



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 8 November 2007

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, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk

Life at LIFE

Election meeting at LIFE on 8 November – meet candidates from four parties

Come and hear the parties' view on education, research and other important topics of the election campaign. The meeting is open to everyone, so bring your girlfriend or boyfriend, your wife or husband and your friends to at heated debate.

Time and place: 8 November from 4.00 to 5.00 pm in lecture hall 3-02, Thorvaldsensvej 40

4.00 pm: Presentations by the candidates:

Social Democrats: Jacob Bjerregaard, Chairman of the Social Democratic Youth of Denmark (DSU)

Liberal Party: Rikke Hvilshøj, Minister of Integration

Socialist People's Party: Balder Mørk Andersen, student at the University of Copenhagen and candidate in Frederiksberg

Danish People's Party: Martin Henriksen, Danish People's Party spokesman on education in the Danish Parliament.

4.30 pm: Questions from the audience and debate across party lines

You can contact the candidates via their websites:

<http://rikke.venstre.dk>

<http://www.jacobbjerregaard.dk>

<http://www.baldersf.dk/>

<http://www.martinhenriksen.dk/>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Where is the horse buried?

In Denmark, the saying normally goes: "So that's where the dog is buried" (there's the rub), but in this case it would also be interesting to know where the horse is buried.

The history of the Danish Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University here in Frederiksberg dates back almost 150 years. Thus, 2008 marks the 150th birthday of our old campus and will be celebrated in many different ways throughout the Faculty of Life Sciences which, following the merger with the University of Copenhagen, is the new name for the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. Our former logo with the royal crown has been replaced by an image of the small horse statue, which was actually the preliminary work for the equestrian statue in Amalienborg Palace Square. When the Veterinary School in Christianshavn moved to our premises in Frederiksberg, the small plaster horse statue came as well and has now, after a bronze patination process, been given pride of place in the foyer by the main lecture hall in the main building. When the Faculty started looking for a new logo, the horse statue was the obvious choice for a motif, as the very reason for establishing the Veterinary School was to educate veterinary surgeons to look after the Danish horse population. In addition to the horse statue, our new logo also includes three ears of corn, thus fittingly symbolising the main fields under the Faculty: the study of animals, plants and nutrition.

The Communication Department has many plans for the celebration of the Faculty's anniversary, and a couple of us from the Gardens have also been invited to a brainstorming meeting to come up with ideas on how the Gardens could contribute to the birthday celebrations.

In addition to a number of free guided tours during the anniversary year, I thought to depict our new logo using daffodils with the text *FREDERIKSBERG CAMPUS 150 ÅR*, so that a birthday bed of blooming daffodils could be seen in the lawn next spring.

On our photocopier, I made an enlargement of the horse logo and placed it on dimensioned squared paper. Then I placed the text and now had an idea of how many bulbs would be needed for the project. I ordered the bulbs and when they arrived a week later I embarked on the exciting project.

The horse logo itself will be placed within a four metre wide circle, so I rammed a pole down into the centre of the circle, thus making it easy to dig up turf in a perfect circle using a spade and a rope.

So far so good, because now I had to dig up the text from the lawn. My original plan was to place the text on straight lines, but in the process I realised that it would be better for the text to follow the circle. I therefore placed the rope in the centre again and made some nice arches outside the circle as background for the text. My original intention was to make the letters 75 cm high, but it soon became clear that they were far too small, so I doubled their size. Each letter was given a width of 70 cm and the space between each letter was 40 cm, which meant that I could place the letters on the bottom line. I then faced the problem that each letter was narrower near the centre than on the outer edge, which is quite logical when you think about it. But what to do? Then the theorem of Pythagoras jumped to mind. By making a parallel displacement of the circle, then I

could diagonalise the hypotenuse, and once squared it would be spot on, leaving me with perfect letters – narrow on the inside and wide on the outside.

After working hard on the letters for some time, it annoyed me that I had not only written *HAVEN 150 år*, but was actually halfway into *Frederiksberg* and it was too late. When I had finished cutting the letters, I placed the bulbs in the furrows and replaced the turf.

