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In this issue we celebrate the strong links existing between Sussex and the local community, and the reciprocal benefits of this long and well established relationship. And as a follow-up to reports in previous issues of Falmer about the many physical developments currently underway on campus, we bring you an update on the proposed centres for the five new Schools which will open their doors to the new generation of Sussex students this autumn. Also in this issue, we are delighted to include an interview with Barry Langridge, Head of Africa and the Middle East Region for the BBC World Service, who shares with us the reasons underlying the World Service’s 70 years of successful history.

As many as 10,000 alumni worldwide are now receiving SussexNews, the new electronic newsletter designed to keep you up to date with the main developments at Sussex. If you would like to receive SussexNews, please send your email address to us at alumni@sussex.ac.uk and you will be added to this popular mailing list.

The Winter 2003 issue of Falmer will be replaced by a questionnaire which we hope will help us update your contact details and find out how we can better improve our alumni services. Please help us by reducing our mailing costs and ensure that you keep receiving future issues of Falmer by returning your questionnaire at your earliest convenience.

As ever, we look forward to receiving your news for Falmer. Best wishes, 

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Student applications boost

Figures recently published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that the popularity of Sussex degrees has increased despite a drop in university applications across the UK. The number of applications to Sussex has gone up by 14% since last year, around five times the national average.

The new curriculum for arts subjects starting in 2003 seems to be showing a masked effect. English Language, Drama and Music have more than doubled their number of applicants, while American Studies, Anthropology, Economics, English, Geography, History, Law and Linguistics have all seen applications up by over 25%.

But strong growth is not just confined to arts and social science subjects. Applications to both Biochemistry and Psychology are up by over a third, making total applications for Psychology the largest of any department on campus.

In addition to all of these increases, there have been nearly 1,000 applicants for the 128 places at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, which opens this autumn.

"I am delighted that all the work we are doing to show what the University can offer to potential students, and to make our curriculum more relevant and attractive for students, seems to be paying dividends," says the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith.

Dorothy Sheridan (pictured here), Special Collections Manager. Included in the archive are the Monk’s House Papers, a collection of Virginia Woolf’s letters, manuscripts and press cuttings. They contain the handwritten notes for the novel Mrs Dalloway, which links the characters in The Hours.

There are other connections between the film and the University of Sussex. Quentin Bell, Virginia’s nephew who is portrayed in the film as a child, was Professor of History and Theory of Art at Sussex from 1967 to 75. Additionally, papers concerning the biography he wrote of his aunt are also held at Sussex.

New Year’s Honours list

Two Sussex academics, Professor Alan Mayhew and Professor John Cheshire, were among the recipients of OBEs in the New Year’s Honours list. Professor Mayhew, Visiting Senior Fellow in the Sussex European Institute (SEI), was awarded an OBE for his services to UK-Polish relations, while John Cheshire, Honorary Professor in the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU), received his award for services to energy efficiency.

Honorary Degrees Awarded

Sir John Walker and Lord Robert May were awarded honorary degrees at the University’s winter graduation ceremony for their contributions to our understanding of science. Sir John is Head of the Dunn School of Nutrition in Cambridge and was awarded a Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1997, for his work on the crystallographic analysis of the structure of the AIP-synthase.

Lord May is President of the Royal Society and holds professorships at Oxford University and Imperial College. Trained as a theoretical physicist and applied mathematician, he has studied various aspects of the way communities are structured and how they respond to change, particularly with respect to infectious diseases and biodiversity.

Sussex has beaten off stiff competition from other UK universities to join forces with financial services giant, American Express, and offer an exciting new way to study and gain work experience in IT.

Thirty postgraduates will work part-time for the company for two years, whose new offices will be based in the Sussex Innovation Centre, while also studying for a Masters degree in computing in the new Department of Informatics in the School of Science & Technology. “This partnership is an excellent start for the new department,” says Professor Ben du Boulay, Dean of the School. “We expect there to be many other benefits for teaching, research and the School’s links with the business community.”

