Work on link road begins

Work has started on the construction of a new link road for the University of Sussex campus and a new bridge and traffic lights at the A270/Stanmer Park link road junction.

After the link road has been built, the access road from the A270 to Stanmer Park will be widened and at a later date the existing entrance to campus from the A27 via Falmer House Road will be closed except for emergency access.

The improvements, which will take a year in total, are a condition of the planning permission for Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club’s stadium development at Falmer and will enable the opening of the stadium in time for the start of the 2011–12 season.

The works, which are being funded by a £5 million grant from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), include:

- construction of a new campus access road along the southern edge of Stanmer Park, giving Sussex staff and students an additional exit (November 2009 to April 2010),
- widening and upgrading of the existing access road to and from Stanmer Park (late January to early March 2010),
- and construction of a new flyover bridge and traffic lights at the A270/Stanmer Park link road junction (November 2009 to October 2010).

Access to campus and to Stanmer Park will be maintained at all times during the work.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Layzell, said: “The road will give us the long sought-after benefit of an additional exit off campus, reducing waiting times for drivers at Knights Gate Road.”

Councillor Ted Kemble, Brighton & Hove City Council cabinet member for major projects, said: “These works are a crucial part of delivering the community stadium and form one of the largest highways contracts delivered by the council in many years.”

If you have any comments or questions for the contractor working on the project, email internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk and they will be passed on.

For further details about the link road, as well as background information on how the stadium development affects Sussex, see www.sussex.ac.uk/falmerstadium

Vice- Chancellor extends China partnerships

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, returned to China last month to follow up on some of the contacts made during his meetings in Beijing in May 2009, and also to strengthen other Sussex partnerships with institutions in Beijing and Nanjing and the newly established alumni group.

One of the most important events during the visit was the signing of an agreement with the China Scholarships Council (CSC).

This is a non-profit institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education, responsible for the management of the State Scholarship Fund, administering over 12,000 awards for overseas study annually.

Under the agreement Sussex has committed to offer joint awards for up to eight DPhil and visiting researchers each year; Sussex programmes will be promoted in the leading Chinese universities.

The Vice-Chancellor also had discussions at Nanjing University, Tsinghua University in Beijing, Renmin University and the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Commenting on his visit, Professor Farthing said: “We have been able to take Sussex’s partnership strategy to a new level with some of the leading universities in China, by building on the links which our faculty have already made with colleagues in these institutions.

“New opportunities have been opened up for both research and teaching collaboration, and I am looking forward to welcoming delegations from Tsinghua and Renmin Universities at the end of November.”

Ins ide

2 Big Bang
Sussex physicists join experiment to re-enact the birth of Universe.

3 Finances
VC on why targeted change is the right way to tackle deficit.

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20 ideas in 20 seconds each! Event to launch creative network.

6 Obituaries
SPRU pays tribute to two former staff who died recently.

7 Generous
Prof James Hirschfeld donates £20,000 for Maths student prize.
Sussex physicists are taking part in one of the biggest experiments ever constructed to re-eract the birth of the Universe.

A group led by Dr Antonella De Santo are now among 3,000 scientists taking part in the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN, one of the largest and most prestigious physics research laboratories in the world, near Geneva in Switzerland.

ATLAS is one of the two multi-purpose particle physics experiments at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a circular, 27 km-long accelerator ring located about 100 metres underground across the French-Swiss border.

With data-taking starting in the next few weeks, the ATLAS detector (about half as big as the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and weighing 7,000 tons) will seek to discover new physics in the head-on collisions of protons of extraordinarily high energy. Through the data obtained from these collisions, ATLAS will learn about the basic forces that have shaped our Universe since the beginning of time.

Members of the Sussex ATLAS team are making major contributions to the ATLAS project, including searching for Supersymmetry (which predicts the existence "partners" of known particles, which have so far eluded detection). The team will also contribute to the ATLAS trigger system, the experiment’s "brain" that must decide which data to keep for further analysis.

The ATLAS experiment will take Sussex physicists into unknown territory, which could shed new light on fundamental questions such as the origin of mass, the nature of Dark Matter in our Universe, or even allow exploring the existence of yet undiscovered additional dimensions of space.

