

eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 21 June 2007

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk

Email to the editors: elife@life.ku.dk

Final deadline for editorial changes is Tuesday at 11 am before publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

This version does therefore not contain the latest articles from the online version. These can be found in the next issue.

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

Life at LIFE

Inventive workshop on the development of the canteens

This news item was created on: 18 June 2007

On Tuesday 12 June, a hard core group of students and employees defied the heat and their revision to discuss the future of the canteens at the Faculty of Life Sciences. On the basis of the themes "What are the canteens offering now?", "What are the problems in connection with the present state?", and "What does the perfect canteen include?", the firm of architects Signal and the Faculty of Life Sciences invited people to join the workshop on the physical design of the canteens. Both students and employees soon agreed that the present situation could best be described with words like "lack of space" and "congestion". Especially strong was their image of the canteens during lunch break. Afterwards, the participants were given the opportunity to express their dream visions for the canteens – visions that included the use of the canteens outside lunch break periods. Without being limited by the physical shape of the canteens, they came up with suggestions for initiatives that could improve everyday life at the Faculty of Life Sciences. The students focused on areas in which it would be possible to relax during free periods and breaks. Suggestions were made for lounge areas, more outdoor café areas, plants, hammocks and massage chairs.

The canteen development project was kicked off in May. It is handled by the firm of architects Signal and a steering group at the Faculty. The steering group consists of both employee, building department and student representatives. Initially, the firm of architects Signal will be preparing a plan for the phased development of the canteens over the next couple of years. The phases will reflect the financial resources available each year.

The purpose is to update the canteens to meet the needs of users and employees and for them to be used as something other than simply lunch rooms.

Maja Johansen, petrine@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 June 2007

Staff policy in practice – Our knowledge should benefit as many as possible

This news item was created on: 18 June 2007

Our knowledge should benefit as many as possible

Jette Petersen is 40 years old and has been employed as a laboratory technician at the Department of Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Life Sciences since 1995. From her office on the fourth floor she explains how knowledge sharing is a natural part of her daily work.

Knowledge as the centre of rotation

Jette Petersen works as a laboratory technician on three different research projects. Professionally, she has to work with many different things and therefore often needs to draw on knowledge from her colleagues. At the same time, she has to make sure that the knowledge she possesses herself benefits as many as possible.

"I think that it is important that you know what you are doing and why, and knowledge sharing plays a crucial role in that context", says Jette Petersen.



Knowledge must be shared

"In many ways, knowledge sharing is merely good communication", says Jette Petersen and continues: *"It can be something as simple as writing down how the laboratory equipment works in order to give new colleagues the possibility of getting started themselves."*

But knowledge sharing is more than that. Jette Petersen benefits from the department meetings that often include presentations – it could, e.g., be a PhD student sharing his or her project results with the other group members.

"The meetings in our department are a good opportunity to meet both professionally and socially. In addition to gaining new insights, I also find out who knows what, which is useful the next time the need for new knowledge arises," she argues.

Quite often, knowledge sharing consists of a thorough briefing and feedback during the projects, and in this context, the informal environment in the department plays an important role.

"Openness and friendliness pervade the entire department. I am always welcome to ask for help and vice versa: It is nice to be able to share knowledge with others – if my thesis students have questions, they are more than welcome to ask them," smiles Jette Petersen.

Knowledge sharing requires... knowledge sharing

One of the problems with knowledge sharing that Jette Petersen has experienced stems from... the lack of knowledge sharing.

"Sometimes, there is a difference between what I perceive as being relevant and the things that my management believes will interest me." When the department prepared its development goals, management decided not to send the different documents to everybody.

"It is very important for me to be able to influence my work, so even if the purpose was to reduce the number of emails, I felt that my need for information and knowledge was disregarded", says Jette Petersen.

Use your colleagues

A university creates value through knowledge sharing. But as Jette Petersen points out:

"It is exciting and developing to work with something new, the dependence on others can be just as frustrating, if you cannot work things out on your own."

That is exactly why it is so important that the individual employee is open and curious about the knowledge possessed by partners and actively use this knowledge. It is also possible to use the channels that are available to all – i.a. "News on life at LIFE" where everybody is welcome to make their own contribution.

