



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 8 January 2009

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

Cooperation across geographical locations: Competition – Are you full of good ideas?

Then see here!

Several of LIFE's departments are spread out among a variety of geographical locations, and many of us have colleagues located somewhere else. They may be located on another floor, in another building or in a completely different municipality. Many of us feel that our daily cooperation is hindered by such physical distances, and that something should be done about it. But what?

In a new contest, HR invites your group, office or other professional team to submit ideas about how we can improve cooperation across physical boundaries.

All ideas are welcome and they will be collected in an ideas catalogue for the inspiration of every department at LIFE.

In addition to recognition for your efforts to improve the working environment at LIFE, prizes will also be awarded for the best ideas.

There will be prizes in the following categories:

- The most watertight idea – prize: Black unisex hooded sweatshirt with LIFE logo for everyone in the group <http://www.ku.dk/webshop/>
- The most ingenious idea – prize: Black shoulder bag with LIFE logo for everyone in the group <http://www.ku.dk/webshop/>
- The most daring idea – prize: 1 keg of Campus beer for the group to share

The prizes will be awarded by Per Holten-Andersen at a meeting of your group, where you will also have the opportunity to discuss the working environment and cooperation at LIFE.

Send your ideas to samarbejde@life.ku.dk by 1 March 2009.

The winners will be contacted directly and announced in eLIFE.

SO BRING ON ALL THE GOOD IDEAS – THAT'S WHAT WE DO, RIGHT??

Henriette Lieblein, HR

Transformation of the Frederiksberg Campus

The heavy trucks are already active on Dyrslægevej – the first real sign that the first of the two major construction projects at LIFE Frederiksberg is underway.

The current construction site, located on the old riding grounds behind Building 1-04, will result in a comprehensive addition to the Department of Small Animal Science. The project will almost double the size of the hospital and also includes the renovation of the existing main entrance that faces out onto Gimle.

Later this spring, a similar construction site will be established on Rolighedsvej, where a brand new office and laboratory building for the Forestry & Landscape is to be built behind the listed main building. The building comprises approx. 5,000 m² and will be connected to the existing building by a bridge at first-floor height.

Both projects will be described in more detail on the website that is currently under construction. There, you will also be able to find drawings of the buildings, schedules, construction site plans etc., and to contact the project managers online. There will be an announcement in eLIFE when the site is ready.

The construction sites will both undoubtedly cause some inconvenience – noise, heavy traffic, fewer parking spaces etc. – but we ask for your understanding. Remember, when it is all over, LIFE will have beautiful new facilities for both animals and people.

Anette Persson, architect

Café Væksthuset closed for the winter

Café Væksthuset has had an extremely successful anniversary year. The high point of the year was when the café won the *Alt om København* culture guide user survey, and was voted the Best New Café in the City for 2008.

Café Væksthuset is now closed for the winter and will open again on 1 April 2009.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 January 2009

From idea to veterinary and agricultural college in Frederiksberg

In the beginning of the 1800s, there had already been plans underway for years to establish a college where the higher education of veterinary surgeons, farmers and chartered surveyors could be gathered together in a single institution. And on 8 March 1856, the new legislation on the establishment of a veterinary and agricultural college took effect.

For many years, there had been plans to establish a forestry and agricultural academy in Sorø, and powerful people were interested in placing the new institution under Sorø Academy. Ludvig Holberg, himself, showed a keen interest in the matter and suggested moving the important study programme away from the erudite and somewhat detached-from-reality environment of the university because he feared that all that knowledge would go to the heads of the farmers and that they would suddenly wear frock coats and wigs when they went out to plough the fields. However, everyone agreed on the importance of agriculture and that, as Holberg also wrote elsewhere and which is loosely translated here: "A country's welfare first and foremost consists of working the land".

Discussions about the length and content of the study programme and the location of the college went back and forth and there was a proposal for a 2.5-year agricultural programme at the College of Advanced Technology (now Technical University of Denmark) as well a proposal for an extended two-semester winter course with four or five lectures a week. The latter proposal had the obvious benefit that young people holding farm bailiff positions would not have to give up those jobs to go to school.

Among others, the sensible N.F.S. Grundtvig also contributed to the debate with his proposal of a college where not only the practical disciplines of agriculture and forestry were taught, but also Danish language and literature, German, French, history, physics, mathematics, chemistry, religion and even ethics. However, he believed that disciplines like Latin and Greek could be kept as elective subjects.