"The University is delighted to be working with American Express on this ground-breaking partnership," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Alasdair Smith. "I am particularly pleased that American Express found that we offered them an unrivalled range of graduate programmes in a strong research-based computer science department."

Students will take the new MSc in Information Technology for E-Commerce, which has already attracted many good students in its first year of operation, or the MSc in Human Centred Computer Systems. The tuition fees for each student will be paid by American Express, as well as a competitive salary. At the end of the two years, the highest performing students will have an opportunity to gain a full-time job with the company.

"We have developed this programme to provide graduates with an integrated package of part-time postgraduate study combined with unique hands-on experience that will be gained from working in the commercial environment," explains Martyn Carr, Vice President of Technologies at American Express. More information on the scheme is available at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/pgrad/amex/.

AMEX sponsors Sussex students

Students will work-shadow Labour MP Anusmana Maran, an AFRAS economics finalist, will work shadow Labour MP for Luton South Margaret Moran as part of a scheme organised by Operation Black Vote and the Commission for Racial Equality. Over a six-month period he will assist the politician with her daily work, gaining valuable experience of parliamentary politics both at Westminster and in the local constituency.

Sussex students win film award

For the second year running, Sussex students have won the Best Documentary category of the Imperial War Museum’s student film competition. The 26-minute film, The Other American Invasion, examines the British reaction to African-American troops who were stationed in the UK during the Second World War. Helen Trigg and Georgia Mostley are pictured here with competition judge Richard Melman, head of programming for the History Channel. Helen and Georgia made the film with Aliza Nimron, as part of a course taught by Dr Ian Gazeley.

The film, The Hours, nominated for nine Oscars, was aided by research using archives on Virginia Woolf held at the University Library.

Paramount Pictures consulted the archives for background information on the Hogarth Press, which was run by Virginia and her husband Leonard. The assistant art director working on the film, which stars Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore, visited the Library in April 2001.

"We have an unrivalled collection of papers relating to the lives of Leonard and Virginia. People come from all over the world to use them," says Professor Alasdair Smith, Special Collections Manager. Included in the archive are the Monk’s House Papers, a collection of Virginia Woolf’s letters, manuscripts and press cuttings. They contain the handwritten notes for the novel Mrs Dalloway, which links the characters in The Hours.

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Sussex ‘dipolmats’ attend world summit

Sussex students were awarded three ‘Best Delegate’ awards at the world Model United Nations Conference in Heidelberg, Germany, in March. WorkHUMAN is a unique conference that brings together over 800 university students from 6 continents to simulate various organs of the United Nations and other international organizations. By acting as delegates in one of 16 simulated UN committees, participants gain knowledge of the intricacies and workings of international diplomacy, while learning from each other as they forge new friendships with fellow students from all over the world.

Engineers triumph in national business challenge

A team of five Sussex engineering students have won the grand final of the annual University Business Challenge, the largest business competition in the UK, held in February at the headquarters of IBM. The Sussex victory was the culmination of months of hard work in which the team had to compete with more than 100 undergraduate teams from universities across the UK to achieve maximum profit, acquire new business and enhance customer satisfaction. “It has certainly given the students a view of business in a way that is not possible in lectures,” said their delighted tutor, Richard Verrall.
Sussex engineer turns medical scans into anatomical replicas

Medical scans give us an idea of what is happening inside our bodies. By combining medical imaging, computer-aided design, and rapid manufacturing, Dr Panos Diamantopoulos, research fellow in Mechanical and Automotive Engineering, has developed a way of using these scans to make accurate plastic replicas of our insides. "Although doctors can get plenty of information from medical scans, having a model would help them to have a more complete idea of what is going on with the patient," he points out.

