



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday, 3 April 2008

Email to the editors: 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

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

Life at LIFE

Scientists at LIFE celebrated telephone fitness, weeding robots and biofuel

Last Tuesday, innovative scientists at LIFE were honoured for their inventions, which have benefited Danish society, at the Inventor Champagne reception in the Marble Hall on Thorvaldsensvej.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Frederiksberg Campus, the anniversary exhibition was also presented – with a special anniversary supplement on the inventions and solutions which the Frederiksberg Campus has produced over the past 150 years. There were tastings of two new inventions from the Frederiksberg Campus – the anniversary beer called Campus and a specially developed diet chocolate. The event also included inspiring presentations by Dean Per Holten-Andersen and three scientists, each of whom spoke on the prospects of their inventions.

For more information on the Invention Champagne reception, please contact Research and Innovation on +45 35 33 20 41.

Katherina Ludvigsen, Communications

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

Three new departments at LIFE

Nature's biological resources should be utilised in a more sustainable way by future agriculture. This has always been the ambition at the Faculty of Life Sciences, and this objective has now been made even clearer with the introduction of three major scientific focus areas and the formation of three national departments in the fields of agriculture & ecology, plant biology & biotechnology, and basic sciences & environment. The aim is to ensure that Denmark will continue to be in the lead in these areas, in terms of both research and education.

Denmark must be known for having the most outstanding knowledge of sustainable food production, plants, environment and natural resources. On the basis of biotechnology, our aim is to set new international standards for research and education in plants and animals, and we need to be at the forefront in the development of the models, theories and techniques which are an integrated part of life sciences.

Many companies are developing their businesses in close cooperation with researchers and students at the Faculty of Life Sciences. At the same time, in recent years the Faculty has turned out a number of Denmark's most talented graduates in sustainable food production, plants, environment and natural resources. The Faculty of Life Sciences wants this to continue in the future. The establishment of three new national departments and scientific focus areas is seen as an important step in securing this development.

The three new departments

As one of the tangible results, a new department will therefore be formed in the next few months through the merger of Department of Agricultural Sciences and Department of Ecology. At the same time, a few technically based adjustments have been made to the boundaries between the new department, Department of Plant Biology and Department of Natural Sciences. As a consequence of this, the departments affected have been given new names that better cover their respective focus areas.

Department of Agriculture and Ecology

Institut for Jordbrug og Økologi

The new Department of Agriculture and Ecology brings together ecology and agricultural sciences and their relationships to plant production. It will cover a wide field of research dealing with the interactions between genes, organisms, environment and management; from molecules to organisms and populations to ecosystems. There will be a particular focus on current environmental problems and related challenges to primary production, with a view to strengthening research and education in both sustainable food production and the use of biological resources. This approach is based on expertise in micro-organism activity, plants and animals in interaction with environment and climate and human activities that will exist in the new Department, and on cooperation with other departments with related interests. The scientific profile and size of Department of Agriculture and Ecology will enable it to face the dual challenges of advancing basic research and meeting the needs of agriculture and society, in the search for solutions to immediate and future problems.

Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology

Institut for Plantebiologi og Bioteknologi

The basic research of the Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology is in areas that provide new knowledge of the molecular mechanisms that control the growth of plants and their interaction with the

environment. One central area is the development of more robust plants that are resistant to diseases and insect attacks and which provide a high yield even under unfavourable growing conditions. These plants form the basis of production of healthier food for humans and better feed for our domestic animals. New innovative initiatives include the development of plants as “green factories” for the production of, for instance, biomedicine and bioenergy. The Department contributes to many of LIFE’s study programmes and is responsible for the coordination of educational activities in the field of biotechnology across the Faculty and in cooperation with the Faculty of Science. The Department has a strong international profile and houses three centres of excellence and a Danida centre.

