

# The Friends of the University of Sussex Impact Report

2019



We are very grateful to all donors to the Friends of the University of Sussex for their generous support of a broad range of scholarships, prizes and world-leading research projects at the University of Sussex.

This report details the impact of the programmes supported by the Friends during the past calendar year (2019). It also outlines our alumni engagement activities across the United States.

If you would like to make a gift or receive additional information about the Friends or any of these programmes or activities, please contact us at [americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk) or visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/support/americanfriends](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/support/americanfriends)

## About the Friends of the University of Sussex

In November 1996, the Friends of the University of Sussex was established as a registered 501(c)(3). Run by a board of volunteers, the organisation supports the University of Sussex in its development aims of raising funds for institutional priorities, in particular scholarships for students from the US and research with societal impact.

Thank you to all the Sussex alumni in the United States who regularly support the Friends of the University of Sussex.

To make a gift, please see the links on page 22.

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# The Rudd Centre hosts international symposium on campus

Professor Gordon Harold's research has fundamentally shifted the British government's approach to supporting family relationships in promoting child and adolescent mental health. He has successfully engaged with government bodies, including the Department for Work and Pensions, to influence policy in order to improve the life chances of children and young people by targeting early support to disadvantaged parents and families.

During his time at Sussex, he has compellingly dismantled the myth that children are only affected by their genes. Instead his research shows the positive impact of good parenting and healthy relationships between parents for children's development. Prof Harold's seminal findings led to his research being listed in the MadeAtUni Top 100 Best Breakthroughs of the Century.

One of the highlights of the Sussex Rudd Centre research programme in 2019 was the Rudd Symposium hosted on campus and aimed at policy makers, practitioners, national and local government, charities, social care professionals, family and child support specialists. The Symposium, entitled *Supporting Families, Parents and Children: An Intergenerational Perspective*, provided a review of the latest research into family relationship influences on intergenerational and



long-term outcomes for children, parents and future families, with a focus on foster care, adoption, looked-after children and families/children in transition.

Featuring a broad range of internationally renowned speakers, the symposium highlighted recent practice and policy developments in this area. This in turn made an important contribution to a key aim of the Centre, facilitating the next generation of training and capacity building that will help equip practitioners with the skills required to deliver evidence-based programmes that promote positive impacts for the lives of families, parents and children.

As part of the Centre's ambitions to translate its research outputs into new practice models for frontline practitioners working in different settings, such as social work, medicine

## ANDREW AND VIRGINIA RUDD CENTRE FOR ADOPTION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Thanks to generous philanthropic support, the Sussex Rudd Centre was established in 2013, under the leadership of Professor Gordon Harold, with the core purpose of promoting understanding of the particular support needs and challenges facing children, parents and families in an adoption context.

and education, Dr Ruth Sellers was appointed in 2019 as Senior Lecturer in the Brighton and Sussex Medical School under the auspices of the Centre.

Professor Harold will leave the University of Sussex in July 2020 to take up a newly established Professorship in the Psychology of Education and Mental Health at the University of Cambridge. He will retain an appointment at Sussex to promote and lead future collaborative opportunities through the Rudd Programme linking Sussex and the University of Cambridge.



## Two PhD scholars in Jewish Studies supported by the Friends

### THE CENTRE FOR GERMAN-JEWISH STUDIES

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies was established in 1994 as the only British academic institution investigating, researching and teaching the cultural legacy of, and the unique historic links between, German-speaking countries and their former Jewish citizens.

For many years, the Centre's work has included study into the experiences of the Jewish diaspora around the world and topics including antisemitism, discrimination and segregation, but it was recognised that there was a need to extend this focus.

With this goal in mind, the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies has been established as a leading intellectual hub for the interdisciplinary study and public discussion of the Jewish experience and how it relates to the key challenges of our time.

Distinguished by an inclusive global focus, it looks especially to Israel, Germany, the US and the UK for insights and lessons that can help shape 21st century society.

The Friends of the University of Sussex currently supports two Bader Philanthropies PhD scholars as part of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies: Stefan Boberg and Liza Weber.

### Stefan Boberg

Stefan Boberg's PhD project, *People from Paper: Jewish Belonging through the Prism of German Registration and Census-taking 1812-1943*, started in September 2016 at the Centre for German Jewish Studies and was kindly funded in its final stages by the Alfred Bader Scholarship. His thesis explores German concepts of state-membership by analysing how authorities aggregated and managed knowledge of the population in general and the Jewish population in particular.

It analyses the status of Jews in registration and statistics from the emancipation to 'emancipation revoked' – from the inclusion in the state collective in 1812 to the role these devices had in the exclusion from the People's Community (*Volksgemeinschaft*) by deportation and often murder under National-Socialist rule in the 1940s.

The long-term approach and unique vantage point of the thesis elucidate how the concepts of German state-membership were negotiated in the example of Germany's Jews. Over the course of more than a century, census categories and population registers not only reflected these conceptual changes but were eventually used to alter the composition of the German population.

