which has reported on issues such as the National Cancer Plan, human genetics and embryology, and government expenditure on research and development.

Thomas said of the visit: "It was refreshing to spend the day with Dr Turner, a politician and former scientist who has preserved his keen interest in all aspects of science. Scientists often complain that politicians do not fully grasp the real issues in modern research. Dr Turner is a notable exception to this problem."

Dr Turner also met with other academics to learn about innovative projects in the Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Robotics (CCNR).

Psychologists reveal the secret of successful wooing

If you want to increase your attractiveness to others don't change your appearance, change your behaviour.

A new University of Sussex study shows that, without being consciously aware, we change our judgment of a person's attractiveness based on what they do, not their physical characteristics.

Psychologist Dr Beena Khurana set up an experiment in which participants first rated the attractiveness of a set of faces presented on a computer screen. They were then asked to detect the presence of a target dot that appeared on either the left or right side of the screen. Before the target appeared, either a male or female face appeared looking either to the left or right. Participants were told to ignore the faces, but were later asked to rate faces for attractiveness again.

The results showed that faces of the opposite sex were more effective at directing participants' attention. In other words, women pay more attention to where men look and vice versa. The faces that gave accurate cues as to where the target dot appeared increased in attractiveness, but significantly more for the opposite sex.

Beena says: "The more traditional finding is that the more we find a face attractive the more we pay attention to it. Here we show that we can cause a face to become attractive as a function of the way it behaves."

"Note that we changed attractiveness ratings after one simple session of eye gaze cueing, so imagine what must be going on in real encounters. We think that perceived attractiveness is both dynamic and responsive to the behaviour of people."

Beena co-authored the study with Sussex psychologists Ruth Habibi (DPhil student), Joanna Po (undergraduate project student) and Dr Daniel Wright.

The paper, 'Jane versus John: Facial evaluation as a function of informative eye gaze' is published in the February issue of the journal Social Cognition.

The study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Follow my eyes: Dr Beena Khurana demonstrates her study on eye gaze cues.

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

You can buy these books at John Smith's Bookshop in Bramber House, or order online at www.jscampus.co.uk. Staff get a 10% discount on all products in the Bookshop on production of valid ID.
How should Sussex celebrate 50 years?

The University is starting actively to plan how it will celebrate its first 50 years in 2011–12. Staff and students are now being invited to get involved by suggesting ideas for these celebrations.

An advisory board, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor with a mix of senior academic and Professional Services staff and including broadcaster and alumna Julia Somerville, is overseeing the planning process.

Persephone Deacon, Head of Corporate Events, leads work preparing for 2011. She said: “We are planning to deliver a programme of events that are inclusive, reflect the excellence of this institution, and speak to all members of the University community.

“These events will celebrate all that we have achieved so far and help us focus on our goals for the next 50 years and beyond.”

There are three main themes for the year’s programme:

• Celebration of Sussex successes and congratulations to all current and past Sussex staff and students
• Developing the future of Sussex
• Introducing Sussex to new friends and partners.

The University is now seeking ideas from all Sussex staff, students, alumni and friends as to what the programme for 2011–12 might look like.

Some of the ideas already suggested that are being championed by the advisory board include: the publication of a book with contributions from current and former staff and students; a dedicated 2011 lecture series; a sculpture exhibition; and a documentary competition.

Persephone added: “New ideas and suggestions are coming in all the time. The most recent has been the creation of a Fringe to include all events as well as the official celebrations.”

Full information on how to get involved is available at www.sussex.ac.uk/2011

Looking to the future

At the two open meetings with staff last week I was pleased to be able to report that we had sent all staff at Sussex a copy of ‘Making the Future’, the University’s strategic plan for 2009–15. I think it important for all colleagues to understand that what they do is part of how we make the future at Sussex.

Prof Michael Farthing, Vice-Chancellor

This plan provides a forward-looking frame for everything we do at Sussex: our research, our teaching and learning, the student experience, engagement with business and enterprise, support for staff, the development of our campus, and so on.