Department of Basic Sciences and Environment

Institut for Grundvidenskab og Miljø

The Department of Basic Sciences and Environment provides research and education in the fundamental natural sciences – chemistry, physics, and mathematics. The research groups of the Department are part of a large network of scientists at the University of Copenhagen, including the Faculties of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Health Sciences. Within environmental science, the Department has particular focus on research in environmental chemistry, ecotoxicology, and hydrology as applied to agriculture and other sectors. The Department’s research and teaching in fundamental and interdisciplinary sciences are oriented towards numerous applications within food and health, veterinary medicine, and natural resources, the main areas of the Faculty of Life Sciences. With its international research profile, the Department participates in research constellations from centres of excellence to innovation projects in collaboration with industry. Also important is the Department’s collaboration with other departments at LIFE in the development and utilization of measurement and analysis techniques, statistical methods, and modelling.

Why is this happening now?

The establishment of the new departments at this point in time should be seen in the light of last year’s university mergers which have challenged the way the area of natural resources is led and organised at the Faculty of Life Sciences. The faculty management wanted to sharpen the Faculty’s profile in the areas affected, strengthen our competitive position and make it even easier to work together with us. Therefore, after thorough consultation with the departments involved, the faculty management has decided to strengthen management and organisation of the areas of natural resources and basic sciences to meet these objectives.

Kirsten Jenlev

Greenhouses an extremely popular destination at the weekend of 29-30 March

A total of 3,150 visitors, young and old, toured the Greenhouses to take a peek at the future of plant research as presented by Denmark's leading plant scientists, students and gardeners.

Never have so many people visited the Greenhouses, and the enormous interest most certainly had something to do with the fact that both local and national news stations, in the form of TV2 Lorry and DR2 Deadline, had reported on the Greenhouses and on the research that takes place there.

You can find links to the reports under Forskning on the LIFE website (DR2 Deadline) and here in Life at LIFE (TV2 Lorry).

Another popular attraction was the sales booth, where plants produced by trainee greenhouse gardeners and surplus plants from the collections were up for sale. Interest in expert advice on the care of house and garden plants was also huge, and many enjoyed listening to the fascinating research stories that were told with great animation by all the contributors.

The event is scheduled again next year on the last weekend in March.

Hanne Lipczak Jakobsen, Green Support Services
Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

The Greenhouses on TV2 Lorry

Welcome to a closed world – [watch and hear the report](#)

Now, on to a place that is normally a closed world of exotic plants and scientific experiments. For this weekend, the doors will be opened to the enormous Greenhouses at the Faculty of Life Sciences in Frederiksberg. A playground that is all about giving plants and people a better future.

Friday, 28 March, 7.30 pm
Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 April 2008

Why are they cutting down six trees in the garden behind Rolighedsvej?

Because a new building is being constructed to house Forest and Landscape's approx. 120 employees, who are currently working in Hørsholm, north of Copenhagen. The goal is to bring together most of the Forest and Landscape staff at Rolighedsvej 23 and in so doing to strengthen the bonds and synergies between their research, teaching, consulting and communication activities.

The new building will be an extension to the existing building, which is listed as a historical landmark. The extension is designed by the architectural competition winners, the firm of architects Rørbæk & Møller along with landscape architect Andreas Bruun. Detailed plans can be seen on our website: www.SL.life.ku.dk under Nyheder.

Unfortunately the construction of the new building means that part of the garden behind Rolighedsvej 23 has to go. The garden was designed in 1923 by landscape gardener Georg Georgsen and is considered a textbook example of Renaissance neoclassicism. Forest & Landscape, therefore, took the initiative to document the

garden in the November 2006 issue of the Royal Garden Society journal *Haven*, on pages 22-27. We have, of course, explored the possibility of saving the trees by moving them, but according to our specialists, this is not possible.

At the same time, KU-LIFE has arranged for a comprehensive landscaping plan for the entire Frederiksberg Campus by Schønherr Landskab, which will be presented on 23 May 2008. The plan will form the basis for the detailed planning to be prepared in collaboration with users of the new garden around Rolighedsvej 23. We feel certain that this will represent a new milestone in the history and further development of landscape gardening.

For more information, please contact Liselotte B. Nielsen (mobile +45 4030 1812) or Niels Ehlers Koch at nek@life.ku.dk.

