



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 28 August 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

Looking forward to a special 24 hours in October

On 9 and 10 October, all staff and students at the University of Copenhagen are invited to a new major event. A full day – 24 hours – full of new activities across the faculties, a cycling race, inspiring workshops, lounge and light shows, live camels and climate chaos. It's a good idea to register now.

This year, LIFE is the organiser and host of the University festival Universitetets Døgn, where staff and students from the entire university will be participating. The hope is that the faculties will take turns hosting the event each year in future. Here is a fun and alternative opportunity to spend time with colleagues and fellow students, for instance by taking part in a green bike tour through the four campuses where each faculty has prepared entertaining checkpoints along the way. Another important element in the University festival is that it gives staff and students a provide input to and participate in discussions and workshops that will influence which direction the University takes in future.

The 24-hour festival will conclude with a beautiful light a sound show in the Gardens at LIFE, free Campus beer and relaxation with friends and colleagues at the University.

From 1 September, you can find the programme and register for the various events at www.universitetetsdoegn.ku.dk.

Please note that places are limited. If you have any questions, please contact Jacob Søby Bang, Head of Communications, jsb@life.ku.dk

Katherina Ludvigsen

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 August 2008

Lush Garden of Eden

– It seems appropriate to find a spot in the midst of the LIFE's obscenely bountiful flower beds that light up in every colour of the rainbow under the sparkling August sun. Someone has had the ingenious idea of opening a café in an old greenhouse. And if you didn't know any better, you might think you had entered the Garden of Eden with your caffè latte. We will be talking about Ditte Steensballe's latest CD – Tivoli er åben – a both naivist and thoroughly sexualised universe, ten songs recited with an equal share of enchanting innocence and confusing laconic indifference by Ditte Steensballe herself in the figure of the pseudonym 'Doris'. Song titles like "Baller der kalder" (Buns Calling Me), "Kussen er klar" (The Cunt is Ready) and "Kald det knep eller knald" (Call It Fuck or Screw). Doris herself leans towards "tropical fish and hovering and feather dusters and dresses, high heels – preferably patent leather and preferably red" – The Gardens form the backdrop for Jette Hansen's [release interview with the author Ditte Steensballe](#) in connection with the release of her new CD: Tivoli er åben.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

DHL relay with 63 teams from LIFE

On Monday 1 September, more than 1,200 staff from the University of Copenhagen will be participating in the DHL relay race in Fælledparken from 6 pm.

All University teams will be sporting red University of Copenhagen t-shirts so your colleagues should be easy to spot. Even if you are not running that day, you are more than welcome to come and cheer everyone on. LIFE will be represented by 63 teams of five runners each. [See the list here](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 August 2008

Denmark's largest collection of summer flowers

No one has ever really questioned our claim that we have Denmark's largest collection. But because it is both difficult to prove and difficult to disprove, we have decided to start saying that the Faculty has the finest collection of summer flowers in Denmark, which is definitely tough to contradict.

The summer flower collection is situated in the area between the old gardener's lodge and Grønnegårdsvej, which has access from Thorvaldsensvej. The old gardener's lodge can be understood in more than one way because the building is from 1919, and it may be one of the Faculty's most beautiful buildings. The gardener's lodge was originally only built for the gardeners, but over the decades, a toe has been chopped and a heel squeezed on the dear, old building – first when the official residence of the head gardener was dropped and again when the rooms for the student gardeners in the attic were taken over for foreign students. Then the

rooms where the garden office was located for 88 years were put to different use, and the garden office was forced to move up to the attic, in one of the old student rooms. The move up to the attic has had the added benefit of making it difficult for the Gardens' guests to find the garden office, so we are free of all the personal queries that were in fact enjoyable but quite time-consuming. Oh, and we still refer to the old building as the gardener's lodge even though we now only use a very small part of it.

Anyway, back to the summer flowers... In the past, the head gardener alone decided which species and varieties of summer flowers to plant for the benefit of the students and the pleasure of the Garden's guests. The head gardener ordered and registered the seeds, wrote the signs and lists and had the daily dialogue with the greenhouses on Rolighedsvej. He would carefully calculate where every single plant should be placed in the beds, and all the Gardens' gardeners were expected to do was plant them as they arrived from the greenhouse.

