



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 5 February 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, LIFE-Communications, glb@life.ku.dk

Life at LIFE

Did you know that...

...there is a very distinguished armchair in the Senate's conference room next to the Main Lecture Hall? The chair was designed by the architect M.G. Bindsbøll and used by King Frederik VII at the inauguration of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in 1858. Since then, the chair has served on festive occasions as the seat for the country's monarchs whenever they honour the school with a visit.

Source: Memorial Volume celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Faculty

[Read about the Main Lecture Hall and see a photo of King Christian X's visit in 1941.](#) By Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Take a voyage of discovery through LIFE's history at www.historienom.life.ku.dk (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 February 2009

Buy LIFE coffee cups for your colleagues

It is still possible to buy a box of anniversary coffee cups.

The lovely brown coffee cups with the anniversary logo are being sold in boxes of 20. One box costs DKK 400 and can be purchased from LIFE-Communications.

Contact: Charlotte Aabo caa@life.ku.dk, Martin Bakken mbak@life.ku.dk or Gudrun Lau Bjerno glb@life.ku.dk – LIFE-Communications

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Gullinbursti and scantily dressed women

Foyer is actually a very boring word for such a beautiful space, but since it is the entrance hall to something even more beautiful, perhaps the name is appropriate after all. Standing in front of Bindesbøll's old main building and opening the four-metre high main door is a humbling experience, and the first impression is a truly glorious experience. Your eyes immediately fall on Saly's model of the equestrian statue in Amalienborg Palace Square and continue on to Bindesbøll's beautiful winding staircase with its wrought-iron railings leading up to the first floor.

The fresco painter G.H. Hilker decorated the room, and he chose to use black, marbled ashlar up to the great iron windows, while at the top, the room is painted in the same Pompeii red as the Main Lecture Hall. The ashlar is made from Danish marble, and when I ask guests touring the Faculty if they know where Danish marble comes from, they usually say Bornholm or Greenland. But no, ladies and gentlemen – Danish marble can be made of wood, or in this case a plastered wall that is transformed into Danish marble with brush and paint by extremely talented artists. But the floor of the Foyer is made from genuine, beautiful marble.

The ceiling was decorated by Constantin Hansen, who was named after Constanze Mozart, the wife of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and she was for some unknown reason godmother to Constantin. At a very young age, Constantin was enrolled at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture, but he changed his course of study to become a painter, studying under, among others, C.W. Eckersberg. In 1835, Constantin was granted a two-year travel scholarship, which he used to travel around Europe, ultimately ending up in Rome, where he met Bertel Thorvaldsen.

And with another scholarship from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, he was able to travel back to Italy, this time in the company of Christian Købke and the fresco painter Georg Hilker – and now we have come full circle. After the Italian period, Constantin returned home and worked with Hilker for nine years on decorating the University of Copenhagen's entrance hall at Frue Plads. In the mean time, Constantin Hansen was appointed professor, and of all the Golden Age painters of the day, he was the one most interested in mythology. So it is no wonder that the ceiling of the Foyer is decorated with a fresco from Norse Mythology "Freyr and Gullinbursti" alongside sheaves of grain and bouquets of flowers.

Freyr was an Old Norse god of vegetation and fertility. He was responsible for the growth of grain, the change from sun to rain and animal welfare. He is often depicted with a large phallus, but apparently Constantin felt that to be a bit much in these settings, even though Freyr was also the god of passionate love. With so much responsibility, Freyr was a key god in Viking Scandinavia along with Thor and Odin. So I must say that choosing Freyr to watch over the brand new veterinary and agricultural university from up high was an ingenious move on Constantin's part.

The boar, with its large litters, in itself also symbolises fertility, however Gullinbursti (Golden Mane) who is

depicted with Freyr was a rarity. In Norse mythology, there were two brothers, the dwarves Brokkr and Eitri, who together forged a boar for the fertility god Freyr. The two brothers lay a pig skin on the coals of their forge, and together they produced a living boar with bristles of pure gold. The boar was named Gullinbursti and it could run as fast as any horse, carrying Freyr wherever he wanted by sea or air. And when they travelled in the dark of the nether world, Gullinbursti's golden hide lit the way like the light of day. I am sure that Freyr was happy to have Gullinbursti, and all the gods of our day, and perhaps even faculty deans, should have a flying boar of their own to quickly manoeuvre around their subject areas.

