Engineering buildings to be renamed

The three Engineering buildings on campus will be renamed this summer to honour two former Chancellors and the founding Dean of Applied Sciences at Sussex.

- Engineering 1 will be renamed after Lord Shawcross, one of the University’s founding fathers and the longest-serving Chancellor in its history, who died in 2003 aged 101.
- The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who replaced Lord Shawcross as Chancellor in 1985, will give his name to the Engineering 2 building (renamed as Richmond).
- Engineering 3 will be called the John Clifford West building.

Lord Shawcross’s son, William, accepted the invitation on behalf of the family. He said: “We would be delighted by your proposal to name one of the University buildings after my father. He loved the University. Thank you!”

Lord Shawcross was a key figure in the establishment of the University and served as Chancellor for 20 years until stepping down in 1985.

Aptly, he supported the development of architect Sir Basil Spence’s innovative building designs. In his memoirs, Lord Shawcross recalled: “I was at an early stage appointed chairman of the buildings committee for the whole university ... This was not always easy but the indomitable Basil Spence and I got on well together.”

The Richmond building will be a lasting reminder of the contribution made to Sussex by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon during his Chancellorship lasting 13 years and prior to that as Treasurer. He said: “I am honoured that you should want to name a building on the campus after me.”

Professor John Clifford West CBE said he was “delighted” that Engineering 3 would take his name. He said that his time in the Royal Navy made him “realise that the pre-war division of engineering in independent departments of civil, mechanical, electrical, [engineering] etc. was not the way forward. I put to the University of Sussex the concept of a School of Applied Sciences.”

“Your suggestion that one of the engineering buildings could be named after me I regard as a very great honour.”

The University has also announced this year that:

- the Gardner Centre is to reopen as the Attenborough Centre for Creative Arts, named after Lord Attenborough, who stepped down as Chancellor in 2008;
- EDB (the Educational Development Building) will be renamed the Silverstone Building in honour of the first Professor of Media and Communication at Sussex (Roger Silverstone);
- the new teaching building at the heart of campus will be the Fulton Building when it opens in the summer 2010. Lord Fulton was the first Vice-Chancellor of Sussex.

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5 Persuasive Research reveals how crafty cats use purs to get their own way.

6 Good sports Friendly rivalry as staff enjoy blazing sun at staff sports afternoon.

7 SEPnet Four Physics and Astronomy students win work placements.

Bhaskar’s graduation debut as new Chancellor

Award-winning writer and performer Sanjeev Bhaskar will appear on the stage of the Dome Theatre in Brighton next week, in his new role as Chancellor of the University of Sussex.

He will be officially installed in the role by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, at the first ceremony on Wednesday (22 July).

He will then confer some 2,000 graduates with their awards and certificates in a series of five ceremonies over three days (22-24 July).

Mr Bhaskar will also be presenting an honorary Doctor of the University degree to comedy writer and producer Anil Gupta, who helped Mr Bhaskar break into the entertainment industry with the ground-breaking comedy series ‘Goodness Gracious Me’.

Also being presented with honorary degrees this year are:

- Sussex graduate His Excellency Festus Gontebanye Mogae, president of Botswana 1998–2008: Doctor of Letters (22 July)
- Professor Adetokunbo O. Lucas, international health specialist: Doctor of Medicine (23 July)
- Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, member of Council (the University’s governing body) 1995–2001 and Lord Lieutenant of Sussex 2000–08: Doctor of the University (23 July)
- The Honorable Mary Robinson, president of Ireland 1990–97: Doctor of Laws (24 July)
- Rt Hon The Baroness Brenda Hale of Richmond, the UK’s first woman Lord of Appeal: Doctor of Laws (24 July)
Space camera throws light on wonders of the Universe

Sussex scientists are delighted with the first – and spectacular – images from the Herschel Space Observatory, published on Friday 10 July.

On 24 June, SPIRE was able to observe the sky for the first time following its launch on 14 May 2009. The telescope was trained on two galaxies to get a first impression of what the instrument could see. The results were better than anyone expected from first observations. Many other, more distant, galaxies were also seen in the field of view.

