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As with every issue of *Falmer*, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to share with Sussex alumni and friends the latest developments at the University. In the current climate, with continued pressure on HE funding but with new opportunities opening up and new expectations in our student community, this is an exciting and challenging time for higher education in the UK. To remain competitive in what has become an increasingly global market, universities must review and refresh their offerings to respond to societal, student and labour market demands.

The last few months at Sussex have been marked by a comprehensive strategic planning exercise across all academic activity, in order to allow the University to focus and further invest in those areas of strength and excellence. Of course, a planning process of this nature is never easy and it requires some tough decisions, but I am confident that the University is pursuing the right strategy. As a result of this review, the University will be investing in a substantial number of new academic posts in areas of strength across all our departments, and the recruitment process is currently well underway.

No doubt many of you will have noticed that the discussions of the future of the Chemistry Department, which formed part of this overall planning process, have been the centre of much media attention recently. The debate has been challenging and difficult for the University, but it is to the credit of Sussex students, academics and advocates on all sides of the debate that the discussions were robust and open and that we were able to reach a sensible decision. I am very pleased that Senate and Council have approved our proposal to retain chemistry at Sussex by creating a single merged Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The University is committed to retaining a strong and broad science base, as well as a particular focus on areas in which we are strong, and I am therefore pleased with this outcome.

I am sure that, as alumni and friends of the University, you take an interest in the University’s developments and its future direction. Over the past 12 months, I have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to share with so many of you at various events Sussex’s ambition for the future, and I shall look forward to meeting more of you in person in the future. We are determined to continue to make a difference to the world and I hope that you will wish to support us in our endeavours.

With best wishes,

Alasdair Smith
Vice-Chancellor
Our role is the final stage – actually discovering the stars and galaxies,’ explains Dr Oliver.

‘This is ‘Big Science’ in its grandest sense,’ adds Dr Savage. ‘The legacy value of Akari should be incredible. It will see everything from asteroids in our own solar system to galaxies most of the way back to the Big Bang, along with everything in between. The sheer range of science we can address is staggering, from features of our own solar system all the way to Dark Energy and the nature of the Universe in which we live.’

Akari (formerly called ASTRO-F) is a Japanese space telescope with UK, Netherlands and ESA (European Space Agency) involvement. British astronomers are an important part of this major new space mission, both in terms of data analysis and exploitation. Teams at Imperial College London, the Open University, and the University of Sussex, together with the Netherlands Institute for Space Research and Groningen University in The Netherlands, developed some of the data analysis and will be working on Akari’s pioneering all-sky infrared survey.

Astronomers at the University of Sussex will be among the first to discover unknown stars and galaxies at the far reaches of the Universe following the launch of the world’s most advanced infrared space telescope.

Dr Seb Oliver and Dr Richard Savage, based at the University’s Astronomy Centre, are working with a UK team of scientists involved in analysing data produced by the Akari telescope, which blasted off from the Uchinoura Space Centre in Japan on 21 February 2006.

As it orbits Earth, Akari, developed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) with European partners, will map the Universe at infrared and far-infrared wavelengths, revealing the heat glow of objects hidden behind clouds of cosmic dust. The survey will study some of the rarest objects in the Universe including starbursts – dramatic explosions of star formation. ‘The Sussex team is responsible for a key element of the data analysis for the far-infrared all-sky survey. The major product of the mission is to map the whole sky and produce a catalogue of millions of galaxies.’
New association for former Sussex staff

A reception was held in the Meeting House in April to inaugurate an association for former employees of the University.

The event was attended by some 80 former staff, from a good cross-section of departments and units (academic and non-academic), and the idea was greeted with enthusiasm. Former Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Gordon Conway, chair of the association’s steering group, led a short ‘business’ interruption to the social activity. He explained the general concept of the association and Professor Jennifer Platt outlined some of the initial ideas raised in an earlier meeting of the association’s steering group. There was a short general discussion and more ideas were contributed before the party continued.

Suggestions for social activities included trips to the theatre and Glyndebourne, wine tasting, walking, sport and an annual dinner with speaker. Possibilities for University-related activities included participating in an oral history of the University, helping with pre-retirement courses, acting as ‘ambassadors’ for the University, and acting as mentors to overseas students.

In future meetings the group will be making proposals for how to continue on a slightly more formal basis and for some initial activities.

If you would like to be added to the association’s mailing list, email Roger Walkinton at r.e.walkinton@sussex.ac.uk with your name, department or unit, postal address and email address.

‘Brain drain’ or skilled migration?

Researchers at the DFID-funded Development Research Centre (DRC) on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty at Sussex are examining the issue of brain drain. Ron Skeldon, Professorial Fellow of Geography at Sussex and a member of the core team of researchers at the Centre, argues that while eagerness to recruit ‘ethically’ is to be welcomed, this puts a simple gloss on what is an extremely complex issue.

The issue of brain drain is part of current political and public concerns about the state of development in Africa. To ‘make poverty history’, it is felt that Africa will surely need the skilled people it produces in order to bring this about. The developed world is seen to be ‘poaching’ skilled people from Africa and other developing regions in order to meet its own demands for skilled labour. This is most acute in the case of the health sector, where doctors and nurses from poor countries are recruited to address the significant vacancy rates in North America and Europe.

Some governments in developed countries, including that of the UK, have responded with programmes of ethical recruitment that limit or even prohibit the recruitment of health personnel from poor countries. Suggestions exist that limit or even prohibit the recruitment of health personnel from poor countries.

In a globalising world, developing countries will have a growing role in servicing the populations of the developed world, regardless of who migrates where. Much interchange and circulation of brains exist in the international migration system. Some countries may even actively promote the export of particular skills.

‘Nonetheless, there is no doubt that the return of skilled nationals of developing countries is important to their future development,’ says Professor Skeldon. Sussex researchers are examining the conditions that are likely to induce return, including likely drivers of outsourcing of both health and education to the developing world. In a globalising world, developing countries will have a growing role in servicing the populations of the developed world, regardless of who migrates where.

According to Professor Skeldon, the issue of the migration of the skilled is not one of simple developing-country loss and developed-country gain, and policies that take into consideration the real complexity of the situation rather than a perceived simplicity are required if more sustainable development is to be achieved.
New Pro-Vice-Chancellors appointed

The University has recently appointed three new Pro-Vice-Chancellors (PVCs) to provide senior academic leadership at Sussex, working with the Vice-Chancellor and other members of the University’s Executive Group.

Professor Paul Layzell has been appointed PVC (Resources) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. He will provide leadership on business planning and resource allocation. Professor Layzell is currently Vice-President for University Development at the University of Manchester. He managed the project to bring together UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) and the University of Manchester to form a new, single institution in 2004. Prior to that, he was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at UMIST with responsibility for finance and estate, Head of the Computation Department and a Professor of Software Management.

Professor Bob Allison has been appointed PVC (Research), taking responsibility for driving forward the research agenda at Sussex. Professor Allison is currently Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health at Durham University. A physical geographer, he was previously Head of Durham’s Geography Department.

Professor Joanne Wright has been appointed PVC (Education) with responsibility for teaching and learning, and the student experience. Professor Wright has been Dean of the Faculty of History and Social Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London since 2002 and is a Professor of International Relations.

Commenting on the appointments, the Vice-Chancellor said, ‘this open recruitment process has brought forward some exceptional candidates and has created a very strong academic leadership team that is well equipped to take forward the University’s agenda, and to make a step change in the performance of the whole institution.’

The new PVCs will take up their posts by the start of the new academic year.

Sussex top in physics and space science

Sussex takes two top spots in a new ranking of UK universities based on the average number of citations per academic paper from 2001 to 2005. The latest issue of Science Watch, published by Thomson Scientific, puts Sussex top of the table in both physics and space science. The Science Watch rankings are derived from Thomson Scientific’s United Kingdom University Science Indicators, a database containing publication and citation statistics on upwards of 150 UK universities and affiliated institutions in nearly two dozen main scientific fields.
Investing in excellence

Outline plans for the future academic size and shape of the University of Sussex were approved by Senate and Council in March, and work has been pushing ahead within all Schools and departments to develop detailed plans over the summer term.

The plans aim to improve the University’s academic performance, bringing about higher quality teaching and research, supported by increases in income from a wide range of sources. This is part of a new strategic plan for the University, to ensure that Sussex continues to be one of the UK’s leading research and teaching institutions.

A recruitment process to appoint new faculty across the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities is already underway. These posts include new leadership for the Department of Engineering and Design, and the Department of Informatics. We are also creating new posts in applied areas of mathematics to help develop the maths which underpin real world issues and applications in areas like biology and medicine.

