



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 3 December 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

Budget cutbacks at LIFE: Joint meeting on Monday 14 December

As most members of staff will probably already have been told by their immediate superior, the University of Copenhagen is facing a budgetary challenge in 2010 in that the basic resources are decreasing despite growing student numbers and an increase in research funding. As a consequence, we must effect savings which could also mean redundancies.

The University of Copenhagen Board is expected to adopt next year's budget on Thursday 10 December 2009. Dean Per Holten-Andersen will brief staff on the consequences of the final budget for LIFE at a joint meeting on 14 December, 12 noon-1pm, in auditorium 3-01. Please note this meeting in your calendar.

If you have questions that you would like to have answered at the meeting, you are welcome to send them to eLIFE now at elife@life.ku.dk. Please write 'Joint meeting on 14 December' in the subject field.

The rector briefed the collaboration committees in a letter on 26 November 2009.

Read the letter here: http://kureren.ku.dk/pdf/rektorbrev_budget2010_uk.pdf/

University Post: University to fire 130 staff - <http://universitypost.dk/article/university-fire-130-staff>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 December 2009

Christmas market at Skovskolen in Nødebo

It is again time for the annual Christmas market at Skovskolen in Nødebo.

The market will be open on:

- Sunday 13 December, 10 am-4 pm
- Saturday 19 December, 10 am-4 pm
- Sunday 20 December, 10 am-4 pm

Activities at the market will include, sale of Christmas trees and greenery, horse-drawn carriage rides and Danish pancake balls, hot cocoa and mulled wine served in the students' cosy log cabin bar.

This is the perfect opportunity to spend a couple of fun hours with the family in the beautiful surroundings near the lake Esrum Sø.

The Christmas market is hosted by forestry and landscape students, and this year's profits will go to their study tour abroad in their fourth year.

[Read more on the website.](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 30 November 2009

Welcome – Do come in! – Sunday Visits

Residence hall life, yes – but international students rarely get the chance to visit a Danish home and participate in typical family activities.

For the Sunday Visits project on 22 November, 60 international LIFE students were invited to Danish homes for Sunday lunch (with pickled herring!) and coffee and cake with plenty of opportunity to share stories about family structures, traditions and daily life.

The students had a great day and learned a lot about a part of Denmark they had not yet experienced. "If I should give a mark for this programme out of 10, I would give it 12!" says Meng from China. The hosts also expressed how much they enjoyed meeting the international students, hearing about their backgrounds and having the chance to practise their English. "An afternoon like that also gives you the opportunity to reflect on your own culture and on how we live in Denmark," said Kirsten from Denmark.

The project was organised in collaboration with Rotary. We would like to thank the many LIFE colleagues who supported the project and opened the doors to their homes.

Read the article in the *University Post*: [Out of Africa, and into suburbia.](http://universitypost.dk/article/out-africa-and-suburbia)
<http://universitypost.dk/article/out-africa-and-suburbia>

Anne-Grethe Routley, Study and Students' Affairs, agr@life.ku.dk

Announcements

KUreeren – 30 November 2009

The latest issue of *KUreeren* is out – [read it here](#).

In this issue of *KUreeren*, you can read the following articles:

Væksten der blev væk (The growth that never was)

The University of Copenhagen's budget for 2010 is full of contradictions. Our income is increasing, but our financial latitude is shrinking. There will be more money for PhD students, but less for their supervisors. New buildings can be built, but there will be fewer employees to work in them. [Read more](#)

Budget 2010: Fem rappe til rektor (Budget 2010: Five quick questions for the Rector)

The University of Copenhagen will have less and less funding at its disposal over the next four years. Should we expect cutbacks at the University every year? How will that affect how a university is run? And what has the Rector's Office done to influence the outcome of the Finance Act negotiations? [Read more](#)

Guðrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 December 2009

The University's e-Christmas card

The University of Copenhagen's Season's Greetings card is in electronic format again this year. Send this link along with a personal greeting to colleagues and associates: www.ku.dk/ecard/2009.

Guðrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 December 2009

University of Copenhagen elections

During the period 10-15 December 2009, ordinary elections will be held for student representatives on the University Board, academic councils, study boards and PhD study committees and for academic staff representatives on the study boards.

