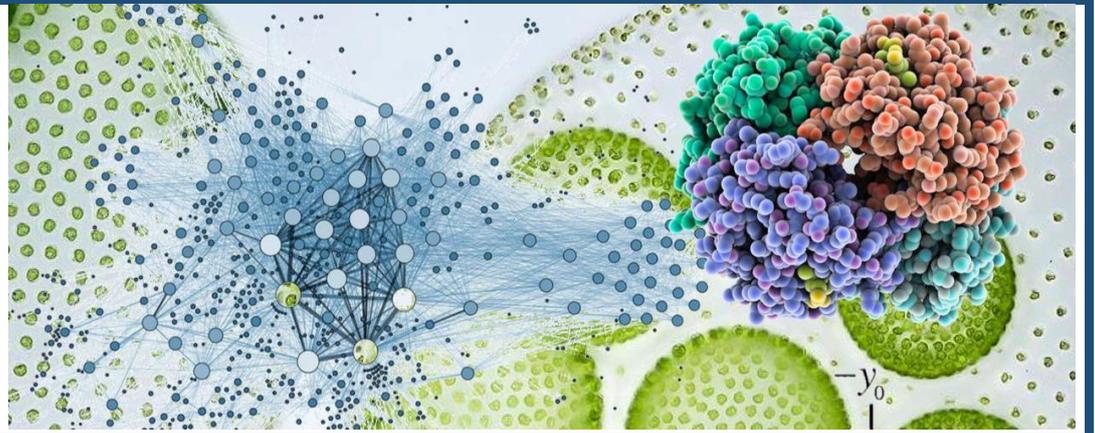


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 03/2019
8th February 2019



Editor-in-chief: Pinar Heggernes. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

Dear colleagues,

A couple of weeks ago, Norway got a new government, and for the first time in history we have now a minister of digitalization. This shows the importance that our government puts into the IT and ICT challenges that Norway faces, and the estimated magnitude of these challenges. Norway is going through a formidable transition, and this period is expected to last for a long time.

In fact, every week we are reminded of the challenges and needs of the society in the IT direction. Companies are contacting us frequently in hope of recruiting our graduates to work for them. Most major companies define themselves as IT companies now, regardless of their specialization. One of the major Norwegian banks, DnB, has an IT section with 200 employees in Bergen, practically next door to our building. They have a high demand of newly educated informaticians. They now announce officially that they are mainly an IT company, with a banking section on the side. This is quite interesting news to us, and it should be a clear message to young high school graduates who are trying to decide what to study.



There is a general ongoing theme that we should have more interdisciplinary studies. In particular, some newspapers have recently focused on studies combining IT and finance. This is of course very good, and our university is constantly taking steps in this direction, through both the Finance Innovation cluster and a working group that is currently looking into studies combining ICT and finance. Our department has already a very popular bachelor line, IMØ (informatikk, matematikk, økonomi), that serves in this direction. However, what we hear from banks and financial institutions is that their main need of new work-force these days is not in this interdisciplinary area. They actually need pure hard-core computer scientists, programmers, system builders, system architects, and data scientists. A lot of them! Over a significant period of time ahead. And they want them to come from our department.

We get this message not only from companies in banking and finance, but also from companies in consultancy, energy, media and graphics, government offices, and even from the IT division of our university. The demand for properly educated informaticians in Bergen is extreme. At the same time, we see that a lot of our graduates leave Bergen after their studies, and they start working for companies in the Oslo region. This is a worrying trend for Bergen in particular, and western Norway in general. Just yesterday we were contacted by the Sogn og Fjordane county, who are coming to Bergen next week to promote jobs in that region and try to attract informatics graduates to work there. Our university, together with the Western Norwegian University of Applied Sciences and all the companies in Bergen, need to join forces to make it known to prospective students how attractive it is to study informatics, and to current students how many interesting and rewarding jobs there are in our region.