While the fact that the 1939 census inquired after Jewish ancestry is a well-known fact in historiography,

its significance for the identification of individual Jews in the context of deportations and the Shoah has been disputed.

The thesis argues that a population register introduced in 1939 – the People's Card Index (*Volkskartei*) – was essential in the identification of German Jews. Based on previously unconsidered new sources, the thesis shows that the collation of the census data on ancestry with the *Volkskartei* was ordered in March 1941 in order to facilitate the identification and localisation of German Jews in the context of the deportations. It shows in detail how the National-Socialist production of the *Volksgemeinschaft* by exclusion depended on documents and bureaucracy rather than 'race' or 'blood'.

### Liza Weber

Liza Weber's thesis is called *documenta and its Double: Germany's Myth of Modernism in Memory and Provenance, from 'Degenerate' to documenta (1937-1955)*. Of her subject, Liza says, "*documenta and its Double* calls into question the widely held understanding of the 1955 *documenta* exhibition



as a rehabilitation of modern art once deemed 'degenerate' under the National Socialist regime.

Combining the methodologies of provenance research and oral history, the project simultaneously traces the trajectory and living memory of modernism in Germany throughout the twentieth, and indeed twenty-first, century. Its guiding research question is: was the 1955 documenta an answer to the trauma that resulted from the Nazis' original anti-modernist smear campaign, or a partial perpetuation of the trauma that the quinquennial exhibition is still trying to bring to light?"

Over the last year, Liza has made terrific strides towards completing her doctoral thesis. In addition, she found time to travel extensively to further the academic understanding of her topic. For example, among other things, she:

- presented a paper called *documenta and its Double: Germany's Two Rabbis* at the German Historical Society's annual conference, hosted by King's College London;
- presented her short film, *Two Rabbis*, at a Provenance Research Workshop at the Castello di Rivoli Library in Turin, "as an example of how we might lift provenance off the page and onto the screen for the benefit of the general public";
- participated in Research Seminar Exhibition Studies in Kassel, Germany, where she presented a paper on provenance research of documenta artworks, including a screening of *Two Rabbis*;



- hosted a public screening of *Two Rabbis* at Der Fabrik, Kassel;
- delivered a lecture on behalf of the Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin, called *An Uncanny Case: Emy Roeder's Die Schwangere*; and
- as part of Sussex's Fundamentals in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education module, delivered a Prezi presentation called *Cryptic Crosswords: Getting to Grips with Puzzling Terminology*.

#### MORRIS & BESSIE EMANUEL PHD SCHOLARSHIP

The Morris & Bessie Emanuel PhD Programme builds on previous support from Bader Philanthropies towards two doctoral scholarships within the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex, examining the German-Jewish experience, its achievements, its tragedy and its new resilience in the post-war period, promoting inter-faith dialogue and international understanding.

The Morris & Bessie Emanuel PhD Programme will be part of the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute for Jewish Studies. Training a new generation of scholars, who will themselves be engaged in disseminating and imparting this knowledge to future students, will ensure that the lessons of the past won't be forgotten in the future.

The PhD programme is an integral part of our bold and timely ambition to address intolerance and the need for dialogue in the 21st century. High-quality, high-impact academic research will be crucial to our success as we advance inquiry into the Jewish experience and to address key questions facing our societies.

The first of three Morris & Bessie Emanuel PhD Scholarships has been advertised with a view to beginning in late 2020.

## The MacQuitty Prizes make a big impact



### The MacQuitty Prize for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Economics and Finance scholar Rob Patrick (below right) won the MacQuitty Prize for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Shortly after being awarded the prize, Rob received a job offer from a London bank and decided it would be a great time to go travelling, before settling into his new life. “The award enabled me to head off on a camping adventure round the north coast of Scotland – not the warm, luxury holiday some thought I’d put the money towards but one which I had long wished to do.”

Currently, Rob is renting a flat in London but in the near future he intends to use the remainder of the prize money to put down a deposit on a house, which he would not otherwise have been able to do so soon after graduating.

Rob says, “The MacQuitty Prize itself is a tremendous honour as recognition for all the work I put into my degree and the prize money has enabled me to start my post-Sussex life on a very positive note. For both of these, I am most grateful.”

### The MacQuitty Prize for Science

The MacQuitty Prize for Science this year went to Conor Osborne (above, with Prof James Hirschfeld). While working on his Mathematics degree at Sussex, Conor took advantage of other opportunities offered by the University, including studying at both the University of California at Berkley and Singapore Management University.



### THE MACQUITTY PRIZE

The MacQuitty Prize has been awarded to Sussex’s highest-ranking student in the Sciences since 2008. In 2018, the MacQuitty Prize for the Humanities & Social Sciences was awarded for the first time. Both prizes are based on merit alone and worth £10,000 each.

