



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 10 September 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

Student internships at LIFE

If you have a brother, sister, daughter, son, nephew or grandchild who is in their third year of upper secondary school or who has already graduated, they now have the chance to participate in a three-day student internship in one of LIFE's seven BSc programmes.

At the end of October, Frederiksberg Campus and the Forestry College (Skovskolen) will hopefully be teeming with upper secondary school students and graduates.

The Faculty has joined the nationwide programme offering three-day student internships in higher education programmes. A total of 32 educational institutions will be opening their doors in calendar week 44.

At LIFE, pupils can become students within the fields of: Biology-Biotechnology, Food Science, Farming Economy, Landscape Architecture, Natural Resources, Veterinary Medicine and Forestry and Landscape Engineering.

[Registration is possible from 9-21 September 2009](#)

Read more about [Student internships at LIFE](#). [See the three-day programme at LIFE](#). (in Danish)

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

LIFE's strategy – according to staff and students

The discussions at the dialogue meeting were lively when around 100 staff and students presented their ideas for LIFE's 2010-2014 strategy.

Dean Per Holten-Andersen opened the meeting with a review of the [three stages of the strategy](#) and a [timetable](#) (in Danish).

Everyone then split up to work in groups, and afterwards Søren Hartz, Faculty Director, summarised the main points:

Main points from the group discussions at the dialogue meeting on 3 September 2009

The specific initiatives proposed by the staff and students at the dialogue meeting about LIFE's 2010-2014 strategy are grouped according to theme and listed below. The Faculty Management will now consider the proposals in the further process of developing LIFE's new strategy.

Other proposals and comments can be submitted by email to Faculty Director Søren Hartz at: soh@life.ku.dk.

Status of merger: What potential synergies from the merger do we still need to harness?

- In the field of planning, LIFE overlaps with the geo and bio disciplines at the Faculty of Science (NAT), but has its own profile within nature management/physical planning
- In the field of plants, incl. biotech, there is the potential for a joint University of Copenhagen (KU) programme initiative and a collaboration with NAT in the field of botany. Proposal of a 'Plant Science Centre'
- In the field of nutrition and health, close collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences (SUND) is possible as there are many complementary activities
- In the field of chemistry/biochemistry/biotechnology, there is a need to look across the faculties and exploit complementary activities better within KU
- Translational medicine (University Hospital)
- Better profiling of LIFE in relation to the human sciences
- Fields relating to developing countries (e.g. parasitology) – common education committee
- Nature, environment, production (sharper profile and collaboration with Biology and Geography as well as synergy within LIFE)
- Welfare/quality of life should be given a sharper profile
- Climate research and teaching
- More electives and better coverage of subjects in collaboration with SUND and NAT – e.g. a joint inspiration course

- Coordination of efforts and collaboration across the faculties at course level to avoid low participant numbers in graduate courses. Lecturers can be re-used, e.g. as guest lecturers from other faculties
Possible collaboration with SUND on courses on cellular biology as a basic course
- More cross-faculty research applications – e.g. as follow-up on theme clusters, possibly as a new theme package process
- More cross-faculty collaboration on courses and dissemination, including more specialised Master courses as cross-faculty collaborations, which would attract more students
- The strong KU brand could be exploited better, also in connection with communicating a clearly defined profile to the international segment
- Collaboration on equipment centres/lab facilities/core facilities: Collaboration on high-tech equipment across faculties, including maintenance and acquisitions
- Greater collaboration on e-learning
- Opportunities for taking courses at other faculties
- Better opportunities across the faculties for staff to get to know each other
- More resources with a view to promoting processes leading to, e.g., UNIK collaborations

Competitive position: In the area of national and international collaboration, where should LIFE compete in the following areas?

