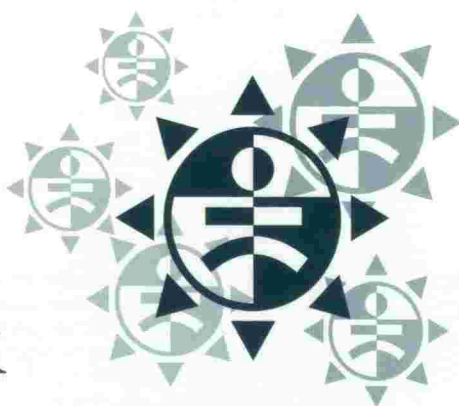


Destress and unwind during Health Week



Stress is hitting the headlines. Just last week the *THES* revealed that De Montfort University was heavily criticised by a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) report looking at stress levels. The 2004 Sussex staff survey, meanwhile, found that over half of staff feel stressed at work.

In an attempt to combat stress, several events are being planned as part of Health Week, the University's annual drive to encourage students and staff to get fitter both physically and mentally. These events including a stress-busting organ recital on Tuesday (25 January) and massages at your desk on Monday (24 January).

But is stress the bogeyman it's made out to be? Dr Adrian Hemmings of Psychological and Counselling Services (PCS) says that stress comes in many different forms: "It's not necessarily a bad thing and without stress we probably wouldn't do very much. But there's a point where stress stops helping and starts causing a problem." Signs of stress can include constant tiredness, lack of sleep, irritability, lack of libido and increased susceptibility to minor bugs.

Adrian explains that the causes of stress are many and various – from the 40% of staff who said their work demands stressed them out, to the student having to survive the trauma of sharing their kitchen with 11 other people. But it also depends on the way you view the world: "One person's party, which is to be enjoyed, can be another person's nightmare," says Adrian.

On Friday (28 January) PCS will be holding an hour-long taster session on stress management, which will introduce the causes of stress and suggest some quick

ways to reduce it. If this tickles your fancy you may also be interested in the full course, which will run for five sessions on Fridays from 11 February.

But although a workshop on reducing stress might be welcome, are institutions themselves doing enough to reduce the causes? The Director of Health and Safety, Clive Parkinson, admits that the University's stress-management policy (online at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnl/policies/) is several years old and that tackling stress is still at an early stage.

Progress is being made, though, and this month Clive met other university employers to find ways of bringing the latest HSE stress guidance to higher education institutions. "I'm hopeful Sussex will form part of a pilot study to look at stress and how it can be reduced on individual staff members," he says.

To find out Health Week events, visit www.healthweek.com.

Top tips to reduce stress:

1. Work out what you do before you get stressed, so you tackle the cause and not the symptom.
2. Recognise what makes you stressed so you can change patterns of behaviour that may stress you out.
3. Exercise. We don't do it enough and it's a great way to let off steam.

Student war film wins competition



For the third time in four years, Sussex has triumphed in the Imperial War Museum's Student Film Competition.

On this occasion it is the turn of Josh Hyde, who won Best Documentary with his film about the experiences of the poet Wilfred Owen during the First World War.

Josh made the nine-minute film for his final-year independent project on the BA in Media Practice and Theory. "My interest in Owen was re-ignited in my second year when I took a fantastic course on 'Writing and Poetry of the Great War'," he says. "I wanted to find out more about him and making the documentary seemed the perfect excuse."

On 4 November 1918, in the last battle of the conflict, Owen was killed as his battalion was trying to cross a canal in northern France. He is buried in the communal village cemetery at Ors, where Josh shot his film last April.

He took along as his cameraman Steve Laycock, another undergraduate on the Media Practice and Theory degree. Also there was his media practice tutor, Lee Gooding. "It was a very moving experience for all of us," recalls Lee. The score was composed by Tim Lumgair, a Music student now in his second year.

Back on English soil, can Lee explain the repeated success of Sussex students in the Imperial War Museum competition? "I'd like to think it's because they are backed up by confident staff and high-end equipment," he says. Josh agrees: "It must be those unsung heroes of Sussex: the media practice tutors."

Whatever the reason, Josh's win is sure to boost his media career. Since graduating last summer, he's managed to get his first foothold in the business and is working for Corinthian Television Facilities in London.

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Concentration camp survivor coming to campus.

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Sea cat

Sussex sparky swaps the Solent for sun-kissed St Lucia.



London premiere for Sussex composer

A challenging new work by award-winning University of Sussex composer Sam Hayden will be premiered at London's Jerwood Hall on Thursday (27 January).



The ensemble piece, *Relative Autonomy*, was specially commissioned by the London Sinfonietta. The concert, billed as 'Young Brits', also features works by other contemporary composers and will be recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 3's 'Hear and Now' on 19 March.

Sam, who completed a DPhil at Sussex before joining the faculty as a lecturer, describes this as his "first big London performance". He says his music is better known in continental Europe, where there is a culture that is arguably more sympathetic to radical contemporary music. "There's a fear here that programming difficult music might scare off audiences. I don't think you should patronise audiences. You should just present the music that you want to write."

Relative Autonomy, written for 15 acoustic instruments, is a musical metaphor for the conflict between individualism and the collective. The title refers to the theory of state power (based on Marxist ideas) that asserts that while a link exists between capitalism and the state, these structures also have a degree of independence.

The opening of the piece is dominated by an extended duet for contrabassoon and contrabass clarinet. This is later combined with a layer of high instruments, in particular piccolo, piccolo trumpet, violin and crotales. Sam says: "It is the dialectic between these two layers that drives the energy of the piece. All the instruments are constantly involved in the tension between their individual and collective roles."

