



## eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday, 15 May 2008

Email to the editors: [elife@life.ku.dk](mailto: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](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, Communications, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk)

## Life at LIFE

### **LIFE students to run 2,000 km for Africa**

When more than 7,000 runners make their way huffing and puffing through the streets of Copenhagen in Denmark's largest marathon this coming Sunday, some people in Africa will be hoping that one particular group of participants completes the race. A group of approx. 50 students and staff from the Faculty of Life Sciences has decided to help African students get an education in Denmark. For each kilometre they run on Sunday, DKK 500 will be donated to help African students through one of the elite study programmes at LIFE.

With the global food crisis, climate problems and the clearing of rainforests, there is a greater need than ever before in developing countries for the competencies and knowledge required to maintain sustainable agriculture and forestry. In Denmark, we have international elite study programmes that can give people from Africa and other parts of the Third World the right tools to exploit their natural resources in a sustainable way. But many students from these countries cannot afford to study in Denmark. That is why even a little financial assistance can make a big difference, allowing them to study here.

This was pretty much the reasoning behind the decision by the Union of Natural Resources Students (FN) to bring students and staff together to run for a sustainable future. For the past three months, anyone interested

has been able to take part in group training starting out from Frederiksberg Campus.

“When it really starts to hurt on Sunday, it’ll be great to know that every step counts – and that my efforts are also helping others,” says Adam Bank-Lentz, natural resources student and soon-to-be marathon runner.

He expects the sponsors, Novo Nordisk A/S and HedeDanmark, will be coughing up DKK 20,000 for the hard work he and his friends put into the race. FN intends to use the money to award scholarship portions already in the autumn semester to give a small group of African students a chance to complete one of LIFE’s international programmes on sustainability.

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*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 15 May 2008*

### **Young people: Danish cities need more humour**

Our cities should be more fun, healthier and more social places to live, according to young people from across the country who have just made their debuts as urban designers in LIFE’s “Design your city” competition.

Office landscapes in bright colours, a building shaped like a croissant, multi-faith churches and comprehensive upper secondary schools are among the proposals which more than 100 young people have worked on over the past few months.

“The proposals clearly show how young people want to change boring urban environments with heavy traffic. Instead, they want cities to reflect ‘the good life’. Young people want colourful and environmentally friendly urban spaces that appeal to the senses, with many more recreational areas to enjoy life in,” says Gertrud Jørgensen, professor of urban planning at Forest & Landscape.

In October 2007, Forest & Landscape launched the ‘Design your city’ competition for young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

The aim of the ‘Design your city’ competition is to gather inspiration for the urban planning of the future. The background is the Faculty’s creation of a new study programme in urban planning, urban development and urban policy. With the new study programme, it is now possible to get a BSc in Landscape Architecture & Urban Design.

The panel of judges comprises: Ellen Højgaard Jensen from the Danish Town Planning Institute, Kristoffer Lindhardt Weiss from Bygningskultur Danmark, Sara Klitsgaard, landscape architect, and Nis Rømer, artist and visiting professor at Forest & Landscape.

The awards ceremony will take place on 15 May at 11 am at Rolighedsvej 23, 2nd floor, Forest & Landscape.

The winning proposals will be presented on [www.designdinby.dk](http://www.designdinby.dk).

**Karen Sejr, Forest & Landscape, [ksp@life.ku.dk](mailto:ksp@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 14 May 2008*

## The dove tree – one of a kind among deciduous trees

In both botanical-dendrological and horticultural terms, the dove tree is one of a kind among deciduous trees. Its flowers have neither petals nor sepals, its pollen grains are aberrant, and the inflorescence of 2-centimetre dark clusters comprises mainly male flowers with scattered hermaphrodite flowers. Since the flowers are not all that special to look at, why is this tree so famous for its particular beauty? Because at the base of each flower head is a pair of large petal-like bracts 8 cm and 16 cm long, respectively. They change colour as they develop to full size, from the palest green-white to milky-white, and finally, just before they fall off, they turn a pale red colour. At the slightest breeze, the flowers flutter, resembling a flock of doves in flight, hence the tree's name.

The English think the flowers look more like handkerchiefs hung out to dry, giving rise to the tree's other name the 'handkerchief tree'.