Dr Diamantopoulos is confident that his three-dimensional models, manufactured by a process known as rapid prototyping, will become invaluable tools to health professionals for diagnosis and surgical procedures and in the design of medical appliances. "Medical anatomical models have been demonstrated to help with the understanding of medical problems," he says. "They can also contribute to faster intervention, reduce operation time, minimise patient discomfort, improve treatment success rate, increase the speed of recovery and limit cost." The process begins with gathering computer-generated medical images (from CT, MRI or Ultrasound). Using specific computer software, anatomical tissue is then identified and a three-dimensional image is reconstructed as a virtual model. This can then be turned into a physical model using a laser machine that draws the model onto acrylic resin. Where the laser hits the resin, the resin solidifies.

Sussex astronomer takes part in NASA mission

Dr Sebastian Oliver, Lecturer in Astronomy, is one of just a handful of UK scientists involved in the largest project for NASA's Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF), which left Cape Canaveral on 26th April. For nine months Dr Oliver will help analyse data sent back by SIRTF on more than two million galaxies up to ten billion light years away, equating to when the universe was only about three billion years old.

"This is the most exciting and the most important project I have ever been involved with," Dr Oliver said before embarking on this new venture. "We'll be able to study the universe in detail at times when most galaxies were forming their stars. It will explain a lot about how and when galaxies are formed."

As the largest SIRTF project, they will have 851 hours of observation time over one month, just enough time to map an area of the sky equivalent to the space taken up by 360 million soccer pitches. "Unfortunately I won't be going to the launch, but I shall invite my PhD students to my office," said Dr Oliver, who will be working with a team led by Dr Lonsdale at the California Institute of Technology. "Unfortunately I won’t be going to the launch, but I shall invite my PhD students to my house and probably open a bottle of champagne while we watch the launch on the internet."

Photo: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Correction

We are sorry that the piece 'Art therapy can help dementia sufferers' in the last issue of Falmer did not mention that the research reported was a collaborative project between Dr Rusted and Professor Diane Waller (USIE 1981-90), of Goldsmiths College. Apologies for the omission.
Falmer, Summer 2003

New Alumni Groups

A call to former students living in Ghana, Greece, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, the Seychelles and Slovakia. Various alumni are keen to set up new branches in these countries, so if you haven’t received an email about joining these groups, but would like to be included in future mailings, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@sussex.ac.uk.

Brazil

The first alumni gathering in Brazil was preceded by much drama and suspense for organiser Plauto Cardoso (HUMS 1992-99) and Els Groen, from Sussex’s International Office. Plauto relives the highlights.

...Emerson Fitipaldi, the Brazilian racing driver, once said that part of the secret to success in his profession was being able to drive ‘on the edge’. I believe that Els and I now know what he means. We found ourselves rushing out of our hotel with some 20 minutes to find a disposable camera – to take pictures for Fulmer – and get to the restaurant. Having found a camera, I said to the driver: “Stop on it.” Big mistake! A few seconds later, Els found herself thrown from side to side in the back seat as our driver performed dare-devil moves on the streets of Rio. At one point, after we had seen our whole lives flash before our very eyes, we decided that we loved our lives just as they were, and I was just glad to see he hadn’t been barbecued at the restaurant.

USA

Alumni activity in the US is certainly picking up. The New York alumni group had its first gathering in years at a restaurant in the downtown area and the co-ordinator of alumni activity for the area, Noel McCarthy (ENGAM 1971-74), is already planning a future event.

And only a few days later, a group of alumni from the Pittsburgh area (pictured) got together for the first time to reminisce about Sussex. They were joined by Dr Penny Chaloner, Lecturer in Chemistry and Director of the American Programme at Sussex, who was guest speaker at the University of Pittsburgh.

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The past three issues of Falmer have highlighted major developments on campus and brought you regular updates on the significant changes in the organisation of the University, from the new Schools’ restructure to the review of the Humanities curriculum. With only a few weeks to go before the new Schools’ official launch in August 2003, plans are finally coming to fruition in time to welcome a new cohort of Sussex students.