The images show in detail the formation of stars within the observed galaxies in stunning detail, offering a sneak preview of future observations that promise to revolutionise scientific understanding of star formation. Because these galaxies are so far away, their light has taken a very long time to reach us, so by detecting them we are looking into the past and learning how and when galaxies like the Milky Way were formed.

The images, released by the European Space Agency (ESA), were made possible by the observatory’s SPIRE (Spectral and Photometric Imaging Receiver) camera.

A team including members of the Sussex Astronomy Centre contributed to the design and development of the SPIRE Instrument Control Centre.

Dr Seb Oliver, a Reader in Astronomy in the Physics and Astronomy department, has been involved with the SPIRE instrument on Herschel since it was first proposed.

Speaking after seeing the first images, he said: “They are fantastic. It is as though we have woken up as superheroes with the special power to see the secret side of galaxy formation previously hidden by invisibility cloaks.”

Sussex will also play a key role in Herschel’s biggest project, HerMES, which will be coordinated by Seb and which will produce a map of the Universe as it was around eight billion years ago, based on the SPIRE data. Seb says: “We expect to discover around 100,000 galaxies captured when they were in the process of forming their stars.”

Sussex team member Dr Isaac Roseboom said: “For the first images back from the SPIRE instrument these are simply amazing. For the instrument to perform this well straight away is a very pleasant surprise, and a testament to the hard work and careful preparation put in by the
Work continues to address University finances

Work is being taken forward following Council approval on 3 July of an updated paper on setting a budget for 2009–10, which was itself endorsed by Senate on 26 June.

As reported in the Bulletin on 19 June and 3 July, the University is—like all institutions across the sector—facing significant cost pressures. Additional £5m of costs for 2009–10 will push the budget into significant deficit for 2009–10, worsening in later years.

In particular, Council backed the strategy to plan for growth and invest in capital development, while taking out costs from targeted areas.

On the basis that the University has a robust approach to identifying necessary changes, Council set a budget for 2009–10, which provides for investment of £1m as well as the need to make immediate £3m cost reductions on £150m spend in 2009–10, with additional savings of up to £5m for 2010–11.

Council also endorsed the capital programme, which confirmed investment on key infrastructure developments for teaching and learning, research and student housing.

A Senate working group has now been created to work in detail on the academic ‘drivers’ for change, which will inform the development of future proposals. That group includes three heads of school, three elected members of Senate and the President of the Students’ Union and will complete its work by the end of July.

To oversee the process overall, Council has created an oversight group, chaired by independent member Sally James and including independent members Arjo Ghosh and Mike Fuhr, as well as academic member Dr Helen Prance (Engineering and Design) and a head of school.

Briefing sessions are being held with representatives of the campus trades union to explain the financial position of the University in more detail, and to look at options suggested by the Trades Union Liaison Committee (TULC).

Discussions are being held with pro-vice-chancellors, heads of school and heads of department, with campus trading services and with heads of professional services. Staff at the Vice-Chancellor’s open meetings this week (13 and 14 July) were also briefed on the financial situation.

Ideas will be discussed over the summer, with proposals presented in the autumn for consultation and decisions then made over the winter.

A strategic approach to tackling challenges

I held two open meetings with staff this week and I was pleased that so many were able to make time to attend.

It is important that senior colleagues and I are able to set out the latest developments at the University and allow questions and issues to be raised and discussed.

If you were unable to attend, you can listen to my presentation (and/or see the slides) online at www.sussex.ac.uk/vc/openforum

At the meetings I was able to set out and celebrate some of the successes we have achieved—all of which have been reported in the Bulletin in recent weeks—from improvements in league-table positions to national student awards and staff research successes.

I think it is important to acknowledge and pay tribute to the hard work of all staff and the successes that are recognised, whether on campus, nationally or internationally.

I was also able to set out again for colleagues the up-to-date financial position that the University faces, and how we are approaching this matter. Information about these challenging circumstances has been presented in detail to Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC), Senate and Council—and a clear direction has been mapped out.

All staff need to understand the serious challenges we face—challenges that are common to all universities, as public-sector funding is squeezed and the costs we face rise. This Bulletin carries an updated report on the steps that are being taken, and on Sussex Direct there is detailed information and full reports in the papers from Senate and Council.