The French missionary, J.P.A. David, who knew more than just the catechism and the Lord's Prayer, went on the first of his two great botanical expeditions in 1869 and found the dove tree growing in the Huangshan mountains in western China. The tree grew at about 2,000 metres above sea level on steep mountain slopes under forest-like conditions and often in mixed communities with a variety of maple, cornus, rhododendron etc. Because he was the first European to discover the tree, it was given the Latin name *Davidia* for David – it is always something of an honour to have an entire family of plants named after you.

It is not clear whether David brought seeds or other plant material back home with him to Europe, but it is certain that another French missionary, P.G. Farges, who also participated in expeditions in the area in the late 1800s, did. Farges sent the first *Davidia* seeds to France, and in 1897 in Vilmorin near Paris germination was successful. Nine years later Europe's first dove tree flowered.

Inspired by the enthusiastic descriptions of the dove tree, the company Veich & Søn sent the collector E.H. Wilson to China in 1899, where he collected seeds and described the tree's natural habitat. Wilson measured heights from 12 to 20 metres, and the largest trees had a girth of approx. 2 metres.

In 1906, the great plant lover, Dr Børgesen in Hellebæk, was presumably the first Dane to plant a dove tree in his garden. The Botanical Gardens in Copenhagen received a cutting from that tree in 1930, and ten years later, Copenhageners could admire the unique and beautiful tree.

The Faculty Gardens in Frederiksberg have their own dove tree, of course. It was planted in 1934, making it almost as old as the tree in the Botanical Gardens. The dove tree is now about 12-14 metres tall, and its nice wide crown makes it hard to miss. In mid-May, the green-white bracts open up, and later in the month and up until early June, they develop into thousands of doves or handkerchiefs.

The tree grows in the Gardens in the collection of Hamameli bushes across from the rockery and the large ginkgo. We also have three small dove trees growing on the corner of Grønnegårdsvej and Stigbøjlen near Frederiksberg Campus's brand new Café Væksthuset.

*Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener*

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 May 2008*

## Official inauguration of the new large animal hospital

The official opening of the University Hospital for Large Animals in Taastrup will take place on Monday, 26 May at 11 am, and will be attended by HRH Princess Benedikte and invited guests.

The brand new University Hospital is already in operation, and everyone who works there on a daily basis is very enthusiastic.

The new facilities mean that veterinary science students in Denmark will now have much better educational opportunities, and the Faculty will be even stronger in terms of research in animal diseases, health and welfare.

“The stables, examination rooms and operating theatres are all built according to the latest knowledge on animal well-being and welfare. Even the way the light comes into the building is intended to have a calming effect on the animals,” says Clinical Manager at the University Hospital, Susanne Nautrup Olsen.

Dean Per Holten-Andersen is also pleased:

“The University Hospital creates the ideal framework for conducting leading-edge, international, application-oriented research and, at the same time, training future large animal vets in the best possible surroundings,” he says.

LIFE staff and students are welcome at 1 pm after the official opening, when there will be a guided tour.

Registration is required, however, as spaces are limited. A shuttle service will run from Frederiksberg Campus to Taastrup.

It is also possible to experience the University Hospital for Large Animals on Saturday, 15 June, when the facility will be open to the public.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 8 May 2008*

## Announcements

### **Debate about nature in Denmark, with the participation of two ministers, the agricultural sector, researchers and environmentalists**

Two ministers, environmentalists, the agricultural sector and leading researchers will be attending a conference that invites the Danes to set a new agenda for nature in Denmark. The conference will take place on 21 May at the Faculty of Life Sciences, with a discussion of, among other things, agricultural subsidies, views of nature and priorities. The event has been organised in response to the current debate about possibly abolishing agricultural subsidies. Should these resources be earmarked for nature areas instead? Yes, according to Michael Stoltze, biologist, author and environmental policy commentator. Minister for the Environment Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Eva Kjer Hansen and the agricultural sector, represented by Vice-Chairman of Danish Agriculture Michael Brockenhuus-Schack, each have their own views on the topic. The various viewpoints will be debated in a café discussion between some of Denmark's leading researchers in natural resources and food economics.

The many points of view will be followed up by Jacob Søby Bang, Head of Communications, who, with the help of the audience, will end the day with the formulation of a new agenda for our shared nature.