By investing in arts and humanities subjects we are not just keeping up with the high demand from students; we are also breaking new ground in thinking. In economics, we are at the forefront of ideas on international development. In history, we are promoting a new understanding of society, looking at the history of medicine. And, as befits a university based in Brighton, we are developing our strong visual arts and media expertise.

As part of these developments we have been looking at how we can best enhance our teaching and research activity in our School of Life Sciences, which covers psychology, biology and environmental science, biochemistry and chemistry.

The debate about the future of chemistry at Sussex was not an easy one, and one that required some difficult decisions to be taken. After a challenging process, both Council and Senate endorsed the University’s proposal to retain chemistry, as part of a single merged Chemistry and Biochemistry Department. This would enable us to offer mainstream chemistry degrees, and to retain academics whose work will support research at the key interface of chemistry and biochemistry, where much new investment has been applied in recent years at Sussex.
Countdown to the Brighton Photo Biennial

Gilane Tawadros (History of Art, EURO 1983) is an independent curator and writer, and founding director of the ground-breaking Institute of International Visual Arts (inIVA). She left inIVA last year to become Curator of the second Brighton Photo Biennial, which takes place in October 2006, with exhibitions all over Brighton & Hove and the South East – including the Gardner Arts Centre on the University of Sussex campus.

Gilane credits her love of Brighton and of photography to her first encounter with the University of Sussex. ‘I got a place to study English but as I was only 17 I was asked to come back a year later. During that year I ended up on a Youth Opportunity programme at the Photographers’ Gallery in London, and just fell in love with photography.’ As a result, instead of reading English, Gilane transferred to the Department of Art History at Sussex. ‘It was a revelation. I was exceedingly fortunate in having two particular tutors: David Mellor, who was the first person to champion a photography course as a discipline in the context of art history; and Norbert Lynton, through whom I learned a huge amount about contemporary and modern art. I stayed on to do an MA – so I was in and around Brighton for quite a while.’ Her MA focused on the work of artists from different cultural backgrounds, based in Britain. It was the beginning of one of the great missions in her life. ‘Nothing was written about these artists so I had to generate my own primary sources, and I became deeply engaged by the question of difference and representation.’

After her MA, Gilane returned to the Photographers’ Gallery, ending up as Education Officer before moving to a newly created post at the Hayward Gallery running education programmes around all the visual arts projects at the Hayward and Royal Festival Hall. These two posts provided her with broad experience of creating access initiatives to the visual arts and this, combined with her interest in culturally diverse artists, made her the perfect choice to become the first director of the new Arts Council organisation, inIVA (Institute of International Visual Arts), under its charismatic Chairman, Stuart Hall. ‘Ever since the Second World War there had been an influx of artists from different cultural backgrounds into the UK, so by the mid 80s there was a generation of artists born and brought up in this country whose parents came from other places. But there was an enormous gap in mainstream visual arts institutions: either in representing the history of artists who had lived and worked here for several decades – and who had been hugely instrumental in terms of internationalising the arts scene in the UK – or of this younger generation who were coming out of art colleges, producing amazing work but who really weren’t given the opportunities to show. There was also increasing interest in what was happening outside Europe and America.’ Thus, inIVA was established by the Arts Council to respond to this need. ‘Although it didn’t have a permanent building, it was conceived very much as a traditional gallery. Stuart and I reconfigured this traditional model. We decided there was no lack of spaces; good content was the issue. We also wanted it to be responsive to what artists were doing in whatever form that might take (including all the new technologies) and from whichever country.’ Together they created a new kind of visual arts organisation, which had an enormous impact in terms of the ways it operated. Not being tied to a building meant it could work in a peripatetic way so it was able to do site-specific projects, projects on the internet, and education programmes which were really innovative. ‘It wasn’t just about exhibitions; it was also about publications, research,
were not established, and therefore we felt it important to publish the books and catalogues about their work. Inevitably, over time these artists have become mainstream, so the books that inIVA was publishing 10 years ago are now stock mainstream art publications.’

In 2005, she left inIVA to become curator of the Brighton Photo Biennial. ‘After 11 years I needed a break. But most importantly, work had finally begun on a seven million pound permanent building for inIVA in East London that I had overseen. At that point I decided it was time for someone else to take over!’

This is only the second Brighton Photo Biennial, which will run from 6 to 29 October. ‘The idea is to create a focal point for photography in the city because Brighton has huge artistic and photographic communities, two universities and many cultural organisations in and around the city. So the Biennial is a focal point for those institutions as well as for the people of Brighton and the South East. There’s a kind of paradox: because Brighton is so close to London many of the major exhibitions don’t come here, the assumption being that people will go to London. So it’s really important that this is a high profile, international calibre event, but also that it has resonance for Brighton.’

Given the prominence of the Brighton Pavilion, it is hardly surprising that Gilane found this iconic building a source of inspiration for the main exhibition. ‘I spent a lot of time at the Brighton Pavilion. I was interested in the fact that what had been quite a modest farm house became this extraordinary, sumptuous, confident, architectural expression at the very moment when the British monarchy was feeling most insecure, having lost the War of Independence and the American colony, and with the French Revolution on its doorstep. It was now starting to look East, which was further away geographically, linguistically and culturally. I was also interested in the idea of the Pavilion as a place for leisure and the fact that Brighton is always associated with that. This led me to thinking about Empire; the parallels between Britain at that particular period in its history and America now. So the main exhibition, which will be at the Brighton Museum and the focal point for the event, is a body of work by the American fashion photographer, Richard Avedon. Immediately after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Avedon and writer James Baldwin collaborated on a project called ‘Nothing Personal’, which is basically an incisive look at America. It’s a series of portraits of congressmen and civil rights workers – a panorama of American life in snapshot portraits. It’s powerful photographically, but Baldwin’s text is also amazing, and the remarkable thing is that so much of it could have been written yesterday. He talks of America as a society which values the gloss and the external and doesn’t really look inside of itself. Extraordinary words I thought, given the state of the world and where we’re at.’ With the Avedon/Baldwin project as the event’s showpiece, an exhibition is being built around this, which will include artists such as Walker Evans, William Eggleston, Richard Misrach, Andy Warhol and Paul Fusco.

For the first time the Pavilion itself is opening its doors and gardens to show contemporary work, and Fiona Tan is making a work filmed entirely in the building. There are different exhibitions right across the South East: at Fabrica, at the University of Brighton, at the University of Sussex (Gardner Arts Centre), Charleston Farmhouse and the De La Warr Pavilion (where there is an exhibition, screenings and performances celebrating Orson Welles). ‘When I was invited to curate this event I was absolutely delighted because I love Brighton and I love photography – and I wanted Brighton to be the inspiration for it.’

Written by Jane Jacomb-Hood

For further details about the Brighton Photo Biennial, please visit www.bph.org.uk
Universities in society

Universities are under pressure worldwide to expand their social missions. This is more so in the developing world, and particularly in Africa. Universities and the societies in which they are embedded co-evolve, shaping each other in a variety of ways. This co-evolution is an uncertain process, involving continuous dialogue and interaction.

The first generation of post-independence African universities focused on nation building, with emphasis on providing functionaries for the civil service. Today, African countries are facing new challenges related to participation in the global economy, meeting basic needs, and contributing to the transition towards sustainability. These require increased investment in generating, adapting and diffusing available technical knowledge to local uses. Africa must change the way that its universities operate. First, countries will need to consider universities as productive entities (ie as incubators of new enterprises), and not simply producers of a trained workforce. Secondly, universities and other technical institutes must integrate with their communities.

Reinventing African universities

Universities have a key role to play in society, but does academia in the developing world have additional responsibilities to national economic development? Drawing on cross-cultural examples across the developing world, Calestous Juma (Social Studies, SPRU 1983), Professor of Practice of International Development at Harvard University, argues that African universities need to reinvent themselves to expand their social mission and solve community problems. A newly elected Fellow of the Royal Society, Professor Juma is an internationally recognised authority in the application of science, technology and sustainable development worldwide.

“Today, African countries are facing new challenges related to participation in the global economy, meeting basic needs, and contributing to the transition towards sustainability.”
If African universities cannot reinvent themselves to play a leading role in the transition towards sustainability, enlightened governments should charter other categories of institutions to perform this community function. Fortunately, as the examples highlighted below illustrate, there are many historical and modern examples to guide their reinvention.

Universities in development experiments

Entrepreneurial education: Costa Rica’s EARTH University

In 1948, Costa Rica abolished its army and used part of the saved revenue for health and higher education. This courageous act helped the country prosper and become an economic force in Central America. It is against this background that Costa Rica was able to pioneer a new educational model that trains young people to create enterprises and be employers rather than employees.