The plan is for growth – since it is only through growth that we can properly steer the direction in which the University will develop: Council (the University’s governing body) looked at this approach in November and confirmed it remains the right one.

The plan is not, however, a fixed blueprint. It needs to flex and change as we move ahead. As an example, the financial position we are in is already much more challenging than a year ago – for instance with pay having increased by 8% over the year and the prospect of funding from the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) spread across more universities than before.

I am also reinforced in my view that a resolutely forward-looking approach is the right and positive one for us. And we are able to reflect on a range of new ideas and initiatives coming up.

We are looking forwards now to 2011, the date of our 50th anniversary. As the first of the new universities from the 1960s, it is fitting that we should be leading the celebration of new ideas in the 1960s with new ideas for the 21st century.

We have an advisory board, including alumna Julia Somerville, overseeing the development of ideas for 2011, for which we have already drawn on ideas and suggestions from the community.

We now want all staff, students, alumni and friends to get involved in creating plans for 2011. It may seem some way off – but students who are now planning to join us as undergraduates in October will be the first ofst in 2011–12. What ideas do you want to suggest?

As well as mainstream events led by the advisory board, we will be hosting a 2011 Fringe so that everyone and every event can be part of the celebrations.

I am pleased to note that the 2011 website (www.sussex.ac.uk/2011) – like those for the strategic plan and the Curious? research showcase event in March – is using the new design for the Sussex website. From 2 March staff and students will be invited to feedback on the new website design for Sussex, before it goes live after Easter.

As well as virtual developments, there are concrete ones. We are creating important new campus buildings such as the teaching building and the new academic building to replace Arts D and E.

But I suspect it is the prospect of reopening the Gardner Centre that has most energised colleagues and partners. As a centre for the creative arts for 2011, it will be a fitting way of marking our 50th anniversary.

Finally, in looking forward I am particularly keen to share with colleagues and partners the name of our new Chancellor as soon as possible after our Court has met on Monday (23 February). Assuming Court agrees, I am confident that we will have an excellent person to take us forward in the 21st century – to our 2011 anniversary and beyond.

Sussex faces financial pressures

As with other universities, Sussex will be receiving its funding statement for the year ahead from the funding council (HEFCE) in March. That will include the funding outcome of the recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Given the current financial environment, no real growth in government funding is expected.

The University will face pressures on funding: from the wider spread of research funding across UK institutions; cost pressures from last year’s above-expectation pay rises; higher utility costs; and increased pension costs.

The Director of Finance, Allan Spencer, said: “We expect the University will struggle to achieve its planned surplus this year and may not meet its break-even budgets in the next 2–3 years.

“This is at a time when creating financial headroom for investment in campus facilities and the academic enterprise is more important than ever. Similar pressures will be faced by peer institutions.”
Students' Union sabbatical election results

Sussex students have elected six Students' Union officers to represent them in 2009-10. The new sabbatical officers will take up their full-time, year-long positions from July.

A total of 2,615 students voted in the election — a record turnout.

President — Tom Wills
(Second year International Relations)

With 53% of the votes, Tom was elected President of USSU (University of Sussex Students' Union) on a manifesto focusing on placing Sussex at the forefront of the campaign against increasing tuition fees; better publicity for Union meetings; promoting inclusion and standing up to injustice. He said: "I believe in a democratic students' union that is always improving its services and fighting for students' interests."

Finance Officer — Anna Cornish
(Third year Business and Management)

Anna pledges to make education enjoyable and affordable, with a particular focus on expanding the use of the Big Lemon bus service, lobbying the University for affordable accommodation and improving live music venues on campus.

Communications Officer — Michael Holder
(Third year History)

As co-editor-in-chief of the badger, Michael has three years' experience in student media. He aims to improve online media, create an interactive 'what's on' guide, and improve awareness of and involvement in Union policy.