He adds: "I am interested in the connection between music and politics, which is very much the tradition of the music department at Sussex. What attracted me to studying here was looking at how music relates to society and the function it serves."

Sam has received several prizes and awards, including the Britten International Competition in 1995 for his large orchestral piece, *mv*, which was recorded by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and broadcast in 2003.

The London Sinfonietta will perform *Relative Autonomy* again on 5 March as part of the MaerzMusik festival in Berlin. It is programmed with a piece by Jonathan Harvey, Honorary Professor of Music at Sussex and one of Sam's former composition teachers.

Holocaust Memorial Day marks death camp liberations

The liberation of the Nazi concentration camps 60 years ago and the aftermath of the Holocaust will be remembered at this year's Holocaust Memorial Day event at the University on Wednesday (26 January).

In keeping with the national theme of "survivors, liberation and rebuilding lives", Holocaust survivor Jan Imich will speak about his experiences as a 'hidden child' in Krakow until he was denounced and captured by the Nazis. He spent the rest of the war in concentration and labour camps and then came to England.

Historian and writer Eva Hoffman will speak about issues of memory and rebuilding lives, themes that have dominated the lives of Holocaust survivors and their families since 1945 and continue to do so today.

The University-wide event is organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in conjunction with the Leo Baeck Institute, London and the Wiener Library. It takes place from 2pm in the BSMS lecture theatre.

National Holocaust Memorial Day is actually 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz.



Tsunami appeal and events

The list of campus events raising money for the tsunami relief effort continues to grow – so much so that the University and Students' Union have formed 'Aid for Asia: the University of Sussex tsunami appeal'. The aim is to help co-ordinate events across campus.

An email, tsunamiappeal@sussex.ac.uk, has been set up for students and staff to get in contact with for advice on how to get collecting buckets, how to tell campus and all sorts of other things.

Money collected through the appeal will be donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee. However, some event organisers are also choosing to give some funds to other charities based in the affected areas.

Several events take place on campus today (21 January) and other fundraisers coming up soon include:

Mon 24 Jan
7pm A Question of Sussex Sport quiz
 Presented by the ladies netball team. Hothouse

7pm Arena: Battle of the Bands
 Just about the biggest thing on campus last year, Arena returns in its search for new musical talent from campus. Mandela Hall

Tue 25 Jan
10am–4pm RAG secondhand booksale
 Mandela Hall

Wed 26 Jan
1pm Open meeting about the tsunami
 USSU hold an open meeting to discuss the disaster and ideas for fundraising events for the appeal. Mandela Hall

Thu 27 Jan
Evening Falmer Bar/Hothouse fundraiser
 Drink, dance and raise money. All door takings go to the tsunami appeal; staff and security are donating their wages.

Mon 31 Jan
12noon jsoc (Jewish Society) discussion: The tsunami, Africa and poverty: Who cares?
 Training Room 1, Falmer House. Entry via £2 donation to tsunami appeal.

Sat 29 Jan
7.30pm Baha'i society performance
 Performance featuring tribal drumming, African slap dance and beat box street dance. £3 on door. Mandela Hall

Planners give permission for new student housing

Brighton & Hove City Council has given full planning permission for new residences housing hundreds of Sussex students. Outline permission was previously granted in June 2004.

The three accommodation blocks will be built between the A27 and Falmer railway station, on a site currently owned by Southern Water.

Southern Water do not need the land and selected a development company to find a suitable use for it. This company, Chesterhouse, opted for discussions with the University regarding student housing.

The proposal is for three cross-shaped two- to five-storey blocks containing 450 bedrooms, each with en-suite bathroom facilities. Each flat will have its own fully fitted kitchen and dining area.

After initial planning permission was granted in June, the University undertook a detailed review of the project design and specification. The design was referred to the University's Design Reference Group and was altered in some aspects (such as the use of more brick, for instance).

The University had been hoping for full planning approval in December, but the council deferred its decision.

"The real work will now commence," said Charles Dudley, Director of Student

Services, welcoming news of the go-ahead. A University project board will be set up to consult with students and make sure that the University's interests are met.

As with some previous projects, such as Brighthelm and phase 1 of Lewes Court, the plan will be developed in partnership with a housing association.

Chesterhouse will nominate as a development and funding partner a housing association with expertise in large social-housing projects. The nominated housing association will have to be approved by the University. The developers remain optimistic that the project will be completed by September 2006.

The housing association will eventually own the site and will be the landlord. The University will allocate student tenants, collect rent and manage certain aspects of the scheme such as student welfare. The rent is expected to be at the top end of the University's current rent structure.

Parents welcome revised plans for car park

A Sussex student has withdrawn an application for an injunction to prevent replacement car parking spaces being built on campus. This decision follows consultation between the Estates division and Crèche parents and staff about plans to extend the EDB car park alongside the campus Crèche.

Following an earlier court hearing, Estates staff sought to reassure parents that the building work complied with all health, safety and environmental standards, and that the construction and subsequent use of the extended car park would not impact adversely on the Crèche. An external audit of the project by a risk management consultant concluded that the scheme was safe as designed.

However, Estates staff looked at how plans for the car park could be modified to address the concerns that had been raised. This resulted in a design that features a reduced number of parking spaces (from around 95 to 60), and means that the proposed car park now stops short of the Crèche boundary.

