Confronting corruption: Dan Hough explains the work of the new Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption/
Sweet truth: Ian McEwan reflects on his Sussex education/
Pioneering dementia research at Sussex: meeting the escalating challenges/
Alumni news, love stories and projects to support
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Chancellor’s welcome</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University news</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research news</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH FOCUS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pioneering dementia research at Sussex</strong></td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The new multi-disciplinary Research Group outline their results and achievements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEATURES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sweet truth</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of English, Professor Tom Healy interviews award-winning author Ian McEwan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Confronting corruption</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Dan Hough describes the global reach of the new Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALUMNI NEWS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get involved</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our friends in the US</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni consuls around the world</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex people</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love in the first degree</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join the Hollywood line up for Lord Attenborough</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking back, with Sir Peter Knight</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Alumni net community**

**Coming soon!**

A new service for all Sussex alumni

Your unique access page to the Sussex Alumni Network, giving you:

- Many more people in the ‘Find your Friends’ section
- Instant update of your details
- Quick online booking for events

**How does it work?**

If you already receive emails from us, we’ll be sending you your unique password in May 2013.

If we don’t have your email address, please go to [www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni) to register or email us at alumni@sussex.ac.uk

---

**Change of name or address?**

Let us know so that we can keep our records updated at: [www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni)
or telephone +44 (0)1273 678258

Your data is securely held by us and will be treated confidentially and with respect. It will not be made available to anyone other than representatives of our organisation and is managed in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). Full details can be found at [www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni)
Welcome to the Spring 2013 issue of Falmer magazine. I hope we once again provide you with some insight into how the University is developing, what we have been up to in recent months and how you can continue to be involved in our worldwide Sussex community.

As I write this, we have just welcomed another 2,200 graduates to our alumni family – with our largest ever winter graduation ceremonies held once again in the beautiful Brighton Dome. With graduands from 115 countries across the world, this showed that the remarkable international reach of Sussex continues to expand.

In this issue, I am especially delighted that we can bring you an exclusive interview with author and Sussex alumnus Ian McEwan, who talks to our Head of the School of English, Professor Tom Healy. Ian was one of our 50th Anniversary Gold Medal recipients in the summer – and he told us then how he had created a character in his latest work set at Sussex and initially called him – by remarkable coincidence – Tom Healy. Find out how he gets on with the real life Tom.

We also feature some of the latest Sussex research – such as our new Dementia Research Group, which is helping to tackle this increasingly prevalent and debilitating condition. And Professor Dan Hough writes about the new Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption that he leads and his vision for its development.

Significant campus developments include our new £30million Jubilee Building, which has now opened as home to the fast growing School of Business, Management and Economics, including SPRU.

Finally, I should note that the growth of the campus and of our academic schools’ research and teaching is in significant part due to the success of our 2009 strategic plan – Making the Future. In the coming months, we will be refining our new strategic plan for 2013-2018 and hope that, once again, members of our alumni community will be able to play a key role in supporting innovative developments at Sussex.

Best wishes to all our alumni across the world.
The innovative First-Generation Scholarships scheme includes a generous financial support package for every qualifying Sussex student, going far beyond requirements laid down by the Government. It also offers wide-ranging personal advice and guidance before, during and after university.

The scheme is supported by philanthropic donations from the Wates Family Charities, kindly facilitated by Council member Chris Brodie; the Hollick Family Charitable Trust, made possible by Lady Hollick (ENGAM 1964) and Caroline Kemp (AFRAS 1967); as well as other individual Sussex graduates.

Sussex welcomes over 800 First-Generation Scholars

Professor Clare Mackie, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), formally welcomed the first cohort of 815 First-Generation Scholars to Sussex at a reception in December.

The innovative First-Generation Scholarships scheme includes a generous financial support package for every qualifying Sussex student, going far beyond requirements laid down by the Government. It also offers wide-ranging personal advice and guidance before, during and after university.

The scheme is supported by philanthropic donations from the Wates Family Charities, kindly facilitated by Council member Chris Brodie; the Hollick Family Charitable Trust, made possible by Lady Hollick (ENGAM 1964) and Caroline Kemp (AFRAS 1967); as well as other individual Sussex graduates.

The start of the sciences at Sussex

Speaking to over 300 guests in December, former Vice-Chancellor Lord Asa Briggs recalled how the sciences were established at Sussex. He noted how our intellectual history had provided fascinating perspectives on the history of science – exemplifying the interdisciplinarity tradition that is characteristic of the University.
Sussex awards gold medals

Eight leading writers, artists, thinkers and scientists were selected to receive gold medals designed by architect Anthony Blee, who worked with Sir Basil Spence on the original plans for the University. These medals were awarded as part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

Distinguished historian and former Vice-Chancellor of Sussex Lord Briggs joined three Sussex alumni – Booker Prize-winning author Ian McEwan, Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller and former President of Botswana Festus Mogae – for a special presentation ceremony at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton on 17 July 2012.

Medals have also been accepted by Professor Emeritus Margaret Boden OBE, who is a world authority on artificial intelligence, and Nobel Prize winners Professor Sir Harry Kroto, Sir Paul Nurse and Sir Anthony Leggett – all of whom carried out groundbreaking research at Sussex during their academic careers.

The recipients were nominated and selected by a committee consisting of academics, alumni and the University’s governing body.