There is one more work in the Foyer that deserves special mention, namely Christian Carl Peters' beautiful frieze "Animals and Humans", which hangs over the main entrance to the Main Lecture Hall.

Peters was born in 1822, entered the Royal Academy at the age of just 14 and via the plaster and silver section he came to H.W. Bissen's Studio to learn marble cutting. Peters, too, received a travel scholarship, and his interests also took him to Italy, just like all other great Danish artists of the day.

In his lifetime, C.C. Peters created a large amount of work throughout Denmark, from "Hercules As a Child Killing Two Snakes" and "Lady Selling Wreaths" through a variety of angels, shepherds and flute players to a bronze candelabrum for Bishop Monrad, which was a wedding present to the crown prince and princess, and golden coins for King Christian IX. And not to forget his marble bust of veterinary surgeon H.C. Bendz, which is on display here at the Faculty.

"Animals and Humans" is an eight-metre long frieze depicting a farmer ploughing and sowing seed, a girl milking a cow, a boy riding a horse, children herding a sow and a variety of animals like calves and sheep. It is beautifully worked, and illustrates the fantastic harmony that can exist between animals and humans. Here, C.C. Peters' Italian inspiration is easy to spot, for I doubt that the Danish farmers of 1858 had exchanged their wooden clogs for tunics and bare feet.

The Foyer was also damaged by the gas explosion in May 2000. The walls and ceiling were cracked, plaster fell around the feet of Freyr and Gullinbursti and some of the ceiling bouquets of flowers were damaged, but luckily "Animals and Humans" remained intact.

The Foyer has, of course, also been restored after the explosion and now once again functions as a beautiful and worthy entrance hall to the Main Lecture Hall.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 February 2009

Announcements

Online access to InfoMedia – Denmark's largest article database

The [InfoMedia](#) database contains articles from every major Danish newspaper as well as from a number of other news sources. InfoMedia is available via REX – the new joint search system for [CULIS](#) (Copenhagen University Library and Information Service).

Jette Fugl, Faculty of Life Sciences Library, jfu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 February 2009

Look it up in the Staff Handbook (in Danish)

LIFE-HR has published a new SiteCore-based version of the [Staff Handbook](#) (in Danish) on the staff portal.

The Staff Handbook makes it easy for you, as a LIFE staff member, to search for information on the rules, procedures and agreements that apply to employment at LIFE, e.g. maternity/paternity leave, pay negotiations, competency development etc.

LIFE-HR is responsible for the content and updates.

If there are topics that you think should be included in the Staff Handbook, please feel free to send an email to Karen Vestergaard Petersen, LIFE-HR, kvp@life.ku.dk.

Karen Vestergaard Petersen, LIFE-HR, kvp@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 February 2009

Reorganisation of IT at LIFE

As of 1 January, all IT staff at LIFE are gathered into one unit: LIFE-IT. The reorganisation is a result of the implementation of the new IT strategy.

This provides you with an overview of staff members from the individual departments who are now part of LIFE-IT: <http://www.it.life.ku.dk/itstrategi.aspx>.

Here, you will also find the action plan for the implementation of the IT strategy at LIFE and the LIFE-IT organisational chart.

IT support and service will continue unchanged while we plan in detail the projects and activities that will be carried out in future.

Lisbet Ring-Hansen, LIFE-IT, lrh@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Digital signature for staff

University of Copenhagen staff have the opportunity to be assigned a digital staff signature by contacting IT Services at the University of Copenhagen by email: it-service@adm.ku.dk providing the following information: Name, Address (work address) and Email address.

You can only have a staff digital signature if you are included in the University of Copenhagen phone book (<http://www.ku.dk/vejviser/>).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Semester Kick-off with Tim Sloth Jørgensen, Danish Chief of Defence

On Tuesday 10 February, the University of Copenhagen, KUBULUS and the Student Council are hosting their traditional Semester Kick-off in the University's Ceremonial Hall.