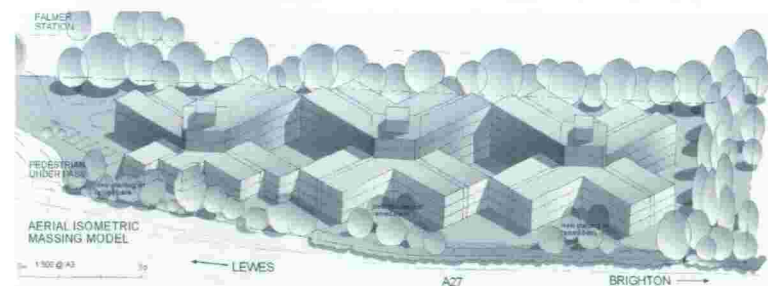
Parents welcomed the revised plan, which was presented to them shortly before Christmas. It has now gone before the local planning authority for consideration and a decision is expected by the end of February or early March.

David Kirkwood, Director of Estates, said: "We are pleased that the injunction application has been withdrawn. While the original car park design complied fully with all health and safety requirements, the University does take the concerns of the campus community very seriously, and we are pleased that a revised design seems to have provided a positive way forward."

Road works on campus

Work to install a new gas main will cause significant disruption over the next six weeks to the traffic flow at and near the junctions of North-South Road, Boiler House Hill, Arts Road and Refectory Road. It will also affect the entrance and exit from the Boiler House and Terraces car parks.

- Each of the four phases of work will require traffic control (temporary lights) at some points on all the roads mentioned, near to these junctions.
- The bottom section of Boiler House Hill will become one-way (uphill) for the whole period of the work.
- It will not be possible to drive or cycle down Boiler House Hill.
- The bus-stop at the Boiler House will be suspended throughout the work.
- There will be temporary closures and diversions to pedestrian routes near these junctions.



Car-share scheme goes live

Would you like to save money and protect the environment at the same time? If so, you can now sign up for the University's new car-share scheme.

Car sharing is when two or more people share a car and travel together. It allows people to benefit from the convenience of the car, while alleviating the associated problems of congestion and pollution.

The benefits of car sharing are:

- It saves you money.

- It reduces the number of cars on the roads – resulting in less congestion, less pollution and fewer parking problems.
- It gives you more transport options.

You don't even have to own a car; the scheme allows you to contact car owners to arrange one-off or regular lifts.

For details and to see for yourself how easily you can be put in contact with other travellers going your way, see the website: www.universitycarshare.com.

BROADCAST ↓



Jacqui Bealing
Senior Press Officer

With the world's media focussed on the aftermath of the tsunami, several of our academics were called upon to give their expert comment.

Professor **Fred Gray** joined the philosopher Alain de Botton on BBC

Radio 4's 'Today' programme (14 January) to discuss how the Indian Ocean earthquake might affect people's attitudes to seaside holidays abroad. Professor **Tim Flowers** was approached by BBC World Service (5 January) to talk about the environmental impact of the tsunami, while Dr **Dominic Kniveton** helped the *Argus* (14 Jan) on a feature about climate change.

In addition, Dr **Lyla Mehta** referred to her work and those of others in the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) for a large article in *Al-Ahram Weekly* on the challenges of the relief efforts to help the victims.

He may be a campus newcomer, but Professor **Shamit Saggar** is already garnering plenty of good publicity for Sussex. As an expert on ethnic minorities in the UK, he was quoted in the *Guardian* (21 December) over the furore of a Sikh play in Birmingham, appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'The World Tonight' (15 January) talking about British Muslims, and was quoted in the *Economist* (14 January) on the same subject.

Elsewhere, seasonal favourites cropped up in news agendas. Warnings about New Year binge drinking ensured **Sam Knowles'** research on the connection between alcohol and memory were picked up by the *Times* and BBC Radio 5 Live (both 27 December).

Fevered bargain hunters in the January sales received stark reminders about the signs of shopping addiction from Dr **Helga Dittmar**, with Press Association pieces about her research appearing in most of the regional press (from the *Scotsman* to the *Leicester Mercury*).

And titter ye not, but Dr **Andy Medhurst** appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'Thinking Allowed' (22 December) with Professor Laurie Taylor, discussing a new Frankie Howerd biography.

Sports bursaries 2004/2005

Six undergraduates have been presented with University sports bursaries for the 2004/2005 academic year.

The bursaries are offered annually to Sussex sports men and women who are of an international, national or high county standard. The support package includes free use of University sports facilities; fitness testing and programming; physiotherapy/sports massage; a parking permit; a financial package; and regular mentoring sessions.

Sussex alumni have previously provided an annual contribution of £1,000 to help fund the programme. However, with increasing numbers of high-standard athletes coming to Sussex, the contribution made by alumni has increased to £2,000 for this academic year and will increase again next year to a maximum contribution of £3,000 per year.



Rosalie Birch
(Linguistics and English Language)
Cricket

Rosalie helped England to a one-day international victory against New Zealand in August. Last season she was also part of a successful defence of the County Championship with Sussex and of the National Premier League title with Brighton and Hove. Aspirations for 2005 include winning both the World Cup in South Africa during March and April and the Ashes series in the summer.



Laurence Halsted (Psychology)
Fencing

Laurence is ranked number two in Great Britain and attended the 2004 Athens Olympics as training partner for the British number one. He spent much of last year competing in World Cup and Grand Prix events worldwide and recently finished 9th in the Under 20 World Championships. This year Laurence will be attending Grand Prix events in Copenhagen, Paris, China, Egypt, Bonn and Havana. He is also working towards selection for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Anna Newell (Geography)
Water polo

Anna competes for Haywards Heath in Division 1 of the National League. She is a junior international and is aiming for selection for the Great Britain senior team.



