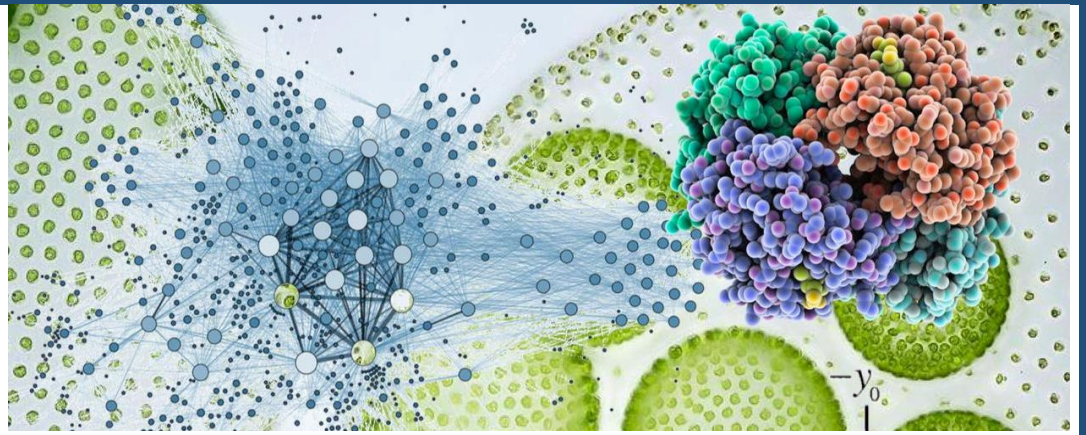


# NEWSLETTER

Department of  
Informatics



No. 05/2018  
17<sup>th</sup> August



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

## Dear colleagues,

Welcome to a brand new semester! I hope you all had a great summer, and everybody is full of energy for the new academic year. ☺ We start the 2018/2019 academic year with the largest number of new students ever. On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of welcoming them, together with Ida, Anya, and Mo Yan, and they were so many that we had to use the largest auditorium at Realfagbygget to gather them. I was very happy to see that they seemed to be a bunch of bright, cheerful, interested and dedicated young people. We will all do our best to make them feel welcome.



Of course the large admission numbers also pose some challenges. We are expecting around 600 students for INF100! And this happens at the same time as we are launching a new version of INF100 with Python as the programming language. Recall that we do not offer INF109 anymore, and most students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences are now expected to take INF100. Anya, who will be lecturing the course, has done an amazing job, together with her helpers, to create the new version of the course, design the exercises and the assignments, and set up the infrastructure. Around 30 teaching assistants will be involved in this incredible adventure. I am impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication Anya and her team have shown, and the amount of work they have put into this venture. I am truly grateful to all of them for their efforts. With this wonderful machinery in place, it will be a much more manageable task to teach the course in the coming semesters.

In fact, you will all notice the increased number of students in your courses this semester. When setting up the teaching schedule for this semester, we had some challenges to make everything work. Many of you were involved in the discussions, and several of you accepted to switch to other courses than those that you volunteered for. I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for your flexibility and your positive attitude. In particular, I want to thank our PhD student Torstein and our researcher Håkon who volunteered to teach, although they did not have to, two of our largest and most important courses: INF102 and INF226. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! I am confident that we have the perfect teaching force to meet the large student numbers and I know that our students will be taken care of in the best possible way.

This is also the first full semester of the new leadership of our department, Linda and myself. We start it with a large variety of social events, welfare offers, short courses, and seminars, all listed in this newsletter. Please take the time to read until the end to make sure that you don't miss any of the opportunities. ☺

I wish you all a wonderful fall semester 2018!

-Pinar



Approximatly 250 new bachelor students makes the Head of Department happy and proud!



60 new Master students in Informatics and Software Engineering gathered for information meeting this week.

# Welcome new employees!



## Tom Michoel

Tom started in his new position as Professor in Bioinformatics on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

He will play an active role in interdisciplinary collaborative research and education, and contribute on the informatics/computer science side to the total bioinformatics and computational biology activity associated with CBU.

