



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 12 June 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

LIFE Science UPDATE

LIFE Communications is launching an external online newsletter: LIFE Science UPDATE.

The newsletter will be published once a week and will contain news about LIFE sciences, new jobs and new activities.

[See an example here](#)

[Register here](#)

Ditte Thøgersen, Communications, dit@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2008

Storm P in the golden Gimle hall

In 1874, a communal facility was built on Grundtvigsvej with a theatre auditorium, meeting and function rooms, a shooting range and a skittle alley; it was named Gimle, which in Nordic mythology means The Golden Hall, where upstanding citizens could enjoy the rest of their days for evermore. This must have been before Paradise was discovered, but that would have been too boring for the old Vikings, because they would not have been able to either fight or drink there.

Gimle on Grundtvigsvej is steeped in history, because it was here that the political and social life took place in Frederiksberg, and it was here that the Social Democratic party adopted its first party programme in 1876.

Robert Storm Petersen, a cartoonist, writer, illustrator, painter and humorist, lived on Akacievej which adjoined Grundtvigsvej, and of course he spent time at Gimle, and in 1922 he painted a number of paintings on the walls down in the basement, which is now the venue for the faculty's Friday bar. Whether the paintings were commissioned, or whether he did them for his own enjoyment is not known, but perhaps he just worked off his debt of "13 re", and received a few bottles of beer as part of the deal. There is a single entry in his diary about the painting: "Today I was at Gimle, painting with Arhof". Storm P, as he was known, was at the time good friends with Christian Arhof, who he performed with, so they probably spent some time painting together as well. Most of the paintings in the basement are clearly the work of Storm P, but there are a few cubistic sections which bear little resemblance to Storm P's style, and it is thought that they were created by Christian Arhof who was trying his hand at being an artist.

The veterinary and agricultural college acquired the entire Gimle complex in 1956, the skittles alley was removed, and the basement was rebuilt without much thought for the old Storm P paintings. In fact, they were granted so little respect that a hole was made through one painting for a door, and an entire wall paintings was demolished. What was then left of the paintings was given a coat of emulsion, so it would all look nice and presentable.

Fortunately times change, and it was known that something lay beneath the paint that was probably worth revealing, so in 1997 the National Museum started carefully uncovering and restoring the Storm P paintings. It was an exciting task for the conservation students at the museum, and using small scalpels, the emulsion was painstakingly removed without damaging the artworks beneath it.

So the Storm P paintings are again on view; painted early in Storm P's career in 1922, he had just returned from a not particularly successful trip to America, but it nevertheless inspired him to paint two nigger boys (yes, apologies, but that was what blacks were called in Storm P's time), playing skittle pins with coconuts, which was particularly relevant given the adjoining skittles alley.

Another painting shows a man, perhaps a barman, pouring spirits into a jug, and a devil stands between his feet and pours water into the booze, perhaps a subtle reference to Gimle's barkeeper. Then there is also a character who became well known much later, who saw the light of day down in the gloomy basement, Peter Vimmelskaft, a funny little cartoon chap with a bowler hat. Later, Peter made friends with Ping, which led to the creation of the famous Peter and Ping cartoon duo, which proved so popular that a Ping club was established.

Peter and Ping was a real money-spinner, but not necessarily for Storm P, who was paid 15 kroner for each of his cartoon strips by BT, while sales of the newspaper exploded after Peter and Ping's daily appearances. All 365 days of the year, Storm P produced a new strip about Peter and Ping's adventures, all in all 8,000 short daily comic strips in addition to the longer strips in the Sunday edition.

Peter and Ping provided Storm P and his family with a bread-and-butter income, but whether newspaper cartoons were an art or not did not concern him much because what was best: "Being an artist who lives in an attic or a cartoonist who lives in a villa"? Storm P chose the villa, and did a great deal else between drawing cartoons; on the subject of art, Storm P said: "Art is something you cannot do, because if you could, then it wouldn't be an art".

There is only one person in the world that had a sense of humour and a knack with the pen like Storm P, so from my point of view, I am happy to regard what we can see in the basement as art.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

Young Danish climate enthusiasts take up the battle against climate change

The British Council presents new climate panel: Seventeen committed young climate advocates, including a young natural resources student from the Faculty of Life Sciences, are to devise green ideas for a brighter climate future.