Antonella is working full-time on ATLAS at Sussex with colleague Dr Fabrizio Salvatore and another four fellow researchers, including two DPhil students.

She says: "After a long year of hard work to lead the group into ATLAS, I am extremely pleased that Sussex is now part of the Collaboration. With first collisions expected in a matter of weeks, experimental particle physics is set to enter a new golden era. There couldn’t be a better time to join ATLAS, one of the most exciting physics endeavours for generations. It’s just great that Sussex can be part of it!"

Professor Philip Harris, head of the Experimental Particle Physics (EPP) group in the Physics and Astronomy department, says: "This is a great achievement for our group, which is now one of only two in the country to be involved in two of the Science and Technology Facilities Council’s three highest priority particle physics experiments."

Head of the Physics and Astronomy department, Dr Mark Hindmarsh, says: "The news confirm Sussex’s outstanding international reputation for research. These are exciting times for science and we look forward to sharing our EPP colleagues’ successes for many years to come."

Sussex shines in European university excellence ranking

Sussex has been ranked among the top universities in Europe for excellence in politics, economics and psychology, in the CHE Excellence Ranking 2009.

Sussex features in the three Excellence Groups that comprise the rankings, thanks to outstanding achievements in research citations and publications, placing it among the top 11 out of 34 featured UK institutions, alongside Oxford, Manchester and Warwick.

The rankings, produced by the German-based independent education think tank CHE (Centre for Higher Education Development) and published in German national newspaper Die Zeit on 28 October (see www.zeit.de/excellencerranking), are based on analysis of individual research areas at universities across Europe.

Every year, the CHE compiles a new CHE-University Ranking, comparing European universities for first-year students. A relatively new initiative, the CHE-Excellence Ranking (www.che-excellencerranking.eu) provides a comparison of the best European university research facilities for prospective Master’s and doctoral programme students.

Excellence Group selection is based on six criteria relating to research excellence and internationalisation: number of publications, number of citations, number of most-cited authors, number of Marie Curie programmes, offering of an Erasmus Mundus Master’s course, teaching staff mobility, student mobility, and highly cited books. Selection also involved an institutional survey and a student survey.

The ranking is presented as a "multi-dimensional" analysis of European institutions, based on the idea that there is no "best" higher education institution. Instead of crowning an overall winner, stars are given to departments that do particularly well in any one indicator. This methodology is regarded by CHE as the most useful way to inform students of the best options open to them for further study.

Professor Bob Allison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), says: "Sussex has always been a university focused on research and the importance of an international outlook, so it is gratifying to see this focus translated into internationally recognised research."

"With the introduction of the new Doctoral School, new schools of study and research themes that look to address global challenges, we will enhance further our appeal to discerning research students from beyond the UK."

In last year’s inaugural round, analyses for biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics were presented, which will be re-visited in the ranking for 2010.
Costs of creating the new schools

At one of the staff open meetings (Tuesday 3 November) with the Vice-Chancellor, the Finance Director provided information on the costs of creating the new schools.

The largest costs associated with the new schools relate to the professional services staffing support provided. The goal was that the new support structure should not cost any more than the structure for the old schools, with the goal of the end of 2009-10 for achieving this aim.

The overall staffing support costs of the old schools structure was £5.25m for 2008-09. The new structures – including the small number of new roles within central teams, as well as directly within the clusters and the new schools themselves – were costed at around £100,000 higher, right at the start of 2009-10. With normal staff turnover, it is expected that they will be 'cost neutral' by the end of the financial year 2009-10.

The costs of the new structures were closely monitored by Finance Division throughout the process of the development and the creation of the new schools.

There were also known and planned one-off costs of change associated with the creation of the new schools during 2008-09. Much of these were around ensuring that an effective project-management approach was taken to managing the creation of the new schools.

These costs, which were reported to the regular meetings of the Programme Management Board, were £350,000, which covered:

- secondment of Sussex staff to run the project and the Programme Management Office;
- external consultancy support on process change, training project-management staff and running workshops and training;
- other miscellaneous costs (e.g. production of the New schools update e-newsletter).

In addition, office refurbishments were carried out to facilitate and bring together new staff into school and cluster offices, totalling £250,000, provided from within existing estates budgets.