Commenting on the awards the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, said: ‘We received many nominations, but I believe that, in our final selection, we have a group of individuals whose remarkable achievements are recognised the world over. We are extremely proud to be associated with them and to be able to bestow this honour upon them.’

Outstanding Stone wins gold again

Philippa Gregory fills the historical gaps

Best-selling historical novelist Philippa Gregory (ENGAM 1975), whose many books include The Other Boleyn Girl and The White Queen, revealed to a packed lecture theatre on campus how she enjoys ‘filling the gaps’ in historical accounts.

She said that, as a novelist, she wants to understand the feelings of a character in any situation. This is how she is able to imagine links between historical events. ‘Fiction is about imagined feelings and thoughts. History depends on the outer life. The novel is always about the inner life. Fiction can sometimes do more than history. It can fill the gaps.’

50 Fellowships conferred

In September, Sussex awarded fellowships to people associated with the University who have made a distinguished contribution in any field or activity since its foundation in 1961.

Historical novelist Philippa Gregory (ENGAM 1975), Georgina Mace (SCITECH 1975) and Sean Phelan (ENGG 1977) joined fellow recipients including BBC radio broadcaster Robin Lustig (AFRAS 1967), environmentalist Jonathon Porritt and the Astronomer Royal Professor Lord (Martin) Rees for a special presentation ceremony.

Presenting the awards the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, said that the array of people being honoured illustrated the remarkable impact Sussex has had in its first 50 years: ‘We are now looking forward to the next 50 years, to develop and grow the University in the same ambitious spirit as in its founding.’

A list of all 50 recipients is available at: www.sussex.ac.uk/fiftyyears/50fellowships

Sussex graduate David Stone MBE (Social Work 2003) successfully defended his Paralympics title in September, winning gold for Great Britain in the mixed T1-2 cycling road race. He finished the 24-kilometre race in 45 minutes and 17 seconds, to win his third Paralympic gold medal.

David was presented with an honorary degree at the 2013 Winter Graduation ceremony for his outstanding contribution to sport.
Historic discovery at the Large Hadron Collider

In July 2012, Dr Antonella De Santo and other leading physicists broke the news that scientists at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) had discovered an elusive particle smaller than an atom which is highly likely to be the Higgs boson, which scientists say proves theories of how the universe works.

Dr De Santo and her Sussex team are part of ATLAS, one of two LHC experiments and were responsible for collecting and analysing data created by the LHC, in which high-energy beams are smashed together deep below the earth’s surface at CERN to recreate conditions in the universe as they were after the Big Bang.

‘The Large Hadron Collider is a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity to do great science and we are now beginning to harvest the fruits of many years of hard work and perseverance. This is a truly collaborative effort and I, with all my colleagues and the young people who work with us, feel very proud and privileged to be part of it’, explained Dr De Santo.

The next step will be to determine the precise nature of the particle and its significance for our understanding of the universe.

Sussex scientists discover first-ever bee ‘soldier’

The discovery was made by a team of scientists from the University of Sussex and the University of São Paulo, including Professor Francis Ratnieks and Dr Christoph Grueter, from the University of Sussex Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI).

The team studied a common tropical stingless bee Tetragonisca angustula in São Paulo State in Brazil where it is known locally as Jataí. It nests in tree and wall cavities and each nest has one queen and up to 10,000 workers.

The discovery is significant in terms of the evolution of advanced insect societies. Large-bodied soldier workers have long been known in ants and termites, but this is the first evidence of a soldier bee – a worker physically designed for active defence of the nest.

‘Stingless bees are not defenceless. Jataí is one of the most common bees found in Brazil, but its sophisticated defences make it one of the most amazing’, explained Professor Ratnieks.

‘FIND OUT MORE about LASI research and the recent support they’ve received from Rowse Honey in our accompanying magazine, Making the Future.'
Cancer research unlocks 30-year genetic puzzle

Scientists at Sussex have solved a 30-year genetic puzzle that could help enhance treatment for certain types of ‘inherited’ cancers.

The findings relate to an enzyme that plays an important role in the repair of DNA – the genetic blueprint for all life, which in mutated form leads to the uncontrolled reproduction of cells and the development of cancers.

The enzyme – PARP1 – was first identified as a DNA damage sensor by Professor Sydney Shall in research undertaken at Sussex in the 1980s. Its discovery led to the development of drugs that blocked the DNA repair mechanism in breast, prostate and ovarian cancers found in people who have a family history of those diseases.

The team, led by Professor Laurence Pearl and Dr Antony Oliver, have now discovered that molecules within the enzyme, known as PARP1, co-operate to identify DNA damage and then signal to other molecules to bind together and repair the damage on site.

Describing their findings, Professor Pearl said: ‘When the PARP1 molecules bind together at the site of DNA damage, they co-operate to generate a large molecular ‘flag’ called polyADP-ribose, that signals to other molecules in the cell to come and repair the broken DNA.

‘Drugs that stop PARP1 from signalling kill a range of breast, ovarian and prostate cancers in people whose tumours have defects in other DNA repair systems, and who often come from families with a strong genetic predisposition to those diseases. Now we have a clearer idea of how PARP1 actually recognises damaged DNA and fires off its DNA damage signal, we can target this system with far greater precision.’

The detailed knowledge of how PARP1 signals DNA damage will greatly assist the development of the next generation of drugs that exploit the genetic changes that cause cancers, to kill them, while sparing normal tissues and causing far fewer side effects.