The British Council has just launched the climate initiative Challenge Europe 1, and on Monday 2 June the Danish group of climate advocates were presented at the first CO₂-neutral hotel in the world, Hotel Kong Arthur in Copenhagen. The group is made up of seventeen 18-to-35-year-olds from widely differing academic backgrounds, including the natural resources student from the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen, who earlier this year won a prize for his sustainable idea in the Green Relay competition. Together with young people from fourteen other countries, the group is working to reduce the world's CO₂ emissions.

The climate advocates have been selected for the British Council's climate campaign on the basis of their personal commitment and academic enthusiasm.

The seventeen climate enthusiasts have different backgrounds – from environmental anthropologists and chaos pilots to electrical engineers and festival organisers. The Danish group will collaborate with 210 other climate advocates from fourteen other European countries in a unique network. Their shared challenge will be to develop 40 tangible ideas that will change our CO₂ habits for ever.

The Danish climate advocates will be drawing their knowledge from the business sector, the sciences, the universities and politics when they have to develop three simple and concrete ideas before the end of 2008. At this point, a new group of climate advocates will be chosen, who will develop the ideas and contribute with fresh inspiration.

At the launch, Terry Townsend, Director of Policy Development in GLOBE International, talked about the crucial importance of fast and active efforts against climate changes. At the same time, he promised that a group of the European climate advocates will be given the opportunity to present their ideas to a group of senior legislators from G8 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US) and "+5" (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) at the planned GLOBE Forum in Copenhagen in 2009.

Challenge Europe is being launched on the basis of a major survey, which shows that climate changes pose the greatest concern for the younger generation. The purpose of the initiative is to give passionate enthusiasts the

opportunity to influence the current climate debate and to make specific proposals as to how ordinary people can contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions.

Bríd Conneely, project manager at the British Council, says: "Challenge Europe enables committed individuals to transform words into action. The climate advocates represent a breath of fresh air in the climate debate. They represent a handful of Denmark's quick and creative minds who have decided that they will not inherit a world in climatic chaos."

(Press release)

About Challenge Europe

Challenge Europe is a climate initiative involving fifteen countries across Europe:

The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the UK and the Ukraine.

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international body for cultural relations. We work to cultivate trust and understanding between people, societies and nations in 110 countries.

Each year, the British Council reaches out to more than 85 million people through its work with art, creativity, education and training, science and technology, sport, good governance and human rights.

Contact info:

Natural resource student at the Faculty of Life Sciences, science student Torben Frandsen can be contacted by email at torbenf@dsr.life.ku.dk or on tel. +45 40 91 35 15 or via communications employee Kirsten Jenlev on tel. +45 35 33 21 79, email kje@life.ku.dk

Godrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

Announcements

Inauguration of footbridge across Ågade

Come and join in when the footbridge across Ågade and The Green Path are inaugurated, linking the cities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg.

The event takes place on 21 June at 11 am to 3 pm. It will start at Laurids Skaus Gade near Ågade and stretch across Frederiksberg to Rolighedsvej. The bridge will be closed until the inauguration ceremony is over.

You can cycle to the inauguration together with the Danish Cyclists Federation, which is organising a mass ride down the Green Bicycle Path, departing from Bispebjerg Station at 10.30 am.

[See invitation and programme here](#)

English at LIFE: Tips and aids

So, how do you write a date or abbreviate an academic degree in English, and which English term do we use at the University of Copenhagen for the annual 'MUS' meeting?

If you need to look up the odd English word in the dictionary in the course of your work, or if you want to be certain that the letter or email to your foreign contact is OK, then you will find a selection of language tools at Communication's English website on the Employee portal:

http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/services/komm_toolbox/uk_ordliste.aspx

You will find:

- Glossary of the most frequently used terms at the faculty and their English translation (We are also currently working to create a shared updated online University of Copenhagen dictionary with Danish-English terminology which also covers terms particular to LIFE)
- Possibility of making suggestions/corrections to the glossary
- Links to both brief (print-friendly) and more extensive linguistic guidance on using English at the University of Copenhagen (where you will find information about date formats, abbreviations etc.)
- Link to the Cirius glossary of educational terms
- Link to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (English-English)
- Link to 'English at KU', where you can click your way to a couple of other dictionaries or see a list of job titles in English

If you think that your English requires more of a brush-up, in e-LIFE you will be able to find a list of the many English courses which are offered for both VIP and TAP staff in autumn 2008 – some starting as early as August.