Welfare Officer — Ciaran Whitehead
(Third year Psychology)

Ciaran's successful campaign focused on giving minority students a voice in the Union. During his year in office, he will look at diversifying food and drink provision on campus, creating a Gumtree-style 'for sale and wanted' website, and providing support for students renting accommodation privately.

Education Officer — Josh Jones
(Third year English)

As Hums student rep on Senate, Josh says he has confidence and experience and is "a friendly and compassionate individual who will gladly offer you support and advice, whatever your situation."

Activities Officer — Scott Sheridan
(Third year Informatics)

Scott's campaign slogan was "get everyone involved". He pledges better promotion of sports and activities; development of a 'what's on' guide; to attract external sponsorship; maintain the Union's ecological reputation; and expand existing volunteering and outreach schemes.

First years feed back on IT

Almost every single first-year student at Sussex owns a computer, according to an online survey.

In December, IT Services invited all first-year undergraduates to give feedback on their first experiences of using IT at Sussex.

Over 33% of a possible 3,222 students completed the questionnaire. Of the 1,088 responses, 79% were from UK students and 21% from overseas students.

And this is (some of) what they said:

• Only 1% did not own and use a computer. Most students, 94%, owned a laptop.

• The most popular place for working on computers was the Library (71%), followed by ITS (36%), then Peveresey (12%).

• Over 80% thought teaching rooms were well supported with projectors, smartboards and other audio-visual equipment.

• 83% agreed or strongly agreed that Sussex Direct was useful for finding information, and that Study Direct helped to support their learning and was easy to use.

• Facebook (86%) and YouTube (71%) were the most popular external sites that students used regularly, followed by Google Docs (12%).

• Only 2% had not used their Sussex email, with 82% satisfied, but 14% dissatisfied.

Most frequently praised were Sussex Direct and Study Direct; the 24-hour availability of PCs; wireless coverage on campus and Internet access from study bedrooms; and the helpfulness of ITS staff.

IT Services are now working on follow-up actions to address a number of issues raised by students.

The most frequently mentioned area of concern was the speed and reliability of connection to the Internet — mainly ResNet (the wired network in student residences). IT Services are testing and deploying new technology to improve the resilience of the connection if students set up their computers incorrectly, and are making students more aware that their connection automatically slows down if they use certain types of file-sharing software.

Another major issue for first years was the complexity and difficulty of connecting their computer to Resnet and to the wireless network in the first place; ITS are reviewing their procedures and instructions in an effort to make this simpler.

A number of respondents felt that the cost of printing was too high and that they were expected to print out too much online course material. In response, IT Services are testing double-sided printing, and are discussing with the Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU) and lecturers how to reduce the amount of course material that students need to print.

Some students found it difficult to find a free PC or a PC cluster, so IT Services plan to add more display screens near places where students queue for PCs, and to discuss with Estates how internal signposting to PC clusters might be improved.

A summary of the findings is published on the IT Services web pages at www.sussex.ac.uk/its/cs/documents/survey-summary.pdf

For information about actions being taken in response to the survey results, which will be updated as improvements are made, see www.sussex.ac.uk/itis/cs/documents/survey-actions.pdf
Student film-makers take a look at world for SEE Festival

Young film-makers from the University of Sussex are making their mark in the world of documentaries, with four student films entered alongside award-winning talent for this year’s SEE documentary festival (21-22 February).

Senior Lecturer in Media and Film Lizzie Thyne will introduce films made by graduates of the University’s film courses at a special University of Sussex showcase, open to the public free of charge, on Saturday 21 February, from 11.15am at the SEE festival venue, the Uni Hotel in Kings Road, Brighton.