New dementia procedure will speed up diagnosis

Announced by the Prime Minister in December, the new dementia testing procedure will lead to rapid treatment and support for British dementia patients. The project is led locally by Dr Dennis Chan, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS).

See page 08 for the full feature on pioneering dementia research at Sussex.

What is corruption? What causes it?

The new Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption (SCSC), led by Director Dan Hough, will focus on the processes behind major scandals of the past, from Watergate to MPs’ expenses, drawing lessons from corruption and anti-corruption discourses, ideas and movements.

See page 14 for Dan Hough’s feature.
Pioneering dementia research at Sussex

Management of dementia represents one of the gravest challenges to the developed world and this challenge will escalate in line with the ageing population.

Here, leaders of the new Dementia Research Group outline their multidisciplinary approach and achievements.
In the UK, it is estimated that 750,000 people have dementia and that this figure will rise to 1 million by 2020.

The cost of dementia care is astronomical; for 2010 alone the economic cost was calculated to be £20 billion. The human cost is just as great.

Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia. While treatments do exist for AD, such as Aricept™, they provide only short-term symptom relief and the disease remains incurable. Although recent years have witnessed major advances in the understanding of this degenerative brain disorder, major gaps remain both in our knowledge about the underlying mechanisms of disease and in our ability to accurately diagnose AD in its earliest stages. Both limitations currently hamper efforts to discover and apply more effective treatments for AD.

The new Dementia Research Group is a consortium of scientists and clinicians based at the University of Sussex and Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). The key aims of the Group are to improve understanding of basic disease mechanisms, to translate this understanding into development of novel drugs and to identify more effective strategies for diagnosing early AD. The multidisciplinary composition of the Group members, allied with their complementary scientific backgrounds, provides a very strong basis for delivering pioneering AD research.

Recent achievements
Innovative work led by Professor Jenny Rusted and Dr Sarah King from the School of Psychology has shown that, compared to the E3 variant of the APOE gene, the E4 form that has long been known to confer a higher risk for dementia in old age could also promote better-than-average memory and verbal skills in youth. Their research team found that young people with the APOE4 gene variant performed better in attention tests and the better performance correlated with increased task-related brain activation. The researchers also noticed subtle differences in the white matter of the brains of those with the variant.

Dr Dennis Chan, an academic neurologist based at BSMS, is a regional clinical lead for dementia and runs a specialist Cognitive Disorders Clinic from which patients are invited to participate in clinical trials of new anti-dementia drugs. His research focuses on use of spatial memory tests and functional MRI scanning (see Figure 1) to detect changes in brain function that occur in early AD. Along with collaborators in London and Cambridge, he has recently been awarded a £2.2 million government grant for a project which aims to improve the speed and accuracy of dementia diagnosis using fast track MRI scanning and memory testing.

The microscopic changes in the brain that Alois Alzheimer first described over 100 years ago and which have come to define the disease that bears his name, are characterized by misfolded proteins. A small protein known as amyloid-beta (Aß) assembles to form amyloid fibrils that are then deposited in amyloid plaques.

Professor Louise Serpell leads a research group that aims to understand the underlying molecular basis of how and why proteins misfold in AD, particularly the very early changes that occur and must presumably trigger a cascade of events that ultimately results in the death of nerve cells in the brain (Figure 2). This work was recently highlighted in her public Inaugural Professorial Lecture, where she described the work to dissect how proteins misfold to form toxic assemblies that then cause neurodegenerative changes. The obvious significance of these studies is that they will contribute to finding targets for the development of drugs to halt, reverse or ideally prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

Recognising the gap between scientific knowledge and novel drug treatments, the University has recently established the Translational Drug Discovery Group. Professor John Atack is co-director along with Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Simon Ward. Their mission is to take advantage of the scientific knowledge that resides within the University and develop new treatments for dementia and AD in particular.

The capabilities within the Dementia Research Group offer a unique opportunity for the Translational Drug Discovery Group to progress innovative science from bench to bedside.

### Research group leads

- **Professor John Atack**
  - Biochemistry, Life Sciences
- **Dr Dennis Chan**
  - Neurology, BSMS
- **Dr Sarah King**
  - Psychology
- **Professor Jennifer Rusted**
  - Psychology
- **Professor Louise Serpell**
  - Biochemistry, Life Sciences

### Figure 1.
This figure shows areas of the brain where connections between brain cells are altered in early Alzheimer’s disease (AD)

A)

B)

### Figure 2.
In Alzheimer’s disease, Aß accumulates to form aggregates within cells that develop to form amyloid plaques in the brain tissue. A) shows staining in red showing accumulation of Aß within cultured neuronal cells. B) shows a molecular model of an amyloid fibril
Ian McEwan: In your latest novel Sweet Tooth, which is set in the 1970s, your character Tom Haley offers a vigorous defence of the Sussex academic experience against more traditional universities. I wonder if you could expand a bit on this in view of your own experiences at Sussex?

Ian McEwan: Looking back, I had a wonderful educational experience at Sussex. I didn’t feel that at first. I arrived having been one of those kids who was expected to get the scholarship to Cambridge, didn’t do enough work, and found myself at Sussex – and felt disappointed. For an 18-year old, I was rather well-read in what was then an uncontested canon. I was disappointed to find that my fellow students hadn’t read much beyond their A-level texts. So we weren’t staying up late into the night talking about Wyatt or Milton or Tennyson. I felt very frustrated and even thought I’d leave.

