# NEWSLETTER

**Department of Informatics**

**No. 04/2019**
**22nd February 2019**

## Dear colleagues,

Last week, the results from the annual national student survey, Studiebarometeret, were announced. Our master program in informatics scored highest among all 2 and 5 years' master programs in Norway within information and computer technology! Congratulations to all of us for this achievement, and thank you all your efforts in this direction!

The detailed results give us very useful feedback and insight on what our students think about us. Our master students are in particular very happy with the teaching and the scientific feedback they get from our academic staff, the scientific and social study environment, and the way our studies are organized and communicated to our students. They find their master studies challenging, stimulating, motivating and rewarding, and their experience is that we have high expectations of them and high ambitions on their behalf. This shows that the work done by our scientific staff, as well as the efforts of our administration, reach their target well and are highly appreciated by our master students.

It is nice to see that our students appreciate their study environment not only for social but also for scientific reasons. They seem very happy with the scientific discussions with and feedback from both academic staff and their peers. We score highest on "Inspiration", "Overall impression", "Evaluation forms", "Learning environment", "Involvement", "Organization", "Teaching," and "Feedback". I am in particular pleased to note that our master students experience that their communication with their master supervisors is functioning well, the supervisors have enough time for them, and the feedback on their work is helpful and constructive. One weakness that they point out when it comes to teaching is the lack of student activity and interaction between the students and the teacher in class. Our students would in fact like to be more active in class! We are constantly revising and trying to improve our ways of teaching. Right now we are in the process of renovating the computer rooms on the first floor, to make them more suitable for exercise sessions in which there is more interaction between the students and the teacher.

Another point which there seems to be room for improvement is to make it clear to our students in what ways their education can be used when they start working for companies. Interestingly our master students experience that they are well connected and have plenty of interaction with companies. However, they would like to see more examples of how their competence will become useful in different areas. In this respect, both we and the companies presenting themselves to our students have some work to do. The good news is that we are establishing more and more contact and collaboration with companies, and I am optimistic that we will quickly improve on the communication of career opportunities to our master students.

Our master students, in addition to having a solid mathematical background and strong qualifications in central areas of computer science, like programming, logic, algorithms, machine learning, and software and information security, get training on real research problems through their master theses. They thus gain the ability to quickly grasp and dive into new problem areas and creatively produce solutions. This is the most important asset that we equip our master graduates with. And the most important reason why they are so attractive to companies.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

*From the celebration of the good news in the study hall*

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

His latest postings: Derfor betyr studiebarometeret mer enn vi tror - Med et godt omdømme er det lettere å rekruttere godt  - Slik skal vi håndtere Plan S hos oss

# Welcome new colleagues!

### Muhammad Ammar Malik

I am Ammar and I have recently joined Department of Informatics here at UiB as a PhD research fellow under supervision of Tom Michoel.

I am from Pakistan and I did my bachelors in electronics engineering in 2014 from Karachi Institute of Economics & Technology (KIET). I did my masters in computer engineering from Chosun University, Korea.

My research interests mainly include machine learning, deep learning and image processing but as a member of Computational Biology Unit (CBU) I am hoping to apply some of these skills in the fascinating field of Computational Biology and I am excited to be part of the CBU team.

# Actualities På Høyden - Khrono – News from NFR – News from UiB – Informatics on Facebook

## Informatics in the media: Bergensavisen

Our recruitment video for our bachelor program in bioinformatics was found inappropriate for promotion by Facebook, due to a computer generated female torso shown for three seconds. Bergensavisen (BA) made a story about it:

**BERGENSAVISEN** TORSDAG 21. FEBRUAR 2019 **NYHET** 7

# Facebook nektet bilde av datagenerert kvinnebryst

– Jeg ble utrolig overrasket og trodde egentlig det var en automatisk melding. Men det var det slettes ikke.

Det sier Pinar Heggernes, institutt-leder for Institutt for informatikk ved Universitetet i Bergen.

Det var i forbindelse med en rekrutteringskampanje at de fikk laget en video som forteller om

bachelorprogrammet i bioinforma-tikk.