Programme:

- Our natural resources – one of our most important assets – Per Holten-Andersen, Dean
- The agenda for the nature of the future is set now! – Michael Stoltze, environmental policy commentator
- How to strengthen both food production and nature – Eva Kjer Hansen, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
- The Government's plans for the nature of the future – Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister for the Environment
- How agriculture and nature should interact – Michael Brockenhuus-Schack, vice-chairman, Danish Agriculture
- The experts' perspectives and reactions – café discussion with  
Professor Jørgen Primdahl, Forest & Landscape  
Professor Lars Stoumann Jensen, Department of Agricultural Sciences  
Professor Niels Strange, Forest & Landscape  
Associate Professor Henrik Zobbe, Institute of Food and Resource Economics
- Formulation of items for the new agenda for Danish nature – all participants
- Presentation of key observations – input from the audience and debate with speakers – Jacob Søby Bang, Head of Communications
- Conclusions by ministers, the business community, researchers, natural resources students etc.
- End of the day – a new start for nature – Per Holten-Andersen, Dean

Place: Faculty of Life Sciences, main lecture hall, Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg C

Time: Wednesday, 21 May 2008, 3-5 pm. Admission is free, but registration is required. Please send an email to [kommunikation@life.ku.dk](mailto:kommunikation@life.ku.dk).

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*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 15 May 2008*

## **IT implements new web-based service desk system**

The new system is called AdHocIT.

It registers all IT support queries and ensures fast solutions and greater transparency.

All LIFE employees can log onto the system at [www.servicedesk.life.ku.dk](http://www.servicedesk.life.ku.dk) to keep up to date on their department's tasks.

New tasks are entered into the system by the department's super user. The department's employees can then keep up to date on the solutions.

AdHocIT replaces the [Servicedesk@life.ku.dk](mailto:Servicedesk@life.ku.dk) mailbox.

All support-related tasks must now be submitted via an AdHocIT super user, with the exception of GroupWise profiles, which should still be submitted using the web form to [servicedesk@life.ku.dk](mailto:servicedesk@life.ku.dk).

**Lisbet Ring-Hansen, IT, [lrh@life.ku.dk](mailto:lrh@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 14 May 2008*

## **Project manager training programme at LIFE**

LIFE is accepting registrations for a new LIFE project manager training programme. The course will take place in September-November 2008.

Read more at:

[http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/personale/interne\\_kurser/andre\\_kurser/projektledelse.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/personale/interne_kurser/andre_kurser/projektledelse.aspx)

Register via your head of department. The deadline for registration is 20 June 2008.

It is possible to apply for co-financing from the Competence Fund. Note: The deadline for applications to the Fund is 23 May 2008.

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## **Debate: The University of Copenhagen in the Inner City**

Fiolstræde Library, the Dungeons and the Ceremonial Hall at Frue Plads. The University of Copenhagen is located in some of Copenhagen's oldest and most distinctive buildings.

The University is proud of these historical buildings. We care for them and often open our doors to Copenhageners and tourists. At the same time, we also have to provide our students with modern teaching facilities, reading spaces and meeting rooms.

How do we ensure continued life in these beautiful buildings? Why should the Fiolstræde Library have a new function? And what are the plans for the buildings around Frue Plads? On Monday, 19 May, the University of Copenhagen invites everyone to an open debate meeting on the University in the Inner City. Come and hear about our plans.

Programme:

Introduction to the Campus Plan and the University's visions for the Inner City  
Rector Ralf Hemmingsen

From plans to practice – new functions for the buildings around Frue Plads  
Jens Fredslund, Royal Inspector of Listed State Buildings

The City of Copenhagen's plans for the Inner City  
Anne Skovbro, Head of Planning, City of Copenhagen

After the presentations, there will be a debate with Vice-Rector Lykke Friis as moderator. The debate will end with an Idea Bar, where members of the audience can comment on the specific plans and contribute their own ideas. Sandwiches and drinks will be served.

Time and place: Monday, 19 May 2008, 10.30 am-1 pm in the Main Building, Frue Plads, Copenhagen K.

Before the debate, there will be a tour of the historical buildings. The tour will begin at 9.45 am at the entrance to the Main Building.

