

Universitetspladsen

RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

Number 11 · 16. April – 14. May 2012

▶ RU successfully reduces energy consumption

▶ Nature's best lobbyist

By: RUC'ers By Choice and RUSIS

It is time once again for the annual spring festival football tournament.

The tournament will be held the day of the festival, 20 April at 2:00 p.m.

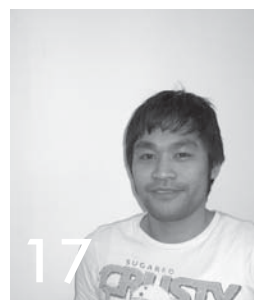
This is a 5-a-side tournament with an on-pitch split in sexes. The tournament is a carnival tournament; the teams are expected to dress up, preferably to a theme that will play up to the spectators. In addition to a prize for the winning team, there will be prizes for best TIFO (creative fan support) and best costume.

Register at the reception at the Registration Office on or before 19 April at 4:00 p.m. Deposit of DKK 50 payable on registration.

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Publishing information

RUCnyt/RUGlobal is Roskilde University's official magazine for information and debate about the organization of the university. RUGlobal is open to all employees and students at Roskilde University to debate the educational and research organizations at the university, including questioning of common interest for research and education.

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Articles: need to be handed in by e-mail. Please enclose suggestions for illustrations. Discs and other material are normally not returned. The editorial staff is allowed to shorten articles and to reject articles which are not of common interest. Articles of more than 8000 characters (about 2 pages) can normally not be expected to be published un-shortened. There is no minimum length for an article to be published. Anonymous articles are not accepted.

Upcoming deadlines:

Nr.	Articles	Notices	Publication date
12	26/4	1/5	14/5
13	24/5	29/5	11/6

- at 12 noon on the assigned date

RU successfully reduces energy consumption

Roskilde University reached its target of reducing energy consumption by 10% from 2006 to 2011. The new target is a 20% reduction by 2015.

By: Human Resources and Communication

The most recent data indicate that the Green RU project enabled Roskilde University to reach the energy reduction targets defined by the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy: RU reduced electricity consumption by 10%, water consumption by 15% and heat consumption by an impressive 16%. With these figures, RU has reduced energy consumption by more than the 10% required by the "Circular on improving energy efficiency in Danish state institutions".

"The new figures for 2011 were a pleasant surprise. I was not sure whether we had reached the target for electricity because it is very hard to reduce electricity consumption," says Irene Steinfeldt Boese, who is in charge of energy-saving projects at RU. She explains that the university regularly gets new and more electronic equipment, which makes it difficult to reduce energy consumption.

Many projects paid off

RU introduced a number of changes at the university in order to reduce energy consumption. For example, almost all windows in the original buildings from the 70s were replaced. New heat control was also installed in the buildings, adjusting the temperature automatically depending on outside temperature.

"Furthermore, we put in LED lighting instead of neon tubes in the library. This alone resulted in annual savings of 100,000 kWh, which equals the annual electricity consumption of about 20 households. We also renovate the lavatories on an ongoing basis, fitting half-flush mechanisms and LED ceiling lights," explains Irene Steinfeldt Boese about the energy-saving projects.

Besides this, Green RU headed a large kick-off event last year together with other campaigns targeting students and employees. The campaigns aim to make people aware

of RU's energy consumption, inducing them to change their behaviour and contribute to energy savings at RU.

"The campaigns were designed to create awareness of Green RU and make people think about the energy they consume in their everyday lives so that they will, for example, remember to turn off the light and close the windows when they leave a room," says Irene Steinfeldt Boese.

The work continues

However, the energy-saving efforts are not over at RU. Green RU has a target of reducing energy consumption by 20% by 2015.

"That will be really hard and requires large investments, but we are working with management to meet our target. We have come a long way, but we must make an even greater effort in the years ahead," says Irene Steinfeldt Boese.

Change your password with NemID

If you have forgotten your password or it has expired, you can log in with your NemID and change it. You can do this wherever and whenever you want!

See how to do it at ruc.dk/en/nemid

The screenshot shows the Roskilde University website with a navigation menu on the right containing links like Education, Research, Collaboration, Departments, Library, About the University, Job Opportunities, and International Students. The main content area is titled "Change your password with NemID" and includes the following text:

If your password has expired, or you have forgotten it, the easiest way to change it is with NemID. You can do this wherever and whenever you see fit.

This is how you do it:
(click on the pictures to enlarge)

- Go to portalno.ruc.dk or click on For students/For eller klik på For studerende/For employees at the top of the homepage of ruc.dk.
- You will now see a green Single Sign-on box. Click on "Login with NemID" at the bottom.
- Use your NemID as usual. Type in your User ID (Bruger-id) and your password (Adgangskode). Click next (næste).

The screenshot also shows a "NEM ID" login box with fields for "Bruger-id" and "Adgangskode", and a "Log ind" button.

Tips and tricks from Campus-it

Student work placement pays off tenfold

A student work placement is the best way to avoid ending in the jobless queue after graduation. A student job is more important than your grade point average and than whether you completed your studies within the prescribed time limit. That is the conclusion of a study of 3,000 graduate students and recent graduates conducted in 2011 by the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC). Among the group of new graduates who had found a job, 63% had had a relevant student job, whereas only 46% of the unemployed new graduates had had work relevant to their studies. At RUGlobal, we will spotlight the importance of working a job that is relevant to your studies. In the next couple of issues, we will run stories on RU students who have student jobs.