Cooperation pays off

At the Faculty of Life Sciences, one of the most important things for heads is to encourage work forms that constructively involve cooperation with others. This supports Jette Petersen's experience that work results become so much better with professional knowledge sharing:

"New ideas emerge – professionally and mentally you leap forward – and it makes the job more fun when you help and use each other professionally," she concludes.

If you have any experiences with knowledge sharing at your workplace which you want to share with others, please send them to eLIFE at elife@life.ku.dk

Maja Johansen, petrine@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 June 2007

Gardens participating in the "Frederiksberg Days" a huge success

This news item was created on: 18 June 2007

As PR for LIFE, the Gardens again this year offered three open guided tours in connection with the "Frederiksberg Days". It is usually a great success, but this time it nearly failed. Luckily, the good weather on Sunday turned a potential failure into a success.

Friday was a day of dark skies and drizzle and only ten people took part in the three hour-long guided tour. Saturday, it was raining cats and dogs, but still 12 guests came around in their waterproofs and under umbrellas.

The weather went our way on Sunday, and no less than 145 people (new personal record) participated in the grand tour, starting with Bindesbøl's main building, then the gardens, through the tower block, ending at Villa Rolighed.

Those who come on our guided tours are usually very interested, and judging by the applause everybody was satisfied and enjoyed the tour.

Kind regards,

Senior Gardener Kim Greiner, the Gardens

Contact:

Kim Greiner, the Gardens, kg@life.ku.dk

Dean Per Holten-Andersen appreciates great efforts

This news item was created on: 15 June 2007

Head of Department Jørgen Pedersen retires after many years at KVL/LIFE. On this occasion, Per Holten-Andersen writes:

If you look at Jørgen Pedersen's CV, you are left with an image of a skilled, diligent and conscientious employee and manager. During his long employment, Jørgen has contributed actively and sympathetically to the rapid development of the Faculty, both as part-time lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor, Pro-rector for Education as well as both elected and employed Head of Department. We thank him for his great efforts.

In recent years, Jørgen has spent a great deal of his spare time keeping fit by means of what he believes to be the perfect combination of competition and play – I wish him many happy hours on the golf course during his retirement, and I am sure that many hours will be spent travelling between Valby and sunny Spain.

Dean Per Holten-Andersen

Farewell reception: Department of Large Animal Sciences, at "The Green Floor", entrance from Ridebanevej, Friday 22 June between 2 pm and 4 pm. Everybody is welcome.

Singing in the Marble Hall – summer concert by the Life Sciences choir

This news item was created on: 15 June 2007

On Tuesday evening, the Life Sciences choir ended the spring season with a concert in the Marble Hall. The choir truly succeeded in passing on its enthusiasm to the audience. The repertoire consisted i.a. of a couple of songs from the musical Hair, the Beatles song She's Leaving Home and a couple of Danish pop songs, e.g. Midsommernat by Moonjam. The acoustics of the Marble Hall provided a perfect backdrop to the choir singing. After the concert, coffee and cake were served.



Find more information on the choir of Life Sciences [here](#)

Jørgen Pedersen resigns as Head of Department

This news item was created on: 14 June 2007

After many years at KVL, and eight years as Head of Department at the Department of Animal Sciences and Animal Health and at the Department of Large Animal Sciences, respectively, Jørgen Pedersen is now retiring.

Associate Professor Bjarne Bjerg, Professor Hans Houe and Professor Peter Sandøe from the Department of Large Animal Sciences say the following about Jørgen Pedersen:

At the age tender of 22, Jørgen Pedersen became an agronomist in 1965. His professional career has been focused on farm buildings, especially the climatic conditions in the buildings. For the first 16 years primarily at the then Agricultural Department at the Danish Building Research Institute, but already in 1975 he became affiliated with the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University as a part-time lecturer.

Jørgen Pedersen began his career in a time of considerable awareness of the crucial importance of animal production to the economy and of the need for a more efficient agricultural sector. This made it possible to establish an agricultural department at the Danish Building Research Institute which attracted a new generation of young and skilled researchers who introduced farm buildings as a scientific area. Here, Jørgen Pedersen and his colleagues developed the methods for dimensioning ventilation, isolation and heating of stables that are used to this day. The heat generation of the animals is very crucial when dimensioning the stable climate, and in 1976, Jørgen Pedersen was awarded a doctoral degree for his work on the heat generation of chickens for slaughter.