Students’ motives for entering higher education, as well as their aspirations and expectations of university life, have undergone substantial change over the past decades. This shift in young people’s ambitions, coupled with an increasingly diverse student body, has forced universities to rethink their formula in order to incorporate educational alternatives relevant to a very different generation of students, meet their needs and expectations of higher education, and better prepare them for an increasingly competitive graduate recruitment market.

In light of these and other fundamental changes that have overtaken higher education since the early 1960s, and in keeping with its founding principles of excellence and innovation, Sussex has engaged in a major academic and Schools restructure. Building on its strong interdisciplinary tradition, these changes aim to preserve and improve the attractiveness of courses and the learning environment for students. As highlighted in Falmer 37, next academic year the traditional 11 Schools of Study will be replaced by five new Schools: Humanities, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, Science and Technology, and the Sussex Institute, along with the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School and the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU). Outlining the main reasons that underlie the radical changes at the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Smith, explained: “The creation of the new Schools will help ensure that we remain a leading teaching and research institution of international standing. This is because the new Schools should help the University to attract more well-qualified students and support them better; provide a better focus for our research activities; and respond quickly and joyfully to new academic opportunities, from a more coherent academic structure.”

A new architectural vision

As recent visitors to Sussex will have noticed, cranes and scaffolding have become part of the University’s skyline, as major additions to the Sussex landscape such as the Foreman Centre, the Brighton and Sussex Medical School and new campus residences are gradually taking shape. But these are only some of the many exciting campus projects which will come to fruition over the next few years. One of these, for which planning work is currently underway, is the creation of centres for the new Schools.

The five new Schools will be grouped together in ways that better support students and give the Schools maximum coherence and identity. Hampshire-based architect John Pardey, an enthusiast of the work of Sir Basil Spence, who designed the first buildings of the Sussex campus in the early 60s, has been appointed to design an entrance and centre for each of the five Schools. These will include a reception area, social space, common room with catering facilities and School administrative offices.

Pardey compares his design to a gallery foyer, which easily lets you know where you are and where you need to go next. “This is your shop front,” he says, “setting out the life of the place. It should have a sophisticated but unthreatening atmosphere.” Pardey’s intention is to respect the present designs, using architectural language “that complements what’s good about the existing buildings.” His vision is to balance the old (heavy and massive) with the new (elegant and light). To do this, he has devised the concept of lightweight canopies that will extend outwards from the existing buildings, and proposes new glazed screens, white walls and ceilings, and integrated lighting. Pardey also hopes to create a cleaner look “by stripping out the clutter accumulated over the decades” and replacing it with simple furniture, thereby creating a social forum for meeting, relaxing, having coffee, holding talks and so on. The contemporary interior designs will be complemented by external landscaping with the intention of creating new social areas outside each School. “We feel the need to ‘soften’ or civilise these areas,” says Pardey. “The drive in the 1960s was more towards ‘spaces’, whereas now there is a recognition that ‘places’ make communities work.” Pardey’s conceptual designs also include water pools, extending the current presence of water and providing a focus for built-in benches. These attractive new architectural changes will greatly improve the quality of the campus environment, as well as its attractiveness to a new generation of Sussex students.

You can find out more about the new schools at www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/newSchools/
As an integral component of the local community, Sussex is making a major contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of Brighton and its region.

The idyllic Sussex campus, situated in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty on the edge of the rolling South Downs, sets a striking contrast with the bustling and vibrant city that lies a few miles south of the University. A lively and friendly seaside resort, Brighton is an exciting place to be a student, and one that Sussex alumni undeniably recall with great fondness and affection. The city’s cultural richness and diversity, as well as its distinctive pebbled beach, elegant esplanade and cosmopolitan atmosphere, make Brighton one of the country’s most popular cities to live in and visit. And the fact that several thousand former Sussex students have settled down in Brighton after completing their studies is testament to the impact the city has on students’ lives.

