



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 20 December 2007

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

A Christmas story

It had been almost a year since the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL) merged with the University of Copenhagen. The old main building was reflecting on the year that had passed. For more than 148 years up to the merger, KVL had been Denmark's only agricultural and veterinary university. Since the old university officially opened in 1858, it had always been able to compare with other agricultural universities around the world. Abildgaard could hardly have imagined this would be the case when he founded the Veterinary School in 1773. Perhaps he would have found it even harder to believe that his Veterinary School would become a cornerstone of one of the leading faculties at the University of Copenhagen.

In the middle of Frederiksberg, there was a group of grand old trees. They were planted in 1858, and they grew a full metre every spring. The old trees served as a resting place for birds on their travels. Others built nests, laid eggs and hatched three broods a summer. Squirrels built up stores of nuts in their hollow trunks in the autumn. In the winter, all was quiet when the old branches were covered by ice and snow. And in the spring, little beds of tulips swayed in the lawn in front of the little pond in the middle of the old park. This was the view which the old main building could see. Day after day, year after year, it looked out over the park. Much had

changed since 1858, but, fundamentally, the place was still the same. The people of Frederiksberg walking in the park and enjoying its beauty. Veterinary students airing horses and cows. Botanists exploring the park's impressive collection of fauna. And laboratory workers in white coats and plastic gloves with busy looks on their faces.

The old main building experienced a feeling of pride when it saw how students from the entire University of Copenhagen came to the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University to admire its unique study environment. When it saw how visiting scientists admired how the school operated. Few, if any, other faculties at the University of Copenhagen have had the same experience. So we have managed to become a model faculty, thought the old main building. But it could not help feeling a bit melancholy at the thought that it was no longer an independent university. Such thoughts are unavoidable after 148 years. And as Christmas approached, these thoughts occupied the main building more and more. Now I am just a small part of the big picture, the main building whispered to itself, and the anatomy building had to agree. This was not something they normally discussed, so there was no reason to begin now. The main building was just finding it difficult to visualise how everything that took place at the Veterinary and Agricultural University would fit into the completely foreign world of the University of Copenhagen. But for some reason the main building kept returning to the thought that people continued to come to the Veterinary and Agricultural University to admire its unique campus environment.

The main building straightened up when it felt the first snowflakes fall on its old roof. Evening was approaching and it decided to stay awake that night. A night to ponder life, it said to itself. For one year now, it had been part of the University of Copenhagen. But it had not really felt much different than the previous 148 years. Perhaps with the exception of the little modern signs in glass and copper that had been mounted on all the buildings in the old campus area. They were so hard on the main building's old eyes. It could not understand how anyone could have so little respect for such beautiful old buildings. How could anyone hang up modern signs that contrasted so jarringly with the old architectural style? But it was dark now, and the main building was generally satisfied with just being a building. The old main building had the feeling that fewer important decisions were being made in the Senate's conference room than in the past. It recalled that the Veterinary and Agricultural University had once had its own Rector and a Senate that made all the important decisions. Many of the crucial decisions were now being made by strangers at the University of Copenhagen. But surrounded by its unique campus environment, the main building left the decision-making to the people. Quite a bit of snow had fallen now, and only the street lamps on Bülowsvej disturbed the dark and crisp December night.

Bjarne Larsen, horticultural student

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 20 December 2007

LIFE strongest in the press

A review of the University of Copenhagen's press coverage (excluding scientific and academic media) shows that

- * LIFE is the faculty at the University of Copenhagen that had the most science stories in the press in 2007
- * LIFE is the faculty at the University of Copenhagen that had the second largest number of stories in the press about our study programmes
- * LIFE is the faculty, from among the four 'wet' faculties at the University of Copenhagen, that has been quoted most often in current affairs articles in the press
- * The value of LIFE's press coverage is estimated to be about DKK 7 million

See the [chart illustrating media coverage](#) 1 January - 1 December 2007

Jacob Søby Bang, head of communications, though unsurprised, is naturally pleased.