Targeted change is right

It is important for all colleagues to understand the magnitude of the financial challenge that we are facing and how we are approaching this.

It was therefore good to be able to welcome hundreds of staff earlier this week to the two open meetings in the Terrace Room of Bramber House.

Most of my presentation focused on the financial position facing the public sector and higher education, and Sussex in particular, and the steps that we are taking collectively at Sussex to address this.

I want to repeat some of the key points here and to reflect on a number of the points that were raised in the discussion.

It is clear that the wider public sector will see continued reductions in funding over the coming years – and, while higher education is rightly seen by government as an engine for future economic development, it is not immune to tighter funding pressures. Many other leading universities have already published plans for significant cost reductions.

“We expect to publish a proposal this term.”

I was pleased that colleagues recognised and acknowledged the need to take action to address our deficit position – that is the need to reduce our costs and increase our income in a sustainable way.

The approach set by Council in the summer confirms that growing and developing academic activity as set out in Making the Future remains a key objective. But that alone is not enough.

Targeted reductions in costs, which seek to ensure that schools tackle the deficits they face, are the right way to proceed. Seeking to reduce and eliminate cross-subsidy between schools helps us to ensure that all parts of the University can grow and develop.

Supporting that will be the significant but affordable investment in our buildings and wider estate that Council has endorsed to ensure that we can deliver high-quality research and an excellent student experience.

The plans that come forward will be academically driven ones that have a 'hands on' delivery so that we are able to deliver high-quality programmes for our students.

We will also bring forward plans to ensure the professional services are providing good value for money.

While I can confirm – as asked at the open meeting – that the support structure for the new schools is no more expensive than its predecessor, that does not mean that for the professional services as a whole we already have the most efficient and effective systems in place.

I also want to make clear that, while ideas are indeed being developed by academic heads of school, and by heads of teams in the professional services, there is as yet no proposal formally made for Sussex. We expect to publish a proposal this term.

I also want to affirm that we will be consulting on the proposal and engaging with staff and students so they can feed back on the plans presented. No decisions will be made prior to that. It will ultimately be for Council, in the spring, to make decisions in light of that consultation process.

I want to repeat what I said in response to questions: in taking all of this action forward we will continue to follow the processes that have been put in place by Senate and Council. No one is helped by processes that are not clear and open. The Senate Working Group, for example, have provided a clear academic framework for plans and a process for managing programme change.

For those colleagues unable to attend the meetings, a podcast of my presentation and the slides are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/vc/openmeeting
Sussex academics help ‘The One Show’ talk to the animals

When the BBC’s popular teatime programme ‘The One Show’ went looking for help with a series of wildlife films about animal communication, they called on scientific expertise at the University of Sussex.

The results of their efforts can be seen on ‘The One Show’ next week, at 7pm on Thursday (12 November) and Friday (13 November) on BBC One, as part of a week-long sequence of special wildlife reports for the programme.

Presenters Miranda Krestovnikoff and Mike Dilger will be competing during the week to see who can best communicate with different animals (bees, wrens, toads, woodpeckers and deer).

Bee biologists in the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) will feature on Thursday’s programme, showing how bees share information about where to find the best nectar and pollen.

Presenter and naturalist Mike Dilger and a film crew spent a day at LASI. Mike learnt about how honey bees communicate with each other and how to trace where bees forage.

Dr Karin Alton, who is a member of the LASI team, says: “We’re always pleased to act as an interface between science and the public.”

On Friday, psychologist Dr David Reby’s advice forms the basis of an experiment to attract the attention of red deer males by mimicking their calls through a special instrument.

David, who specialises in the origin, structure and function of vocal signals in mammals, was called on to help with the design of an instrument that would mimic the sound of male deer. He gave advice on the construction and dimensions of a pipe that Miranda could blow down to imitate the roar of red deer.

A ‘One Show’ spokesperson said: “It sounded amazing. We put Miranda up a tree in a deer park and the sound she made produced a definite reaction from a nearby stag.”

David has conducted research into the ability of red deer males to compete via sound cues that advertise the size and strength of any individual to other males and to females.

In demand: ‘The One Show’ presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff imitates the roar of red deer, and a film crew from the show visit the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) on campus.
Chemistry professor’s drama has an element of surprise

Chemistry Professor Malcolm Heggie is taking to the stage to highlight the importance of carbon.

