



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday, 24 April 2008

Email to the editors: elife@life.ku.dk

Final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

Editorial changes may occur in relation to the online newsletter.

As regards links in the newsletter, please refer to the Danish online version at the faculty's website http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk

Life at LIFE

FoodofLIFE.dk meets the users

When upper secondary school students are writing essays in biology, life sciences or chemistry, they can get help at FoodofLIFE.dk. The net portal has been set up by a group of researchers at LIFE who share their knowledge on health, food and nutrition and the latest research in the area with students and their teachers.

On Wednesday, 23 April, a small group of upper secondary school teachers met three of these researchers in person to learn more about their research and the thoughts behind FoodofLIFE.dk.

Associate Professor Christian Mølgaard talked about child nutrition, particularly obesity, Professor Arne Astrup talked about appetite control and caloric density, while Associate Professor Michael Bom Frøst talked about molecular gastronomy as a scientific discipline.

Afterwards the teachers had the opportunity to ask questions about FoodofLIFE.dk.

Although FoodofLIFE.dk is primarily aimed at upper secondary school students and their teachers, anyone who wants to learn more about health, food and nutrition can benefit from visiting the website at <http://www.foodoflife.dk/>.

Signe Rosendal Rasmussen, journalist, Communications, is webmaster of FoodofLIFE.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

Rats, Spanish killer slugs and monstrous rain in Frederiksberg

These are some of the things to encounter when researchers from the Faculty of Life Sciences join the Science Village in Solbjerg Plads on Friday, 25 April from noon to 6 pm. The village has been constructed to celebrate the Festival of Research.

LIFE stands:

Centre for Invasive Species: New species – new situations – new challenges – why you have Iberian slugs in your garden

Growing international trade and travel activity are leading to an increased import of exotic animal and plant species. Some of these species are highly adaptable and may eventually displace our native animal and plant species. Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, the Iberian slug, the Asian lady bug and horse chestnut leaf-miner are well-known examples of invasive species in Denmark.

In some cases, this development is accelerated by climate change.

The Centre for Invasive Species at the University of Copenhagen tries to coordinate and inspire efforts, across institutional borders, to learn more about the mechanisms behind the dynamics of this development and the potential for counteracting the loss of biodiversity.

Visitors to the stand will be able to see examples of invasive animal and plant species and to ask questions and talk to the researchers.

Forest & Landscape: Urban design and monstrous rain

'Monstrous rain' and flooding are some of the consequences of climate change. How do we prevent it? Make it rain over model towns. See how urban greenery can protect against flooding, and learn about Forest & Landscape's suggested measures for preventing flooding.

Our researchers also help to figure out how tomorrow's cities should look and function. Try to draw the city with the students training in landscape architecture and urban design. You can also view models of city planning and watch a film about alternative ways to enjoy the city.

The School Service: Animal behaviour and animal welfare

Animals are important to the development of better drugs for treating for example diabetes and cancer, but how can animals be models for humans? And what about animal welfare in the pig pen? How is it possible to measure the well-being of a pig or a lab rat? The exercises introduce visitors to the behaviour and active choices of domestic rats. We discuss what needs to be done in order for the animals to have a good life. The audience is also involved as models for animals when we measure minor stress impacts in the visitors.

Essay competition for upper secondary school students – prize ceremony at 2.05 pm

In the spring, the faculty launched an essay competition for upper secondary school students who were asked to describe sustainable everyday life in 2058. The faculty has now selected the three winners of the competition. The prizes of DKK 10,000, DKK 5,000 and DKK 2,000 will be presented by John R. Porter, member of the UN's Climate Panel which was awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Anniversary exhibition

The exhibition marks the establishment of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University on Frederiksberg Campus 150 years ago.

