



## eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 13 December 2007

Email to the editors: [elife@life.ku.dk](mailto:elife@life.ku.dk)

Final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

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](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, Communications, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk)

## Life at LIFE

### **Internationalisation – here we come?**

As part of the merger with the University of Copenhagen, LIFE is now in the process of replacing the signs across the campus.

The signs are nice, but it seems odd that the University, which is so focused on being an international university, has not started at "ground level" by writing the signs in English as well.

Some English-language signs have been installed, such as at Study and Student Affairs, but the writing is indistinct.

This means that in the dark, it is practically impossible for international students and staff to find their way around using the new signs.

On the new signs for the library, the opening hours are only written in Danish!

Internationalisation is not just about nice words, participation in star alliances and excellent strategies. It is also

a question of making life easier for international staff, students and other guests.

So dear Signwriters – this must count as a do-over!

Martin Fischer  
Forestry student

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 11 December 2007*

### **“Yuck, it’s disgusting. It smells like a barn” – article on LIFE’s School Service**

The school kids actually show as much positive wonder as disgust when they visit us with their teachers. Read Torben Ingerslev Roug’s article in the trade magazine for nature guides *Naturvejlederen*: [Hænderne på de gode forskningshistorier](#) (Hands-on the good research stories – in Danish).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 10 December 2007*

## Announcements

### **Info letter 2 from the Accounting Office**

In info letter 2, you can read about further changes taking place in the accounting area in connection with the merger.

[Info letter 2 from Accounting \(in Danish\)](#) - [Power of Attorney form \(in Danish\)](#)

**Uffe Gammelgaard, Budget, [ug@life.ku.dk](mailto:ug@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 December 2007*

### **Have: three adorable cats. Wanted: Nice homes**

We have three cats at the Department of Small Animal Science who want new and loving homes for Christmas.

Solvej (female), Gorm (male) and Denzel W. (male). They have all been sterilised, tagged and vaccinated.  
See photos of Solvej, Gorm and Denzel:



They have been with us for just over a year, where they have been cared for and used to teach students of veterinary science how to handle cats and conduct clinical tests.

They are all adorable and willing to "talk" and cuddle. But I am sure that a lot of attention and TLC would bring out even more of their wonderful personalities.

We would prefer to find homes with outdoor access for the cats.

Hope to hear from you!

Best regards,  
Mette

Sent an email to Veterinary Nurse Mette Rasmussen at [mera@life.ku.dk](mailto:mera@life.ku.dk)

**Mette Rasmussen, IMHS, [mera@life.ku.dk](mailto:mera@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 December 2007*

### **The Arboretum calendar 2008**

We have created a beautiful A4-sized calendar with magnificent photos from the Arboretum.

Unfortunately, the calendar will not be available until 17 December. You can see the calendar at [www.arboretet.dk](http://www.arboretet.dk) under the menu heading "Arboretum Calendar 2008". They can be picked up at

Hørsholm Kongevej 11 in Reception or ordered as described below.

There are a total of 500 copies available and stock updates will be posted on the website.

Pre-order:

It is possible to pre-order the calendar by paying via one of the following methods. The calendar will then either be sent to you or you can pick it up from 17 December.

Price per calendar: DKK 80 – if you pick it up yourself

Skov & Landskab (Center for Forestry, Landscape and Planning)  
Hørsholm Kongevej 11  
DK-2970 Hørsholm  
Please ask for Morten Alban Knudsen / Isabelle Skarvig Kafé.

DKK 100 – for written orders by mail

For written orders by mail, please send us a cheque for the amount.

Please write the cheque out to:

Skov og Landskab  
Hørsholm Kongevej 11  
DK-2790 Hørsholm

Attn: Morten Alban Knudsen

Mark it: Projekt B 387 - 15.

Please note the number of calendars you are ordering as well as your name and address.

For questions concerning ordering, stocks and payment, please contact Morten Alban Knudsen at [malk@life.ku.dk](mailto:malk@life.ku.dk) or on tel. +45 30 66 34 76

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 December 2007*

## Education

### **LIFE's education seminar on 22-23 November 2007**

On 22 and 23 November, the pro-dean for education, the Study Committee chair and deputy chair, the directors of study, the Teaching Committee chair and deputy chair and representatives from the student academic associations gathered at Sophienberg Castle in Rungsted, North of Copenhagen, for the annual education seminar. The primary purpose of the seminars is to give these groups the opportunity to discuss education-related topics with each other in a way that a normal workday does not allow.

