



eLI0046E – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 18 June 2009

The last issue of eLIFE before the summer holidays will be published on
Thursday 25 June.

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

Share your dreams with your colleagues

What are your dreams for Taastrup Campus? How should the area be developed? What is its potential? And what are the challenges the area faces? These are some of the questions we will discuss over a sandwich when staff and students are invited to a day of dialogue and discussion about the development of Taastrup Campus. The dialogue day will take place on 25 June 2009, 10.30 am–1.00 pm in the Central Building, lecture hall 8-02.

Lunch will be served.

Programme:

- Brief presentation by Schønherr Landskab
- Workshop on problems, qualities, potentials and issues at Taastrup Campus

- Discussion about ideas, dreams and visions for the Taastrup Campus of the future
- Conclusion

Louise Brask Nielsen, Buildings and Operation, lbni@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 June 2009

Darwin fell out with God and everybody else as well

In the beginning there was nothing. Then God said: "Let there be light." And there was light, but there was still nothing – except it was easier to see. And so the biblical Story of Creation continued, ending with Adam and Eva and the idea that every species is created by God and immutable.

When the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University was founded in Frederiksberg in 1858, no one had ever publically questioned the biblical theory of Creation by God.

But then, in 1859, Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in which he presented his famous theory, considered by many to be heretical. He claimed that the species gradually evolved from one common original form. In short: Apes and humans had the same original father.

There are still people who do not believe Darwin's theory, while others believe in Intelligent Design, which, while not rejecting evolution, does support the existence of a higher power behind it in the form of God.

Charles Darwin was the son of a British doctor and was born 200 years ago in 1809. In his honour and in celebration of his theory, the Faculty Gardens have planted a birthday bed.

The idea and the basic design were developed by myself, and the practical implementation, including conducting measurements in the field and planting the bed, was carried out in collaboration with Gitte Arrild who works as a summer weeder.

The bed contains approx. 850 large and small houseleek for the shapes and approx. 1,050 Lobularia Ester Bonnet Deep Rose for the background. Furthermore, the bed is also edged by approx. 150 Anagallis Skylover, bringing the total number of plants to 2,050. The bed is situated in the middle of the Gardens near the large ginkgo east of the little pond.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2009

From top hats to rubber overalls

No one knows what kind of clothing the veterinary students wore in the early days of the Veterinary School in Christianshavn. But presumably, they wore the same kind of clothing as everyone else in the day, although they often donned leather aprons in the farriery to protect themselves from the hot embers.

The veterinary students, and for that matter, the veterinary surgeons, were not as a rule encouraged to feel they were special. Yes, they had studied a bit and knew some Latin, and perhaps they ranked slightly higher

than the farmhands in the fields, but they could never be as elevated as real doctors.

A doctor and a veterinarian meet on the stairs, and the doctor says sharply:

"You are a veterinarian... very respectable! But I cannot survive if I lose my entire practice because I live in the same building as you. I must ask you, Sir, to keep your patients from biting mine when they meet on the stairs."

The illustration by the artist Fritz Jürgensen, from the period 1840-1860, depicts the standard dress of the veterinary surgeon. Because veterinarians often travelled around by horseback, he is, however, dressed as a horseman.

After the establishment of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Frederiksberg, the students are depicted in 1898 in white coats, looking very noble in their sixpences or bowlers. The coats, paid for by the students themselves, became filthy, and they often had to be spot-washed in their rooms, while the lucky ones could bring their soiled laundry home to their mothers' copper kettles.

The students often appeared dishevelled in class, which was reproached by the lecturers and ultimately caused A.W. Mørkeberg to introduce the 'beard test'. If any of the students showed up to class unshaven, the entire class was lined up and a package of cotton wool was brought forth. The professor would then go from student to student, rubbing the cotton across his chin, and anyone who was unshaven was revealed by the bits of cotton wool on the stubble. The beard test was carried out until the 1950s, while it would be a pointless exercise today, as the majority of veterinary students are women.

The students participated in dissections, autopsies and the births of large animals, which often required more than one coat, so the departments introduced rubber overalls and coats, or equipped the students with short-sleeved wool sweaters and a plastic bag with three holes for the head and arms.

Some veterinarians preferred to wear something lighter, like Veterinary Surgeon K. Sørensen, who practiced in Holsted in 1882-1924. He did not wear rubber clothing, so at births he stripped down to nothing but his trousers. One evening, he was working on a birth in the stables, and in his exertion, his trousers slipped down. It was not until the wife came out to the stables and cried out that he realised what had happened and yelled to the farmer: "Turn out the light, Sir!".