I don’t want to repeat that detailed information here. But I do want to reinforce some key points that underpin how we are tackling the circumstances we face.

The first is that our strategy of seeking growth, as set out in our strategic plan, Making the Future, remains the core direction for the University. This means identifying areas for development and expansion—in our teaching and our research—and making sure they are supported by the investment and support needed to grow. Our budget setting for next year provides for this investment.

Second, we will need to make cost reductions to bring our financial position back into surplus from the significant deficit we currently face. As I said at the open meetings, other universities are looking at cost reductions of between 5% and 15% of their annual turnover, over two or three years. So while our situation is a serious one, it is not more serious than many other institutions and I firmly believe that the cost reduction on the scale indicated is achievable.

Those savings will be achieved in targeted areas, not by implementing across-the-board reductions, which would hit thriving and struggling areas indiscriminately. That is a clear principle that SRC, Senate and Council all endorsed. That does not make it easy, but it does make it the right approach to take.

Third, we will continue to invest in the capital development of the campus necessary to sustain growth and improvement over the long term. Capital investment—the creation of an estate that is fit for purpose for our students and our staff, for our teaching and for our research—is critically important if the University is to be successful.

This principle was tested at Council and rightly subject to questioning in the open meetings. I am pleased that staff feel we must scrutinise the decisions that are being taken. I am equally certain that the informed governance that Council applies, and the professional decision-making that we have for capital investment, are robust and sound.

As we move forward, I am confident that through clear processes and with the right strategic approach we will come through this successfully.
Mass Observation books take a peek at all our yesterdays

A collection of books about everyday life in 1930s and 1940s Britain, based on the contents of a unique archive at the University of Sussex, has been re-issued by publishers Faber.

The Mass Observation Archive is a repository of diaries and written observations that offer an alternative view of British life before, during and after the Second World War, through the eyes of its ordinary citizens.

The 25 books produced by Mass Observation – and now republished as part of the Faber Finds series – were anthologies of material collected according to various themes and events and printed between the 1930s and 1950s. The first book, May 12th, covers the day of King George VI’s coronation in 1937. The last book, Britain Revisited, was published in 1959, as Britain emerged from post-war gloom.

Each book draws on original materials in the Mass Observation Archive and each offers a glimpse of people not usually featured in history books, from an age fast passing out of living memory.

Professor Dorothy Sheridan is Development Director for the Mass Observation Archive and has been associated with it since 1972. She says: “The publications inevitably represent only a tiny proportion of the whole archive, much of which remains unpublished. A lot of the raw material was probably never even read at the time, let alone analysed. But the books do offer an extraordinarily vivid glimpse of a time which will soon not be accessible to living memory.”

John Seaton, the editor of the Faber Finds imprint, says: “Mass Observation deserved to be seen and celebrated in its pristine state rather than only being known as a quarry for new social history anthologies. Now is a good time, I think, to take a fresh look at Mass Observation’s own original work.”

Documentary degree show packs a Punch

Film buffs can enjoy a feast of documentaries for free at the second MA in Digital Documentary degree show – Focus 2009 – on Saturday (18 July).

The 11 films cover an eclectic mix of fascinating subjects from the moving to the downright quirky. They include:

• the South African 2009 elections through the eyes of ordinary citizens,
• the lives of Turkish Cypriots in London;
• the human story behind a brain-tumour diagnosis;
• learning to enjoy the pleasures of silence;
• the role of tourism in a decaying town in Africa.

The show takes place in the Chichester Lecture Theatre from 11.1am to 6pm. Refreshments will be available throughout the day and a celebratory drinks reception concludes the event at 6.30pm.

One of the films, Mr Punch’s Comeback, chimes well with the show’s summer seaside setting. Director Jaime Taylor explores the lives and loves of Punch and Judy “professors”, who perform the shows and collect and make the puppets. The professors even have their own college.

Jaime says: “Punch and Judy is much more than an antiquated promenade show and Mr Punch is actually quite a misunderstood character. The Profs fully believe that he has a role as social commentator and they’ve managed to persuade me too! These ideas are explored in the film.”