Sussex alum Dr Jonathan MacQuitty (CHEM 1974) traces the effect of a single act of philanthropy through three generations of his family. In 1884, his great-uncle won a sizeable prize at university, allowing him to continue his studies and become a successful doctor.

When he died, the legacy of that one gift passed to MacQuitty’s grandfather then, via his father, to him. He used it to support himself as he studied for a DPhil at Sussex in the 70s. Now, in turn, the MacQuitty Prizes will allow scholars to carry on that legacy for years to come.

Conor says, “This prize really feels like the culmination of four years’ hard work and I feel very honoured to receive it. I plan to study for a Masters at Oxford next year and I was worried about the cost, but the prize will cover my tuition fees, which makes a huge difference.

I hope to either pursue a career in academia or work in industry. No matter what I do, I will always be grateful for my time at Sussex and winning the MacQuitty Prize for Science.”

## The Friends backs PhD in Alzheimer's research

Rebecca Atkinson received a generous bursary from the Friends to support her through the final writing-up stage of her doctoral research position and beyond. This sponsorship was essential to her being able to continue researching cognitive ageing and disseminating this research to the public.



Rebecca's research centres around the role of genetic risk factors on cognitive ageing. She investigates how risk and resilience factors interact to affect the process of change in cognitive ageing (looking at genetic, sociodemographic, and lifestyle factors). In addition to completing her doctoral thesis, she has also prepared three manuscripts for publication from her thesis. These manuscripts report her findings on how a dementia risk gene (apolipoprotein E – APOE) affects cognitive function across the lifespan, and how certain lifestyle factors

(cognitive engagement) may lower the cognitive risk associated with carrying this gene. Rebecca also previously published a paper from her thesis looking at how cognitive complexity interacts with APOE genotype in young adults. She believes that, taken together, these findings offer important information to allow us to understand and, eventually, reduce the risks associated with carrying this apolipoprotein E gene.

This bursary also allowed Rebecca the time to disseminate her findings to the wider research community, including at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Conference, and organising activity and information stands at this year's Alzheimer's Research UK public engagement event. In addition, she spoke in an ambassadorial capacity at the University's Alumni Reception at the House of Lords (right) in May.

On life since completing her thesis, Rebecca says, "My final viva voce examination has taken place – and I passed! I've now taken up a teaching-focused Lectureship position in Sussex's Department of Psychology, which is known for teaching cutting-edge psychological research methods and integrating best scientific practice into learning so I was keen to take this role, as I want to be part of a growing movement that's pushing to improve the quality of future scientific research.

As this role is teaching-based but without any provision for research activities, the Friends' bursary has allowed me to fund my professional research development and my research work. This includes attending a summer school at the University of Oxford to learn novel open science

and reproducible research techniques (again, with the aim to improve the quality of my own and others' scientific work) and setting up research projects to further develop the ideas coming out of my doctoral research.

I genuinely do not believe I would even have been offered this Lectureship without the Friends' assistance – instead, with it, I have an academic position in a department and university that allows me to support and encourage students from less advantaged backgrounds (through first-generation scholars programmes), encourage women in science, and promote best scientific practice.

I have personally and professionally benefited from the Friends' generosity so much, as in turn have the students to whom I am now able to offer academic and pastoral support, and the wider field of cognitive ageing research."



## Jesse White Masters scholar eyes American judicial reform

This year's recipient of the Jesse White Masters Scholarship for International Relations is Sebastian Burt. Seb has had a long-standing relationship with the University of Sussex, as his mother not only obtained her Masters and PhD at Sussex but was a Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics at BSMS for many years, until her death in 2013. Seb also spent many summers on the campus as a child, as part of the summer camp scheme.

He lists these are some of the reasons he chose to come back to Brighton and pursue a Masters degree after completing his undergraduate degree in American Studies at the University of East Anglia. This degree was pivotal to his undertaking a Masters in International Relations now, as he has long been fascinated with US domestic and foreign policy, especially with regard to the reformative efforts of the judicial system.



He hopes to concentrate his studies and research in these areas. To further this research, he spent a year at Goucher

College in Baltimore studying Sociology and Political Science. Asked about the impact of the scholarship on his studies, Seb says, "I am not someone who is naturally academic, as my severe dyslexia has meant that I have had to access higher education in a less straightforward way than most. As a result, educators told me for many years that I would not amount to much academically. Moments of recognition, like being chosen for this scholarship, only furthers my drive and passion for academic success."

After my year at Sussex, my dream is to move back to America and undertake a PhD in International Relations and Sociology, and then to work for NGOs and non-profits to help combat racial and economic inequality in the US. I would also like to go into government political consultancy and public service in America, to further the reach of my research."

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## New Global Citizens Award launched

Thanks to a generous donation via the Friends of the University of Sussex, the Andrew Francis Pickup Global Citizens Award has been launched in the School of Global Studies. The award will enable students to fulfil their potential as global citizens by helping them to overcome financial barriers to activities such as voluntary placements and work experience opportunities.

