



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 30 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

Mogens Flensted reviews: *Fremtidens universiteter (Universities of the Future)*, edited by Helge Sander

This debate book consists of a large number of contributions representing most points of view on how the future should look for the universities in Denmark.

The editor dazzles by writing the first and longest contribution in which he and the current Danish government take credit for the large number of new initiatives in the area. Of course, some credit is due: the globalisation agreement has resulted in major increases in public research funding in the coming years. And the structure and terms of management in the university and government research sector have been tightened up significantly. He also outlines the visions behind these changes and presents a number of new initiatives, primarily in relation to internationalisation and quality. However, he shows little humility towards the tasks at hand and great confidence in the belief that the chosen tools are the right ones in relation to the visions. Despite the fact that many of them seem to be contradictory.

In contrast, a number of the other contributions do raise such questions. For those of use who are acquainted with the debate, there is not much that is new here. As the Danish daily *Politiken* writes in its review, the

contributions are primarily from well-known debaters with well-known opinions.

Instead of analysing them all in detail, I have chosen to focus on only a few:

I found Jesper Langballe's contribution refreshingly well-formulated in its insistence on free basic research.

Marianne Jelved's contribution was a pleasure because it shows humility towards the task at hand. She is willing to listen to find out what type of management and financing would produce the best results.

Lykke Friis sheds light on the European dimension with her preferred use of a sports metaphor.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen is the only one who deals with the new tasks for the universities that will result from merging government research into the universities.

Finally, I agree with *Politiken* that Peter Birch Sørensen's contribution is the most comprehensive with regard to the challenge we face in connection with the evaluation of the University Act and of the mergers.

Mogens Flensted-Jensen

LIFE Management

Fremtidens universiteter (Universities of the future), edited by Helge Sander, 1st edition, paperbound, 208 pages, [Gyldendal 2009](#)

ISBN: 9788702073065, DKK 199

Cover: Sven Reiner Johansen

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2009

Greenhouses reopen – with a plant sale

One year after the fire that destroyed the [Greenhouses](#) at Rolighedsvej, we are finally ready to open our doors and invite anyone interested inside to see the renovated greenhouse complex. Come see the new experimental sections and the expanded facilities for growing plants in pots and vessels indoors and out.

As always, we have been busy all winter producing plants for the [Gardens](#), and we are celebrating the reopening of the Greenhouses with the sale of surplus plants and mother plants from our production.

Buy plants in the Greenhouses

The sale will take place on 6 May, 7 am–2 pm in the Greenhouses at Rolighedsvej 23.

Due to the construction of the new Forestry & Landscape building, access for pedestrians and cyclists is difficult.

Please use the Green Path, where a connecting path leads to LIFE between the badminton hall and the day-care centre. It is also possible to come via the driveway at Villa Rolighed.

Best regards, The smiling gardeners

Hanne Lipczak Jakobsen, halj@life.ku.dk

Open house – a look into the crystal ball

Choosing a study programme and getting accepted mark the first step towards a rewarding career. But it is not the only major decision you will make. On Friday 24 April 2009, students had the chance to ask questions about

their future, and many disregarded the fine weather to meet with student counsellors, MSc students and graduates from LIFE's 17 MSc programmes.

BSc student and then what? As a student, you have a lot of decisions to make during your studies. What core module should I choose? Is this really the right MSc programme for me? What significance do electives play? Graduation is coming up – what happens then? These are just some of the questions students have. Every year, LIFE and DSR therefore host an open house, networking and career event to allow students to ask student counsellors, MSc students, graduates and potential employers the questions burning in their minds.

Open house for everyone

With 17 student counsellors, 34 MSc students, more than 35 graduates from the business community and 20 companies, the open house, networking and career day targets all LIFE students. But it also gives BSc students from other faculties, universities and professional colleges a chance to experience LIFE before deciding to study here. Many external BSc graduates do just that. In 2008, LIFE admitted more MSc students than BSc students. This year, 15 per cent of the guests at the open house, networking and career day came from other faculties or educational institutions.

Network to find a job during the crisis

The labour market has clearly changed in the past year. To prepare students for the new situation, Student Services hosted a networking workshop in collaboration with Ulrik Romme from the Unemployment Insurance Fund for Academics (AAK). The workshop included exercises and input for the students' networking efforts, which they had the opportunity to put to use afterwards on the companies at the company fair organised by the students' association (DSR). The increased focus on networking also caught the attention of Danish television. Under the heading "Network to find a job during the crisis", the evening news on DR1 called attention to the fact that companies increasingly find new employees through their networks and through unsolicited applicants. On this occasion, DR followed Trine Sofie Nielsen, a natural resource student, as she networked at DSR's company fair. [See the clip on DR's website](#) (in Danish)

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

Adam and his wonderful laburnum

Most recognise the laburnum – or Golden Chain – with its long yellow clusters of flowers that brighten up Danish gardens at the end of May and well into June. Laburnum is an old cultivated plant that has been grown since the early 1500s; its close relative, the Alpine Laburnum, was first mentioned in 1596. Both laburnum varieties are poisonous because they contain cytisine alkaloid, with the toxin primarily concentrated in the seeds (3 per cent) and only to a lesser extent in the leaves and flowers. Children, in particular, confuse the small seed pods for pea pods, and I cannot say whether horses also confuse the two or whether they just eat whatever they find, but they can also be poisoned, whereas cows, goats and rabbits can eat laburnum without harm. The symptoms of poisoning are sweating, thirst, headache, dilated pupils, dizziness, slow pulse and repeated vomiting.

But there is no need to fret if you have fallen in love with the laburnum but still want your children to live long and healthy lives. You can simply plant a *Laburnum x watereri* (Voss's Laburnum), which is characterised by unusually dense and long – approx. 50 cm – clusters of flowers. It produces only a few seed pods, which are sterile and fall off, so there are no poisonous seeds.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention the Broom shrub (I), which is found in nearly 50 wild

varieties, but breeding and cultivation have produced many exciting new varieties as well. The good-old common broom grows in the Danish heath areas, and selected, cultivated varieties can be found in Danish gardens. Of these varieties, the *Cytisus purpureus* – the Purple Broom – is worth mentioning for its flowers in various nuances of purple. Purple broom grows to about 60 cm in both height and width, and like most other brooms, it has upright, wide-spread, hanging green branches.

And finally I come to what I really want to write about, Adam's Laburnum. Adam was a French gardener who lived in Vitry near Paris in 1825. Adam liked to experiment, so he tried grafting a purple broom onto a laburnum, and something amazing happened. A little shoot appeared from the point where the stock and the graft overlapped. This little shoot would later become Adam's Laburnum and contained tissue from two different species with different hereditary characteristics. The laburnum, which is on the inside, is completely covered by a blanket of skin tissue from the purple broom – and this includes, shoots, leaves and flowers. When Adam's Laburnum flowers, this is manifested in the production of pink broom flowers, but often the yellow laburnum flowers break through the top layer, producing the loveliest 20-30 cm long yellow clusters of flowers in the middle of all the pink flowers. In rare cases, the purple broom produces independent shoots, which are generally in the form of small witches broom-like clusters of flowers.

Adam probably had no idea what he was doing, but today this phenomenon is called a graft-chimaera, and the plant's Latin name – *Laburnocytisus adami* – also indicates that it is a combination of two species.

The phenomenon of the pink broom flowers, yellow laburnum flowers in long clusters and even a little witches broom can also be found in the Faculty Gardens in the Rostrup lawn just south-east of the large ginkgo in the rockery. Our Adam's Laburnum is only 3-4 metres tall and tucked away under the large locust, but try looking for it during the flowering season to experience this unique phenomenon.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2009

A glance at future job opportunities

The LIFE company fair has become an annual event that attracts many of the students who are on their way into the labour market.

This year, more than 20 companies and trade unions were represented at the fair, including some heavy hitters: Arla Foods, Danisco, Copenhagen Fur, Cheminova and more.

The company fair is successful because it gives students the opportunity to find out what the individual companies stand for and focus on when they hire new employees.

The LIFE company fair is organised by a committee of volunteers under DSR. The tenth fair took place on Thursday and Friday 23-24 April 2009. Read what the [companies write about the LIFE company fair](#) (in Danish). See [photos from past fairs](#).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2009

Announcements

Debate meeting on credibility on Wednesday

As previously announced, the LIFE's management is hosting a debate meeting on **Wednesday 6 May 2009, 3–5 pm, in room 3-14**. You can see the programme and a list of panel members in [the invitation](#) (in Danish).

As the commercialisation of research results increases and collaboration with the business community intensifies at LIFE, the credibility of the faculty and the individual researchers is often called into question.

The Faculty's credibility is crucial, not just for LIFE researchers but also for our stakeholders in the business community. LIFE's management is hosting a debate meeting to thoroughly discuss this potential dilemma.

You can register at: www.life.ku.dk/erhverv, by calling Business Affairs on: +45 3532 2658 or by email to: ErhvervsService@life.ku.dk.

Business Affairs, ErhvervsService@life.ku.dk

New dairy at LIFE

The new dairy: Pilot Plant will be inaugurated on Thursday 14 May 2009 at the Department of Food Science, Rolighedsvej 30, Frederiksberg.

The dairy is the result of a collaboration with the dairy, ingredients and equipment industries, and its objective is to strengthen teaching and research in dairy technology and process technology.

The programme is as follows:

1.30 pm Seminar on Pilot Plant in future research and education

2.30 pm Inauguration of the new Pilot Plant

3.00 pm Open house and samples at the Pilot Plant

Everyone is welcome, but seating is limited, so be sure to register at ifv@life.ku.dk by 6 May 2009.

Read more about dairy technology:

<http://www.en.ifv.life.ku.dk/faggrupper/mejeri.aspx>

Running club in May

In May, there will be a bit more than the usual group training sessions. Thursday's training will now start from Anthropology in the old Kommunehospital building, see map at <http://motion.ku.dk/loebeklub/> (in Danish).

There will also be interval training sessions for 5k runs in May. Some of the sessions will be led by Pia Klausen, but a trained running coach will also do intervals with the runners in May. If you are interested in interval training with the University running club, please write to Pia Klausen at pia.klausen@bric.dk and state your level and ambitions so that we can tailor the intervals. The goal is for everyone to be able to run at their optimum interval tempo. So if you are not a fast runner you can either run a shorter distance or start before the others, and vice versa, if you are a fast runner.

As a prelude to the Frederiksberg Midnight Run on 12 June (Don't forget to register!), a 5k chase start is being planned for the end of May/early June. The premise of the chase start is simple: the slowest runner starts first, followed by the others, with the fastest starting last. In theory, everyone should reach the goal at the same time! Everyone has an incentive to run their fastest: the slowest don't want to be passed and the fastest want

to catch up to the others! Interval and chase start sessions will be announced soon on <http://motion.ku.dk/loebeklub/> (in Danish).

The running club is now on [Facebook](#) (in Danish), so join the group if you want to learn more about the University running club.

Guðrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2009

Information meeting for new employees, Monday 8 June

A new information meeting for new employees will be held on 8 June 2009 at 9.30-10.30 am in the main lecture hall 1-01, Bülowsvej 17. After the meeting, there will be a tour of the Faculty which will end around 12 noon.

Coffee and tea will be served before the meeting.

Register with Susanne Magnusson by 29 May 2009 at sma@life.ku.dk

Guðrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 29 April 2009

Education

Advice on your BSc project or MSc thesis

Are you starting on your BSc project or MSc thesis?

If you are looking for good advice on the process, inspiration for topics, more information on the formal requirements or just want to hear about you options, then we have an event for you.

On Friday 15 May, 12.30–2.45 pm, Student Services is again hosting a BSc Project and MSc Thesis event in the Marble Hall.

See the [entire programme](#) (in Danish)

Janne Bavnhøj, jba@life.ku.dk – latest update 29 April 2009

When the Rector was deposed and parts of the University administration occupied

The Danish branch of the student network 'Reclaim Your Education' occupied parts of the University of Copenhagen's Central Administration. The action was part of a global action week against what student activists describe as the 'commercialisation of the universities'.

The action began on Wednesday 22 April at 2 pm with a demonstration at Frue Plads, after which the students held workshops etc. in the University courtyard. The Rector's Office invited the students inside and made space available for sleeping, workshops etc. [Read more on the Rector's blog](#).

On Thursday 23 April, around 120 student activists blocked the University building at Nørregade.

The university occupiers decided on Thursday to depose Rector Ralf Hemmingsen and appoint a new temporary Rector, Asger Geden, who immediately held a press conference. Read more at [HippoCampus](#) (in Danish). The action continued until Friday 24 April.

Read more about the student network '[Reclaim Your Education](#)' and keep up-to-date on the students' activities in [Roskilde University's magazine HippoCampus](#) (in Danish).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2009

Grants

Grant awarded

The LIFE Jubilæumsfond awarded its grants on 24 April 2009 – the recipients were notified directly. Letters of rejection were not sent.

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 24 April 2009

L'Oréal Danmark Scholarships 'For Women in the Natural Sciences' – application deadline: 30 June 2009

The L'Oréal Danmark scholarships 'For Women in the Natural Sciences' 2009 will be available for distribution on 28 January 2010 and applications are hereby called for.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is 30 June 2009.

Proposals must be submitted to the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters at the address stated below, and must use [this application form](#) (form is in Danish) must be used.

Please limit supplementary material to only the minimum necessary for assessing the application.

[See the terms for consideration here](#) (in Danish).

The three lucky winners will be announced at the end of the year and the recipients will be contacted personally.

The scholarships will be awarded at a festive gathering of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters on 28 January 2010, where there will also be a press conference.

Pia Grüner, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, kdvs@royalacademy.dk

Ena Borchsenius legat for veterinærstuderende – application deadline: Friday 15 May

The Ena Borchsenius scholarship for students of veterinary medicine has a grant of DKK 185,000 available for distribution in June 2009.

The aim of the grant is to support the studies of worthy, needy students of veterinary medicine at the Faculty of Life Sciences/University of Copenhagen, primarily students from provincial towns.

The application form can be acquired by email to ag@life.ku.dk, and must be completed and submitted to the Faculty of Life Sciences, Study and Students' Affairs, Bülowsvej 17, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, by 15 May 2009 at the latest.

In order to assess whether the applicants meet the terms of the grant, the application must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's transcripts, including grades, as well as the applicant's most recent annual tax statement from SKAT. Furthermore, the application must state the applicant's home town, any other scholarships received and similar information.

Applications that do not meet the terms of the grant, that do not include the enclosures stated here or that are received after the deadline will not be considered.

Grant recipients will be notified directly, and letters of rejection will not be sent. The grant will be awarded in June and will be announced in the eLIFE newsletter.

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

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 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, gub@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 February 2009