The exhibition illustrates how research and the study programmes offered by the university have played an important role in the development that Denmark has undergone in the last 150 years as it has gone from an agrarian society over industrial society to knowledge society. The employees and students at what, following the merger last year, has now become the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen, have over the years worked to improve our food, strengthen the environment and animal welfare, meet the climate change challenge and have in other respects worked for a sustainable future for both Denmark and the rest of the world. These are the focus areas of the exhibition, which also invites the audience to come up with their ideas for future challenges and solutions.

The Festival of Research is an annual event aimed at creating an interest in and understanding of the methods, processes and results of research. Scientists from institutions and businesses get the opportunity to show what they are working with.

The purpose of the Festival of Research is to attract attention to the good stories from the world of research and to the importance of research in our everyday lives.

The Festival of Research in Solbjerg Plads is organised in cooperation with the City of Frederiksberg. View the full programme here www.frederiksberg.dk/forsk

Lykke Thostrup, Communications, lyt@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

Combat the negative social heritage... at LIFE

Two prominent persons – national handball team coach Ulrik Wilbek and art historian and writer Hans Edvard Nørregård-Nielsen – now direct their focus at the negative social heritage in education on Tuesday, 29 April, in connection with the opening of the conference 'Combat the negative social heritage' which is held in Copenhagen.

Place: Main lecture hall, Bülowsvej 17

Time: Tuesday, 29 April, from 3 to 5 pm

At the conference, Ulrik Wilbek will be talking about 'the will to succeed', while Hans Edvard Nørregård-Nielsen, under the theme 'From the moors of Jutland to the golden laurels', will talk about his own road to a university degree and a brilliant career in arts and culture.

"To me, the struggle against the negative social heritage will be a major challenge to Danish society in the coming years. We must combat it to provide each individual with more options and to ensure that we, as a

society, can make it in the international competition," says the Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Helge Sander.

"I am therefore pleased that both Ulrik Wilbek and Hans Edvard Nørregård-Nielsen will help to bring attention to the negative social heritage. Despite their very different backgrounds, they have both beaten the odds and built very successful careers. I am confident that they can inspire the idea group we have just established in order to identify specific initiatives," says Helge Sander.

Pro-rector Hanne Kathrine Krogstrup from the University of Aalborg has been appointed chairwoman of the Idea Group against Negative Social Heritage.

The other members are:

Lise Vejse Klint, Programme Director, INDEX; Kristoffer Kropp, PhD student, University of Copenhagen; Martin D. Munk, Senior Researcher, SFI – The Danish National Centre for Social Research; Professor Klaus Mølmer, Aarhus University; Jan Plovsing, head of Statistics Denmark and Karen Raunkjær, Head of Centre, Studievalg Midt- og Vestjylland.

The opening conference will be held on Tuesday, 29 April, at the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen. Register at talent@vtu.dk.

Jacob Søby Bang, Communications, jsb@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

Saly's horse statue that became a faculty gem

In the lobby of Bindesbøll's old main building stands a small horse statue which has become the logo of the Faculty of Life Sciences. The history of the statue dates back to 1754, because the small horse was the model for Saly's horse statue which is standing in Amalienborg Palace Square.

Jacques Francois Joseph Saly (1717-1776) was a French-born sculptor who, in addition to working in his native France, also worked in Italy and Denmark. After having distinguished himself in his home country, he arrived in Denmark in 1753, and the year after he was appointed professor and head of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Supported by the king, Saly wanted to make Denmark a Nordic cultural centre, and he managed to convince the king that young artists needed support if they were to be prevented from leaving the country, thereby bringing Denmark's golden age of art to a halt.

However, there was one special reason why Saly had come to Denmark, and that was because he had been commissioned to create a horse statue of King Frederik V which Asiatic Kompagni wanted to erect in Amalienborg Palace Square.

Saly was a very thorough man, and for years he studied the finest horses in country, drawing inspiration from a neck here and a leg there to make the finest horse statue ever seen which was modelled on six different, strapping horses. It took no less than ten years to finish the small model of the horse statue and the large full-size plaster model. Now he needed to find a skilled master founder, so he hired the French master founder Pierre Gor who had just cast a horse statue for the French king.