EARTH University offers a four-year degree in agricultural sciences. It focuses on training leaders who will help advance sustainable development. By training ‘agents of change’, EARTH University has developed a unique curriculum based on experiential learning. It focuses on agriculture as a human activity, the integration of many academic disciplines, understanding the changing and globalising world, and the linkages between economic, social and environmental concerns.

Throughout their studies students focus on doing practical work related to crop and animal production; they are required to run their own micro-enterprises using a US$3,000 loan from the University, undertake project design, feasibility assessment, market study and business management.

Community development: Ghana’s University for Development Studies

The government of Ghana established the University for Development Studies (UDS) in 1992. UDS seeks to make tertiary education and research directly relevant to communities, especially in rural areas. It is the only university in Ghana required by law to break from tradition and become innovative in its mission. It is a multi-campus institution in northern Ghana – the poorest region in the country, affected by a high child malnutrition rate and a serious population pressure, and vulnerable to ecological degradation. The University’s philosophy, therefore, is to promote the study of subjects that will help address human welfare improvement.


An important component of the emphasis on addressing sustainable development is an eight-week field practical programme. The University believes that the most feasible and sustainable way of tackling underdevelopment is to start with what the people already know and understand, and therefore the field programme brings science to bear on indigenous knowledge from the outset.

Under this programme, students live and work in rural communities and are required to identify development goals, formulate action plans and help in their implementation. The impact of this innovative training approach is already apparent, with the majority of UDS graduates working in rural communities.

Enterprises as university incubators: South Korea’s Pohang University of Science and Technology

Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH) was established in 1986. It is a product of two outstanding visionaries: Professor Hogil Kim, the founding president of POSTECH, and Tae-Joon Park, the chair of the Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO).

This is an outstanding example of how business enterprises can serve as incubators of institutions of higher learning.

Combining the scientific and educational expertise of Professor Kim with Park’s financial and enterprising abilities, they followed a simple formula of selecting a small number of outstanding students, supporting them fully, and recruiting the best staff available. In March 1987, POSTECH admitted 249 students into nine science departments.

POSTECH places heavy emphasis on research and hosts eight research centres of excellence and more than 21 affiliated laboratories.

In 2003, POSTECH opened the Biotech Centre, one of the largest in South Korea, which is pursuing large-scale collaborations between academia and industry in biotechnology. The one major lesson is the role of POSTECH in developing POSTECH. POSTECH’s initial goal was to train world-class engineers for its operations. Through the collaborative initiative and vision of its founders, POSTECH defied all odds to become an excellent internationally-renowned university.

This shows that private companies in the developing world can support higher education not only for their benefit, but also for national economic development. Africa already has several well-established industries that rely heavily on innovations in science and technology that could emulate this model.

Reconstruction: Rwanda’s Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management

Reconstruction efforts following the genocide in Rwanda have been associated with an emphasis on the role of science, technology and engineering in economic transformation. This is illustrated by the decision of the Rwandan
government to convert military barracks into a home for a new university, the Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management (KIST) – the first public technological institute of higher learning in Rwanda.

KIST, set up in 1997, aims to contribute to Rwanda’s economic renewal through the creation of highly-skilled manpower by offering courses in science, technology and management; carrying out extensive research activities and knowledge dissemination; and providing technical assistance and services to all sections of the community.

The success of KIST is a combination of enlightened state guidance, supportive international agencies and autonomous management. These factors, when coupled with entrepreneurial executive leadership, can deliver results in a relatively short time. KIST has put to rest the myth that institutions of higher learning, especially universities, take too long to deliver results.

Above: Students in a laboratory at the University of Zimbabwe

Lessons learnt
The rising interest in Africa’s future has coincided with a new awakening of interest within international development agencies in the role of technological innovation in economic growth. But much of the discussion on Africa’s development only marginally addresses the need to harness the world’s existing fund of knowledge for development. The Commission for Africa has played an important role in placing the issue on the international policy agenda. But the commission has also pointed out that using existing knowledge for economic development will require governments and other players to focus on strengthening the role of the academic community (as well as business) in development.

 Universities and other institutions of higher learning are key players in domesticking knowledge and diffusing it into the economy. But they can only accomplish this through close linkages with the private sector. It will require major adjustments in the way universities function in Africa, as well as the rest of the developing world. Many of these universities will need to change from being conventional sources of graduates to become engines of community development. In other words, they will need to become ‘developmental universities’, working directly within the communities in which they are located.

Many of these examples are the result of isolated initiatives – some resulting from government foresight, others from occasional academic entrepreneurship, or just serendipity. The challenge facing Africa is to move away from relying on luck and tenacity, and to create an environment that helps to realise the developmental role of universities across the continent. This must start with government policy. Little will happen unless governments realise the strategic role that universities can play in harnessing the world’s fund of scientific and technological knowledge for development.

The issue is not simply about more funding. It also involves redefining higher education as a developmental force. This will require efforts to align university activities with development missions.

Thinking ahead
The way ahead involves at least three types of strategic decisions. The first is to promote reform in existing universities, in order to bring research, training and outreach activities into the service of their regions. Most of the universities located in urban areas, for example, should forge close links with municipal authorities to help solve the economic, social and environmental challenges they face.

The second type of decision involves upgrading the level of academic competence at technical institutions that have already contributed to community development, while preserving their traditional role. This, however, is only possible if existing university policies are sufficiently flexible to accommodate developmental functions. Finally, African governments are currently reviewing an increasing number of applications to set up new universities. This gives them a unique opportunity to shape the curricula, teaching and location of these institutions so they can perform developmental tasks.

Putting universities at the service of community development will also require extensive international partnerships. Development agencies such as the World Bank will need to complement their current focus on primary education with a new vision for higher education. African countries, in turn, will need to demonstrate their commitment to long-term development by providing incentives and formulating policies which bring higher education into the service of development.

Today, Africa’s poor flock to the cities – many in search of the higher education that they see as the passport to their children’s personal success. The time has come for higher education to show results through novel technology development and commercialisation alliances that contribute to economic development.

Professor Juma will be receiving an honorary degree from the University of Sussex at the graduation ceremony this summer.
Plants and their herbivores – or why the world is green

Why the world stays green is one of ecology’s oldest and thorniest questions. It is also one of the main research interests of Sue Hartley, Professor of Ecology at the University of Sussex, and a leading community ecologist specialising in the study of plant-herbivore interactions.
Plants have been eaten by animals almost since they emerged on land millions of years ago; yet the world stays green. Typically, herbivores in terrestrial systems only manage to consume less than a fifth of the available plant material. The terrestrial world is green, but curiously the aquatic world is not: in aquatic and marine systems over three-quarters of plant biomass is eaten. These observations raise a fundamental question for ecologists: why don’t land animals eat more plants? One possibility is that herbivore populations are too small to have much impact on plants because predators and diseases keep herbivore numbers low – they are too rare to have much influence on plant growth. This idea was the most popular explanation for the ‘green world’ for many years and has gained recent support from observations in ecological communities where herbivores are present but predators are absent, such as on islands. However, ecologists now also recognise that all that is green is not detectable and that herbivores find plants much harder to cope with than appearances might suggest.

What is it that makes plants so inedible? Herbivores have two major problems in trying to survive as vegetarians. Firstly, plants are extremely low in protein, the major component of animals. Plants are mostly water in a tough fibrous bundle – celery is a good example. This means that herbivores have to eat a lot of plant material to get enough essential nutrients and meet their energy requirements. Therefore, it is no surprise that large grazing animals spend so much time eating, or that koalas and sloths, with particularly poor quality diets, have little energy and sleep 20 out of 24 hours. Secondly, plants can be more abrasive than tooth enamel and are, therefore, thought to make grass leaves abrasive and off-putting to herbivores – it is like getting sand in your sandwiches! However, the effect of silica on abrasiveness and the consequences for herbivores have not been tested experimentally. This is despite the fact that ecologists and evolutionary biologists have long assumed that silica is the reason that mammalian herbivores evolved large ridged teeth or continuously growing ones once they began to feed on grasses.