This time, you can meet Tim Sloth Jørgensen, Danish Chief of Defence, who will speak on 'Fremtidens trusselsbillede: Dansk forsvar og engagement i internationale konflikter' (Threats of the future: Danish defence and involvement in international conflicts). The event is open to all students at the University of Copenhagen. It is an excellent opportunity to participate in the debate and to meet other students across disciplines and faculties.

Programme

Welcome speech by Pro-rector Lykke Friis

'Threats of the future: Danish defence and involvement in international conflicts' by Danish Chief of Defence Tim Sloth Jørgensen

Debate

Reception in the Tapestry Hall (approx. 4.30-5.00 pm)

Registration: Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. [Register here](#)

Time: 10 February 2009, 3.00-4.30 pm (you are then invited to a reception with your fellow students in the Tapestry Hall until approx. 5.00 pm)

Venue: Ceremonial Hall, Frue Plads, 1017 Copenhagen K

Organisers: The Rector's Office, the Student Council and KUBULUS

The Semester Kick-off is sponsored by the Danish Bankers Association.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Course on project management at LIFE

In autumn 2009, LIFE-HR will be offering a course on project management.

The programme is divided into three modules – a total of seven days in the form of one course without hotel accommodation and two courses with hotel accommodation. There is room for 18 participants.

The price is DKK 30,000-33,000 – depending on the number of participants. Register via your head of department to kurser@life.ku.dk by no later than 19 June 2009.

[See also the website](#) (in Danish)

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Elementary Danish for International Staff

- 12-week intensive course involving 24 sessions

Objective

The objective of this elementary Danish course is to provide basic knowledge of Danish. The course will enable you to get on well in your everyday life in Denmark as a newly employed researcher at the University of Copenhagen.

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- * Understand clearly spoken Danish on topics related to your immediate communicative needs
- * Speak, read and write about the above-mentioned matters with a limited vocabulary and grammar
- * Pronounce Danish in a way that does not seriously restrict communication
- * Apply a number of basic rules of Danish grammar

Content

This beginner course will provide intensive teaching (tutorials) based on language tasks. Texts and exercises focus on the immediate communicative needs of newly arrived researchers at the University of Copenhagen who have no prior knowledge of the Danish language. A number of basic speech functions will be practiced, enabling you to find your feet at the beginning of your stay in Denmark: introducing oneself and conducting conversations on topics relating to everyday aspects of life (family and language background, profession, hobbies etc.). Key concepts of time and venue will be introduced and practiced in context. Focus will be on developing listening and speaking skills in Danish. Central features of Danish pronunciation will be highlighted and practiced, and the basic features of Danish grammar are integrated according to a communicative approach to language learning. Finally, aspects of Danish cultural norms and ways of life will be discussed.

Attendance and active participation in this course are required to successfully complete the course. Participants will be given work to prepare outside of class.

There will be a test at the end of the course. Passing this test is necessary for admission to Danish courses at more advanced levels. Participants will receive a certificate after completing the course.

Participants

This course in elementary Danish is designed especially for newly employed international staff at the University of Copenhagen who have no previous knowledge of Danish.

Please note that this course is not intended for native speakers of other Scandinavian languages. If there is sufficient demand for Danish language instruction for Scandinavian staff at the University, a course will be arranged. Individual Danish language instruction can also be arranged.

Time and venue

Start:

In the spring semester 2009, the course starts in calendar weeks 9-10. The exact date will be announced in calendar week 8, when we confirm your registration.

A new course will be available in the autumn semester 2009.

Time schedule:

Classes will be held twice weekly for a total of 12 weeks. The duration of each teaching session will be 3 lessons of 45 minutes each.

The teaching sessions will take place in the late afternoon/early evening in order to avoid interference with other activities during your working day (e.g. from 4.00 pm to 6.45 pm or from 6.00 pm to 8.45 pm).