Pierre Gor arrived in Denmark in 1764, and after four years of preparation the statue was cast on 2 March 1768. The casting itself went without a glitch although it took only three minutes, but after that Saly spent

another few years working on the perfect finish before finishing it in 1771. With the citizens of Copenhagen looking on in amazement, the 22-tonne statue was wheeled through the streets of Copenhagen to Amalienborg Palace Square where it stands to this day as a gem in an exquisite setting of four beautiful palaces.

Now, you would think that master Saly lived happily ever after after having successfully completed the horse statue but with the growing hostility towards foreigners in Denmark (no news there), he had difficulty getting paid for his work, so he went back to France where he died a few years later.

The first small plaster model, which stands at our faculty, was given to the founder of the Veterinary School Peter Christian Abildgaard for his 50th birthday in 1790. It so happened that Mr Abildgaard's little brother, Nikolai Abildgaard, who gave him the statue, was director of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, and whether the handover was strictly by the book remains uncertain. When the school moved from Christianshavn to Frederiksberg, so did the small statue, and for many years it stood in the outpatients clinic. Whenever the room was painted, the statue also got a coat of paint, so no less than eight coats of paint have been discovered on the horse. As time went by, people forgot where the horse had come from and when the old outpatients clinic had to be demolished to make room for a more modern building, the horse was stored in an attic and by then one of its legs had broken, so it was in a miserable state.

Luckily, chief guard Knud Nordby found the horse and discovered traces of wax on it, so instead of ending up in the rubbish, it was sent to the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, which discovered the origins of the horse. The horse statue was given a second lease of life at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts where it was restored and bronzed, so today it is a bronze horse. Take a look at the plinth which is chipped – here you can see the plaster through the bronzing, and on one of the legs there is a mark where it was once broken. The small horse statue has been a part of our history from the beginning in Christianshavn to our current location in Frederiksberg and although it has been through so much, it still remains the most prized gem at the Faculty of Life Sciences. It's quite true.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Sources: The Internet and the Museum of Veterinary History.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 April 2008

Announcements

Come and hear how to inspire upper secondary school students to study at LIFE

Are you a student, and would you like to inspire upper secondary school students, the bright brains of the future, to use their knowledge, apply themselves academically and be motivated to learn more?

Are you a scientist and do you want to inspire LIFE students to inspire upper secondary school students to go on to a further education, maybe at LIFE?

Then come to the meeting in lecture room 3-11 on Monday, 28 April at 5.15 pm.

Here, you can hear about the [national upper secondary school road trip](#) organised by the Union of Natural Resource Students.

Here, students at upper secondary schools were faced with sustainability dilemmas in activating role plays – an idea and a concept which we would like to further develop and inspire many more to use!

Join us – you may actually get smarter...

Eskild H. Bennetzen

Eskild H. Bennetzen, Union of Natural Resources Students, eskild@dsr.kvl.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2008

New employee development interview tool at LIFE

On 9 April 2008, the Central Cooperation Committee (HSU) at the University of Copenhagen adopted a new set of guidelines for employee development interviews and also launched a new tool to assist these interviews.

In autumn 2007, the HR department at LIFE started developing a new tool for employee development interviews in response to a wish expressed by many LIFE managers at the LIFE management seminar in 2007 for a more modern and coaching approach in the employee development interview tool. The new tool is available at HR's website.

You can read more about the two new tools at [HR's website](#).

You are also welcome to contact Henriette Lieblein on ext. 32699.

Henriette Lieblein, HR, hel@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

Good offers from the staff association

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the staff association has the following special offers for you:

- Fitness for LIFE
- Massage
- Late summer trip to Egeskov on 30 August.
- DHL Relay Race on 1 September
- Visit to the Zoo on 13 September
- Mushroom picking on 28 September
- Guided tour of the Royal Danish Playhouse on 3 November.

Read more at the staff association website

http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/personaleforening.aspx

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

"Cool it!" Challenge your environmental views!

