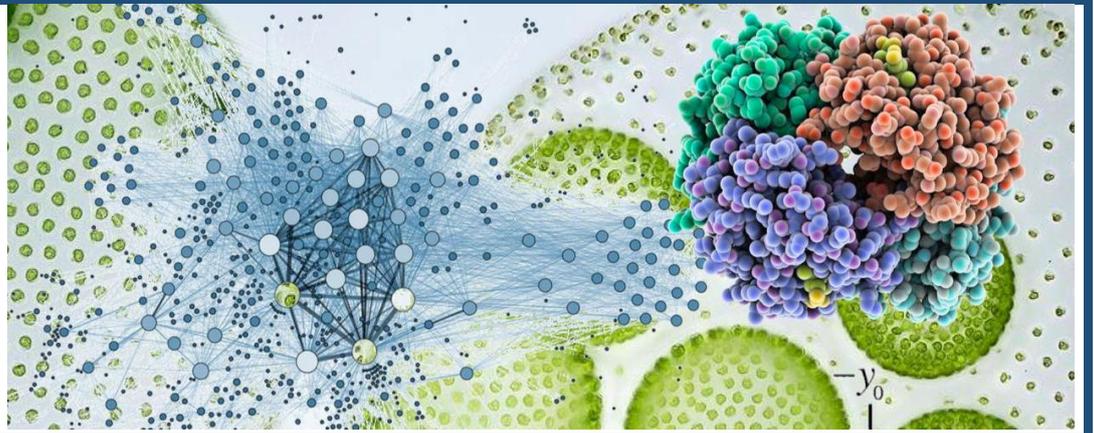


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 0/2019
10th May 2019



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

Dear colleagues,

We have just completed our first year with me as the head of department. A lot of very exciting things happened during this first year. Some of the highlights are Saket's success with a second personal ERC grant, the launching of our Center for Data Science CEDAS, our master program in informatics being ranked as the best master program in ICT in Norway, several of our colleagues becoming involved in the boards of the Research Council of Norway, and the publicity and increase in the number of applications we received for our focus on information security and cryptography. At the same time, many of our colleagues have achieved great international recognition and success in a large variety of arenas. It was a wonderful pleasure to summarize and discuss the achievements of the past year, and the plans and strategy for the next years to come, with you at Solstrand last week. Thank you all for contributing to fruitful discussions! And once more, thank you all for contributing to the success and the visibility of our department in general.



Sometimes I am asked whether I miss my research activities. My specialization is in designing efficient algorithms for structured inputs to problems that are in general NP-hard. I must say that I find myself doing very similar things also in my job as the head of department. Very often, problems that pop up in the daily running of our department, or in our interaction with others, seem unsolvable in an optimal way. At first, it looks like we might need to resort to suboptimal solutions or approximations. However, most of the times we are able to solve the problems optimally, thanks to both creative thinking and toolboxes that are available at different levels of our organization. The knowledge and creativity that our administration is able to offer impresses me all the time. The same is true about the professional help and advice that are offered by our faculty administration and other administrative levels of our university. Designing algorithms for hard problems is a lot of fun under these circumstances. Moreover, when an algorithm is ready, there is a whole team of competent people who work on implementing it immediately!

In a week, we will be celebrating the national day of Norway on the 17th of May. Those of our colleagues who are new in Norway should note that this is a holiday and a day of celebrations. There are parades downtown, and you might consider going there early enough to get a good view of everything that is happening. A very nice way of experiencing the whole thing is actually by joining the parade itself. [Our university has its own place in the parade, and all students and employees are encouraged to participate.](#)

I wish you all a very nice weekend, and a very nice 17th of May next Friday!