Research at Sussex, together with collaborators from the University of Manchester, has for the first time shown how silica defends grasses against a range of herbivores, both insects and mammals. We found that adding silica to the soil allowed grasses to take up more silica and this meant their leaves did become more abrasive. We tested this by showing that the leaves could grind down Perspex sheets more when they had been exposed to silica. We also found that this increased abrasiveness meant the herbivores avoided the grasses – they preferred to feed on grasses which did not contain silica and, consequently, had leaves which were not so abrasive. Perhaps most significantly, we also found that silica reduced the ability of herbivores to digest their food. When fed on grasses high in silica, herbivores could not extract so much protein from the grasses and, because this is the most limiting resource for animals feeding on plants, this had a very significant effect on their growth. Herbivores feeding on grasses with high levels of silica grew to only half the size of herbivores feeding on other grasses.
Interestingly, grasses responded to being eaten by accumulating even more silica in their leaves, which means that silica can be an even more effective defence against subsequent herbivore attack. So, even plants which seem to lack obvious defences seem to make life very hard for herbivores.

Silica appears to be an extremely effective defence. Why don’t all plants use it? Or why don’t all plants contain ricin if it is such a potent poison? This is another question which has intrigued ecologists: what factors influence the type and amount of defence that particular plant species use against herbivores? Three factors are believed to be important. The first factor is the likelihood of attack. Of course, this is very difficult for plants to assess, but we have already seen one example – plants often respond to previous attack by producing more defences, as the grasses did when they were grazed and their leaves contained higher levels of silica as a result. Secondly, plants respond to their immediate environment. If growth conditions are tough, it makes sense for plants to defend their tissues against attack because they cannot regrow quickly. Similarly, if some resources are very limited, they may not be able to spare them for use in the production of defences, and plants may have to use another defence strategy.

Thirdly, plants have evolved certain defence strategies over time. Again, we have seen an example of this in that grasses have used silica as a defence against grazers for millions of years, whereas other plant families have developed other weapons to use against their herbivores.

Strategies for growth and defence vary between plant families, and even between plant species within plant families. This is particularly obvious in tropical forests, where young seedlings of many different species of tree compete to succeed in reaching the forest canopy, in order to establish themselves as adult trees. Research in Borneo involving researchers from Sussex and from the University of Sheffield has shown that three species within the same plant family have different strategies: one, *Shorea leprosula*, allocates most of its resources to rapid growth; another grows more slowly with much higher levels of defence; the third species, *Dryobanolops lanceolata*, falls somewhere in the middle. Herbivores consume 30 per cent, five per cent and 10 per cent of the biomass of these species respectively. Although *Shorea* got off to the best start when growing to reach a gap, it was eventually overtaken by *Dryobanolops*, possibly because *Shorea* was losing three times as much of its biomass to herbivores and these losses were not sustainable over a long period. In fact, *Dryobanolops* has a key advantage when competing against *Shorea*. Plants usually exhibit a ‘trade-off’ between allocating resources to growth and defence – hence *Shorea* is the fastest growing but the most poorly defended species. But *Dryobanolops* seems to grow approximately twice as fast as would be predicted by its level of defence investment. As a result, it manages to be almost as tall as *Shorea*, whilst losing only a third as much biomass to herbivores. We still do not know how *Dryobanolops* manages to be so much more efficient than *Shorea*, but it may be that the way its leaves and branches are arranged allow it to capture more light, the key limiting resources in the tropics.

The fact that so much vegetation remains uneaten does not, therefore, mean that herbivory has little impact on plants. Herbivory is one of the most important processes in ecology because it affects the performance of individual plants, the characteristics of particular plant species and the dynamics of plant communities. Herbivory can alter the chemical composition of plants; for example, damage by herbivores increases the silica levels in grasses. It is also a key determinant of the growth and survival of plants because it affects the strategies adopted by different plant species to cope with their environment and compete successfully with other plants. This is very clear in the allocation to defence and subsequent losses of biomass to herbivores shown in the interactions between *Shorea* and *Dryobanolops*. These effects mean herbivores can influence which plants successfully survive in plant communities and can even drive the replacement of one plant species by another. The ‘arms race’ between the production of plant defences and the ability of herbivores to overcome them has been a driving force in evolution, one which has contributed to the bewildering diversity of plant and animal species we see today. Hence, many ecologists believe that the interactions between plants and their herbivores, as well as being fascinating in their own right, are central to understanding the world around us.
For Genesis, the live show certainly was the most important thing. Throughout our career I always said, ‘if you don’t like the music, put in some earplugs and just come along and watch the show. It looks great!’

Tony Banks

For 30 years, Genesis was one of the most successful progressive rock bands. Tony Banks was one of its founding members – a sensational keyboards player – and widely acknowledged to have created the Genesis sound.

Would you agree that Genesis was one of the most successful progressive rock bands of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s?

For a certain section of people I think we were. But we were a rather extreme group, so many people hated us too. I’ve always been happier appealing strongly to a minority rather than mildly appealing to a broader constituency, which I suppose is what most pop music does. I also think that the minority got bigger as we got bigger, but we didn’t really sell many records until 1976. A Trick of the Tail was our first big hit, and Then There Were Three was also big for us because of the single Follow You, Follow Me – and that was the first record to make any impact in America.

But Genesis was always a big live band and we used to sell more concert tickets than we ever did records. I’m not quite sure why this was, because recently we’ve been remixing a lot of our early records and they sound pretty good to me.

Genesis live performances became legendary; what made them so special?

We developed our performing craft in front of the audience and I think that was how we learned to control them to some extent. Of course, we were very lucky having theatrical extroverts like Pete [Gabriel] and Phil [Collins] as front men, but even so, there is an art to holding an audience’s attention and making the experience more than just playing hits.

For Genesis, the live show certainly was the most important thing. Throughout our career I always said, ‘if you don’t like the music, put in some earplugs and just come along and watch the show. It looks great!’

The combination of the music with the performance was incredibly strong; because of the very dramatic nature of our music you could build to climaxes in a way that the material of a lot of other groups really didn’t allow. Often they had lovely songs, but there wasn’t any crucial order to them, whereas we could work with the emotion of an audience because we had longer pieces.

Were your shows directed?

We never had any stage direction but in the 80s we did have lighting designers. We worked with the original prototypes of the vari-light; lots of people were trying to make one light produce all the colours, so we put some money up and as soon as they were produced, we started using them. Our shows became huge and very dramatic multimedia events; we had these amazing effects on stage – fantastic costumes and props and, of course, an array of electronic keyboards and layer upon layer of synthesizers. The sheer size of the music and the spectacle – people had never seen anything like it.

Musically, Genesis was always pushing the boundaries. Was this a deliberate decision?

When we came into the business, we were trying to write pop songs. As we developed, we found we loved the more complex work, and discovered an audience that loved it too. There is something about crafting a pop song and getting it right that’s very satisfying. I loved doing it. By the time we did Follow You, Follow Me (1978), which was a bit of a fluke, we suddenly found we could write slightly softer songs and the audience was there for those, too.
You have been credited with shaping the sound of Genesis. What was your musical background? I was taught piano from the age of seven, but I soon learnt to play by ear and I found that much easier than reading music. I had an instinct and feel for chords and how notes fitted together. I could listen to a piece on the radio and I would hear the chord and chord sequences and play along. Groups, particularly, were easy to recognise. The Beatles were perfect because most of their songs were identified by a chord pattern and a top line, and you could pick that out quite easily on a piano and make it sound good. I always wanted to try new things, so I was continually looking for chord changes and structures that hadn’t been used before. Of course, sometimes you’d discover why other people hadn’t used them! Harmony is probably my strongest asset; and I think that what gave Genesis its distinctive sound, particularly in the early days, was unusual chords and chord sequences, and the juxtaposition of notes, which is very much what I like to do.

Did your time at Sussex influence your music in any way? I was only at Sussex for a year (I went to read chemistry but switched to logic with physics) because there was an opportunity to build on the work our group had done just before leaving school. However, during my year in Brighton I had managed to get a Hammond organ into my room in Grafton Street (one of the boarding houses used then); I disconnected the speakers, put on headphones and there was this terrible clattering sound. The other guys used to say, ‘for heaven’s sake, we’d prefer to hear what you’re really playing rather than sounding like a dummy keyboard!’ But I wrote a lot while I was at Sussex and it was a really creative period for me. It was also the time I first started to get more seriously into classical music.

I remember listening to a lot to what is still one of my favourite pieces of music, Shostakovich’s Tenth Symphony. I would like to have finished my course at university and I do rather miss that more academic side of life, but the music was a very big calling and having the opportunity to pursue it was just too important.

In the late 1970s you began releasing albums outside Genesis and Phil Collins was also working outside the group. Did that have any effect? None. From around 1978 we decided we wanted to do solo records, so that’s what we started to do. Of course, Phil became incredibly successful and everyone thought that we’d split up – but then we’d come back together. In fact, we had our first UK No1 in 1980 with Duke and then another great success in 1981 with Abacab – and our biggest commercial success Invisible Touch [1986]. And during this time we had a string of sold out arena tours, so Genesis hadn’t exactly stopped making music.