The PhD network invites you to a talk by Bjørn Lomborg

Time: Thursday 24 April at 5 pm

Place: Lecture hall 3.01

About Bjørn Lomborg:

Author of 'The Sceptical Environmentalist', 'Cool it',

One of the world's 100 most influential people - Time Magazine, 2004

One of the "50 people who could save the planet" - UK Guardian in 2008

Everyone is welcome!

Ida Sønderby, Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, ies@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

Mature men wanted for dietary fibre study

We are looking for men aged 40-60 for a scientific diet study to run in the period May to June 2008. We will be studying the effect of a purified dietary fibre, beta-glucan, found in oats and barley, on the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases.

The study will take two weeks, but with a two-week interval between the two trial weeks. You will be asked to report at the Department of Human Nutrition for four examinations during each study period. One of the visits will take all day, whereas the other visits will only last for a maximum of 30 minutes to one hour. During the visits, blood samples will be taken, and your height, weight and blood pressure will be measured. During the all-day examination, you will also be asked questions about your appetite. In addition, you will be asked to collect stool and urine for four days in each of the two periods.

For five days in each period, you will be given all the food you should eat at home; to some of this food the active fibre components or placebo will be added. All food is handed out free of charge at the Department of Human Nutrition.

Eligibility criteria:

- You are a healthy non-smoking male aged 40-60
- You are overweight (BMI 27-35 kg/m²)
- You are not doing any demanding physical exercise for more than ten hours a week
- You are not taking any dietary supplements/are not a blood donor up to the start of study and during the study

On completion of the study, you will be paid DKK 2,000 (A income) for your participation.

Contact study coordinators:

PhD student Mette Skau Nielsen and Associate Professor Susanne Bügel

Department of Food Science and Department of Human Nutrition

Rolighedsvej 30, 1958 Frederiksberg C

Tel.: 24 76 97 91

Mette Skau Nielsen, Department of Human Nutrition, skau@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

EMBO Award for Communication in Life Sciences - deadline 1 May

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) invites entries for its 7th Award for Communication in the Life Sciences.

The award is presented annually to a practising life scientist in Europe who has made an outstanding contribution to the communication of science for the public. It consists of a personal award of EUR 5,000 and a silver and gold medal.

Entries are accepted as self-applications, or as nominations by a third party, and must be submitted by 1 May 2008.

The conditions and application/nomination forms are available at:

<http://www.embo.org/awards/communications.html>

Last year's winners were Christian Sardet and Ali Saib from France. For more information please see:

http://www.embo.org/awards/communication_award07_en.pdf

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

Help us improve the canteen

The canteen asks you to fill in a questionnaire:

Hi everybody!

The time has come to review and possibly change the canteen concept.

We have made a questionnaire on the [canteen website](#) which we ask you to fill in by 6 May.

All constructive criticism will be discussed at the canteen committee meeting on 7 May.

Kind regards,

The canteen

Jaakko, Canteen, kantinerne@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2008

Lunch Seminar: Contextualizing Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty, by Robert G. Ridley – Monday, 28 April at 12-1.30 pm

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) has recently undergone a process of assessment and strategy development so that its activities can be better aligned to global needs in the increasingly complex environment of international health research. This presentation and ensuing discussion will explore some of the major issues taken into consideration in developing TDR's new strategy, which has as its vision:

"To foster an effective global research effort on infectious diseases of poverty in which disease-endemic countries play a pivotal role"

The presentation will outline in detail the strategic functions TDR will undertake to contribute to this vision and

will seek to place them in their global context. It will also highlight several major initiatives are likely to impact global health research in the next few years and draw out some critical trends that need to be taken into account when addressing future research and capacity building needs.

