



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 16 April 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

Yet another Forge Party at LIFE

On Friday 29 May and Saturday 30 May the Whitsun sunshine is certain to blaze down on the Frederiksberg campus when everyone is invited to the Forge Party 2009.

Ticket sales start on the lawn in front of Anatomy on Tuesday 26 May from 8 am. Prices: One day – DKK 150. Two days – DKK 250.

Programme:

Friday 29 May:

- 1 pm Pavement café with Martin Dale
- 3 pm Smedierevy 2009 (annual student revue)
- 6 pm Smedierevy 2009 (annual student revue)
- 8.30 pm The Rigtige Mænd band – TV2 jam on the Merial Stage
- 11 pm Die Herren - U2 cover on the Royal Canin Stage
- 1 am Disco
- 4.45 am See you tomorrow

Saturday 30 May:

6 pm Smedierevy 2009 (annual student revue)

8.30 pm Ida Corr on the Merial Stage

11 pm Carpark North on the Royal Canin Stage

1 am Disco

4.45 am The Forge Party is over – see you in 2010!

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 April 2009

The garden's greenhouses in the good old days

In the very beginning, when the Gardens of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University were laid in 1858, a small greenhouse was also built, which through various additions grew to three small greenhouses, including a workroom with a seed chamber and a botanical collection. Back then, the botanical part of the garden and the greenhouse were managed by Johan Lange senior, and as space soon became cramped, a new and larger greenhouse was added in the 1890s. In about 1920 there was considerable building activity throughout the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, and the former greenhouses were replaced with a beautiful new greenhouse complex, almost Victorian in style. Such buildings obviously don't come free, and certain critical voices thought that the university was spending unnecessarily large sums of money, but if you compared the greenhouses with corresponding buildings abroad at similar educational institutions, they were not actually that impressive or extravagant.

Then, as now, the greenhouses were part of the university's teaching facilities, and therefore had to house plants that were of interest to students and which enabled the scientific staff to carry out their research. To stock the new greenhouses, the university already had a certain number of plants, but many new specimens were presented as gifts from other botanical gardens, while others had to be bought.

The greenhouses were divided in such a way that there was a propagating house with underfloor heating, while the same building also housed a large collection of orchids as well as several other widely differing plant species. In addition, there were greenhouses designed to house sub-tropical plants, and others for cold-house plants.

At the heart of the complex was a pretty tall palm house intended for large and bulky plants such as the banana tree. The dwarf banana was perfectly happy to produce fruit, but when the tropical banana produced its first, large and impressive bunch – a seldom occurrence – it was, with great ceremony, sent up to Amalienborg, the royal residence. Here, the king and queen could sit in their fine salons and consume as many as they could of what was, at the time, a rare fruit, so, of course, it was not for nothing that we were known back then as the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University.

An almost comparable event was when the 'Queen of the Night' plant, which belongs to the cactus family, prepared to flower with its magnificent, up to 30-cm-large, white vanilla-scented blossom. The flowering always happens during the night, and the flower only lasts a few hours, so everyone who was just a bit curious had to be prepared to sit up all night to relish the sight and the scent. I have heard that there is another cactus that flowers once during the night every 100 years – and if it doesn't, you can have it changed for another.

To give the Palm House some illusion of being a rainforest, two large aquaria were installed and filled with aquatic plants, a population of tropical fish and even a coral wall.

The end of the winter and spring were marked by a lot of activity in the propagation building, and the work back then was basically very much like what happens in the greenhouses today. Almost all the plants for planting out in the Gardens' beds start their tender lives in the greenhouses, either as cuttings from the overwintering mother plants or after propagation from seed. Once the new young plants are growing well, they are hardened off in the garden frames until, at the end of May, they are ready for planting out.

The greenhouse is also responsible for producing plants for the Gardens' winter beds, sowing in late summer so

the plants are ready for planting out in October together with the bulbs.

Renewing the greenhouse plants in the various collections is an ongoing process as they otherwise soon become straggly and visually unattractive. As a rule, there are three or five plants of the same species and type in the different stages of development at any time, and once the old plant has died it is disposed of and a younger plant takes its place.