They are:

- **Take Over**, directed by Jordie Montevoci (MA Digital Documentary), charts the actions of a group of Brighton squatters who take over an old church;
- **Coed Hills** by Lauren Simpson and Laura Bailey (Media Practice and Theory) follows the lives of members of a community committed to a sustainable lifestyle;
- **Porters of the Inca Trail**, directed by Gabriel Manrique (MA Digital Documentary), tells the story of the porters who struggle for basic employment rights while working for the tourist trade in the Andean highlands;
- **Morts Pour Rien**, directed by Tom Little, with Dave Silver, Dom Breeze, and Michael Leonardi, goes behind the headlines, following up the Parisian riots of 2005, which erupted after the deaths of two teenagers during a police pursuit in a city suburb.

Lizzie says: “This will be a great experience for our students and something they will certainly benefit from. It’s good to see our documentary students finding recognition and a wider audience for their work beyond the University.”

Lizzie is herself a documentary maker and will be chairing a separate session with directors and editor from the BBC2 flagship documentary strand ‘Storyville’.

For full SEE Festival listings, locations and ticket prices, visit http://seefestival.org/

Sussex student witnesses presidential inauguration

Sussex undergraduate Khoston Walkins had the experience of a lifetime when he was selected to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington in January.

Now back on the Sussex campus and continuing his second-year studies, Medical Neuroscience student Khoston, 20, is grateful to all those who helped him achieve his ambition to see the first black American sworn in as President of the United States of America.

Khoston’s opportunity arose when he was selected in 2006 to take part in the United States-based Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) programme while at school in his native Trinidad. Talented school students are selected from around the world to join the programme, which helps them to hone leadership skills. Part of the exercise involved Khoston in a five-day United Nations-style conference at the UN building in New York.

Following his move to Sussex to study, Khoston was invited to join other past CYLC scholars to watch the presidential inauguration. The University supplemented his fundraising activities, helping to cover travel and subsistence costs so that Khoston could make the trip to the States from Sussex.

“It was the best experience of my life,” says Khoston. “We walked down to the inauguration site at 3am. It was minus 10 degrees and we had to wait hours before the ceremony began, but it was worth it. I’ve never seen so many people, and everyone was celebrating. The whole of Capitol Hill was lit up. It felt like some sort of pilgrimage. I met people from all over the world, and even attended one of the presidential balls.”

As a black student, Khoston feels inspired by the election of a black man as the leader of the most powerful nation in the world, but certainly doesn’t feel that the charismatic Obama can rest on his laurels: “I was very impressed by his speech. He seems serious about change, about youth issues. But I think a lot of people were there because he is a Democrat, and that’s what they wanted in the White House. The whole novelty of him being black should be over now.

“I’m more interested in what happens next – we’ll have to wait and see what he can actually achieve. He has inherited the worst-ever economic situation in America, there are wars and global issues to deal with, such as climate change. It’s better not to have too many expectations.”

Khoston will now be concentrating on his own studies, as he hopes to go on to postgraduate work before returning to Trinidad to work in mental health.
Maynard Smith awarded posthumous medal

The Linnean Society of London has posthumously awarded one of 13 prestigious medals to a Sussex scientist for his work in "major advances in evolutionary biology since 1958".

Professor John Maynard Smith - who died in 2004 - was, according to the Darwin-Wallace Medal citation, "by far the most influential British evolutionary biologist of the second half of the 20th century".

The citation says of John: "Architect of the world-leading Sussex University school of 'mathematical selection', he elevated to a higher plane the mathematical population genetics approaches developed in the UK by RA Fisher, and then compounded this remarkable achievement by applying the previously economically focused game theory to evolutionary problems."

It adds: "These breakthroughs prompted many high-impact papers ... and several technically rigorous but readable books."

The citation concludes on a more personal note about John: "His exceptional abilities and egalitarian worldview earned him great affection from evolutionary biologists worldwide."

The award commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first announcement of the theory of evolution by natural selection. In 1858 naturalists Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace presented a joint paper 'On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection' at the Linnean Society.

Calvin Davidson, a second-year DPhil student in the Theoretical Chemistry/Computational Materials group, has received a certificate of merit from the British Carbon Group and a cash prize of £150 for his entry in its 'Capturing Carbon' competition. Contestants were invited to submit electronic images including photographs, electron and optical micrographs on any aspect of carbon science. Calvin's entry, 'Graphene', depicts a graphene sheet with undulations of wavelength 8nm being scanned by an atomically sharp tip.