After the course Jaime is hoping to continue making documentaries alongside the work that she does for the collective Postcode Films, which works with young people and various communities to create documentaries.

For further information on all the films, and the student directors, go to www.focusdocshow.com
Crafty cats coax their owners into giving them what they want by using a special purr that humans just can't ignore, says new research from Sussex published in *Current Biology* journal on Monday (15 July).

The team of Sussex psychologists discovered that cat owners find this "solicitation" purr irresistible because a high-frequency element embedded within it, similar to a cry or meow, subtly triggers a sense of urgency. By employing such an embedded "cry", cats appear to be exploiting innate tendencies that humans have for nurturing offspring. However, in this case the felines subtly bury their "feed me" messages in an otherwise pleasant purr.

Lead author Dr Karen McComb was inspired to initiate the study because her own cat, Pepo, had the knack of consistently waking her up in the mornings with insistent purring.

She says: "I wondered why this purring sounded so annoying and was so difficult to ignore. Talking with other cat owners, I found that some of them — including co-author Anna Taylor — also had cats who showed similar behaviour."

Karen and her team set up an experiment that tested human responses to the different purring types. She says: "When humans were played purrs recorded while cats were actively seeking food at equal volume to purrs recorded in non-solicitation contexts, even those with no experience of cats judged the 'solicitation' purrs to be more urgent and less pleasant."

The crucial factor in determining whether a purr was rated as urgent or pleasant was an unusual high-frequency element — reminiscent of a cry or meow — embedded within the naturally low-pitched purr. When the team re-synthesised purrs to remove the embedded cry (and left other characteristics unchanged), the urgency ratings for these purrs decreased significantly.

"The embedding of a cry within a call that we normally associate with contentment is quite a subtle means of eliciting a response — and solicitation purring is probably more acceptable to humans than overt meowing."

Not all cats, however, use this solicitation purring: "It seems to most often develop in cats that have a one-on-one with their owners rather than in large households where there is a lot going on and such purring might get overlooked. Meowing seems to be more common in these situations."

Meanwhile, those that did use solicitation purring and were recruited to help with the research were not always cooperative. Karen says: "Cats exhibit this behaviour in private with their owners, typically at anti-social times, such as first thing in the morning. They also tend to clam up or leave when strangers turn up. We had to train owners to use the equipment to record both the solicitation and non-solicitation purrs that we needed in their own homes."

"I've worked on communication and cognitive abilities in a wide range of mammals, including elephants and lions, but domestic cats were one of the most challenging subjects to date."

Cats, it seems, will always be cats!

Listen to examples of the cat purrs at http://www.lifesci.sussex.ac.uk/cmvc/ Domestic%20cats.html

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**Purr-suasive: Pepo**

(left), Dr Karen McComb’s (right) cat, who inspired her research into how cats embed a special cry into their purrs when they want feeding.

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**Shadow Secretary of State for Environment visits bee lab**

Arundel & South Downs MP Nick Herbert visited campus on 10 July to meet researchers who are hoping to reverse the decline of the British honey bee.

Mr Herbert, who is Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, met with Professor Francis Ratnieks, who explained how his research team in the Laboratory for Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) are looking at ways to restore a healthy bee population.

The team is working on the Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health and Well Being, a groundbreaking project that will run for five years and cost £2 million. Research will focus on efforts to control diseases, breed disease-resistant honey bees, and determine where the bees collect their food by decoding their communication dances.

Francis commented: "It is very encouraging that Nick is taking such an interest in the honey bee. Every year in Britain, honey bees pollinate agricultural crops worth £200 million."

"Honey bees are also fascinating animals in their own right and I think Nick learned how to decode bee dances during his visit. But I am not sure if he is going to be trying out the steps himself."

Mr Herbert commented: "I was delighted to visit the bee laboratory at the University of Sussex. I was impressed by the research effort there and congratulate Professor Ratnieks and his colleagues for getting this new facility up and running."

This month Mr Herbert co-tabled a motion in the House of Commons welcoming the investment of an extra £10 million for research into the decline in British honey bee and other insect pollinator numbers and calling on MPs to support the Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health and Well Being.
LETTERS

Consult or insult?

It is indeed quite incredulous that the University has decided to close down the JMS tea bar.

