



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 10 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, gjb@life.ku.dk

Life at LIFE

Budget cutbacks at LIFE: Joint meeting on Monday 14 December

On Thursday 10 December 2009, the University Board will discuss the University of Copenhagen's budget for 2010, and on Monday 14 December from 12 noon-1 pm, a joint meeting will be held in Auditorium 3-01 at Thorvaldsensvej on the consequences of the cutbacks for LIFE.

The way things look now, the cutbacks will mean that positions will have to be cut in several units. We will make every effort to ensure that these reductions are made in a way that will have least harmful effect overall. However, we will probably be forced to dismiss highly qualified members of staff who have made valuable contributions to LIFE. And this is highly regrettable.

If you are not able to attend the joint meeting on Monday 14 December, you can read my presentation in eLIFE, where it will also be possible to ask questions and see what questions others have asked in relation to the cutbacks and the answers they received.

The joint meeting on 14 December will be held in Danish, but an English version of the presentation will be handed out, and everybody will be welcome to ask questions.

Yours sincerely,

Per Holten-Andersen
Dean at LIFE

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 December 2009

Climate messages from the young – collaboration between LIFE and Sankt Annæ Gymnasium

If we don't cut back on our consumption of fossil fuels, we risk that French fashions will stay in Paris and no longer be transported to Denmark; nuclear power may be tempting, but there is still always 'something' that we end up sweeping under the carpet. These are just a couple of the messages that the second-year students at the upper secondary school Sankt Annæ Gymnasium communicated in animated form when they carried out a climate animation project a few weeks ago in collaboration with LIFE.

[Embedded film her?](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXTXVay4JGg>

The project was a so-called AT project – i.e. one of the new upper secondary school multidisciplinary 'general preparation for further studies' projects where students combine disciplines from at least two of the classic faculties. In the project in question, the students worked with disciplines from three different faculties – biology/geography (science), social studies (social science) and art/Danish (humanities).

On the first day of the project, the students visited LIFE and spent the day with two researchers from Forest & Landscape, Senior Researcher Ida Theilade and Professor Claus Felby. They discussed, among other things, their own consumption, technology, biofuels, the clearing of tropical rainforests and carbon credits. Back at school, the students continued working with these topics in biology and geography, they worked with discourse analysis in social studies and, then, they let their creativity loose, transforming their messages into humorous, political and thought-provoking stop-motion animation videos on the climate.

[See them all here](#)

The project received funding from the Danish Ministry of Education. Subject-related didactics, study plans, working methods and the project as a whole will be described at a later date and published for use by other teachers interested in carrying out similar projects.

Lykke Thostrup

Lykke Thostrup, Communication, lyt@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 December 2009

Garden's 'fate tree' is fortunately a lucky tree

In the Faculty's listed garden, we have a 'fate tree' that differs from many other plants in that it does not bloom until late summer and flowers until well into autumn. The flowers are white with approx. 1.5 cm-long petals from which the stamina and style shoot 3 cm out, releasing a sweet scent. While they are quite lovely, this is not what makes the small tree or big shrub so unique; it is the sepals and the fruit that come out after flowering the really turn the plant into a burst of colour. The process takes several months, with the flowers

withering and gradually transforming into seeds that start out green then turn to shiny blue and ultimately to black. As the seeds develop, the five sepals open, starting out pink and later turning bright red. The shrub is at its most beautiful with blue berries and red sepals nestled among the yellow autumn leaves.

Its English name – Harlequin Glory Bower – is clearly inspired by this striking combination of colours. Its other name in English – peanut butter shrub – is derived from the fact that the leaves smell like peanut butter when crushed.

There are nearly 400 climbing and tree-like varieties of *Clerodendrum* which are native in China, Korea and Japan. Several varieties are also found as potted plants, but only one species can grow in the Danish climate, namely *Clerodendrum trichotomum*.

It was Linnaeus himself who came up with the name *Clerodendrum*, combining *klero* from the Greek meaning something along the lines of chance, luck or fate, with *dendrum* meaning tree. Some of the species have healing properties while others are poisonous, so in the past when the plants were used for medicinal purposes, fate tended to determine the outcome. Fortunately our species is said to be of the 'lucky' variety which comes with healing properties only, but of course you can never be completely certain what fate will bring. Recently, I have at least begun to seriously doubt whether the Faculty's fate tree really is a lucky one. Certainly many Faculty employees certainly do not feel especially lucky at the moment.