The lists of candidates can be seen on PUNKT KU under Selvbetjening/Valg/Valglist (Self service/Elections/Electoral registers). Many of the elections will be uncontested because there was only one nominee on a prioritised list or the same number of nominees as number of mandates on a coordinated list. In such cases, there will be no vote.

For student representatives, the contested elections are for:

University Board

FARMA (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences): BSc and MSc Study Board and PhD Committee

HUM (Faculty of Humanities): Academic Council and Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies Study Board, Other Cross-Cultural Studies Representation Area

JURA (Faculty of Law): Academic Council and Department of Law Study Board

NAT (Faculty of Science): Academic Council and MSc Study Board

SAMF (Faculty of Social Sciences): Academic Council and Political Science Study Board

SUND (Faculty of Health Sciences): Academic Council and Medicine Study Board

For academic staff representatives, the contested elections are for:

HUM (Faculty of Humanities): Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics Study Board, Department of Scandinavian Research Representation Area and Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies Study Board, Middle East Representation Area.

It will be possible to vote from 10 am on 10 December until 3 pm on 15 December on PUNKT KU under Selvbetjening/Valg/Afstemning (Self Service/Elections/Voting).

Further information about the elections:

Election Secretariat, Frue Plads 1, 1168 Copenhagen K

KU-valg@adm.ku.dk, www.ku.dk/valg

Election Secretary: Preben Liljendahl, tel.: +45 353 22809

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 December 2009

The CIP course catalogue for spring semester 2010 is now online

Language training services for staff and students at the University of Copenhagen

CIP's course catalogue for spring semester 2010 is now online. In the catalogue, you will find the language courses offered in spring semester 2010, including courses developed for administrative, teaching and research staff who wish to improve their English language proficiency and courses for international employees who wish to learn Danish or improve their Danish language skills.

In addition to our general language courses, customised language courses and one-on-one language training, we also offer a range of other services that can help employees cope with the language-related challenges resulting from the implementation of the University's internationalisation strategy.

Please note: Many of our scheduled Danish and English courses close for registration in January.

To find out more about our courses and about how to register, please see the course catalogue:

[Link to the English version of the course catalogue](#)

[Link to the Danish version of the course catalogue](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 30 November 2009

Other occupations must be reported

The Main Joint Consultation Committee has adopted a set of [University of Copenhagen Rules for Other Occupations](#) (in Danish). The objective of the guidelines is to safeguard the public reputation of employees as well as to ensure and specify their legal position in relation to other occupations.

The guidelines apply to everyone whose principal employer is the University of Copenhagen – including PhD students.

Employees at the University of Copenhagen are required to submit pre-notification of other occupations via a special form – included with the guidelines – which must be submitted to the head of department.

But what constitute other occupations?

Other occupations are professional work activities that undertaken within your focus area in a broad sense and that are not anchored at the University of Copenhagen.

The guidelines list the following examples:

- Employment with other public or private-sector undertakings, including own business
- Membership of the board of executives and/or directors in commercial undertakings or foundations
- Work on committees, commissions or expert groups
- Extended teaching obligations at other institutions
- Advisory/consultancy work for private or public-sector enterprises

In the past, LIFE has operated with special exemptions from the obligation to report that simply required that the management was informed of the situation.

Such exemptions are no longer possible – any activities constituting other occupations within the employee's focus area in broad terms must be reported.

Karen Vestergaard Petersen, HR, kvp@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 30 November 2009

Student church service on Thursday 3 December at 7 pm

Take a break full of peace, light and joy... and mulled wine and Danish pancake balls!

Come to the student Christmas service and meet other students in Frederiksberg (from CBS, LIFE and the teacher training college Frederiksberg Seminarium) and catch your breath in an atmosphere of lovely music and candlelight. Afterwards, Danish pancake balls and mulled wine will be served in the vestry, and perhaps a few Christmas carols will be sung.

THEME: A moment's reflection on happiness...

The service will take place at Sct. Lucas Church, Christian Richardtsvej 1, 1951 Frederiksberg C (side street to Falkoner Allé close to Frederiksberg Shopping Centre).

Thursday 3 December, 7-7.45 pm followed by mulled wine and Danish pancake balls

Everyone is welcome!

Charlotte Cappi Grunnet

Student Minister in Frederiksberg

Contact: ccg@km.dk

or on tel.: +45 3030 6494

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 30 November 2009

Education

Certification of lecturers' English language skills

The University of Copenhagen's [Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use \(CIP\)](#) has now completed the certification of the English language skills of 54 University of Copenhagen lecturers and tested the certification programme on a number of test subjects at LIFE.