Brewer Jacobsen, of Carlsberg, also opined that it was necessary to have a thorough, academic education within all disciplines of business in order to educate pioneers within this trade.

Committees were appointed and reports were drawn up, and over time, the rough outlines of a college for all agronomic disciplines began to appear as a combined veterinary and agricultural college. The location of the college still represented an unsolved problem, and at one point they considered expanding the Veterinary School in Christianshavn to also provide courses in agriculture, horticulture and surveying. A budget was drawn

up for the costs of converting and expanding the old veterinary school. The cost of a brand new college in the Copenhagen area was also calculated, and it was estimated that such a venture would cost 154,864 rix-dollars plus 8 shillings. Later the allocated funds were rounded up to 170,000 rix-dollars.

Again, there was a keen debate – wouldn't it be better to build the college out in the countryside – should an agricultural college offer a graduating exam – couldn't such a college be established as a private initiative? There was also a lively debate about the question of whether it was appropriate for some of the college's teachers to actually be given professor titles and salaries?

The proposals were ultimately considered by a committee, and a final proposal was approved by *Landstinget* (house of parliament), without debate and then by *Rigsdagen* (the entire Danish parliament). And finally, on 8 March 1856, the king could sign the act formally establishing the much-debated college.

It was finally decided to locate the college within the Copenhagen area, and a committee was appointed to find an appropriate site. Schönberg's Field was considered and the price for just over 8 acres of land was 32,000 rix-dollars. But that was not enough land, and the owner of the neighbouring property got greedy and, thus, demanded the extravagant price of 14,000 rix-dollars for the equivalent of 1,363 acres of land – a price the committee could not meet. Other properties were considered, until the Rolighed property, comprising over 50,000 acres, was acquired for 65,000 rix-dollars, but with the concern that the property was located exceedingly far from Copenhagen, and would it be possible to get Copenhageners to travel that far into the country with their sick animals?

There were also written discussions about where on the property to locate the college's main building, and another committee was appointed. After a vote, it was decided to place it along Amaliegade, but during the process two of the members became offended and submitted a minority vote to the Ministry of the Interior, which was subsequently rejected.

Professor C.F. Fenger, DrMedSc, was graciously appointed Director of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, and the recognised architect Professor M.G. Bindesbøll began working energetically on the drawings for the agricultural college. Bindesbøll, whose primary work is Thorvaldsen's Museum, was a decorative genius with a love of the arts of Antiquity, as can be see in the main building of the agricultural college with its allusions to an Italian vineyard with its large vine-draped columns in the central courtyard. About a month and a half after the act to establish the college was signed, Bindesbøll presented his proposal to the committee – with everything carefully and accurately drawn – and the proposal was approved. Bindesbøll was a heavy-set man, full of life, who was loved by his friends and feared by his opponents, and he was exceedingly energetic and diligent in his work.

Unfortunately, Bindesbøll died that same year, and Architect Ludvig Fenger, who had been resident architect under Bindesbøll, took over the architectural work of building the college. Luckily, Ludvig Fenger kept strictly to Bindesbøll's drawings, so the main building today appears as a true work by Bindesbøll.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Announcements

From Agroline to Primo – the LIFE Library is changing its search system

On 14 January, the Library's current search systems, Agroline and TD-Net, will be replaced by a new system, Primo.

This will give users of the LIFE Library new and complete access to print and shared digital full-text resources, not only at the LIFE Library but also at the other University of Copenhagen libraries. This means that you will have direct access to electronic journals and articles and be able to order books via the same user interface.

The Library is looking forward to launching Primo, which is currently being developed as a joint search system for the entire KUBIS, University of Copenhagen Library and Informational Service. The Library considers Primo to be a significant improvement when it comes to accessing the many informational resources available via the Library.

Visit the Library's website, www.bvfb.life.ku.dk, to access Primo from 14 January.

Because implementation of the system will be ongoing, you may experience brief periods of instability when accessing full-text resources, especially when connecting from an off-campus location. Access is expected to be normalised by 1 February 2009.

If you experience problems accessing the full-text resources, please contact Librarian Jette Fugl, jfu@life.ku.dk.

Other queries concerning the Library may be sent to bvfb@life.ku.dk.