Theoretical chemist Professor Malcolm Heggie has received a 'Special recognition award' from the British Carbon Group "in appreciation of his service to the British Carbon Group and for outstanding leadership as chairman of the group 2003-2007". Malcolm says: "I had greeted the end of my term of office as chairman with both sadness and relief. It was a great experience for me."

Dr Geoff Quilley, Tim Barringer (Yale) and Doug Fordham (Virginia) have won this year's Historians of British Art book prize in the multi-author category for their co-edited publication Art and the British Empire (Manchester University Press, 2007). The study argues that the concept of 'empire' belongs at the centre, rather than in the margins, of British art history.

Sussex Teaching and Learning Conference 2009

Students have high expectations of feedback and advice on their learning and, as the numbers on courses show no sign of diminishing, meeting these expectations can prove a challenge.

This year's Teaching and Learning Conference, at the Conference Centre on 2 June, explores new ways to engage with students in assessing their academic progress.

Keynote speakers at the event will be Professor David Nicol from the University of Strathclyde and Dr Kate Exley from the University of Leeds.

The Teaching and Learning Development Unit (TLDU), which is organising the conference, is inviting proposals for 60-minute sessions on any aspect of academic feedback and/or advice. These could be workshops, demonstrations, presentations with discussion, or joint presentations with a colleague or student.

If you would like to lead a session, email a.hole@sussex.ac.uk by 28 February with a brief proposal.

Further details are on the conference website at www.sussex.ac.uk/tldu/conference

National Student Survey response rates

Over 600 students, some 27% of Sussex finalists, have already responded to the National Student Survey 2009 since it went live for Sussex on 2 February.

After a record response of 75% last year, the University is working hard to match that rate in 2009. Working with the Students’ Union to encourage final-year students to fill in the short online questionnaire.

Professor Joanne Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), said: "A high response rate ensures that the University has a truly representative view of student opinion and directly influences improvements made to the student experience."

Response rates are updated three times a week at www.sussex.ac.uk/nds

For advice on ways to promote the survey to students, email internalcomm@sussex.ac.uk or call ext. 8888.
Shape up this spring

Staff and students are being encouraged to get in shape this March during the ninth annual Healthy Campus Week.

A week-long programme of events to promote positive health and wellbeing around campus is planned, starting on 2 March. You can:

- use the fitness room for free,
- try Nordic walking, trapeze or Cuban salsa,
- pick up some healthy snacks and recipe tips from campus cafes,
- give your diet a workout by a nutritional coach,
- or simply get a full body MOT at one of the mini health check sessions.

For the full programme of events, including details of how to book, go to www.healthycampus.com

More than 15 different areas of the University are involved in delivering the Healthy Campus Week programme, which judges claimed was a significant factor in naming Sussex the 'healthiest workplace' at the Brighton and Hove Business Awards in 2008.

Four campus buildings to be refurbished

Energy-efficient windows are to be installed in four of the academic buildings on campus.

The new double glazing in Chichester 3 as well as Pevensey 1, 2 and 3 will be low-emission glass, which allows heat and light to pass through it into the building but blocks heat from leaving the room; this therefore greatly reduces the amount of lost energy compared to conventional glass. Externally the glazing will be self-cleaning.

Installation of the new windows is part of an intensive programme of external refurbishment works taking place over the next 12 months.

The work also includes repairs to brickwork and concrete and renewal of the roofs (with improvements to roof safety). Work has already begun on Chichester 3 and Pevensey 3, with further works planned to start on Pevensey 2 in May and Pevensey 1 in August.

While these works take place - approximately 36 weeks per building - scaffolding will be in place around the entire building to enable safe access for the contractors.

In fact, because of the size and weight of the new windows, the scaffolding needs to be specially adapted once the other work is complete to enable the windows to be installed.