In its native country, Japan, the fate tree grows on the edge of woods and glades among a wide variety of other deciduous trees and shrubs. In Denmark, the fate tree prefers a slightly sheltered, sunny spot. During very cold winters, it may die back from the frost, but it always sprouts again the following year, and will even flower in the same year. It also tolerates partial shade, and while it may not be as lush, it will still flower in a shaded position.

The fate tree propagates via seeds or cuttings, but it also produces suckers which can be dug up and perhaps given to a local family. In Japan, villagers used to toast the larva that often live in the bark and give these 'delicacies' to little children – they had such a wonderfully calming effect.

In the Faculty Garden, the fate tree is slightly hidden behind the little rockery on the west side of the bed with the large dove tree. Maybe we should plant a sucker a bit closer to the paths frequented by garden visitors, because, to be honest, finding it in August/September may be a matter of chance, but you can, of course, always let fate guide you there.

The watercolour was painted by Karen Rysbjerg Munk, and the photo is from the book *Tales from the Green Faculty in Frederiksberg* to be published in the new year.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 December 2009

Vice Dean of LIFE – not for LIFE

"The very best thing about the Faculty is the people – that's how it was in the days of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, and that's how it is today at LIFE. They are cast in a special mould – full of spirit, energy, openness and constructive criticism."

These were the opening words of Vice Dean, Director of Research Torben Greve's thank-you speech on the

occasion of his farewell reception on Thursday 3 December for a couple hundred colleagues, employees, friends and family in the Marble Hall.

A nickname for any occasion

Dean Per Holten-Andersen began by listing Torben Greve's five contributions to mankind: embryo technology, in vitro test tube calves, biotech research centres and his human qualities as a mentor and unifying personality. He is Denmark's favourite 'Doctor Cloning' who kick-started the public debate by being straightforward and speaking out. He is a talented communicator and a real ladies' man who does not hold back his anger, but clears the air.

Torben Greve has been given a variety of nicknames over the years: TG+ and TG- (depending on the mood), Kabelslugeren (Cable Cruncher because of his strong teeth), Æggelederen (The Oviduct) and Den frosne LensGreve (The Frozen 'Count' Greve for his research).

The Dean concluded with a true 'Bonnerism' befitting Torben Greve: People with both feet on the ground don't hang on trees.

The other speakers included his cloning colleague Professor Poul Hyttel, with a speech in verse, Head of Department Niels Ehler Koch on behalf of the department management, Head of Department Henrik Zoppe, Calle Schou Larsen from the Secretariat for Developing Countries, two of Torben Greve's former PhD students and a friend and former colleague.

Torben Greve responded by thanking everyone for making his years as Vice Dean so interesting, with special thanks for all their help to the Management Secretariat and the rest of the administration department: the Research and Information Office, Business Affairs, the Secretariat for Developing Countries and HR.

The Faculty Management was praised for its team spirit and openness, where it was possible to have high-spirited discussions in the board room and still present a common message to the outside world.

Finally, Torben Greve mentioned two things that he will not miss: all the emails and the long meetings.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 December 2009

Announcements

Send your holiday greetings with a LIFE Christmas card

In the run-up to Christmas, you can buy a LIFE Christmas card at the Faculty of Life Sciences Library on Dyrslægevej. There is both a Danish and an English version of the card.

Price: DKK 20 each

The card is shaped like a present containing a holiday greeting – with room for your personal message – and seven pieces of a LIFE puzzle that can be put together to create thousands of figures.

See the solutions at www.life.ku.dk/puzzle, where you can also test your skills on 20 other figures in a virtual version of the puzzle.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 December 2009

Congresses, conferences or just small events

Are you responsible for planning a congress, conference or just an event on a smaller scale, you can find guidelines, tips and helpful advice in the University of Copenhagen Congress Handbook www.kongreshaandbog.ku.dk (in Danish).

The handbook is aimed at scientific/academic staff and technical/administrative staff, project employees and project managers at the University who are responsible for planning, hosting or holding meetings, seminars, events etc.

The content is based on experience from organising the University's climate congress in Bella Center in March 2009.

You can also find helpful tips and inspiration in the University of Copenhagen [Eventguide](#) (in Danish).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 December 2009

Online registration for PUMA courses now possible

Paper and a fax are no longer necessary to register for a PUMA course. All registration now takes place online via the course website. At the bottom of the course description page there is a link to register. Paper has also been dropped in all communication concerning registration and enrolment, which now takes place exclusively by email. The process of obtaining permission to take a course has also been simplified – all your supervisor has to do is confirm acceptance of your registration by ticking a box on the online form.