Gradually, though, I became absorbed by the difference. All humanities students were required to read three basic books and the essential subject was historiography: Turner’s thesis of the expansion of the American west, Tawney’s Religion and Rise of Capitalism and Burckhardt’s Civilisation of the Renaissance. This was a signal to me that Sussex was going to be a much more interesting ride, and this was a compensation for not having exclusive conversations about Eng Lit.

I attended a course with Quentin Bell and was reading Roger Fry and Gombrich and getting my mind round what it meant to talk about art. In a course on international relations, I had one-on-one tutorials with Peter Calvocoressi, who had been a lawyer at the Nuremburg Trials. I was writing essays on the Chinese Revolution and on the Marshall Plan, even studying quantum mechanics for know-nothing arts students, as well as doing the usual Shakespeare and the English novel.

Towards the end of my degree, what made a huge impression on me was reading Kafka and Thomas Mann in a course on the Modern European Mind. Plus lectures on Darwin, as well as Marx and Freud. I immersed myself in a lot of Freud. It was a wide, privileged and intense education. Roughly three essays every two weeks. So that was really quite a treadmill. But again, I think if you’re up for it, that sweat is a really good sweat.

I know I would have got all that at Cambridge, in terms of the slog of weekly essays. But I wouldn’t have got that contact with the broad sweep of European literature and thought, and it took me some while to
appreciate fully the extent to which my mind had been reordered, as it were; wrenched away from the parochial, Leavisite criticism that dominated English literary studies then. Even now I continue to draw on that bold, optimistic, very 60s notion of a new map of learning.

TH: Beside the actual courses, what about the context of the wider university; the sense of student life that was going on?  
IM: I was a boy from a lower-middle class background and I was slightly resentful that key elements of student life seemed to be run by student celebrities who had an extraordinary sense of entitlement. So I rather kept my distance from it.

TH: Sceptical of it?  
IM: I was deeply sceptical of it. But it was a privileged time to be at Sussex. There were only 3,000 students and part of the privilege was to have direct, personal relationships with all the tutors. Stephen Medcalf even lent me his flat when I was in my second year. We were on first-name terms with a lot of very young and interesting faculty, who themselves had been drawn to Sussex because of its strange intellectual mix. There was a lot of excitement in the air.  

Still, it was cosy in many ways. I very much enjoyed living in one of the boarding houses in Kemptown, where most of the first-year students were accommodated. Twenty young men would be in a bed and breakfast down by the sea, and 10 yards away was another bed and breakfast, with 16 girls in it. It meant a lively, immediate, easy social life. I was on a full grant and £300 a term gave you everything you needed, really. None of us felt the kinds of financial pressure that students have now.

TH: Had you thought of becoming a writer when you were at Sussex?  
IM: Yes, in my third year. I was getting so much from reading. Bruno Schulz and Kafka were two figures that were important to me, but also Joyce and Forster and Woolf were important too. I was thrilled by what I was reading. And this is what started me writing. First of all I adapted, for cinema, a story I first read. Here was this great conversation of civilisation going on, and you could join it; you didn’t have to just be a reader of it. I think most writers become writers through reading, through pleasure in reading.

Then I wrote a play, a terrible play, which I submitted to the University drama society, and went along with thumping heart to the meeting where they discussed what they were going to do that year – and it never came up.

TH: But you didn’t pursue drama, in the end?  
IM: No, I felt my life had reached one of those forking path moments when an old school friend said he’d been offered an Assistant Stage Manager post at Glasgow’s Citizen Theatre and there was another post, and did I want it? I hesitated. I think if I’d said yes, I would have gone with him for the six months, and I would have got completely absorbed, as he did, into the theatre.

TH: You’ve never been tempted to write a play again?  
IM: I am tempted, actually. Every time I see a play directed by my old friend Richard Eyre, I think there’s such intelligence in his direction that it makes me want to write a play.

“Even now I continue to draw on that bold, optimistic, very 60s notion of a new map of learning.”

TH: So you left Sussex fairly convinced you wanted to be a writer?  
IM: It was in my third year that I thought ‘I don’t want a job’. I remember going to the University careers office with a notion of joining the diplomatic service. I’d read The Seven Pillars of Wisdom and I thought of myself as a third secretary in some outpost in Saudi Arabia, a fluent Arabic speaker, full of desert lore. I got this pamphlet, and on the back there was a table. It had, along the top, your age from 21 to 65 and, down the other side, your salary expectations. You could read off the next 40 years. My heart sank. It wasn’t that the salary was low; but seeing a whole life set out like the mileage between two towns, that confirmed for me that I didn’t want a career. It was, I suppose,
also the spirit of the times, to cut loose. Writing represented freedom to me.

**TH:** One of my colleagues has been commissioned to write a book called *Why the Novel Matters* and when he told me about this I thought that there was something almost sad about feeling that one needed to write a book called *Why the Novel Matters.*

**IM:** It’s slightly defensive.

**TH:** It’s slightly defensive; but do you share that sort of anxiety about the future of the novel, in any way?

**IM:** No, I don’t. It’s been remarkably resilient. We don’t have another art form that can give you the fine-grained account of what it is to be a man or a woman in a particular time and place.

The novel has evolved highly effective conventions for representing the flow of consciousness. We can’t do that so well in drama or in movies; you cannot get that close-textured feeling. You can’t have that analysis that novels give. We don’t have any other art form that has that interior access, opening up one mind to another’s. For that reason, I think it’s been incredibly resilient.