Tom is from Belgium. He obtained his doctoral degree from KU Leuven – Grad, Faculty of Mathematical Physics in 2001. His latest position was Group Leader and Senior Researcher at the Roslin Institute, the University of Edinburgh.



## Håkon Tjeldnes

Håkon started in his new position as a Research Fellow (PhD candidate) 1<sup>st</sup> August. He will be part the Bioinformatics research group, and Eivind Valen is his main supervisor.

Håkon is from Norway. He holds a Master's in Bioinformatics from the University of Bergen in 2018.



## Ragna Breines

Ragna started in her new administrative Advisor position at the CBU on 1<sup>st</sup> August. She will mainly be working with NORBIS, the national research school in bioinformatics, biostatistics and systems biology.

Ragna is from Norway, Tromsø. She holds a PhD in molecular biology from the University of Tromsø in 2011. Her last position was Administrative coordinator for CC BIO at the Faculty of Medicine. Before that, she has worked for the Geophysical Institute for several years with the research school ResClim.



## Susanna Röblitz

Susanna started in her new position as an Associate Professor in Bioinformatics on 13<sup>th</sup> August. She is one of the new group leaders at the CBU.

Susanna is from Germany. She received her doctoral degree in Mathematics from Freie Universität Berlin in 2008. Her latest position was as Assistant Professor at Freie Universität (FU) Berlin and head of the research group "Computational Systems Biology" at the Zuse Institute Berlin (ZIB).



## Tam Thanh Truong

Tam Thanh started his new position as a Research Fellow (PhD candidate) on 15<sup>th</sup> August. He will be part of the PUT research group, and Uwe Wolter will be his main supervisor.

Tam is from Norway and completed both the Bachelor and Master's degree in mathematics with specialization in topology at the Mathematical Institute, University of Bergen in 2018.



## David Grellscheid

David starts in his new position as Researcher at the CBU on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and has already arrived ☺

He will be working on disseminating expertise and skills in the area of sustainable software development directed both towards bioinformatics at CBU and towards other groups both within UiB and outside. He will also provide courses and workshops and engage in mentoring and training of students and software project leaders / coordinators.

David is from Germany. He received his doctoral degree in Theoretical Physics from University of Cambridge, UK in 2003. His latest position was as Herwig software manager, Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology, Durham University, UK.



### Faculty and staff lunch 29<sup>th</sup> August

The next Faculty and Staff lunch will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August between 12:00 and 13:00 in the lunch room 4<sup>th</sup> floor. We will be celebrating Magne's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, Michal's 25 years at UiB, and we will be expressing our gratitude to Daniel for his time with us on the sad occasion of him leaving our department. So please be there if you can!

### New travel agency – G Travel



DiFI has entered into a new framework agreement on behalf of public sector agencies resulting in the appointment of G Travel as the University of Bergen's travel agent. Please find an [information and welcome letter from G Travel here](#).

UiB employees who arrange and book trips for others will receive their own e-mail from G Travel. There are many who have existing orders for future trips with our old supplier Berg-Hansen, in relation to which we advise the following: Existing orders will remain with Berg -Hansen. You can find these in your travel folder on [berg-hansen.no](#) and in the App. If you need to change or cancel existing travel contacts at Berg Hansen's customer center at 08050 or [booking@berg-hansen.no](mailto:booking@berg-hansen.no) Receipts and attachments for completed travel are available in your travel folder at [berg-hansen.no](#)

Questions regarding the new agency, use issue-tracker: <https://bs.uib.no/?module=issues&action=new&gid=85h>

### Summer workers taking care of strawberries (Agurknytt ☺ \*)



\*continuing our informal series of Norwegian lessons: "Agurknytt" This term is used for "light news" during the summer period when activity is low, and the journalists often have trouble coming up with interesting stuff.

## Academic affairs and PhD Updates

There are two new PhDs in town! Congratulations Bo and Eivind!



## Research, Science, and Seminars

### TABLEAU – welcome to introduction course for project leaders 30 August

From now on every project leader will be able to check the economy and the transactions of his/her project whenever he/she wants! TABLEAU is UiB's new financial report system for projects. Some of the reports are particularly tailored for project leaders, and we believe this will be a very useful tool for you from now on. Please come to the short introduction course on Thursday 30 August at 14.15 in the large Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The meeting will last about 30 minutes. Bring your laptops so you can immediately test the system and ask questions.

