

The Faculty of Life Sciences

Internal Newsletter – Thursday 18 January 2007

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

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

The final deadline for editorial changes is Tuesday 11 am before publication of the Internal Newsletter on Thursday afternoon.

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

Editorial changes may occur in relation to the online newsletter – all pictures, teasers and some of the articles have, for example, been omitted.

As regards links in the newsletter, please refer to the Danish online version at the faculty's website <http://www.life.ku.dk/nyhedsbrev>



News and debate

Rector Ralf Hemmingsen's speech at the general meeting on 4 January 2007

This news item was created on: 11 January 2007

Welcome to the University of Copenhagen and Happy New Year to you all!

According to the Chinese calendar, 2007 is the year of the pig. But although pigs are part of daily life here at the Faculty of Life Sciences, 2007 will also to a large degree be the year of the merger.

You have worked so hard to ensure that the New Year could be the point at which the institutions previously known as DFU, KVL and KU, became one University of Copenhagen. I would like to thank you for that. Of course, we all know that the merger still is – and will be for some time – an ongoing process. You play a crucial role in ensuring that the merger will be a smooth process for the organisation, and not least that we take full advantage of the professional win-win situation that has resulted from the merger.

When you embark on large-scale projects it is always useful to learn from history, and I came to think of what the Italian writer, painter and statesman Massimo Taparelli D'Azeglio said on the occasion of another merger, the one that resulted in the unification of Italy in 1860: "Now we have created Italy. Next we must create Italians."

Obviously, there are considerable differences between Italy and us, and although we have set ourselves a difficult task, I think that we stand an even better chance of creating a successful merger than they did on the

Italian peninsula in the mid-19th century. We must avoid moving from a Machiavellian world of small city states to a mafia situation. There must be coherence between the local and the central, and we must have a university with a clear strategy and freedom of research as its basic principle. Like the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation told the rectors before Christmas: "There must be no difference between the freedom of research before and after the mergers!"

As you know, KVL was founded at about the same time as the unification of Italy took place, in 1858, in the very buildings you occupy today. Although your history actually goes back even further than that, it was probably at that time your real historical identity was formed. History is something you should take with you because it represents experience and is a precondition for creating something new. In line with that spirit, your faculty logo signifies that you have roots and a history. The horse is a rendition of Saly's model of the famous equestrian sculpture outside Amalienborg Palace. The model that sits in front of your assembly hall and which is very much in keeping with the things you strive to achieve in your daily lives. Similarly, the ears of corn stretch back to P.C. Abildgaard who founded the Veterinary School in 1773.

Our merger is also motivated by the same idea as the Italian Risorgimento movement: the belief that the constituent parts of a changing world are better off if they join forces rather than continuing separately. But apart from that we will see a number of specific synergies that could result in a number of benefits within a foreseeable future: Better administrative support functions, interdisciplinary research environments and better opportunities for attracting international attention. At the same time, it is a project which involves employees to a larger or lesser extent.

To succeed, we must ensure that the university can function as a whole while maintaining and developing existing faculty strengths. The university merger may be a bit of a jigsaw puzzle, but I dare say that it is one of those puzzles where we have all the pieces, and that they fit together and will provide a complete picture.

With you as a part of the family, the University of Copenhagen holds a strong position, as the faculty is doing a lot of things that are both unique and related to other scientific disciplines. The faculty is characterised by also holding a strong position within applied research, innovation, cooperation with the business community and services to local authorities. Together we possess vast experience with developing countries and enjoy a leading position within the field of food and nutritional science, veterinary science and natural resources. All this will be a bonus to the University of Copenhagen. Concurrently with this, you have also successfully adapted to the new university act and worked to create some very strong support functions that will to a large extent form the basis of our future work.

There has been a lot of talk about the Health and Life Science cluster, and although there is certainly more to the University of Copenhagen than this cluster, it is true that a significant part of the strategic work is focused on health and life science, for example within lifestyle diseases, cancer research and biomedicine. However, we will also have the potential to strengthen our position within biofuels, the development of urban environments of the future and the developing countries.

It is the fact that some of our research fields are different, yet closely related that creates the synergies. This significantly increases the possibility of creating combinations within both education and research. It is a strength that will make it easier for us to attract students, researchers and grants from Denmark and overseas which is also a crucial parameter in a world that is becoming increasingly internationalised, not least in the education and knowledge industry.