Da den skulle promoteres på Facebook, fikk de blankt nei. Det var for mye naken hud i videoen.

I videoen vises en datagenerert kvinnelig overkropp i noen få sekunder. Stemmen i videoen snakker om brystkreft.

– Jeg klarer nesten ikke tro at

det er sant. Det er lov med vold og all mulig elendighet. Men kvinnebryst blir for sterk kost. Det er hyklersk, sier Heggernes, som klaget på avslaget.

– Vi tillater ikke annonser som avbilder nakenhet, selv om avbildningen ikke er av seksuell natur. Dette inkluderer bruk av nakenhet for kunstneriske eller

pedagogiske formål, er svaret til Facebook.

Dermed ble hun nødt til å redigere bort de datagenererte kroppene i videoen.

– Det er litt betenkelig at Facebook skal få styre hva som er lov og ikke. I hvert fall når det er noe så betenkelig som dette, sier Heggernes.

**MÅTTE FJERNES:** *Dette datagene-rerte bilde vist i få sekunder i videoen på Facebook.* FOTO:SKJERMDUMP

Faksimile-Bergensavisen 21.02.2019

## Informatics in the media: Teknamagasinet

Teknamagasinet interviewed Pinar, and made a nice news article about our master program in informatics getting the best scores in Norway within information and computer technology.

## Picture report from INF101 kodekveld last week



It was a great success, we had a fully occupied Vilvite A+B, so 60 attended :)          *Photo: Noeska Smit*

## Informatics ambassadors: Professors test computer skills of Taree Rotarians



Members of the Rotary Club of Taree were challenged with a number of algorithmic exercises when Mike and Fran were invited by the Club to talk about their work.

Learn more here.

## Informatics trial lecture on Friday 8th March by Andrey Bogdanov



Andrey Bogdanov from the Technical University of Denmark is one of the applicants for the announced professor position in information security - applied cryptography.

On Friday 8th March at 11:15, he will give a trial lecture in the lecture room on the fifth floor. Title and abstract will be announced later. You are all welcome to attend the lecture!

## 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!

## Den store formidlingsprisen 2019

Fakultetet ønsker å stimulere til økt formidling, og oppretter fra i år av en egen pris på 50 000 kroner som deles ut i forbindelse med bachelorseremonien i Universitetsaulaen i juni.

Kandidaten skal vurderes på bakgrunn av følgende kriterier:
*«Formidlingsprisen skal inspirere til å ta formidlingsoppdraget alvorlig. Prisvinneren skal strekke seg langt for å bidra til å opplyse samfunnet, skape debatt, synliggjøre forskning og utdanning ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet, stimulere til formidling eller på annen måte være en viktig bidragsyter til kunnskapsspredning og samfunnsdebatt.»*

Alle som studerer, arbeider eller forsker under Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet oppfordres til å sende inn nominasjoner her innen *15. mai 2019.*

# Department of Informatics

## Annual Department of informatics gathering, April 29-30

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

## Teacher's survival kit ☺

The result from Ingrid's follow-up of a problem reported on a group contact meeting last semester:

*"Teaching room supplies. We reported the problem to the Faculty, and they suggested that we allocate a room were teachers can pick up supplies when needed. This is the routine in Realfagbygget. However, from now on, we will supply all our teachers with a «teacher's survival kit» - a bag with chalk, sponge, whiteboard pens and pointer."*

☺ ☺ ☺

# 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.

## Peder Sather Grant Program

The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from nine Norwegian universities. The Center offers grants of between $10K and $25K. Funds are made available for one academic year.  Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.

More information and application form. Closing date: 1st April 2019.

# Research Science and Seminars

## 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 Slavkovik, and Hans J Skaug.

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

More details can be found here.

## 6th Swedish Summer School in Computer Science

The summer school will be held from June 30 to July 6, 2019, in the beautiful Stockholm archipelago at Djuronäset. It will run for a full week Monday-Friday, with arrival on Sunday evening and departure Saturday morning, and will consist of two mini-courses on information theory in computer science by Madhu Sudan and spectral graph theory by Luca Trevisan.

The summer school is primarily intended for PhD students, but postdocs and bright MSc students are also warmly welcome (and also faculty, subject to availability of slots).