Back then as now, the greenhouses were also used to overwinter the frost-sensitive plants in tubs which decorate the Gardens during the summer.

The old, Victorian greenhouse complex had steam heating installed as in the rest of the university, but in the 1930s the greenhouses were connected to the central boiler. Due to differences in the heating patterns, there were always problems keeping the greenhouses frost-free during the cold winter nights.

Basically, there were always difficulties associated with heating the buildings, so a central boiler house was constructed with its own stoker, a handyman called D'Acqueria, but he wasn't the world's best boilerman, especially when he had to feed the boiler at night. During a harsh winter in about 1940, one of the heating pipes burst, and the repairs were estimated to cost as much as DKK 1,700. N. Bjerrum, the university's thrifty director, thought it was far too expensive to repair, so the plants suffered as a result.

The heating problems were a standing topic for discussion and caused a lot of trouble because the pipes, which were now getting old, leaked, the boiler had been damaged during the war, and anything with the slightest calorific value was used as fuel, and it was a struggle to feed the boiler and keep the greenhouses frost-free.

However, I don't want to give the impression that it was always an uphill struggle keeping the greenhouses warm – not at all, because every year summer came round, and the sun always shone back then.

But sunshine is not always beneficial – when it really shines, the glass has to be shaded, otherwise the plants get too hot and can even become scorched. Moreover, the ventilation system in the greenhouses was complex and troublesome, so being a greenhouse gardener back then was certainly no bed of roses.

The plants also needed to be fed, and natural fertiliser was said to be the best – night soil the very best.

Excrement from the earth closet was placed in a container with two compartments separated by a fine mesh, and after a lot of water had been added, the liquid fertiliser flowed from the first and into the second compartment. This method definitely wasn't for the faint of heart, and it was eventually replaced by liquid fertiliser made using artificial fertilisers.

Diseases and pests thrived inside the greenhouses, and the gardeners struggled against an abundance of mealy bugs and scale insects, and attempted to combat them with swabbing. Those that inflicted most damage were the greenhouse grasshoppers and the stick insects which were both hard to eradicate as, during the day, they were crafty enough to hide in the heating ducts, but they found a good glass of beer impossible to resist.

Sprays were, of course, also applied liberally back then, and nobody stepped in when both nicotine and parathion were used.

The greenhouse complex was, of course, constructed using the latest building techniques, with two of the greenhouses and the Palm House built using reinforced concrete beams with a keel-shaped round roof construction. The idea was that the buildings should let in a lot of light and last for many years, but it became clear that the curved glass surfaces caused scorching, and as the panes were mounted in lead strips which slowly disintegrated, the glass rained down even in light winds. This meant the greenhouses leaked so much that you almost had to use an umbrella inside when it rained.

Now, it is barely possible to imagine that the old greenhouse complex was actually situated just to the north of the current collection of summer plants on Grønnegårdsvej, and that it almost surrounded the reflecting pool which still lies here. Two long buildings lay east-west on each side of the pool, and the Palm House was beautifully located just to the north. To outsiders in particular, it all looked a splendid sight, but as time passed the entire edifice needed replacing and was just waiting to be demolished, but this only happened gradually as new facilities were built.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Green Deed winners found

The winners of the inter-departmental competition have been found. The first two places in the competitions for laboratories and offices were won by LIFE:

Laboratories competition:

First prize, a gastronomic treat at Meyers Madhus: Department of Agriculture and Ecology, Section of Genetics and Microbiology, LIFE, Green Ambassador: Peter Lund Thomsen

Second prize, smart bags from Crumpler: Cell and Metabolic Research Section, Faculty of Health Sciences (SUND), Green Ambassador: Karen Dixen

Third prize, shake lights, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Toxicology and Environmental Chemistry, FARMA, Green Ambassador: Susanne Hermansen

Offices competition:

First prize, a gastronomic treat at Meyers Madhus: Bioorganic Chemistry, IGM, LIFE, Green Ambassador: Rikke Gleerup Ovesen

Second prize, smart bags from Crumpler: Study Administration, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FARMA), Green Ambassador: Gitte Ulriksen

Third prize, shake lights, ISIM, Faculty of Health Sciences (SUND), Green Ambassador: Esben Schmidt

All the winners have been selected through an impartial and 100 per cent random draw on the basis of the points scored by answering the questionnaire.