In the previous century, the 'uniform' of the veterinarian changed – first to oiled overalls and coats and later to rubberised canvas and plastic, and the leather boots were replaced by Wellingtons.

The rather costly rubber sleeves of the 1950s and 60s were since replaced by single-use plastic gloves. The gloves had become so cheap that they were often simply left in the ditch, and farmers still find old gloves year after year when they plough their fields. And who knows – maybe in 500 years' time, gloves like those will be displayed in museums like national relics.

Kim Greiner, Senior Gardener

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2009

How visitors' use the Gardens

From Friday 12 June 2009, visitors in the Gardens could see how they and others use the Gardens in the exhibit "Visitors' use of the LIFE Gardens".

It is based on a survey carried out by students for the course on Applied Ethnobotany, which concerns people's use of plants. Over a period of a few weeks, the students interviewed guests in the LIFE Gardens about their favourite locations and plants. They also examined the immaterial and emotional experiences of the Danes in connection with plants.

Ida Theilade, Forest & Landscape

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2009

Announcements

CPH Campus Race on Friday 18 September

On the basis of last year's success with the CPH Campus Race during the University Festival, it has been decided to continue the tradition. This year, the bike race for all University of Copenhagen staff and students will take place on Friday 18 September 2009.

The CPH Campus Race will again be a bike race through a series of checkpoints with interesting 'problems' for staff and students from all over the University.

We want to encourage our international staff and students to take this opportunity to learn more about their university and have a good time with each other. The race begins at Frederiksberg Campus and will take participants around to every University of Copenhagen campus. After completing the race, there will be an award ceremony and food and drinks at Café Væksthuset.

More information about registration as well as a programme will be available in August. Until then, mark Friday 18 September 2009 in your calendar.

Contact: Maja Petrine Johansen, petrine@life.ku.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 18 June 2009

Running club during the summer

The summer holidays are right around the corner and the running club will not be meeting in July or the first two weeks of August.

This means that CSS will not be hosting any official training sessions on Thursdays during this period.

If you want to participate in any races with the University running club during the summer, visit <http://motion.ku.dk/loebeklub/lob/> to see which races the club will be participating in during the summer.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 June 2009

Summer offers from the LIFE staff association

The LIFE staff association has some excellent summer offers for members again this year – [see here](#) and on the [website](#).

Are you a member? If not, consider whether it could be interesting.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 June 2009

University mentor scheme for female postdocs and assistant professors

The University of Copenhagen's mentor scheme for female postdocs and assistant professors will begin its second season in October. Interested mentors and mentees can register at:

http://hr.ku.dk/kurser_og_kompetenceudvikling/mentorprogram/ (in Danish).

[Read more here](#) (in Danish).

Find out more by contacting Pearl Boberg Henriksen, HR Consultant, at pbhe@adm.ku.dk.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 June 2009

State scholarship residence in Paris

Applications are hereby invited for stays in the state's scholarship residence in Paris in 2010.

The Danish state's scholarship residence in Paris is managed by a foundation named after the donors of the residence, Ludvig Preetzmann-Aggerholm and his wife. The purpose of the foundation is to give Danish artists and researchers the opportunity to stay in Paris.

Applicants involved in projects directly connected to Paris will be given priority.

The residence, which comprises a fully furnished living room, alcove, bathroom and kitchen, is situated at 3 Rue de la Perle, 75003 Paris, and can accommodate four persons. The rent is EUR 1,050 per month including heating, lighting and telephone line rental (the state reserves the right to adjust prices).

To give as many applicants a chance to stay in Paris as possible, it is usually only possible to stay for one month.

[Apply online here](#).

Applications for stays in the scholarship residence in 2010 must be submitted before 30 September 2009.

A decision will be made at the end of October on who can use the apartment, and information on allocation/refusals will be sent to all applicants by email.

Birgit Wihlborg Andersen, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, biande@um.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2009

Win DKK 50,000 in the Agro Business Park Innovation Competition 2009

Agro Business Park A/S is a growth centre for development activities in the food and agricultural sector that seeks to stimulate the establishment of new products and businesses.

To this end, Agro Business Park is again hosting the Innovation Competition, with a prize of DKK 50,000 and up to three months' rent at Agro Business Park.

The Innovation Competition 2009 is aimed at anyone who has a good commercial idea within Agro Business Park's focus areas: agriculture, food and the environment. Thus, we expect to receive contributions from students, researchers and staff at relevant knowledge institutions as well as from staff at relevant companies and farmers.

