

From: Helen Thornham H.Thornham@leeds.ac.uk
Subject: Fw: View from the VC
Date: 3 December 2019 at 12:24
To: Joanne Armitage J.L.Armitage@leeds.ac.uk

HT

Associate Professor Digital Cultures
MA Programme Lead Digital Media

Gender and Digital Culture: Between Irreconcilability and the Datalogical (Routledge 2018)

From: Sue Thornham <s.thornham@sussex.ac.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 8:35 PM
To: Helen Thornham <H.Thornham@leeds.ac.uk>
Subject: Fwd: View from the VC

Everything we get is like this

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Adam Tickell <internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk>
Date: 21 November 2019 at 10:59:14 GMT
To: <allteachfac-list@sussex.ac.uk>
Subject: View from the VC
Reply-To: Adam Tickell <internalcomms@sussex.ac.uk>



View from the VC

Dear colleague,

By the time you read this, I will be in Doha in Qatar to award degrees to graduands of our Corruption, Law and Governance LLM and some from our growing suite of online distance learning courses. This degree programme uses the expertise of our world leading group to teach ways to identify and tackle corruption and is championed by the Qatari Attorney General and the 'Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center'.

We have also been closely monitoring the situation in Hong Kong. Following the confrontations between protesters and police that have spilled onto some of our partner campuses, we decided to request that all Sussex students in Hong Kong return home. We have flown the majority of our students home and are in contact with the small number who have not yet returned to the UK. We are also in close contact with Hong Kong students who are here at Sussex.

Back at home, it won't have escaped your notice that election campaigning is really heating up and we are working hard to provide our campus community with as many opportunities as possible to engage in the democratic process.

Last week, the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts hosted BBC One's 'Question Time', giving staff, students and the local community the chance to directly challenge the main parties. The audience was selected by the BBC but I hope some of you were successful in landing a space. We followed this up with a 'Question Time'-style event of our own, with local Parliamentary candidates discussing their policies and taking questions at a special election event yesterday evening at ACCA. Though I was unable to attend, I've heard that it was a full house.

I am pleased to see our efforts to get students to register to vote have been held up as an example of best practice by the youth-vote group Vote for Your Future. This doesn't happen without a lot of effort from staff, so thank you for your continued efforts.

I also know that a lot of work is taking place across the University

I also know that a lot of work is taking place across the University ahead of the upcoming UCU industrial action. As any resolution will need to take place at a [national level](#), our overwhelming focus is on what we can do at Sussex to protect students' education. We are working with Schools to provide [information to students](#) as it becomes available and, as ever, will let you know of any developments. Periods of industrial action aren't easy for anyone but I hope that everyone can remember the basic values of kindness and decency. People who will be on strike have legal and moral rights to do so, as do those who plan to come to work or study normally. If you don't like the stance that someone has taken, treating them with courtesy and not judging their motives will allow the whole University to emerge as a community which is committed to a positive culture.

In my last message, I mentioned that I was looking forward to celebrating World Kindness Day at ACCA. The event took place last week and it really didn't disappoint. The music played by an orchestra of recovering addicts was interleaved with film in a truly moving performance. That same day, the final collections of coats, hats and scarves that staff and students donated to Wrap-Up Brighton was made. This is a local initiative to distribute spare warm clothing to local people who need it. Seeing such kindness in action really brought home what a great community we have here at Sussex.

It is with sadness, therefore, that we have announced today the upcoming departures of two outstanding leaders within our University community. [Claire Annesley and Rorden Wilkinson will be heading to new roles in Australia](#) in the New Year and I wish them all the very best. Both have achieved an incredible amount in their time as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellors and will be hard acts to follow.

While I was out on campus last week, I stopped by the Interact Lab in Shawcross, which is headed by Professor Sri Subramanian, one of our new Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research. By coincidence, I turned up at the same time as a journalist from BBC World Service, who was producing a report on Sri's team's latest research, which incredibly demonstrates a prototype hologram that can be seen, touched and felt. Working with our External Relations team, other media were quick to follow and on the Thursday evening the study

media were quick to renew and, on the Thursday evening, the story made [ITV's News at Ten](#). It's always a proud moment when we are able to show the outside world some of the fantastic things taking place here at Sussex.

It's not just research either. The Times spoke to two law students who helped a mother win a work discrimination case, via our brilliant student legal clinics. And remember Lucy Hughes, the recent Product Design student who won the UK James Dyson Award for inventing a new bioplastic made of fish skin and algae? Well, she's been announced as the global winner and is now working to bring her product to market. We're doing all we can to support Lucy, who is a brilliant ambassador for the power of a Sussex education.

Finally, on Sunday evening I was one of the judges on a film challenge for students from the School of Media, Film and Music. With only 36 hours to make a short film to a brief, ten teams produced some amazing work, variously funny, poignant and moving.

Best wishes

Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor

Sent by

Internal Communications, University of Sussex