As I have said before, it is a prerequisite for a successful merger that the university functions as a whole, regardless of what some people in the individual departments might think. In this context, I would like to thank the administrative staff for the work you have performed either directly or indirectly, and which I think I can

safely call invaluable. We know that the administrative function must be established before the rest of the organisation can become integrated in the new environment. Professional cooperation must also take off for real, and I would like to mention our take-off seminar for all eight faculties on 17 January which will be opened by the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation. Together we will look at new opportunities for professional strategies and financing at the University of Copenhagen after the merger.

The Management agrees that the merger must contribute to creating an even more attractive workplace for both researchers and other employees at the entire university. Because a workplace with a pleasant atmosphere is a precondition for achieving our ambition of creating one of the world's strongest knowledge environments. For that reason, we have decided to strengthen the HR functions by setting up a separate HR department whose tasks include competence and manager development at the university. Focusing on this area is imperative for us to be able to do what we set out to do within our own fields of activity.

An HR department can help strengthen the sense of community and the organisation while allowing the faculties to maintain their own distinctive character and culture. Frederiksberg Campus already has a very good study environment, and I think it is important to emphasise that the further development of an even better study environment is an important element in the strategy. Funds have already been earmarked to develop this area in the 2007 budget.

Both the university and faculty managements emphasise that the good existing environment at Frederiksberg Campus will be maintained and strengthened in future. You have many special traditions that are worth preserving, for example A-vej, concerts in the courtyard, the birthday party in March, smithy parties and other annual events. Generally, you have considerable experience with the Campus culture that others can learn from.

I also look forward to visiting this faculty at the beginning of the year and learn more about your activities, for example within applied research, how you cooperate with the business community and develop working environments and study environments.

The university reform has created a university that is clearly the leading university in the Nordic region – with great potential, too. If we all contribute our ideas, dreams, commitment and not least work, I believe that we will succeed in creating one of the world's absolute top universities over the coming years. A university that contributes to society and attracts students and staff from far and near.

Talking about New Year, I came to think about the much talked-about problem at the turn of the millennium of whether the IT systems would be able to handle the change from 1999 to 2000. As far as I remember, there was a story at the time about the Director of the Chinese aviation authorities who was ordered to board a plane and be in the air around midnight on 31 December 1999 just to make sure that he was sufficiently motivated to ensure that the systems would not break down. I would just like to say that if the University of Copenhagen was a plane I would not – although success is not solely dependent on me – hesitate to board it and take off.

I look forward to working with you. We need everybody to do their best! Once again welcome to the University of Copenhagen.

Jacob Søby Bang, Communications, jsb@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 January 2007



Announcements

The faculty celebrates its birthday on Friday 9 March 2007. As a result all classes will be cancelled until 11 am

This news item was created on: 16 January 2007

The establishment of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University was adopted on 8 March 1856. Ever since the day has been celebrated with an Anniversary Day as the Faculty of Life Sciences's birthday – for practical reasons held on the nearest Friday.

In future, the faculty will continue to celebrate its establishment with a birthday party whose contents cannot be revealed yet. One thing is certain, though: All classes will be cancelled on Friday 9 March until 11 am.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 16 January 2007

Males subject aged 40-70 wanted

This news item was created on: 16 January 2007

As part of a major scientific experiment we need to test the health benefits of a daily consumption of fish.

As a subject you will be given a meal at lunch or dinner time consisting of either fish or poultry which you must eat daily. The experiment lasts 8 weeks and is conducted from 12 March to 26 May 2007. The experiment includes two tests involving blood tests and pulse distribution measurements as well as two periods of diet registration and daily consumption of a meal at lunch or dinner time.

We need male subjects aged 40-70 who are healthy and complete non-smokers.

If you are interested and would like to know more, you can contact Post. doc. Jesper Hallund, Department of Human Nutrition, ext. 2485, jeha@life.ku.dk

Jesper Hallund, Department of Human Nutrition, jeha@life.ku.dk – latest update 16 January 2007

In future, the university newspaper will be sent to the employees' and students home address

This news item was created on: 16 January 2007

As of 1 February 2007 the university newspaper will be sent to your home address if you are employed or student at the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Read about the [university newspaper](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 16 January 2007

Introduction to Reference Manager – 31 January 2007 at 9 am - 12.30 pm in the library

This news item was created on: 15 January 2007

Aim: To give participants the ability to handle bibliographic references with a PC by using the programme Reference Manager.

Contents: Building a database by importing downloaded references from literature searches in databases, directly transferring references from searches in Web of Science. Use of the database: searching, 'cite while you write' - to write an article while at the same time adding citations in the text from the Reference Manager database, formatting the article for two different journals.