Marianne Grützmeier, Head of Public Relations

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 January 2009

Be there when Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States – exclusively for members of Kubulus

On 20 January 2009, Obama will make history when he is inaugurated as the first black president of the United States of America. See his Inaugural Address live on a large-screen TV in Munkekælderen with the University of Copenhagen Alumni Association Kubulus, which invites members to a debate with Professor Christian Kock (Rhetoric Section) and Assistant Professor Joe Goddard (English Studies). Hear the razor-sharp analyses and comments of the two University of Copenhagen experts on: the themes of the speech, the consequences regarding USA's domestic and foreign policy and Obama's rhetoric.

Time: Tuesday 20 January 2009, 5-7 pm

Place: Munkekælderen, University of Copenhagen, Nørregade 10

Information and registration: http://alumni.ku.dk/kalender/obama_inauguration/

The event is exclusively for Kubulus members. Registration is free at <https://www.kubulus.dk/Medlemmer/Sider/Blivmedlem.aspx>.

Employees who are interested in participating in the event, but who are not graduates of the University of Copenhagen, may contact Anders Iversen at the alumni secretariat: aniv@adm.ku.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 January 2009

US Election Series: Political life in Washington and American politics under Barack Obama

Attend the first of two final events in the University of Copenhagen's US Election Series on 14 January, 3 pm, with journalists and USA experts:

Torsten Jansen, Head of the Press, Culture and Information Section at the Embassy of Denmark, Washington D.C.

Cathrine Gyldensted, freelance journalist and correspondent for Danish Broadcasting Corporation, Washington D.C.

Clement Kjersgaard, journalist and television host, DR2

The three experts will talk about political life in Washington and about how they think American politics will take shape under the new US President Barack Obama.

Welcome address by University of Copenhagen Pro-Rector Lykke Friis on Wednesday 14 January at 3 pm, Studiegården, University of Copenhagen.

Everyone is welcome, but registration is required. Information and registration: <http://obama.ku.dk/>

The debate meeting is organised by the Office of the Rector and the University of Copenhagen Alumni Association Kubulus.

This event is in Danish. For further information, please contact Head of Section Astrid Gufler, Office of the Rector, asg@adm.ku.dk, tel.: 3532 4784

Alumni are also invited to watch Obama's inauguration transmitted live on 20 January in the University Ceremonial Hall. Read about this event at http://alumni.ku.dk/kalender/obama_inauguration/

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 January 2009

Lottery for the holiday fund's properties summer/autumn 2009

As an employee at the University of Copenhagen, you have the chance to rent a holiday property through the holiday fund. The holiday fund owns 17 holiday homes, all located in picturesque surroundings in Denmark and Sweden, as well as a property in Paris. The holiday fund's properties are rented at reasonable prices and may be used all year round.

Registration is open from 12 December until 20 January 2009 for the lottery for rental of a property from calendar week 22 until, and including, calendar week 51. Everyone will receive a response by 30 January 2009.

A holiday week in Denmark and Sweden runs from Saturday until Saturday. A holiday week in the major cities runs from Sunday until Sunday. In connection with the lottery, rental is only on a weekly basis. Unfortunately,

it is not possible to offer rental of the property in Barcelona during this lottery round as the holiday fund is currently looking for a new property in Barcelona. For more information, please visit the holiday fund's website.

Read more and register for the lottery at www.ferie.ku.dk (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 January 2009

Psychological counselling

As of 1 January 2009, the University of Copenhagen has entered into an agreement with the consultancy firm Prescriba to provide staff with 24/7 access to Prescriba's counselling centre. The counselling centre provides referrals to psychologists, substance abuse consultants, lawyers and accountants, depending on the nature of the problems.

The scheme replaces LIFE's current scheme in which staff could be referred to business psychologist Karen Fonseca via LIFE's HR Department. LIFE's HR Department can no longer be contacted for individual psychological counselling.

Please call: 70 22 12 66 raadgivningen@prescriba.com

Anonymity

All queries will be kept confidential. The University is not informed of who contacts the counselling centre.

When professional assistance may be needed

During a normal lifetime, almost everyone experiences periods where problems affect their mental wellbeing. Such problems can have a variety of causes, including stress, problems working with others, work-related accidents, serious events, divorce or substance abuse – all of which can have a negative effect on your performance.