The application deadline is March 8, 2019. Please see http://s3cs.eecs.kth.se/ for more information including instructions for how to apply. Any questions can be directed to s3cs-2019@kth.se.

## Nasjonal sikkerhetsmyndighet (NSM). Sikkerhetskonferansen 2019, 20. - 21. mars

Ved årsskiftet fikk Norge ny sikkerhetslov. Samtidig gir rask teknologisk utvikling oss nye muligheter, men åpner også for nye sårbarheter – mange vi kanskje ikke fullt ut erkjenner eller innser før det er for sent.

På Sikkerhetskonferansen 2019 vil vi belyse den internasjonale sikkerhetssituasjonen og vi vil gå dypere inn i hva ny sikkerhetslov faktisk betyr for virksomheter i Norge. Det blir flere foredrag om objektsikkerhet, og innsidertrusselen anno 2019 blir belyst. I tillegg vil vi tilby innlegg med mer teknisk fordypning, vi vil formidle hvordan Norge bedre ruster seg mot kriminalitet i cyberrommet, samt virksomheter som forteller om sine erfaringer - alt med et overordnet helhetlig perspektiv. Konferansen avsluttes med foredrag som fokuserer fremover – på ny teknologi, og hvordan denne må forstås i sammenheng med menneskelige styrker og svakheter og behov for fysiske og logiske barrierer.

Oppdatert program finnes her.
Påmelding til årets konferanse finner du her  *(Påmeldingslenken leder til tredjepartsløsning)*

## Popular Science Talks at the Library / Kunnskapseplet

The Mathematics and Natural Sciences Library is starting up a series of popular science talks in spring 2019, to be held in our new, upgraded learning centre. This is a perfect opportunity for researchers, PhD students, and other employees to speak about their research! For PhD students, we are also happy to offer a practice session where you can go through the presentation with one of the academic librarians to get feedback, for example on presentation technique.

We will organize the practical side (microphone, screen for presentation, and promotion of the talk). Each event will last around 30-45 minutes, so talks should ideally be 20-30 minutes long, leaving time for questions afterwards.
More information

**INTRODUCTARY TALK**
Scientific publishing – Women in numbers

Susanne Mikki
Senior Academic Librarian

**PANEL DISCUSSION**
Women's experiences from natural sciences research

Beatriz Balino
Senior Adviser, Science Coordinator at the Joint Coordination Office for WCRP Regional Activities

Elin Darelius
Associate Professor, Geophysical Institute

Bodil Holst
Professor, Department of Physics and Technology

Karin Pittman
Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

Mali Husby Rosnes
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

WE CAN DO IT

KNOW YOUR POWER!

WE ARE WOMEN

INTERNATIONAL Women's DAY

# WOMEN IN RESEARCH

*What is it like working with natural sciences research? What are the highlights and challenges? Do women still experience discrimination?*

To celebrate International Women's Day, the **Mathematics and Natural Sciences Library** has invited colleagues from the faculty to share their experiences of working in research.

Join us **14:15 – 16:00, Friday 8th March at the Library** (Realfagsbygget, floor U) – the event is open to all. Welcome!

Av hensyn til internasjonale kollegaer vil arrangementet være på engelsk, men spørsmål til panelet kan stilles på norsk. Velkommen!

For more information, see the University Library calendar
www.uib.no/en/ub/

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

# Vacant positions

**Postdoctoral position in bioinformatics and machine learning**
Closing date: 01.03.2019. Please find the announcement here.

**PhD position in cryptography and data security**
Closing date: 10.03.2019. Please find the announcement here

# HR, Health, Safety and Welfare sikresiden.no – UiB employees welfare benefits

## Do you look like this on your personal UiB webpage?

Well, then please come to one of these two photo sessions:
- Thursday 28th February, any time between 09:00 and 15:00
- Wednesday 13th March, any time between 09:00 and 17:30

Both sessions will take place in the 3rd floor, room 305M1 (Biblioteket) and our photographer will be Fredrik Bergesen.