The fact that our graduates are so wanted and needed, as well as the fact that there are many interesting work places for informaticians in Bergen, are messages that we need to convey to both prospective students and our government. Our students are our best ambassadors and they are constantly helping us by visiting their old high schools and telling pupils there about our studies and job opportunities. Let us all take part in this important information work ahead.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

The Dean's Blog – Helge K. Dahle

[The Dean's blog](#) aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

His latest postings: [Slik skal vi håndtere Plan S hos oss](#) - [Energi, teknologi og alliansar](#) - [Det ER positivt å ha lågt klimaavtrykk](#)



Actualities [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Waffle-Oracle every Thursday – employees are very welcome!!

Did you know that our students serve waffles every Thursday between 14.00 and 16.00? Not only to students, but to all employees, as well! The waffle-oracle service provided by our students to fellow students has a long tradition at our department, and our employees have always taken this opportunity to interact socially with our students.

This semester we have expanded this service. Instead of just one student-oracle offering help, you will now find a competent group of students from different study fields offering help and waffles to their peers. They are also available for questions on Fridays between 10.00 and 12.00, but then without waffles.

We hope that our students will use this offer, and also that all employees of our department make their way down to the reading hall for a fresh warm waffle on Thursdays. Perhaps right after the department seminar?



Students making waffles. All faculty and other employees of the department and most welcome, too!

HSE round on Monday 18th February

On the 18th of February, Linda, Ida, Ingrid, and Pinar will visit all the offices to check whether everybody is happy with their physical working conditions. Please make a list and report to us if you have things that don't work, things you are not happy with or things that you lack in your office.

Next Faculty and Staff lunch is on Tuesday 5th March

We will meet in the lunch room on the fourth floor at 12:00 as usual. During this lunch we will celebrate Jan Rückmann's 60th birthday, and thus there will be cake, too!

Informatics trial lecture on Monday 11th February by Ahmad Hemmati, in connection with the announced associate professorship in optimization



Our own Ahmad Hemmati is one of the applicants for the announced associate professor position in optimization. On Monday 11th of February at 11:15, he will give a trial lecture in the lecture room on the fifth floor.

Title: Metaheuristics

Abstract:

For many problems, finding one feasible solution is relatively easy and can be done extremely fast, finding the best possible solution is what takes very long. Metaheuristics optimization algorithms bridge this gap: They trade in solution quality for runtime, by finding very good (but not necessarily optimal) solutions within a reasonable time.

Metaheuristics are higher-level procedures or heuristics designed to find, generate, or select a heuristic that may provide a sufficiently good solution to an optimization problem. This talk gives an overview of metaheuristics optimization algorithms that are suitable for solving practical optimization problems.

Bergen AI & Machine Learning symposium, 25-26 March 2019



Our department, together with the Department of mathematics and Department of information and media sciences, is organizing a workshop to gather all AI and machine learning researchers in Bergen.

The meeting will be at Solstrand, and the organizing committee consists of Ketil Malde, Marija Slavkovic, and Hans J Skaug.

If you are interested to participate, please get in touch with the organizers.

[More details can be found here.](#)

Annual Department of informatics gathering, April 29-30 – registration is opened!

Our annual department gathering will take place on April 29-30, 2019 at [Solstrand](#).

The main discussion theme will be the department's research and education strategy for the next five years, but also profiling, branding and how to make ourselves more visible will be focused on.

A bus will pick us up from in the department building at 08:00 on Monday 29th of April, and it will bring us back in the afternoon Tuesday 30th of April. The program is planned to start at 09:00 Monday morning at Solstrand, and last until around 14:00 Tuesday.

All faculty members are expected to attend this gathering, and all other employees are most welcome. PhD-students are encouraged to share room two by two. Others who want to share a room are also most welcome to do so.