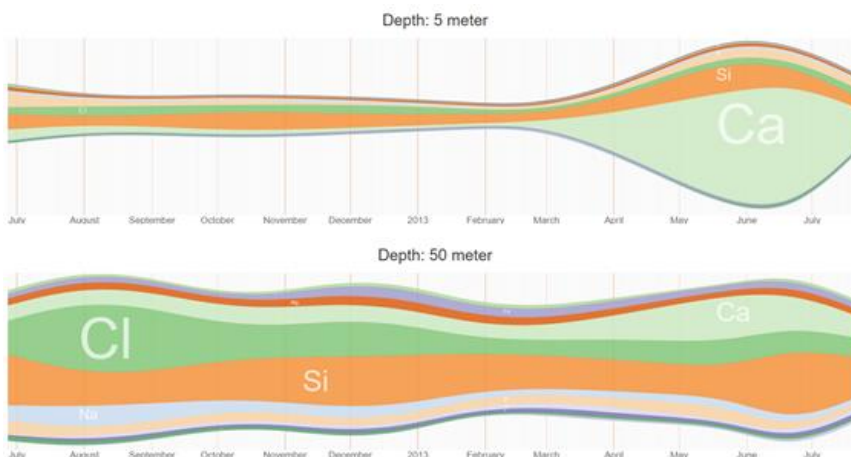
### Information on nomination of journals for level 2 in 2018

From 2006 onwards, documentation of scientific publishing is part of the basis for the results-based redistribution (RBO) in research budgets from the Ministry of Education to universities and colleges. The model for documentation, delimitation and weighting of scientific publishing was prepared by the University and Higher Education Council (UHR) in the emphasis on Research - New System for Documentation of Scientific Publishing (2004). UHR continues the work of the ministry and has responsibility for coordinating the professional assessments in connection with updating the registers and levels of scientific publishing channels. The annual nomination for Level 2 starts on 17 August and will be completed by November 2, 2018. [Please find more information here](#) (Norwegian only).

### INF358 Seminar in Visualization

With the rising popularity of data science, there is a great demand for people who know how to visualize all of this data appropriately. In this course, you will be taught how to effectively visualize several types of data (tabular, network, spatial, and temporal data) using existing visualization software tools. In addition, in the second half of the course, there is a visualization project that will teach you basics of scientific work, such as literature search, paper writing, and presentation.

This master-level course is also very suitable for early-stage PhD students that are not doing research in visualization in particular, as there are no prerequisites and basic data visualization skills are highly relevant in many different research areas.



Screenshot of Bioceanalysis, a INF358 2017 project by Magnus Erga available [here](#)





# Department of Informatics

## The Continuing Evolution of C++

Bjarne Stroustrup is the designer and original implementer of C++ as well as the author of *The C++ Programming Language* (Fourth Edition), *A Tour of C++*, *Programming: Principles and Practice using C++* (Second Edition), and many popular and academic publications.

He is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering, and an IEEE, ACM, and CHM fellow.



### Abstract

The development of C++ started in 1979. Since then, it has grown to be one of the most widely used programming languages ever, with an emphasis on demanding industrial uses. It was released commercially in 1985 and evolved through one informal standard ("the ARM") and several ISO standards: C++98, C++11, C++14, and C++17.

How could an underfinanced language without a corporate owner succeed like that?

What are the key ideas and design principles? How did the original ideas survive almost 40 years of development and 30 years of attention from a 100+ member standards committee?

What is the current state of C++ and what is likely to happen over the next few years? What are the problems we are trying to address through language evolution?

**Thursday, August 23, 2018, from 14:00**  
Auditorium Vilvite

## Operations Research + Parameterized Complexity Workshop 17-18<sup>th</sup> September at Solstrand

We are holding a two-day, one-off, timely, flash workshop: Operations Research + Parameterized Complexity Workshop on 17 and 18 September, 2018.