Andrew Pickup was an extremely popular and highly regarded doctoral researcher, and much loved by his peers. He tragically passed away while doing fieldwork in South Africa. This fitting tribute to Andrew's memory will have a lasting and

transformative impact on the University and on future generations of its students.

Andrew's parents, Victoria Goebel and Peter Pickup, said, "This award shall in perpetuity memorialize our son's appreciation for being accepted by the University as a PhD candidate in the distinguished School of Global Studies. Andrew was enthusiastically dedicated to successfully completing his field research and dissertation, and was looking forward to pursuing his future career. The Andrew Francis Pickup Global Citizens Award aims to enable more students to embrace the opportunities available through their studies and to contribute to



their becoming truly global, resilient and adaptable citizens. The Award will help to ensure that Global Studies students are not prevented from fully partaking in these opportunities due to their personal financial circumstances."

# The Friends of the University of Sussex Masters scholar aims for social change



Each year, the Friends of the University of Sussex raises funds to support scholarships to enable Masters and Visiting & Exchange students from the United States to study at the University. This year's Friends Masters Scholarship has been awarded to Stephanie Habib, who is studying Media Practice for Development & Social Change.

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Stephanie studied Journalism and French Language & Literature at Arizona State University as an undergraduate, before spending four years – two in France and two in Spain – working as an English Language Assistant and expanding her foreign language skills.

Asked recently about what brought her to the University of Sussex, Stephanie says, "I was drawn to this program at Sussex because my experience working in newspapers during and

after university, combined with my professional and life experiences in Europe, has led me to understand that I'd like to be more politically and socially active with my media work. While traditional journalism is crucial to

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends Masters Scholarship is available to students in any academic school. It helps ensure that talented students from America are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of their background and resources.

a functioning democracy, it does require that reporters always be at a distance from their subjects. Personally, I would like to be more directly involved in making change, in a world where entire communities are regularly displaced by war, famine, the effects of climate change, persecution and other forces.

In particular, having grown up in a US border state and having been in France at the height of the 'migrant crisis' in 2015, I wonder how we might use words and images to promote the kind of social change and policy implementation we need to facilitate the mass migration we are seeing all over the world. As the child of asylum seekers who came to the US in the 1980s, this issue is quite personal to me. I hope my time at Sussex will help me to better understand the role of media in international development and migration management efforts, as well as how I can apply my own skills and time to the field."

Looking back on the first half of her Sussex year, Stephanie says, "I've had three primary projects – a multimedia project about Third-Culture Kids, a research project on the power and motivations behind how the UK media frames certain religious groups, and a paper on how far-right populists in Europe are using social media to further their causes (and what, hopefully, we can do about that). In three different ways, I wanted to tackle not just migration but what happens next, after migrants and refugees have arrived or settled in a new place. The most challenging part was probably the multimedia project, the capstone of which was a short documentary. This was my first time working with film cameras, storyboarding and editing software, but I was lucky to have a great team from which I learned a great deal."

## The Friends funds a new Informatics fellowship

Thanks to a generous pledge, a two-year academic fellowship has been awarded to a senior research fellow, Dr Ron Chrisley, within the department of Informatics to pursue research into machine learning algorithms. This research will be undertaken in the San Francisco Bay area, with a view to developing research partnerships relating to the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence.



Having been at Sussex for over 27 years, Dr Chrisley is the Director of the Centre for Cognitive Science (COGS) and a lecturer in Philosophy in the School of Engineering and Informatics. His first research experience was in the field of AI and machine learning and, while these have remained constant interests of his in the decades since, his recent work has been more theoretical.

The purpose of the fellowship is to allow Ron to return to these (now more relevant than ever) AI roots. Specifically, the fellowship aims to enable him to re-orient his academic career toward areas of greater potential impact, by exploring the potential benefits of his AI/ Machine

Learning/ Philosophy/ Cognitive Science-based ideas, experience and expertise for non-academic communities, including industrial partners and commercial applications.

The aim is to do this in a way that would also better align his research and teaching profile with the missions of his Department and School, and to initiate and foster relationships between Silicon Valley partners and himself, the Department of Informatics and the University of Sussex as a whole.

The fellowship extends the two terms of research leave already provided by Ron's School to two years so that he could relocate to the San Francisco Bay Area for the period January 2019 – August 2020. To date, Ron has:

- been appointed a Visiting Scholar in the Institute for Human-Centred AI (HAI) at Stanford University;
- been appointed a Visiting Professor in Symbolic Systems at Stanford;
- given two Stanford lectures on his research into metacognitive and creative machine learning systems;
- given two other invited lectures on AI creativity and AI ethics in Cambridge and Abu Dhabi;
- been invited to give a Stanford HAI lecture on AI Ethics (in May 2020);
- contributed to panels on Human-Centred AI and AI Governance at industrial AI conferences in Amsterdam and Lausanne;
- published three refereed articles, two on AI and one on the physical basis of mentality;
- consulted on the planning of the Long Now Foundation;
- become a consulting researcher for Microsoft Research;

- contributed to a successful EU AI Research platform funding bid: *Humane AI Net*;
- been the subject of podcast interview (<https://www.loka.com/podcast/ron>); and
- developed a professional partnership with Phil Tee of Moogsoft Inc, with plans for Moogsoft to fund a PhD position, supervised by Ron, on a machine learning topic of mutual interest.