In 1981, Jørgen Pedersen was employed at KVL as the first full-time Associate Professor within farm buildings. He was very determined from the onset to establish an academic environment within this area as such, and he managed to get another permanent associated professor attached to the department and to attract a number of externally financed projects and PhD students. At the same time, he made a big effort to develop the teaching activities and the study programmes at KVL, at first within his own subject area and subsequently as a member of study committees and the Senate and from 1992 until 1998 as Pro-rector for Education.

In 1999, Jørgen Pedersen became Head of Department at the Department of Animal Sciences and Animal Health where he contributed to creating peace and unity in a department characterized by some turbulence and disunion. In connection with the reform of the department structure in 2004, he carried on as Head of the new Department of Large Animal Sciences, which proved to be a bigger and more difficult job than the preceding one.

Throughout his career, it has been characteristic of Jørgen Pedersen that his door has always been open – both literally and figuratively – and that he has always had the time and energy to involve himself in other people's problems and successes. This applies both in relation to colleagues and students at the department, but also in relation to external partners. Thus, he has taken many initiatives to encourage cooperation with other departments and organisations. Jørgen Pedersen has always had an open mind towards professional innovation, and in this way he has helped to create a positive climate in the face of the many changes that are currently taking place at what was once KVL.

Head of Department Brian Dennis, Department of Agricultural Sciences, says the following about Jørgen Pedersen:

As a long-term member of the group of Heads of Department, Jørgen Pedersen has to a large degree helped build, influence and strengthen solidarity among the members. His input at the meetings is always carefully considered, clear and worth listening to! He is always willing to share his experiences – good and bad – with the rest of us in connection with budgeting procedures, experiences with IT support from external suppliers,

education budgeting etc. We have followed and learned quite a lot from the energetic efforts which he has devoted to in building and strengthening cooperation with government research institutions within the animal area. We have observed his organisation development projects, and we have heard about his work with the framework for "Veterinærhistoriske Museum" (the museum for veterinary history). With his considerable insight into Danish agriculture and his understanding of its problems, Jørgen has been a bridge between the veterinary departments and the rest of us. His ability to find the core of a problem and come up with possible and realistic solutions has benefited many of us. As Jørgen now retires, he can be proud of the fact that he has played an important part in instilling team spirit among the heads of department at LIFE and that his contribution and his dry sense of humour will be missed!

Facts about Jørgen Pedersen

Jørgen Pedersen became an agronomist in 1965, and in 1976 he wrote his doctoral thesis on the optimal climate for chickens for slaughter, earning him the dr. agro. title. He has been employed at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University since 1975 and has been an active member of academic committees, study committees, the Senate, the Executive Committee of the Senate and of work groups and committees concerning research and education. Between 1992 and 1998, Jørgen Pedersen was Pro-rector for Education. From 1999 until 2004 he was Head of the Department of Animal Sciences and Animal Health, and from 2004 until today, he has been the Head of the Department of Large Animal Sciences.

Charlotte Aabo, Communications

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 June 2007

Announcements

Why is it so difficult for Africa? Debate on Africa's current problems, Department of Plant Biology, Monday 17 September at 2 pm to 3.30 pm. Registration deadline: 1 September

This news item was created on: 19 June 2007

Klaus Winkel will provide material for discussion based on his new book: "*Hvorfor er det så svært for Afrika?*" (Why is it so difficult for Africa?)

Danish Seed Health Centre, Department of Plant Biology, Monday 17 September at 2 pm to 3.30 pm.

Register with Maria Busch at mab@life.ku.dk by 1 September. Participation in the event is free.

See [invitation here](#) and [Africa folder here](#)

Contact:

Maria Busch, Department of Plant Biology, mab@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 June 2007

LIFE's job bank closed down

This news item was created on: 12 June 2007

HR would like to inform you that the University of Copenhagen website for vacancies, <http://www.ku.dk/pers/stillinger/>, has a better email service for vacancies than that of LIFE's job bank. At the University of Copenhagen website, you can choose jobs within different categories, so that not all vacancies are sent to you. It has therefore been decided to close down LIFE's job bank. The job bank was closed down on 12 June 2007.