So far, participants include Kurt Mehlhorn, Rudolf Fleischer, others from UiB and more.

We would like to invite you and your PhD students and postdocs with OR experience. We gather to forge a new relationship between theory and practice. The convergence of the topics seems abundant with unexplored, timely theoretical challenges and targeted, practical impact.

We have a reservation at the famous Solstrand Hotel and permission for up to 50 participants. Bring your swimsuit. The Solstrand has a water tunnel that leads from the big indoor pool to the heated outdoor pool overlooking the fjord.

Mike's Norwegian Toppforsk Award will pay for buses from the university to the workshop venue on the morning of the 17th and return evening of the 18th, accommodation for all participants for the one night, and meals.

This workshop was inspired by the DNZ support for researchers from the University of Kiel who will spend the entire week in Bergen (including the OR + PC Workshop). An Erasmus proposal will bring additional members from this ancient Hanseatic League, now modern sister city, of Bergen.

Please pass the invitation on to whoever you think will be an important contributor. Let us know if you plan to attend as the space is limited.

Best regards,

Michael Fellows and Frances Rosamond

## Funding

### CAS - Home

Application deadlines coming up:

- YoungCAS projects – deadline mid November 2018 (for summer 2019)
- CAS projects – mid January 2019 (for 2021/2022)

### SANORD - Call for applications. Deadline 1 September



SANORD is committed to a Seed Funding Programme that furthers North–South research collaborations between partners, capacity building initiatives and scholarly engagement.

Please find their [call for applications here](#).

### Utlysning av utviklingsmidler til prosjekter som utforsker og utvikler pedagogisk praksis

Norgesuniversitetet (fra høsten 2018 en del av Direktoratet for internasjonalisering og kvalitetsutvikling i høyere utdanning ([DIKU](#))) har lyst ut ny runde med utviklingsmidler til prosjekter med aktiv læring, digital vurdering eller digitale læringsformer for arbeidslivet som tema.

#### Norgesuniversitetet skriver blant annet:

"Vi lyser ut utviklingsmidler for toårige prosjekter med oppstart i 2019. Utlysningen skal fremme prosjekter som utforsker og utvikler pedagogisk praksis ved lærestedene. Utlysningen gjelder de samme tre prioriterte områdene som tidligere:

- Aktiv læring
- Digitale læringsformer for arbeidslivet
- Digital vurdering

Prosjektene skal utvikle læringsdesign som utnytter teknologi til å fremme studentenes læring, og dokumentere erfaringene fra dette arbeidet."

**Søknadsfrist: 22. oktober 2018**, med tildeling og oppstart i 2019

Eksempler på prosjekter fra UiB som har fått støtte gjennom denne ordningen tidligere:

- [Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age \(TALIDA\)](#)
- [A digital learning environment for field based geoscience teaching](#)
- [Veien mot kritisk tenkning: studentaktive læringsformer i russisk historie og kultur](#)

Informasjon om selve søknadsprosess med kriterier finnes her: <https://norgesuniversitetet.no/prosjekter>

Norgesuniversitetet arrangerer som vanlig søknadsveiledning knyttet til Høstkonferansen som arrangeres 19. og 20. september i Tromsø: <https://norgesuniversitetet.no/kalender/hostkonferansen-2018>

## HR, Operations, Health, Safety and Welfare [sikresiden.no](http://sikresiden.no) – [UiB welfare offers](#)

### Course in fire protection 6 September



All staff at UiB must complete a course in fire protection every 5 years. Courses are regularly offered by the UiB each months during the semesters. However, quite many of us has not yet taken the course. We therefore aim to give ourselves a “kick-start” by organizing a course only for staff members at our department

The course is composed by one hour theory and one hour of practical training that will take place outside the building. The course is given by the company Firesafe.