Many several have done a lot to promote good energy habits. And lots have reported what fun it has been and how it has added to the dialogue within their respective departments.

The Faculty of Health Sciences (SUND) was the greenest

The results of the campaign show that SUND achieved the greatest savings during the campaign weeks. An impressive saving of 11% on heating and 3% on electricity corresponds to annual savings of DKK 1.3 million and 390 tonnes of CO₂.

Keep up the green deeds

We hope that you will continue to keep up the green deeds in your units. It takes constant focus and hard work

to involve everyone. A good method is to incorporate the green habits into the routines and procedures which already exist, for example when new employees are shown around the department and the various facilities.

We will help you by launching new initiatives which will direct people's attention to the green habits. We will be back with more on this later.

All the best with your green deeds!

Green Deed

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Announcements

AM café

The occupational health & safety (AM) team at LIFE hereby invites you to attend the occupational health & safety or AM café.

The purpose of the café is to give employees at LIFE the opportunity of working with their own occupational health and safety tasks supported by the AM team.

In the café, it will be possible:

- To work with some of the computer-based tools which we use at LIFE such as Kemibrug and Ozzone.
- To seek assistance at finding and interpreting legislation, guidelines, manuals and other information on websites and within and outside the University of Copenhagen.
- To ask the AM team questions and obtain sparring in connection with occupational health and safety-related topics within both the physical and chemical area.

The AM café is open to everyone, and a number of computers are available. See you at the AM café!

Date: Tuesday 28 April 2009 at 1-3 pm at the LIFE Library, Dyrølægevej 10, room H60

Kind regards,

The AM team

Rikke Muxoll Fatum, Head of Occupational Health & Safety, and Maj-Britt K. Stærfeldt, Health & Safety Consultant

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 April 2009

New round of applications for the Competence Fund – application deadline 18 May

It is now time to submit applications to the Competence Fund. Funds can be sought for the period 1 October 2008 – 1 April 2010.

Applications must be submitted by 18 February 2009. Grant letters will be sent out at the end of July.

Employees may apply for long-term internal courses with external suppliers working on market terms. LIFE HR is offering one course in project management, and PUMA is offering two: A case-handling course and a project management course.

The Competence Fund committee will therefore also consider applications for support for these two training programmes.

Guidelines and application forms can be found on the HR & Organisation website:
http://hr.ku.dk/kurser_og_kompetenceudvikling/Kompetencefonden/ (in Danish)

Please study the guidelines carefully before filling in the application form.

Lisbeth Stenlien Hansen, PUMA, Puma-info@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 April 2009

Run the DHL relay race with your colleagues

Come and join in when University of Copenhagen participates in the DHL relay race in Fælledsparken on Monday 31 August 2009. Last year, more than 1,200 runners from the university participated on the Monday. Once again, tents will be erected where everyone can meet up before and after they have run.

Registering for the KU-LIFE teams takes place via the KU staff association. When registration opens, it will be announced in eLIFE. Until then institutes, departments and offices can start putting together teams.

It is recommended that all team names are prefixed with 'KU', and that the workplace is stated as 'København Universitet'. This makes it easier to find the teams on the list of participants, and it facilitates recording the results of all University of Copenhagen teams afterwards.

Like last year, there will be prizes for the fastest University of Copenhagen team in the six groups running on the day.

You can find more information at www.motion.ku.dk under 'DHL-stafet', which is regularly updated, and at www.sparta.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 April 2009

Information meeting for newly employed researchers Thursday, 23 April at 3-5 pm

International Staff Mobility is arranging an information meeting for newly employed researchers at the University of Copenhagen. The meeting is being held on Thursday, 23 April 2009 at 3-5 pm, and will take place in room 4, Nørregade 10, 1165 Copenhagen K. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information 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, insurances, the school system and leisure activities etc. If you wish to participate, please send an email to: interstaff@adm.ku.dk

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Staff association offers health checks

Due to the Easter holiday, this article in eLIFE is a delayed call to participate in this spring's major health campaign [SundhedsRyk.dk](#) – however, members of the staff association will have received the invitation directly in their Inboxes.