(Source: Danish daily Politiken 23 January 2011 – Special section on student life)

Nature's best lobbyist

Thomas Young Hwan Westring Jensen is doing his bit for the environment. His dissertation for his Master's Degree in Technological and Socio-Economic Planning is about solving climate challenges in Africa and he has a part-time job with the Danish Society for Nature Conservation, so the environment is constantly on his mind and on his agenda.

Photo and text by Emil Ryttergaard, RUGlobal

We're on the roof floor of the building that houses the Danish Society for Nature Conservation. Thomas Young Hwan Westring Jensen is sitting across from me, drinking a cup of quick-brewed coffee and energetically eating an orange. We're discussing the environment and what it means to Thomas. He talks fast; possibly because his fellow dissertation students are sitting next to us, waiting for him, but perhaps even more it's because the issue of the environment means so much to him. Even with the environment so much on his mind, Thomas' road to RU was never all that obvious.

"I can't even tell you why I chose to go to RU. I had previously taken degrees in social work and nursing, but I really wanted to take a university degree, so I chose RU without really knowing which field I'd want to study. Then,

in my second term I attended a lecture on the environment. I found it extremely interesting, and it really caught my attention. I've written about it ever since."

But what was so special about RU?

"I've always travelled a lot, and what originally caught my attention at RU was International Development Studies. It turned out that I found the environmental part of the programme the most interesting and, fortunately, that combines well with working on development projects and travelling a lot. So that is the topic of my dissertation."

Under police surveillance in Vietnam

Studying for his bachelor's was full of theoretical work for Thomas, so when he began his graduate studies, he was finally able to see the actual consequences of the environmental

efforts, or the lack of same. His studies brought him to Vietnam where the local fishermen took the innovative Danes quite by surprise, and he had the government looking over his shoulder.

"At first, I was focused on human behaviour and I spent a lot of time studying people's reactions. The technical aspect was a big priority. The word was: "we just need to erect a whole bunch of wind turbines". However, I thought there was a huge void in how to achieve interaction with our everyday lives, and that became of huge importance for a change of discourse. During my graduate studies, I was on a really cool project in Vietnam on how to create sustainable fisheries. In undergraduate studies, that often becomes rather abstract and not very tangible. But in development projects you often take a very case-based approach in order to arrive at a conclusion that can actually be useful. There is a greater need

to do something in the developing countries; if they don't adjust faster than we do, we will all be in trouble.

Why are the developing countries so interesting from an environmental perspective?

"Because the climate changes you're seeing will always impact poor people first. That's why it is much more important that we help them. We have much more know-how in Denmark and in the Western world, and we should be using it to provide more help to countries in Africa and Asia. For my part, it's been very interesting to study the hardest hit areas and how they adapt and prepare for the future."

"As I'm also a method geek, I love to test new methods, so it was very rewarding to meet the local fishermen and present them with all our fantastic ideas, only to discover that in actual fact, they are quite a bit smarter than we are. But how do you take the scientific angle and combine it with the practical side and still come out on top, considering the limited amount of resources available to us?"

Five days after Thomas and his fellow students had submitted their report to the Vietnamese government, the government issued a 40-page report on why the students were mistaken in their conclusions. So, the political establishment certainly did not appreciate a couple of Danish know-it-all lecturing the communist regime on something as simple as the environment.

"The police kept a very close eye on us all the time we were there, which in itself was an interesting experience. We were not allowed to go out unless by previous arrangement, and if we asked if we could go somewhere, we'd be told that was probably not such a good idea." They were told "No" in a polite diplomatic way for 'reasons of security', but, as Thomas explains, it was probably more about "what we were allowed or not allowed to see".

Preventing expansion at the Amager incineration plant

During the second half of his graduate studies, Thomas again turned to the international world, this time to Malaysia, where he worked as an intern at the Danish embassy. During his time there, he wrote a report on waste management at a holiday resort, the emphasis being on recycling waste instead of taking it to the landfill. He casually mentions that a Danish company is in Malaysia right now, using his report and trying to sell his idea. "I

Thomas Young Hwan Westring Jensen studies Technological and Socio-Economic Planning and is currently writing his dissertation on sustainable energy in Africa. He also works part-time at the Danish Society for Nature Conservation.



haven't heard from them yet, but I'm actually a bit excited about it," he says.

Given Thomas' academic profile, having a job at the Danish Society for Nature Conservation makes perfect sense. In fact, his CV and his skills have landed him a highly relevant part-time job.

"At the Society, I work with what we call 'climate municipalities'. A total of 70 Danish local councils have signed up to reducing their carbon emissions by 2% over a number of years." As the Society's coordinator to the local councils, I compute past years' achievements and have helped organise various environment events."

Thomas also mentions the extensive lobbying efforts conducted by the Society and other environmental organisations to influence politicians, and they got part of the credit for raising the issue against the expansion of the Amager incineration plant, an issue that is keeping Thomas busy in respect of Danish environmental legislation.

It may seem as if he has been extremely lucky, but in quickly listing the highlights of

his career so far, Thomas mentions close to a handful of volunteer work jobs. "I can only say that even if you believe you don't have time for it as a student, it really pays off. At least, that's been my experience."

Bits and pieces about Thomas:

Originally from Næstved in south-western Zealand, Thomas Young Hwan Westring Jensen studies Technological and Socio-Economic Planning. He is currently writing his dissertation. In his spare time, he works 15–20 hours per week for the Danish Society for Nature Conservation on a project to help 70 local councils reduce their carbon emissions. He is writing his dissertation as part of a project with Danida on designing a solution on sustainable energy in Mozambique. In addition to this work and his studies, he is a recent father of a baby boy and he also finds time to do MMA (mixed martial arts).