Here we have one of the largest concentrations of undergraduates and staff across the campus and we do not have the wit to make a going concern of a tea room!

But what is even worse is that we now propose to try and fit these huge numbers into an area that will, however it is expanded, never satisfy the needs of the customers.

The end result will be that staff and undergraduates, fed up with waiting for their tea and sandwiches, will eventually buy elsewhere off campus or make their own.

I am sure, with the huge costs involved in getting in consultants, that we could have afforded to refit all the tea rooms across campus and saved ourselves a fortune by making these decisions ourselves.

Mick Henry, Chemistry

Sarah Wilkinson, Commercial Operations Manager, replies:

Sadly the JMS tea bar is not a going concern. It is currently run by an external provider, and they have said they cannot afford to keep running it.

The University is not going to pick up the tab and subsidise it; the money to do so would have to come from earned income from teaching or research.

The University is developing fewer, larger cafés. This is part of a strategy of improvements through better food and longer opening hours for the whole staff and student community.

The strategy was subject to extensive consultation and discussion last year and has been approved by Council (the University’s governing body).

The catering strategy rights envisages Catering Services covering its costs – not relying on subsidy from elsewhere. We are not planning to subsidise any cafés in any part of the campus.

However, social and meeting space for academic colleagues and students is of course important — and the space in JMS is not being surrendered but is available for planned use by the new school, for example as a common room.

We are in discussion with Life Sciences colleagues about what vending can be provided, if it is needed.

FIRST CLASS

Professor Ben Martin (SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research) has become a member of the Advisory Group for the Royal Society ‘Fruits of Curiosity’ inquiry, looking at the role that science will play in equipping Britain to meet the economic, social and environmental challenges of the next 50 years.

Friendly rivalry at scorching sports contest

Over 100 members of staff enjoyed blazing sunshine and soaring temperatures on 1 July to take part in the annual staff sports afternoon.

The rounders contest was the most hotly contested, with nine teams of nine competing for bragging rights among colleagues. After 12 games lasting more than three-and-a-half hours, USSU 2 (a Students’ Union staff team) emerged victorious, beating Magic Roudnersbat (Human Resources) 9.5–8.3 in the final game.

Meanwhile, three staff football teams — from IDS, SciTech and Estates — were the first to be able to take advantage of a brand-new state-of-the-art artificial pitch at Falmer Sports Complex. Installed only two days before, the new ‘sand-dressed’ pitch uses the latest technology and materials to provide an optimum playing surface for a wide variety of sports. After a mini-tournament of three games, the team from SciTech were crowned winners.

A pool tournament also took place, with Stuart Busfield (Finance) emerging victorious.

Luke Ternill, from Sussexsport, said: “It was great to see so many staff taking part in fun and healthy activities over the course of the afternoon. The good weather really added to what was a great occasion.”

Lifetime achievement award for science writer

Dr John Gribbin, Visiting Research Fellow in Astronomy, has received a lifetime achievement award for his science writing from the World Conference of Science Journalists.

Dr Gribbin, who obtained both his BSc and MSc at Sussex, has published over 100 books, including such works as Science: A History (2003) and The Universe: A Biography (2007). His most well-known work is In Search of Schrödinger’s Cat (1984) and his most recent scientific work is a biography of environmentalist James Lovelock, published this year. Dr Gribbin also writes science fiction.

Dr Mark Hindmarsh, Head of the Physics & Astronomy department, said: “We’re all delighted that John has been honoured in this way. He’s played a vital role for us ever since he did his MSc in Astronomy here in 1987, both communicating and contributing to the exciting research in physics and astrophysics at Sussex and elsewhere.

“I’m also very pleased that he’s agreed to teach a course next year on ‘Our Place in the Cosmos’, designed for arts and humanities students – they’re in for a treat!”

The Director of the Astronomy Centre at Sussex, Dr Seb Oliver, said: “Everyone in the Astronomy Centre is thrilled that John’s work has been recognised by this award.

“The Astronomy Centre believe that the communication of fundamental science to the broadest community is an essential part of the research process and we are very lucky to have John as a member of our centre.”