The branches from the felled trees have been given to the elephants at ZOO Copenhagen. Material samples have also been taken for use in the teaching of woody plant anatomy.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 April 2008

The long path of the rose through world history

For unknown reasons, the rose preferred to grow only in the northern hemisphere, with the oldest fossils – about 30 million years old – coming from Alaska. This means that the wild roses we know today all stem from the northern hemisphere, where they grow in both lowland and highland areas and even in sand in some places.

More than 4,000 years ago, people in Asia began growing the most beautiful varieties of the wild rose in their gardens. Then came propagation through cuttings, shoots and seeds, and hybrids were created by cross-breeding roses, marking the birth of the cultured rose. The philosopher Confucius thus described fantastic beds of roses in the royal gardens in Peking as early as 520 BC.

Also, there are ancient records of the cultivation of roses in Persia, Mesopotamia and Palestine, and during the reign of the Roman emperor Augustus, roses started out as a distinctive luxury item, only to become a common necessity in both the higher and lower levels of society later in his reign.

After the fall of the Roman Empire and, later, through the Middle Ages, the art of rose breeding seemed at times to be almost disappearing, but the monks preserved the roses of Antiquity in their monastery gardens, and it is especially thanks to these monks that the rose was further propagated and is still in existence today.

The 19th century was the century of the rose. At the beginning of that time, only approximately 50 garden roses were known, but that number soon increased to 250 known varieties, which was about how many the Empress Josephine had in her rose garden at Château de Malmaison in 1815.

Around 1840, the gardeners had bred about 4,000 new varieties, and by the end of the century of the rose, around 12,000 different roses were being traded throughout Europe.

The 20th century was dominated by the major rose breeders who ceaselessly created new rose varieties for the market. Among the most innovative rose breeders are Poulsen in Denmark, Kordes in Germany and Meilland in France. The company of David Austin Roses in England has also made a huge impact on the breeding of new varieties of roses known as English Roses. These are special cross-breeds of historical roses and modern roses,

combining the best qualities of both types to produce beautiful, full-blossomed and fragrant flowers. A sweet-smelling rose is a must in any garden, including the Garden at the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 March 2008

Announcements

Housing website in English for international students and other guests

We have now established a housing website in English. Thanks to this, we can now provide much better service to our international students and guests, enabling them to search on their own for information and to see pictures of the various types of accommodation on offer.

In future, you can refer to the following link, where guests can search for and download everything they need.

<http://www.life.ku.dk/English/education/accommodation.aspx>

Thursday, 3 April is Housing Coordinator Charlotte Simonsen's last day before beginning her maternity leave for the next year.

Student Assistant Mai Klærke Mikkelsen, email: housing@life.ku.dk, will remain with the department – at least until the end of June, when she too will begin her maternity leave.

Charlotte's maternity cover is: Bente Ben-Hamadou, email: bbh@life.ku.dk.

Charlotte Simonsen, Housing Coordinator

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

Make better LIFE websites – come to a lunchbox seminar

We are under the impression that there are many who could use some help getting to know the more advanced functions of our Sitecore 5 website tool. Remember that our lunchbox seminars are a good way to expand your knowledge.

The next seminar will take place on 8 April, 10 am-1 pm in room H60.

Register at www.itlc.life.ku.dk/kurser.aspx. At www.life.ku.dk/scsupport, you can also see which courses and seminars we will be offering in future, and download online guides.

The aim of the lunchbox seminars is for you to come with a specific assignment which we try to solve together. The seminars are intended as a service for anyone with a very busy calendar who is having trouble finding the time to work with the system in more detail. At the same time, offering concentrated support at the seminars is a very efficient way of using our support resources. You do not have to attend for the full three hours, but it is important that you register at least the day before, so that we know how many supporters are needed. The

seminar takes place at lunchtime, so you are welcome to bring your lunch if you think you will be there until 1 pm.

Web Editing Team webmaster@life.ku.dk

Janne Baunhøj, Communication, jba@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

Festival of Research: Breast cancer: Latest research findings on early diagnosis and tailored treatment – Friday, 25 April, 4-6 pm in the main lecture hall

Breast cancer: Latest research findings on early diagnosis and tailored treatment. Speakers: Professor and Scientific Director Julio Celis, Danish Cancer Society, Professor Henrik Ditzel, University of Southern Denmark, Professor Nils Brünner, University of Copenhagen.