Contact:

Camilla Willemoes Larsen, HR, cwl@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2007

Education

Ready, steady ...!

This news item was created on: 15 June 2007

"If I had not been introduced to the concept of group work, I am sure that I would have simply walked out of class on several occasions." (Lawrence Akantu, Canada, Agricultural Development)
LIFE's four-week intro course for international MSc and PhD students in August gets a very positive reception. At the course, the students are informed about how the study programmes are structured at LIFE and are introduced to IT and the library as well as to Denmark and Danish culture. The participants will get to know LIFE and establish their first professional and social networks.

This year's course will be held from 1 to 25 August. Information about the course was enclosed with the students' admission letters.

Further information: Anne-Grethe Routley, Education and Students, agr@life.ku.dk

Preliminary programme 2007 [click here](#)

Contact:

Anne-Grethe Routley, Education and Students, agr@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2007

Library courses for PhD students

This news item was created on: 15 June 2007

How to search for literature on 28 June at 9 am to 12 noon, and how to use Reference Manager on 29 June at 9 am to 12.30 pm.

Register via the library website at <http://www.dvjb.life.ku.dk/English/cg/enrol.aspx>

Contact:

Jytte Emanuelsson, DVJB, jye@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2007

LIFE provokes with the campaign: Book-learning is dead, says Pia Mahnfeldt in DMF - Markedsføring

This news item was created on: 14 June 2007

"The Faculty of Life Sciences ... it does not really sound trendy, does it? But nevertheless, this part of the University of Copenhagen is responsible for 25 study programmes that enable graduates to make a difference and help solve some of the fundamental problems in society. Good, this is a message that young people will understand!"

This is the introduction to Pia Mahnfeldt's article with the heading: University of Copenhagen provokes, with the subheading: As low birth rates affect the number of students, educational institutions have to find new and untraditional ways to attract the young people. The Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen launched a campaign in the latest issue of DMF Markedsføring, declaring that book-learning is dead.

Pia Mahnfeldt has spoken to Jacob Søby Bang, Head of Communications, who is responsible for the campaign, and, among other things, he says: "Studies show that young people are focusing more and more on making a difference. And our study programmes offer ample opportunities for this. Within, e.g., Natural Resources, you can make a career by making a difference within sustainability, by reducing climate change and by creating forests, plants and agriculture that provide animals and human beings with a better life. Farming Economy, on the other hand, is about how food companies need to focus on quality, improved competitiveness and increased international trade."

Jacob Søby Bang continues: "There is really so much to say about the study programmes, which is really difficult to communicate via a campaign. It is therefore a question of rousing the curiosity of potential students with a provocative message and making them want to visit life.dk to learn more about our programmes."

Read more in DMF Markedsføring 11, 2007, p. 11.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications – latest update 14 June 2007

Are you about to graduate?

This news item was created on: 13 June 2007

If you are about to complete your MSc, we have some useful practical information for you – diploma, graduation date, unemployment benefit scheme and state education grant (SU). The info meeting will be held on Monday 25 June 2007 at 1 pm to 1.30 pm in lecture room 3.12 See you there, Student Counselling Office www.life.ku.dk/studievejledning

Contact:

The Student Counselling Office, Education and Students, studievejledning@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 13 June 2007

Staff news

Hanne Harmsen will be taking up the position of Deputy Director of Education Strategy at the University of Copenhagen on 1 September

This news item was created on: 15 June 2007

Hanne Harmsen is today Dean of Research and responsible for departments and research at the Aarhus School of Business, the University of Aarhus.

“In the coming years, it is the ambition of the University of Copenhagen to obtain an even higher international ranking and really translate the university’s membership of the international star alliance, IARU, into tangible results within the field of education. In Hanne Harmsen, we have found the right profile to head this work. Not least because she was the anchorperson behind the international accreditation of the Aarhus School of Business in 2004. The attainment of an international quality stamp is of paramount importance for the University of Copenhagen to get an even better foothold in the international education market, says the Rector’s Office at the University of Copenhagen, Ralf Hemmingsen and Lykke Friis.

Hanne Harmsen is 44 years old, PhD, and has concurrently with her deanship and job as Director of Study also carried out research in innovation management. She is, among other things, a member of CIRIUS, an authority within the Danish Ministry of Education.