[Please register here by 10th April.](#)



Department of Informatics



Teaching Algorithms: Online and Flipped Formats



Alexander S. Kulikov is a senior research fellow in Laboratory of Mathematical Logic of St. Petersburg Department of Steklov Institute of Mathematics. He was teaching various algorithms and complexity courses in St. Petersburg and UCSD. Nowadays, as one of the creators of the successful Data Structures and Algorithms Specialization at Coursera <https://www.coursera.org/specializations/data-structures-algorithms> he is strongly involved in online Computer Science education.

Abstracts:

While educational psychologists agree that a large traditional one-to-many classroom is minimally effective, I have been teaching in the same way my professors taught me when I was a student. A few years ago I realized that it has to change and started teaching flipped classes to maximize my interactions with students. Since students mainly learn outside the classroom, I decided to invest efforts in the development of an automated system for HW testing that includes a compendium of 10-20 most frequent errors for each of 100 HWs in our Algorithms specialization on Coursera. I will discuss how these system may contribute to flipped offline classes and will describe our recent progress with development of interactive quizzes for various CS courses. The goal of such quizzes is to force students to “invent” classical CS concepts (active learning) instead of introducing them in a lecture (passive learning). E.g., we want students to invent the binary search by analyzing an unknown sequence of 20 binary numbers starting from 0 and ending in 1. Students may reveal any number by clicking on it and the goal is to find a pair of different consecutive numbers using less than six clicks. Our goal is to develop 100 such interactive quizzes covering Discrete Mathematics, Algorithms, and other courses.

Thursday, February 14, 2019
From 14:15 Large Auditorium
2nd floor, Datablokken.
Refreshments will be served from 14:00

Academic affairs and PhD Updates [bioCEED news](#)

Call for Applications: Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Faculty and PhD Student Mobility Schemes for 2019–20

We are pleased to share with you that the applications for the [Internationalisation Faculty Mobility Scheme](#) (for researchers, deadline 10th April), and [Global Scholarship Programme for Research Excellence](#) (for research fellows, deadline 3rd April) to promote the development of academic and research partnerships between our institutions are now open for 2019-20.



CUHK looks forward to receiving your faculty members and PhD students with a view to strengthening our existing links and collaboration. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Olivia Kwok at mobilitscheme@cuhk.edu.hk.

Frokostmøter i læringslaben

UiBs læringslab som holder til i Media City Bergen, starter nå en egen serie frokostmøter. Labfrokost er en serie åpne arrangementer, og første utgave i 2019 går av stabelen allerede neste torsdag, 14. februar, og er for ment for dem som er nysgjerrig på hva laben kan hjelpe fagmiljøene med. Bl.a. presenterer representanter fra Geovitenskap et samarbeids-prosjekt de har hatt med læringslaben. [Mer informasjon](#)

Online course for PhD supervisors

The course includes rules, regulations and procedures for the PhD program. Everyone appointed as main supervisor or co-supervisor for PhD candidates at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences from 1 December 2018 must complete the online course. You can take the course in [Norwegian](#) or in [English](#). Please make sure you verify the completion of the course when it is completed.

Funding opportunities

Visit by the Research Council of Norway on March 7 about the IKTPLUSS program

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is coming to our department on March 7 to explain to us the details on the new application procedures and proposal guidelines in the IKTPLUSS research funding program. We allocated the Thursday seminar time slot for this meeting, so that all our employees can participate. Please reserve the date and time in your calendars. [Full details can be found here.](#)

Call for SPIRE funding 2019

UiB are announcing funds in its strategic program for international research collaboration (SPIRE). The program aims to support UiB's strategy and action plan for internationalization 2016-2022.

You can apply for SPIRE funds in two categories:

- (1) SPIRE funds for international research collaboration
- (2) SPIRE guest research funds

Applicants are requested to read the [Guidelines for applicants](#), and the [SPIRE application form](#) must be used. Scientific staff in first positions and postdoctoral fellows at UiB can apply for SPIRE funds (see the guidelines for details) and learn more on the [FA's SPIRE website](#).