This is a very concentrated programme that will be disruptive to building users throughout the period of works. Estates and Facilities Management (EFM) are looking at ways to minimise the inconvenience through weekly communication meetings and a programme of works displayed in the entrance area of each building.

Junior Research Associate bursaries

Following on from the 2008 Junior Research Associate (JRA) scheme, the University is offering 26 JRA bursaries for the summer vacation of 2009.

The scheme provides an opportunity for talented and ambitious undergraduates to participate in original research with staff and other members of the University community.

The 2008 scheme was a resounding success, with the JRAs producing outstanding research. One JRA has since presented her research at the Natural History Museum and another at the British Psychological Society education conference.

Seventeen JRAs have already indicated that they intend to apply for postgraduate study and 13 of these are planning to study at Sussex.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), said: "I am delighted that once again our most gifted undergraduates will be given the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of one of the University’s most important activities."

The deadline for applications for the 2009 scheme is 20 March. Full details are available at: www.sussex.ac.uk/scholarships_and_bursaries/jra

Sussex mugs on sale

University-branded mugs are now on sale from Reception at Sussex House.

The mugs come in hot pink, apple green, bright orange and Sussex Flint, and they’re just £5 each.

Each mug has two contrasting words that convey a playful take on life at Sussex.

They are perfect for use as give-aways, or to keep on your desk!
Academic events

MON 23 FEB
4pm Languages and Linguistics seminar: Minna Kajavaen (Manchester), Investigating the memory systems that support the acquisition of morphological children. Arts A71.

TUE 24 FEB
12.30pm Life History seminar: Ivor Goodson (Brighton), Narrativity and learning, Arundel Building 1b.

6pm Early Modern Studies seminar: Elizabeth Eger (King’s College), Bluetscogging friendships and natural history, Room 1bc.

6.30pm Medical lecture: Somnath Mukhopadhyay (BSMS), For the study of allergy and asthma epidemic: Interpreting natural experiments. BSMS lecture theatre. RSVP essential to events@sussex.ac.uk

WED 25 FEB
12.30pm Genome Centre seminar: Kaye Williams (Manchester), Molecular targeted approaches for radio sensitisation. GDSC seminar room.

1pm Development seminar: Richard Jolly, Robin Luckham and Carlos Alvarado-Quesada (IDS), Dissemination and development and the experience of Costa Rica, IDS 221.

3pm Special Collections seminar: Deborah Schultz (Sussex), Arnold Daghani collection. Library, second floor.

4.30pm Art History seminar: Dan Howells (Sussex), Late antique gold glass. EDB 317.


THU 26 FEB
1pm Geography seminar: David Stanforth (Exeter), Adapting to a changing climate. Arts C175.


4pm Maths seminar: Carolina-Bibiane Schonleib (Cambridge), Caillou-Hilliard inpainting and beyond, Mantell 2401.

4pm History seminar: Thomas Dixon (Queen Mary’s), Stoicism, spiritualism, and the cultural history of philosophy. Arts A155.

4pm Psychology seminar: Gareth Gaskell (York), Immediate and delayed effects of vocabulary acquisition in adults. Peversey 1, 183.

FRI 27 FEB
1pm Development seminar: Theodora Karametseva (Soﬁa), The case of ethnic assimilation of the Bulgarian Turks. IDS 221.

1pm Biochemistry seminar: Anne Graham (Bradford), Endothelial cell activation: A central role in cardiovascular disease. JMS lecture theatre.

1.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Tommaso Ciarlo (Max Planck Institute of Economics), title tbc. Freeman Centre Q24/25.

MON 2 MAR
4pm 30 German-Jewish Studies seminar: Joachim Schör (Southampton), Tel-Aviv as a port city. Arts D730.

TUE 3 MAR
1pm Development seminar: Francis Stewart (Oxford), Horizontal inequalities and conflict. IDS 221.