But just as Sussex benefits from its superb location, the city of Brighton and Hove also has much to gain from its strong links with the University, and from the latter’s activities and extensive involvement in the region. New initiatives reported in recent issues of Falmer, such as the new Brighton and Sussex Medical School and the American Express project (see page 5), are but two of the many campus ventures through which the University is further developing links with the community.

With highly acclaimed expertise and facilities in many areas, Sussex University is a direct creator of wealth, and an important catalyst for the economic development of the region. Many of the companies in the South East, especially new media and IT businesses, are increasingly relying on Sussex’s high calibre graduates for the delivery of the necessary expertise in today’s knowledge-based economy. With as many as a third of all recent Sussex graduates in employment based in East or West Sussex, our alumni clearly represent a significant component of the local workforce and a major contributor to the regional economy.

An important example of Sussex’s regional activities is the ‘Academic Corridor’ project, which aims to exploit the wealth of talent and creativity in local institutions of higher and further education for economic regeneration. A flagship of this project is the Sussex Innovation Centre, which facilitates the commercial development of academic research, while providing support for businesses and incubating company start-ups. Since its opening in 1996, by posting business and intellectual expertise in this way, the Centre has provided support for over 70 high-potential new businesses in areas such as IT, biosciences, engineering, design and electronics. The recently completed Phase II extension of the Centre has doubled its capacity to about 40,000 sq. ft., which will enable it to accommodate more than 50 companies, compared to about 30 at present. “The Centre is playing a larger role in the University’s innovation strategy and has been frequently cited as an example of national and international best practice,” says Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Anthony Moore.

Also worthy of note is Sussex’s role as a major contributor to the rich cultural life of the local community. An active supporter and promoter of the arts, the University is a regular sponsor of some of the more salient performances at the popular Brighton Festival which takes over the city every May.

Widening Participation

While recognising that some students do not get the same chances as others of going to University, Sussex is committed to broadening the involvement of students from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds through its Widening Participation strategy. As part of this strategy, the University has developed partnerships and volunteer schemes with schools and colleges to raise pupils’ aspirations in areas of social deprivation. To achieve this, Sussex staff organise year-round outreach activities and taster events which give school pupils a unique insight into university life.

Another important contributor to the University’s Widening Participation scheme is The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), which takes the leading role in the delivery of part-time and lifelong learning opportunities to more than 2,000 people a year. The Centre runs a large programme of open access courses in community-based locations throughout the county of Sussex. Within this programme, a number of courses have been targeted specifically at groups traditionally excluded from higher education, such as those who are unemployed, refugees and minority ethnic communities and people living in outlying housing estates.

But it is our students who bring to life our links with the community and as such they are an important resource for the region. ‘Project V’ is bringing together the work of the University and the Students’ Union to co-ordinate and expand volunteering schemes. The many opportunities available to students through this project are as diverse as helping with the regeneration of East Brighton, acting as a mentor in a local school, or doing creative work for a local charity.

"Many Brighton migrants have stories about why they moved here that go something like this: ‘I came down for a party, woke up in a beach hut, never left: Coming to Brighton as a student might take a little more pre-planning, but once you get here you’re still struck by a kind of love at first sight. Five years on, whenever I walk down the North Laines on a busy sunny day, I still get that rosy honeymoon glow.”

(Lyndsey Winship, CCS 1997-00)
Having recently celebrated its 70th anniversary and with a record 150 million weekly listeners, the BBC World Service is one of Britain’s most widely acclaimed institutions worldwide. Barry Langridge (AFRAS 1964–68), Head of Africa and the Middle East Region, explains the secret of this global attraction.

It is early on a bright and frosty February morning, and my colleague and I are standing in front of the impressive Bush House building – the HQ of the BBC World Service in central London – just in time for our meeting with Barry Langridge, Head of Africa and the Middle East Region, and a member of the World Services’ management board. “This building, and the brand BBC World Service,” Barry would be passionately telling us only a few minutes later, “gives reporters the duty to stand above the battle. They have to be absolutely neutral and if they are not, they don’t belong here. The one thing we are very strong and strict about is that if you find somebody who is not doing that, they are out.”