Was that when you decided to try writing a classical piece? For a long time I had wanted to try writing something more classical – it had been in my mind ever since I did the film score for Michael Winner’s film, The Wicked Lady, in 1983. I had loved the way the main theme had sounded when played by an orchestra and it encouraged me to try and write something more for an orchestra. Although I’d always liked classical music, I’d never really thought about being involved in it in any way. Then, after the final Genesis tour, at last I had some time. It did take a lot of time, and in many ways it wasn’t an easy thing to do.

The result was a classical album – Seven: A Suite for Orchestra – which had taken many years to write.

Arranged by Simon Hale and recorded by the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2002, the album was released in 2004 to some good reviews in the classical press. What was different about writing for an orchestra? I wrote five of the pieces specifically for the suite; two of them were earlier ideas. I wanted to try one or two things that an orchestra might not try in their normal work, but I also wanted the piece to sound convincingly orchestral; I didn’t want the album to sound like rock music arranged for orchestra. So the pieces don’t tend to repeat as much, although for people who know my music that rarely happens anyhow.

I could be slightly more adventurous with the chords – there’s no rhythmic pulse to them; it’s a totally different discipline, but it is something that I like. Having said that, it’s still the same things that move the listener: melody and harmony – and my trademark chords are still there.

Will you write another orchestral piece? Well, I’d like to. Certainly, I’m accumulating material and some of it might be suitable for that. I don’t know, really. The last solo album I did, Strictly Inc. [1995], was about 10 years ago now. I think it contained a lot of good work but, realistically, it’s very difficult to publicise albums in today’s world if you don’t have singles and you don’t have names.

This question fills your website, so it has to be asked. Is there any chance of Genesis getting back together for a one-off concert? We talk about it, but we never seem to come to any conclusion. We’re doing remixes of all our albums, so they will be coming out; to have something to promote would be fantastic, but don’t hold your breath. There are no concrete plans of any kind at the moment, but it’s always a possibility.

Written by Jane Jacob-Hood
Alumni pledge over £100,000 to the Sussex Fund

The University has received a record response to this year’s telephone fundraising campaign, with pledges exceeding £100,000 for the first time.

Since the Sussex Fund was launched in 1993, alumni, staff and friends of the University have, in total, contributed over £640,000. ‘This really does put this year’s amazing achievement into perspective,’ said Kevin Davies, the University’s Annual Fund Officer. ‘It’s been a truly fantastic year for everyone concerned, especially for the team of student callers. They were all genuinely thrilled by the level of gifts they received.’

Because of the changes taking place in October, when top up fees of £3,000 will be introduced for all new University entrants, most of the money raised will go towards enhancing the scholarship provision at Sussex. The University has always been very proud of its aim to attract students from a diverse range of backgrounds. This is, therefore, an important ongoing initiative to ensure that no one, especially those from more financially disadvantaged backgrounds, is deterred from improving their life chances by studying for a degree at Sussex.

For this reason, we would like to express our gratitude to all alumni who took part in this year’s appeal for their overwhelming support.

If you would like to make a gift to the Sussex Fund, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0)1273 678258 or email alumni@sussex.ac.uk

Former visiting and exchange student remembers History Department in will

David Solomon (History 1971), who spent one year at Sussex and sadly died in 2004, found his exchange programme at Sussex so memorable that he left almost £55,000 to the History Department in his will. David came to Sussex from the University of Winnipeg, where he won a Woodrow Wilson Scholarship to conduct research for his history doctorate in England for one year.

Dr Stephen Burman, Dean of the School of Humanities at Sussex, commented, ‘we are always delighted to learn that alumni enjoyed their time at Sussex. It is particularly humbling, however, to know that, in a relatively short period 35 years ago, Sussex made such a strong impression on Mr Solomon that he chose to leave this generous sum for the History Department, where it will make a real difference. We are most grateful.’

The department will use the bequest to award an annual David Solomon Prize for the best history doctorate and to fund a series of postgraduate scholarships.

If you are interested to know more about making provision for the University in your will, please contact Roger Walkinton in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at r.e.walkinton@sussex.ac.uk and ask for a free copy of the brand new booklet on this subject.

Southern Railway supports new scholarship scheme

From October 2006, three Sussex students will benefit from a new widening participation scholarship scheme supported by Southern Railway. The successful applicants will receive £1,000 per year for the duration of their degree, free railway transport to campus and one week’s work placement at some point during their studies.

‘I am delighted that Southern Railway has identified Sussex as the beneficiary of this generous scholarship scheme. The University welcomes any initiative that offers bright students from all socio-economic backgrounds the opportunity to benefit from higher education,’ commented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith.
The Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) has received an initial commitment of more than half a million pounds towards the establishment of a new oncology unit by local resident Michael Chowen.

A previous donation from Mr Chowen enabled BSMS to establish its new imaging unit, which is due to open later this year. Medical imaging is an important part of the focus on research in oncology. 'It has been a pleasure over the past couple of years to become involved in supporting the Medical School and I am delighted that my recent gift will enable the creation of an important new department in clinical oncology,' said Mr Chowen.

Commenting on the importance of Michael Chowen’s donation, Professor Jon Cohen, Dean of BSMS, said, ‘this donation will make a significant difference to academic activity at BSMS. The creation of an academic department of oncology will enable us to work towards developing new and improved treatments for the cure of cancer, and to strengthen research into what is already a key area of expertise at the school, as well as building important links with colleagues in both the parent universities and in the NHS.’

Professor Alasdair Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, added, ‘this is a very significant gift, for which the universities [Sussex and Brighton] and BSMS are immensely grateful to Michael Chowen. It will have a big impact on the development of the already impressive range of BSMS work in oncology and it will make a real difference to the treatment of cancer patients in Brighton.’

The Sussex Fund
Investing in the future

The Sussex Fund is one of the key ways in which the University raises funds to support student scholarships, hardship bursaries, library acquisitions, improvements to campus and support for student activities. Your generosity can help us maintain excellence, attract the best students and enhance their teaching and learning environment.

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS. Thank you.

Name __________________________________________
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I wish to make a donation of (please tick):

£25  £50  £100  £250  £500  Other amount £__________

HOW TO GIVE
Online at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni
By cheque, made payable to University of Sussex
By credit card: Mastercard, Visa or Switch.

Card number ________________________________
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GIFT AID DECLARATION (UK taxpayers only)
I would like the University of Sussex to reclaim tax on this donation. I pay at least as much in income tax or capital gains tax as the amount the University will reclaim (currently 28p for every £1 given).

Signature __________________________ Date __________

I would like to receive a legacy information brochure (please tick).

Thank you for your support.
Please return your completed donation form to:
Development and Alumni Relations, University of Sussex, Bramber House, Freepost (BR 380), Brighton BN1 1ZZ.
New alumni benefits and services

As a member of the University of Sussex Alumni Network, you are entitled to a wide range of benefits and services. There are now more than 20 benefits exclusive to Sussex alumni and the list is growing rapidly, as we are constantly negotiating with new organisations to extend the portfolio of services. Listed below are some of the most recent additions.

Discounts with Tussauds Group
Sussex alumni and their families can book discounted tickets for Tussauds Group attractions. These include Madame Tussauds and the London Planetarium, Warwick Castle, Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park and Alton Towers. For the discount price information and how to book, please visit www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

Save up to 70 per cent on top magazine subscriptions
As alumni of the University of Sussex you can take advantage of the lowest prices available on subscriptions to magazines such as The Economist, Time, Newsweek, Vogue, National Geographic and many more. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the Alumni website www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

Discounts at Brighton hotels
The University of Sussex provides a list of approved hotels and guest houses in the Brighton & Hove area, with something to suit everyone’s budget. In most cases we have negotiated special rates for those associated with the University. When making a booking or obtaining a quote, please ensure you ask for the University of Sussex rate.

For the complete and most up-to-date list of benefits, please visit www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

University of Sussex affinity credit card

If you enjoyed your time at the University of Sussex, you may be interested to know that by using a University of Sussex credit card you are helping to raise money for current and future generations of students.

We have linked up with MBNA Europe Bank Limited to produce a credit card exclusive to University of Sussex alumni, staff and friends. This not only offers you a superb range of benefits and services, but also pays a contribution to the Sussex Fund every time the card is used to make a purchase. This is at no extra cost to you and is a simple way to make a difference to the life of Sussex students. To date we have received over £20,000 from University of Sussex credit card purchases.

For more information and to apply, visit the Alumni website www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni and check the Benefits and Services section.