## David Osmond-Smith Prize awarded

### DAVID OSMOND-SMITH PRIZE

The David Osmond-Smith Prize is awarded to the graduating student who has written the most academically rigorous music dissertation. It celebrates the life and teaching of David Osmond-Smith, who taught at Sussex from 1973 to 2007. David inspired generations of students, both in the Music Dept and across other disciplines, with his astounding and original intellect, the energy and intensity he brought to a seminar or tutorial, and the warmth and kindness he shared with students, colleagues and friends alike.

The winner of this year's David Osmond-Smith Prize is Jamie Longcake, who plays the guitar and piano. His main focus at Sussex was Music Production and Composition for both film and concert hall and he hopes to develop a career in this area.

"For my dissertation, I wrote about online streaming and its relationship to the production of music, hinting at the technological determinism of music throughout the era, as well as how some groups resist this determinism," Jamie says. "I've been fortunate in acquiring my first professional engagement from a lecturer in the Film Department, working on some 50s-themed Jazz music, as well as learning to play the cello."

During his time at Sussex, Jamie had the opportunity to hear many of his pieces performed, for example by the Lewes Concert Orchestra and FEMengine, to name just a few.



## The Sussex Fund helps many

The Sussex Fund provides financial assistance through hardship bursaries; encourages excellence via scholarships; and offers opportunities that students might not otherwise have. We are committed to widening participation and enhancing the student experience at Sussex, helping those who need it most.

In 2019, the Sussex Fund – which is made possible thanks to generous donations from alumni and friends of the University – was able to support the following initiatives:

- hardship bursaries and awards to support the wellbeing of students;
- small grants to support students who have come to Sussex after having lived in social care;
- scholarships to support students with refugee status to study at the University;
- travel bursaries to ensure postgraduate students can take part in UK or EU conferences;
- growing the number of Junior Research Associate bursaries which enable undergraduate students to undertake a paid research internship during their summer holiday; and
- funds to support elite athletes competing at national or international level, as well as students who have been identified as benefitting from using sport facilities to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

# Inaugural Adam Weiler Doctoral Impact Award winner announced

Swastee Ranjan, a doctoral researcher in the School of Law, Politics and Sociology, has been awarded the first Adam Weiler Doctoral Impact Award. Her doctorate is an interdisciplinary research project that tries to make a link between law, cities and the environment through examining our perception and our behaviour towards objects within cities.

Swastee explains, “For example, things like dustbins and streetlights, how big a billboard is, and how a bus stop is designed. My interest is not centered around infrastructure, so my question is not how to improve them, but how we are affected by them, how we respond to them, and how our behaviour changes due to how something is designed. So I work on these intersections and my larger ambition of the PhD is to rethink the way we imagine the environment of cities through aesthetic effects, and the role the law plays.”

Asked about the impact she hopes her research will achieve, Swastee says, “Firstly, I definitely want my study to influence the way we look at the environment. Not as something that exists out there, but something that we live in, work with, and engage with. Secondly, I would want the legal discipline to be more aware of how they

do environmental research and to find innovative ways to address some of our most important concerns – for instance climate change and global warming. Thirdly, I am interested in creating new tools for exploring ideas of self and who we are in the world, what it means to be human, and our responsibility and obligations.”



With regard to the journey that led her to Sussex and this PhD project, Swastee adds, “I am from Delhi and I have learned a lot from that city through its multiculturalism, diversity, and heterogeneity. I think cities are very inspiring places and can provoke

## ADAM WEILER DOCTORAL IMPACT AWARD

This award has been established in memory of Adam Weiler, who studied International Relations at Sussex.

It is given to exceptional doctoral researchers at the University of Sussex who have demonstrated the potential to achieve outstanding academic impact in their field.

One award of £1,000 (to go towards the winner’s research) is available each year.

thinking and realisation of how we live. It’s not only the positive elements, but also the struggles that you see in cities that really can compel you to consider how you want to live your life, what values you want to live by, and what communities you want to be a part of. Being so inspired by cities made me think: what is it that I could do in the realm of the thing that I love so much?”



# The Friends helps more students take part in Junior Research Associate scheme

The Junior Research Associate scheme rewards academic excellence by supporting high-achieving undergraduates who are seriously considering post-graduate study to realise this ambition by working alongside Sussex's top research faculty during the summer holiday.