General:

- Research and education at LIFE should be a driver for LIFE's commitment to collaboration with the business community and public authorities – not the other way around
- It is extremely important that LIFE has a clearly defined research and education profile
- Technical University of Denmark (DTU)/Danish Veterinary Institute should be among LIFE's close partners
- Collaboration with other universities should continue to expand
- The 'conglomerate' the faculties of LIFE-NAT-SUND-FARMA should join forces to compete internationally in more contexts
- In the management area, LIFE is strong in most fields

Research:

- In the natural sciences, LIFE is stronger than other food science faculties/departments outside KU
- LIFE should focus more on natural resources/plants/environment
- External funding – we are doing well in the competition for project funding
- Collaboration with the DTU and the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF) at Aarhus University (AU) could be promoted more

Education:

- LIFE is competitive as an attractive place to study (continued focus on the soft values and the attractive campus environment)
- KU could market nature management and physical planning better
- New veterinary medicine programme – focus on internationalisation
- Collaboration with AU on food/nutrition and general collaboration with DJF on study programmes
- Focus on cross-faculty collaboration
- LIFE and DJF should collaborate rather than compete in the area of natural resources
- LIFE's interdisciplinary profile should be maintained in a competitive context (graduates can link between applied research and basic research)
- Collaboration with AU in the area of basic animal sciences (joint BSc programme)
- Focus on recruitment from surrounding municipalities. Potential in young people with ethnic minority backgrounds (focus on professional degrees)
- Plant study programmes at LIFE should increase focus on molecular biology
- IT as a driver of freedom and CO₂ reduction

Collaboration with the business sector:

- LIFE needs to do more here

Services to the authorities:

- Maintain status quo

Academic profile for research: What should be prioritised in the strategy?

- Areas that underpin LIFE's study programmes and strategic targets
- The LMC platform as a position of strength, as an example of good collaboration and as an international spearhead where LIFE contributes with integrated food science research in the fields of health/safety/taste
- LIFE's characteristic value chain from farm to fork and the biological foundation (in contrast to DTU's more technical approach and AU's more practice and public authority-oriented approach)
- Secure the research beacons at LIFE
- There should be a strong basis in basic research
- Increased focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and synergies

Academic profile for education: What should be prioritised in the strategy?

- Streamlining/rationalisation of instruction
- The climate
- Focus on e-learning
- Joint PhD courses – agricultural biology

- Stronger academic profile in the area of natural resources. Come up with more precise names for the natural resource disciplines, e.g. agricultural biology, animal biology
- Students should study more outside the faculty at the respective companies/sectors, cf. recommendation from the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences

Academic profile for business collaboration and services to the authorities: What should be prioritised in the strategy?

- Strong profile/potential for business collaboration – do we get the full benefit?
- More Industrial PhDs
- Focus on soil/water/environment (primary production)
- Focus on animal and human health – also in relation to developing countries
- Focus on food science and veterinary medicine
- Entire KU should collaborate on business collaboration and services to the authorities

Organisational consequences: What should the strategy include in order to realise these targets? (buildings, laboratories, infrastructure)

- New greenhouse facilities in Taastrup
- Remember to involve the students in the process (incl. international students)
- More and bigger auditoriums – Auditorium facilities should be improved
- Teaching labs should be renovated and remodelled (size in relation to use/logistics)
- Better conditions for PhD and continuing education courses
- Need for new equipment, but also upgrading and maintenance
- National reference laboratory for animal research (c-lab)
- Metabolomics, Imaging
- More of everything!

Thank you for the fruitful discussion!

Faculty Management

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

Researchers – stick your necks out!

Researchers and experts need to stick their necks out and get involved in the public debate! That was the message from two seasoned journalists and commentators, Lisbeth Knudsen, editor-in-chief of the Danish daily *Berlingske Tidende*, and Jes Stein Pedersen, journalist and host of the Deadline 2. Sektion programme on the Danish TV station DR2, at the Semester Kick-off on Monday 7 September with the title: 'Breaking News? Media in a time of crisis'.

Researchers need to break the code of silence, speak out and play the role of the critical voice which

establishes the professionalism that gives the public debate substance. Researchers need to be able to speak their minds without having a complete research report to back them up, because the news media cannot wait three months for a comment on an issue that is topical now.

Jes Stein Pedersen pointed out that right now it is the same people who appear in the Danish media over and over again. This is because in the academic community there is no prestige in getting involved in the media debate, and:

“They are afraid of being called a camera lover by their colleagues.”

Both commentators agreed that the media is an important force in a democracy. Thus, it should be a matter of course that those who possess the expertise contribute to an informed debate.

Lisbeth Knudsen does not believe that the media in general is experiencing a crisis, because there is great demand for information. In this context, crisis refers partly to a crisis of ideas and partly to a financial crisis. The process of converting to modern times with digital platforms has been too slow. The news stream today is extremely fast, so journalists have to rethink their role.