-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: [Dette er tendensene i årets studierekruttering](#) - [Hva kan vi gjøre for å rekruttere de dyktigste kvinnene?](#) - [Fakultetets vårseminar peker på en rekke utfordringer vi har tenkt å gjøre noe med](#) - [Lyser fyrtårnet sterkt nok?](#)



Picture report from our Solstrand gathering last week

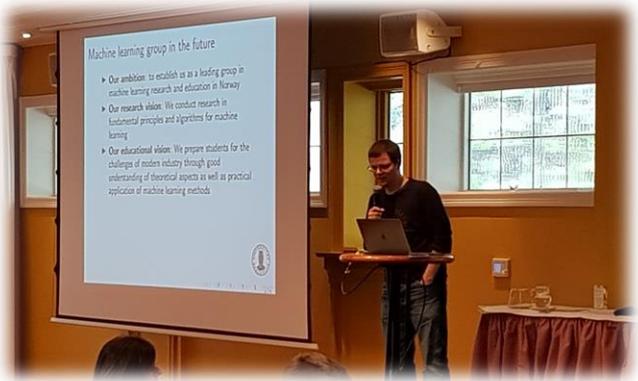
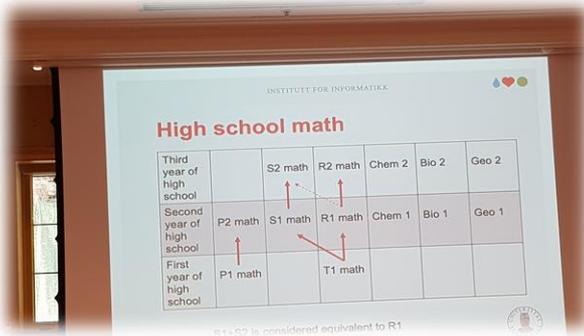


II family photo 2019



*Photos:
Fedor Fomin, Linda Vagtskjold, and a Solstrand employee*





All the inputs that were given in the questionnaire “How do we see our own department”, in the group discussions “How to increase the department’s visibility”, and in the strategy discussion will be carefully considered and followed up by the administration, the local study and PhD committees and in group contact meetings.



Congratulations Helwig!



Our professor Helwig Hauser has just been appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of [Computer Graphics Forum](#). This is a journal published by Wiley, and it is a level 2 (top level) [journal in the Norwegian national ranking of publication channels](#). Congratulations Helwig!

Sergej at Christiekonferansen – well done!

While the rest of us were gathered at Solstrand, our postdoc Sergej Stoppel held the lecture "How I taught a robot to draw" at the [Christie conference](#) in the University Aula. The Christie conference is one of Norway's most important meeting places for academia and business, culture and society.

Welcome to Department seminar 16th May – Coding in Inopera

Department of Informatics



Digital assessment - opportunities for running and compiling code - how, when and why?

The ongoing development of digital assessment at UiB aims to provide tools for assessing student learning in the best way. A recurring request has been the utilization of third party tools during a written exam, and the ongoing project "Tredjepartsportalen" aims to deliver a solution to provide third party software for teaching, assessment and learning purposes on the students' own devices, integrated in UiB's portfolio for learning.

Project manager Magnus Svendsen Nerheim will present the ongoing solution development, highlight some of the challenges and solutions to come, and to better understand what development that is desired from the perspective of the Department of Informatics.



Some of the topics to be covered:

How does UiB aim to provide third party software to students for teaching and learning?
When will this happen?
How does II want to use third party software to enhance learning?

Program:

Introduction to the ongoing development of teaching and learning at II (Jan Arne Telle and Torstein Strømme)
Presentation of Tredjepartsportalen (how, when) (Magnus Svendsen Nerheim)
Discussion regarding the future use of third party tools for teaching and learning at II

Thursday, May 16th, 2019, from 14:15
Big Auditorium 2nd floor, Datablokken
Refreshments will be served from 14:00

Next Faculty and Staff lunch is on Monday 20th May

We will meet in the lunch room on the fourth floor at 12:00 as usual. During this lunch we will celebrate Ketil's 50th birthday, and thus there will be cake, too!

Student affairs [bioCEED news](#)

Congratulations to our bachelor students in datateknologi



Our second year bachelor students in Datateknologi Petter Daae, Rikke Aas, Brigit Arve Toppe Håvardstun, and Daniel Berge won a national programming competition organized by the consultancy agency Bekk. The prize for the winners is that they will receive funding to travel to the technology conference Web Summit in Lisbon later this year. Congratulations, and thanks for making us proud!