A ‘virtual’ lecture delivered by Malcolm will be at the centre of Elementary Carbon, a play being devised by critically acclaimed company Organic Theatre. The aim is to highlight the amazing properties and boundless possibilities of carbon, more often linked these days with global warming and climate change.

Malcolm says: “The threat of global warming and climate change means that we have to aim to be a low carbon society. But that’s a lazy shorthand for a low CO₂ society.

“Carbon is actually wonderful: formed by the stars and responsible for everything from the graphite in pencils to diamonds. Strong yet lightweight, its potential uses are limited only by our imagination and it is fundamental to technological development.”

Malcolm is advising on the project via a series of workshops and his resulting lecture will serve as a springboard for the action on stage. The actors will devise scenes, create art and develop opportunities for audience participation for the play. It will be performed in next year’s Brighton Science Festival, before embarking on a tour during February and March 2010.

Three workshops have already taken place – the latest in the multimedia Creativity Zone (InQbate).

Malcolm, who researches the structure of carbon, first became interested in a theatrical approach for his public lectures to explain complex ideas.

He says: “It’s important to get science across to the public, so I like to undertake public lectures.

“I’m a theoretical chemist, which is the most formally demanding and mathematical branch of chemistry, so I branched out into an area the public were instinctively interested in: The Chemistry of Smell, Taste and Sex. Now I am returning to my own research area.

“To get the science across, and to stop the audience from losing interest, I decided to try something more entertaining than a formal lecture. Hence the Elementary Carbon project. It’s a pleasure to do.”

A long association with actors John Dean and Bianca Mastrominice, including producing their Edinburgh Festival play Sheepskin, led to Malcolm teaming up with Edinburgh-based Organic Theatre.

John Dean says: “We’re all breaking new ground and are looking forward to taking the resulting piece to schools, universities and science festivals across the country in 2010.

“We’re particularly enjoying the interaction between the two disciplines of chemistry and performance, which on the surface seem so distant, but actually have much in common.”

The project is supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) fund for Partnerships in Public Engagement.

Creative ‘chit-chat’ to launch collaborative network

Do you have exciting research or creative work that you could present in just 20 slides, lasting 20 seconds each?

If so, you could present your work at the University’s first Pecha Kucha night, a highly successful format for exchanging ideas and information that has taken the world’s creative, academic and business communities by storm.

Pecha Kucha – derived from the Japanese term for ‘chit-chat’ – is a presentation format in which content can be easily, efficiently and informally shown, for a total time of six minutes and 40 seconds.

The Research and Enterprise team at Sussex is holding a Pecha Kucha night on 25 November to launch the Creative Network, a series of informal gatherings to encourage leading artists, researchers, practitioners and policy makers to exchange ideas and collaborate on research projects.

If you would like to present your work, email brydie.maguire@sussex.ac.uk and include your name, school and research area, plus:

• three sentences on what your research passion is,
• what you’d like to present,
• and two or three example images that represent your work.

The event is being held in association with Pecha Kucha Night Brighton and Creative Brighton, and takes place in InQbate Creativity Zone on campus, starting at 5.15pm.

Walks and talks on White Night

The University of Sussex was involved with two events in Brighton’s White Night festival on Saturday 24 October.

The festival marks the end of British Summer Time and is a series of cultural events that take place during the night. This year’s festival, Brighton’s second, took the theme of fortune.

Local historian Geoffrey Mead, who teaches at the Centre for Community Engagement (CCE), conducted a walking tour around Brighton’s historic nooks and crannies on the rise and fall of its fame and fortune down the ages.

The walk took in areas such as the Royal Pavilion estate and the Old Steine area, and comparing them to the Carlton Hill and Edward Street areas, a traditional inner-city poor district of bygone Brighton, which features in Graham Greene’s Brighton Rock.

Geoffrey was approached by Brighton and Hove Council to lead walks for the first White Night event last year.

He said: “Night walks give a different dimension to historical tours. Buildings look dramatic lit by street lamps, and cast into deep shadow, the present recedes and the flavour of earlier urban landscapes comes to the fore.

“I love promoting all aspects of my home city and these White Night events draw in old devotees of Brighton history plus new audiences.”