Impartiality and objectivity have consistently remained the key values of the BBC World Service’s identity since its foundation 70 years ago, and Barry takes great pride in stressing the significance of this well-established tradition. With such precious and widely acclaimed recognition as one of the most trusted broadcasters in the world, marketing the WS almost seems an unnecessary exercise. Yet, the golden days when serious advertising was only something for the competitors are long gone, as exemplified by the Services’ impressive 70th anniversary global celebrations. “The whole point was to get publicity,” says Barry. “There is no point in having a good product, unless you can get it out there. It’s interesting that nowadays the BBC World Service tends to be much more aggressive in marketing. In the old days it was incredibly smug. In fact, the marketing slogan used to be ‘if you don’t listen to the World Service it’s your fault’, whereas now it’s ‘you know, we exist; if you want to know, if you want to hear all points of view on Iraq – is it really about the oil, is it? Is it about Bush? Is it about Saddam? If you really want to know, you have to come back to the BBC.”

Listening to Barry, you would never guess that he ever wished to do anything else but work for the WS. Yet, Barry’s professional career after Sussex began as a diplomat with the Foreign Office. “When I joined, the first thing that I was given was a book on etiquette, which for a University of Sussex student who marched against the Vietnamese war and threw paint at the American ambassador was a bit embarrassing,” he recalls. After two short postings (Congo and Sri Lanka), Barry became disillusioned with the FO and decided to apply for a short-term contract with the WS, much to the horror of his parents, as he admits. His successful career with the BBC took him to both radio and television, where he was a senior producer in programmes such as Nationwide, Panorama and Newsnight.

As Head of Africa and the Middle East Region, one of Barry’s main responsibilities is maintaining editorial balance. Yet, despite the WS’ clear guidelines to ensure impartiality and fairness, Barry admits that this often proves a challenging task, especially when broadcasting to passionate audiences about opposite views. “The greatest challenge I’ve had as a manager in the BBC is to keep balance on the Middle East, because there is no balance or no taste for balance in the ears of the listeners, and we are criticised by both sides. For instance, if there is an atrocity and we even mention or talk to the mother of the suicide bomber, there is uproar in Israel, and vice versa,” says Barry.

Keeping the world abreast of developments in areas engulfed by conflict, such as the Middle East, while maintaining balance and objectivity, places enormous pressure on the work of...
As our interview comes to a close, Barry pauses for a second and gently remarks "Would you be interested in a tour of the premises? I've got a soft spot for Sussex, you know." Five hours later, having seen the WS in action and even attended an editorial board meeting, we leave Bush House. It is still cold outside, but with the memories of the day echoing in our minds, we don't seem to notice it this time.

Did you appear in **Oh! What a Lovely War?**

In 1967, the young Richard Attenborough, making the film of *Oh! What A Lovely War* in Brighton and the surrounding area, needed lots of young men to play the soldiers sent to the trenches in the First World War as 'cannon fodder'. He persuaded the Vice-Chancellor, Asa Briggs, to lend him Sussex students of the day as 'extras'. Today, Lord Attenborough is Chancellor of the University, and later this year we will be celebrating his eightieth birthday and lifetime of achievements. As part of the celebrations, we are hoping to trace some of the students who took part in the making of the film, particularly any living locally.

If you were wrapped in puttees, and sent to the trenches on the South Downs, or dressed in Sunday finery to wave our 'brave boys' off at the station, Robin Street in the Alumni Office would love to hear from you. He can be contacted on (01273) 678258, or by email at alumni@sussex.ac.uk.
in memoriam

The Alumni Society regrets to report the death of the following people and extends its sympathy to their family and friends.

Brian Behan

Brian Behan (ENGAM 1970-73) died on 2nd November 2002 at the age of 75. A famous playwright and political activist, Brian was one of Brighton’s best-loved eccentrics. From his early years as an active trade unionist, Brian moved on to join the British Communist Party and then the Socialist Labour League.