The seminar was a huge success and the discussions were lively. The main topic was the academic profiles of the study programmes – now and in the future, and Pro-Dean Henrik Busch from the Faculty of Science participated in the debate. There will be follow-ups on the discussions of the academic profiles of the study programmes in the directors of study's annual reports, which will be published throughout the spring. Other topics at the seminar were accreditation of study programmes, where Chair of the Accreditation Council Søren Barlebo Rasmussen talked about the work of the council, and language policy, where Per Holten-Andersen participated.

The students illustrated the topic of language policy with an excellent sketch on Thursday evening featuring a group of international students touring the stables of Farmer Kresten, which, of course, resulted in a series of misunderstandings...

**Ingelise Lundgaard, Study and Students' Affairs, [il@life.ku.dk](mailto:il@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 December 2007*

### **Read the KVL students' association's Newsletter for December 2007**

The electronic newsletter for December from the KVL students' association (DSR) is now available. Read about the cancellation of this year's "Brain for a Night" event and the call for new members from the film club. There are also a series of short articles that you are sure to find interesting. See you in the new year!

<http://netforum.dsr.kvl.dk/perl/udvinfo/type-dsr?uinroid=25128>

Janus Juell-Sundby

DSR communications officer

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 December 2007*

## Staff news

## **New head of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology**

On 1 February 2008, Veterinary Surgeon Birgit Nørrung, PhD, will take up the position as Head of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology (DVP).

Birgit Nørrung comes from a position as head of research at the Department of Microbiology and Risk Assessment at the National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark. She is 47 years old and has worked in research, consulting and teaching for 20 years within the field of food microbiology. She obtained her degree in veterinary medicine in 1985 and after a few years working with small animals and later at a slaughterhouse, she became a lecturer at the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, at the Royal Danish Veterinary and Agricultural University, where she later earned her PhD (1993) and took up a position as assistant professor.

In 1994, Birgit Nørrung was appointed senior researcher at the former Section for Microbiological Food Safety, Department of Toxicology, Danish Food Administration and later the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, and in 1999 she became head of the same section. Since 2004, Birgit has been head of the new department, which today comprises approx. 100 employees divided into three sections.

This means that Birgit brings considerable managerial experience with her to DVP. Although management has been her main focus since 1999, she has also been professionally active throughout the period. Her main research interest is applied research in risk assessment and control of zoonotic microorganisms and foodborne viruses.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 December 2007*

## **Arla Foods Young Scientist Award goes to young milk researcher Janne Kunchel Lorenzen**

Calcium in dairy products contributes to weight loss according to new research. Janne Lorenzen, a PhD student from the Department of Human Nutrition, is the brain behind these sensational research findings for which she received the Arla Foods Young Scientist Award last Thursday. Janne Kunchel Lorenzen is the first to receive the award.

Last Thursday, Janne Kunchel Lorenzen received the Arla Foods Young Scientist Award for her research in the remarkable ability of calcium to bind to and remove fat through the human digestion system. The award is accompanied by a cheque for EUR 10,000.

Janne Kunchel Lorenzen has conducted research in the area since she began her PhD studies in 2004. Her many experiments show that increased intake of calcium in, e.g., dairy products is extremely likely to affect weight regulation in humans.

“In the past people have tended to avoid dairy products out of concern for the fat content. But my research clearly shows that drinking milk, for example, is certainly not bad for your weight. However, we still don't know exactly why this takes place, so that is our next focus area,” says Janne Kunchel Lorenzen, who continues: “The award is a real pat on the back and has certainly whetted my appetite to continue research in the area.”

Head of Research at Arla Foods Henrik Jørgen Andersen, who is the originator of the new research award, is pleased:

“With this award, we want to show that we support research that benefits the entire dairy industry.”

*Katherina Ludvigsen, Communications*

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 December 2007*

## **Janne Bavnhøj – LIFE's new web editor**

We have finally found a replacement for Martin Sandgaard. As of 1 January, our website will be in the capable hands of Janne Bavnhøj. She comes from a position as web editor at Forest and Landscape.

She has degrees in communication and forestry, so she has LIFE experience and is already acquainted with LIFE's website and sitecore solution.

Janne has worked with the development of websites and online communication since 1998, first for DanChurchAid, and from 1999 to 2006 for the Danish Forest Association. Most recently, she has worked for Forest and Landscape, where her projects have included the new intranet and editing Forest and Landscape's website.