Location:

Efforts will be made to hold classes at the participants' own faculties.

The final details concerning time and venue will be announced in calendar week 8, when we confirm your registration.

Price

There is no charge for participants holding a Danish civil registration (CPR) number. However, an administration fee must be paid to your municipality of residence (approx. DKK 500-1,000).

Registration

If you are interested in participating in this elementary Danish course, please register at your department/faculty a.s.a.p.

Deadline for registration is 11 February 2009**Participants should contact their department secretariat:**

By 11 February 2009, the secretariat must send a list of the number of participants interested in the course to Susanne Magnusson, LIFE-HR, sma@life.ku.dk.

LIFE-HR will send in a list of LIFE participants to CIP.

The list of participants should include the following information for each participant:

- * Name, CPR number, email address, telephone number and country of origin
- * Preferred time schedule and location (when it will not be possible for the individual participant to attend the course)

Immediately after the deadline for registration, CIP will contact each participant and confirm his or her registration. When we confirm your registration, we will provide you with the final details concerning time and venue for the course.

Contact

For more information about the course, please contact Jacob Thøgersen jthoegersen@hum.ku.dk.

Karen Vestergaard Petersen, LIFE-HR

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Information meeting for newly employed researchers

International Staff Mobility is hosting an information meeting for newly employed researchers at the University of Copenhagen. The meeting will take place on Thursday 26 February 2009 at 3-5 pm in room 1, Nørregade 10, 1165 Copenhagen K.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform you about the university and topics related to living and working in Denmark, such as the tax system, the pension system, Danish society and culture, the health system, insurance, the educational system and leisure activities etc.

If you wish to participate, please send an email to: inetrstaff@adm.ku.dk

Henriette Strand Nielsen, LIFE-HR, hsn@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

The Wednesday Club: Programme 2009

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings begin at approx. 10 am with socialising and coffee at the Museum of Veterinary History, Søndre Sti 4. The lecture begins at 10.30 am in the Main Lecture Hall, and the meetings conclude with lunch at Gimle.

Spring programme:

11 February: Folke Rasmussen: The history of Ivan Katic's dishes decorated with medicinal plants and the pharmacology relating to these plants

18 February: Poul Madox-Hyttel: Stem cells and Alzheimer's pigs

25 February: Annette Flagstad: Staff member at the Clinic for Small Animals

4 March: Henrik Elvang Jensen: Correlation between pathology and meat inspections

11 March: Meeting place: Small Animal Hospital. Time: 10.25 am.

Rikke Langebæk and Mette Rueløkke: Introducing their award-winning teaching via e-learning (internet-based teaching) – the Wednesday Club's participants will have the chance to try out operation techniques on plush animals.

18 March: Svend Bek Pedersen: Sheep breeding in Denmark dating back to the Stone Age

25 March: Birgit Nørrung: Sources of salmonella infections

1 April: Knud Jensen: Chemistry + Nano = sweet biology

8 April: Easter holidays

15 April: Dorte Bratbo Thomsen: Handling stress in laboratory animals

22 April: Viggo Smedegaard: 38 years of pathological incursion against diseased plants

29 April: Henrik Simonsen: On horseback through Mongolia – the land of the Przewalski horse

6 May: Meeting place: Thorvaldsen's Museum, main entrance. Time: 9.50 am

Hans Henrik Smedegaard, Museum Manager, 2194 9126

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 February 2009

ICA Conference: Models for successful collaboration and partnerships between universities, businesses and NGOs – in education, research and consultancy

Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe, Leuven (BE) – 11-13 June 2009

Call for Contributed Papers by Friday 20 February 2009 – [read more](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 February 2009

Check your pay slip

The Payroll Department has discovered that some staff members have incorrectly had taxes withheld from their pay, i.e. according to their subsidiary tax rate card rather than their main tax rate card. The problem has developed in connection with the eSkattekort system at the Danish tax authorities, SKAT, and all staff members who experience this problem should contact the Payroll Department to have the problem rectified.