“Many of our employees here at LIFE are very good at involving the press when they have a good story. And some also have a talent for creating stories and events that are very likely to attract attention. Furthermore, several hundred of our employees have profiles in our expert database: www.life.ku.dk/ekspertdatabasen. It is a popular tool for journalists looking for comments from experts on current affairs topics – so if you’re in the database, you’re more likely to be quoted in the press.”

Jacob Søby Bang goes on to explain that the figures are the result of a concerted effort on many fronts: “Communication – also to the press – generally has a high priority both at top management level and in the individual academic environments. One reason for this is that systematic positive press coverage over an extended period of time makes it easier to attract and retain the right employees and students, research funding, business collaborations etc. We are very conscious of this at LIFE – and it appears to be working, as the figures show.”

One scientist who has been in the press a good deal and who is often consulted as an expert is Associate Professor Søren Husted from the Department of Agricultural Sciences.

“It’s important to me that my research can be put to use, that the perspectives are understandable and considered important by regular people. I see it as a huge and important challenge to look for good popular-science stories in the basic research we carry out. I find it very satisfying and am highly motivated by communicating my research and knowledge to both students and the general public – and yes – it is cool to see your name in quotes – regardless of whether it’s in a ladies’ magazine, on the back page of a major newspaper or in a radio interview.”

Søren Husted does not dread being misquoted or watching his research topic become popularised beyond recognition, because he always asks to review the text before it goes to print:

“Sometimes they push the limits of the story, but I have never felt exploited,” he says.

Associate Professor Søren Husted is in regular contact with the media. It is not that he has gone looking for attention, but he believes that the journalists have either been referred to him by Communications or are journalists he has previously been in touch with. He is under the impression that, once you have been caught in the mill, you are often contacted again and again.

Many referrals also come via LIFE’s expert database, www.life.ku.dk/ekspert, where Søren Husted has a profile with several areas of expertise. Most contact him with questions on plant nutrition, and somewhat fewer are interested in developing countries and organic farming and health. Søren Husted is not only contacted by journalists via the expert database. Private individuals and upper secondary students also have questions for him.

Politiken, 12 October 2007: [Bananpalme var passiv ryger \(Banana palm was passive smoker\)](#) – an example
Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 20 December 2007

LIFE ringtone for your mobile – horse whinny with galloping hooves

This year's Christmas card is inspired by the upcoming jubilee year. On the front is the faculty seal, with the horse and the three grains of wheat, which refers back to the beginning 150 years ago. An abridged version of the history of our faculty can be read on the back. As a link to the days when the horse was the basis of all transport, a horse whinny and galloping hooves can be heard when the card is opened.

This sound sequence can be copied as a ringtone on your mobile. [Listen to it here.](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 December 2007

Announcements

Few LIFEers at work during the Christmas holidays

Manning at Faculty Services (Library, Student Services, Research and Innovation etc.) will be at a minimum during the Christmas holidays, as all staff is encouraged to take time off between Christmas and New Year's.

However, security rounds, emergency services in case of interruptions to electricity, water and heating supplies etc. will function as normal, and the staff can be contacted on ext. 32086 or via the switchboard, through which the management can also be contacted.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 20 December 2007

Research conference – from research to values, Monday 14 January 2008, 1:00 - 6:30 pm

The Social Democrats are hosting a research conference. See the programme and read more about it on the [Social Democrats' website \(invitation in Danish\)](#).

Registration: michael-danielsen@a-forskning.dk

Place: Landsorganisationen i Danmark (Danish Confederation of Trade Unions – LO), Islands Brygge 32D, 2300 Copenhagen S

Organisers: The Social Democrats' Research and Technology Committee and the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Hotel list for 2008

Our housing coordinator, Charlotte Simonsen, is ready with an updated hotel list for 2008.