The event is open to everyone, but registration is required. Register at [www.ku.dk/campus](http://www.ku.dk/campus).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 May 2008*

### **Conference: Evidence Based Policy Making**

The Network on Public Research Programming (NPO) will be hosting the conference Evidence Based Policy Making - International Best Practices in connecting Science and Policy on 19-20 June 2008 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

See the full brochure here <http://www.science-alliance.nl/page.php?subject=bijeenkomsten&id=78>

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### **Do you want to write a thrilling academic article? Or an analysis for the daily papers?**

Course offer from PUMA for scientific and academic staff on written language, Monday, 26 May.

Read more at (in Danish): <http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/serviceengelsk/>

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 May 2008*

## Education

### **IAMONET**

International Academic Mobility Network with Russia (IAMONET) is a new exchange agreement with twelve Russian universities. Because there are few courses available in English, it is most relevant for PhD students or MSc thesis students who want to do a project in Russia. Scholarships are available to MSc students in the order of EUR 800 a month and for PhD students in the order of EUR 1,500 a month.

The deadline for applications is 31 May 2008 for stays to commence no later than 11 April 2009.

A scanned version of the brochure [Brochure 1](#) and [Brochure 2](#) is available here, or visit the website at [www.iamonet.de](http://www.iamonet.de).

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### **European veterinary science programmes reach historic decision**

From both a European and a Danish point of view, the EAEVE General Assembly and Education Seminar that took place at LIFE on 7-9 May was a huge success.

Efforts began in 2005 to bring the annual general assembly and education seminar under the auspices of the European Association for Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE) to LIFE, and the hard work finally panned out last week when rectors, deans and other representatives from veterinary schools throughout Europe met at LIFE.

EAEVE is an association of 95 veterinary schools in Europe and neighbouring countries, and this year, 152 participants, representing more than 80 schools, chose to visit LIFE and the Frederiksberg Campus at the University of Copenhagen.

The most important resolution adopted by the general assembly was a new Standard Operating Procedure for the evaluation and approval of veterinary schools in Europe.

After several years of work, the procedure, which provides two options for quality approval, was adopted by a unanimous vote:

One option is an evaluation to assess whether the EU's minimum requirements for the education of veterinarians are met (EU Directive 36/2005).

The other is an accreditation of veterinary schools according to the standard accreditation rules and approved by the European Network of Quality Assurance (ENQA).

With this step towards a common EU accreditation of veterinary study programmes, every EU country is ensured that all veterinarians in the EU are trained according to the same standards, and also that the study programmes are research-based. This will benefit the free movement of labour as well as increase student mobility.

*Hans Henrik Dietz, Head of Department, Department of Small Animal Science  
Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 14 May 2008*

### **NorPath wins the NOVA Prize**

The new Nordic Master's Programme in Plant Pathology, NorPath, has won the 2008 NOVA Prize.

The Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology and LIFE are a partner in NorPath, which comprises four other Nordic universities in Helsinki, Reykjavik, Uppsala/Ultuna and Ås.

NorPath received the prize "for their outstanding achievements in developing a Nordic Master's Programme in Plant Biology, which draws on the strengths of each individual university and their professional staff. The programme will provide a diversity of specialisations, and will be attractive at both a Nordic and an International level".

The NOVA University Network is a Nordic network for forestry, veterinary science and agriculture, and the prize is for EUR 5,000 (approx. DKK 37,500).

[Read more about the NOVA Prize](#)

[Read more about NorPath](#)

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*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 May 2008*

## Staff news

### **40th anniversary: Hospital pharmacist Jytte Bjerregaard**

On 1 June, hospital pharmacist Jytte Bjerregaard will be able to celebrate 40 years as a state employee. To mark the occasion, a combined anniversary and retirement reception will be held at the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology on Tuesday, 3 June at 2 pm.

**Tina Senn Hansen, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, [tsh@life.ku.dk](mailto:tsh@life.ku.dk)**

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## Research

### **Vienna Rupert Riedl Prize for interdisciplinary diploma theses and dissertations**

Club of Vienna is an international association that seeks to promote interdisciplinary research in Vienna in collaboration with the City of Vienna.

The Rupert Riedl Prize of EUR 1,000 is given for interdisciplinary theses and dissertations.

Theses and dissertations may compete for the prize provided they are written in German or English and are no more than three years old.

There are no limitations regarding the country of residence of the participants.

[See here for more information](#)

The Austrian Embassy in Copenhagen

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 May 2008*

## Grants

## Research funds etc.

See the online version at

[http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life\\_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx)

Here you will find all calls with active links.