Payroll Department, University Finance, Nørregade 10, Postbox 2177, 1017 Copenhagen K

Tel.: 3532 2746

Pernille Buch Michaelsen, University Finance, pmi@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 February 2009

R workshop: 'Bring your own problems' for LIFE staff

Having problems working with R or getting started with R? LIFE staff, including PhD students, are invited to attend an afternoon R workshop, Tuesday 17 February at 1-4 pm in Aud. 1-15.

Sign up by sending an email to Ib Skovgaard (ims@life.ku.dk). The limit is 40 participants. You are welcome to come later or leave earlier, but please sign up anyway.

OBJECTIVE: To give you the chance to work over several hours with your own R programs and to ask for help when you get stuck. To share tips, tricks and knowledge about R.

BACKGROUND: When you work in R by yourself, you frequently run into problems like:

"How do I make this analysis without the measurements from animal number 4 and 16?"

"I can make this analysis of variance in SAS, but how do I make it in R?"

"I have two data sets for these animals: one with their weekly weights and one with their breed. How do I merge the data sets?"

Sometimes problems like this can take hours to solve on your own, or you might find a way that works, but that is tedious in comparison. In my experience, it is extremely useful to have experienced R users beside you who can answer any questions. The idea is to try to create such an environment for a period of at least several hours. This is meant as a follow-up to the 'Introduction to R' course held on 29 January, but you are also welcome even if you did not attend that course. It is not, however, another introduction to R.

PROGRAMME:

1 pm-?: You arrive with your own laptop and start working on your R-programme. You ask for help when needed. With some luck I or somebody else may be able to provide it.

1.15- 1.25 pm: A few pieces of advice and directions may be given in plenum, depending on interest. In

particular

What is a convenient way to work with R under Windows? (running and saving program files, storing and accessing data, etc.)

How to find help, for example on how to do things for which you don't know a name of a function that does it?

Other items may be taken up, if requested.

Ib Michael Skovgaard, Department of Natural Sciences, ims@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 February 2009

Education

New year and timetable structures at LIFE

As of educational year 2009/2010, all faculties at the University of Copenhagen must have the same year and timetable structures in order to allow students to follow courses at several different faculties with as few problems as possible.

The University's guidelines set the framework for the new year and timetable structures. After a round of hearings at the departments and discussions in the Study Board and Education Committee, Pro-dean of Education Grete Bertelsen has made a decision regarding the year and timetable structures at LIFE.

[See the joint guidelines here](#) (in Danish).

[See the year structure at LIFE for 2009/2010 set out in dates here](#) (in Danish).

In particular, the elimination of the majority of interim weeks at LIFE has resulted in some changes:

- As of educational year 2009/2010, exams will take place in the final week of every block. Written auditorium exams will take place on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in exam weeks. Tuesdays will be used, when necessary, to ensure a day without exams between two compulsory written exams at BSc level. Oral exams will be distributed throughout the entire week (Monday-Friday).
- Re-exams will take place in calendar week 9 (for block 1), calendar week 26 (for blocks 2 and 3) and calendar week 45 (for block 4).

Changes have also been made to the timetable structure (previously called the week structure). The most significant change is that timetable group B will be divided into three half-days. The only difference between timetable groups A and C is the placement of the half-day.

[See the new timetable structure here](#) (in Danish). The timetable group placement of the individual courses for 2009/2010 is expected to be announced, as always, in the course descriptions in early May.

The joint guidelines allow for the option of dividing block 2 into two periods – before and after Christmas (blocks 2X and 2Y) – in deference to students studying abroad. LIFE has chosen not to create separate courses in these blocks. Instead, students can choose to sit an exam on the entire syllabus before Christmas and

thereby earn full credit. In such cases, the exam type will be decided by the course organiser. If a student wishes to sit the exam on a reduced syllabus, instead, this must be submitted to the Study Board which will decide how much credit will be granted. This ensures that the University's year structure promotes student exchange.

Finally, please note that block 4 has been extended to 10 weeks due to the many holidays that normally fall within this period.