At CIP's symposium on 13 November, the academic staff members who have worked on the certification process talked about their experiences to date with the certification process and the Centre's future plans, including an agreement to certify 250 lecturers at LIFE over the next three years. On the CIP website, you can read more about the [certification procedures, the assessment scale etc.](#)

CIP has now existed for one year. During its first year, the Centre's academic staff worked on, among other things, certification of the English language skills of lecturers affiliated with the Copenhagen Masters of Excellence study programmes, which are offered in English. CIP also carried out surveys of lecturers' and students' attitudes towards English as a language of instruction, as previously mentioned in eLIFE, as well as developing a [number of courses in Danish and English for both scientific/academic staff and technical/administrative staff at the University of Copenhagen.](#)

CIP can be contacted at cip@hum.ku.dk.

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 December 2009

FNAT at LIFE

[FNAT - Foreningen af Naturressourcestuderendes Aktuelle Tidende – Union of Natural Resource Students' \(UN\) Current Times – block 2 2009](#) is now out.

Read about: På Danmarksturné med LIFE – FN Roadtrip, Er du bange for mørket? (Touring Denmark with LIFE – UN Road Trip, Are you afraid of the dark?) and much more.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 December 2009

Staff news

LIFE represented at Nobel Prize Ceremony in Stockholm

Mogens Flensted-Jensen, a member of the LIFE Management, has been invited this year to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremony and the Nobel Prize Banquet in Stockholm on 10 December 2009.

The invitation is a direct result of his involvement in preparing for the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC).

The work began during the Danish EU chairmanship in 2002 and culminated in 2007 with the establishment of the ERC as part of the EU's 7th Framework Programme.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 December 2009

Carlsbergs Mindelegat scholarship goes to LIFE students

Lea Møller Jensen and Jan Kjølhede Vester – both biology/biotechnology students at LIFE – have received scholarships from Carlsbergs Mindelegat for Brygger J.C. Jacobsen.

Carlsbergs Mindelegat for Brygger J.C. Jacobsen awards eight scholarships of DKK 75,000 each to students doing final exam projects within chemistry, biochemistry or biotechnology at faculties of science at universities and other institutions of higher education.

The scholarships can be used to fund studies abroad or to conduct projects in Denmark, including funding of own living expenses.

The object of these scholarships is to strengthen project activities within chemistry, biochemistry and biotechnology, and to increase the recruitment base and the academic competencies of young PhD students at faculties of natural science at universities and institutions of higher education in a time of intensifying competition for competent graduates within the natural sciences.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 30 November 2009

Research

DKK 347 million for strategic research in health, foods and welfare

There is great variation in the focus of the 18 projects that have been granted funding today from the Danish Council for Strategic Research Programme Commission on Health, Food and Welfare.

The largest grant of DKK 36 million goes to Research Professor Frank Aarestrup at DTU to develop a method of tracking the global spread patterns of pathogenic bacteria known as 'Google bacterium'. The smallest grant of the year – DKK 2.8 million – goes to Professor Lene Jespersen, Department of Food Science at the University of Copenhagen, who hopes to increase food safety by studying how the pathogenic ability of bacteria is affected by environmental factors during food processing.

All the projects receiving funding have one thing in common – they are all examples of elite research. "The researchers receiving funding from us are those with the best ideas and the sharpest hypotheses," says the chairman of the programme commission, Erik Bisgaard Madsen, Director of the Danish Agriculture and Food Council. "We are mingling with the heavyweights in that we combine international expertise with the best Danish competencies.

A total of 125 applicants had applied for a total of DKK 1.3 billion in funding. The shortlist cut the pool of applicants down to 50 applying for a total of DKK 880 million. Ultimately, a total of DKK 347 million was allocated to 14 projects, one alliance and three centres.

"We had to turn down many really good projects," says Erik Bisgaard Madsen, who has seen a steady improvement in the quality of the applications during his years with the research council.

"On the programme commission, we are responsible for securing a decent return on the taxpayers' money that is invested in research. We feel that we are investing in the future for our children and grandchildren. But many of this year's projects are actually so close to being realised that in addition to our children, we ourselves will also benefit from the research findings," concludes Erik Bisgaard Madsen.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 December 2009

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.