The competition will run until 1 October 2009, when a committee of specialists will assess the submitted proposals and select three winners. The prize is DKK 50,000 and an offer of sparring via Agro Business Park's network. The winners of the Innovation Competition 2009 will also be offered up to three months' free rent at Agro Business Park.

[See the brochure on the Innovation Competition here](#) (in Danish).

For further information go to www.agropark.dk (competition info in Danish).

If you have any questions, please contact Managing Director Lars Visbeck Sørensen or the undersigned on tel.: +45 8999 2512 or by email to: jm@agropark.dk.

Camilla Hjort, Business Affairs, cahj@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 15 June 2009

The museums at the University of Copenhagen

With the summer holidays just around the corner, we would like to remind everyone that the University of Copenhagen's museums offer free admission to University employees who bring their staff ID cards. Several of the museums also offer free admission or discounts to students with a student ID.

Furthermore, the University of Copenhagen Gardens are open every day and are always free. [See the website](#).

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2009

To LIFE supervisors: Help us with registrations for Brain for a Night 2009!

As a supervisor, you are the best one to ensure that as many of this year's talented students register for the competition as possible.

All LIFE students whose PhD or MSc theses or BSc projects have been approved in 2008/2009 can participate in the competition. Five BScs, five MScs and five PhDs will be selected to compete for the honour and a main prize of DKK 10,000 in each category. Each participant will have ten minutes in which to present their project in English to a panel of judges comprising external experts, who will then select the winners.

Read more at: <http://www.juniorforskercafe.life.ku.dk/Hjerne09.aspx> (in Danish)

Jette Fugl, BVFB, jfu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2009

General meeting in the OH&S organisation

Anyone interested is hereby invited to the general meeting in the OH&S organisation at LIFE on Wednesday 24 June 2009, 2.00-3.30 pm, in lecture hall 2.02, building 1-05, Dyrslægevej 100 – [see the invitation here \(in Danish\)](#).

Rikke Fatum, Working Environment Team, rmf@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 11 June 2009

Education

CampusNet is being shut down

In February 2009, Absalon replaced CampusNet as LIFE's new learning and communication platform.

On 31 August 2009, CampusNet will be shut down permanently, and it will no longer be possible to use this platform for educational or administrative purposes. It will, however, be possible to download and/or transfer material from CampusNet to your own desktop or to Absalon until August 2010. Absalon has the same functionalities as CampusNet, plus several new options that are useful for educational purposes.

If you have any questions or need guidance or support, feel free to contact the IT Learning Center at itlc@life.ku.dk.

Course evaluation – Block 1

Electronic course evaluation will no longer take place in CampusNet. From Block 1, the evaluation system can be accessed via a built-in evaluation button on the front page of [Punkt.Ku](#).

Gitte Preisler, IT Learning Center, gip@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 17 June 2009

Do you want to be this year's LIFE brain?

15 Minutes of Brain 2009

Once again, LIFE invites students to enter "15 Minutes of Brain", a battle for glory and cold hard cash for BSc, MSc and, now also, PhD students from LIFE.

"15 Minutes of Brain" will take place on 20 November in lecture hall 3-01, starting at 2 pm.

To enter, please complete the "15 Minutes of Brain" online-form www.juniorforskercafe.life.ku.dk. The deadline for entries is 1 October 2009

Jette Fugl, BVFB, jfu@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2009

Research

Nobel Lecture

Roger Y. Tsien, winner of the Nobel Prize 2008 in Chemistry for his discovery and development of green fluorescent protein, GFP

Tuesday 30 June 2009: 2.00-3.30 pm, Lundbeck Auditorium, Copenhagen Biocenter, University of Copenhagen, Ole Maaløes vej 5, Copenhagen N. [Invitation in pdf.](#)

Organisers: Jonas La Cour, University of Copenhagen; Tuula Kallunki, Danish Cancer Society; Steen Gammeltoft, Glostrup Hospital and the Danish Biochemical Society

Programme:

2.00-2.10 pm: Introduction by Jonas La Cour, Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen

2.10-3.00 pm: Nobel lecture by Roger Y. Tsien, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, University of California, San Diego, California, USA: Building and breeding molecules for in vivo and clinical imaging

3.00-3.30 pm: Refreshments

Registration online: www.biokemi.org

Everyone is welcome. Admission is free. Registration is encouraged.

Secretariat and vendor contact: Vivian Juhl, Danish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Glostrup Hospital, 2600 Glostrup, Denmark. Tel: +45 4323 2458, vijb@glo.regionh.dk

Steen Gammeltoft
Department Head, MD, D.M.Sc.
Department of Clinical Biochemistry

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 12 June 2009

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.