Ane Mette Holmsten, Study and Students' Affairs

Ane Mette Holmsten, Study and Students' Affairs, anh@life.ku.dk

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

Web editor wanted for Klimakampen.dk, 15 hours/week

MOCH A/S, and e-learning firm, is looking for a web-savvy web editor who is enthusiastic about the climate and has excellent writing skills for a new learning universe aimed at 16-19 year olds to be launched in early summer 2009.

About Klimakampen.dk

Klimakampen.dk is a new learning universe aimed at young people aged 16-19. Taking as their point of departure the climate challenges currently facing the global community, the users can, among other things:

- Explore knowledge and theories on how the activities of humans influence the climate
- Learn more about what we can do to minimise our impact through inspiring articles on solutions that are in the pipeline
- Gain an overview of the players in the climate debate and participate in debates on climate-related topics
- Participate in the creative development of ideas with other users of the site

Objective

The objective of klimakampen.dk is to increase young people's interest in and knowledge of the natural sciences and the exciting opportunities available to them to develop tomorrow's technologies – with a clear focus on climate challenges. We want to inspire young people in Denmark to participate in the innovative development that is needed to meet climate challenges through their choice of education and career. The site also seeks to make young people more conscious consumers to dress them to be able to make climate-friendly choices.

Who is the organiser?

Klimakampen.dk is produced by MOCH A/S with support from the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Your main tasks will include:

- Editorial work, writing articles and producing short videos as well as implementing this material on the site.
- Establishing contact with exciting, innovative companies, organisations, researchers and students with a view to sponsorships, articles and videos for the site.

- Holding successive idea competitions and topical polls on the site.
- Ensuring 'life' and good behaviour on the site's debate forum.

Your personal and professional qualifications:

- You are enthusiastic about climate challenges and interested in theories, debates and future technological solutions.
- You have excellent computer skills – including word processing, simple photo editing and, preferably, experience with content management systems.
- You have excellent communication skills and write Danish flawlessly.
- You are flexible, enterprising and not afraid to take on a huge responsibility.

We offer you:

- The opportunity to plan your own workday in relation to your studies.
- An educational and innovative working environment with 20 great colleagues in central Copenhagen.

Submit a motivated application of max. 1 A4 page along with your CV to Anne Kirkegaard, amk@moch.dk by no later than 18 February 2009. Please write 'Webredaktør' in the subject field.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Dyreetik.dk

At www.dyreetik.dk, you can learn more about animal ethics.

Here you can learn about theories of animal ethics and ethics in upper-secondary school teaching, and you can test your attitudes on an animal ethics computer game.

The website was created by the [Danish Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment](#) (CeBRA) and Peter Sandøe, professor of bioethics, is responsible for its content.

CeBRA has four owners contributing to the centre's overall operation: the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at Aarhus University, the National Food Institute at the Technical University of Denmark, the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Copenhagen in general. The centre's secretariat is located at the Institute of Food and Resource Economics at the University of Copenhagen.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Staff news

Professor Jens Peter Skovsgaard receives international prize

Professor Jens Peter Skovsgaard, DSc, Forestry & Landscape, has been awarded the coveted international Silvicultural Prize. The prize is awarded by the recognised scientific journal *Forestry*, which is published by the British Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Jens Peter Skovsgaard has been awarded the prize for the best scientific article in 2008 on silviculture. This is the first time the prize has been awarded to a Danish scientist.

The article entitled 'Forest site productivity: A review of the evolution of dendrometric concepts for even-aged stands' deals with forestry productivity and can be downloaded free of charge from the Oxford Journal's list of prize-winning articles.

The article was co-authored by Professor Jerry Vanclay from Southern Cross University in Australia, who was once a professor of tropical forestry at LIFE. The article was written with funding from the Danish Agricultural and Veterinary Research Council, Carlsen-Langes Legatstiftelse and Vemmetofte Cloister.

The award ceremony will take place on 22 April 2009 in Cardiff, Wales.

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

EliteForsk prize goes to Assistant Professor Martin Krarup Nielsen, IPH

The Danish Councils for Independent Research have honoured Veterinary Surgeon Martin Krarup Nielsen, PhD, from the Department of Large Animal Sciences, with the Young Elite Researchers Award for his postdoctoral project 'Development of new control strategies for *Strongylus vulgaris* using novel diagnostic tools for parasite surveillance'.