In some cases, the problems can be solved with the support of family, friends and your network in general. But sometimes, a problem may be such that a professional can be a good and, perhaps, necessary supplement in order to come to terms with the issues in question. You know best what your needs are!

How to request counselling

Counselling will normally be in the form of personal interviews, but counselling by telephone or email is also possible.

The agreement also includes an option to have a psychologist visit the workplace in case of a work-related accident or another serious event.

In case of serious events, critical illness or death in the immediate family, the employee's spouse/partner and children living at home are also covered by the agreement.

The resources are not unlimited, but they are sufficient to obtain an overview of your situation and to provide you with some tools for moving on in your life.

Further information

The scheme takes effect on 1 January 2009. The Working Environment & Cooperation Section of the HR Department is responsible for implementing the agreement. Please contact HR if you have any questions concerning the scheme. Tel.: 3532 2802.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 January 2009

Education

Education without Borders at Forum Copenhagen, 15-17 January

The University of Copenhagen is participating in the education fair *Uddannelser Uden Grænser* (Education without Borders) at Forum Copenhagen on 15-17 January. See www.uug.dk (in Danish).

If you would like to see the University of Copenhagen's stand and the rest of the fair, you can print [free admission tickets](#) on a colour printer.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 8 January 2009

ESA Challenge in Angers, France

We have received this invitation:

Allow us to introduce ourselves: We are members of the association ESA Challenge (European Sustainable Adventure).

The aims of the association are:

- to organise a meeting of European students around the theme of sustainable development
- to hold a raft-building and racing championship on a lake

In fact, we have noticed that young Europeans speak a lot about Europe and exchanges, but they do not really know each other. So, we decided to organise an event with the support of the chancellor of our *Grande Ecole* and the administration, who have already given us EUR 20,000. All these activities will take place in Angers, where the ESA University is located, in the west of France, in a nice region famous for its castles, wines, diversified agriculture, the home of one of the EU agencies (Community Plant Variety Office) and a UNESCO world heritage site (the Loire River Valley).

For three days this spring – on the 21, 22 and May 2009 - we would like to invite groups of foreign students to take part in the events. The students will be mixed with other nationalities in attendance. The programme will be divided between visits (research centres, water and waste management companies, carbon-neutral homes, stately homes), seminars to exchange ideas about sustainable development, and finally we will build rafts made of recycled material in order to carry out an entertaining race between the different teams. For this competition, all the inhabitants of the region of Angers will be invited to watch the race, giving visitors the opportunity to visit the stands of professionals and associations, which will all deal with sustainable development and environment. Of course, each evening there will be parties or films or games for all the students. On the final day, there will be a concert.

All students are welcome, not just the students who are studying agriculture.

Student board and lodging in Angers will be organised by us.

However, we ask each student to pay EUR 50, which will cover the meals, accommodation and transport during the three days. (They will, of course, also have to pay for their own round-trip transport to/from Angers.)

With our most grateful thanks.

The association ESA Challenge (European Sustainable Adventure)
ECOLE SUPERIEURE D'AGRICULTURE, Angers

For further information, please contact v.prades@groupe-esa.net

From CampusNet to Absalon at LIFE

Last autumn, Dean Per Holten-Andersen sent out an email announcing that in February 2009, LIFE would be switching from CampusNet to Absalon. Because this is a very important announcement, we are repeating it in this issue of eLIFE:

For a number of years, LIFE has used CampusNet as its ePlatform for coordination and implementation of lectures and courses at the Faculty.

Since the merger with the University of Copenhagen, we have worked on making a transition from CampusNet to Absalon, the corresponding platform of the University of Copenhagen. We think that the change will represent an improvement, as Absalon has more communication and knowledge-sharing features than CampusNet. However, it has been decisive for us to ensure that the transition is not experienced as a loss of features, and we have, therefore, spent a year ensuring that Absalon at LIFE is capable of all the functions that our users have been used to in CampusNet (and more).

Now LIFE is ready to launch Absalon. The launch will take place in block three, in February 2009. All courses will be entered with course coordinators, teachers and registered students. Absalon contains the same features as CampusNet, calendar, discussion forum, file sharing, etc., as well as a host of new features. It is possible to create pages in Absalon displaying the contents of, for instance, a PowerPoint presentation, an advanced test tool, video demonstrations, submission of assignments and much more.