You can find out more about Dr Gribbin and his work at www.johngribbin.co.uk
Celebration event for Sussex Plus pilot

Students who had participated in a successful pilot of Sussex Plus came along to the Career Development and Employment Centre’s celebration event in InQuite last month.

The Sussex Plus project aims to make students more employable, by developing their skills and helping them to document and describe them for employers in an impressive ‘webfolio’.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, opened the proceedings by emphasising how much students had achieved in terms of developing teamwork, interpersonal and other skills, and a positive attitude – all important factors in the graduate job market in the current climate.

One group who took part in the pilot are the engineering students who have designed and developed a racing car for the ‘Formula Student’ competition at Silverstone motor racing circuit. Mobil1 Team Sussex, as they are known, brought a display of tyres and wheels from the car to the celebration event and a film produced by their student media team showed what they had achieved through their project.

Other student groups involved in the Sussex Plus pilot in 2008-09 included the curators of an exhibition of photographs by Lord Healey, Junior Research Associates (undergraduates who gain experience of hands-on research work), year 2 geographers and Year Abroad students.

The value of all the initiatives involved in the pilot, to both students and to the University, was evident during the evening.

Three students spoke enthusiastically about their involvement with the ‘experience Factor’ schools and colleges programme, which provides Sussex students with the opportunity to volunteer in local schools, and with work shadowing undertaken at Fallon advertising agency in London.

Shamir Dawood, a student on the BA in Drama Studies and English, recounted the trials and tribulations of producing a play on the Brighton Festival Fringe – one of the projects that received funding from the Student Enterprise Fund.

Quotes from students included:

- “I believe completing Sussex Plus contributed toward me getting a job. It was great to know further support is available at the Career Development and Employment Centre.”
- “Sussex Plus helped me apply for an MA course.”
- “Sussex Plus helped me recognise what I’d been doing.”
- “The schools programme has really helped to make up my mind about my future.”

Student feedback has moulded phase 2 of the Sussex Plus project for 2009-10, when students will be encouraged to develop their skills and employability through paid and voluntary work experience, interests and activities, and to complete a multimedia webfolio to showcase these skills to employers.

See www.sussex.ac.uk/careers for more information in the autumn.

Sussex students win SEPnet work placements

Four students from the Of Physics & Astronomy department have won summer work placements through the South East Physics Network (SEPnet).

SEPnet is offering bursaries to successful applicants from each of its six partner universities to conduct eight-week summer work placements, in an effort to promote the transfer of resources and knowledge of physics in the south-east.

The bursaries are awarded to students who secure placements in a research department of another SEPnet university or with an industrial partner.

Siley Ng, a 3rd-year Astrophysics MPhys student, and Francesca Sage-Ling, a 2nd-year student on the MPhys in Physics, both won placements at the University of Kent.

Alice McKenna, also a 2nd-year Physics MPhys student, is off to the University of Southampton.

And Catherine Shepherd, a 2nd-year undergraduate on the BSc in Physics, will be working as a presenter/demonstrator of physical science activities at a science centre.

SEPnet Director of Employability, Linda Stone, said: “The students from Sussex really worked hard to secure the placements. Many attended interviews during the lead-up to exams and coped well with the pressure, producing excellent CVs and impressing their potential supervisors.”

SEPnet is a consortium of six partner physics departments at the Universities of Sussex, Kent, Southampton, Surrey and University of London’s Queen Mary and Royal Holloway, working together with the common objective of advancing and protecting physics.

New study site for researchers

As a result of the Doctoral School’s commitment to the professional development of Sussex doctoral researchers, a new Study Direct site has been launched.

‘DR2 Online: Learning for Researchers’ presents 10 online study modules that focus on essential research skills at doctoral level and beyond.

The modules are interactive, with visual and audio content presenting solid advice, examples and exercises based on the real-life experiences of professional researchers at all levels in a cross-section of disciplines.

Topics covered include:

- Intellectual Property in the Research Context
- Career Planning in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences
- Ethics: Good Research Practice and Working with Human Participants
- Research Project Management: Conferences: Selecting, Presenting & Networking
- Getting Published
- Managing your Research Supervisor

These modules are available to doctoral researchers now – go to www.sussex.ac.uk/sp2/1.5-3.html for more details.