If you would like a copy, please contact Charlotte at: csn@life.ku.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

KUrerer 19 December

New issue of *KUrerer* at <http://kureren.ku.dk/>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Education

Denial of accreditation for new MSc programme in Domestic Animal Science

On 18 December, LIFE heard from the Accreditation Council about our accreditation application for a new MSc programme in Domestic Animal Science. Unfortunately, our application has been denied. The Accreditation Council's decision can be read at www.acedenmark.dk

This means that LIFE cannot create the new study programme and that the domestic animal area will remain an integrated part of the MSc in Agronomy. However, the academic visions for the area will be retained and an effort will be made to incorporate the new specialisation options into the MSc in Agronomy. The directors of studies and study committee will continue work on this matter in the coming period.

Ingelise Lundgaard, Study and Students' Affairs, il@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

New names for study programmes as of September 2008

The Danish University and Property Agency has given its approval for LIFE to change the following study programme names:

- The Danish name for the MSc in Food Science and Technology will be changed from *levnedsmiddelvidenskab* to *fødevarevidenskab*
- The Danish name for the BSc in Food Science and Technology will be changed to *Fødevareingeniør*
- The English name for the MSc in Forestry will be changed to MSc in Forest and Nature Management.

LIFE had also applied to change the names of other study programmes, but these were not approved.

Ingelise Lundgaard, Study and Students' Affairs, il@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

FNAT

[FNAT](#) – Foreningen af Naturressourcestuderendes (FN) Aktuelle Tidende (Union of Natural Resource Students' Current Times) for block 2 out now.

Read about:

- The editorial by the new FN chair Eskild
- The flying start of the new special interest group the Sustainability Pilots
- Project support
- The plant breeding group's turnip trip
- The domestic animal group's Jutland tour
- Contribution from the Student Council by the University chair
- New Natural Resource courses and names

- Trips abroad: New Zealand and South Africa
- Christmas tree sellers
- Elected at FN's General Meeting 2007

Corrections since FNAT was published:

p. 7 last paragraph

When the article was written and sent to the printers, we thought JØ would have a new name: *International Økonomi og Fødevarepolitik* (International Economics and Food Policy). But the application was unfortunately not approved by the Ministry, so JØ is still JØ.

p. 12 'the bubble'

NogS has moved their seminar to March. Date to follow.

p. 15

Simon Kofoed-Dam was elected this year as FN's deputy auditor. Congratulations! PLH was last year's deputy. We apologise!

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Staff news

Grete Bertelsen is new pro-dean for education at LIFE

The Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, has appointed the current head of the Department of Food Science, Associate Professor Grete Bertelsen, PhD (R.), pro-dean for education.

Mogens Flensted-Jensen, who has been acting pro-dean for education for the past year, will continue as a member of the faculty management for the next two years.

Grete Bertelsen, 53 years old, has headed the Department of Food Science since 1992. Her work and strategic focus have given her a good reputation beyond the borders of the department and the faculty, especially for her results in the areas of collaboration with the business community, internationalisation and dissemination. Grete Bertelsen has now been appointed pro-dean of education thanks to her many years of managerial experience and her excellent skills in these particular areas.

When Grete Bertelsen completed her studies as a food scientist, the Faculty of Life Science was called the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. In 1985, she earned a PhD in food science. The focus of her scientific career has been food packaging and oxidative changes in foods. Grete Bertelsen's external responsibilities include positions on the boards of the Danish Dairy Research Foundation and AgroTech A/S.

At the Department of Food Science, Professor Mogens Jakobsen will be acting head of department from 1 February 2008 and until the position is filled.

When Grete Bertelsen takes up her new position, the distribution of the faculty management's task portfolio will be re-evaluated. Professor Mogens Flensted-Jensen, who has been acting pro-dean for education since autumn 2006, will continue as a member of the management for a period of time. He will be responsible for a number of tasks that currently require the attention of the faculty management, including the chairpersonship of the University of Copenhagen's Research Training Council (KUFUR).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Kirsten Jenlev to be LIFE's new communications officer

LIFE has appointed Kirsten Jenlev as communications officer as of 1 January 2008. Kirsten will be responsible for improving the faculty's English language profile and for optimising the English skills of the administrative staff.

Kirsten has an MA in LSP and is an authorised English translator. She also has solid experience in translation, language consulting, communication and teaching in both Danish and English. She has supplemented her degree with an Executive Master in Corporate Communication.

