



## eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 1 October 2009

Email to the editors: [elife@life.ku.dk](mailto: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](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, LIFE Communications, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk)

## Life at LIFE

### **Night of Culture at LIFE**

Night of Culture at Frederiksberg Campus, Friday 9 October from 6-10 pm – see the programme: [http://www.life.ku.dk/English/about/night\\_of\\_culture\\_2009.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/English/about/night_of_culture_2009.aspx).

### **Remember to complete your WPA – it is important to both you and LIFE**

Workplace assessment (WPA) surveys have now been sent to all LIFE staff, and we hope that you are already in the process of completing or have completed the surveys.

Remember there are two surveys (and, thus, two emails): One is a survey of the physical working environment, and one is a survey of the psychological working environment. It is important that you complete both surveys. A reminder will be sent by email to those who have not yet begun completing the surveys.

It is possible to stop the survey if you are interrupted in the process and to return to it when you have more time.

### **Did you accidentally delete one of the emails?**

- Look for it in the recycle bin in Groupwise and move it back to your inbox.
- If it is not in the recycle bin, send an email to Rikke Fatum ([rmf@life.ku.dk](mailto:rmf@life.ku.dk)), who will send you a new email with the link.

### **Wondering why you haven't received any emails with links to the surveys?**

- The emails are sent from [apv-life@survey.ku.dk](mailto:apv-life@survey.ku.dk), so do not look for emails sent from LIFE.
- Ask your department secretary whether there has been an error.
- Errors can be fixed! It is not too late until after 9 October.

Remember! The department with the highest response rate on both the physical and psychological WPAs will win coffee and cake at Café Væksthuset.

Enjoy yourselves!

Kind regards,

Henriette Lieblein, HR

Rikke Fatum, Campus Services

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

### **When life science meets with art**

'Climate Cows and Kangaroo Burps' is a photo exhibition in which 100 young people from Frederiksberg, inspired by a visit to LIFE's School Service, reflect on global warming and sustainability through the medium of photography.

Equipped with individual disposable cameras and plenty of good ideas, a group of young people explored their neighbourhoods and captured on film motifs that symbolise and illustrate in colour the major issues of the climate debate, such as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, animal pollution and environmental protection. Throughout the process, the young people worked with photographer and artist Kristina Elisabeth Steinbock, and together they selected the most meaningful photos for the 'Climate Cows and Kangaroo Burps' exhibition. The works, in the form of collages, photo series and individual photos combined with well-chosen rhymes and slogans, shout their messages loud and clear to the public.

#### **Life science and art**

Before the actual 'Climate Cows and Kangaroo Burps' exhibition, the young people visited the LIFE School Service where, in the expert hands of the lecturers, they learned about CO<sub>2</sub>, greenhouse gasses, pollution and much more. Afterwards, everyone was instructed in photographic techniques and artistic exposition by photographer and artist Kristina Elisabeth Steinbock. The objective of the educational project has been to challenge several different disciplines within the framework of the same project and explore the cross-field between life science and creative expression.

The exhibition is part of the Art & Sustainability event. Read more at

[www.frederiksberg.dk/kunstogbaeredygtighed](http://www.frederiksberg.dk/kunstogbaeredygtighed) (in Danish).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

### **Life at LIFE? – keep up-to-date by reading the *University Post* as well**

The online edition of the *University Post (Universitetsavisen)* regularly publishes good stories from Frederiksberg Campus – keep up-to-date at <http://universitypost.dk/faculty/life-science>.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 29 September 2009*

## **‘Mød Videnskaben’ at LIFE**

The next lecture in the science lecture series ‘Mød Videnskaben’ will take place on Wednesday 7 October. This time the title is:

### **Darwin and ethics**

Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species* permanently changed how humans view themselves. We are animals descendant from apes. But what about ethics? Are we allowed to behave like animals, or should we treat animals more like humans?

This year, we are celebrating Charles Darwin's 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his principal work. Modern life science is based on the concept of evolution. But the consequences of Darwin's theories reach beyond the natural sciences – they are just as relevant to our self-perception.

Meet two researchers from the University of Copenhagen: Professor Peter Sandøe from the Faculty of Life Sciences and Associate Professor Jakob Wolf from the Faculty of Theology. They will discuss, among other things, whether Darwinism can legitimise our perception of ourselves as one animal among many and therefore lead us to give up the idea that a special human dignity exists or whether, on the other hand, it means that we should treat animals with greater respect than we have done in the past.

This lecture is organised jointly by the University of Copenhagen and the Danish daily *Politiken*. The lecture lasts approx. 45 minutes and is followed by a debate. The event is open to everyone.

Register as usual at [www.politikenbillet.dk](http://www.politikenbillet.dk).

Time and place: Wednesday 7 October, 4.30-6 pm in the Main Lecture Hall, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Bülowsvej 17, Frederiksberg.