Alumni Host Programme expanded

Following a successful launch in 2005, the Alumni Host Programme is now in its second year. The programme brings together international students at Sussex and members of the alumni community in order to promote cultural exchange and enable friendships to develop.

Sussex deserves its reputation as a truly international university, with over 25 per cent of students coming from different corners of the world. It can be daunting for international students to arrive alone in a new country, but those who manage to immerse themselves in the culture tend to flourish. They invariably gain a new international perspective and a greater understanding of the people and the culture of the country in which they have chosen to study.

It was with this in mind that the programme was launched, giving international students a chance to benefit from the local knowledge of alumni, practice their English and make friends outside the University environment. A network of alumni volunteers quickly grew of those who were willing to share some time with students, showing them the local area, providing a home cooked meal, or simply meeting for a coffee and a chat.

As alumni host Rachel Rainbow explains, ‘when I heard about the Alumni Host Programme I thought it was a great idea. I was an exchange student in Berlin in 1990 so I know what it feels like to arrive in an unfamiliar place. I would have loved to meet a former student who could introduce me to local culture, suggest some sites to visit and generally help me orientate myself, so I had no hesitation in volunteering as a host. We had a very enjoyable time introducing our host student Vela to some of the highlights of Brighton and our relationship became very much a cultural exchange with information flowing both ways.’

Host student Savannah Lengsfelder shares Rachel’s enthusiasm for the scheme. ‘I didn’t hesitate to apply to be paired with a local alumnus. I hoped to gain a broader understanding of what it means to be British and I was not disappointed. Thanks to the scheme I’ve examined my home country from a new perspective and been given an intimate view of the British people and their way of life.’

As the response from both international students and local alumni has been so positive, and the demand for alumni hosts so high, we have decided to expand the programme to include alumni from around the London area. This will give more international students the chance to benefit from an alumni host, and allow more Sussex alumni and friends to take part.

If you would like any further information on the programme, or would like to be involved, please email alumni@sussex.ac.uk
Events and reunions

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

Staff
Professor Emanuel Eppel
Emeritus Professor at the Centre for Continuing Education
Professor Dick Grimsdale
Professor of Electronic Engineering
Professor Sir Hans Singer
Emeritus Professor and Professorial Fellow of IDS
Professor Roger Taylor
Emeritus Professor of Chemistry

Alumni
Alfred Ansell
(EDUCATION 1966)
Jane Blacketer
(née Hughes) (BIOLS 1970)
Paul Collard
(ENGG 1970)
Suzanne Miller
(CCS 1975)
Lloyd Searwar
(ARTS 1971)
Derek Young
(MAPS 1968)

In response to suggestions from readers, submitted obituaries can be found online at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

University of Sussex merchandise
Following the successful launch of the online Sussex merchandise store, a new range of Sussex memorabilia is being developed and added to the online catalogue.

Whether you would like a reminder of your days at Sussex or are looking for a memento to celebrate your connection with the University, you can find a wide selection of quality gifts on the online store at www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni

The Sussex Lectures
Each term an interesting and stimulating series of lectures, given both by Sussex faculty and by visiting speakers, takes place on the Sussex campus. Full details of the lectures, which are free and open to all, can be found on the University’s website (www.sussex.ac.uk). For further information and to RSVP, please phone +44 (0)1273 877707 or email events@sussex.ac.uk

4 October 2006
Marie Jahoda Memorial Lecture
Sir Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of England

17 October 2006
Professorial Lecture
David Mellor, Professor of History of Art

7 November 2006
Professorial Lecture
Sherman Robinson, Professor of Economics

9 November 2006
Founding Historians’ Lecture
Professor Norman Davies, Supernumerary Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford

28 November 2006
Professorial Lecture
Peter Childs, Professor of Engineering Design

Carol service at Meeting House
The annual University carol service will be held in the Meeting House Chapel on Sunday 3 December at 6.00pm. This year’s service coincides with the 40th anniversary of this beautiful Grade 2 listed building, which is the spiritual home for the University’s mixed community.

Dedicated in October 1966, the Meeting House was the gift of the University’s first Chairman of Council, the late Sir Sydney Caffyn and his wife, Lady Annie. Many alumni will fondly remember this iconic building by Sir Basil Spence not just as a quiet space at the heart of the campus, but also as a focal point of spirituality, social action, music, celebration and people.

If you would like to attend the University carol service at the Meeting House Chapel, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office at alumni@sussex.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)1273 873827.

SPRU 40th Anniversary Conference
The Future of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy: Linking Research and Practice
11-13 September 2006
University of Sussex

This conference, besides celebrating the 40th Anniversary of SPRU (Science and Technology Policy Research), offers the opportunity to engage in a critical evaluation of the present and future research agenda of the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) field. It seeks to explore empirical, theoretical and applied policy approaches that can enable us to conceptualise the contradictory nature of modern science and technology and innovation, and thus provide practical policy guidance.

For further information, please contact Charlotte Harry on +44 (0)1273 678173 or email c.m.harry@sussex.ac.uk
The 2006 University of Sussex Lecture

A packed audience attended the 2006 University of Sussex Lecture in Westminster on 16 March, given by Shamit Saggar, Professor of Political Science at Sussex and chairman of the Law Society Consumer Complaints Board.

Professor Saggar spoke about the need for politicians and policy-makers to understand better the nature of the complex issues in this area. He argued that realistic strategies to address the threat of terrorism, in addition, require a range of policy interventions aimed at both better engagement with communities as well as tackling the religious aspects of social exclusion.

The event attracted strong interest and attendance at senior levels from across the political spectrum, with politicians, Whitehall policy makers and senior police officers mixing with Sussex academics and alumni.

The Attorney General and Shadow Attorney General, for instance, were both present. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said, ‘the University has a great deal to offer the political and policy-making debate in this country, about critical modern issues. I am delighted that high-profile events such as this put Sussex thinking and engagement in the spotlight.’

This was the second annual University of Sussex Lecture, following Professor Jon Cohen’s lecture at the Royal Society last year.

For more information on future lectures and events, please visit www.sussex.ac.uk/events

Alumni Reunion for 1981 and 1982 freshers
16 and 17 September 2006

Were you a fresher in 1981 or 1982? If so, this is your chance to get together with old friends from Sussex and reminisce about your student days on the Falmer campus.

There has been a great deal of interest in this year’s reunion and arrangements for the weekend are well under way. There will be a packed programme of events and accommodation will be available on campus.

So, if you started your studies in 1981 or 1982, we hope that you will join us for a trip down memory lane. Alumni from the same era, but from other intakes, are also welcome to attend.

If you have not yet booked and are interested in finding out more, please contact Sue Hepburn at S.J.Hepburn@sussex.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1273 877488 as soon as possible.

40th Anniversary Reunion

We have had many requests from alumni from the early 60s for a reunion to celebrate their 40th anniversaries. In response to this we are delighted to announce that we are planning to hold a 40th anniversary reunion in September 2007 for 1961 to 1967 freshers. If you are from any of these intakes, do keep the weekend of the 15 and 16 September 2007 free. We will keep you informed as plans develop for this exciting event.

Party for new alumni

On Wednesday 17 May over 150 graduates gathered for a party at Pitcher and Piano in London. The event, for graduates from 1999-2005, was a brand new initiative launched by the Development and Alumni Relations team.

Attracting alumni from across London, Brighton, and even as far away as Leicester, the party gave alumni a chance to meet up with friends from Sussex, and catch up with those they hadn’t seen for a while. There were many familiar faces and everyone enjoyed a drink or two as recent memories and new details were exchanged.

Starting early in the evening, the party lasted well into the night, with many choosing to stay and watch the Champions League Final. There was a champagne prize draw for all who attended and Maushami Yyas was the lucky graduate who was able to celebrate the event with a bottle of bubbly. ‘I really enjoyed myself so thanks to the team for organising the event,’ said Maushami.

As the party was such a success, the team are planning more in the future, and would welcome any feedback from those who attended.

For more information on future events, or to let us know your comments on the evening, please email alumni@sussex.ac.uk

Professor Saggar speaking to a packed audience in Westminster on 16 March

Professor Saggar speaking to a packed audience in Westminster on 16 March
Sussex people
Who is doing what and where?

60s

Congratulations to Lady Warner (SOC 1962), who was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s Honours.

Stewart Dalby (SOC 1964) has had his first novel, The Friends of Rathlin Island, published. It is a political thriller set in Northern Ireland, and draws extensively on his experiences as Ireland correspondent for the Financial Times in the 1970s and 1980s.

Peter Finch (MAPS 1964) organised a successful reunion for his fellow 1964 Brunswick Hotel residents.