Prerequisites: It is an advantage to have tried literature searching in electronic databases. It is an advantage if you have already used Reference Manager for a short time prior to the course.

Faculty students: DKK 50 PhD students and faculty employees: DKK 200. External: DKK 900

Venue: The Library's training room. Enrol for a course at <http://www.dvjb.life.ku.dk/English/cg/enrol.aspx>

Jytte Emanuelsson, the Library, jye@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 January 2007

Take-off seminar on Wednesday 17 January 2007 at 11.30 am in Falkonércentret – programme

This news item was created on: 11 January 2007

Merger, Academic Strategies and Funding – [english version](#)

17 January in Falkonércentret

Take-off seminar programme

11.30 am Welcome by Rector Ralf Hemmingsen

11.45 am Growth opportunities by Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Helge Sander

Noon Inspiring mini-lecture

12.45 pm Network lunch

1.45 pm Surprise

2.15 pm Brainstorming about new research topics

breakout sessions

4 pm What happens next by Dean Ulla Wewer

4.15 pm Cocktails and network

Practical information

You can read more about the academic synergies and register for the take-off seminar at:

www.ku.dk/synergi

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Communications, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 January 2007

Access to electronic instructions for use of chemicals

This news item was created on: 11 January 2007

Staff and students at the Faculty of Life Sciences can now get electronic access to the approx. 5,200 instructions for use of chemicals in the database www.kemibrug.dk. We are in the process of setting up administrators and editors with editing access in the individual departments. A large part of the user instructions are available in a Danish version and an English version.

Read more about the implementation of electronic instructions for use of chemicals in the work environment team's newsletter at:

http://www.life.ku.dk/Global/Nyhedsbrevstekster/Arbejdsmiljoe/Ekstraudgave_januar.aspx

You can also learn more about the use of chemicals at the general meeting of the safety organisation on 15 January 2007 from 1-3 pm in the main lecture hall (1-01). The meeting is open to everyone.

Any questions about access to and use of electronic instructions for use of chemicals should be directed to chemical consultant Charlotte Jørgensen, ext. 2424 or cj@kvl.dk.

Charlotte Jørgensen, Department of Natural Sciences, cj@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 January 2007



Research

If you want to look for grants and scholarships, current deadlines for applications for external research funds, research programmes etc., these can be found in the Newsletter at

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

Here you will also find relevant links.



Education

Intensive Danish course

This news item was created on: 15 January 2007

Intensive Danish course for Nordic students wanting to strengthen their Danish language skills in order to make their studies at the university easier.

This is the ideal Danish course if you:

- are a Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic or Finnish citizen living and studying/working in Copenhagen
- have a Danish CPR number (the yellow national health service medical card – *sygeskrivningsbevis*)
- are tired of always being misunderstood when you try to speak Danish
- have a limited amount of time on your hands due to studies or work

Register via e-mail: scandidansk@ioc.dk Please state your name, address (in Denmark), (your Danish) CPR number and educational establishment and class number. You can also call us on +45 38 88 32 33

Registrar's Office, stydievejledning@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 January 2007

Intensive course: Economic European Integration – Impact on agricultural markets – 12 - 23 March in Angers, France

This news item was created on: 11 January 2007

Follow the intensive course "Economic European Integration – Impact on agricultural markets" on 12-23 March in Angers, France.

The course and board during the above period are free, and part of the travelling expense will be reimbursed. You will have to pay for meals yourself, though.

Please note that the application deadline is 9 February 2007.

Click [here](#) for further information about the course. You can find the application form [here](#)

Annica Nielsen, Registrar's Office, anie@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 January 2007



Staff news

Defence of doctoral thesis: Associate Professor Birthe Avery, IPH, Friday 19 January at 2 pm in lecture hall 1-01

This news item was created on: 11 January 2007

**Associate Professor Birthe Avery, Department of Large Animals Sciences, the Veterinary
Reproduction and Obstetrics Group**

defends her doctoral thesis titled "Sexing and the Generation of Bovine Embryos in Vitro," Friday 19 January 2007 at 2 pm in lecture hall 1-01.

A reception will be held afterwards in the Senate's conference room.

Read more about Birthe Avery and her thesis at <http://www.iph.kvl.dk/Aktiviteter/2007/Forsvar-af-doktor-disputats.aspx>

Ingrid Brück Bøgh, Department of Large Animal Sciences, ibb@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 January 2007