Registration by 21 April

Organisers: A Race Against Breast Cancer

Contact: krj@araceagainstbreastcancer.dk or by phone on: +45 2991 7306 [Read more here](#)

Friday, 25 April 2008, 4-6 pm in the main lecture hall

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 April 2008

Conference: Does size matter? – Universities competing in a global market? 4-7 June in Reykjavik

NUS, NUAS, IMHE conference is in collaboration with the University of Iceland.

For more information: <http://www.congress.is/doessizematter2008/index.asp>

Michael Guldager, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, mgu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 28 March 2008

Conference: PCST-10 – Bridges to the future – 25-27 June in Malmö and Copenhagen

The Swedish Research Council together with Malmö University, the Øresund University, the University of Lund and Danish Science Communication – the latter being funded by the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation – will be hosting the global PCST (Public Communication of Science and Technology) conference as a meeting place for anyone interested in science and technology communication.

The conference will take place in Malmö and Copenhagen on 25-27 June 2008.

Registration for the conference is now open. You can register at <http://www.pcst-10.org>, where you can also find all relevant information on the conference, including fees, the preliminary programme and interesting interviews with some of the personalities you can meet at the conference.

Karin Mortensen, Danish Science Communication, km@formidling.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 March 2008

Course on administrative law for non-lawyers – Middelfart, 21-23 May – application deadline 7 April

For non-legal secretaries and caseworkers handling, among other things, specific cases at faculty secretariats, student counselling offices or at HR departments.

To register online, visit <http://www.aeu.dk/www.aeu.dk>.

[See information folder](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 March 2008

Seminar on guidance and administration of SU – Middelfart, 19-20 May – application deadline 7 April

For university staff working with guidance and administration of state education grants (SU) with some experience in the field.

To register online, visit <http://www.aeu.dk/www.aeu.dk>.

[See information folder](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 27 March 2008

Education

The student hothouse Katapult at LIFE

Do you want to start your own business or are you already an entrepreneur alongside your studies?
Do you have a good idea, but need someone with whom to develop it?
Do you want to collaborate with a company on a student project?
Do you want to use your academic capabilities in combination with innovative and creative skills?

Visit the student hothouse Katapult at LIFE and tell us about your ideas. Nothing is too big or small! Project Manager Peter Ottesen from Katapult is available for consultation every Wednesday from 12 noon to 3 pm at the Student Counselling Office.

We look forward to meeting you!

You can always contact Katapult at pco@science.ku.dk or visit us at Øster Voldgade 10, stairwell L. You can also read more about our activities at www.ku.dk/innovation/vaeksthus

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

Grundfos Challenge: Together we are pushing the envelope – Competition for economics and engineering students

More specifically, you are wanted when the greatest challenge ever on knowledge, ideas and innovation kicks off on 31 March at the pump manufacturer Grundfos in Bjerringbro.

In short, the basic idea is to strengthen collaboration between one of Denmark's leading companies and educational institutions around the country through a competition for economics and engineering students on a high professional level.

The Grundfos Challenge takes place at Grundfos' own internal training academy, the Poul Due Jensen Academy, Poul Due Jensens Vej 7, DK-8850 Bjerringbro.

Further information:

Grundfos Corporate Communication:

Dan Prangsgaard, tel.: +45 87 50 69 35, +45 30 33 75 09.

Mikkel Friis-Thomsen, tel.: +45 87 50 69 64, +45 29 33 55 79

Read more about the Grundfos Challenge at www.grundfos.com/challenge

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 28 March 2008

Staff news

Inaugural lecture: Professor Christopher Harold Knight – Monday, 14 April, 1-2 pm in the main lecture hall

Professor of Production Physiology Christopher Harold Knight: Problems and solutions in lactation science: from production animals to human health.