Next on the agenda was the horse, so I made a number of measuring points in the circle and using my inch rule placed a rope and fixed it to the ground. All I had to do now was remove the turf within the perimeter of the rope, making it look like a horse. The horse that came to light in the lawn actually turned out very beautiful, and it was easy to see that it was neither a dog nor an elephant. Along the edges of the horse, I placed the bulbs closely together, and the rest of the horse was filled in with daffodil bulbs as well. For the horse alone, 1,100 bulbs were used, and for the entire project no less than 2,495 bulbs, all of the miniature *Tête-à-Tête* species.

The entire project took two and a half days to prepare and complete, including the time spent on explaining what I was doing to all the curious visitors to the Gardens.

The bed is right in the middle of the lawn, between the large ginkgo in the rockery and Bülowsvej. But apart from some unorganised blades of grass, there is nothing to see now. We just all have to wait until next spring, and then I hope that the daffodils look like a buried horse and not a dog or an elephant. Time will tell.





Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 November 2007

Department of Plant Biology at the Experimentarium

What is your ethical profile? Find the answer at the Experimentarium in Hellerup this weekend. During the Ethics Day, the possibilities of science will be debated by, among other things, presenting different dilemmas related to the advances of research.

The Department of Plant Biology will be participating with a dilemma on genetic modification – is it the solution to all our problems or are we tampering with something which we shouldn't be? Your answer determines your ethical profile.

The event will take place at the Ethics Square (*Etik Torvet*) on Sunday 11 November from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm. There will also be other Ethics Day events all day Saturday, see www.experimentarium.dk

Kirstine Therkelsen, Department of Plant Biology, kith@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Announcements

Room administration up and running again by the end of the week

At the moment, the room administration is experiencing disturbances. As a result of this, it has been difficult to book rooms for teaching.

The reason for the problems is the transition to a new booking system.

Three persons are working hard to solve the problems. In the meantime, we hope that you will bear with us and kindly ask you to contact Room Administration only when absolutely necessary.

All enquires will be dealt with by the end of the week at the latest.

Marianne Vejen Hansen, Buildings and Operation

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 November 2007

Construction work at the Gimle square

For several years, the Gimle square has been a gravel square full of holes. Now, the work of art that has been planned for so long will finally take form.

The work will start in the week beginning 11 November, and the square will be closed to all traffic, both pedestrians and cars. The main entrance to Gimle will be closed during the construction period, so there will only be access to the Gimle building from Dyrølægevej 15 (the courtyard by A-vej)

The construction work is expected to be completed by May 2008.

The work of art is by the artist Bjørn Nørgaard.

It is an allegory of culture/nature and will be a mosaic of large granite stones, both smooth and matt-finished. Some of the stones have engravings, providing a relief effect in daylight hours. A "DNA cord" is placed across the face of the work.

A model of the piece can be seen in the entrance hall in building 1-02, and everyone is welcome to come and have a look.

Annette Nylev, Buildings and Operation, an@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 November 2007

Course: Catchy writing

Would you like to learn how to write texts that catch people's attention?

Now is your chance to learn how to spice up your language. On Saturday 17 November, *Scient* will be holding a writing course from 10 am to 1 pm at Fiolstræde 10. The speakers all have a professional background in journalism and communication.

The course is intended to help people who would like to get started writing journalistic articles. Participation is free, but registration is necessary as we only have a limited number of places available. Please register by providing you name and line of study in an email to ida@alsing.nu.

Scient is a magazine for science students produced by students. At the course, you will get the opportunity to talk to the volunteers.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

“GroupWise calendar” course, 22 November, 9.00 am to 12.00 noon

Learn how to control appointments in GroupWise – create, approve, reject and insert appointments with fixed intervals. Various authorisation options. Learn how to print the calendar. More advanced functions will also be presented. The course will be a combination of demonstrations and hands-on exercises.

Coffee, tea, water and biscuits will be served.

Register for the GroupWise course and the other courses offered by the IT Learning Centre this autumn at:

<http://itlc.life.ku.dk/kurser.aspx>

Søren Larsen, IT Learning Centre, larsen@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

BioCampus Symposium: Synthetic Biology – (Re)Creating Life

– A symposium about life and its origins organised by the BioCampus Research Priority Area at the University of Copenhagen

Monday 19 November 2007

What is life? Where and how did it begin?