The prize was awarded at the EliteForsk Conference hosted by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation on 29 January 2009. Along with the prize he also received a supplementary grant of DKK 200,000.

[Read more here \(in Danish\)](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Research

The Nordea Foundation awards DKK 100 million to the OPUS research project

Thanks to a grant of DKK 100 million from the Nordea Foundation, Danish researchers will be conducting the world's largest public health research project of its kind, with special focus on strengthening children's health, well-being and welfare. Researchers from LIFE will be contributing to the project, which will span five years and place Denmark at the forefront internationally in relation to alleviating issues such as obesity, learning difficulties and failure to thrive among children as well as prevention of obesity-related diseases in general.

The project will include the development of a new meal concept which will be introduced in Denmark at primary and lower secondary schools and to families with small children. The meal concept will be based on classic Nordic ingredients, and one of the visions of the research project is for the New Nordic Food concept to become the 21st-century equivalent to the Mediterranean diet.

[Read the press release](#) (in Danish) – [Read more about the research project and the OPUS Centre](#) (in Danish) at www.foodolife.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 February 2009

Sign up for Book a Lecture

Good speakers are needed for the Danish Science Festival's 'flying squad' which travels the country during the Danish Science Festival in calendar week 39 to promote the natural sciences at primary, lower and upper secondary schools. Are you interested?

Who is the target group?

The target group for Book a Lecture is pupils at primary and lower secondary schools (grades 0-10) and students at upper secondary school.

What does it involve?

To become a speaker, you need to be able to communicate your enthusiasm and interest in your subject, target your lecture to a specific age group and, finally, be available on one or more days in calendar week 39.

When registering a lecture, it is important that you include an exciting description of the subject of your lecture – max. 50 words – and, even more importantly, that your lecture has a catchy title. At

<http://www.formidling.dk/sw8128.asp>, you can see examples of previous descriptions and titles.

Where and when?

The lectures will take place at primary, lower and upper secondary schools throughout Denmark during the daytime hours from Monday 21 September to Friday 25 September 2009.

- How many lectures do you want to give
- How many times do you want to give the lecture
- Who is your target group
- Where in Denmark do you want to give your lecture

The speaker will not be paid for the lecture, but the school that books the lecture will refund the speaker's transport expenses.

You can register your lecture at <http://www.formidling.dk/sw15913.asp> (in Danish). [See also our flyer](#) (in Danish).

Registration deadline

Lectures which are registered by 23 MARCH 2009 will be listed in both the printed and the online catalogue. The catalogue is sent out to the festival's approx. 1,800 contact teachers at primary, lower and upper secondary schools in Denmark. Lectures which are registered after this date will only be included in the online catalogue at www.naturvidenskabsfestival.dk. The final deadline for registering lectures for the online catalogue is 3 AUGUST 2009.

Who is the organiser?

The Danish Science Festival is organised by Danish Science Communication. The festival is non-commercial and funded by the Danish Ministry of Education, the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and several private foundations and businesses. It takes place every year in calendar week 39.

If you have any questions about Book a Lecture, please feel free to contact Karin Mortensen, Danish Science Communication, km@formidling.dk.

Contact to previous speakers

Danish Science Communication has contacted previous speakers from LIFE directly, but more speakers are needed, so everyone is welcome to sign up.

Karin Mortensen, Danish Science Communication, km@formidling.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Launching the encyclopaedia of life

Danish researchers behind new website on the development of life

Concurrently with the anniversary of Darwin's 200th birthday, Danish researchers across disciplines and universities have created a new website – www.evolution.dk – containing everything about the development of life. The aim of the website is to lay to rest the myths about the theory of evolution and to continuously communicate the latest research on evolution from the scientific community.

The portal provides answers to questions like: Do monkeys have morals? What do we know about the emergence of life? How have humans developed? Does evolution exclude religion?