The aim of [SundhedsRyk.dk](#) (Danish only) is to make employees healthier through focusing on normal eating and exercise habits.

[SundhedsRyk.dk](#) is a digital health campaign which runs from 14 April - 14 June 2009.

In connection with [SundhedsRyk.dk](#), which starts on 14 April, the staff association at LIFE has signed an agreement with [SundhedsDoktor.dk](#).

The staff association is therefore able to offer employees the chance to come and listen to an exclusive talk by Chris MacDonald and have a personal health check.

Read more about the [health package here](#) (Danish only). There are two pages in the PDF so remember to scroll down to read both sides.

Once you have read the PDF, you can register for the talk with Chris MacDonald and a personal health check via [this link](#) (Danish only).

The registration deadline is Wednesday 15 April at 4 pm.

After registering, you will receive further information about the talk with Chris MacDonald.

You will also receive personal log-in info to the [SundhedsDoktor](#)'s booking system, which will enable you to book your personal health check.

The talk by Chris MacDonald is on 27 April at 3-5 pm.

The health checks will be carried between 20-29 April.

Payment: By bank transfer to the staff association: account no. 1551 1-667-7833.

Please note that these are two concurrent health campaigns: 'SundhedsRyk' and 'SundhedsDoktor'. We very much hope that you will want to participate.

Health check at LIFE: As a LIFE participant, you will also be offered a personal health check in the fitness room where, among other things, your fitness rating, BMI and blood pressure will be measured.

The staff association has signed an agreement with [SundhedsDoktor.dk](#), and [SundhedsDoktor.dk](#)'s consultants will carry out the individual health checks at LIFE.

The consultants from [SundhedsDoktor.dk](#) will be offering all employees a health check.

In addition to measuring each person's BMI, waistline and fitness rating, drawing up a health profile also involves a personal consultation.

The price of a health profile is DKK 290 for staff association members and DKK 1,040 for non-members.

Choose a group captain and register for the digital campaign at www.SundhedsRyk.dk by 13 April.

What's in it for you?

- A personal health check
- 60 days of healthy living at your workplace
- Happy and healthy colleagues
- Advice from diet and exercise experts
- New healthy fitness habits
- Talk by Chris MacDonald – about getting your energy back

Pay a visit to www.SundhedsRyk.dk and register.

Choose a group captain who can coordinate your activities and get him/her to send an email to the staff association once your group has been set up: udl@life.ku.dk.

If you prefer to organise an individual health profile, you can order one at SundhedsDoktor.dk.

Read more about health profiles at www.SundhedsDoktor.dk.

Count your steps: In weeks 44 and 45, the Danish Heart Foundation is repeating its step counting campaign where we are all encouraged to compete with one another to make 10,000 steps a day or more.

Please email or telephone if you have any questions about the campaigns.

Ulla Lindberg

Tel.: 3533 2669 Email: udl@life.ku.dk

Ulla Lindberg, Staff Association, udl@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Education

Open house, networking and career day at LIFE on Friday 24 April 2009

Have you completed your BSc studies or will you be doing so soon? If you are interested in making the final part of your studies more business-oriented or if you want to network your way to a relevant student job, you are welcome when LIFE – Faculty of Life Sciences hosts its open house, networking and career day. Here you can learn more about how your career can take shape if you follow one of LIFE's 17 MSc study programmes.

On the day, all master study programmes will be represented in a lecture room where directors of studies and students will talk about the programme and be available to answer any questions.

It all takes place on 24 April at Frederiksberg Campus, Thorvaldsensvej 40, 1871 Frederiksberg from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm.

Programme for the day

10.00 Meet your future workplace: speak to representatives from 20 international companies and organisations. The company stands will be open until 3 pm
10.00 Career workshops – how to network your way to a student job, internship or your first job after graduation
11.00 Career workshops – continued
12 noon Free lunch for career workshop participants
13.00 How to make the final part of your studies business-oriented
13.10 Hear about one of the seventeen MSc programmes you are interested in. Directors of studies and students are on hand to provide information and answer questions
13.55 Hear about how graduates use their education
14.55 Hear about another of LIFE's seventeen MSc programmes. Directors of studies and students talk about and answer any questions
15.30 Experience A-vej – LIFE's Friday's bar

The career fair is being held in the Marble Hall where the company stands will be open from 10 am to 3 pm. The presentations about the individual study programmes are being given in Vandrehallen and the adjoining auditoria. Vandrehallen is also where you can meet Student Services, the Student Association and the alumni association Kubulus. Finally, you can hear about the opportunities for studying on one of the international programmes of which LIFE is a part and about e-learning at LIFE.

Read the programme at: www.life.ku.dk/karrieredag (Danish only)

Register for the career workshop at: www.life.ku.dk/karriereworkshop (Danish only)

We are also on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/event.php?eid=101017050012&ref=mf>

Maja Petrine Lodahl Johansen, Communications, petrine@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 16 April 2009

New business-oriented elite module on the veterinary science study programme

In 2010, the elite module Animal Health Research and Health Promotion will become a new option for veterinary students interested in health promotion and production animals. The Danish University and Property Agency has allocated funding to develop the new module and admit 25 students in 2010.

From an academic point of view, the module is based in the Department of Large Animal Science's (IPH) Production and Health group as well as in the Research School for Animal Production and Health (RAPH), which contains the three academic core areas: Production and health management, pathogenesis of disease in production animals and health economy.

The elite course is intended for students who want a documented study programme at elite level. Extra funding of DKK 30,000 is allocated per 60 ECTS points as a supplement to the ordinary study programme rates for full-time education. These funds are necessary, among other things to secure international teaching resources, stays abroad for students and more student/teacher interaction.

The application for LIFE's first independent elite course was supported, among others, by the Danish Veterinary

Association (*Den Danske Dyrlægeforening*), the Danish Cattle Federation (*Dansk kvæg*), Danish Pig Production (*Dansk Svineproduktion*), the Danish Agricultural Council (*Landbrugsrådet*), the Danish Meat Association and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (*Fødevarestyrelsen*). These organisations will play an active role in collaborating on teaching, research projects, guidance and establishing contact with the business community.

Students from module 1 of all five of the present lines of differentiation will be able to apply for the elite course which will form a new module 2 on the differentiation part of the veterinary study programme. Due to the international teaching resources, the course will be taught in English, and well-qualified foreign veterinary students are welcome.

Jens Peter Nielsen

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 April 2009

Staff news

Affiliation: Peter Sestoft, PhD

Peter Sestoft, PhD, IT University of Copenhagen, has been appointed Affiliated Professor within Computer Science and Information Technology at the Department of Basic Sciences and Environment, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Affiliation: Christian Friis Bach, PhD

DanChurchAid's International Director, Christian Friis Bach, PhD, has been appointed Affiliated Professor in International Economics and Development at the Institute of Food and Resource Economics and the Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Affiliation: Senior researcher, Philipp Mayer, PhD

Senior researcher Philipp Mayer, PhD, NERI, AAU, has been appointed Affiliated Professor within Environmental Chemistry at the Department of Basic Sciences and Environment, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Research

PhD grants for strengthening the development of research and the recruitment of scientists in Greenland

The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation is announcing three PhD grants for filling in 2009 to strengthen the development of research and the recruitment of scientists in Greenland. The grants are being

financed jointly by the Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland (KVUG), the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation and Greenland Home Rule. [See the announcement here](#) (Danish only).

Lilian Zeuthen Bjørnseth, Study and Students' Affairs, lzb@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

DKK 27 million for flatulence research

Four new research projects, which are together costing DKK 27 million, are now examining whether alternative animal feed can reduce farting and burping in animals. The reason for the projects, which are taking place at the University of Copenhagen and Aalborg University, is that flatulence in animals accounts for a staggering 37 per cent of man's global emissions of the strong greenhouse gas methane. On the ministry's website, the Danish Minister for Foods, Agriculture and Fisheries, Eva Kjer Hansen (V), says that even though we must limit emissions of greenhouse gases from domestic animals, the solution does not lie in reducing Danish animal production. Instead, the solution calls for intelligent feed, and here the researchers at the two universities can play a special role.

Source: LIFE in the media.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 April 2009

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.