Over eight weeks, undergraduates build connections with researchers, work closely with academic supervisors and mentors, and gain invaluable research experience for future PhD study.

Once their projects are completed, candidates produce academic posters and present their findings during at the Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibition.

The winner of the competition goes on to represent the University of Sussex at the prestigious Posters in Parliament event in London, at which the top JRA students from across the UK are invited to exhibit their posters at the Houses of Parliament.

## Posters in Parliament

The University of Sussex was delighted to be chosen to host the 2019 Posters in Parliament event. The exhibition gives the opportunity for legislators and policy makers to see first-hand some of the innovative research taking place around the country. Along with the opportunity for students to present their research work in the Houses of Parliament, the top three submitted posters will be selected by a judging panel.

Daniel Hajas was asked to give the keynote speech at the 2019 Posters in Parliament event. Daniel was a JRA student funded by the Friends in the summer of 2015 and presented his own poster at Parliament in February 2016. Doctoral School Officer Julie Carr says, "Although blind, Daniel is a remarkable young man, who has achieved a great deal. After his Masters here at Sussex, he obtained funding to stay on and

undertake a PhD, which he started in September 2018. Asking Daniel to be the keynote speaker was an obvious choice."

Daniel also co-founded and is CEO of Grapheel, a charitable organisation which supports science and technology education for the visually impaired. (see photo below of Daniel with Stephen Lloyd, MP for Eastbourne)

## JUNIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

The Friends of the University of Sussex provides bursaries to two additional students to take part in the competitive Junior Research Associate (JRA) scheme.

The programme aims to inspire and excite students about the idea of research and postgraduate study, and is designed to offer the best possible chance of success should students choose to follow this path.

Many students continue developing the ideas they formed as a JRA during their undergraduate degree, and often into their postgraduate degrees.

The JRA scheme offers a unique opportunity to participate in real-life research and explore whether students would be suited to a career in research.



## New recipient of the Gita Beker Busjeet Memorial Prize

This year's winner of the Gita Beker Busjeet Memorial Prize is Stefan Wagner, who studied a BSc in Economics and International Relations.

After learning that he's won the prize, Stefan says, "I've been doing some research into Gita's life. What I discovered – from her efforts to combat child labour in Peru to her work for community development in Namibia and her dedication for others until the very end of her life and in spite of her seven-year struggle against a terrible disease – left me astounded at what Gita achieved in her way-too-short life. It is genuinely difficult for me to express how honoured I feel to receive a prize memorialising Gita and her life and accomplishments.

I will do my very best to live up to the expectations that winning this prize brings and try to honour Gita's memory. With her dedication to others and her courage in never giving up while fighting brain cancer, Gita will certainly be a big role model for me in the future. For this reason, I have decided to begin honouring Gita's memory by donating the prize money to a charity that combats child labour."

Robert Eastwood, a Tutorial Fellow in Economics, reflects, "Stefan is an outstanding student who achieved very high marks in both Economics and International Relations. He achieved the highest mark ever in my final year module, Monetary Theory and Policy,

at the same time impressing me as an exceptionally mature, thoughtful and empathetic person. These are qualities that I also associate with Gita Beker Busjeet, whom I knew well, and so I feel that Stefan is a particularly worthy winner of this prize."

### GITA BEKER BUSJEET MEMORIAL PRIZE

Gita Beker Busjeet was an alumna of the University of Sussex who passed away in 2012. Her father, Dr Vinod Busjeet, established the Gita Beker Busjeet Memorial Prize in her memory.

The prize aims to recognise the best-performing undergraduate student on a joint degree encompassing Economics, Politics, Development Studies or International Relations.

"Gita taught us the meaning of courage, working until the very end, leading a productive life of service to others. The prize honours her memory by rewarding the efforts of a distinguished student and helping to perpetuate Sussex's values of social engagement exemplified by Gita's life."

– Dr Vinod Busjeet



## The Friends supports Cancer Science PhD scholar

Rose Westhorpe's PhD scholarship in Cancer Science is supported by the Friends of the University of Sussex.

Describing her work in the Genome Damage and Stability Centre during the past year, Rose writes, "2019 has been a really great year for me and my studies. I have been studying a protein that is involved with replication of DNA in the cell, called Tof1 (it's called Timeless in humans). We are trying to figure out how Tof1 carried out all of its known functions (there are quite a few!) and we've been doing this by removing chunks of it at a time, and seeing which functions it could still do with various portions of the protein missing."

Rose is pleased to say that she and her colleagues have put this work together as a finished paper and posted it online as a pre-published piece of

work, so that the scientific community can access it freely.\* She and her team hope to publish the paper in a peer-reviewed journal – it's currently in the review stage, where experts from their field have read it, critically reviewed it and come back to them with comments and any extra experiments they think it needs to make it complete.