She has been editor of the tree portal [trae.dk](http://trae.dk), as well as editing and developing a number of websites with trees and forests as their focus areas, including in particular [www.skovforeningen.dk](http://www.skovforeningen.dk), [www.udeskole.dk](http://www.udeskole.dk) and [www.skoven-i-skolen.dk](http://www.skoven-i-skolen.dk).



## **Torben Ingerslev Roug appointed as educational development officer at LIFE's School Service from 1 January 2008**

LIFE's School Service has been a huge success in the two and a half years of its existence. We have therefore given Educational Development Officer Torben Ingerslev Roug, MSc, a permanent full-time position, rather than the previous part-time position, with LIFE's School Service at the Communications Department.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 10 December 2007*

## **Research**

## **Department of Plant Biology solves scientific mystery – today Danish research is on the cover of the prestigious scientific journal *Nature***

As the first in the world, Danish scientists from the Department of Plant Biology have created a three-dimensional image of one of the smallest machines in nature, the so-called plasma membrane proton pumps.

The existence of biological pumps in plants and humans has been known for more than 50 years, but how they actually looked has been a mystery, until now. The pumps are so small that the dot on this 'i' could contain about a million of them. Scientists all over the world have worked for the past fifteen years to solve the mystery, and now scientists from LIFE, in collaboration with the basic research centre PUMPKIN at the University of Aarhus, have finally succeeded.

You can read about it in this week's issue of *Nature*, which in addition to gracing the cover with a picture of a biological pump, also features no less than three articles on Danish pump research.

### **The pumps power the plants**

By determining the structure of a proton pump from plants, the team of scientists has been able to explain how these pumps can create a powerful current across a cell membrane. It is usually about 0.25V, which does not sound like much, but is a very strong current at the cellular level. It is the energy source that plants and fungi use to absorb nutrients and for a wide variety of other important processes. The proton pump is therefore vital for the survival of plants.

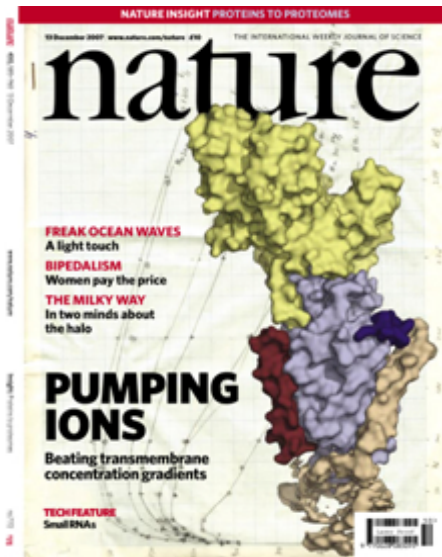
The findings are not just of enormous significance to basic science but can also form the basis in future for the development of, e.g., culture plants that can tolerate salt water as well as for new drugs to combat fungal infections. As tiny, efficient power generators, they can also form the basis for man-made, nano-sized biomachines.

The team of scientists is headed by Professors Michael Gjedde Palmgren (University of Copenhagen) and Poul Nissen (University of Aarhus). Professor Palmgren has worked for many years with the engineering of yeasts to produce large numbers of proton pumps from plants. The findings are the result of a long-term collaboration between two junior researchers, Associate Research Professor Morten Buch-Pedersen (University of Copenhagen) and PhD student Bjørn Panella Pedersen (University of Aarhus), who are also the first authors of the article.

For more information:

See [www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

Or contact Professor Michael Gjedde Palmgren, [palmgren@life.ku.dk](mailto:palmgren@life.ku.dk), tel. +45 35 33 25 92 / +45 23 98 84 44.



What a pump looks like – cover of *Nature* on 13 December 2007.

Kirstine Therkelsen, Department of Plant Biology, [kith@life.ku.dk](mailto:kith@life.ku.dk)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 13 December 2007

### **Award for Outstanding Public Outreach 2008 – awards criteria and requirements for nomination**

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation hereby calls for nominations for the Award for Outstanding Public Outreach 2008. Read more here:

<http://videnskabsministeriet.dk/site/forside/nyheder/andet-nyt/forskningskommunikationsprisen-2008 - in Danish>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 10 December 2007

## Grants

## Research funds etc.

See the online version at

[http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life\\_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx)

Here you will find all calls with active links.