Contact:

Jasper Steen Winkel, Communications, jsw@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2007

Inaugural lecture: Professor Kell Mortensen, Department of Natural Sciences, Thursday 21 June at 3 pm in the main lecture hall (1-01)

This news item was created on: 15 June 2007

Professor Kell Mortensen will hold his inaugural lecture, "Neutrons used as a tool for viewing nano-structured polymers and biomaterial", on Thursday 21 June at 3 pm in lecture hall 1-01, followed by a reception.

Contact:

Susanne Sørensen, Department of Natural Sciences, sus@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2007

Antonino Castrone will be taking up the position of Deputy Director of Finance and HR Administration at the University of Copenhagen on 1 August

This news item was created on: 14 June 2007

Antonino Castrone is 45 years old and leaves a job at A.P. Møller-Mærsk.

Contact:

Jasper Steen Winkel, Communications, jsw@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 June 2007

Niels Wendelboe will be taking up the position of Deputy Director of HR at the University of Copenhagen on 1 August

This news item was created on: 14 June 2007

Niels Wendelboe is 41 years old and leaves a job at GN Store Nord where he was responsible for the overall HR work.

Contact:

Jasper Steen Winkel, Communications, jsw@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 June 2007

Research

The EliteForsk prizes of the Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation (application deadline 1 October) and EliteForsk travel grants (application deadline 3 September)

This news item was created on: 19 June 2007

Under the EliteForsk initiative, seven large EliteForsk prizes of DKK 1 million each are offered to excellent young scientist (under 45 years), and 19 EliteForsk travel grants of DKK 250,000 are offered to the most competent and talented PhD students registered at Danish institutions.

The EliteForsk initiative was launched by the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation as a framework around the initiatives that strengthen and nurse the most competent and talented scientists in the country and thus contribute to calling attention to their results and visualising them as role models for other young people heading for a career within research.

EliteForsk prizes

The prizes of DKK 1 million consist of an honorary prize of DKK 200,000 and an additional DKK 800,000 that can be used for research activities. In 2007, seven prizes will be awarded to internationally outstanding young scientists. Scientists within all scientific areas will be considered.

Proposals for prize winners can be submitted by universities, research institutions and private companies with research activities. The deadline for proposals is **1 October 2007**.

Read the entire article and find the proposal form at www.fist.dk. For more information, please contact: Administrator Sune Kaur-Pedersen, spe@fist.dk, on tel. 3544 6278

EliteForsk travel grants

The EliteForsk travel grants are to contribute to providing very talented PhD students with the possibilities of long-term studies in some of the world's foremost research environments. In 2007, a total of 19 grants of DKK 250,000 will be awarded.

Applications can be submitted by universities and other PhD degree-awarding educational institutions. The deadline for submitting applications is **3 September 2007**.

Read the entire article and find the proposal form at www.fist.dk. For more information, please contact: Administrator Ditte Dahl, dda@fist.dk, on tel. 3395 5260, or Special Consultant Pia Fredberg Nielsen, pfn@fist.dk, on tel. 3544 6330

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, gfb@life.ku.dk – latest update 19 June 2007

Grants

Dyrlæge H.L. Emilius Olsen og Hustru Karen Sophie Olsens Legat and Dyrlæge Thor Oluf Andersen og Hustru Ida Marie Andersen født Møllers Legat for veterinærstuderende – application deadline 1 August

This news item was created on: 14 June 2007

Two additional semi-annual (February and September) portions of **DKK 1,500** will be awarded to two veterinary students.

The portions will be awarded on the basis of the exam results attained so far and can be received for as long as one is an active student at KVL, however for a maximum of 4 years.

The relevant application form can be downloaded from the website under *for studerende>legater*
http://www.life.ku.dk/uddannelse/studerende/su_og_legater/legater.aspx.

Applications must be signed and submitted together with academic records showing all exam attempts and any relevant letters of reference from teaching staff to the Faculty of Life Sciences, Education and Students, Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg by Friday, **1 August 2007** at the latest.

Applications which are not submitted on time or which are not accompanied by correct academic records will not be considered.

Contact:

Annette Guildal, Education and Students, ag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 14 June 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