Of her work outside the lab, Rose says, "I was also able to present this work at an international conference in September, at Cold Spring Harbor in New York. It was an incredible experience where I got to meet not only the prominent scientists whom I have heard so much about before, but also other PhD students and junior researchers who will be my colleagues in years to come."

\* <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2019.12.17.877811v1>

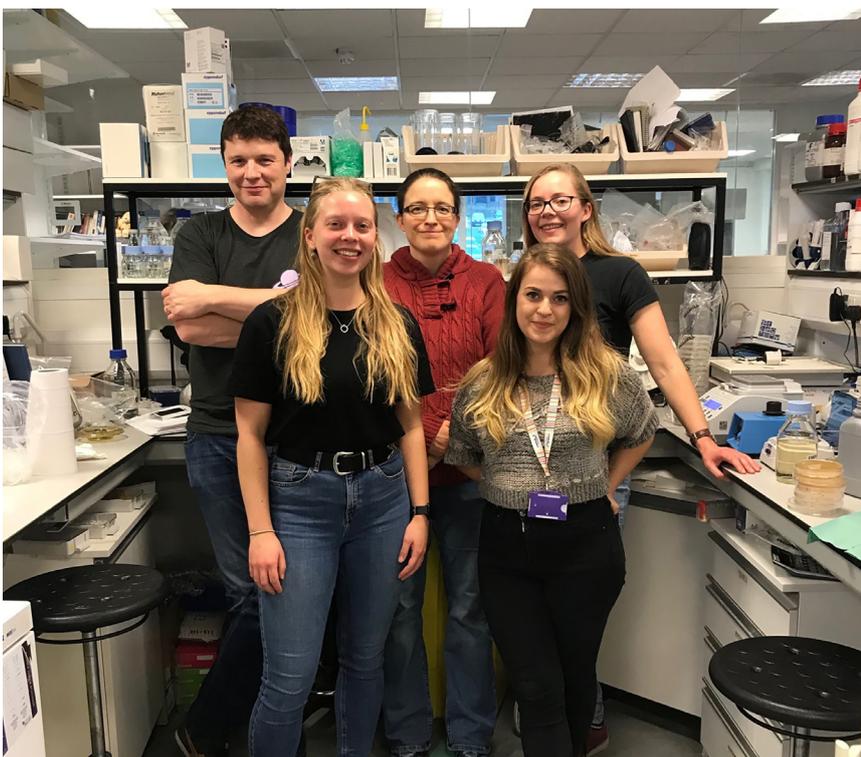


### THE GENOME DAMAGE AND STABILITY CENTRE

The Genome Damage and Stability Centre (GDSC) is a world-renowned research centre investigating the responses of cells to genome damage and their relationship to cancer and other aspects of human disease.

The Centre enables scientists of different disciplines to be housed in one building and benefit from mutual interests.

Research ranges from studies on the protein molecules that repair DNA inside cells, to the genes that are altered or mutated in cancer cells, through to investigations on cancer-prone people to identify other useful targets in the war against cancer.



## This year's Social Impact Prize goes to septic meningitis test

Sussex students and business partners Mustafa Khraishi (BSc Biology) and Fergus Morris have won the 2019 Social Impact Prize. They plan to spend their winnings on patent-protecting their diagnostic test for septic meningitis, as well as building a sustainable model around the product. Mustafa says, "This has been a really great experience, with brilliant support from the Sussex Innovation team and strong competition from the other finalists' ideas, so it feels good to be standing here as winners."

Jon McGlashan (MSc Project Management) and Carolina Avellaneda Cadena (MSc Environment Development and Policy) won second place for their enterprise, Bubble Life, an ethical bath and shower brand with products entirely free of plastic packaging.

### THE SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE

The Social Impact Prize is awarded to the enterprise with the most potential to bring about positive social change.

As well as earning the title of Sussex Student Entrepreneurs of the Year, the winners receive a £10,000 prize consisting of a cash award and ongoing membership, consultancy and marketing from Sussex Innovation.

Second place winners receive £8,000.



## The Chris Freeman Scholarship



Alina Esquivel Masis, the recipient of the Chris Freeman Scholarship, is studying an MSc in Strategic Innovation Management at SPRU. During her pre-graduate course in Biotechnology Engineering at Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, she collaborated at the Biotechnology Center to create a standardized molecular method for identifying bacteria that causes endemic diseases in animals and humans, which allowed its early detection and more effective treatment.

She continued her professional journey in the fields of pharmaceuticals and microbiology at Boston Scientific (BSC) as a quality engineer in 2016. Part of her responsibilities included promoting

collaborations with research facilities to enhance health care applications through new technologies.

Asked what the Chris Freeman Scholarship means to her, Alina says, "I am humbled and excited to be able to study at Sussex because it's a world-leading institution, due to the broad diversity in research centres and innovation projects focused on R&D. During my stay here, I plan to take advantage of this incredible opportunity by working on studentships within medical-related research and learning from experts in matters of changing innovation processes in biotechnology industries and current policies for science, technology and innovation."