The IT Learning Centre offers a number of courses and workshops on the use of Absalon for all staff, and will also arrange demonstrations for students. You can read more here <http://uk.absalon.life.ku.dk>, where you will find guidelines and further information.

Please welcome Absalon to LIFE!

Per Holten-Andersen

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 January 2009

University of Copenhagen portal for primary, lower-secondary and upper-secondary schools

The University of Copenhagen has brought all special programmes for primary, lower-secondary and upper-secondary schools together in the brand new portal www.foKUs.ku.dk (in Danish).

Here you will find information on open house events, visitor schemes, teaching materials, upper-secondary school teacher day, articles, lectures, continuing and further education and line of study projects.

Anne Mette Engelbrecht, Communication, aep@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 January 2009

Research

Novo Nordisk Foundation – grants 2009

The NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION hereby calls for applications for the following grants:

Hallas-Møller Scholarship (five-year) is awarded to senior researchers who contribute 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 – max. DKK 1.5 million annually as full or partial coverage of expenses directly related to the research project (payroll expenses, materials etc.).

Two grants are awarded each year.

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. A total of DKK 10 million is 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 5 January 2009.

Applications are to be completed using an online application system and submitted electronically to the Foundation no later than 4 pm on 2 February 2009.

Novo Nordisk Foundation
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Email: nfond@novo.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, qlb@life.ku.dk – latest update 8 January 2009

Lifestyle diseases and synthetic biology

The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has recently allocated the University of Copenhagen funding for two large-scale interdisciplinary initiatives in which LIFE plays a key role. The two research projects will receive a combined total of DKK 240 million over the next five years.

One project deals with understanding and preventing the ever-increasing prevalence of lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes and accompanying cardiovascular disease. The second research project is blazing new trails within the field known as synthetic biology. It deals with, among other things, developing artificial biological systems with new customised features geared towards, e.g., personal medicine and sustainable energy.

"Four projects were allocated and the University of Copenhagen was given two. This is further proof of the high standard of the University's research environments and shows that the University's far-sighted investment in world-class basic research has produced results," says Rector Ralf Hemmingsen as he congratulates the two research groups.

Danish universities submitted a total of 28 project proposals to the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation's new UNIK programme.

Food, Fitness and Pharma

The prevalence of obesity and type 2 diabetes has increased significantly in the past 10-20 years – a trend that continues with significant social and economic consequences. The primary cause is presumed to be changes in the lifestyle of the population – manifested in the form of poor eating habits and lack of physical activity – combined with a genetic predisposition for these diseases.

The new interdisciplinary research project is based on the synergies resulting from the recent university merger and seeks to identify and characterise aspects relating to biomedical and the psycho-social environmental exposures which, combined with the pathological genes for lifestyle diseases, cause these diseases.

The ambition is to develop better health-promoting foods, optimised fitness programmes, new and more effective ways of changing lifestyles and more efficacious drugs – all with the overriding goal of combating the global epidemic of lifestyle diseases.

Synthetic biology

In nature, biological molecules work together in groups that are placed carefully in relation to each other to ensure efficient cooperation. The new research activity within synthetic biology focuses on understanding how these biological systems are organised, thereby gaining an insight into how to build similar systems by combining functional biological molecules into new groups.

Starting up a brand new, innovative and competitive research area like synthetic biology requires a strong and interdisciplinary team. The University of Copenhagen is one of the first universities in Europe to make a targeted investment in this unique emerging science which brings together internationally recognised teams of researchers representing key areas within synthetic biology: chemistry and nanotechnology, molecular plant biology, molecular neurobiology and biophysics.

The objective of the research is to establish the scientific foundation for developing personal medicine, the production of sustainable energy, the plants of the future and molecular bioelectronics.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 January 2009

Research team at Stanford or University of California

The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has entered into partnership agreements with both H-STAR at Stanford University and CITRIS at the University of California.

The agreements allow Danish researchers and PhD students at Danish universities to apply for research stays at one of the universities.

H-STAR at Stanford focuses on IT, design and user-driven innovation, while CITRIS focuses on IT in society and energy and climate research.

The application deadline for both universities is 1 pm on 30 January 2009. You can read the calls for applications here:

[H-STAR, Stanford University](#)

[CITRIS, University of California](#)

Stine Vedel Rasmussen, Business Affairs, svra@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 January 2009

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.