The departments are asked to rank the applications for each of the categories before sending them to the faculty by 13 February 2019. We therefore request that any applications be sent to the institute by email to Linda by **11 February 2019**.

Project Establishment Support (PES) and Positioning funding (POS) for Horizon 2020

PES2020 helps to reduce costs for Norwegian applicants in connection with the application of project proposals. PES2020 further contributes to fund H2020 competence development among Norwegian applicants, so that the quality of submitted applications will be improved and the number of applications with Norwegian participation will increase.

PES2020 scheme at UiB involves support for the following 4 categories:

1. PES - Project Support for researchers
2. POS - Positioning funding for researchers who position themselves towards an EU application.
3. POS - Grants to fund strategic academic measures at Faculty level.
4. POS - KHT: H2020 competence development for researchers and H2020 administrative support staff at the Faculties.

[Learn more and find deadlines and application forms here.](#)

Research Science and Seminars

Shut up and write!

The Science Library wishes all new and old ph.d. students and postdocs welcome to "Shut Up and Write", starting up next Wednesday (Jan 23th).

Shut up and Write is an informal gathering with the aim of giving you a dedicated time and space to focus on writing, without distractions (no email, no phone, no SoMe), with 45 minutes of writing and 15 minutes break. We serve coffee and biscuits, so bring your coffee mug (and laptop) and come!

Time: Every Wednesday, 14.00-16.00 (18)

Place: Mathematics and Natural Sciences Library, «Dompapen»

[For more information, click here](#) and [here](#) or contact Kjersti.enerstvedt@uib.no or caroline.armitage@uib.no



**EVERY
WEDNESDAY
SHUT UP AND
WRITE!**

Are you a PhD or Postdoc, and struggling with finding the time to sit down and write?

An informal
dedicated time and
space for writing

Date: Wednesdays
from 23rd January 2019

Time: 14 – 16 (-18)

You are welcome to drop in at any
point during breaks (the first 10
mins of each hour), doors close
and writing begins at 10 past each
hour

Place: Lib. for maths,
and nat. sci.,
"Dompapen"

Horizons Lecture 20 February: Prof. Stephanie E. Combs - The Benefits of Particle Therapy in Cancer Treatment



Photo: Stephanie E. Combs (Twitter @SE_Combs)



Photo: Cancercells with metastasis (Colourbox)

Welcome to a new Horizons Lecture Wednesday 20 February in Auditorium 1 in "Realfagbygget", Allegt. 41!

Refreshments will be served from 16.00, prior to the lecture. Everybody is welcome!

Norway is establishing particle therapy centres for cancer treatment in Oslo and Bergen. Particle therapy, in combination with molecular and digital biomarkers is revolutionizing cancer treatment. A world leading expert will present recent research and technology developments.

[Find the event on UiB's web pages](#)

[Join the event on Facebook](#)

CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium 14th February



February 14th 2019 10.00-13:30

Conference room 109F, BB-building (opposite the auditoria)

Join us for an inspirational lecture by Professor Inge Jonassen who will share his educational path from a young aspiring student to professor and senior researcher. He will also present his ongoing research and the new center for data science CEDAS at the University of Bergen. We also have exiting projects from some of our PhD students and postdocs who will present ethics in medicine (Tranvåg), mechanisms of AXL signaling (D'mello Peters, Hellesøy) and the importance of stromal cells in cancer (Dongre, Kjølle).