Nominations for The Owl Award 2019

[The Owl Award](#) is UiB's internal award for quality in education, and is presented by the University's Education Committee to academic groups that can document particularly successful measures for academic quality. Nomination deadline: 20th May. Please contact Ida if you have any good ideas for a nomination.

Olav Thon Stiftelsens nasjonale faglige priser

Olav Thon Stiftelsens lyser ut priser for fremragende undervisning og støtte til studentaktive forskningsprosjekter innen matematisk-naturvitenskapelige og medisinske fagområder for 2020. Prisene deles ut torsdag 5. mars 2020 i Universitetets aula i Oslo. Frist for å nominere er **15.09.2019**. [Mer informasjon](#).

PhD Updates

The description for the PhD program at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has been published

New regulations for the PhD degree at the University of Bergen were approved by the University Board 29.11.2018, establishing separate PhD programs at each of the university's scientific faculties. Each program is governed by the **Regulations for the PhD degree at the University of Bergen** which are common to all the PhD program, and a local program description at each Faculty. [The description for the PhD program at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has now been published](#). Both the regulations and program description can be found at the [faculty's PhD program website](#).

Summer School "Challenges for the XXI century: data, information and communication



"Challenges in data science: bigdata, artificial intelligence and communication". This Summer School faces the present data driven revolution with a view to understanding its scope. The aim is to provide students with advanced knowledge in the exponential increase in data management and applications: big data, cloud computing, text mining, gamification, artificial intelligence, smart cities.

Where? University of Valencia **When?** 1st July – 5th July 2019 **Who?** Master's degree and PhD students in Economics, Engineering, Journalism, Sciences, Computing and Telecommunications, Marketing and Communication.

Deadline for the online application: 15th June 2019. All the information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Research Science and Seminars

Debatt/samtale 15. mai: Cybersikkerhet - trusler mot Norge

Onsdag 15. mai 2019 kl. 08:30–09:30

Bergen Global CMI/UiB, Jekteviksbakken 31, 5006 Bergen
Øyvind Ytrehus (UiB) og Lars Gjesvik (NUPI) i samtale med Åse Gilje Østensen (Sjøkrigsskolen).

[Mer informasjon her.](#)

Vi hører stadig om trusselen fra utenlandske selskaper, stater og organisasjoner som enten utfører angrep mot stater eller viser at de har kapasitet til det. Hvor reell og farlig er denne trusselen i Norge? Er det noe Norge kan gjøre for å beskytte seg, og i så fall hva?

Og ikke minst, hvordan ser slike angrep ut? Er det snakk om fysiske inngrep på kabler og infrastruktur, eller skjer alt gjennom dataen? Den økende digitaliseringen og nylige hendelser som angrepet på Hydro og PSTs vurdering av Huawei gjør dette til aktuelle og viktige spørsmål.



Workshop on causal inference in complex marine ecosystems at IMR on 11-12 June

Date: 11-12 June 2019

Venue: Institute of Marine Research, Bergen. Tuesday: Nordishavet. Wednesday: Pynnten

Funding opportunities

New II webpages for Research support services 😊

Thanks to our new brilliant research advisor Stefanie, we can now present some really useful webpages for research support services 😊 [Please click the link and take a look!](#)

The service includes helping you to prepare funding applications, setting up and negotiate contracts, and managing your research project. The new webpage is designed to get you started and help you find the right contact persons in our administration, and also contains an overview of relevant funding sources, support for grant applications, research contracts and collaboration agreements and kick-off meetings and operational phase.

DNSZ Seed Money 2019/2 Call for proposals

The German-Norwegian Study Centre in Kiel (DNSZ) provides funds to support cooperation between Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (and/or GEOMAR, provided that the CAU is involved) and Norwegian academics in all fields. Funds are made available for workshops, study groups, symposia or guest researcher stays.



The funded activities shall strengthen cooperation in research and teaching between workgroups of at least one Norwegian university and the CAU. For further information, please have a look at the [call for proposals 2019/2](#). The application deadline is 31 May 2019, 4 pm.