# The Windle Conservation Project focuses on Attenborough Archive

The extensive archive donated to the University of Sussex by Lord Richard Attenborough (right) is now housed in the Keep. Comprised of a wide range of ephemera from Attenborough's life and films, the archive is rich in photographic and written material, plus items from all aspects of the production process.

The collection is the subject of considerable restoration, as some of the material was damaged by exposure to damp conditions during prior storage. Some needs to be frozen to prevent the spread or development of mould spores, while others need further conservation work to decontaminate, clean or re-house the items to preserve and protect them.



During this stage of the archive's restoration, particular attention is being paid to the material from the films *Cry Freedom* and *A Bridge too Far*, with intensive work needed on a continuity album from the former (see photos).

The material in this album was being damaged both by the acidic materials in the binding and the glue in the sticky film that was originally used to hold the pictures and notes in place.



During restoration, a new binding was created, using the same bolt-binding technique to secure the pages. Next, the sticky film was carefully removed, with the tacky residue from the glue being scraped away manually. The items were then replaced in their original order and each page was covered with a melinex sleeve to prevent further damage.

## THE KEEP

The Keep is a world-class centre for archives which houses the University's Special Collections alongside the East Sussex Records Office Archive and the Royal Pavilion and Museum Local History Collection.

## THE ATTENBOROUGH ARCHIVE

The Attenborough Archive covers the entirety of Lord Attenborough's life and features everything from family photographs to correspondence from Charlie Chaplin, the Queen and Alf Ramsey, to film scripts and filmmaking ephemera from such films as *Gandhi*, *Brighton Rock*, and much more.

It provides an extraordinary teaching and learning resource for the University, and is a unique and valuable addition to our Special Collections.

# Alumni engagement across America

The University of Sussex is proud of its reputation as a global institution and we are delighted to have so many alumni based around the world, including over 250 alumni consuls who have volunteered to act as ambassadors for the University and as a contact point for applicants, students and fellow alumni.

## Get in touch

If you are travelling or living overseas, get in touch with your local consul for information on events and how you can meet up with other alumni in the area.

## Events

The Friends of the University of Sussex hosted many alumni events across America during 2019, including the alumni reception at the French Institute in New York City, and a panel debate with academics from Sussex and Georgetown University on the future of global trade in Washington DC. Photos of both are below and overleaf.



# Alumni consuls



## Alumni consuls

Alumni consuls are former Sussex students who live outside the UK and act as ambassadors for the University in their home country.

The role of consul is very flexible – some consuls provide local knowledge and answer emails from prospective students, while others are very proactive and help at recruitment fairs and hold regular events for their local alumni community.

If Sussex representatives are coming to a consul's area, they will contact him or her to see if they are able to advise or offer help on their projects, or to arrange to meet up for a chat about what is happening at the University.



If a consul would like to hold an event for local alumni, the University can offer support in planning and sending out invitations.

## How can you get involved?

If you have a keen interest in Sussex, a desire to meet new people of all ages and think being a consul might be for you, please find more information at: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni/get-involved/consuls>



# How to give

The Friends of the University of Sussex (“Friends”) was established as a 501(c)(3) organization in November 1996. The EIN charity number is: 31-150686.

Through the generosity of Sussex alumni who are based in the United States, support from the Friends has gone from strength to strength over the years. From scholarships and prizes to a wide range of research programmes in the Sciences and Humanities, the transformative impact of the Friends can be felt far and wide across the University of Sussex.

We are very grateful for the generous support and commitment that makes these activities possible, and are proud of the impact of the Friends and its achievements during 2019.

If you would like to make a gift to the Friends, please see overleaf the many ways in which you can do so tax-efficiently.

On behalf of the Friends of the University of Sussex, thank you for your support.

## CHECK

To give by **check** (payable to Friends of the University of Sussex), please send your donation to Friends of the University of Sussex, 155 E. 44th Street, 6th Floor, Suite 34, New York NY 10017. An acknowledgement and tax receipt will be issued by the Friends’ UK office.

## ONLINE

Alternatively, you may find it more convenient to **donate online** via our Network for Good page: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1401172>

## BANK TRANSFER

To make a gift using **electronic bank transfer**, please enquire at [americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk) for further details of our account.

## STOCK

It is also possible to make gifts of **stock** to the Friends through our broker, Stifel Nicolaus, Inc ([www.stifel.com](http://www.stifel.com)). This can be one of the more tax-efficient methods of supporting the Friends because appreciated stock which has been donated is not subject to Capital Gains Tax, and will be treated as tax-deductible in the same way as a cash gift. The transfer process is very straightforward and if you would like to find out more, please contact [americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk).

## PLANNED GIVING

For US tax payers, **planned giving** – through a bequest or a charitable remainder trust – can offer significant tax benefits, and can even provide immediate income to you or a loved one. For more information, please email [americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:americanfriends@sussex.ac.uk).