PS: Answers to the above questions are as follows:

- 25 June 2008 – i.e. no full stop/comma and with the first letter of the month capitalised (E.g.: The meeting will take place on 1 August. The deadline for applications is 3 September 2008)
- Do not use full stops in abbreviations of academic degrees in English (BSc, MSc, PhD)
- The annual appraisal interview (MUS) is called 'Performance and Development Review' at the University of Copenhagen
- Finally, please note that, for spelling and usage, we use British English at the University of Copenhagen.

Kirsten Jenlev, Communications, kje@life.ku.dk

No eLIFE in July

If you have any contributions or announcements which need to be published in eLIFE before the beginning of August, they need to be received by the editorial team no later than 25 June at 12 noon. Please send them to elife@life.ku.dk. eLIFE will be published for the first time after the summer holidays on Thursday 7 August.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 June 2008

Conference: Danish Health Research. What do we know about it? Why do we need it?

Monday 16 June, 12 noon - 5 pm, Danish Design Centre.

See [Programme](#) and read [Bio health cluster - final report](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

English language courses for VIPs

Conversational English, advanced level

English for academic purposes for "VIP" personnel

- 2.5-month course involving ten face-to-face meetings

Start: 17 September - Wednesdays at 9 - 10.45 am

Enrolment date: 12 August

Read full description: http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/conversational_english/

English for Academic Lecturers and Instructors

- 2.5 month course involving ten face-to-face meetings

Start: 17 September, Wednesdays at 2 - 4.15 pm

or 18 September, Thursdays at 9 – 11.15 am

Enrolment date: 13 August

Read full description: http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/english_for_lecturers/

Scientific Writing

- 6-week course involving six face-to-face meetings

Start: 30 September, Tuesdays at 9 am – 12 noon

or 30 September, Tuesdays at 1 - 4 pm

Enrolment date: 26 August

Read full description: http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/scientific_writing/

All the groups have enrolment deadlines in August, so please enrol before the holidays!

Course calendar autumn 2008

See next autumn's choice of courses: <http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/kalender/>

Anette Mar, PUMA, puma-info@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

English language courses for TAP staff

Service English for administrative employees – three classes at three different levels

level CAM-2b (basic): Thursdays 1.15 - 3 pm, start 21 August

level CAM-3 (intermediate): Tuesdays 1.15 - 3 pm, start 16 September

level CAM-4/5 (advanced): Wednesdays 9.00 - 10.45 am, start 17 September

Read more in the course description:

Service English: <http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/serviceengelsk/>

Written English communication – two intense days

Thursdays: 26 September and 2 October – application deadline 21 August

The course is for slightly practised/practised. Read more in the course description:

Written English: http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/skriftligt_engelsk/

Advanced English – intensive course for TAP staff

Start date: 21 October, six Tuesdays 9 – 12 noon

The course is for practised students. Read more in the course description:

Advanced English: http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/beskrivelser/advanced_english/

All the groups have enrolment deadlines in August, so please enrol before the holidays!

Course calendar autumn 2008

See all this autumn's courses: <http://kursuskatalog.ku.dk/kalender/>

Anette Mar, PUMA, puma-info@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

Belgian urban researcher gives guest lecture

New architectural solutions in the public space is the theme of the lecture which is being given by the Belgian architect and urban researcher Tom Avermaete from TU Delft when he visits Forest & Landscape on 19 June.

The public space is the overall theme and starting point for his talk "Common Grounds: New Architectural Approaches for the Public Sphere".

And what does it mean that a space is public? Tom Avermaete will aim to answer this in a critical analysis of the most challenging architectural solutions of the times. [Read more](#).

The talk will take place on 19 June at 3.30 pm in the main lecture hall.

For further information, please contact Svava Riesto, svri@life.ku.dk, tel. +45 3533 1768.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

Education

Master in Rural Development and Landscape Management

Master in Rural Development and Landscape Management is starting again with module 1 in autumn 2008, while module 5 is also being held.

The application deadline for both modules is 27 June.

It is possible to make do with one or two modules, or you can take the entire study programme. The study programme is intended for all those wanting more knowledge and skills within policies for rural development and landscape management.

For more information, visit www.landmaster.dk or contact the directors of study:

Professor Jørgen Primdahl, jpr@life.ku.dk or +45 3533 1822

Senior adviser Hanne Tanvig, hwt@life.ku.dk or +45 3533 1710.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 June 2008

Staff news

Jan Gorodkin new professor at IBHV

The Dean has decided to appoint Jan Gorodkin as Professor with special responsibilities in Bioinformatics at the Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Sciences as of 1 May 2008

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 June 2008

Professor Susanne Knøchel celebrates her 25th anniversary

Susanne Knøchel, professor of microbiological food safety at the Department of Food Science at the Faculty of Life Sciences (previously the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University) at the University of Copenhagen celebrates her 25th anniversary as a state employee on 15 June 2008.