Things are different now, as the position of head gardener was abolished from one day to the next, and suddenly the gardeners were expected to think for themselves. After going around in circles a few times, I took responsibility for getting next year's summer flower collection up and running, even though I could hardly tell the difference between a marigold and ornamental cabbage. The first rational decision was to tidy up in the number of varieties of summer flowers, and so we went from 900 different varieties to about 600. When all the beds were filled up, not even a cat noticed that there were now five rows of each variety instead of three rows. In terms of planning, the reduction made a huge difference, but it was still a long hard winter of planning because the server was unreliable. When I had registered seeds on the computer in the afternoon, they had often disappeared the next morning. But the summer flowers sprouted, and even though it was a huge challenge, it was also quite satisfying to be able to look out over the orgy of colours and think I had left my mark.

The following year, I had learned a lot from my mistakes and had developed some routine and insight into the noble art of summer flower planning, so it was much easier. My work was also easier because the greenhouses had taken it upon themselves to plan, register and produce the plants for the paved walkway as well as for four of the beds in the summer flower system, and not only that, the greenhouse staff also plant the flowers themselves.

After changing to a flat structure without a daily manager, the gardener for the summer flower collection is now responsible for planning, registering, planting and caring for the collection. The anniversary year 2008 was gardener Mette Jepsen's baptism by fire, and she has done an amazing job with everyone pleased.

The year's work for summer flowers starts at the end of July, when the first seeds are collected, and continues over the next couple of months. Specific varieties that are reliable and good are harvested, while many of the new varieties develop spots all over the place, so they sometimes look nothing at all like the mother plant. Here it should be noted that the public is definitely now permitted to harvest seeds, as it is a collection for the students and for the pleasure of everyone and not for Mrs Hansen's window box. If you have fallen in love with a certain plant, ask the gardener and she will decide whether the seed can be spared.

In August/September, we carefully sort through all the flowers, assessing each variety. And if it has not lived up to expectations several years in a row, that variety is dropped from next year's production. In September, the greenhouse staff take cuttings of the plants along the paved walkway as almost all the plants there are propagated using cuttings. They are also carefully sorted to ensure material of the highest possible quality. During the autumn, the harvested seeds are cleaned and registered and stored for the winter in a cool place. Once the seeds have been cleaned, and we have an overview of all the seeds that have been harvested, i.e. also from the Botanical System and from the Gardens, they are catalogued, and the seeds are offered to other botanical gardens throughout the world. Other botanical gardens send us their catalogues as well, either by

post or these days they are often just posted on the Internet. And then the various botanical gardens send seeds to each other without it costing the recipient anything – quite a unique feat in our money-fixated world. Late autumn is also when all the summer beds are dug up and given a layer of mulch to improve the soil. Otherwise the beds are left naked until next spring.

In the middle of winter, the large seed suppliers send out their seed catalogues, and the summer flower gardener sets out to choose next year's collection. Any seed supplier with respect for itself always has new varieties they want display, so even though we have a basic collection that remains the same, we also include quite a few new varieties.

Once the seeds from the various suppliers are ordered, all we can do is sit back and hope they actually arrive. It can be difficult to complain about lack of delivery of seeds that we have technically 'begged' for, since the suppliers always donate their seeds to the summer flower collection free of charge.

As the seeds arrive, they are registered in our database and assigned their own unique plant number that follows the seeds and later the plants. The seeds are regularly sent over to the Faculty's greenhouses along with our own harvested seeds, and there labels are made that carefully follow each seed in the plant trays. As the seeds sprout, each plant is given its own little pot, and after a period of time in the greenhouse with water, light and fertilizer, the plants are put out in the open to acclimatise. The plants that are propagated using cuttings from the field are rooted and spend the winter in the greenhouse as mother plants that produce cuttings for the new generation of plants.

While the greenhouses produce the plants, the summer flower gardener makes and laminates the signs that will be used when the flowers have been planted in the beds.

At the end of May, the beds are cultivated and raked, the flowers are planted, and a new season of weeding, watering and tying up begins for the benefit of the students and the pleasure of the Gardens' many guests. The sponsors and suppliers of the anniversary-year summer flowers are Ep Engros, Olssons Frø, Impecta Handels, Weibulls, Syngenta, Proven Winners and Fleuroselect. And we would like to take this opportunity to thank every one. We are looking forward to continuing our excellent collaboration next year.