Finding the answers to these fundamental, existential questions is the goal of the natural sciences. The progress made in recent years within molecular biology and chemistry has provided detailed and complex descriptions of life processes. Nevertheless, we still do not understand what life is from a scientific point of view.

At this symposium, international experts in the fields of synthetic biology will discuss the essence of life and the possibilities of creating artificial life.

Programme

9.15 am: Introduction by Peter E. Nielsen, University of Copenhagen

09.30 am: Professor Pier Luigi Luisi, University of Rome

10.30 am: Professor Günter von Kiedrowskii, University of Bochum

11.30 am: Professor Andrew Ellington, University of Texas

12.30 pm: Lunch

2.00 pm: Introduction to round table discussion

2.45 pm: Round table discussion

4.00 pm: Conclusion of symposium

Place

University of Copenhagen, Bispetorv 1-3, Alexandersalen (morning);

University of Copenhagen, Studiestræde 6, Anneks A (afternoon)

Registration

Everyone is welcome, but registration is necessary. Please register at [Else Uhrenfeldt](#) by Monday 12 November at the latest.

For more information, see www.ku.dk/satsning/Biocampus/aktiviteter/Synthetic_Biology.htm

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Information meeting for new employees in 2008

The next information meeting for new employees will be held on 28 January 2008 in the main lecture hall 1-01, Bülowsvej 17, at 9.30 am.

Please register with Susanne Magnusson, HR, by Friday 14 January 2008, at the latest.

Other information meetings in 2008:

7 April 2008, 9.30 am

9 June 2008, 9.30 am

25 August 2008, 9.30 am

27 October 2008, 9.30 am

Susanne Magnusson, HR, sma@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

World conference on scientific communication – Extension of deadline

The PCST conference on scientific communication will be held from 25 to 27 June 2008 in Malmö, Lund and Copenhagen.

The deadline for abstracts/proposals has been extended until 30 November 2007 to ensure that all those interested have the opportunity to submit their contribution to the conference.

Please register your abstracts/proposals at:

<http://www.vr.se/pcst>

Karin Mortensen, Danish Science Communication, km@formidling.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Cultural agreement grants 2008/2009

Study abroad with a cultural agreement grant! Available for both students and scientists.

For most countries, the application deadline for stays in the 2008/2009 academic year is 1 December 2007 – there are, however, deadlines both before and after that date.

http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/nyt_meddelelser/2007/~/_/media/MEDARB/kom/nyhedsbrev/2007_dokumenter/Generelt_opslag_uden_sommerkurser.ashx
[Click here for more information.](#)

You can also apply for a cultural agreement grant for summer courses (language courses) in 2008 - [click for more information.](#)

Annica Nielsen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, anie@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

ICA-NASULGC Conference: Moving from the Sciences of Agriculture to the Sciences of Life

From 5 to 8 April 2008 the ICA-NASULGC Conference will be held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, USA. The title of the conference is: **Moving from the Sciences of Agriculture to the Sciences of Life: An International Perspective**. See the Conference flyer (attachment). More details can be found at the Conference website <http://cafnr.missouri.edu/nasulgc>. The Conference follows in the sequence of the ICA-NASULGC biannual conferences focusing on educational issues in our disciplines.

The broad aim of the Conference will be to compare and contrast the approaches to developing the life science institution on either side of the Atlantic. The three main themes are:

- * Defining the life science institution
- * Curriculum innovation in the life sciences
- * Change management for the life science institution

You are invited to contribute a paper to the conference on one of these themes, contributions will be selected on the basis of abstracts submitted by **1 December 2007** - see the website for details.

[Flyer](#)

The registration fee for the Conference is USD 200 (a good deal at current exchange rates) and special deals have been arranged with the hotels.

The first days of the Conference are in Columbia with the final day in St Louis. The University has undertaken to transport delegates arriving on Saturday from the airport at St. Louis (Lambert-St. Louis International Airport <http://www.lambert-stlouis.com/>, airport code STL) to Columbia between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm. After 4.00 pm on Saturday, you should take a shuttle service - details on the Conference web site. If you arrive on Friday evening the University will also arrange transport to Columbia depending upon demand - please contact the Conference office.