Nicholas Malloni

Nicholas Malloni (EURO 1980-84) died on 31st March 2003 at the age of 43. “For all of us who loved Nick so much it seems our lives are now so much more empty for his lack of spark…”

Len Garrison

Len Garrison (AFRAS 1973-76) died on 18th February 2003 at the age of 59. Len was undoubtedly one of the most prominent figures in the black British community. His work on the experience of African and Caribbean pupils was a major impetus to the development of a multicultural curriculum in British Schools.

John Hedges

John Hedges (AFRAS 1976-80, USIE 1998-03) died on 6th January 2003 at the age of 35. John had just completed a DPhil in Education and was due to graduate at the Brighton Dome in February.

Michael Kam

Michael Kam (SOC 1973-76) died in Hong Kong on 25th August 2002 after a short illness. Having married Sue in 1973, they soon re-located to Hong Kong, where he built up his own insurance company and made many friends and contacts throughout the Far East.

Shan Li

Shan Li (COS 1993-00) died on 28th December 2002 at the age of 47. Shan was studying Artificial Intelligence, but sadly never completed her degree due to a ten-year battle with breast cancer.

Will Light

Will Light (MAFS 1968-71) died suddenly on 8th December 2002 at the age of 52. Will was a distinguished mathematician and Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leicester.

Jane Longhurst

Jane Longhurst (USIE 1995-96) tragically died in March this year at age 31. Jane had been missing for several weeks before her body was finally discovered. “Jane was an excellent musician and completely committed to teaching right from the start. She had a great sense of humour and a love of life, and was always really positive. I feel so sad that she has been taken from us so cruelly, but will always remember her spirit,” writes her friend Rebecca Seery (USIE 1995-96).

Nicholas Malloni

Nicholas Malloni (EURO 1980-84) died on 31st March 2003 at the age of 43. “For all of us who loved Nick so much it seems our lives are now so much more empty for his lack of spark…”

Ken Simons

Ken Simons (AFRAS 1973-75) died unexpectedly on 8th January 2003 at the age of 49. Since 1989 he had been a Senior Researcher at Bristol University, working on policy and services for people with learning disabilities.

Trevor Cole

Trevor Cole died on 31st December 2002 at the age of 69. “Kent House Porter for 15 years, Trevor was the first point of contact for many a generation of Sussex students. ‘He was a lovely person and I’ll sadly miss him’ writes friend Aurora Tetsura (SPRU-GRC 1996-02).

Brian Nicholas

Brian Nicholas died on 24th January 2003 at the age of 69. A lecturer in French at Sussex from 1964 until his retirement in 1997, Brian also served as Sub-Dean of Student Affairs in the School of European Studies for ten years.

Nicholas Malloni

Nicholas Malloni (EURO 1980-84) died on 31st March 2003 at the age of 43. “For all of us who loved Nick so much it seems our lives are now so much more empty for his lack of spark…”

Keith Pavitt

Keith Pavitt died suddenly on 20th December 2002 at the age of 65. Since 1984 Keith held the title of Reginald Phillips Professor of Science and Technology Policy, the post he held at Sussex until his formal retirement in 2002. In the field of science policy research, Keith was one of the world’s leading figures, and he made fundamental contributions to many of the great debates that have characterised this field over recent decades.

Donald Wood

Donald Wood died on 29th December 2002 at the age of 79. Donald joined the University of Sussex in 1964, retiring 25 years later as Reader Emeritus. Based in the School of African and Asian Studies, he taught undergraduate courses on Caribbean history, literature and society, and on the consequences of slavery in the Americas.
As soon as Ben Sidran (ARTS 1967-70) graduated, he followed his musical passion to Los Angeles and began a glittering career as recording artist and producer in the world of jazz, blues and pop. A keen musician since childhood, Ben has gone on to work with many world-famous artists, including Van Morrison, Diane Ross, George Fame, Mace Akoff, Herbie Hancock, Bob Marley, Chick Corea, Peter Frampton and the Rolling Stones. A respected artist in his own right, Ben has released twenty-five solo albums, most recently Walk Pretty. The Music of Alec Wilder on the GJ Jazz record label. Other accomplishments include several movie scores, including the award-winning Hung DREAMS and Vanessa: Long Time Coming and the publication of his Sussex DPhil thesis, "Music of Black America: A Radical Alternative to The Values of Western Literary Tradition." If you want to know more then check out www.bensidran.com.