Time	Speaker	Title
10:00-10:05	L. C. Thomsen / K. Finne	Information on CCBIO JUSS / CCBIO901
10:05-10:25	Stacey D'mello Peters	Studying GAS6-AXL RTK signaling by mass cytometry
10:25-10:45	Harsh Dongre	microRNA deregulation in Squamous Cell Carcinomas of Oral and Vulva: role of stromal microRNAs in tumour progression
10:45-11:05	Monica Hellesøy	A high throughput library screen of potential drug combination candidates for the AXL inhibitor bemcentinib (BGB324) in acute myeloid leukemia
11:05-11:20	Coffee and tea break	
11:20-11:40	Silje Kjølle	Hypoxia response and stromal hypoxia in breast cancer
11:40-12:00	Eirik J. Tranvåg	Precision drugs in the Norwegian reimbursement system
12:00-12:30	Lunch break	Included (just remember to register)
12:30-13:15	Inge Jonassen	Inspirational lecture

You are all very welcome! Please feel free to inform others if you know of other researchers / staff that you think would find this symposium interesting.

Scan for reg. link:



The CCBIO Research School
Symposium chairs: Liv Cecilie Thomsen & Kenneth Finne

Find more information and registration link in the CCBIO web calendar at www.ccbio.no
Please note registration deadline **February 12th**.



We are delighted to invite you to the upcoming CCBIO Jr Scientist Symposium, February 14th.

Professor Inge Jonassen will give an inspirational lecture where he will present his educational path from a young aspiring student to professor and senior researcher. Further, we will hear about professor Jonassen's ongoing research and the new center for data science CEDAS at the University of Bergen. As increasingly more research involves bioinformatics and handling of big data, this lecture should be relevant for most PhD students and postdoctoral fellows.

We also have exiting projects from some of our PhD students and postdocs, who will present their research on topics including ethics in medicine (Tranvåg), mechanisms of AXL signaling (D'mello Peters, Hellesøy) and the importance of stromal cells in cancer (Dongre, Kjølle).

The symposium is open for all and free of charge – including lunch – just remember to register!

[Learn more here.](#)

[Sign up here](#)

Vacant positions

Postdoctoral position in bioinformatics and machine learning

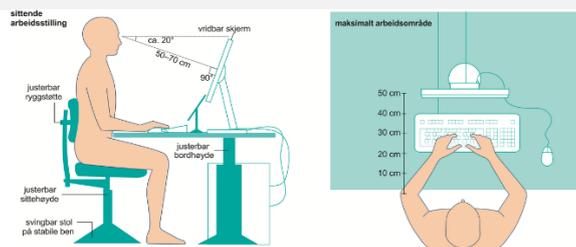
Closing date: 01.03.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

HR, Health, Safety and Welfare sikresiden.no – [UiB employees welfare benefits](#)

Ergonomic assessment day 21st February

UiB's physiotherapist will visit us on Thursday 21st February at 13:00-16:00. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees' office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since August 2018, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please sign up by sending an email to [Linda](#).



Basic first aid course

The participants shall be able to examine a person regarding respiration and circulation, and take action accordingly.

Content:

- What is life-saving first aid?
- Emergency services
- Basic assessment and actions sick/injured person
- Free airways
- Cardiac pulmonary resuscitation
- Unconscious person, recovery position
- Foreign body airway obstruction



Opphavstext: Colourbox.com

Please find more information and registration link here: [11th March](#) – [12th March](#) – [13th March \(in English\)](#).

Reminder: Yoga on Wednesdays

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work.

Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5th floor.



Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participatory fee will be charged. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan.

Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays



Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are held on Mondays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we share a cake or fresh baked waffles. All are welcome!

We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken- spring 2019 & Easter

It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the spring period from 31 March until 23 June including Easter.

Please use the [UoB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your registered username and password.

The application deadline is **15 February**. Drawing will be done 18 February.





Det gode arbeidsmiljø

Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med arbeidsmiljøet?

Frokostseminar 21.februar

Fleksibel – digital – endringsrettet

Hvordan tar vi vare på arbeidsmiljøet i et mer effektivt, fleksibelt og digitalt arbeidsliv? Et godt arbeidsmiljø kjennetegnes av god ledelse, medvirkning fra ansatte og tydelige organisatoriske rammer. Kompetanse, mestring og anerkjennelse gir både trygghet og trivsel.