Kirsten comes from a position as communications and marketing advisor at KPMG, where she was responsible for their external communication in Danish and English. She has also worked for several years with strategic communication at the British Embassy.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Research

Conference: Research for Rural Development 2008

You are invited to the International Scientific Conference, hosted by the Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU). The Conference will be held in Jelgava, Latvia from Wednesday, 21 May to Friday, 23 May 2008.

It is a great honour for us to welcome you to Latvia. We believe that the conference will offer an excellent opportunity to exchange information and to discuss future trends between experienced and new researchers from all over the world.

It is proposed to invite contributions for the following tracks:

- agricultural sciences (agronomy, horticulture and animal sciences);
- agricultural engineering;
- rural engineering;
- water management;
- veterinary medicine;
- food science;
- forest science;
- economics (agrarian economics, regional development, land use planning);
- information and communication technologies;
- education.

Please find more information: http://www1.llu.lv/research_conf_2008/

http://www1.llu.lv/research_conf_2008/

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Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Grants

Scholarships from the NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION

Hallas-Møller Scholarship (five-year) is awarded to a senior researcher who contributes to maintaining and strengthening current Danish research in medical and natural science, preferably in biomedical research, clinical research and basic research in biology.

The scholarship is awarded to:

Young researchers who should preferably remain in the research system and whose standard scholarship options have been exhausted and for whom a university position is not within sight in the near future. The awarding of a scholarship presupposes an important and promising research effort. Applicants are expected to have documented independent research work.

or:

Researchers who have achieved a tenured position at an institution, but who wish to be released from their teaching and administration duties. The research must be of international excellence. Emphasis will be on the opportunity for research-related breakthroughs which it is deemed would be accelerated further by the awarding of a scholarship.

Salary according to the relevant collective agreement or in equivalence to the scholarship recipient's current salary level. Applicants cannot expect to be able to apply for leave of absence during the scholarship period.

Operating expenses of no more than DKK 500,000 annually as whole or partial coverage of expenses directly related to the research project (payroll expenses, materials etc.) can be awarded.

The Novo Nordisk Foundation's Senior Researcher Scholarship (five-year) is designed to be an attractive opportunity for highly qualified Danish medical science researchers working abroad to return to Denmark.

The scholarship can be awarded to researchers in the medical sciences, in broadest terms, whose efforts are considered desirable in Denmark. Emphasis will be on the extent to which the researcher in question would be able to strengthen an existing environment or head a new research team or environment.

The awarding of this scholarship presupposes an important and promising research effort.

Salary and operating expenses as described above.

Clinical Research Scholarships – Denmark (five-year) are designed to enable highly qualified researchers employed in full-time clinical positions to be partially released from their clinical duties in order to give them the opportunity to conduct continuous biomedical/experimental research. The objective of these scholarships is to secure important bridge building between clinical work and biomedical/experimental research in Denmark. There is a total of DKK 10 million available.

Grants totalling DKK 2.5 million each (DKK 500,000 p.a.) which are to cover the salary of the person who temporarily takes over the researcher's clinical functions.

Applicants who speak Danish as their native language MUST submit their applications in Danish. Only applicants who do not speak Danish as their native language may submit applications in English.

The application form with detailed guidelines is available on the Foundation's website, www.novonordiskfonden.dk, from 17 December 2007. Applications are to be completed using an Internet-based application system and submitted electronically to the Foundation no later than **4 pm on 31 January 2008**.

Novo Nordisk Foundation

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Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 December 2007

Grant awarded

Landbrugets Studiefond awarded its grants on 17 December 2007 – the recipients were notified directly. Letters of rejection will not be sent.

Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, ag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 December 2007

Grant awarded

The travel foundation awarded its grants on 17 December 2007 – the recipients were notified directly. Letters of rejection will not be sent.

Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, ag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 December 2007

The Marie Elisabeth Nielsen Scholarships were awarded on 17 December 2007 – the recipients were notified directly. Letters of rejection will not be sent.

Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, ag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 December 2007

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.