The department organizes these photo shoots to encourage people to update their individual employee webpages with a nice picture of themselves. If you already have a picture on your webpage, you are still very welcome to come and have a new one taken if you like ☺

## Need an updated office door sign?

If you have UIB´s new office signs, you can print your name tag to the sign by logging into UiB´s sign database with your UiB username and password, choose "Tekst til dørskilt" ("Text to door sign") and follow the instructions on the database. Name tags printed on standard A4 sheet.

## Mobility Seminar 6th March

**On the 6th March at 13.00 –15.00** It will be held a mobility seminar for staff who are planning a research stay abroad during 2019/2020. The seminar is arranged by International Centre.
See link for program and registration. The seminar is held in English

## 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

Opphavsrett: Colourbox.com

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

## Fire extinguishing course

All employees at our university are required to attend a fire extinguishing course at least once. There are several courses in May, and one in June which is held in English. Information about the courses and sign up here.

Please notice that they are offering one course in English only once per semester. This semester the course in English will be held on 23rd May.

## Parking – new regulations

Changes have recently been made to the parking regulations at the University. The new rules came into effect on 01 February. More information can be found here (Norwegian only).

## Winter vacation week – are you taking the week off?

Winter vacation week is for many soon upon us. And, if you are planning to take the week off, there is one thing you have to do right away: Register your vacation in PAGA. It is a requirement that everyone registers his or her holiday, and this is to be done prior to you taking the days off. Maybe you have planned for some days off at Easter? Maybe you have made vacation plans for the summer and/or a week off in autumn? Then you must also register these weeks in PAGA as vacation.

Not sure when you'll be going on vacation? Register it anyway (you can change it later), and avoid running the risk of someone else deciding when you're going on holiday. You will also be relieved from the stress of being followed up through emails and visits from the administration.

Further information on how to register vacation can be found here: http://pagaweb.b.uib.no/ansatte/5-ferie/

If you have any questions regarding vacation or the registration of vacation in PAGAWEB, please contact your local HR professional at your department, Lene Engelsgjerd.

## 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.
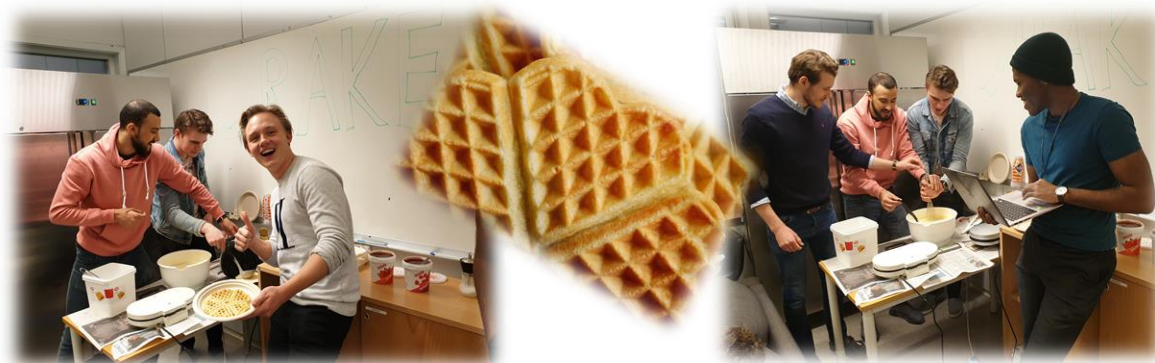
## Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays



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!

## Reminder: Waffle-Oracle every Thursday – employees are very welcome!!

Did you know that our students serve waffles every Thursday between 14.00 and 16.00?



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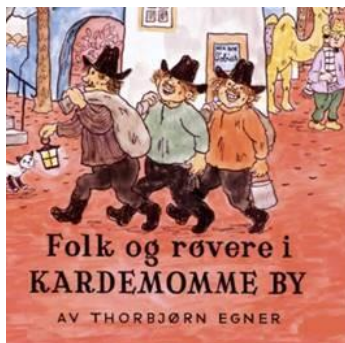
### KORPS

**Familieforestilling av Knut Nærum:** Humoristisk kjærlighetserklæring til korpslivet. En skikkelig sjarmbombe 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.