David Stone
(Social Work and Social Care)
Cycling

David competes for Great Britain in the road race (30–60k), time trial (10–20k) and track events (200m, 1k and 3k).

Last season he just missed out on selection for the Athens Paralympic Games, but hopes to compete in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.

Ben Warren (Neuroscience)
Athletics

Ben competes in middle-/long-distance and cross-country events. He is currently the inter-counties 1,500m champion and Sussex AAA 3,000m champion, and leads the Sussex Cross Country League table. He hopes for a high placing at the National Cross Country Championships in February.

Carol Beever (Psychology)
Fastpitch softball

Carol has representative honours for England and Great Britain at both senior and junior levels. Highlights from 2004 include competing in the prestigious London Cup and a 3rd place in the European Club Championships. Most of the 2005 season will be spent working towards selection for the European Championships in Prague next August.

Louise Akers (Geography) and **Claire Vivian** (Biochemistry) have been awarded hockey bursaries in association with Lewes Hockey Club.

New intra-mural sports events

- **Squash Box League** (singles): Fridays 12noon–2pm, 28 January–4 March. Entry fee: £5 plus £10 loyalty deposit.
- **Mixed Doubles Badminton League:** Thursdays 12noon–2pm, 27 January–3 March. Entry fee: £10 per pair plus £10 loyalty deposit. Pairs will be guaranteed one 30-minute game per week.
- **Mixed Netball League:** Mondays 12noon–2pm, 24 January–28 February. Teams of seven, two of whom must be male. Entry fee: £14 plus £21 loyalty deposit. Teams will be guaranteed one 30-minute game per week.

All of these events are open to staff and students and will take place at the Sportcentre. Each league winner will have their name engraved on the tournament trophy and will receive a mystery prize from the sponsor, David Rose Sports. For further information or to book your place, call Luke Terrill on ext. 7687 or email l.o.terrill@sussex.ac.uk.

Savings Review Group formed

Work to reduce planned spending at Sussex is being taken forward rapidly this term, following Council agreement at the end of last term that urgent work was needed to address the University's overall financial position. A Savings Review Group chaired by the Vice-Chancellor has been set up to lead the work with schools and administrative and support units.

The aim is to produce an interim report to Finance and General Purposes Committee at the beginning of March, detailing plans for achieving savings of £3m in 2005–06 and £4m in 2006–07. However, if robust implementation plans are then in place, the Group will also recommend a round of new academic appointments and extra financial support for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alasdair Smith, said: "We have a tight timescale to deliver plans for achieving significant savings. I have been encouraged by the positive approach that has been taken by colleagues across the University. By looking at the same time to make investment in our high-quality research and teaching, I believe we are setting the right direction."

As well as setting savings targets and working with each school and admin and support unit, members of the Savings Review Group are preparing reports into a range of cross-University issues, to help to streamline and simplify the way certain processes work. These include quality-assurance procedures, student recruitment and research support.

A voluntary redundancy scheme has been published this week to support the process, as well as other approaches to achieve a more flexible response.

The Savings Review Group is meeting at least weekly this term, and a communications bulletin is being placed on the web at www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/position after each meeting.

Voluntary redundancy scheme published

An early retirement and voluntary redundancy scheme was published this week by the University, following agreement with the campus trades unions. Full details of the scheme and how to apply are available at www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/volvev.

The aim of the scheme is to support the savings review process, part of which will identify areas of activity that will be changed, reduced or stopped all together.

The scheme is open to all staff groups. Applications can be accepted from any part of the University, not just areas where staffing might be affected by the savings review. This is because the scheme is designed to provide room for redeployment of staff.

Where the savings review identifies activities for reduction, staff in the units affected will, wherever possible, be offered retraining and redeployment to other areas of the University. Vacancies elsewhere will arise across the University as a result of normal turnover (15% of support staff move each year) and as a result of other staff taking up voluntary redundancy.

The Director of Human Resources, Barbara Bush said: "We expect that this voluntary scheme will deliver the savings we need on staff costs in the most supportive way and help the University to get its staffing structures right for the future. We will want to go through all

possible options to keep people employed at the University."

The financial benefits of the scheme itself are the same as for the 2003–04 strategic restructuring process, which supported strategic staff changes within academic units and helped to make room for the raft of new academic appointments that were made in 2003 and 2004.

In order to provide clarity to staff as quickly as possible and to support staff redeployment this year, the scheme has a tight timescale. Applications must be received by 31 March. There is also a strictly limited cash budget overall for the scheme.

The Savings Review Group has said that any future scheme is likely to be based on similar schemes in 1994 Group universities, and would have to be less favourable in the benefits it offers.

As part of the savings review process, Human Resources will be looking at ways in which staff who want to work more flexibly or with reduced hours can be helped to do so.

New procedure for review of student complaints

The University's Visitor, the Queen-in-Council, no longer has any role in relation to student or staff complaints. This is one of the provisions of the Higher Education Act 2004, which came into effect on 1 January 2005. From this date the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) has been designated as the statutory body to review student complaints.

Students have the opportunity to seek an independent review by the OIA when the University's internal procedures for considering complaints or appeals have been exhausted. The University will issue

a Completion of Procedures letter and students wishing to take up the opportunity of an independent review must submit their application to the OIA within three months of the issue of this letter.