As a huge boon, the greenhouse located in the middle of the summer flower collection was turned into a café in the anniversary year. The Danish Agricultural Council donated a large sum of money for the construction and refurbishment, so the greenhouse is now a bright and inviting place, both inside and out. The café is operated by the Faculty's students and is open from 9 am-10 pm on weekdays and 11 am-10 pm at weekends. The menu features a variety of coffees, organic juice and Campus beer as well as tapas plates and delicious sandwiches on homemade bread – and all at reasonable prices.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Minister visits LIFE

Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Eva Kjer Hansen visited the Department of Disease Biology and the Department of Human Nutrition on Monday, 25 August to hear about, among other things, animal welfare and obesity.

At the Department of Disease Biology, Head of Department Birgit Nørrung along with Professors Axel Kornerup Hansen, Henrik Elvang Jensen and Peter Sandø showed the new autopsy hall where they briefly told the minister about laboratory animals and especially pathology and ethics focusing on animal welfare.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Announcements

New names for Central Administration departments

In continuation of the reorganisation of the Central Administration in 2006 and 2007, the department FA-2, which comprises the Rector's Office, the Director and the heads of the Central Administration departments, reviewed the names of the Central Administration departments: Do the departments have good, meaningful abbreviations and understandable English names that are recognisable to outsiders?

The following list, which contains a number of changes, is the result of a variety of input. The names can be used immediately, and the departments will in the coming period be responsible for the practical implementation, including making changes to signs, websites, stationery etc.

Current name	Future name		
	New name in Danish	Abbreviation	English (No English abbreviations)
Direktørsekretariatet	Direktørsekretariatet	DIRSEK	Director's Office
HR & Organisationsudvikling	HR & Organisation	HR&O	HR
Innovation og Forskerservice	Forskning & Innovation	F&I	Research & Innovation
Koncern-it	Koncern-it	KIT	University IT
Kommunikationsafdelingen	Kommunikation	KOM	Communication
Rektørsekretariatet	Rektørsekretariatet	REKSEK	Rector's Office
Studieadministrationen	Uddannelsesservice	US	University Education Services
Teknisk Administration	Campus Plan & Byg	BYG	Campus Planning & Building
Økonomi & Personale	Koncern-økonomi	ØKO	University Finance

Jens Fink-Jensen, Communication, fink@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 August 2008

KUeren

Read the latest edition of [KUeren here](#) – on, among other things, applicant figures, the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation, the Asia initiative and the DHL relay race

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Project management for researchers – strengthen your skills as a project manager on research projects

LIFE's project manager training programme has been very popular, and the autumn programme is overbooked. LIFE is planning to offer the programme again in spring 2009, but you can also attend the University of Copenhagen's project manager training programme:

The deadline for registering for the University's project manager training programme is 11 September 2008!

Come to the information meeting on 5 September from 3.30 to 4.30 pm in committee room 3, Nørregade 10, staircase C, 1st floor on the right.

There you will have to opportunity to meet the lecturers and to ask any questions you might have.

You will also get to hear about what we at LIFE have gained by implementing no less than six similar training programmes for project managers.

The target group for the project manager training programme is anyone who works with research projects, including research team leaders, programme directors, project managers, sub-project managers, project coordinators etc.

You can find more [information on the project manager training programme here](#).

There is no need to register for the information meeting, so just drop in!

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Book your autumn-sown areas at the experimental farms now

It is now time for the biannual application to conduct experiments at KVL's experimental farms in Taastrup. You can find the application form [here](#).

Applications must be submitted by Wednesday 10 September 2008.

The next application round for spring-sown experiments will be in February 2009.

Applications concerning climate chamber facilities, greenhouses, hardening rooms, pot experiments etc. and experimental assistance may be submitted as required. [Please use this form](#)

Read more about the experimental farms, service and payment [on our website](#).

Hanne Lipczak Jakobsen, Green Support Services, halj@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Information meeting for new employees, Monday 27 October, 9.30 am, main lecture hall

A new information meeting for new employees will be held on 27 October 2008 at 9.30 am in the main lecture hall 1-01 at Bülowsvej 17.

Coffee and tea will be served.