Meanwhile, out-of-town adventurers were able to explore ancient history and the night sky at Hollingbury hillfort at an event organised by CCE as part of the Festival of Learning, which had its launch on White Night.
Obituaries

The two founders of the widely known energy research work in SPRU – Science and Technology Policy Research both died in the late summer.

Professor John Surrey passed away on 8 August after struggling with illness for some years. An economist originally from LSE, John came to SPRU in 1969, following Chris Freeman, the founding director of SPRU, from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

He established an energy policy research activity which was at the time unique in the country, four years ahead of the first oil crisis of 1973.

He soon recruited John Cheshire and subsequently a large team of researchers, several of whom have subsequently, following his generous mentoring, gone on to achieve professorial status.

John’s earlier career had also included British Railways and the civil service and his work always bore the hallmark of political economy rather than a narrow interpretation of economics. He published an influential book with Lesley Cook (from the 10 years, Economics Department) in 1977 on energy policy and after many other wide-ranging publications over the next two decades a edited a well-received collection in 1998 on The British Electricity Experiment.

He had a massive influence on the evolution of social science-based energy research in the UK and succeeded, with John Cheshire, in winning SPRU a flow of large ESRC research centre grants continuously from 1979 till 1997.

He always aimed his work at the policy system as well as the academic community and actively engaged in national and European energy policy processes.

While he worked as an adviser to both Government and Parliament he always preferred the scrutiny role of Parliament and served as Specialist Adviser to countless Parliamentary Select Committee inquiries on energy subjects. He had real influence on the culture and practice of UK energy policy.

Professor John Cheshire OBE died on 12 September at the age of 62, after a short but devastating illness brought on by lung cancer.

John was the first of John Surrey’s many recruits to the Energy group of SPRU and took over its leadership in 1990, having worked closely with John Surrey for over 25 years.

He spent his early working life as an industrial economic adviser to the TUC. A life-long Fabian, he was always deeply interested in the distributional consequences of energy and other economic policy. While his economic analysis was always rigorous, he always wanted his work to make an impact on public policy, and his great specialisation was in the analysis of energy demand and energy conservation.

This was especially true in relation to the ‘fuel poor’, for whom he researched and campaigned with something close to ferocity. His OBE was in recognition of his huge contribution to the improvement of energy efficiency and his tireless campaigning for a better deal for the ‘fuel poor’.

In the early years at SPRU, his major academic contribution was the dull-sounding but vitally important ‘boiler study’, which greatly increased understanding of how 20% of UK energy was used. This was a huge, ambitious empirical project collecting and analysing thousands of items of data before personal computers had been invented.

John was later an influential figure in the analysis of the big energy privatisations that took place between 1986 and 1996.

John took early retirement from the University in 2000 but this in no way diminished his high levels of energy and activity.

Having already been deeply engaged in the world of energy policy – like John Surrey he was Specialist Adviser to many Parliamentary Select Committee inquiries from the late 1970s onwards – he began a career, closely following on from his university work, in public-sector consultancy.

Professor Gordon MacKerron, SPRU

Sussex appoints Director of Academic Programmes

Dr David Robinson, Reader in Physical Geography, has been appointed to the new half-time post of Director of Academic Programmes.

The post has been created to assist the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) in ensuring that the University’s strategic and operational plans for taught provision are achieved.

David reports to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and will work closely and collaboratively with the other pro-vice-chancellors, heads of school, directors of taught programmes, the Academic Registrar, Head of Academic Registry and Head of the Partnership Office.

He is also the senior Sussex link to the International Study Centre on campus, which offers a pathway to the University of Sussex for international students who require specialist preparation before moving onto their degree.

David will chair the Academic Programmes and Regulation Committee as well as the Collaborative Provision Committee, which oversees the University’s links with partner institutions.

David has held numerous senior administrative posts at Sussex. Currently Director of Taught Programmes in the School of Global Studies, he previously held the same post in the School of Social Science and Cultural Studies, where in addition he acted as Dean from January to July 2009. From 1993–99 he was Dean of the School of African and Asian Studies.

David, whose appointment is for two years in the first instance, will combine his duties with being an academic member of faculty.
Changing cafes

As a major investment in catering services continues on campus, the number and location of cafes is changing.