Further details about the OIA are available from Dr John Gaunt, head of the Secretariat, in Sussex House.

Members of staff are also reminded that the University has a Whistleblowing Policy (available online at www.sussex.ac.uk/secretariat/1-2-20.html or from John). This is designed to

deal with allegations relating to the running of the University or to the work-related activities of members of staff where it is believed that there is administrative, academic or professional malpractice; improper conduct or unethical behaviour; activity that endangers health, safety or the environment; miscarriages of justice; criminal behaviour; failure to observe legal obligations or to comply with an instrument of governance; or obstruction or frustration of the exercise of academic freedom.

University fitter becomes a chart hitter



A hit single has brought fleeting fame to an unlikely pop star, who usually spends his time dealing with blocked drains and broken boilers on campus.

University fitter Marlon Johnson is the trombonist on 'Tom Hark (We Want Falmer!)', which was released on 3 January and went straight into the charts at number 17. (Normally a bass player and vocalist in ska band Too Many Crooks, Marlon hadn't played the trombone for four years and had to get it out of his attic.)

Nine-piece group Seagulls Ska – a hybrid of three local bands led by punk poet Attila the Stockbroker – released the song to highlight Brighton & Hove Albion football club's campaign for a new stadium at Falmer.

Alongside them in the top 20 were some rather more famous names including Elvis Presley, Iron Maiden, Erasure, Scissor Sisters, Kylie Minogue, Ronan Keating and Christina Aguilera.

Marlon remembers 'Tom Hark' from when he was a child. Released by punk group Piranhas in 1980, it reached number six and went on to become a football anthem, sung at grounds all over the country.

The single is a re-recording of the Piranhas hit, but with rather different lyrics:

"We're stuck in an athletics track we really hate ... like playing in Albania Division Eight ...
Our ground's too small, the costs too high/Without Falmer our club will die."

Marlon reveals that he isn't even an avid Albion supporter. "But I'm a football fan," he says, "and I would hate the club to go out of business altogether."

The Seagulls have been without a permanent home since selling the Goldstone Ground in Hove eight years ago. They currently play at Withdean, an athletics stadium with a capacity of fewer than 7,000.

The club first unveiled their plans more than five years ago for a 23,000-seater stadium at Falmer, over the road from the Sussex campus. The public inquiry reopens next month, after a delay to allow consideration of potential alternative sites. The University continues to be publicly neutral on the proposal, but has been closely involved in discussions throughout the long planning process.

We are sailing



A journey that normally takes just eight hours took a Sussex staff member almost 20 days. But of course sailing a catamaran across the Atlantic Ocean does usually take longer than flying across it in a jumbo jet.

Dave Barrett has worked for the University as an electrician since 1988, but has been sailing yachts for far longer. He has 30 years' seafaring experience and is a qualified 'ocean skipper'.

Since 1989 Dave's yearly programme has followed a similar pattern, with sailings in the Solent and across to France or the Channel Islands, plus one or more adventurous voyages in distant waters. In 2003, for example, he sailed to the Canary Islands.

Late last November, Dave embarked on his most adventurous voyage yet: 3,000 miles across the north Atlantic from the Canary Islands to St Lucia in the Caribbean. He entered the largest trans-ocean sailing event in the world, which brings together 220 yachts from around the globe.

Dave and seven crew members sailed from Las Palmas on 21 November, in a brand-new 40-foot catamaran. "We expect to cross the Atlantic in about 20 days and I am hoping for a fast crossing of 18 days," the skipper said before departure.

He and his crew completed the race in 19 days, 17 hours and 55 minutes – covering 150 miles per day and crossing the finish line in 123rd position. "We arrived safely in the Caribbean, battered and bruised but smiling," says Dave.

Now back in Brighton, he's already planning his next event in distant waters: a trip from St Lucia northwards through the Caribbean islands.



• There is an opportunity for students and staff under the age of 26 to go sailing on fast ocean-going yachts, across the English Channel to France and the Channel Islands or along the British coast. A charitable organisation runs seven-day trips weekly throughout the summer, at a cost of £60 (with reductions for those with financial difficulties). For details, email d.barrett@sussex.ac.uk.

FIRST CLASS ↓

Four members of faculty have been promoted to professorships: **David Dyker** (Economics), **Corne Kros** (Neuroscience), **Sally Munt** (Media and Cultural Studies) and **David Waxman** (Biology).

Sheffield University is to name a new multidisciplinary scientific research institute after Professor Sir **Harry Kroto**, who was an undergraduate and PhD student at Sheffield in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Sir Harry received the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1996 for his part in discovering a new form of carbon while a member of faculty of Sussex.

Students wanted after Union make-over



USSU president Roger Hylton is encouraging students to stand for a whole slew of new positions after a radical reshaping of the Students' Union's structure.

At last November's Annual General Meeting (AGM), students voted to scrap the Union's Executive Committee, which had been the main day-to-day body making decisions. Roger says the old committee, commonly referred to as 'Exec', was "well outdated and in many ways a deterrent to the effective functioning of the Union". He adds: "Its operation often served to frustrate the interests of students."

A body called 'Union Council' – not to be confused with the University Council – has replaced Exec. It has a much larger membership, to be made up of students elected directly from each school on the basis of one per 500 students. Members of other specific Union committees will form the rest of Union Council.

Student reps, who were elected last term and liaise with the schools and USSU on academic issues, can stand for election to Union Council – but the student reps scheme itself is separately run and managed.