Vernetjenesten ved UiB ønsker å skape en arena ved UiB der vi kan ta opp betydningen av arbeidsmiljø. Vi vil invitere til frokostseminarer for å snakke om arbeidsliv og arbeidsmiljø under endring og omstilling. Målgruppen er alle ansatte og ledere. Samlingene vil bli holdt ulike steder på campus.

Det tredje frokostseminaret arrangeres torsdag 21.februar kl. 0830-1000 i Allegaten 66, Auditorium A. Dørene åpner kl. 0800 med enkel servering fra kl. 0815.

Møteledere: Michael Riisøen, vara universitetshovedverneombud UiB og seniorrådgiver Ingve Bergheim, HR-avdelingen

Program

0830 Velkommen, v/ Michael Riisøen og Ingve Bergheim

0840 UiB sin IT-strategi og arbeidsmiljø tanker v/Tore Burheim, IT direktør

0900 Selvbetjeningsuniversitetet en utfordring eller en mulighet tanker v/Christen Solheim, avdelingsdirektør SA/FA

0925 Å mestre en digital fremtid - utfordringer for den enkelte og arbeidsmiljøet v/June-Vibecke K Indrevik, universitetets hovedverneombud

0935 Dialog og diskusjon, innspill til senere frokostseminar

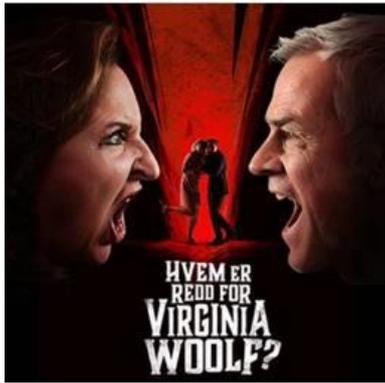
Påmelding innen tirsdag 19.februar på denne lenken her

<https://skjemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=6146148>

Velkommen!

Det gode arbeidsmiljø
frokostseminarserie arrangert av vernetjenesten ved UiB

[Påmelding her innen 19. februar.](#)



Hvem er redd for Virginia Woolf?

Drama: Bli med på verdens mest berømte nachspiel! Moderne og underholdende klassiker om hvordan en fuktig fest eskaleres og ekteskapets baksider avsløres.

Torsdag 21. februar kl. 19.30. Teaterkjelleren. **UiB pris kun 240,-**

Bestill [her](#) eller ring 55 60 70 80 innen 8. februar!

[Mer informasjon.](#)



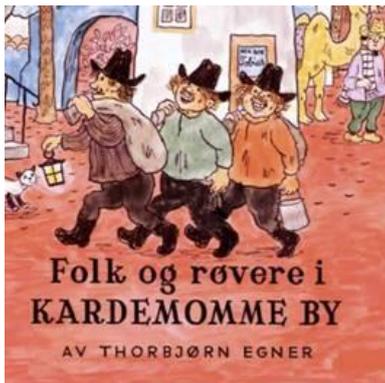
KORPS

Familieforestilling av Knut Nærum: Humoristisk kjærlighetserklæring til korpslivet. En skikkelig sjambombe som treffer uavhengig av alder og korps-erfaring!

Lørdag 9. mars kl 18.00 - PREMIEREBILLETTER på Store Scene. **UiB pris kun 290,-**

Bestill [her](#) eller ring 55 60 70 80 innen 22. februar!

[Mer informasjon.](#)



Folk og røvere i Kardemomme by

Festen fortsetter i Kardemomme by frem til påske!

Ta med små og store barn på denne varme og fine versjonen av Folk og røvere i Kardemomme by!

Lørdag 6. april kl. 16.30 på Store Scene. **UiB pris kun 100,-**

Bestill [her](#) eller ring 55 60 70 80 innen 22.mars!

[Mer informasjon.](#)