

# Research at Sussex



JRA student Nick Skidmore, pictured in Kipling's study at Bateman's

## Second summer of success for Junior Research Associate scheme

The aim of the Junior Research Associate (JRA) scheme is to encourage talented and ambitious Sussex undergraduates to consider postgraduate study at Sussex and a career in research following graduation. This is the second year that the JRA scheme has run, and builds on the great success of last year's programme, which has already resulted in a number of JRAs contributing to research papers and applying for postgraduate study at Sussex. This summer, selected undergraduates undertook paid research projects in areas as diverse as honey bees' relationship to their local landscape, and how human thought processes affect the human eye.

Final-year English literature student Nick Skidmore chose to study the writer Rudyard Kipling and his complex relationship with the British Empire and the First World War, making use of the University archive of Kipling papers, housed in the Library's Special Collections. Nick also visited Bateman's, the Kipling family home near Burwash in East Sussex, now in the care of the National Trust, where his research was later put on display.

Elaine Francis-Truett, Property Manager for Bateman's, said: 'It is a pleasure to support Nick in his research by displaying the culmination of his study here at Bateman's.

'The hard work undertaken by Nick will help our visitors discover even more about the private life of the Kipling family, the hardships they endured along with all families involved in the Great War and hope that this will reveal even more of Kipling the family man, alongside that of Kipling the great author.'



### Doctoral School wins a national 'Innovate' Award

The University's new Doctoral School has won national funding from Vitae, the research careers organisation funded by Research Councils UK, to create an innovative new mentoring scheme to develop the transferable skills of early career research staff.

While there are many schemes where staff mentor staff, or students mentor students, this scheme will bring research staff and doctoral researchers together, with a new emphasis given to the skills gained by the mentors.

Organised through the Doctoral School, the scheme will give an opportunity for around 20 research staff to gain experience and expertise in providing support for doctoral researchers. The scheme will not only seek to formalise and build upon relationships which are sometimes already in place, especially in the sciences, but also help to make explicit those transferable skills that research staff gain from the process.

### Effective researcher seminar series creates a healthy debate

Research in the UK is changing fast, in the way it is conducted, the expected outputs and accountability. The Effective Researcher, a Library-run lunchtime seminar series running throughout the 2010 spring term, provides a forum to discuss these challenges with other researchers across the University. The seminars are open to everyone involved with research at Sussex, and have been very popular, with over 40 people from across the University attending each session so far.

Ian Carter, Director of Research and Enterprise, said, 'In order to succeed in research, it's necessary to understand the changing environment, and this seminar series will help to achieve a greater awareness across our research community of some of the current directions.'

The Doctoral School's new mentoring scheme will help early career research staff to develop new skills