The other main difference between Union Council and Exec is that the new body will have the power to make policy. Theoretically Union General Meetings (UGMs) currently do this but they have rarely been quorate, leaving all policy to be passed in one go at the long and tortuous AGM.

"Because there is a wider cross section of the student body involved in Council, it will ensure that the interests of all students

are taken into account," says Roger. "It will have life and bite and might!"

Roger says, however, that the success of Union Council depends on there being enough students on it to make it work: "We would be most grateful if lecturers could encourage their students to stand in the up-coming Council elections." Roger points out the time commitment could be as little as two meetings per term.

This term students also have a chance to stand for one of six cherished sabbatical positions. These are paid full-time posts where students get a real chance to affect change across campus. The posts are President, Communications, Finance, Activities, Education and Welfare Officer.

Students have until 28 January to nominate themselves for the sabbatical elections. Union Council nominations open on 31 January and close on 11 February. Further details are available online at www.ussu.info/elections.

A walk on the wild side ↓



David Harper
Life Sciences



David Streeter
Life Sciences

Readers might recall that, when we have had occasion to touch upon the subject of the campus elms, we have referred to them as 'English elms'. Indeed, until the devastating outbreak of Dutch elm disease the tree was a defining element of the English countryside.

What is particularly puzzling about the tree is that it never sets seed in this country. Furthermore, it almost never grows naturally in woods, being essentially a tree of hedgerows and parklands. Its spread is therefore wholly dependent upon suckering and planting. All this is very odd in a plant supposedly so native as to warrant the epithet 'English'.

A recent paper in *Nature* by Luis Gil of Madrid City University and his colleagues throws new light on the problem. Their European Union research programme has looked at the variability of chloroplast DNA in several European elms.

It seems that the closest genetic relative to our English elm is the Atinian elm from Italy, which also occurs in Spain. Now we know from the writings of the first century AD agronomist, Columella, that the Atinian elm was used for training vines and that he owned farms in both Latium (near Rome in Italy) and Xerez (Andalusia, SW Spain). Hence, the authors suggest that the solution to our puzzle is that the 'English elm' was introduced into Britain by the Romans via Spain in order to train vines in their newly established vineyards.

Vineyards have flourished in southern Britain since then, whenever the climate has been warm enough. The climatic amelioration after a major cold spell between the 14th and 19th centuries has led to a renaissance in English wines and seems to be continuing apace.

Last year was the fifth-warmest one in central England since 1659, being beaten by only 1949, 1990, 1999 and 2002. As these 'hot dates' suggest, the recent warming feels especially dramatic to those of us who can recall the cool years between the 1950s and early 1980s (when the media fretted about the onset of an ice age).

Climatic changes can affect the timing of natural events, the study of which is called phenology. In our last column (*Bulletin* 17 December), we mentioned that some male Blackbirds on campus started to sing in December.

They were not the only unusually early songsters this winter. Folk tradition claims that Blue Tits start singing on 24 January. This over-precise estimate was always rather late for southern England, but was spectacularly so this year on campus, with many males singing by New Year's Day.

The male by the entrance to the JMS building was especially keen, since he sometimes sang before sunrise or after sunset. These are unusually early and late for Blue Tit song, and we assume that his clock was as fooled by the bright lights as his calendar was by the weather.

Academic events ↓

MON 24 JAN

3pm International Relations and Politics seminar:

Rodney Loeppky (Sussex), Encoding capital: The political economy of the human genome project. Arts C233.

4pm Neuroscience seminar: Mark Yeoman, Ageing at a snail's pace. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

4pm Languages and Linguistics seminar:

Lynne Cahill (Sussex), Reduplication and iconicity. Arts D340.

5pm Geography seminar: Mark Lloyd-Davies (Queen Mary), Cold-based glacial activity in the Allan Hills, Antarctica: Evidence and preservation potential. Arts C175.

5pm Open seminar: John Parry (Sussex), The potential role of critical friendship in initial teacher education. Arts D610.

TUE 25 JAN

12noon Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar:

Nigel Robinson (Newcastle), Metallochaperones and metal-sensors: How do the correct metals locate to proteins? JMS lecture theatre.

12.30pm Life History seminar: Elaine Sheppard and Louisa Trott (Brighton), Family life: A project. Library Meeting Room.

2.15pm SEI seminar: Jim Rollo and Jörg Monar (Sussex), EU external trade competence and the current WTO round. Arts A5.

WED 26 JAN

2pm Holocaust Memorial Day event:

Jan Imich (Holocaust survivor), and Eva Hoffman (writer/historian). BSMS lecture theatre.

5pm Migration seminar:

Anniken Hagelund (Oslo), Governing diversity, performing integration. Public discourse and local practice in Norway. Arts C233.

THU 27 JAN

4.30pm Social & Political Thought seminar:

Patrick Joyce (Manchester), The potency of things: Material cultural and socio-cultural history. Arts D630.

FRI 28 JAN

2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar:

David Hirst (inventor and consultant), Responsive load: The foundations for a responsive electricity supply industry? Freeman Centre G24/25.

MON 31 JAN

3pm International Relations & Politics seminar:

Jörg Friedrichs (Bremen), Fertilizing the field: How the discipline can gain from European approaches to international relations theory. Arts C233.

4pm Informatics seminar:

Ian Horrocks, Reasoning with expressive Description Logics: Logical foundations for the semantic web. Pev I 1A6.

4pm Neuroscience seminar: Ron

Douglas, Vision of the deep; Visual pigments, bioluminescence, chlorophyll, 'secret' communication and evidence for a sensory arms-race in fish from the deep-ocean. Genome Centre Seminar Room.