Also the novel has always been a democratic form. There are hundreds of novelists selling by the hundreds of thousands and aren’t reviewed in the *London Review of Books* or the *Times Literary Supplement.* Sometimes authors who are dismissed as genre writers emerge into literary prominence. A wonderful example is Le Carré. Most people now who care about the novel would agree that he’s one of the most important post-war novelists of the generation.

**TH:** *Sweet Tooth* concludes in the present. Though set in the 1970s, it draws attention to the ways that we revisit the past from the present. Something similar occurs in *Atonement.* So if you’re now looking back, some 40 years after you’ve left Sussex, to revisit that time with a sense of what we might learn to take us forward, how would you reflect on this?

**IM:** Well, I don’t want to idealise the past, and the 70s in many ways are hard to idealise. But Sussex in the late 60s was still on a rising tide of optimism that slowly fell apart during the 70s. It’s hard to recapture. When I was at university, only six or seven per cent of the population went, and now that figure is six times that without there being six times the number of institutions to absorb them. So I don’t know how you recreate that intimacy, that direct intellectual stimulation that was so exciting, while also remaining in touch with the excitement of education for its own sake. This last is the other element that’s now threatened, and this has to be resisted. Like basic research in science, education for its own sake will bring unintended or unforeseeable goods. They can’t be defined in advance.

I would hope that Sussex could draw on its grand 50-year tradition of polymathic education, on its honourable determination to dissolve the old subject boundaries and get historians talking to literature specialists, and all of them talking to lawyers and scientists; a tradition in which students are asked to try to understand something about quantum mechanics or natural selection, or the nature of 14th century commerce, or what history itself is, or what Freud actually wrote about the unconscious. I think that such intellectual ambition was wonderful, even heroic, at the inception of this university...”
No matter where **Professor Dan Hough** is in the world, he knows what reaction to expect when people hear that he conducts research on issues of corruption: ‘oh, corruption, really, well you must analyse corruption in my country, corruption is a real problem here’.
Corruption, so it would seem, is everywhere...

That truism is just one reason why the School of Law, Politics and Sociology (LPS) recently created a new research centre – the Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption (SCSC) – to analyse the subject, in all of its forms and via a range of disciplinary approaches, in more detail.

Analysing corruption might subsequently appear to be a logical thing for universities to want to do: citizens are appalled by it, international organisations have created reform agendas to tackle it and politicians earnestly claim to want to eradicate it. Working to reduce the underlying negative effects of corruption therefore seems to be very much the order of the day. Yet, the SCSC is – perhaps surprisingly – the first interdisciplinary research centre in the UK to take up the challenge of systematically analysing corruption. The work – both teaching and research – of the Centre is therefore ground-breaking, and has already caught the attention of the media worldwide.

The work of the SCSC is shaped around three deceptively simple questions; firstly, what is corruption? Secondly, what causes corruption? And finally, what can we do to try to counteract corruption? Those questions are clearly not as easy to answer as one might think. Even though corruption is traditionally understood as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, the real world is often a little more complicated than that definition might have us believe. The 2008-2009 expenses episode in the UK illustrates this perfectly. Over 200 British MPs paid money back to the exchequer having apparently claimed expenses erroneously. Yet, only five MPs actually broke the rules (and, at the time of writing, four of them have gone to prison). This didn’t stop the British public from believing that it was witnessing widespread corruption. The spectacle of MPs claiming public money to clean a moat (Douglas Hogg MP) or to renovate a small house on a pond for his ducks (Sir Peter Viggers MP) looked and smelt fishy – but given that in the vast majority of cases (including these) no rules (let alone laws) had been broken, was this indeed corruption? A tricky question, and just the sort of issue that Sussex scholars are analysing.

Global Reach

The SCSC’s work is not, however, focused solely on the UK. For example, Professor Hough is currently working on a British Academy-funded project on Anti-Corruption Commissions (ACAs) around the world, with a view to pinpointing where ACAs are likely to be successful in rooting out corruption and where they are not (the answer to which is, unfortunately, ‘most of the time’). The SCSC has also developed strong links with anti-corruption scholars at the Renmin University of China (RUC) in Beijing and the two institutions will be hosting a number of events in both Brighton and Beijing.

The founding generation of students

In September 2012, the SCSC was pleased to welcome its first cohort of MA students. The founding generation have come from far and wide and include students from China, Greece, Brunei Darussalam, Uganda and Zambia. The group includes a number of mature students (with backgrounds in areas as diverse as the legal profession, archaeology and public policy), as well as two students who have taken time out of jobs in anti-corruption agencies. The SCSC has also welcomed doctoral students who are looking at issues ranging from the relationship between corruption and natural resources in Nigeria, to the links between types of political party funding regimes and types of corruption in western Europe.

Corruption cannot, of course, be studied purely in the classroom: interaction with the real world of politics and development is a must. The SCSC has subsequently developed strong links with a wide array of NGOs (ranging from Transparency International to Global Witness) and think tanks. Over 200 people from this diverse practitioner community attended the SCSC’s launch conference in September 2012 – a conference that will be repeated again in September 2013.

Corruption is clearly not a new phenomenon and the SCSC looks like it’ll have plenty to keep it busy in the future.