Keith Muscutt (ENGAM 1964) has published Warrior of the Clouds: A Lost Civilization in the Upper Amazon of Peru. He has also made a documentary film about his archaeological explorations which has been shown on The History Channel.

Congratulations to Norman Davies (ARTS 1965), Supernumerary Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford, who received an honorary degree from the University of Sussex in February 2006.

Derek Mesure (EURO 1965) is working with a VSO in Vietnam helping a Hanoi-based charity combating HIV/AIDS.

Lucy Griffin-Beale has kindly donated her late husband’s, Chris Griffin-Beale (EURO 1966), collection of Radio Times from 1955 – 1989 to the University library.

Roger Hall (ENGAM 1967) is Associate Professor and Graduate Chair of the Department of History at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada.

Lois MacDonell (CCS 1968) has co-edited her late husband’s memoirs, From Dogfight to Diplomacy: A Spitfire Pilot’s Log. See page 24

Margaret Mallett (EDUCATION 1969) was made a Fellow of the English Association in May 2005.

Keith Suter’s (SOC 1969) book entitled Keith Suter’s Global Notebook, which deals with 50 current world issues, has been rated by the Australian Financial Review as one of the top 101 books published last year.

Trevor Harvey (CCS 1967) has co-written a new pop/rock musical, Clippings, which will be staged in summer 2006.

Trevor Sharot (MAPS 1967) has pursued a career in market research and has been based in Singapore for several years.

Simon Holloway (MAPS1969) has recently completed a Masters degree in Mission, reflecting on many years of ministry in multicultural communities in Birmingham, Sierra Leone and Pakistan.

70s

Congratulations to Professor Sir John Ball (Mathematics 1972), who was knighted in the New Year’s Honours.

Philip Eve (EURO 1972) started his singing career as an amateur chorister with the University choir and the Brighton Festival Chorus whilst he was still an undergraduate. He is now a freelance tenor and private singing teacher in Canterbury, and also lectures in the Music Department at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Jad Adams (CCS 1973) has just been appointed Visiting Research Fellow at the University of London’s School of Advanced Study, Department of English. His book, Kipling, was published earlier in 2006.

Elizabeth Meehan (SOC 1973), former Director of the Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research at Queens University, Belfast, was given an award by the Political Studies Association of the UK for a lifetime achievement in political studies.

Geoffrey Tansey (SPRU 1973) was awarded a Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ‘Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World’ award.

Fabian Sandoval (AFRAS 1975) is working in Quito, Ecuador, for a local NGO which deals with social and environmental issues. He currently manages a UNHCR programme focused on local integration of Colombian refugees in Ecuador. He also advises on various projects relating to the environment, oil, gas and mining.


Kevin Gibson (ENGAM 1976) is about to have a textbook, People, Profits and the Planet, published.

Shamshad Akhtar (ARTS 1976) has been appointed the first ever woman governor of Pakistan’s central bank.
70s  Gregory Slay (CCS 1977) is currently working to implement the Mental Capacity Act 2005 for the Association of Directors of Social Services.

70s  Roger Walkinton (EURO 1977) and Jill Gray (ENGAM 1976) were both choral scholars in the Meeting House Chapel where they were married 25 years ago. Julian Elloway (CCS 1969) conducted the choir of friends including Helen McMurray (CCS 1970), Hilary Todd (née Harris ENGAM 1980) and Wayne Jones (ENGAM 1975); best man was Nick Straw (CCS 1978) and the ushers were the bride’s brothers Stephen Gray (MAPS 1973) and Peter Gray (ENGAM 1981).

70s  Nazhat Shameem (SOC 1978) is a Judge in Fiji who hears criminal trials and appeals. She was a prosecutor for 16 years before joining the bench.

70s  Bridgette Moser (SOC 1979) is about to have a collection of short stories, Black Dove, published. Bridgette writes under the name Bridgette Cassese.

80s  Helen Smith (ENGAM 1980) is Director of Technology and Music Production at the Eastman School of Music, part of the University of Rochester, New York.

80s  Richard Davies (EURO 1981), Managing Director of European investor relations consultancy, RD:IR, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the UK Investor Relations Society, a role which he has held since June 2005. One of Richard’s first duties was to open trading at the London Stock Exchange in July last year to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Society.

80s  Congratulations to Sir Suma Chakrabarti (ARTS 1983), Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development, who was awarded a KCB in the New Year’s Honours.

80s  Igor Blozovski (MAPS 1983) is creating his own engineering company to the aeronautical and automotive industries.

80s  Asha Kanwar (ARTS 1983) has been appointed as Vice-President of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). Asha joined the COL’s staff in Vancouver in 2003 as Education Specialist, Higher Education. Since joining COL she has worked in over 15 Commonwealth countries and has been particularly active in developing partnerships with governments and institutions in West Africa.

80s  Former Students’ Union President Samuel Daws (AFRAS 1985) is now Executive Director of the UK United Nations Association.

80s  Sarah Streete (BIOLS 1986) was awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours for her work with the Territorial Army. She has recently returned from Sri Lanka from a cricket tour with the MCC Ladies Team.

80s  Singer songwriter Léanie Kaleido (ENGAM 1989) has released her début album Karamélien. It consists of all original tracks written and recorded by Léanie over the past decade.

90s  David Haycock (HISTORY OF ART 1990) is now a Research Fellow at the LSE, and is the author of William Stukeley and Paul Nash.

90s  Stephen Lippman (EURO 1990) has recently joined Merrill Lynch as an Information Specialist. In his current position, Stephen meets requests by company employees for financial and corporate information. Stephen lives and works in the New York area.

90s  Sulak Soysa (ENGG 1990) and Angela Colantuono (EURO 1997) now live in California. Sulak works as a Product Manager for a high-tech company in Silicon Valley and Angela is a translator.

90s  Tejaswini Apte (AFRAS 1991) has had a book published by the International Institute of Environment and Development. It is entitled An activist approach to biodiversity planning: a handbook of participatory tools used to prepare India’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

90s  Justin Fisher (CCS 1991) has recently been appointed Head of UK Premium Communications and Events for American Express black card and platinum charge products.

90s  Michael Mejia (ENGAM 1991), Assistant Professor of English, Rhetoric and Writing at Berry College, Georgia, has been awarded a literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Michael’s novel, Forgetfulness, was published last year. His fiction, non-fiction and reviews have appeared in various journals.

90s  Dorothy Oben (IDS 1991) has recently returned to her home, Cameroon, having spent time in Ethiopia. She is teaching in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Buea.

90s  David Dent (ENGAM 1992) is working for St Dunstan’s – a charity which helps ex-servicemen and women who have lost their sight to regain their independence.

90s  Nick Hubble (EDUCATION 1993) has published Mass Observation and Everyday Life: Culture, History, Theory, based in part on his Sussex DPhil thesis. The book traces the history of the innovative social research organisation Mass Observation from its birth in 1937 through to its inauguration as an archive at the University of Sussex in 1975, where it continues to operate. See page 24 for more information.

90s  Cynan Jones’ (EAM 1993) novel is due to be published in June 2006. The Long Dry tells the story of a cow that goes for a walk and the man that tries to find her. The novel is going to be previewed in the Hay-on-Wye Festival and has chosen to be part of the Waterstone’s summer reading promotion. Cynan has two further novels due to be published and is currently working on a fourth.

90s  Catherine Lupton’s (CULCOM 1993) book Chris Marker: Memories of the Future was published in 2005.

90s  Tamya Cooper (History of Art 1996) is Curator of the recently opened and much publicised National Portrait Gallery exhibition, Searching for Shakespeare.

90s  Jeremy Wickremesinghe (CCS 1996) and Miguel Varella-Cid (ENGG 1989) have recently set up a company together. Their website (www.gohybrid.co.uk) is aimed at promoting more ecological car usage and selling hybrid cars. This is an expansion from their earlier project, ethical media company Ideal Media (www.idealmedia.org.uk).

90s  Luke Concannon (CCS 1997) with his band, Nizlop, narrowly missed the Christmas number one slot with their song JCB.

90s  Clive Harfield (SLS 1997) recently graduated with a PhD in Politics from the University of Southampton, having researched international law enforcement co-operation and mutual legal assistance in the EU. He has just published his first book, Covert Investigation (OUP 2005). He is currently Deputy Director of the John Grieve Centre for Policing and Community Safety.

90s  Atsede Assefa Abraha (AFRAS 1998) works for an organisation which focuses on vocational training and the creation of employment opportunities for unemployed young people in Addis Ababa.

90s  David Popey (CCS 1999) and Jonathan Cohen (SOC 1999) had their second play, Over, performed at the White Bear Fringe Theatre in Kennington, South London, in July 2006. Their first play, The Watchers, played to good review at the Edinburgh Fringe last year (www.thewatchers.info).