5pm Geography seminar:

Richard Black (Sussex), Migration, poverty and inequality: A geographical perspective? Arts C175.

5pm Open seminar:

Jennifer Platt (Sussex), Gender, opportunity and careers in higher education: Methods and findings. Arts D610.

TUE 1 FEB

12noon Biochemistry and Genetics & Development seminar:

Rick Titball (DSTL), Plague, pandemics, phylogeny and prevention. JMS lecture theatre.

2.15pm SEI seminar:

Stephen Collins (Bank of England), The ins and outs of EMU: A central bank's perspective. Arts A5.

5.30pm Ken Miles (BSMS), Using computerised imaging techniques in medical education, BSMS computer suite.

WED 2 FEB

2pm Music seminar:

Nicholas Cook (Royal Holloway), title TBA. Falmer House 120.

3pm Interdisciplinary

seminar: Julian Reid (Sussex), Rights, justice, violence and war: Consequences of the War on Terror for the organisation of power internationally. Arts A71.

4pm History of Art seminar:

Alice Correia (Sussex), There ain't no black in the Union Jack: The flag in contemporary British art. Arts A103.

THU 3 FEB

4pm Social Psychology and Health Psychology seminar: Chris Armitage (Sheffield), The initiation and maintenance of health behaviour. Pev I 1B3.

5pm Sussex Development lecture:

Christopher Stevens (IDS), Does free trade exist outside of text books? Arts A1.

FRI 4 FEB

2.15pm SPRU-CENTRIM seminar: Susana Borra (Roskilde), The transformation of the patent system in Europe: Network governance failure or success? Freeman Centre G24/25.

Small ads ↓

To let: Attic room in unfurnished mixed house in central B'ton. £361 pcm, excl. Available now. Call Helen on 07815 518880.

For sale: Carry case for laptop computer (up to 17"), as new: £25. **T** Jenny Long on ext. 8212 or **E** J.M.Long@sussex.ac.uk.

Wanted: Cat-loving flatmate to share 2-bed 1st-floor flat in Palmeira Sq area. Available ASAP, £417.50 pcm, share bills. Garden, balcony. **E** chrisli@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Red Nissan Micra Shape 1.0 12CV. N reg. (96). Tax May, MoT Sep. 81K miles, £850. Ext. 6533 or **E** d.c.bryer@sussex.ac.uk.

Holiday let: 3-bed hillside villa on Costa del Sol (between Malaga and Nerja). Sea 300m. Slps 5. From £165 p/w. **T** 472831.

To let: Double room in seafront flat on B'ton/Hove border. Available now. Pref. veggie, N/S. £450-pcm incl. **T** Sarah on 07789 956966 or **E** sarahBN1@hotmail.com.

For sale: Pair of 175cm Atomic skis + Salomon binding, poles. £25. **E** N.Hoenke@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Salomon Malamute snowboard boots; UK10, as new: £90. Drake Axis MTX snowboard bindings; large (suit above boots), as new: £70. **T** 541841.

Child minding and housekeeping: offered by mature F language student (Japanese) in B&H. Available weekdays after 3.30pm and weekends. **E** Kanako on lhr-kanakos@wish.jp.

To let: Terraced 3/4-bed house in Coombe Rd, B'ton. £70 per double room p/w. Suit PG/faculty. **T** Louise on 01323 832797 or **E** cherrycroft@aol.com.

Wanted: 2-bed property to rent in Hove area for 2 professional F. N/S, no pets. **E** Alison Brown on a.brown@sussex.ac.uk.

For sale: Children's ski clothes, sizes 128,134,140 & 164. **E** s.p.collard@sussex.ac.uk.

To let: Room in 4-bed Patcham bungalow, available now. Large garden, parking. Share with 2 F, 1 M (mid 20s) + 2 dogs. N/S. £225 pcm + phone bill). **T** Emily on 503968.

Arts events ↓

FILM

Tue 25 Jan
8pm Hero (12A).
Gardner Arts Centre.

Fri 28 Jan
8pm The Life & Death of Peter Sellers (15).
Gardner Arts Centre.

Sat 29 Jan
8pm My Summer of Love (15).
Gardner Arts Centre.

Sun 30 Jan
6pm The Story of the Weeping Camel (U).
Gardner Arts Centre.

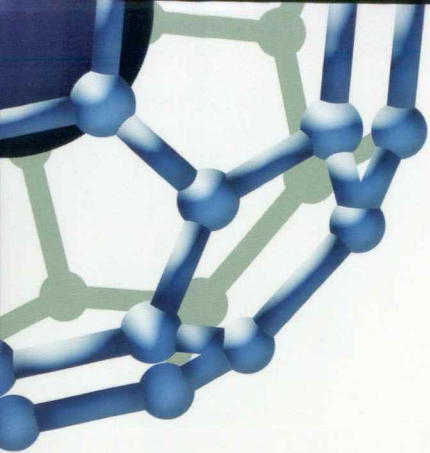
8pm Spiderman 2 (PG).
Gardner Arts Centre.

Tue 1 Feb
8pm Supersize Me (12A).
Gardner Arts Centre.

Fri 4 Feb
8pm Shaolin Soccer (12A).
Gardner Arts Centre.