After the lecture, Café Væksthuset will be open, serving delicious refreshments at reasonable prices.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 28 September 2009*

## **Announcements**

### **PUMA courses for employees – also for international staff**

There are still places available on the following courses:

- for staff:

23/10 [Kom godt i gang med Discoverer \(Getting started with Discoverer\)](#)

26/10 [Styr på tiden – arbejder du rigtigt? \(Time management – are you working effectively?\)](#)

28/10 [Præsentationer der fænger – visuelle præsentationsteknik \(Memorable presentations – visual presentation techniques\)](#)

- 30/10 [Tilpasning af standardrapporter i Discoverer \(Adapting standard reports in Discoverer\)](#)  
3/11 [Workshop for webstedsansvarlige \(Workshop for website managers\)](#)  
9/11 [Cultural Awareness - sig goddag til din udenlandske kollega \(Say hello to your foreign colleague\)](#)  
11/11 [Skriv til nettet - brugervenlige tekster, der bliver læst \(Write for the Internet – user-friendly texts that are read\)](#)  
16/11 [Aktiv korrekturlæsning \(Active proofreading\)](#)  
24/11 [Billeder på web \(Photos on the web\)](#)  
25/11 [Eksternt finansieret virksomhed \(Externally funded activities\)](#)

- for international staff:

- 25/11 [Danish Living Crash Course](#)

See also [www.kursuskatalog.ku.dk](http://www.kursuskatalog.ku.dk) or the [course calendar](#) for other courses offered by HR & Organisation/PUMA.

*Godrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 29 September 2009*

## **New PhD websites**

The PhD Secretariat has launched two new PhD websites:

There is plenty of useful information available for students, supervisors and administrators on the following page: [www.life.ku.dk/phdintranet](http://www.life.ku.dk/phdintranet).

You will find PhD courses, regulations, forms, contact information and many useful links.

For students interested in starting a PhD study programme, this page - [www.life.ku.dk/English/education/phd.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/English/education/phd.aspx) - explains why LIFE is an attractive place to do a PhD.

**Jeppe Berggreen Høj, Study and Students' Affairs, [jebh@life.ku.dk](mailto:jebh@life.ku.dk)**

*Godrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 29 September 2009*

## **University Post no. 11 is ready for pick-up**

Dear readers,

A fresh batch of news is out in *University Post* No. 11. Snatch a copy from a stand on campus. You will find the *Post* on the flip side of *Universitetsavisen*.

Read about:

Internationals bombarded with Danish emails

Online: <http://universitypost.dk/article/internationals-bombarded-danish-e-mails>

Pigs with smokers' lungs

Online: <http://universitypost.dk/article/pigs-smokers-lungs>

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Climate activists from U of C in attempt to break into power station  
Online: <http://universitypost.dk/article/copenhagen-students-power-station-action>

Richard Bisgaard, Editor-in-Chief

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 29 September 2009*

### **Make your new colleague feel welcome – join the International Mentor Network!**

International Staff Mobility is starting up another group in the International Mentor Network with kick-off on Thursday 27 October, 2-5 pm.

Are you interested in being a mentor, then contact Anne Birgitte Tauris at [git@adm.ku.dk](mailto:git@adm.ku.dk) or on tel. 3532 4324. If you know any colleagues who might be interested in being part of our network, please tell them about us.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 28 September 2009*

### **Influenza vaccination 2009**

LIFE is again offering flu jabs for all Faculty staff.

The vaccinations will take place on the following days:

- 5 October 2009, 9-10 am, Skovskolen, Nødebovej 77A, main building, Nødebo
- 23 October 2009, 1-2.30 pm, Grønnegårdsvej 7, Library, 1st floor, Frederiksberg
- 26 October 2009 9-10.15 am, Rolighedsvej 23, room 4-02, ground floor, Frederiksberg
- 29 October 2009 12-12.15 pm, Hørsholm Kongevej 11, in the sick room, Hørsholm
- 4 November 2009, 12.30-2 pm, Thorvaldsensvej 40, room 1-02, Frederiksberg
- 5 November 2009, 1-3 pm, Højbakkegård Alle 30, room p-11 (canteen), Taastrup

Vaccination against A H1N1: LIFE has decided to follow the recommendations of the National Board of Health regarding information on prevention. We encourage any employees who believe they are at risk of being infected to contact their GP with a view to receiving the special vaccine.

**Camilla Willemoes Larsen, HR, [cwl@life.ku.dk](mailto:cwl@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 28 September 2009*

### **Climate Lectures autumn 2009 – featuring, among others, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

You are hereby invited to attend the Climate Lecture series at the University of Copenhagen, which is a part of the University's run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in December.

You can register and read more about upcoming lectures at [www.climate.ku.dk/climate\\_lectures](http://www.climate.ku.dk/climate_lectures).

The Climate Lectures will be moderated by Pro-rector Lykke Friis.

**1 October, 3-4.30 pm:** *Professor Diana Liverman, Oxford University: "Climate action beyond the nation state: Can local governments, businesses, NGOs and individuals make a difference?"*

Prof. Liverman is an expert in the human dimensions of climate change and Honorary Professor of Climate Change Research at the University of Copenhagen as well as Director of the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) at the Oxford University Centre for the Environment.

**3 October, 4-5 pm:** *UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "The Road to Copenhagen: Meeting the Climate Challenge".*

**24 October, 11 am-12.30 pm:** *British Minister for Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband (Member of the British Parliament)*

More information will follow on [the website](#).

**30 October, 12-1 pm:** *Danish Minister for Economic and Business Affairs Lene Espersen will talk about the Danish Government's newly launched business climate strategy. The lecture will be in Danish.*

**December:** *Chairman of the IPCC R. K. Pachauri and the Mayor's Summit. More information will follow on the website.*

Register and find more information on time and place here: [www.climate.ku.dk/climate\\_lectures](http://www.climate.ku.dk/climate_lectures).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 28 September 2009*

## Education

### Junior Researcher Forum: Primitive man decides for you

Junior Research Forum, 8 October, 5.15 pm.

Come and listen to Jens-Martin Bramsen, from FØI, talk about how evolutionary theory and psychology are revolutionising economics. Find out whether you make decisions in the same way as other primates and whether you are the kind of person who will probably pay too much at auctions. In short, help find out whether it all depends on our ability to recognise the head of a tiger.

Everyone is welcome.

Pizza and beer/soft drinks will be served.

Also remember, the deadline for registration for **Brain for a Night** is 15 October – for all LIFE students whose BSc projects and MSc theses have been approved this year and whose PhD theses have been approved in the academic year 2008/2009.

[Register online here](#).

**Knud Høgsberg, Faculty of Life Sciences Library, [knh@life.ku.dk](mailto:knh@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

### DDRN seminar – summary

Summary of the DDRN-funded seminar on matchmaking between the labour market and Master's students/recent graduates within the field of development work.

24 September from 1 to 4 pm.

### **Objectives**

There is often a gap in the labour market within the development sector between recent graduates in development studies and development organisations. This seminar therefore questions and evaluates the constraints and possible solutions to overcoming such 'gaps' by highlighting three core issues:

- Discussing and assessing the gap between recent graduates and the labour market
- Debating how to launch a career in the development sector
- Sharing ideas and knowledge between the invited organisations/companies, newly graduates and MSc students

### **Participating NGOs and companies**

Four organisations representing small and large NGOs and a private company were invited:

- Svalerne: A volunteer-based organisation. Svalerne is currently working in India and Bangladesh and is funded by earnings from fair trade and second-hand shops.
- MS – Action Aid Denmark: Has existed since 1963 as a volunteer programme; began with young nurses, teachers etc. who carried out development work. Now, also more academic influence. MS has several different staff members, e.g. advisor programmes – all advisors are recruited internationally. There are two levels of advisors; level 1 requires at least eight years of experience, level 2 at least four years of post-graduate experience, not necessarily in developing countries. MS plans to start a junior advisor programme, including internships and recent graduates.
- Nepenthes: An environmental organisation that originally worked primarily with forests and the sustainable use of rain forests. 1,500 members, 70 active. 7 full-time employees, 6 part-time. Funded mainly by DANIDA; focuses on sustainable natural resource management in Spanish-speaking countries. Nepenthes receives more and more funding from private donors.
- NIRAS A/S: Consultancy firm. Seven divisions, one is international consulting. Focuses on agribusiness, aquaculture, water, natural resource management, climate and other interest topics. Offices in Finland, Sweden and Poland. Many different donors: DANIDA, WB, ADB, Finland.

### **Participating MSc students and recent graduates**

The seminar was attended by approximately 100-110 students and recent Master's graduates from the following universities and faculties:

- Roskilde University (TekSam, Geography and International Development Studies)
- University of Copenhagen: Agricultural Development – Faculty of Life Sciences, Geography (development-related studies) – Faculty of Natural Sciences, Anthropology. Faculty of Social Sciences, Centre of African Studies – Faculty of Theology.
- Copenhagen Business School (CBS): MSc in Business, Language and Culture – Business and Development Studies (BADS)
- University of Aalborg: Development and International Relations

### **The panel discussion**

Several questions were raised during the discussion directed towards one of the participating NGOs or more open questions. Associate Professor Andreas de Neergaard, Faculty of Life Sciences, chaired the discussion.

## **Work experience**

Many questions concerned work experience and how many jobs require several years of experience, which makes it difficult for recent graduates to apply for these positions. The organisations recommended doing several development-related internships – volunteering for several different organisations during their studies or after graduation, and network building.

Several conclusions pointed to the fact that networking will lead to jobs.

Other related answers indicate that a relevant educational background is necessary when applying for a given development job but that volunteer and internship experience do count as well. Volunteer work of all kinds in Denmark also helps recent graduates.

## **The future**

Considering the large number of participating students and recent graduates with a background in development, there does not seem to be enough capacity in Denmark to employ such large numbers of people each year. Some organisations will employ more scientists and local staff in the developing countries, resulting in fewer positions for recent graduates from Denmark. Most of the organisations/companies do not have the capacity to hire large numbers of staff every year or to maintain graduate positions, but it is more likely that they can create volunteer positions, which also provide experience.

MS emphasised that young people in their partner countries have the same needs for jobs as young recent graduates in Denmark. This, in combination with the fact that several Danish organisations/companies look outside Denmark when they recruit, results in tough competition on the labour market of development work.

Recent graduates may have to apply for positions with foreign organisations/companies, and not only in specific regions but worldwide. Again, an internship is always an opportunity. A possible solution for some graduates might be to start something up on their own. As a response to a shift in paradigm to privately (business) run development, CBS has created a group that works combining development and business (DEVELOP), which might be an alternative idea compared to the more traditional development ideas.

The future might not look too bright considering the above discussion, but there are many ways to get into development and start a career. All the representatives from the organisations participating in the seminar explained that they started out as volunteers and did internships and ended in the development sector. One participant pointed out that if a recent graduate is willing to take on low-paid development work (which is more accessible), then after a few years, this could open up access to better jobs. In other words, the opportunities are there, but competition is tough. A good place to start is at the low end of the career path.

## **Concluding remarks**

- Networking is still one of the best ways to find a job – students within development should therefore start early to establish contacts with organisations/companies, other students etc. which may be useful later in their career
- Several relevant internships/volunteer programmes especially in development organisations/companies are highly recommendable
- A clear focus and direction during your studies is recommended as a way to show organisations/companies that as a recent graduate you have drive, passion and focus
- Recent graduates should look for positions globally in all parts of the developing world: Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Asia and not only in specific areas

*Marc Dumas-Johansen*

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

## **Seminar on Intercultural Competencies**

Do you teach a class with international students? Then join us for this seminar, where we will focus on intercultural competencies.

We are pleased to announce that Michael Paige, a renowned contributor to the field of intercultural communication and education, will conduct this seminar at LIFE.

Michael Paige, Professor of International and Intercultural Education, University of Minnesota, has over 45 years of professional experience in this field of study. His professional work as an educator and researcher has focused on questions regarding intercultural learning, the nature and impact of intercultural experiences (at home and abroad), the development of intercultural skills, intercultural education and training, and the internationalisation of education. At the heart of his inquiries is a profound interest in how human beings experience difference and diversity, and how those understandings frame their behaviour.

Date: 8 October 2009

Time: 10 am-12.30 pm

Place: A303, Thorvaldsensvej 40

Register by sending an email to Lenell Hansen, [lenell@life.ku.dk](mailto:lenell@life.ku.dk), before 6 October!

The seminar will be in English.

We look forward to seeing you!

*Cecilie Bech Lindgren, International Coordinator*

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 29 September 2009*

## **Staff news**

### **Professor Merete Fredholm member of the Board of the Danish Council for Independent Research**

Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation Helge Sander has appointed Professor Merete Fredholm, Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Science, member of the Board of the Danish Council for Independent Research for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

### **Affiliation: Göran Ståhl Affiliate Professor at Forest & Landscape**

The Rector has appointed Professor Göran Ståhl, PhD, SLU – Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Affiliate Professor of Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring at Forest & Landscape.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

## Research

### **Climate Change calls for new strategies in the forests**

Increasing temperatures, more powerful storms and changed patterns of precipitation in future are already causing problems for forest managers in Europe. A new research project with Forest & Landscape as a key partner seeks to prepare forest managers for climate change.

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

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

## Grants

### **Novo Scholarships 2010 in Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Novo Nordisk and Novozymes offer scholarships to support graduate training of some of the best students in biotechnology and the pharmaceutical sciences, including bioinformatics, molecular biology, systems biology, translational medicine, microbiology, protein chemistry, biophysics, pharmacology, medical research methodology, pharmacy, drug delivery and biomedical devices. The objective is to allow selected students at universities in Denmark and Lund University in Sweden to devote themselves full-time to their MSc theses.

[Read more about the scholarships here](#) – Deadline: 30 October 2009 at 12 noon.

**Berit Albrechtsen, Novo Nordisk, [baal@novonordisk.com](mailto:baal@novonordisk.com)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 30 September 2009*

## Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.