One big family

Monkeys, hedgehogs, bats, squids, dinosaurs, mammoths, moss, mould fungi, influenza and Christmas trees... What do they have in common? The short answer is: evolution!

Of course, we all know this. But many people know too little about it: that life on earth is the result of millions and millions of years of gradual development from a simple common beginning when life emerged about 4 billion years ago. This means that all life is connected and that humans are related to all the animals and plants we see around us and to the viruses and bacteria that infect us.

The encyclopaedia of life

Now everyone can be informed free of charge and from leading Danish evolution researchers. Danish evolution experts from a wide range of disciplines have joined forces to open up the exciting world of evolution to everyone. Evolution.dk tells all about what evolution is, what it means for the teeming life on Earth and in what context we use it. It also lays to rest many of the myths and misunderstandings about evolution.

"It is like a giant new evolution encyclopaedia. Free for everyone and written by researchers who know what they are talking about," says the head of evolution.dk, Associate Professor Peter C. Kjærsgaard, PhD, Aarhus University and University of Cambridge.

"It is fully up-to-date with the latest knowledge and will be updated continuously. When we learn something new in the research community, it will be immediately communicated to evolution.dk. We are very proud to be able to give the Danish people an Encyclopaedia of Life in honour of the year of evolution in 2009."

2009 to be celebrated as the international year of evolution

In 2009, the world will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth (12 February) and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (24 November). No other person in the world has had as radical an impact on our understanding of the development of life and on how we view ourselves in the huge context of nature as Darwin.

"Darwin's double anniversary is a unique opportunity to call attention to our knowledge about nature and the development of life," says Peter C. Kjærsgaard. "Even though we all know the concept, there are far too many misunderstandings about what evolution means. Knowing modern evolutionary theory is not just a question of

being acquainted with natural science. It is also about cultural formation and about understanding what kind of world we live in."

In Denmark, the year of evolution is being celebrated with, among other things, the launching of the evolution.dk website, a huge Evolution exhibit at the Natural History Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen (opens on 5 February) and Darwin's birthday party at Aarhus University (12 February). See the event and news calendar at evolution.dk (in Danish).

Fundamentalist resistance threatens the Danish school system

According to Peter C. Kjærgaard: "No other scientific theory has produced so much debate. Today, there is no doubt. Evolution is a fact, just as gravity is a fact. But we are facing a huge challenge. The inadequate general knowledge about evolution is being exploited by fundamentalist groups that are working all over Europe to introduce religiously motivated alternatives into the school system. From a global point of view, there is a lot of money in anti-evolution movements – and they are gaining traction. We need to do better and join forces at all levels of the educational system and the research community."

In autumn 2007, the Council of Europe warned of the growing influence of these fundamentalist groups. "At the universities, we have a responsibility. And this is important because it concerns our children's education, the knowledge base for the next generation and the proper understanding of the science that future society is wholly dependent on. We have taken the warning by the Council of Europe seriously and brought together some of the best people in the country to ensure that pupils, students and teachers at primary, lower and upper secondary schools have high-quality material to work with. All the work is carried out on a volunteer basis. This shows how seriously we researchers are taking this," says Peter C. Kjærgaard.

Evolution.dk is the result of a collaboration between more than 40 evolution researchers from a wide range of disciplines at Aarhus University and the University of Copenhagen. It is funded by the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation's Natural Science Research Council.

For further information and contact:

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Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 February 2009

Grants

Julie Damms Studiefond – deadline for applications: 1 May 2009

In 2009, grants from the foundation are available to fund the further studies of Danish men with a doctoral degree or a PhD from either the University of Copenhagen in the subjects mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy or philosophy or from the Technical University of Denmark. Funding is normally not granted to

pensioners, for expenses already paid or for purchasing computers or other standard equipment.

Applicants must submit an application form with enclosures in three copies to the address of the foundation by 1 May 2009: Marie-Louise Andreasen, Abildgaardsgade 39, 2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark. The application form can be downloaded from the foundation's website <http://www.juliedamm.dk/>.

Applicants who have not heard from the foundation by 13 July 2009 have been rejected.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 February 2009

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.