Jes Stein Pedersen opened his talk by encouraging all students to read Dante's *Divine Comedy* during their studies, which he took as the starting point of his talk: The media hell is where Paris Hilton, Brad and Angelina are the key figures. Compared to other countries, Denmark is not quite there yet, so we are still in purgatory. But form and process have become more important than content, so he encourages everyone to stop to think and to speak out about what is important. And this is where he called for the critical voice from the research community.

Read [Pro-rector Lykke Friis' blog on the Semester Kick-off](#)

Nearly 200 people attended the meeting in the Ceremonial Hall at Frue Plads, which was organised by KUBULUS, the Student Council and the Danish Bankers Association.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 September 2009

How well do you know your foreign colleague?

Meet with a foreign colleague and be inspired – sign up for the [Mentor programme for new foreign researchers](#).

International Staff Mobility still needs mentors. It is possible for two people to share the role of mentor for a group of foreign researchers if you and a colleague would like to work together.

The next kick-off seminar will be on 29 October.

Contact: interstaff@adm.ku.dk

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

Register your team for the CPH Campus Race 2009

Form a team of five colleagues, fellow students or friends from the University of Copenhagen and take part in CPH Campus Race 2009. Registration is necessary – the deadline is 16 September 2009. [Register here](#)

CPH Campus Race, a team bike race with challenges to solve along the way, is open to all staff and students at the University of Copenhagen. It is a unique opportunity to experience the entire University and large parts of Copenhagen from a bike. The route encompasses all faculties and campuses at the University of Copenhagen. There are watering posts along the way where each team competes for a gift voucher for Café Væksthuset, Campus beer, Bioethanol and other great prizes. The awards ceremony takes place at Café Væksthuset, where the participants are also offered refreshments.

Read more about the programme, prizes and the day at www.campusrace.ku.dk.

We look forward to seeing you for a fun afternoon on Friday 18 September.

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

Announcements

Universitetsavisen no. 10 is ready for pick-up

Universitetsavisen no. 10 will be out on 10 September 2009. Read the online version, which is updated regularly, at www.uniavisen.dk

[See here where you can find a *Universitetsavisen* newsstand](#). If your department or unit wants to hand the newspaper out directly to its staff, LIFE Operations would be happy to leave a stack in the department/unit mail room. Contact John Stone Andersen, Head of Operations, jsa@life.ku.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 September 2009

Do you write emails or letters in English – and do you feel at a loss for words?

Then remember that staff and students at the University of Copenhagen has direct and free access to Gyldendal's online dictionaries (you have access via your PC's IP address and do not need to log in).

If you are looking for university or LIFE-related terminology, you will find Danish-English LIFE and University dictionaries on the [language page of the staff portal](#).

Here you will also find links to guidelines on the University's use of British English and to a variety of dictionaries.

You are welcome to contact Kirsten Jenlev at LIFE Communication kje@life.ku.dk if you have any questions regarding English at LIFE or if you need help with the translation of documents.

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

Can I take a leave of absence for a period? And is it with or without pay?

This is just one of many questions to which you can find the answer in the Staff Handbook. The [Staff Handbook](#) makes it easy for you to search for information on the rules, guidelines and agreements that apply to employment at LIFE, e.g. maternity/paternity leave, the working environment and competency development.

You can find the Staff Handbook on the staff portal. And if you want to suggest new articles, you are more than welcome to contact Karen Vestergaard Petersen, HR, kvp@life.ku.dk.

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

Fitness centre for all members of the Staff Association and for all students at LIFE

It is never too late to get into better shape! That is why we would like to invite you to visit the third floor of the Library building at Dyrølægevej 10.

We will be hosting an Open House on 10 September 2009, 2-7 pm.

At the Open House there will be a fantastic start-up offer for new members of the fitness centre:

Workout for free for the rest of September and all of October when you sign up for a 12-month membership at the centre – price: DKK 165/month (requires membership of the Staff Association or DSR)

LIFE staff members can also sign up for a 'partner membership' – two people can workout for 300/month (both members must live at the same address)

We will be starting a new season with new classes and cheerful instructors to guide you on your way to a healthier lifestyle – a fitness centre where you are in focus.