00s  Anthony Enticknap (MEDIA STUDIES 2000) is working as a sub-editor on the Playstation magazine PLAY.

00s  William Saunders (SLS 2002) is currently working in Vancouver on a number of pandemic influenza planning projects across Canada. He is actively involved with Amnesty International and sports clubs in the city.

00s  Valerie Watson (ANTHROPOLOGY 2002) is in Peru on a six-month internship with the International Red Cross.

00s  Liesl Harewood (SLS 2003) is working in Barbados, using her legal background with the Bar Association and establishing a legal and linguistic consultancy.

00s  Jonathan Smith (BIOLOGY and ENVIRONMENT 2005) is working as an environmental consultant for an ecotourism company. He is currently based in a rain forest lodge in the lower Kinabatangan region of Borneo. His work involves managing several different environmental and community-based projects.

Many more class notes are available at the Keep in Touch section of the Alumni website, where you can search for other Sussex alumni.
From Dogfight to Diplomacy: A Spitfire Pilot’s Log 1932-58

With Anne Mackay, Lois has edited the memoirs of her late husband Donald MacDonell, a spitfire pilot. Donald trained at RAF Cranwell in the 1930s. During the phoney war he served at the Air Ministry, but when hostilities commenced he became CO of No. 64 Spitfire Squadron at Kenley and fought in the Battle of Britain over Kent, being awarded the DFC. In March 1941 MacDonell was shot down over the English channel and rescued by the enemy. He spent over four years in German PoW camps. Once liberated by the Russians, on repatriation MacDonell met his son for the first time. As a Wing Commander he worked at the Cabinet Office before moving to Headquarters Flying Training Command. Later, he successfully applied for the post of British Air Attache in Moscow. There MacDonell experienced the frustrations of the Soviet system during the Cold War, and was involved in negotiations for the first civilian flights between London and Moscow. This memoir is a tale of human fortitude in a life shaped by the love of flying, by war, imprisonment, family tragedy and diplomatic service.

Mass Observation and Everyday Life: Culture, History, Theory

Nick Hubble’s book traces the history of the innovative social research organisation Mass Observation from its birth in 1937 through to its inauguration as an archive at the University of Sussex in 1975, from where it has continued to operate to this day. Nick tells the fascinating story of how the three founders of Mass Observation – Tom Harrisson, ornithologist and anthropologist; Humphrey Jennings, surrealist and documentary filmmaker; and Charles Madge, communist poet and Daily Mirror reporter – developed their trademark formula of observation of the masses by the masses for the masses. In the process, Mass Observation graduated from documenting the public response to the Coronation of George VI to working at the heart of the British war effort and creating an idea of Britishness, which was to become the dominant national identity of the postwar period. By showing in detail how Mass Observation combined poetical perception and surrealist inspiration with anthropological understanding and political purpose, Nick clearly demonstrates how a mass movement was able to transform society. His closing analysis of its current incarnation at Sussex testifies that Mass Observation still delivers unique snapshots of the zeitgeist and prescient foresights of the future to come.

Philip Hart (MOLS 1972) would love to hear from old friends Philip Curven and Sara Kane.

Julian Rollins (CCS 1979) would like to contact old friend Kenneth (Charles) Simonds.

Mo Foster (MAPS 1964) would like to hear from anyone who has posters from Sussex dances and events from 1964-1968.

Russell Holden (ARTS 1982) is developing a research interest in the politics of sport and would welcome any contact from journalists and academics writing about international sport and cricket in particular.

Ralf Kauffman (MAPS 1984) would like to hear from anybody who still remembers him.

Victoria Jones (CCS 1995) has moved to Auckland, New Zealand, and would love to hear from any Sussex graduates in that area.

Hanako Kubo (CULCOM 1996) would like to get in touch with graduates living in Shanghai.

Trevor Sharot (MAPS 1969) is now living in Singapore and would like to hear from other graduates in the area.

Joanna Ekanayake (née Miles) (EURO 1994) would be really pleased to hear from her old room mates Clare Roberts, Catherine Littlejohns and Rachel Horton, as well as anyone else who remembers her.

David Sallis (EAM 1996) is compiling a history of pop music in Brighton between 1960-1980. He would be pleased to hear from any former students who have any memorabilia of pop music at Sussex during this period.

The University of Sussex Drama Society is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. The current president, Cassandra Hodges, would like to get in touch with former SUDS or SMUTS (Sussex Musical Theatre Society) members. If you were a member in these societies, please contact Cassandra by emailing sud06@hotmail.co.uk
Focus on people

The Asian tsunami dramatically changed the life and career path of Jake Zarins (Ecology and Conservation, BIOLS 1996). The humanitarian work he carried out in Sri Lanka in the year following the tsunami led to him being named ‘European hero’ by Time magazine in October 2005.

My expectations of Boxing Day 2004 had originally amounted to little more than spending a morning diving in an attempt to clear the effects of a lazy and excessive Christmas on the beaches of Sri Lanka. As I lay in bed preparing to extract myself from under the mosquito net, I heard a loud rumbling that I initially took to be the sound of helicopters. The noise grew louder and accompanying screams and shouts started to drift in through the window. Somewhat groggy and perplexed, I reluctantly got up and peered out onto a scene which was so unexpected it took some moments to sink in: water, as far as the eye could see, flowing inland at speed, carrying with it a mass of debris, vegetation, vehicles and most alarmingly, people.

What followed from this dramatic start to the day was 72 hours of surreal mayhem. This then led to an intense and amazing year of work and, ultimately, a totally new focus and career path for me.

During the immediate aftermath of the waves, the hotel I was staying at was transformed into a makeshift evacuation centre and first aid station. An early foray into the waist deep water to find the injured had resulted in a fortunate meeting with a stranded, but unhurt, doctor and her family. We, along with others who were unharmed and not in shock, set about doing whatever necessary to make the wounded comfortable. We searched the ruined village for drinking water, alcohol and undamaged food, patched up wounds as we best could and buried the dead after taking pictures to aid future identification.

It took three days to get all the tourists and injured out of the village. During this time friendships were formed and the help and generosity of the local people, who had lost everything, touched many of us deeply. We left promising to do what we could to help them once we returned to our respective countries.

Upon returning to the UK, a network of ‘survivors’ was quickly put together via phone and email. Fundraising efforts were coordinated whilst the mechanisms of starting a registered charity began. A web site and bank account were prepared, media interviews conducted and soon the money began rolling in to what became Friends of Unawatuna. I flew back to Sri Lanka two weeks later and began assessing the village’s immediate needs and making contacts with other charities working on the ground. This was how I came across Project Galle 2005 – a group formed by people I had met during the evacuation who were very efficiently filling the gaps left by the struggling large international aid agencies. I was offered a position which allowed me to remain in Sri Lanka and in theory manage Friends of Unawatuna projects in my free time, whilst getting involved in the broader aspects of the relief effort in the area.

What initially started as a three-month commitment to Project Galle rapidly became an all-encompassing way of life as our maverick aid group fought to fund and run the projects we had identified.

Due to the consistent quality of the work carried out, we quickly caught the attention of some of the more established charities who funded us to carry out the programmes they weren’t able to reach. Project Galle went from strength to strength and an official partnership was formed with Friends of Unawatuna. This allowed me to concentrate on my growing managerial and fundraising responsibilities, safe in the knowledge that the village was receiving the quality of assistance it needed.

By September I had worked my way up through the ranks and had been promoted to the position of Group Coordinator responsible for the day-to-day management of the whole organisation. I filled this role until the end of January this year when we decided to wind up our operations and hand the remaining work over to a group of long-term volunteers.

During one year of operation, Project Galle 2005 had raised and dispersed over US$2.2 million in financial and material aid, whilst Friends of Unawatuna to date has raised almost £250,000.

The immense satisfaction gained from the solving of challenges that were presented daily, together with the success of both groups I was involved with, convinced me early on that I had found the direction that for so long had eluded me. I now plan to remain within the humanitarian sector for the foreseeable future.
‘Sussex above all was a marvellous experience. I can’t look back on it without smiling and remembering how much fun it was. It was also life-changing at every level; it taught me intellectual rigour, critical thinking, and the value of collective creative intellectual work, which I have applied through my career. Beyond that, Sussex built my self-confidence and self-sufficiency, and launched friendships that continue to this day. With that legacy, you will understand the affection and gratitude I have for this fantastic university.’

Robin Paxton, Managing Director, Discovery Networks, Europe, Middle East & Africa.

www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni