



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 11 March 2010

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, gjb@life.ku.dk

Life at LIFE

Anniversary celebration with plant biotechnology theme

Around 100 students and staff found their way to the Marble Hall when the Faculty celebrated its 152nd anniversary on Monday 8 March.

See photos on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=193357&id=19442716564&saved>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 March 2010

Large Danish companies can benefit from industrial professorships

Dean Per Holten-Andersen wants to put an end to bottlenecks when it comes to transferring knowledge from universities to large companies. To this end, the Faculty of Life Sciences has now appointed Denmark's first two industrial professors – a concept that is very relevant to all universities and faculties in Denmark.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 March 2010

Announcements

Pay negotiations for 2010 have started!

Staff members may submit proposals via their staff representative or trade union (if there is no staff representative). Staff members who are subject to the management pay rules and other staff members with the right to independent negotiations may submit proposals themselves.

Staff members who are not members of a union may submit their own proposals directly via the payroll mailbox.

You can find the proposal form etc. on the staff portal under [HR/under ansættelsen/løn/lønforhandling](#) – where you can also find other useful tools.

The deadline for submitting proposals to loenrunde2010@life.ku.dk is Friday 9 April 2010.

The Institute of Food and Resource Economics (FØI) and Forest & Landscape have their own pay negotiations.

At LIFE, we have a number of different pay agreements etc. You can find them on the staff portal under [HR/under ansættelsen/løn](#) or in the Staff Handbook.

Jesper Lorenzen, HR, jelo@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 March 2010

Pro-rector

The University of Copenhagen is looking for a dynamic and inspiring personality with the ability to lead for the position of Pro-rector.

[Read the job ad \(in Danish\) here: http://ku.easycruit.com/vacancy/388119/26691?iso=dk](http://ku.easycruit.com/vacancy/388119/26691?iso=dk)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 8 March 2010

Education

UN Newsletter – March 2010

Dear UN people

I hope you all enjoyed your week off.

I would like to draw your attention to our magazine FNAT block 3 which has just been released. I hope it is a magazine you all will look in once in a while. It is the UN magazine, and here you can read what is happening, and there are both serious and less serious articles. There is also a page about the work of the UN board, where the subjects we are working on right now are described. In that way, you can always be updated on what's happening. I admit that most of it is in Danish, but this time there are two articles in English, and I'm sure more

will come. One of the articles is about internationalisation at LIFE.

LIFE celebrated its anniversary on Monday 8 March, and as per tradition, the UN distributed three grants called 'The International Grant for Natural Resource Students' (DKK 3,000). They go to an international student on each of the three Erasmus Mundus programmes: Agris Mundus, Sofonama and Sutrofor. The winners this year were Nina Bienz from Canada (Agris Mundus), Shauna Deidre Matkovich from Canada (Sutrofor) and Seid Muhie Dawud from Ethiopia (Sofonama). Congratulations. As you can see, there are many interesting points in this newsletter, so I will not waste your time more, but just urge you to continue reading. There is at least one large event which is worth noting, and this event has now finally been given a date...

Finally, I would just like to say that I hope we see as many as possible at the UN(FN)/FB/FLS/LSF gala party on Saturday 20 March. I am sure it will be a good event, with beautiful people, good food, (perhaps a speech or two), dancing, a lively atmosphere and happy days. This is guaranteed to be a good party!

Andreas Carstensen

UN Chairman

New office

We've just finished working on our new office at 'Rådet'. On 26 March we're going to throw an event and you're very welcome to stop by for a drink and a snack. Hope to see some of you.

On behalf of the board,

Anders Peter Skøtt Frederiksen

UN and FB share thoughts

UN and FB have a lot of things in common, and the biggest one must be the Fresher trips. With that on the agenda, the two boards decided to have a meeting together. The main subject was the names of the Fresher trips and ideas for the instructor group. We made a set of guidelines regarding the names and we also agreed that it could be a good idea for the instructors to have a teambuilding day to get new ideas for games and stuff.

Nadia B. Nord - UN Fresher contact

UN invests some of their money

At the UN general assembly on 16 October, it was agreed that the UN treasurer could invest part of UN's money to get a potentially higher return on its assets. During the last board meeting, an investment proposal was accepted and it has now been executed.

The principles of the investment proposal were that we should invest at a low-risk and that the investment should be clear and easy to handle.

Furthermore we have a long time horizon (5+ years) and need a low-risk profile. After an appointment with 2 investment advisors at Danske Bank, it was agreed that it would be wise to invest half of UN's assets. Currently, UN's assets are worth roughly DKK 660,000.

Of this total amount, 12% was already invested in a low-risk, long-term bond fund (DI Lange DK Obl.). On top of this, we will invest roughly 30% in a low-risk, short-term bond fund (DI Dannebrog), roughly 6% in a medium-risk global stock fund (DI Index Verden) and 2% in a high-risk global climate change fund (DI Klimatrends). In this way, our total portfolio will be low-risk, responsible investment which should be easy to handle by future treasurers.

Klimatrends is a fund which invests in companies that create climate-friendly products. For example, a company that produces video-conference technology, so that people don't have to fly as often to attend meetings, or Vestas. The UN board chose this investment to show that UN is an environmentally conscious union, which makes its money work in a responsible way.

Part of the outstanding money has been transferred from the regular account (with just 0.125% interest) to an account with a higher yield (2-3% interest).

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to ask UN's treasurer (Gijs Stevers).

gijssstevens@dsr.life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 March 2010

Staff news

Grant recipients: Nina Bienz, Shauna Deidre Matkovich and Seid Muhie Dawud

The International Grant for Natural Resource Students is awarded every year on the Faculty's anniversary to an international student on each of the three Erasmus Mundus programmes – Agris Mundus, Sofonama and Sutrofor – who has performed extraordinarily well during his or her studies.

This year's grant was awarded to Nina Bienz from Canada (Agris Mundus), Shauna Deidre Matkovich from Canada (Sutrofor) and Seid Muhie Dawud from Ethiopia (Sofonama).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 March 2010

'The Golden Bull Award' (Den Gyldne Tyr): Zoology live at LIFE

Professor Christian Kapel received this year's Golden Bull Award which is given every year by the students to the best lecturer at LIFE.

Christian Kapel, 46, holds a degree in biology from the University of Copenhagen and a PhD in parasitology. Since completing his studies, he has worked for the US Department of Agriculture, participated in two major EU projects and worked at the basic research centre, the Danish Centre for Experimental Parasitology. He is also a man who likes to see his research applied in practice. He has, among other things, founded a company that grows parasite eggs for human medicines and is involved in the development of new technology that automates the identification of parasites in meat in the food industry. Christian Kapel is responsible for courses within a

variety of parasitological disciplines as well as veterinary physiology and anatomy. He is also Director of Study of the MSc in Parasitology at LIFE.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 March 2010

The Innovation Prize: Lose weight with your mobile

Professor Arne Astrup has been awarded LIFE's Innovation Prize 2010 for his innovative work in connection with the start-up of a project that actively uses mobile phones in an effort to make positive changes in people's lifestyles. The innovative project is called Mobile Fitness and is now an independent enterprise.

The aim of Mobile Fitness is to motivate participants to change their behaviour. Every day, the participants receive customised information on diet and exercise via their mobile phones. And the fact that advice on nutrition and exercise is always right at hand and is provided in a motivational manner is crucial for achieving a long-term effect.

The Department of Human Nutrition has gained significant experience over the years with what works when people need to lose weight or change their lifestyles. One aspect the researchers have found to be important is that lifestyle changes must be made in motivational environments. For example, on a course, at a workshop or in a similar context. This can be a challenge, however, as such initiatives are often expensive. Mobile Fitness has the notable advantage that it is an inexpensive programme to participate in, and it is part of the user's daily life.

LIFE's Innovation Prize is awarded every year to a member of the staff or student body who has made a major contribution in the area of innovation and collaboration with the business community.

Find out more at www.mobilefitness.dk

Charlotte Aabo

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 March 2010

World-class plant biotechnology researchers receive the Communication Prize 2010

On the Faculty's anniversary on Monday 8 March 2010, a team of LIFE researchers were awarded the LIFE Communication Prize 2010 for their special efforts to give companies, policy makers, upper secondary school teachers and thousands of lucky pupils all over Denmark the chance to experience leading-edge research in plant biotechnology.

Professor Barbara Halkier, IPB, and Professor Jan Schj rting, IJ , received the prize on behalf of the team.

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New industrial ambassador to strengthen Danish-Chinese university collaboration

Former CEO of Danisco A/S, Mogens Granborg, is now affiliated with LIFE as special advisor on the Faculty's coming research and education partnerships with China. The initiative will strengthen strategically important knowledge sharing as well as helping to increase the exchange of students and research competencies between Denmark and China.

Research

New composition of the Forum for Research-Based Public-Sector Services

On 9 March 2010, the Rectors' Conference executive committee appointed a chair and deputy chair in extension of the universities' admission of new members of the Forum for Research-Based Public-Sector Services (FFM). The FFM now has the following members:

Director Niels Axel Nielsen (chair), DTU

Pro-rector Søren E. Frandsen (deputy chair), AU

Associate Dean Erik Bisgaard Madsen, KU

Dean Ole Skøtt, SDU

Director Thorkild Ærø, AAU

University Director Peter Lauritzen, RUC

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Conference: Adapting Animal Production to Changes for a Growing Human Population

The University of Lleida (Spain) will host the Conference 'Adapting Animal Production to Changes for a Growing Human Population' from 19 to 21 May 2010.

The conference is organised by the Department of Animal Production at the University of Lleida in the framework of the activities held by the Ensminger Endowment, which traditionally supports international courses in the area of animal sciences all over the world.

The conference programme includes current topics related to animal husbandry, such as global food trade, animal health, animal genetics, animal welfare, environmental challenges, produce quality, as well as professional training for researchers and for stockbreeding businessmen/businesswomen. Each topic will be introduced by recognised speakers.

Further information about the conference is available at: <http://www.aap2010.udl.cat>

Please note that, in order to stimulate student participation, the registration fees for students are quite affordable.

The early registration fee only applies before 31 March 2010.

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Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 March 2010

Fertiliser for Danish plant research

The University of Copenhagen now seeks to be among the very best in the world with a new and ambitious plant research centre, which will be ready in about five years. The Copenhagen Plant Science Center, which will be part of the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, is certain to send the faculty skyrocketing to among the top two or three plant science research centres in the world. "Today, we are already a world leader, but now we are creating the optimum environment, and this will attract leading foreign researchers and PhD students," says Dean of the Faculty Per Holten-Andersen. [Link to main article \(in Danish\)](#).

Press clip: *Berlingske Tidende*, Friday 5 March 2010, section 1, page 14

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Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the [Research & Information website](#).