We look forward to seeing you :-)

Kind regards,

Staff Association and FitnessMaster at LIFE

Ulla Dahl Lindberg, Staff Association, udl@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 September 2009

Education

Student assistants at climate event in October

On Friday 23 October and Saturday 24 October 2009, the University of Copenhagen needs a number of student assistants in connection with the hosting of the Future Generation Climate Camp – a 24-hour camp where 96 upper secondary school students from all over Denmark who are interested in the climate will be participating.

We are looking for student assistants within three categories:

- 12 students as 'workshop facilitators'. The job consists of guiding the participants through a workshop. You will be leading a group of eight students through the various stages of the workshop, collecting input, watching the time etc.

Before the camp, you will be introduced to the features of a qualifying workshop on Monday 12 October (afternoon/evening) at South Campus (KUA) where you will be prepared for the job.

The actual job will take place on 23 October from approx. 1 pm to midnight and on 24 October from approx. 8 am to 12 noon, in addition to participation in the workshop on 12 October (afternoon/evening). Note: You must

be able to participate on all three days in order to be considered for the job.

- 24 students as 'fact finders'. The job consists of helping upper secondary school students search for information and of explaining scientific questions. We will try to match your academic background with the workshop topics.

The job will take place on 23 October at 4-6 pm.

- 8 students as 'practical assistants'. The job consists of getting everything ready, giving the young people directions, helping with workshops, serving during and cleaning up after meals and breaks, providing extra supervision during the participants' overnight stay, clearing up etc.

The job will take place on 23 October at approx. 10 am-8 pm or 8 pm-6 am, or on 24 October 6 am-2 pm.

The primary venue for the event will be the main building at Frederiksberg Campus, Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg C.

You will be paid an hourly rate applicable for student assistants (incl. any pay supplements). After the camp, you will receive a statement of participation from the University of Copenhagen.

Please send an email as soon as possible, though no later than 5 October to cjl@life.ku.dk stating:

1) Which job you are interested in, 2) Name, 3) Line of study, faculty + whether you are a BSc or an MSc student, 4) Phone number

If you have any questions or want to help out at the Climate Camp, please contact Christina Juul Lassen, LIFE Communication on tel.: +45 3533 2212 or cjl@life.ku.dk.

See also the job advertisement in Danish at www.camp.ku.dk/studiejob.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 10 September 2009

Seminar: Matchmaking between the labour market and recent Master's graduates

The aim of this seminar is to discuss and debate how to begin a career in the development sector. Representatives from both small and large development organisations in Denmark will be participating.

The seminar targets current Master's students and Master's graduates from the Faculty of Life Sciences (KU), CBS, Centre for African Studies, RUC, and the Faculty of Social Sciences (KU), who have a focus on development work. The seminar is financed by the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN).

It will take place on 24 September 2009, 1-4 pm at the Faculty of Life Sciences, Thorvaldsensvej 40, 1871 Frederiksberg, Auditorium 3-14.

Sign up no later than 21 September at marc.d-j@hotmail.com. Please state your name and institution.

Only 144 seats available.

Gaia Luziatelli Hansen, Agricultural Development, gaia@dsr.life.ku.dk

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

Expansion increases competition in Venture Cup 09/10

With Aalborg University (AAU) as the newest member, Venture Cup has expanded the search for Denmark's best entrepreneurs, making it a nationwide competition.

The entrepreneurial organisation Venture Cup, started by McKinsey & Co, is now increasing its efforts to find Denmark's best ideas and entrepreneurs in collaboration with AAU, which has recently signed an agreement to bring the Venture Cup to the Northern Jutland region. With AAU's participation, Venture Cup is now a nationwide event, making the competition for the main prize of DKK 250,000 even tougher.

Kenneth Stenkjær Pedersen from AAU Innovation is pleased that Venture Cup is now coming to the region, "It is a victory for AAU students that they now have access to the opportunities that Venture Cup offers in the form of qualifications upgrading, cash prizes and networks. Especially the international initiatives with which Venture Cup is affiliated, such as stays at the Danish Innovation Center in Silicon Valley, help make it easier for ambitious students to realise their ideas."