Professor Dan Hough is the Director of the SCSC. His book Corruption, Anti-Corruption and Governance (Palgrave Macmillan) is published in May 2013. For news, research and more information on the SCSC’s work, please visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc
Get involved

Alumni who volunteer to share their knowledge and experience play a key role in supporting current students and recent graduates, as well as providing them with a valuable network of contacts for the future. Here are some great ways in which you can get involved.

Join the Alumni Careers Network

Over 300 alumni from around the world have already signed up to join the Alumni Careers Network (ACN) and we would be delighted to hear from more alumni who have regular email access and are willing to share their experiences of working in many different fields and at all different levels of organisation.

The ACN is a searchable online database used by students to find potential contacts who may be able to give feedback on their CVs and advice on their specific career path. The students accessing the network are supported in their personal development by the Careers and Employability Centre (CEC) at Sussex.

We also use the ACN to source many speakers for careers events so you may be approached for this purpose too.

Offer work experience

If your organisation can offer 12-week internships or one-year placements, CEC can advertise them to current students and recent graduates without charge.

Share your knowledge: speak at careers events

Enhancing the employability of Sussex graduates is a top priority for the University and the contributions made by many alumni, who generously give up their time to come back to campus and share their experience, is greatly appreciated.

The Careers and Employability Centre, together with the Development and Alumni Relations Office, co-ordinates an increasing number of events and programmes throughout the year which give students and recent graduates the opportunity to hear from speakers in a wide range of career paths, including those in: Media and the Arts; Science; Research; Business and Finance; Law; Psychology; Government and Public Service; Charities, NGOs and Not-for-Profit organisations.

Alumni at different stages in their careers, from graduate interns to chief executives, are playing a key role at these events by sharing their experience and networking with students and recent graduates who are keen to gain knowledge, skills, contacts and invaluable advice.

How to get involved

Via email

If you can provide support in person or via email, we would love to hear from you. Please email alumni@sussex.ac.uk or go to our webpages at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/volunteer

In person

Join the Alumni Careers Network

Offer work experience

Share your knowledge: speak at careers events
Help welcome our students from overseas

Coming to a new country to study can be daunting at first and we are very grateful to our ‘alumni friends’ and staff in the Brighton area who provide a welcoming contact point, via email, to new international students.

As one of this year’s participating students commented: ‘It’s a great opportunity to get a ‘heads-up’ concerning life as a student in the UK!’

The Alumni Friendship Programme has been enthusiastically taken up by students and we really need more volunteers, local to the University, for September 2013. If you can help, please see ‘How to get involved’ (on page 16) for our contact details.

It’s great helping someone get settled into uni and Brighton, and I’m the first friend Shivani made in England, which is really special

Ana Amaral (Linguistics 2007)

An innovative work placement scheme is launched

Marcus Hayes (LAW 1984) of Mason Hayes Limited has initiated a new work placement scheme, which gives first-generation scholars experience of working in top law firms and in the legal departments of blue chip companies.

Work placements are often difficult to secure, particularly for those without an existing network of high-level contacts, and the students involved have been enthusiastic about the personal development opportunities they’ve gained.

Professor Heather Keating, Head of the Department of Law, praised the scheme, saying: ‘Students had identified new horizons from their experiences demonstrating the importance of having an open, curious mind and a willingness to learn. The links between academic study and the application of knowledge and skills in the legal and political workplace were clearly illustrated in the presentations. We are very grateful to Marcus Hayes for his generous support.’

Unique gifts...

Find Sussex clothing, homeware and souvenirs at: www.sussexshop.com

All profits are used to fund services for students.
Our friends in the US

With over 10,000 alumni in the United States we are lucky to work with the Friends of the University of Sussex, run by an active Board of volunteers whose support makes a significant impact. Jonathan Klein explains how he became involved and invites you to join in.

In September 1987 I stepped off my first international flight from Los Angeles to Gatwick Airport and into a journey that would, it turns out, last a lifetime.

As a visiting exchange student at Sussex (I studied English and American studies), I came to have a special relationship with this University. Although I spent three of my four years at university elsewhere (not to mention my graduate education), and although I did not obtain a degree from Sussex, the nine months living and studying on campus gave me an appreciation for the special opportunity that Sussex provides to all its students.

For me, the experience provided a perspective previously unknown. I met students from around the world. I examined US politics through a prism of British scholarship. And, of course, my exploration of Europe that year started me on a lifetime full of amazing travel experiences. I cannot begin to think how different my life would have been (to the negative) had I never set foot in Falmer.

In 2012, I was honored to be asked to serve as Chair of the Friends of the University of Sussex, a US 501(c)3 non-profit organisation designed to promote and support Sussex through its contacts with US alumni, friends, students and parents. The Friends boasts an active alumni network in the US with links to over 10,000 former Sussex students (undergraduate and postgraduate, full-time and exchange).

The organisation’s staggering work speaks for itself. In 2011-12 alone, the Friends made grants and scholarships of over $600,000, including funds supporting the establishment of a Chair in Adoption Studies and one in Modern Israel Studies. The Friends awarded scholarships to US Masters Degree and PhD students, and to undergraduates excelling in a variety of fields of study.

In addition, the Friends sponsor events each year in the US, where alumni, parents and interested students exchange wonderful stories, support the University’s strategic plan, and raise funds for scholarships. This year, the Friends’ annual event will be held at Fox Studios in Los Angeles on 2 May 2013. I hope you will join us.