Sussex Energy Group provides input to Carbon Trust report

A team from the Sussex Energy Group, led by Dr Ivan Scrase, contributed a background paper on innovation policy to the Carbon Trust to inform its latest report, ‘Focus for Success: A new approach to commercialising low carbon technologies’.

The Carbon Trust is an independent company set up by the government in 2001 to promote a low-carbon economy in the UK.

The report http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/publications/publicationdetail?productid=CTC752 was launched on 2 July.

In addition, research from the Sussex Energy Group on low carbon technology transfer is featured in the UK government’s new publication, The Road to Copenhagen.

The report puts the government’s case for “an ambitious international agreement on climate change”.
Film competition looks for Sussex’s best bits

Students can win cash prizes for making a short film about the benefits of studying at the University of Sussex.

The University is running a competition, now in its second year, to find the best three-minute film that does just this, in a 2009 competition of thousands of international students, Sussex was once again voted the “best place to be” in England.

The winning filmmaker (or group) will receive a £500 prize and have their film showcased on the University website. Two runners-up will each be awarded £150 prizes.

A panel of judges made up of staff and students will be looking for films that shed light on the benefits of the university, explaining what it is that makes Sussex so special to students, be it the campus, the people, or perhaps the city life in Brighton.

The competition is open to all Sussex students, including those graduating this summer, those studying over the summer and new students arriving in September and October. The closing date is 4 November 2009.

For more information and details of how to enter, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/students/filmcompetition

Pupils get a lesson in university life

Teenagers from schools around Sussex sampled university life and even ‘graduated’ last week, as part of a special scheme at the University of Sussex.

The 40 Year 11 students taking part in the Sussex Aimhigher Summer School have no family experience of higher education, so the week gave them a chance to see what it’s like being on campus, attending lectures, making new friends and trying different activities.

The 15- and 16-year-olds were then asked to give a presentation on an aspect of the week that had interested them, at a special ‘graduation ceremony’.

The sessions at the Sussex campus – under the banner of ‘Futureactive’ – investigated how the media reports on developments in science and technology and involved schools in a lot of hands-on experience and sessions with academics.

A similar Aimhigher project, ‘Cracking Crime’, was running at the University of Brighton.

Both projects were organised in association with Aimhigher in the South East, which works to encourage children to consider further and higher education.

Vacation opening times

Summer vacation opening times

Summer vacation: 29 June – 2 Oct inclusive
Closure day: 31 Aug. All locations closed weekends and closure days unless stated.

Catering outlets

Baguette Express: 8am–3pm
Bramber House coffee shop: 8.30am – 4.30pm and 5pm – 8.30pm Mon–Fri
Downs Restaurant: 12noon–2pm
East Slope Bar: 1pm–11pm Mon–Fri; 5pm–11pm Sat and Sun
Library Café (Bolthole): 11am–4pm Mon–Fri
Falmer Bar: Closed

School cafes

Bridge Café: 9am - 4pm until 10 August; 10 August – 25 September
8.30am–3.30pm
Chichester 1: 8.30am–4pm (closed mid-August until end September)
Dhaba (Arts C): 9am–3.30pm
Doctor’s Orders: 8.30am–3.30pm (closed mid-Aug until end Sep)
Hums (Arts A): 9am–4pm
Life Sciences (John Maynard Smith): 9am–4pm

Holding an open lecture?

Anyone holding a high-profile open lecture is able to request its status as one of the Sussex Lectures, which are coordinated by the Development and Alumni Relations Office to promote the University’s research and teaching and to provide opportunities for alumni and friends to celebrate and support this work.

Each term, over 2,000 people receive a leaflet detailing the lectures throughout the programme. Over 2,000 more leaflets are distributed across campus and through local libraries and community centres. The lectures are also promoted online through the events diary.

Contact Amy Stevens on a.j.stevens@sussex.ac.uk or ext. 7488 for more details.

bulletin

The fortnightly Bulletin is written and produced by Alison Field and James Hainer. The next issue will be out on 31 July, with a copy deadline of 1pm on 24 July.

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. 8888 or email internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk.