



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 20 August 2009

Email to the editors: elife@life.ku.dk

The final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before the publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

The online newsletter may be subject to editorial changes.

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

Thousands of handshakes

On Wednesday 2 September, the University of Copenhagen will, as per tradition, welcome its new students at the annual Matriculation Ceremony at the University Square at Frue Plads with the attendance of the Rector's Office, the Deans and the University Director.

The festivities will be opened by Rector Ralf Hemmingsen's welcome speech, followed by the traditional shaking of hands and music in the Ceremonial Hall. To accommodate all the new students, the ceremony will take place a total of three times. After the ceremony the students will be able to buy refreshments and take to the dance floor in Lindegården where the alumni association Kubulus will also be hosting a study-related event.

As something new this year, the first ceremony will take place in English in honour of the international students enrolled at the University this year.

Read more about the Matriculation Ceremony 2009 at www.event.ku.dk/immatrikulationsfest.

About LIFE in 16 languages

When international students from India, China or Latvia spend the last weeks of their summer holidays considering whether and where to study abroad next year, they can now learn more about LIFE in their own language.

As part of LIFE's international communication strategy, this summer we have created mini websites in 14 different languages as a supplement to our Danish and English websites. They allow international students to read about why they should become a student at LIFE, explaining all about our English-language graduate and postgraduate programmes, the services we offer students with regard to living in Denmark and Copenhagen and future career opportunities.

Most of the approx. 370 international students who will be starting at LIFE this year will have found their information about LIFE, the University of Copenhagen and Denmark on our English-language website. With the new mini-sites in 14 languages, we will be able to reach out to and attract even more international students and young researchers. The many languages also allow parents, who have a significant influence on young people's study choices in many cultures, to learn more about the Faculty. Also, the 14 mini-sites in different languages will significantly increase LIFE's chances of being found via search engines in other countries.

Besides Danish and English, the 16 languages are: Arabic, Chinese, Hindi (India), Estonian, French, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and German.

[See the 16 mini-sites here](#) or visit the [English-language website](#) where you will find a number of flags in the bottom right corner, symbolising the 14 languages.

Kirsten Jenlev, Communications, kje@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 August 2009

2,000 new students arrived at LIFE

The Student Council's freshers' event for all new University of Copenhagen students on 18 August was a roaring success. Because of construction work at South Campus (KUA), their welcome event also took place at LIFE this year creating a full house. About 2,000 students were in attendance, or 500 more than expected.

Pro-rector Lykke Friis and Student Council Chairman Mathias Jørgensen welcomed everyone in the Marble Hall, after which the students were grouped according to faculty and line of study. Everyone then had the chance to ask older students about life at the University in general and receive practical information about the upcoming commencement of studies. The day ended with dinner and a party.

"Café Væksthuset supplied the food for the party in the evening. The A-vej crew manned the bar, and Gimle, which featured a band and a DJ, was filled to the rafters. It was a fantastic party," says Anne Kathrine Top Platz, Chairperson of LIFE's Student Council. "As always at A-vej, the party ended at midnight, and everyone helped clean up. The Student Council hopes that everyone at LIFE will bear with any beer cups that might have been neglected in the rush," she adds.

There was barely enough room in the auditoriums, the halls and Gimle for so many people, so the welcome event for freshers is certain to be moved back to South Campus again next year.

Danish television station TV2 followed Nikolaj – a new political science student – for the entire day. The feature was shown on the late edition of the news on 18 August with the title: [Many thousands of young people to start at university and start a whole new life.](#)

Make sure you also catch Pro-rector Lykke Friis' blog comments: [What are you studying?](#) – and the University of Copenhagen Student Council's website with Chairman Mathias Jørgensen's welcome speech to the new students: [Congratulations and welcome to all new students](#) (both in Danish).

Freshers' Event 2009 programme, LIFE:

2.30 pm Arrival of freshers at Marble Hall

Stands for SU, CIO and University of Copenhagen Student Council. Coffee sold by CSS fair-trade.

3.00 pm Speeches by University of Copenhagen Student Council Chairman Mattias Friis and Pro-rector Lykke Friis in Marble Hall

3.20 pm Freshers spread out among five auditoriums according to faculty:

LIFE: Aud. 3-14 bldg. 2-70

Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Theology: Aud. 3-13 bldg. 2-70

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Faculty of Law: Aud. 3-04 bldg. 2-84

Faculty of Humanities: Aud. 3-01 bldg. 2-70

Faculty of Science and Faculty of Health Sciences: Aud. 3-02 bldg. 2-82

3.45 pm Presentations by the individual faculties

4.15 pm Freshers escorted from auditoriums to locations of presentations by line of study representatives (See distribution of rooms)

4.30-5.30 pm Presentations by line of study representatives

5.30-7.30 pm Dinner at Café Væksthuset (serving outdoors)

6.00 pm-midnight Party at A-vej and Gimle

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 20 August 2009

Annual Commemoration 2009

Every year the University of Copenhagen celebrates its founding at the traditional Annual Commemoration which takes place this year on Thursday 12 November.

The event comprises, as always, a ceremony in the University's Ceremonial Hall in the afternoon followed by a reception and an evening event at the Copenhagen Opera House.

The Rector's Office and the faculty heads invite approximately 700 guests with companions to the Annual Commemoration. The invited guests include representatives from the University management and student body as well as doctoral professors, honorary doctors and prize winners. The guest list also includes representatives from the research councils, foundations, ministries and other collaborative partners.

University staff and students are welcome to attend the gala performance at the Copenhagen Opera House, which this year will be 'Lucia di Lammermoor'. Tickets will be sold at the University Square during calendar week 43. Staff and students will receive an email with more information on ticket sales in calendar week 41.

Read more about the Annual Commemoration at: www.event.ku.dk/aarsfest (in Danish).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

Announcements

Weekend opening hours for Library building

The weekend of 5-6 September marks the start of the Library's new weekend opening hours for the study environment – a long-held wish of the many students who use the building during the week to work in study groups and for independent study.

Henceforth, it will now be possible to access the study areas and IT facilities every weekend from 10 am to 5 pm, and it will, of course, also be possible to use the Library's collection of books and print journals. The building will be open on weekends during teaching periods, while during the summer months, around Christmas etc. the opening hours will be reduced and the building will be closed on weekends.

We have also made room for more study areas on the ground floor. The space has been created by moving half the Library's book collection down to the basement in an area that is open to the public.

In the past year, the Library has managed to create 100 new study areas in the form of individual and group workplaces. During the remainder of 2009, a lounge area will be created on the ground floor, as well as a new quiet room for individual study.

Online access to the Library's electronic resources is, of course, still possible from home 24/7/365 – visit www.bvfb.life.ku.dk.

Kind regards,
Frede Mørch
Faculty Librarian

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 August 2009

Crop production conference on production, environment and nature

The crop production conference Plantekongres 2010 has been expanded to three days to make room for topics on the environment and nature. In recent years, nature and environmental workers at local authorities, environmental centres, governmental agencies, agricultural centres and private consultancies have shown increasing interest in attending the crop production conference. Subsequently a whole day has now been dedicated specifically to nature and the environment.

[Read more](#) (in Danish)

Bodil Pedersen, National Centre, Crop Production, blp@landscentret.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

Who sets my pay regardless of whether I'm a union member or not?

This is just one of many questions to which you can find the answer in the [Staff Handbook](#). The Staff Handbook makes it easy for you to search for information on the rules, guidelines and agreements that apply to employment at LIFE, e.g. maternity/paternity leave, working environment and competency development. You can find the Staff Handbook on the staff portal (both in Danish). And if you want to suggest new articles, you are more than welcome to contact Karen Vestergaard Petersen, HR, kvp@life.ku.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

Courses currently offered by Administrative Supplementary Training for University Employees (AEU)

AEU courses are a great opportunity to share experiences with like-minded people from other universities and to build up networks.

Project manager course

If you cannot fit one of the project manager courses offered by LIFE or the University of Copenhagen into your calendar, then take a closer look at the courses offered by AEU!

This course is aimed at university administrative staff and is taught by Poul Volquartzén, MSc in Applied Psychology, who has extensive experience in manager development at universities.

See <http://www.aeu.dk/program.php#event69> (in Danish)

Interest in management – Try your hand as a manager

This course is aimed at academic offers or special consultants at universities who are considering a career in management and is taught by Hans Christian Vestergaard, who has previously held introduction to management courses for university employees.

See <http://www.aeu.dk/program.php#event66> (in Danish)

Read more about AEU at <http://www.aeu.dk/> (in Danish). There are still places available on these courses.

Contact: Jakob Ejersbo, Chief Consultant, ejersbo@sdu.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

REX library base and electronic resources closed on Sunday 23 August

Due to technical upgrades to the IT systems at the Royal Library/KUBIS, it will not be possible to access the REX base and the electronic resources on Sunday 23 August, 10 am-6 pm. This also affects remote access to the systems.

Anne Bagger, LIFE Library, abag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

Language competency development for University of Copenhagen staff and students

The Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use (CIP), which organises and holds all language competency development at the University of Copenhagen, has published its [course catalogue](#) for autumn 2009 on the website.

The courses offered include Danish for Foreigners.

The deadline for registration for some of the courses is already on Friday 21 August.

The course catalogue contains:

- [For employees](#)
- [For students](#)
- [Other services](#)
- [Course calendar](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 August 2009

Education

Final chance for vacant study places

200 vacant study places – that is all the University of Copenhagen has left at the start of the academic year. Our study programmes are now filling the last seats according to the principle of first-come-first-served. In other words, you need to move fast if you want to study at the University of Copenhagen after the summer holidays.

At this time, after the ordinary admissions to the University's study programmes, there are normally many more vacant places available.

"At this point, it looks like 2009 will have the highest-ever admission figures for our undergraduate programmes. On 30 July, we offered 6,210 people places, which meant that we only had around 560 vacant study places left. We have since filled 360 of these vacancies with qualified young people, says Claus Nielsen, Chief Consultant at University Education Services.

Increased interest in education

After the deadline for the first round of vacant study place applications, there are now less than half as many vacant study places at the various programmes. All places are filled at the German, French, Theology, Biochemistry and Landscape Architecture study programmes. And the Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chinese Studies and American Indian Languages and Cultures programmes have so many applicants that it is not possible to accept all qualified applicants. Consequently, the University has also had to reject applicants for vacant study places.

“The great interest in the vacant places on the study programmes should be viewed in light of the large number of rejected applicants during the general admissions rounds and the increased interest in education,” explains Claus Nielsen.

Spot a vacancy

Although the University has never before offered so many applicants admission, there are currently still vacant study places at 18 different programmes, including Economics, Biology, IT & Health and Food Science. Several of these lines of study only have a few vacant places left and are now accepting students according to the principle of first-come-first-served.

See the complete list of study programmes with vacant places at www.studier.ku.dk, where you will also find the application form and guidelines on how to apply for a vacant study place. When a study programme no longer has places available, it will be removed from the list and any applications received will be rejected.

The final number of new admissions will be calculated on 1 October. See the [University of Copenhagen admission figures](#) for this year and previous years and the [Coordinated Enrolment System figures for Denmark](#).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 August 2009

Staff news

Anniversary: Professor Preben Dybdahl Thomsen, DVM, IBHV

As of 1 September Professor Preben Dybdahl Thomsen, DVM, has been an employee at KVL and LIFE for 25 years.

The Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Science is therefore hosting a reception on Tuesday 1 September at 3 pm in the Library, Anatomy Building, Grønnegårdsvej 7.

[See the invitation here \(in Danish\)](#)

Helle Strandlyst, Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Sciences, hks@life.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 August 2009

Affiliation: Associate Professor Vibeke Brix Christensen at the Department of Human Nutrition

The Rector has appointed Vibeke Brix Christensen, DrMedSc, Hillerød Hospital, Affiliated Professor of paediatric nutrition and international nutrition as well as clinical and experimental nutrition at the Department of Human Nutrition.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

Affiliation: Associate Professor Mads F. Bertelsen at the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology

The Rector has appointed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Mads Bertelsen, Copenhagen Zoo, Affiliate Professor of zoological medicine at the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

Two LIFE researchers appointed to the Danish Council for Independent Research

Professor Kell Mortensen, Department of Basic Sciences and Environment, to the Danish Council for Independent Research – Natural Sciences.

Associate Professor Lisbeth Høier Olsen, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Science, to the Danish Council for Independent Research – Medical Sciences.

[Read the press release from the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation](#) (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

New Professor of Veterinary Reproduction and Obstetrics at IPH

On 1 September, Jørgen S. Agerholm will take up a professorship in veterinary reproduction and obstetrics at the Department of Large Animal Sciences. As one of Denmark's leading experts in cattle diseases, he will strengthen collaboration with the Danish agricultural sector and contribute new knowledge in the areas of reproduction, infectious diseases in fetuses and genetic effects. His research can have significant financial significance for livestock production as well as producing new knowledge about infertility and infectious diseases in the sexual organs of people.

[Read the press release](#) (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 August 2009

Research

Seeking partners in OECD fellowship research project

The University of Copenhagen has received the following enquiry:

Dear Colleague

As an ecologist for the United States Geological Survey (USGS), I would request your assistance in identifying appropriate staff to collaborate with me on a six-month OECD fellowship research project to begin in the near future. The OECD's Co-operative Research Programme's main objective is to strengthen scientific knowledge and provide relevant scientific information and advice that will inform future policy decisions related to the sustainable use of natural resources in the areas of food, agriculture, forests and fisheries. The objective and work of the Programme are anchored in both a policy and scientific environment in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which, more than ever, are being developed in a multidisciplinary environment. This happens in order to respond to the varied demands from a range of stakeholder groups with interests in these fields, and in order to take into account that the globalised world and the interconnectedness

of food production systems.

Please note: [Fellowship applications](#), with identified cooperating institutions and staff, **are due on 31 August 2009**. I am in the process of completing the application and would request your immediate assistance in identifying the appropriate persons with whom I might correspond on their willingness to participate. If you could send me the names, titles and email addresses of these people I would be most grateful.

Before ending this email, let me introduce myself in some detail. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist who trained as a water resource management and wildlife biologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Maine – Orono. After graduating with an MSc from Wisconsin, I worked for several government and consulting firms where I published extensively in risk communication, assessment, management, toxicology, fate and transport, hazard assessment and historical toxicology. I co-authored a book on groundwater contamination, risk assessment and toxicology and another book on environmental risk assessment. Putting my scientific work on hold, I received a Juris Doctorate (Law) degree from the University of Minnesota and worked as a litigation attorney for a number of years. I have participated in numerous international scientific conferences and have helped organise and run sessions and meetings through NATO's Scientific Programme. Moving to Washington, D.C., I became the National Biologist for the Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and developed national programme initiatives, including the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative that put more than 250,000 acres into wildlife habitat, as well as other wildlife initiatives which, in total, will create 600,000 acres of wildlife habitat on former agricultural lands. Now, as an ecologist for USGS, I am working on several projects devoted to identifying and defining acceptable ecological impacts and services for agricultural operations.

The attached draft abstract for the OECD fellowship continues my early work and expands it to develop an international synthesis definition of acceptable ecological impact and services for agricultural operations. With your help and that of your colleagues, we can bring a practical definition forward that government agencies, consultancies and the academic community can use to clearly determine when agricultural operations are in maximal harmony with desired environmental outcome goals in order to foster sustainability and encourage agricultural productivity.

Thank you for your help.

Sally L. Benjamin, MSc, J.D.
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Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 August 2009

Prize for Journal of Landscape Architecture

JoLA (Journal of Landscape Architecture) has received the Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Malene Hauxner, DSc, landscape architect and professor of landscape architecture at Forestry & Landscape, University of Copenhagen, is the co-editor and will travel to the USA to receive the prize on 21 September.

Journal of Landscape Architecture (JoLA) is available online at: <http://www.info-jola.de/>

The Award of Excellence was awarded with the following motivation:

JoLA is a peer-reviewed academic journal of landscape architecture. It publishes two issues per annum and is a publication in full colour. The journal's concept is formulated both in the structure and content, and the means by which they are communicated. In addition to the central section of four to six research papers, it has two distinctive sections: The first, "Under the Sky", provides a unique platform for new methods in critical reading of a landscape architecture project in each issue. Since critical judgement is a key element of design and planning, it hopes to promote innovative approaches that offer a critique of projects as a part of theory building in landscape architecture.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 August 2009

"Pork Quality for the Consumer" attracts researchers from all over the world

Approx. 160 researchers from all over the world have arrived to attend the workshop: "Pork Quality for the Consumer" on Friday 21 August 2009.

The workshop is part of a five-year research project "Q-Pork Chains" initiated in 2007.

Q-PorkChains is an integrated project under the EU's 6th Framework Programme and has a total budget of EUR 20.7 million, with EUR 14.5 million subsidised by the EU.

The research project involves 51 partners from 19 different countries, including European countries, Brazil, China, South Africa and the USA and is headed by Professor Anders H. Karlsson from the Department of Food Science.

Karin Hjorth-Hansen, Department of Food Science, khjh@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 August 2009

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.