If Sussex had nearly the impact on your life as it did on mine, I sincerely encourage you to become involved with the Friends. Your volunteer time, or financial contribution, could make a huge difference to another student this year, or in the future.

“I cannot begin to think how different my life would have been (to the negative) had I never stepped foot in Falmer”

How to get involved

For more information about the Friends of the University of Sussex, you can email Jonathan Klein directly at jaklein@khklaw.com or go to: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/americanfriends
Alumni consuls can play a valuable role by representing the University in their home countries. Speaking to prospective students, organising networking events for fellow alumni and attending recruitment exhibitions are just some of the ways in which consuls volunteer their time.

However, the role is very flexible and we would be delighted to hear from any former students who have a keen interest in Sussex, regular access to email and an enthusiasm for being part of the Sussex Alumni Network.

Join us at the forthcoming alumni receptions

2 May 2013
Fox Studios, Los Angeles

7 June 2013
Santander Headquarters, Madrid

21 November 2013
Cercle de l’Union Interalliée, Paris

Our alumni consuls around the world

Alumni consuls can play a valuable role by representing the University in their home countries. Speaking to prospective students, organising networking events for fellow alumni and attending recruitment exhibitions are just some of the ways in which consuls volunteer their time.

However, the role is very flexible and we would be delighted to hear from any former students who have a keen interest in Sussex, regular access to email and an enthusiasm for being part of the Sussex Alumni Network.

How to get involved

For more information on volunteering, see: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/volunteer

To get in touch with consuls in your country, see: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/overseas

For more information on the alumni receptions, email our events team at: events@sussex.ac.uk
Congratulations to former South African President Thabo Mbeki (SOC 1962), who was awarded Daily Trust African of the Year.

John Spiers (ENGM 1965) has recently been appointed Professorial Research Fellow by the Director of the Global Policy Institute at London Metropolitan University.

Pauline Plummer, née Hughes, (EURO 1965) has had her verse novella, From Here to Timbuktu, featured on Radio 4 and chosen as a Read Regional book by New Writing North.

Congratulations to poet Lisa Appignanesi (ARTS 1967), who was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List for 2013 for services to literature.

Congratulations to Tony Baldry MP (SOC 1969), who was knighted for public and political service in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Richard McNeff’s (ENGM 1971) latest work is a memoir: With Barry Flanagan, Travels through time and Spain.

Michael Burton’s (EURO 1972) book, The Politics of Public Sector Reform from Thatcher to the Coalition, will be published in June 2013 by Palgrave Macmillan.

Congratulations to Joseph Weiler (SOC 1973), who has been appointed President of the European University Institute in Florence.

Peter Gilbert (ARTS 1975), Honorary Research Fellow at Sussex, has edited a new book, Spirituality and Mental Health.

Congratulations to Simon Fanshawe (ENGM 1975), who was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List for 2013 for services to Higher Education.

Congratulations to Robert Gordon (SOC 1972), the leader of Hertfordshire Council, who becomes a CBE and James Bevan (SOC 1977), the British High Commissioner to India, who becomes a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG).

After a career in business and then teaching, Kumar de Pinto (AFRAS 1977) is now studying for an MBA as well as writing novels and short stories.

Playwright April De Angelis’ (ENGM 1980) hit play Jumpy has been running in London’s West End.

Clare Summerskill (EURO 1980) has had her book, Gateway to Heaven – Fifty Years of Lesbian and Gay Oral History, published.

Congratulations to Lisa Rodrigues (SOC 1982), who was awarded a CBE for her services to the NHS in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Jane Ayres (CCS 1984) has written over 30 books for children and teenagers. Her latest titles have been released as e-books with all royalties going to charity.

Linda M James’ (English 1990) psychological thriller, Day of the Swans, has been short-listed in the winter collection for The People's Book Prize.
After six years travelling across South America, North America and back home in Southeast Asia, poet Thomas Radzienda (Politics and International Relations 1991) has published his collection of poetry Luxuries of Grace.

Congratulations to Simon Busuttil (EURO 1992), who was elected as Deputy Leader of the governing Nationalist Party in Malta in November 2012.


Published in October, Cynan Jones’ (Intellectual History 1993) latest novel, Bird, Blood, Snow, is one of a series commissioned by Seren Books to ‘re-tell’ stories from the Medieval Welsh myth cycle, The Mabinogion.


2000s

Congratulations to Shona Albouy, née Le Friec, (Psychology 2000) whose poem Spider won her the Poetic Republic Poetry Prize 2012.

Will Francome (Sociology 2000) is now a documentary film maker. His current project, One for Ten, features the stories of innocent people who spent an average of 10 years each on death row before being exonerated.

Emma Grazette (English 2001) has a new cookery series, Spice Trip, on Channel 4 which she is co-presenting with Steve Parle.

As well as driving his London taxi, Bill Munro (Creative Writing 2003) has developed a second career by creating his own company, Earlswood Press, publishing seven titles including the first two books in the Toby the Taxi series.

For the past year Laura Alcaide (Economics 2003) has been working as a Programme Development Officer in Haiti with the UN as part of the reconstruction process.

Congratulations to vocalist Jessie Ware (English 2004), who, in the past year, has been nominated for a Mercury Prize Award and two BRIT Awards for ‘Best Breakthrough’ and ‘Best Female’.

After starting as an intern, Addaia Marrades Rodriguez (Anthropology 2006) has now been given an extended contract as a Reporting Officer working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the West Bank Field Office.