Annica Nielsen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, anie@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Education

Course: Catchy writing

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Staff news

New communications officer in the students' association DSR: Janus Juell-Sundby

Janus holds a BSc in business studies and is about to complete his communications degree at Roskilde University.

If you have a contribution for DSR's newsletter, please send an email to janusjs@dsr.life.ku.dk

See also <http://netforum.dsr.kvl.dk/perl/udvlist/type-dsr?udvid=17972>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Research

The University of Copenhagen Programmes of Excellence awards met with both happiness and disappointment at LIFE

The University of Copenhagen has just announced who will be awarded the 20 Programmes of Excellence which no less than 111 research projects have been competing for. Scientists from LIFE will be involved in three of the 20 programmes, and Dean Per Holten-Andersen is both pleased and disappointed with the outcome:

"I am, of course, happy that some of our competent scientists have been awarded some of the so-called Programmes of Excellence funds. The scientists in question are making a great effort and they fully deserve this extra funding. On the other hand, considering the fact that we at LIFE have several world-class scientists within their fields, I find it disappointing that we have not been awarded a larger share of the funding here at LIFE."

The whole concept of the Programmes of Excellence had been decided before LIFE and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FARMA) became part of the University of Copenhagen. So LIFE and FARMA may not have had the necessary understanding of the process. Irrespective of what lies behind the outcome, Per Holten-Andersen says that it is now time for serious self-examination.

"The unsatisfactory outcome – that is, the fact LIFE did not obtain a larger share of the total funding awarded – clearly forces us to consider what went wrong in the process. I will make sure that we will look into this. We also need to analyse how we should act and prioritise our resources in the future to ensure that our competent scientists in other contexts obtain the funding they deserve, in the light of their strong professionalism," says Per Holten-Andersen.

The Dean has called a meeting of the management of LIFE and all heads of department to discuss the Programme of Excellence process on Monday and Tuesday next week.

Facts about the Programme of Excellence and LIFE's participation:

In order to strengthen basic research, the University of Copenhagen has set up a Programme of Excellence where researchers have been given the opportunity, via the university's faculties, to apply for up to DKK 5 million a year for up to five years for research projects in existing or new scientific areas. In early November, the Rector's Office completed the evaluation of the applications for the Programme of Excellence.

On 1 June 2007, the eight deans received 111 applications, of which eight came from other Danish and foreign universities.

The deans began assessing all applications received, and based on these assessments, the deans selected a total of 48 applications which they sent to the Rector's Office on 14 September 2007.

On 29 and 30 October 2007, ten independent international and professionally wide-ranging referees met in Copenhagen for a two-day seminar headed by the Rector's Office to review the 48 applications. Based on their advice to the Rector's Office, 20 applications will be awarded funding under the Programme of Excellence.

An application exclusively from the Faculty of Life Sciences has been awarded funding, namely, a project headed by Professor Jacob Weiner from the Department of Ecology: "Evolutionary Agroecology: Developing high density communal crop plants for weed suppression and increased sustainability."

In addition, LIFE scientists have a share in two other cross-faculty projects: "Statistical Methods for Complex and High Dimensional Models," in which Professor Ib Michael Skovgaard from the Department of Natural Sciences are participating, and "Center for Macroecology and Evolution: How to explain distribution and life on Earth," in which Research Professor Thomas Krogsaard Kristensen from the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology is participating.

Read more at: <http://www.ku.dk/stjerneprogrammer/>

For more information, please contact:
Jacob Søby Bang, Head of Communications

Grants

Energy Forum EF research grant

Energy Forum EF has received a research grant from Nordic Energy Research, which also covers the costs of a Best Student Paper Awards competition in the interface between energy, climate and technology (ECT), for students at the Master or PhD levels in the Nordic countries.

A guideline for the awards competition is attached.

Please note that the deadline for submission of papers is 31 January 2008.

[For more information about Energy Forum EF.](#)

Annica Nielsen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, anie@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2007

Research funds etc.

See the online version at

http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx

Here you will find all calls with active links