Bob Gillespie (ENGJ 1967-70) recently came into the frugal superiority of the lands of Blackhall in Renfrewshire. He would be delighted to hear from any of his old friends who shared the carefree lifestyle at Sussex in the mid-sixties.

Dr Mustafah Buda (AFRAS 1974-77) has been appointed Visiting Professor of English at University of Idaho and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Social and Policy Studies at Alliant International University, in California.

If you have any news to share then please contact us at alumni@sussex.ac.uk.

What are you up to? Send us your news at alumni@sussex.ac.uk

About the image: The image contains text with various paragraphs, possibly from a newspaper or magazine article. The text appears to be discussing alumni and notable events from the University of Sussex. The paragraphs are not connected in a specific order, and the text is mixed with other random text, making it difficult to extract coherent information. The image seems to be a page from a magazine or newspaper, with a photograph of a building and some text overlaying it. The text is not clear enough to provide a meaningful summary or transcription of the content.
Toby Wiggs (SOC 1994-97) is a trustee of a charity recently set up in memory of Miriam Eaton (AFRAS 1994-97) who died in August 2001 following a year-long battle with cancer. Throughout her illness Miriam found there was a lack of practical support for young people suffering from this disease and the charity will attempt to redress this by providing financial and practical support to those who need it most. For more information, please visit www.miriamtrust.org.uk.

Joseph Bindloe (EIT 1993-95) has co-authored several travel guidebooks to destinations including Australia, India, Mauritius, Kenya, the Philippines and the island of Reunion.


Alan Shepard (BIO 1993-96) has set up a new website (www.mywavelength.com) designed to allow people from around the world to communicate with others based on their shared interests.

Orelena Hubert (EURO 1993-97) has recently taken part in the British Army Antarctic Expedition (BAAE) sailing on a 72ft ketch.

Having spent three years in Paris with The Independent and AFP news agency, Joanna Lee (EURO 1993-97) is currently working as a journalist and producer on the BBC Panorama series.

Alumni help launch new work placements scheme

“I was very lucky to get a job in the Finnish Institute in Madrid. My language skills have improved immensely. I have learnt how to apply the rules of grammar, as well as how to use the language in different situations.”

Evelina Hakkinen

What are you up to?
Send us your news at alumni@sussex.ac.uk

Save the postage!
Update your contact details at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

2000s

2001 - Right, Jochen Klinghofer (BIOLS 1999-00) and Jochen Rentzch (EIT 1999-00) (pictured). Jessica Czankner (BIOLS 1997-98) and Paul Ibrwood (BIO 1996-99) exchanged vows in April, and Lucy Grubich (BIOLS 1993-96) and James Arnold (ENG 1993-95) were recently wed in Hertfordshire.

2000

2001 - Right, Jochen Klinghofer (BIOLS 1999-00) and Jochen Rentzch (EIT 1999-00) (pictured). Jessica Czankner (BIOLS 1997-98) and Paul Ibrwood (BIO 1996-99) exchanged vows in April, and Lucy Grubich (BIOLS 1993-96) and James Arnold (ENG 1993-95) were recently wed in Hertfordshire.

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I wanted to use my year abroad to gain practical experience. By doing a work placement in The Munich Opera House, I hoped to get a good look at how a theatre is run and to improve my language skills. Of course I also appreciated that the work placement would improve my CV, but the main reason for doing it was to get some hands-on experience.”

Eleanor Salter