Susanne Knøchel was one of the first to be awarded an MSc in food science in Denmark, since when she has worked in government research, at the GTS institute and abroad, before returning to the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. In 2003, she was appointed by the university as a professor in food safety in processed foods, and can now celebrate her 25 years at the University of Copenhagen.

Throughout her career, Susanne Knøchel has worked with bacteria in foods and water and their significance for food quality and safety. She enjoys considerable respect among colleagues in the international research world, in industry and among students at the University of Copenhagen. Susanne Knøchel has been heavily involved in establishing a research graduate school, the development and internationalisation of teaching activities within food safety and hygiene as well as communication to the general public. Most recently, she was one of the promoters of and the spokesperson for the Council for Better Hygiene.

Carsten Peter Sørensen, Department for Food Science

[Invitation to reception on Friday 20 June at 2 pm in room 437, 4th floor, Thorvaldsensvej 40](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 June 2008

Appointment of new Head of Department

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to be able to announce that the reputable professor Svend Christensen has undertaken to head LIFE's new Department of Agriculture and Ecology. Svend Christensen will be starting at LIFE when the new department becomes a reality on 1 August with the merger of the Department of Agricultural Sciences and the Department of Ecology.

The two merging departments are, even today, characterised by strong scientific environments. This is, to a great extent, due to the hard work of the two heads of department, Brian Dennis and Marten Sørensen and many others. We very much appreciate this.

However, the new combined department allows us to strengthen cooperation and coordination between researchers who have, till now, belonged to different departments. With this new department, we thus hope to create an even stronger profile at LIFE as regards sustainable agricultural production than the one we have today.

With Svend Christensen as the departmental head, we will have a combined department that has the potential to strengthen Denmark's position as a leader in sustainable production of food and biomass, plants, environment and natural resources. Working together with the other departments at the Faculty of Life Sciences, the department will, at the same time, contribute substantially to Denmark being able to continue to play a central role in this field internationally.

Svend Christensen's profile:

Svend Christensen holds an MSc in Agricultural Science and a PhD from the Faculty of Life Sciences (which, of course, was then called the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University). He has previously been employed with DJF, the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, and even quite early in his career had a connection with Wageningen in the Netherlands. In recent years, he has worked as a professor and head of department at the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Southern Denmark.

Svend Christensen is particularly recognised in the research and business communities for his research in and development of precision agriculture, ICT and robots that enhance environmentally friendly production systems. During his career, he has been actively engaged in the management of scientists as well as other staff in organisations undergoing great and significant changes.

Furthermore, Svend Christensen has taken a special interest in creating close contacts to the business community and to other universities in Denmark and abroad. Over the years, he has therefore helped set up several interdisciplinary collaboration projects between research institutions and the business sector in Denmark.

Svend Christensen will undoubtedly make diligent use of this extensive experience in his work with involving all staff in the establishment of the new department. At the same time, he will continue as a member of the Danish Research Council for Technology and Production Sciences and as chairman of the EU Commission working group on ICT and robotics in agriculture and related industries under SCAR.

Svend Christensen lives in Holbæk. He is married and has two children.

We look forward to welcoming him to LIFE.

Kind regards,

Per Holten-Andersen

Dean

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 June 2008

Research

For researchers: accommodation in the Danish state's scholarship residence in Paris

Applications are hereby invited to stay in the state's scholarship residence in Paris 2009.

The Danish state's scholarship residence in Paris is managed by a foundation named after the donors of the residence, Ludvig Preetzmann-Aggerholm and his wife. The purpose of the foundation is to give Danish artists and scientists the opportunity to stay in Paris.

Priority will be given to applicants whose project is directly connected to Paris.

The residence, which comprises a fully furnished living room, alcove, bathroom and kitchen, is situated at 3, Rue de la Perle, 75003 Paris, and can accommodate four persons. The rent is EUR 1,025 per month including heating, lighting and telephone line rental (the state reserves the right to adjust the prices).

To give as many applicants as possible a chance to stay in Paris, it is usually only possible to stay for one month.

To apply, please complete and submit the [application form](#) by 30 September 2008.

A decision will be made at the end of October on who can use the apartment, and all applicants will be informed by email.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Anja Pedersen

anjape@um.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 June 2008

News from Research and Innovation

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.