Register with Susanne Magnusson by 17 October 2008 at sma@life.ku.dk

Susanne Magnusson, HR, sma@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Conference: Asia in the 21st Century – New Perspectives, 16 September, 1:30-5:30 pm, Frue Plads

To celebrate the launch of the University of Copenhagen's new Asia focus: Asian Dynamics Initiative and the 40th anniversary of NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, you are invited to join the conference: Asia in the 21st Century – New Perspectives.

[Invitation and programme](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

KUBULUS event: Facebook, TV and the battle for the media

On 3 September, Torsten Jansen, Head of Information, Press and Cultural Section at the Embassy of Denmark in Washington, will talk about the American presidential election and the media. This event is in Danish.

[Become a member of KUBULUS here](#)

[Read more and register for the event here](#) – seating is limited

For further information, please contact Head of Section, Astrid Gufler, asg@adm.ku.dk 3532 7484

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

University of Copenhagen establishes Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Competencies

The Board of the University has granted funding for the establishment of the Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Competencies (CIP). The Centre's overriding objective

... is to be the University of Copenhagen's

- resource centre for parallel language use,

which develops

- a strategy for the enhancement of language competence at the University of Copenhagen

and performs

- needs analyses of individual target groups, development of diagnostic tests, research methodology and gathering of relevant research results,

Leading to the offering of

- research-based language courses focused on the needs of individuals and groups.

You can read more about the Centre on our website www.cip.ku.dk (English site still under construction) and here:

[CIP sætter parallelsproglighed på dagsordnen – fra teori til praksis](#)

[Parallel Language Use: Putting Theory into Practice](#)

Tina Didriksen, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, tined@hum.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Staff news

60 years: Professor Kim Fleischer Michaelsen

Under the heading: "Good food for children", LIFE writes in the press: Danish nutrition scientists are a relatively modest group of researchers in terms of size. However, the quality of the group is second to none. The Danish daily *Politiken* presents a portrait of one of the group's most prominent members, namely Kim Fleischer Michaelsen, professor at the Department of Human Nutrition at the University of Copenhagen, who turned 60 on Wednesday 27 August. Michaelsen's special field of study is child nutrition, especially in children in developing countries – an interest that he has cultivated since a stay in the African country of Botswana in 1980-1982 and later in Ethiopia during the famine in the mid-80s. Michaelsen's skills at putting his field of study on the agenda were extremely evident when he called the Danish publishing house Politikens Forlag unprofessional in a sharp opinion earlier this summer because they had published two controversial books in which parts of the dietary recommendations aimed at young children could, according to Michaelsen, in fact be dangerous.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Research

Come with your input to the successor to the Kyoto protocol

It is still possible to submit abstracts to the most important scientific congress before the Climate Summit in Copenhagen in 2009. The Climate Change – Global Risks Challenges and Decisions congress will bring together scientists from all over the world and from a wide variety of research fields to establish the best possible knowledge base when they meet later in the year at the Climate Summit COP15. The congress is organised by the universities in the IARU (International Alliance of Research Universities) – an alliance of ten of the world's leading research universities, including the University of Copenhagen, Yale, Cambridge, the University of Tokyo and Peking University. The congress will take place at the Bella Center in Copenhagen on 10-12 March 2009.

According to agreement with the Danish government, which is hosting COP15, the congress will result in an Executive Summary, which will, after an international review, be given by the government to the decision-makers at COP15. The congress is therefore a unique opportunity to contribute your knowledge to the answer to the most important questions of our day. It is also a chance to gain an overview of where research stands in a large variety of fields, from ice cores to ethics, all of which deal in some way or another with our knowledge of and ability to react to climate change.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, and José Manuel Barroso,

President of the European Commission. The list of plenary speakers includes John Schellnhuber from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Amanda Lynch from Monash University, William Nordhaus from Yale University and Diana Livermann from the University of Oxford. Among the session chairs, you will find James Hansen from NASA, Ann Henderson-Sellers from Macquarie University and a large number of other leading scientists, including Nobel laureates. See the preliminary programme at <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/programme/>

The deadline for submitting abstracts is 1 September, but that deadline can – upon agreement with the session chairs – be extended to 15 October. The congress is interdisciplinary, and the topics of the individual sessions are broader than is normally the case at scientific conferences. This approach has been chosen to help ensure that the congress can result in coherent presentations, but it can make it difficult to figure out where you fit into the programme. Several sessions are described in more detail on the congress website <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>, and the Climate Secretariat at the University of Copenhagen, which is responsible for the practicalities in association with the congress, is also happy to help clarify any questions you might have in this regard. Please contact Jane Søgård Hansen, jsha@adm.ku.dk