University Wine Appreciation Society

There will be an Alsace tasting on Thursday (27 January) at 6 pm in the Innovation Centre. Email Mark Everitt on m.j.everitt@susx.ac.uk for advance bookings. The cost is £5 membership plus £5 for the tasting.



sussex ip

The newsletter of Sussex Intellectual Property Ltd

Winter 2005 Issue 5

This month we focus on two new collaborations, explain how to protect your ideas and report on new e-learning research.

Sharing best practice

The Regional Development Office (RDO) was delighted to host a recent visit of staff from Australian Technology Park Innovations (ATPi). Owned by four of Australia's top universities, The University of New South Wales, The University of Sydney, The University of Technology, Sydney and The Australian National University, ATPi is a vibrant, world-class technology business accelerator that supports emerging businesses in the biotechnology, ICT and electronics sectors.

CEO Dr Mark Bradley and Director Charles Lindop flew in from Sydney to find out more about best practice at the Sussex Innovation Centre; university connections with high tech business clusters; biotech research innovation and strengths; innovation technology policy; and the science / arts interface.

Sharon Phillips and Gerard Cronin from the RDO, accompanied our visitors throughout a packed programme of informal meetings with senior academics, and representatives from Wired Sussex, Sussex IP and the Executive Director of the Sussex Innovation Centre.

Common linkages were found in many areas, and it is hoped that this first visit will lead to a fruitful relationship on both sides of the globe, with the sharing of ideas and best practice across a wide spectrum of subject areas.

For further information on the people involved with the visit, and the subject areas covered, please contact Gerard Cronin, Regional Development Office on 877692. ●



Sussex IP in new collaboration with Forest Research

A new collaboration between Forest Research and Sussex IP is contributing to one of the University's major 3rd Stream objectives: to develop a more dynamic interface between the University and regional businesses, to encourage entrepreneurship, research commercialisation, collaborative research and links between academics and businesses.

Sussex IP, through its collaboration with the University of Surrey in the DTI's Biotechnology Exploitation Platform (BEP), is working with Forest Research, the research agency of the Forestry Commission to provide a range of IP and business development services.

At the start of the collaboration, Sussex IP's CEO Dr Mike Shaw and Commercialisation Executive Dr Helma Kaptein held well-received IP awareness seminars at the Forest Research's two main centres. Recently, a second phase of the collaboration Dr. Helma Kaptein has started, with Sussex IP, assisting the identification and enhancement of commercialisation opportunities.

Prof. Jim Lynch, Chief Executive of Forest Research, says, "IP management is increasingly recognised as important to the strategic development of research organisations such as Forest Research. Harnessing our IP to enable the delivery of practical benefit across a range of the areas in which operate is a key element of improving our technology transfer capabilities".

Forest Research is one of the world's leading centres of research into woodlands and forestry. It is involved in a wide range of activities, including analysis of the effect of trees on environment and health; their value as a raw material in construction and energy; and on the value of woodlands for biodiversity and the rural economy. ●

www.forestresearch.gov.uk





Have you protected your idea?

The majority of funded research undertaken in the UK will be subject to provisions related to Intellectual Property Rights. A research council may stipulate that the institution must use its best endeavours to ensure the results are protected or an industrial sponsor may take ownership of the results of the project. Often, when 'follow-on' funding is provided to develop a research project, identifying Intellectual Property rights becomes a requirement of the award. However, identifying the Intellectual Property rights can be a tricky business and this where Sussex IP can help.

So how do you know if the new technology, process or software you've developed can be protected through Intellectual Property Rights? The first step is to talk to someone else about it – your sponsor may even ask you if you've taken steps to protect your idea. Here at Sussex IP we can identify opportunities to further the development, and potential commercialisation of new technologies developed at the University. We can discuss your research with you and together help to identify Intellectual Property rights. We have funds available to pay for applying for patent protection if appropriate, and can undertake the market research to enable your idea to be taken further forward.

If you think you have an idea, or a new technology you would like to discuss, get in touch with us. We will ask you to fill in an Invention Disclosure Form – which provides us with a summary outline of the idea, along with some information about the party who funded the research. From there, we undertake some 'due diligence' – this involves checking the terms of the funding to ensure we meet our obligations to the sponsor. As well as some initial market research, we may at this point consult with a qualified patent agent or other Intellectual Property specialist. Working closely with the academic, we then manage and fund the process of protecting your idea, as well as coordinating securing additional funding where appropriate, or negotiating a licence or assignment deal with a commercial partner.

If this sounds relevant to you – please get in touch with us – we are here to provide this service for the staff at the University, and are happy to advise on any Intellectual Property issues. ●

Julia Fallon



Funding for skills development

Working with BELA (the Brighton E-Learning Alliance), the Regional Development Office has secured Area Investment Framework funding from SEEDA to research into the skills, knowledge and competencies required for instructional designers in the area. Studying ten major companies in the field, over the next month, Angela Rabone of the RDO will assess needs and make recommendations.

Using the findings, BELA, the University of Brighton and City College, Brighton & Hove and the University of Sussex will work together to deliver an industry specific, postgraduate, course for instructional designers. It is envisaged that this will be modular with project placements with local employers to consolidate and develop learning and skills.

For more information please contact:

Angela Rabone, Business Broker in the Regional Development Office 01273 877970. ●

European patent expansion

As of December 1st, an EU patent is now valid in 36 countries. At the end of November, Lithuania officially joined the European Patent Organization. In addition to the geographical growth, the organization has had a 12% increase in patent applications since last year. The World Intellectual Property Organization expects this growth to continue in the next few years at an almost exponential rate. Several other countries also joined earlier this year, including Iceland, Poland and Montenegro. ●

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