The University's catering plan consolidates the number of outlets, with fewer but larger cafes spread across the campus, in the optimum locations for different groups of staff and students.

This transition started in July with the closure of the tea bar in the John Maynard Smith building, which was operated by external catering company Four Seasons.

Sarah Wilkinson, Commercial Operations Manager, said: "I would like to thank the Four Seasons team for providing an excellent service to Life Sciences over the years."

The new Arts Plaza cafe, now being built at the south end of Arts A where the bike racks used to be, is due to open in January. Offering a broad selection of drinks and beverages and 'Grab & Go' snacks, it will be run by Catering Services and will replace the existing cafe in Arts A, which is operated by Four Seasons and which will close in the late spring.

Meanwhile, the Doctors' Orders cafe in the Medical School building and the cafe in Chichester 1 will both be closed for refurbishment over the Christmas vacation, reopening for the start of the spring term.

And as part of a major refurbishment of the Library, due to take place between December 2009 and spring 2011, an upgraded cafe with a courtyard area will be created on the ground floor.

The existence of these new and refurbished outlets means that the catering concession on the cafe in the Richmond building (formerly Engg 2) will not be renewed at the end of the academic year 2009-10.

In addition to improvements in the location and design of campus cafes, a major feature of the catering plan is the modernisation of Bramber House, due to start at Easter 2010 and comprising the remodelling and refurbishment of both the ground and first floors and the installation of a new central kitchen.

The main aim of this investment is to enhance the experience of all customers on campus, including students, staff and visitors. Another key objective is to support Catering Services in delivering a financial surplus, ensuring reinvestment in the facilities in future years.

Based on the findings and recommendations of a review in 2007, Catering Services have been developing a broader range of food provision (including healthier options) and supporting local suppliers, and have introduced biodegradable packaging.

Influential alumni offer industry insight

A BAFTA-winning director, the head of the National Film and Television School and the writer and co-creator of hit BBC TV show 'Life on Mars' are among the notable Sussex alumni who will speak to students in a series of careers events next month.

On 11 November, Olivia Lichtenstein - who won a BAFTA with her 1994 film Silent Twins: Without my Shadow, which profiled June Gibbons, who spent 14 years in Broadmoor - will speak to students about her career as a director and fledgling novelist.

Students interested in working in the media industry can also make contact with the likes of Ashley Pharoah (award-winning writer of BBC's 'Life on Mars'); Nik Powell, the director of the National Film and Television School; Mark D'Arcy, presenter of BBC Radio 4's 'Today in Parliament'; Keme Nzerem of 'Channel 4 News'; and novelist Linda James.

On Tuesday 10 November, there is an event dedicated to the legal profession with talks by lawyers and barristers who studied at Sussex.

There will also be a special Enterprise Thursday event on 12 November with Darren Fell, founder of Pure, Freelance Advisor and Crunch, who will be joined by a panel of freelancers from different industries including art, film, creative writing and digital media. Sussex alumni Paul Bunkham (internet application specialist) and Paul Silver (web developer and search engine specialist) will be on the panel to answer questions about being your own boss.

For more information, and to book, go to www.sussex.ac.uk/col/col/events_listing

New Hirschfeld prize for Maths undergraduates

Professor James Hirschfeld, tutorial fellow in the Mathematics department within the newly formed School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), has donated £20,000 for undergraduate student prizes.

The Hirschfeld Prize will have a value of £1,000 in the first instance and will be presented until the capital and interest generated by the gift are exhausted.

The prize will be awarded annually to the Sussex student on either a three- or four-year degree who receives the highest marks in Mathematics. If there is more than one eligible candidate, the prize winner will be selected by the head of department.

The first prize will be awarded at the end of this academic year.

James, whose areas of research are finite geometry, algebraic geometry and coding theory, has been at Sussex since 1966 and has held a number of posts, including two stints as Dean of the former School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS).

Professor David Axon, Head of MPS, says: "This is a very generous gesture by James and his family and illustrates the enormous devotion he has to our students. Awarding an annual prize in his name is a most fitting way to honour his many contributions to the success of Mathematics at Sussex."
TUE 10 NOV
4pm SEI seminar: Ian McNemar (Dublin City), Why do parliamentary deputies switch parties? Arts A71.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Susana Campus (Durham), Creating relationships and realities in a Purépecha community in Mexico, Arts C233.

5pm Conflict, Migration and Climate Change seminar: Kirsty Wright (Warid Development Movement) and James Fairhead (Sussex), The chaos in the occupied DR Congo and the impact on Equatorial Rainforest, Silverstone, previously EDB 317.

WED 11 NOV
4pm Art History seminar: Jukana Novi (Sussex), Sixth-century Byzantine descriptions of the Church of Hagia Sofia, Silverstone, previously EDB 317.

5pm Migration seminar: Katy Gardner (Sussex), Transnational South Asian children, Arts C233.

THU 12 NOV
4pm Maths seminar: Mario Ohlberger (Münster), Reduced basis methods for parameterized evolution equations, Mantell 2A1.

5pm Development lecture: Alison Evans (Overseas Development Institute), Aid and its discontents, Chichester lecture theatre.

FRIDAY 13 NOV
1pm Environmental History seminar: Tristan Stuart, The evolution of the food surplus, Arts A105.

MON 16 NOV
5pm Education seminar: Tom Schuller (Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning), Learning through life: Meeting the challenges of demographic and employment change, Pevensy 1A06.

TUE 17 NOV
4pm American Studies seminar: John Fagg (Nottingham), Codgers and Populism of the Cover of the Post.

4pm SEI seminar: Ekaterina Rashkova (Sussex), Political learning and the number of parties: Why age matters, Arts A71.

4.15pm Anthropology seminar: Myriem Naj (UCI), The value of weaving activity in Southern Morocco, Arts C233.

6.30pm Professorial Lecture: Keith Calcott (Sussex), Breaking and repairing human genes, BISMS lecture theatre.

8pm Café Scientifique: Anil Seth (Sussex), Consciousness in humans and other animals, Latest Music Bar, Brighton.

WED 18 NOV
4pm Art History seminar: Jenny Lund (Brighton Museum and Art Gallery), Film in the performative practice of Paris Dada, Silverstone, previously EDB 317.

5pm Migration seminar: Sara Silvestre (London), Islam in the political system of the EU, Arts C233.

THU 19 NOV
1pm Geography seminar: Philip Howells (Cranbridge), The Inhabitants Acts and the state control of "habitual drunkards", Arts C175.

4pm Maths seminar: Dorothy Buc (Imperial), The topology of DNA-protein interactions, Mantell 2A1.

5pm Development lecture: Camilla Toulmin (International Institute for Environment and Development), What does a green economy look like, and how might we build one? Chichester lecture theatre.

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**Arts events**

**Percussion premiere**

An innovative new musical work by Dr Sam Hayden will be given its southern premiere at Falmer House Debating Chamber on 20 November.

Actio is a large-scale five-movement work for voice and percussion, using a variety of percussion instruments, from the metal sonorities of vibraphone, gongs and tam-tam to an array of drums, woodblocks and other un-tuned sounds, often featuring rapid changes in timbre, rhythm and register as well as live-electronic sound processing.

It was inspired by a text by French theorist and philosopher Roland Barthes, entitled *Le Plaisir du Texte*.

Sam (pictured right) is a Senior Lecturer in Music at Sussex whose works have been performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta.

He says: "Barthes discusses the ancient Greek concept of Actio, a form of expressive discourse coming directly from the body."

"I was inspired in how an extract of Barthes' rather beautiful text could be performed according to this idea, using voice and percussion: perhaps the most directly physical of all musical instruments. In this context, the meanings of the words become less important than how they sound."

Actio was commissioned by Swiss contemporary music specialists, duo Canto Battuto, and will be performed alongside a new work by Swiss 'audio artists' Blablabor, entitled *Hirsch Hiss Homisse*, which consists of a singer, a percussionist and 60 radios performing questions and statements in four languages.

The two pieces, connected thematically through their use of language, form *Le Grain de la Voix*.

Tickets for the performance at 7.30pm on 20 November cost £8 (£4 students/concessions). Contact Terry Bryan, t.bryant@sussex.ac.uk, for tickets in advance.

The performance is preceded by a free lecture-recital and workshop at 2pm.