The congress is open to everyone. Participants who do not wish to submit abstracts can register at <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

There is a discount for early registration.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 28 August 2008

SUND's courses

The Department of Experimental Medicine is offering the following courses:

Laboratory Animal Science C (FELASA C) calendar week 3

Laboratory Animal Science B (FELASA B) calendar weeks 43-44

Toxicology calendar weeks 44-45

Experimental Surgery calendar week 38

Microsurgery calendar week 36

[Read more on the website](#)

Niels Christian Kampmann, Department of Experimental Medicine, chka@sund.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Novo Nordisk Foundation

The Medical and Scientific Committee invites applications for: Medical and scientific research projects.

It is possible to apply for research funding for projects in Denmark primarily within biomedical research, clinical research and basic biological research.

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.

Further information is available from the foundation's website www.novonordiskfonden.dk where application forms can be downloaded from 18 August 2008.

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2008 at 4 pm

Elke Frey, Novo Nordisk, elke@novo.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

37th Annual Meeting on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Frontiers in Genomics

Wednesday 29 October – Friday 31 October 2008, Gl. Avernæs Conference Centre, Helnæsvej, Ebberup, Assens, Fyn

[Programme](#)

Registration online: www.biokemi.org

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

DBL continues collaboration with WHO

On 14 July, the director of the World Health Organization - Regional Office for Europe – officially reappointed DBL – Centre for Health Research and Development, Department of Disease Biology – as “WHO Collaborating Centre for Health and Environment in Sustainable Development”. On the basis of the Centre’s successful work and excellent results in the period 2004 to 2007, and its plans for the next few years, the WHO Regional Screening Committee has recommended that DBL be reappointed as an official WHO collaboration centre for the period 2008-2012.

Peter Furu will continue to head the collaboration centre.

The collaboration consists of, among other things, research, capacity enhancement and investigative assignments within general themes such as: “water-related vector-borne, parasitic infections and related health problems; health impact assessment and health risk management in the context of climate change and development; environmental management for vector control; the links between conservation of biological diversity and human health, and food safety and health aspects of urban food production”.

DBL and ISB will continue to maintain and further develop positive relations with WHO, its regional offices and member countries, with a view to continuing to contribute to sustainable health and collaboration in the achievement of the 2015 targets for combating poverty.

Peter Furu, Department of Disease Biology, pfu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Grants

Landlegatet 2009 – deadline for applications: Wednesday 1 October

Landlegatet will be awarded in August 2009. The grant supports activities which can:

- Increase the rural population's income
- Contribute to better welfare for the rural population
- Increase the knowledge base vital for Danish agricultural production.

Individuals, institutions and groups may apply for the grant. As a rule, students are not considered, but students (incl. PhD students) at the Faculty of Life Sciences are exempt from this rule. Such students must enclose records from STADS stating all marks and exam attempts.

Activities initiated in 2008 will not be considered.

Applications without enclosures or budgets or which are received after the deadline will not be considered.

Signed applications must be submitted by Wednesday 1 October 2008 to the Faculty of Life Sciences/University of Copenhagen, Study and Students' Affairs, Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark.

Letters of refusal will not be sent out, but once the grant has been awarded, it will be announced in eLIFE in December 2008 at the latest.

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 August 2008

Foreningen Plan Danmark 2009 – deadline for applications: Wednesday 1 October

As in previous years, the above foundation is awarding a number of grants in the order of DKK 5,000-10,000 in December 2008.

The aim of the grants is, among other things, to improve the education of young farmers and students at the Faculty of Life Sciences who, for example, would like to study at a university abroad for a semester. Financial support for travel and living expenses is provided.

The application must be for studies abroad starting *after* the deadline for application; starting studies abroad in September 2008, however, is acceptable.

Applications without correct academic records stating all marks and exam attempts and a specified budget will not be considered.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Signed applications must be submitted to the Faculty of Life Sciences/University of Copenhagen, Study and Students' Affairs, Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark, by Wednesday 1 October 2008 at the latest.

Letters of refusal will not be sent out, but once the grant has been awarded, it will be announced in eLIFE.

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

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News from Research and Innovation

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.