As something new, many of the courses in the 'KU systemer og procedurer' (University systems and procedures) category are now free of charge. These courses are generally required to perform work and use the University's systems.

You will find the course portal at the usual address: www.kursuskatalog.ku.dk, where the courses in the new year are now open for registration.

Courses currently offered by PUMA

See the first courses in 2010:

- for all staff:

15/1 Økonomistyring, budget og budgetopfølgning (Finances, budget and budget follow-up)

20/1 Redigering af websider i Obvius CMS (Editing websites in Obvius CMS)

25/1 Styr på tiden – arbejder du rigtigt? (Time management – are you working effectively)

26/1 Internationalt område – introduktion til sagsbehandling og Fønix (International area – introduction to case-handling and Fønix)

28/1 Welcome to the University of Copenhagen

4/2 Purchasing courses – for both administrative and laboratory products

10/2 Etablering af nyt websted i Obvius CMS (Establishing a new website in Obvius CMS)

22/2 Stresshåndtering – trivsel i travlhed (Stress management – being busy and thriving)

2/3 Arbejdsmiljøuddannelsen, våde områder (Working environment training programme, wet areas) – moved from 1 February

10/3 Sagsbehandleruddannelsen (Case officer programme)

- for academic lecturers/supervisors:

27/1 Pædagogisk lynkursus for VIP (Crash course in teaching for academic/scientific staff)

1/3 Project Management for PhDs – in English

- for managers:

29/1 Den vanskelige samtale (The difficult interview)

25/2 Den gode MUS (The good appraisal interview) – for managers

9/3 Ledelsesbaseret coaching (Management-based coaching)

Find the course descriptions and links to register in the course calendar or at kursuskatalog.ku.dk under the course categories – the course offering for the entire year from HR & Organisation/PUMA has now been announced, and more courses will be added regularly.

Anette Mar, HR & Organisation, PUMA, amar@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 December 2009

Education

Next Generation – new knowledge entrepreneurs on the way

Danish university students possess high-level expertise but lack the knowledge and tools to transform new ideas into value-generating activities. A new regional project spearheaded by the University of Copenhagen is now seeking to change that.

The project known as 'Next Generation – highly educated entrepreneurs in the Capital Region of Denmark' aims to help students to see the potential of their academic knowledge and transform it into new ideas, projects or companies.

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

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 December 2009

Staff news

International recognition of Bo Wiinberg from IMHS

Dr Bo Wiinberg, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (IMHS), received the Junior Scientist Prize 2009.

"The TVJ Junior Scientist Prize is awarded as an encouragement to younger workers, and is given to the best

paper published during the year whose principal author is a graduate within five years of his or her first degree.

In 2009, the winner is Dr Bo Wiinberg of the Small Animal Hospital, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg DK-1870, Denmark (bwi@life.ku.dk) with co-authors Asger L. Jensen, Elizabeth Rozanski, Pär I. Johansson, Mads Kjelgaard-Hanson, Mikael Tranholm and Annemarie T. Kristensen. The title of the winning paper is 'Tissue factor activated thromboelastography correlates to clinical signs of bleeding in dogs'

Prize-winners are chosen by the Journal's editors, who consider those papers published in the hard copy of the Journal during that calendar year.

The editors would like to send their warmest congratulations to the winners for providing papers of excellence in a world-class field."

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 December 2009

Research

Launch of important climate research between Kenya and University of Copenhagen

The visit to LIFE by 69-year-old Nobel laureate and researcher Wangari Maathai, from the University of Nairobi, on Thursday, 10 December at 3 pm, marked the launch of a collaboration that can save one of the largest and most important forest regions in East Africa, the Mau Forest complex. The area supplies millions of people with water, but is threatened by deforestation.

[See the press release](#) (in Danish).

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Top-level Research Initiative: Call for Nordic Centres of Excellence on Effect Studies and Adaptation to Climate Change

The Top-level Research Initiative launches a call for Nordic Centres of Excellence within the sub-programme "Effect Studies and Adaptation to Climate Change". The sub-programme aims to improve knowledge about society's capacities for adaptation, and the risks and opportunities that the effects of climate change may bring the Nordic region.

The aim of the Nordic Centres of Excellence (NCoE) Programme is to increase the scientific quality, efficiency, competitiveness and visibility of Nordic research through enhanced collaboration between Nordic countries. A NCoE consists of prominent research groups from at least three Nordic countries, forming a physical or virtual centre with common objectives and coordination.

The application procedure is in two stages, and the deadline for applications to the first stage is 3 March 2010 (4 pm CET).

[Click here for more information](#)

[Read the complete call text](#)

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Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.