Tine Thygesen, director of Venture Cup, is excited about having the opportunity to strengthen the initiative and promote entrepreneurship in Northern Jutland: "The potential for new growth companies from AAU is huge thanks to the strong foundation that AAU has already established in the Northern Jutland region. We are looking forward to building on this foundation with AAU and to helping introduce entrepreneurs in Northern Jutland to the opportunities they now have access to through Venture Cup."

Venture Cup started in Denmark in 2000, and since then it has helped start more than 70 new companies and created more than 400 jobs. Every year, more than 700 students from Danish universities participate, and last year more than 250 ideas competed for the main prize of DKK 250,000.

About Venture Cup

Venture Cup is the Danish universities' joint competition for ideas and research with business potential. The competition is organised by seven Danish universities (Aarhus University, Aalborg University, Copenhagen Business School, Technical University of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University and University of Southern Denmark), and takes place annually throughout the academic year. The participants receive help to develop their ideas into investment-ready business plans through a series of seminars and workshops as well as through individual coaching and feedback from a professional jury. During the competition, cash prizes are awarded totalling more than DKK 500,000. More than 70 companies have started up since the first Venture Cup in 2000.

www.venturecup.dk

Venture Cup receives university funding with support from private sponsors (Grundfos, Novo Nordisk, Awapatent and Ernst & Young) and public funding (including from the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, the Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority and the Danish Foundation for Entrepreneurship, Activities and Culture. More than 100 investors, serial entrepreneurs and business people volunteer their time as jury members or advisors for the participating Venture Cup teams. And every year, a handful of projects receive major investments after participating in the competition.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gfb@life.ku.dk – latest update 9 September 2009

Master in Rural Development and Landscape Management – theme days and courses

Theme day on 6 October in Middelfart, Denmark: Local task forces, local rural district policy and municipal planning – interaction or reaction? There are very different players on the field, each with their own objectives and funding. There is plenty of opportunity for both conflicts and synergies. A number of players from three different municipalities and leading experts will debate the issues. The event is open to everyone. Price: DKK 600, excl. VAT. Registration deadline: 19 September [Read more here](#) (in Danish).

Theme day on 19 November in Copenhagen: Rural development and multifunctional landscapes – topical issues and theories in Europe. At this theme day, we will hear about the new and leading research in Europe. The list of speakers includes Terry Marsden.

The event is open to everyone. Price: DKK 700, excl. VAT. Registration deadline: 9 November. [Read more here](#)

New courses in spring 2010 – qualifications upgrading, newest theories and experience, networking:

Module 1a: Local rural district policy – theory and practice – [Read more here](#) (in Danish)

Module 1b: The open landscape in municipal planning – [Read more here](#) (in Danish)

Registration deadline: 9 November

Jørgen Primdahl and Hanne Tanvig, Forestry & Landscape

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

Junior Researcher Forum: The bioactive compounds of plants still (a)maze

The 2009/2010 season of the Junior Researcher Forum opens on 14 September at 5.15 pm with newly appointed Professor Barbara Ann Halkier, Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, who will present the amazing bioactive compounds of plants.

Come and here about the research in glucosinolates (natural compounds) in plants which make it possible to design plants with very specific medical applications.

Everyone is welcome!

Pizza and beer/soft drinks will be served.

[What is Junior Researcher Forum?](#) (in Danish)

Don't forget 'Brain for a Night' 2009 on 20 November:

DKK 10,000 for ten minutes – 'Brain for a Night' – 20 November 2009 – Read more here:

<http://www.juniorforskercafe.life.ku.dk/>

Jette Fugl, Faculty of Life Sciences Library, jfu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 7 September 2009

Staff news

Professor Jørgen Bo Larsen has been elected to the board of the European Forest Institute (EFI)

At the annual general meeting of the European Forest Institute (EFI) in Dublin, Ireland, Professor Jørgen Bo Larsen, Forestry & Landscape, LIFE, was elected to the board.

Representatives from forestry research institutions from 33 countries elected Jørgen Bo Larsen over Jean-Marc Guehl, head of forestry research in France.

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

Research

Northern Europe's forestry research to be coordinated from Denmark

At the 2009 general meeting of the European Forest Institute (EFI) in Dublin, Ireland, it was decided that Forestry & Landscape should host the coordination of forestry research in Northern Europe.

[Read the press release in Danish](#)

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

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.