Jessica Coleman (American Studies 2006) is currently working on the fourth novel in her Little Forest series, Carnival Masquerade.

Julienne Rathore’s (Digital Documentary 2007) current project, My Street – My Life, is a highly experimental feature film about street children living in New Delhi.

Following graduation, Sudeepa Mihiri (Health Psychology 2010) returned to her native Sri Lanka to take up a lectureship at University of Kelaniya. In her spare time she has published a poetry anthology, Pelawiya, which means first phase of the moon.

Julie Issa (Anthropology 2010) has launched a new walking tour company with her siblings in Paris, France.

Stay in touch
Join our Facebook and LinkedIn groups or sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter.
Email alumni@sussex.ac.uk to request details.
Love in the first degree

Over the last 50 years, the University has been home and workplace to thousands of students and staff and many lasting friendships have been forged and relationships celebrated. Here is a small selection of happy memories from our alumni...

Paul Fisher (ENGAM 1969) was in his second year studying English and American History when he found the ideal venue for marrying Gwen, his childhood sweetheart – the iconic Meeting House. They revisited campus in 2011, on their 40th anniversary, taking along friends, children and grandchildren!

Stephanie Alldritt (EURO 1975) and Martin Geisen (ENGG 1975) met in their first term and have been married since 1981. They have two daughters aged 25 and 22. ‘Our time at Sussex remains a very happy memory for both of us’, Stephanie writes.

Still going strong after 43 years, Mike Cohen (Economics 1964) met his wife Doreen Lassman (European Studies 1965) in her first week at Sussex and they married in September 1969. Now enjoying active retirements and being with their grandchildren, Mike and Doreen still live close to the University retaining many local connections and fond memories of their time on campus.

Alix Courtney (History 1990) and Ian Macfarlane (Physics 1987) married in August 1994 and celebrated in East Slope Bar: ‘It was a lot of fun! We had about 200 of our Uni friends along with family ... who were a bit bewildered to find themselves in a student bar with a hog roast as the wedding dinner.’

Satu Vilkama (IRP 2002) and Andrew Spratley (Informatics 2002) became a couple after living as housemates on Coombe Road. After a long distance relationship, they are now living in Helsinki and plan to marry this summer. Satu says: ‘Sussex and Brighton will always have a special place in my heart.’

Yugin Teo (English 2001) and Amy Prior (Geography 2001) started going out in 2003 when Amy was in her final year and Yugin was a DPhil student: ‘We were both part of the Meeting House community and met through the activities there. We got married in the Meeting House on 9 September 2006 in a lovely ceremony conducted by Gavin Ashenden.’ They both still live in Brighton; Yugin is working at the University and Amy has recently completed her primary school teacher training.

Share your memories of Sussex...
Read more at: www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/love or email your own story and photos to us at: alumni@sussex.ac.uk
Join the Hollywood line up for Lord Attenborough

In 2012, Sussex launched an innovative appeal to friends, colleagues and admirers of our former Chancellor, Lord Attenborough. A typographic portrait of Lord Attenborough has been commissioned, to be populated with the names of those people who wish to play a part in honouring our friend and support the establishment of the new Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, formerly the Gardner Arts Centre.

Lord Julian Fellowes, Lord Richard Rogers, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Maggie Smith, Sir Ben Kingsley, Professor Richard Dawkins, Michael Douglas, Sam Neill, Chelsea FC, BAFTA and Channel 4 are just some of the individuals and organisations who have come forward with a donation and will take their place in the portrait. We hope that many more people will contribute and take their place amongst the 200 names needed to create the painting.

Legendary film actor, producer and director, Lord Attenborough has had a long association with Sussex, first as Pro-Chancellor (1970-78), then as our Chancellor (1998-2008). Both his children Jane and Michael also attended Sussex, as did his brother Sir David Attenborough’s daughter, Susan. The Attenborough family has been at the heart of our institution almost from its outset.

All donations by participants will go to support the new Attenborough Centre

Throughout Lord Attenborough’s long association with Sussex, he has been particularly interested in the welfare of the Gardner Arts Centre. Delighted with the prospect of having his name attached to the new Centre, he has set out his vision for its future: ‘The Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts will provide an arena in which professional artists, the academic community and audiences can cross-fertilise, offering up the thrilling possibility of a uniquely rich and original range of events of the highest quality. I have no doubt that the Centre will contribute hugely to the University’s future success and make a significant contribution to performing arts education and practice for generations to come.’

To honour this great man and in dedication to his daughter and our alumna Jane, who was tragically killed in the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, the University is transforming the iconic Grade II listed building designed by Sir Basil Spence. At the heart of the Centre will sit this truly unique portrait of Lord Attenborough.

How to take your place alongside the stars

If you are interested in making a donation to the Attenborough Centre and would like to take your place in Lord Attenborough’s portrait alongside stars of stage and screen, please email m.connolly@sussex.ac.uk

Artist Mike Edwards will be creating this typographic portrait of Lord Attenborough from the names of all contributors.
‘Sussex in the mid-1960s provided the springboard for my own scientific career, and its focus on ‘the New Map of Learning’ was my first exposure to interdisciplinary thinking, something rare then but that has stayed with me as a guiding principle in my work in the UK and abroad. Our eyes were opened by truly inspirational lecturers, and Sussex was a crucible of new thinking: the best of times!’

Sir Peter Knight FRS (Physics 1968)  
Principal, Kavli Royal Society International Centre