Date and time: 6 September, 14-16

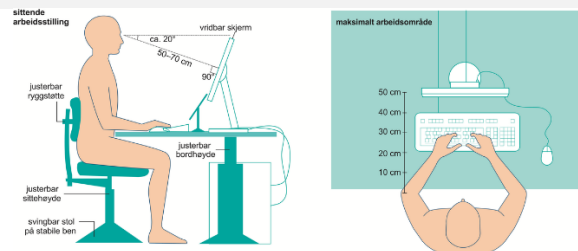
Place: Large Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and outside Datablokken

Please [sign up here](#) (max 25, first come, first served)

### Ergonomic assessment day 27 August

UiB's physiotherapist has re-scheduled our appointment, and will visit us on Monday 27 August at 12:00-15:00. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees' office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since January 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 Vagtskjold](#).



### Yoga starts at Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> august!



Kjersti Næss

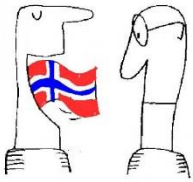
Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. We invite you all to Yoga classes on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The yoga semester starts on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participatory fee will be charged, but please bring your own yoga mat. You can drop by Marta Lopez' office in 4<sup>th</sup> floor in case you need to borrow a yoga mat.





## Welcome to “the Cake club” (Kakeklubben)



Many of our international colleagues are trying to learn some Norwegian, but do not find many opportunities to practice here at work. We have therefore copied our neighbor department, Geophysical Institute's [concept](#) with a weekly gathering for lunch where we speak Norwegian and share a cake. At the GFI they call this “kakeklubben” and as we should respect inventors of such concepts, we also adopt the name ☺

We will start our cake club on Monday 27th August. The club meetings are held all Mondays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

The Department will buy us the first cake, and we hope for volunteers among the club members to bring cakes the following Mondays.

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

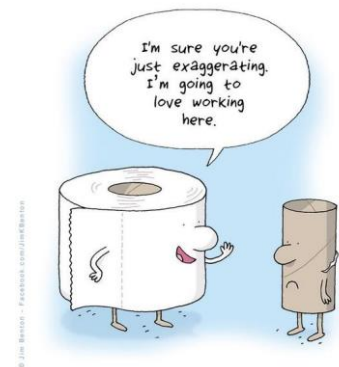


## Newcomers club

From now on, all new employees at our department will automatically be members of our **Newcomers club** the first year of employment. You will be invited to a different activity every month, and participation is of course voluntary.

The idea is that newcomers to the department can get to know colleagues outside group borders, meet other people in kind of the same situation as themselves, and maybe even make some new friends. Moreover, we aim to show you some of the opportunities that Bergen can offer. There will be a various range of activities where you will learn about Bergen and its history, indoor and outdoor excursions, hiking, escape room, football match and more.

Marta Lopez in the Administration is responsible for running the club activities, and you are always welcome to contact her if you have any questions or suggestions.



## Department HSE-seminar on 11 October – save the date!



This year's Department HSE-seminar theme will be “Working in an international environment”. The keynote speaker will be Karin Ellis from [Ellis Culture](#). Ellis Culture aims to simplify the daily lives of people working across cultures. You will learn some of the codes of conduct and unwritten rules of the culture you are going to interact with. You may achieve improved communication and co-operation with people from other cultures in just a few hours! Her course in intercultural communication is practically oriented, based on her 30 years' work experience from international environments.

Our Department is composed by employees from 35 different nations. Moreover, about 70% of us is not originally from Norway. This makes intercultural communication a very relevant theme for us. Please save the date and time 11 October at 12-16. More information and program will follow.



### **Muscle therapy at BIO Friday 24th August**

As an HSE measure, our neighbor department BIO offers muscular therapy once or twice a month. The muscular therapist Lars Kallevåg brings his own bench, paper and oil (which does not contaminate clothing) for treatment. A treatment session = 30 min and costs 350 kr. You can book as many treatment hours as you wish. He prefers payment ahead of the treatment and via Vipps.

Room 329C1 («Knekken») or Room 314H2 («Kroken») 2nd floor (3. etasje), High Tech Center (Høyteknologisenteret), Bioblokken

The next session is on 24<sup>th</sup> August. [Please register on Doddle here](#)

### **New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken – late autumn 2018**

It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the autumn period from 14 October until 31 December 2018.

Please use the [UoB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your registered username and password. Upon initial application you must enter some information. All applications must be registered in the electronic cabin system to be included in the draw.

The application deadline is 14 September. Drawing will be done 17 September.