Lunch Seminar on Monday 28 April 2008: 12.00 - 1.30 pm, DBL-Centre for Health Research and Development
Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Thorvaldsensvej 57, 1st floor

Contextualizing Research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty:
TDR's New Vision and Strategy

by Robert G. Ridley, Director,
Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)
Co-sponsored by UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO

Background summary on TDR:

TDR was created in 1975 within the World Health Organization as its Executing Agency to marshal the power of research and capacity building in the fight against infectious diseases of the poor, with the goal of improving the health of poor populations and of eliminating these diseases as obstacles to social and economic development. TDR has done this effectively and developed many tools and strategies through effective partnerships. The Programme has also developed the research capacity of many scientists and institutions in disease-endemic countries.

The Government of Denmark is a founding father of TDR and has been a strong supporter of the Programme since its early days. The Government has been an active member of the Programme's top governing body, the Joint Coordinating Board. Danish institutions and scientists have been and remain involved in TDR's work, including its scientific committees. A Danish scientist was a member of the fourth External Review Committee whose recommendations to the Joint Coordinating Board in 2006 led to the development of the new TDR vision and strategy.

For more information on TDR, please visit www.who.int/tdr

Helle Lohmann Schøler, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, hlsc@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 21 April 2008

Education

Apply for funding for student mobility, teacher mobility and internationalisation projects

Funding from international pool for student mobility, teacher mobility and internationalisation projects etc., the deadline being 12 May 2008. Submit your application to Christina Stigaard chst@life.ku.dk

You can find the application form and read more about the funding criteria here:

http://www.life.ku.dk/om_kv/organisation/raad_udvalg/kinu/international_pulje.aspx

Michael Guldager, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, mgu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 23 April 2008

SHARE PhD information meeting - why and how to become a ph.d student in the area of animal models?

LIFE's strategic research initiative [SHARE](#) hosts a PhD information meeting on 16 June at 4-6 pm in lecture hall 2-02, Dyrnlægevej 100, 1870 Frederiksberg C.

Hear about the exciting possibilities in the cross field between veterinary and human research. Everybody is welcome. Contact and registration: pihl@life.ku.dk

Martin Pihl Jensen, Research & Innovation, pihl@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 April 2008

UNICA Student Conference 2008 in Warsaw on 24-27 September

The University of Copenhagen now has the option of sending eight students to the conference – [read more here.](#)

Annica Nielsen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, anie@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 April 2008

EDIT Summer School 2008: Modern Taxonomy and Fieldwork

We are currently accepting applications from students and training providers who wish to participate in the First EDIT Summer School 2008. The theme of the summer school is 'Modern Taxonomy and Fieldwork'. The target audience is students at MSc level or in the early stages of their PhD, in particular, with a background in a Master's programme in Bioscience/Biology/Ecology.

The summer school will be held in the National Parks of Mercantour and Alpi Marittime in the French-Italian alpine region, from 31 August 2008 until 14 September 2008.

EDIT ("European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy") is the collective answer of 27 leading European, North American and Russian institutions to a call of the European Commission, issued in 2004, for a network in Taxonomy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research. This project started on 1 March 2006 and will last 5 years. For more information please see: <http://www.e-taxonomy.eu/> .

Successful applicants will receive complete funding for their participation in the summer school. For more information, please find the call attached or feel free to explore the website at: The EDIT Summer School 2008: 'Modern Taxonomy and Field Work' <http://www.atbi.eu/summerschool>

Call for the EDIT Summer School 2008

Annica Nielsen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, anie@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 April 2008

Staff news

Ulla Catrine Brinch new head of the Management Secretariat

On 1 May 2008, Ulla Catrine Brinch will take up the position as head of division of the Faculty's Management Secretariat following Karen Vestergaard Petersen's move to the HR department.

Ulla Brinch holds an MSc in agricultural science and a PhD in soil microbiology from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. Ulla Brinch comes from a position as head of administration at Biotech Research and Innovation Centre (BRIC) and has also been employed at the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) where Ulla also wrote her PhD thesis. For further information, please contact Søren Hartz on ext. 32002.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 22 April 2008

Research

Grants

Research funds etc.

See the online version at

http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx

Here you will find all calls with active links.