Monday, 14 April, 1-2 pm in the main lecture hall, followed by a reception in the Senate's conference room from 2-4 pm

[See invitation](#)

Karen Meyn Christensen, IBHV, kmc@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 31 March 2008

Research

World's best cheese researcher on TV2 Lorry

The local news station, TV2 Lorry, did a portrait of Professor Ylva Ardö – [see and hear the report](#)
Most think of cheese as a permanent feature on the breakfast table – or as an accompaniment to fine red wine.
But figuring out how cheese develops is actually a science in itself. Frederiksberg Campus is the home of the world's best cheese researcher... and it's time you meet her!

Tuesday, 1 April at 7.30 pm

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

Plant research on DR2 Deadline

Researchers talk about plants of the future – [see and hear the report](#)

Some love extreme sports, others love extreme plants. This weekend, Denmark's leading plant researchers reveal what the future of plant research has to offer. The Scientific Greenhouses under the University of Copenhagen will be opening their doors to expose a world few of us knew existed.

Interview with Professor Søren Bak, Department of Plant Biology, and Associate Professor Thure Pavlo Hauser, Department of Ecology.

Friday, 28 March at 5.00 pm

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 1 April 2008

Wanted: Lecturers versed in cloning, robots/artificial intelligence and the first life on earth

Fox Media writes: We have recently produced three films for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, DR2, on cloning, robots/artificial intelligence and the first life on earth, respectively. In this connection, we are looking for lecturers who are experts in one or more of these topics and who can incorporate the films into presentations and discussions in connection with viewings at primary and secondary schools, technical colleges and libraries. We are aiming for ten lectures in connection with each film. If you already have contacts at primary and secondary schools it would be a huge benefit.

Read more about the idea and the films at www.eduxperience.com

Robert Fox

robert@foxmedia.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 31 March 2008

Grants for researchers

The European Commission Joint Research Centre - Institute for Environment and Sustainability has launched a first call for expressions of interest for scholarships for:

- Junior researcher (Cat.20)
- Researcher with a PhD or equivalent experience (Cat. 30)
- Senior researchers (Cat. 40)

These grants are aimed at developing training and mobility opportunities.

You can find more information and the list of 39 available positions at <http://ies.jrc.cec.eu.int/callgrant.html>

Note that some positions are focused on life-cycle thinking and related applications, such as:

- IES-300817 - Land-use and ecosystem impacts in life-cycle assessments
- IES-300820 - Life-cycle based sustainability indicators

Please note that only the applications sent to the mail box of the project selected will be considered as valid.

The deadline for this first call is 4 April 2008.

Contact:

European Commission
Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES)

TP 460
Via E. Fermi, 2749
I-21027 Ispra (VA), Italy
<http://lca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 28 March 2008

Grants

Bernhard Bangs Mindefond – application deadline Tuesday, 15 April

A grant from Bernhard Bangs Mindefond, totalling DKK 20,000, is available for distribution in one or more portions to persons who are assessed by the Foundation Board to be qualified to carry out scientific research on animal science.

In order to be considered, applications must be submitted using the application form that is available on LIFE's website. Applications must be sent to Study and Students' Affairs, Bülowsvej 17, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C by 15 April 2008 at the latest.

Grant recipients will be notified directly, and letters of rejection will not be sent. The grant will be awarded in June and will be announced in the eLIFE newsletter.

Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, ag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

Skovbrugsfonden – application deadline Tuesday, 15 April

A grant of DKK 8,000 from Skovbrugsfonden is available for distribution in June 2008.

The grant will be given to support forestry students at the Faculty of Life Sciences, particularly for study

activities which it would not otherwise be possible for the student to carry out, and for scientific research in forestry, preferably to younger MSc students in forestry .

The application must include a detailed description of the study purpose or scientific work for which funding is being sought from Skovbrugsfonden.

Applications must be submitted to the Faculty of Life Sciences, Study and Students' Affairs, Bülowsvej 17, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, by 15 April 2008 at the latest.

Grant recipients will be notified directly, and letters of rejection will not be sent. The grant will be awarded in June and will be announced in the eLIFE newsletter.

Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, ag@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 2 April 2008

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.