Vacant positions

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Machine Learning

Closing date: 01.06.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Kommunikasjonsmedarbeider ved MN-fakultetet (dedicated to our department 40%)

Closing date: 31.05.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Self-defence course for female students and employees at II – part 2



We are planning to repeat this course offer once per semester from now on, and encourage all female students and employees to sign up. To be continued... 😊

Department Boat Trip and Summer Party – save the date 22nd August!



On the 22nd of August, in the afternoon, we are planning a summer party combined boat trip for all our employees together with all our new bachelor and master students of the fall semester of 2019!

Two boats will come and pick us up from Marineholmen, close to the department building. Food and refreshments will be served. There will be games and entertainment.

Please save the date!

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.



Credit Card UiB

Permanent and temporary employees at UiB may apply for the credit card Eurocard. This is a corporate credit card to be registered in the name of the employee. The card is to be used for work-related travel expenses. The card cannot be used for payment of private expenses. Invoices will be sent to and must be paid by the cardholder.

By using the card you may be insured. If you register the credit card in the HR-portal, your credit card transactions may be found for direct transfer to your travel expense account. [More information](#)

Cheap cinema tickets

UiB employees can buy two cinema tickets for 80 NOK per ticket, once a month. In addition, we can buy as many cinema tickets as we want for 90 NOK per ticket. Normal ticket prices are 120 - 140 NOK. [More details](#)



17 May 2019

INVITATION 17 MAY BREAKFAST

The University of Bergen hereby invites employees and their families for breakfast on Norway's Constitution Day, the 17th of May, at Christie Café, Muséplassen 3. Finger food and beverages for both adults and children will be served. Price NOK 150 per adult, NOK 50 per child.

PROGRAM:

- 07.20 – Placing of wreaths at the statue of W. F. K. Christie by a representative of the 17th of May Committee as part of the morning parade
- 07.45 – Rector Dag Rune Olsen welcomes you to breakfast at Christie Café
- 09.30 – End of breakfast and departure for Koengen to take position in the main 17th of May parade as participants from the university

Registration: <https://form.app.uib.no/17mai>

Welcome!

Please respond no later than 10th May. (Seating is limited).



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

[Registration for 17th of May breakfast here](#)

Gym facilities at student prices

UiB employees can subscribe to the Sammen training studios at the same prices as the students. Sammen has several modern gyms in an around Bergen, some of which contain swimming pools or climbing walls. [More details](#)

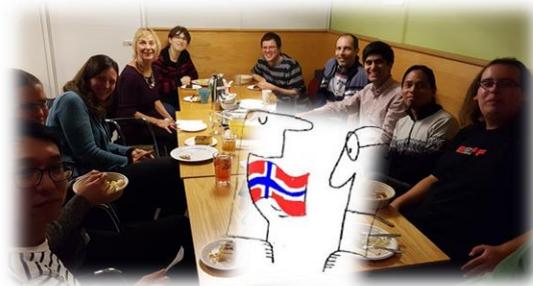
Reminder: Informatics yoga on Wednesdays

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department 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 participation fee. 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!

Welfare offer from the UiB: "Begynnelse"



Begynnelse

Eksistensiell komedie: Om jakten på kjærligheten og frykten for forpliktelse!

Det er duket for en rekke gjenkjennelige, pinlige, morsomme og ubehagelige situasjoner.

Med: Karoline Krüger og Eirik del Barco Soleglad

Fredag 24.mai kl 19.30. Teaterkjelleren **UiB pris kun 240,- (ord 390,-)**

Bestill [her](#) eller ring 55 60 70 80 innen 14. mai!

Welfare offer from the UiB: NATTJAZZ 2019

Som ansatt ved UIB får du *studentpris* på alle ordinære billetter til Nattjazz 2019. 24. mai - 1. juni - Bergen - USF Verftet. Velkommen til Norges beste jazzfestival!

Begrenset antall - max to pr ansatt pr festivaldag. Førstemann til mølla.

Billettene kjøper du på nattjazz.no Bruk promokoden: **nj2019edu**