4pm Cognitive Science seminar: Mike Wheeler (Stirling), Intelligent architecture and the architecture of intelligence. Peversey 1, 1A7.

5pm History lecture: Duncan Kelly (Cambridge), John Locke’s Ciceronian politics. Bramber House 243.

6.30pm Professoral lecture: Ben Martin (Sussex), Why science policy research? BSMS lecture theatre.

WED 4 MAR
2pm Law seminar: Joanne Conaghan (Kent), Gendered aspects of immigration policies. Russell Building 21.

4pm Justice and Violence seminar: Susan Mark (London), Human rights and the bottom billion. Arts A71.

4.30pm Art History seminar: Donal Cooper (Warwick), Revisiting Bellini and Titian in the Friel. EDB 317.

5pm Sexual Dissidence seminar: Anne Tomiche (Paris), Timberlake Wertenbaker’s play with Sopohoges and Ovid. EDB 121.

5pm Migration seminar: Allan Williams (London Met), Migration entrepreneurs in the London hospitality sector. Arts C233.

6.30pm Archaeology lecture: David Hinton (Sussex), The Alfred Jewel and recent discoveries. Ochilster lecture theatre.

THU 5 MAR
1pm Geography seminar: Mick Dunford (Sussex), The rise of China and the financial crisis in the West. Arts C175.

1pm Development seminar: Jieyi Liu (Leeds), Gender and sexuality at work in urban China. IDS 221.

4pm Maths seminar: Sasikumar

Ganesan (Imperial College), Modelling and simulation of air-conditioning in the human nasal cavity. Mantell 2401.

4pm History seminar: Carol Dyhouse (Sussex), Glamour, fashion and femininity in the 1950s. Arts A155.

4pm Psychology seminar: Graham Pike (Open), Eye witness identification: New technology but old problems? Arts A2.

6pm Chemistry lecture: Jeff Leigh (Sussex), A history of women in science. Arts A2.

FRI 6 MAR
1pm Biochemistry seminar: Andrea Hardfield (Brighton), Towards a complete structure-function description of a polyatomic hydrocarbon degradative pathway. JMS lecture theatre.

2.15pm Freeman Centre seminar: Marco Valente (I’Aquila), A demand-oriented approach to reduce pollution. Freeman Centre Q24/25.

Small ads

For sale: One For All PC-to-TV sender. New, boxed. £25. T 07870 130382.

To let: 2-bed tenanted Victorian house in Cowper St, Hove. Available furnished or part furnished. Suit mature single/couple or young family. Short-term let (c. 3 mths): £850 -£900pwm. T Bridget Leslie on 07980 293 104.

House exchange: 2 academics at Massey University in NZ plan to spend Mar-June 2010 (approx) in B’ton. Exchange 3-bed house with 2 bathrooms & spa pool at Foston Beach, Mansuwaful for house/flat in B’ton area. Or 2nd flat on Foston Beach house to visiting academics. E Jeannie Wright j.wright@massey.ac.nz or (phone) Jane Howells j.howells@massey.ac.nz.

Short-term let: Double room in family home in Preston Park area. Available end March. Suit visiting lecturer or mature student. £85 p/w incl. T 07796 139680.

Wanted: Visiting scholar seeks 2/3-bed furnished rental or house/sit for academic year 2009–10. Prefer Lewes or B’n’Hove nr rail station, with easy access to Sussex campus & London. Dates flexible. Can care for pets. Contact Dr Catherine Comon at cc566@uom.ac.uk.

Wanted: Sainsbury’s ‘Active kids’ vouchers. Post or drop in to either Crecie in Norcham House or Nursery in EDB.

For sale: Classic 1920 liveboard boat, B’ton Marina. £14,000. T James on ext 8002 or 07846 151699.

For sale: Oak dining table & chairs; kitchen table & chairs; reclining leather sofa; wardrobes & dressers; king-size bed. E David at d.hughes@ids.ac.uk or T 077505 304104. Moving abroad; no reasonable offers refused.

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.