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# commerciel

De studerendes månedsmagasin



**“Alle kan bryde  
den sociale arv”**

## commerciel

er månedsmagasinet for de studerende på Handelshøjskolen i Århus. kommerciel udkommer 8 gange årligt og sendes til alle betalende medlemmer af Studenterlauget.

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Camilla Jensen, ansvarshavende redaktør

## Sur og sød sovs

Marts måned er sådan en underlig måned. Det er ikke længere rigtigt vintervejr, men det er heller ikke sommer endnu. Vintereksamen er knap nok overstået, mens sommereksamen allerede er godt på vej. Den ene dag skinner solen, og fuglene larmer fra trætoppene, og den næste dag sner det, og kulden bider i kinderne. Den ene morgen er man helt udmattet og kan næsten ikke kravle ud af sengen, og dagen før landede man på fødderne inde i brusekabinen, allerede inden vækkeuret nåede at få sin obligatoriske blodprop.

Marts udgaven af kommerciel bærer nok lidt præg af denne dobbeltsidighed. Den er både lidt sød og sur. Der er en nyhedsartikel om pladsproblematikken på skolen og status for udvidelsen af kvadratmeterne. Flere interviews med tidligere studerende om deres første møde med det pulserende arbejdsliv, hvad enten det er i Viby eller Hong Kong. Og sidst men ikke mindst byder vi i denne udgave af kommerciel blandt andet på et fokus om udveksling og alle dets facetter samt en reportage fra Super Bowl i Klubben.

Rigtig god læselyst

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kommerciels leder belyser et aktuelt emne i studiemiljøet på Handelshøjskolen i Århus. Holdningerne i lederen er ikke nødvendigvis udtryk for Studenterlaugets officielle holdning.



## A Home away from Home

What drives a person to travel all the way from Minnesota to work as a guest researcher and lecturer at ASB? According to Constance Kampf PhD, it's just another step closer to home.

**Text:** John Corey Morris  
**Foto:** Gregers Axelsen

I find Constance sitting on an aerobic ball, also known as her computer chair, glaring into a laptop neatly placed on a makeshift table made out of what else, academic books. As I enter her office, something immediately catches my eye; what appears to be a standard dry erase board is filled with such intricacies that, as far as I could tell, could be the secret to the Da Vinci Code. After a deep breath, I leap into a chat with Constance that unlocks the mystery surrounding her extraordinary office décor; this I can assure you, is no ordinary teacher.

Constance Kampf, PhD, guest researcher and lecturer from the University of Minnesota, U.S., has

traveled around the world and the latest stop on her journey is ASB. In the beginning, Constance's life resembled that of any ordinary suburbanite. Growing up on the outskirts of Minneapolis, Minnesota, which according to Constance is "as close to Scandinavia as you can get without actually being in Europe", she enjoyed the pleasantries of youth and did the things most teenagers do.

However, at the age of 16, things began to change as she got her first taste of Europe as an exchange student in Germany and Constance enthusiastically claims that, "Even though my exchange wasn't very long, it was long enough to give me a taste of Europe, which I have never lost and I have been working to get

back to Europe ever since."

### **The road not taken**

Constance started out as a civil engineer major at the University of Minnesota, but after a year, was soon back in Europe where she continued the same major for one year in France. Apparently France made a huge impression on Constance because upon her return to the University of Minnesota, she changed her major to French literature and language. With a wide grin she adds, "I speak French, and after I got back from France I decided that French was much cooler than engineering."

Now bearing the title of a French literature and language major, Constance, for her BA thesis, was provided with a unique oppor-

tunity to study a German colony in Venezuela. Her research involved how the German and Spanish languages interacted compared to how the English and French languages interacted in the Cajun speaking communities of Louisiana, U.S.

### **One-way ticket to where?**

With a BA under her belt and contemplating her next step, Constance did not do what most graduates do; instead, she bought a one-way ticket to Tunisia. Yet again in an exotic location, Constance broadened her horizons by teaching British pronunciation to foreigners and even found the time to study Arabic.

"While in Tunisia, I met some wonderful people and even lived with people from Palestine,

Algeria, and Syria.”

### **Masters in working**

Back at the University of Minnesota, and picking up where she had previously left off, Constance received a Master of Arts in TESOL, which stands for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Constance was, on the other hand, not entirely preoccupied with her studies, as she was a “working” student. Working, in the sense that she decided to pay her own way through college by working for the university’s Human Resources department, which included training personnel how to use computers, designing websites and instructing on how to use a strange new invention called e-mail. All in all, Constance adds, she worked for 10 years between 30 to 40 hours a week while completing her education.

### **From PhD to Denmark**

In 1998, Constance took her education one step further and began her PhD at the University of Minnesota in Rhetoric and Scientific and Technical Communication. While working on her PhD, she met ASB’s own Peter Kastberg in 2002, who was lecturing at the University of Minnesota about ASB’s newest bachelor program, MMC. Intrigued with the opportunity to teach a new and exciting program and once again return to Europe, Constance eagerly approached Peter with an interest in teaching at ASB.

“Peter was talking about what MMC was and a lot of the foundation of the program in conception, has a lot to do with both rhetoric and technical communication. So the way that he presented the program to me appeared very interesting and I knew that I wanted to teach in that kind of a program.”

Coincidentally, in the first week of September in 2003, Constance just happened to be in Denmark attending to other business, when she reconnected with Peter and was asked to speak to the new MMC students for one week. Two years later, Constance was hired

to her new position and left for ASB as a guest researcher and lecturer just days after defending her PhD in August of 2005. Once again, Constance has found her way back to good old Europe.

### **ASB is “Hyggelig”**

When asked to characterize her new environment, Constance chooses a word that is a cornerstone of the Danish language, but can bewilder almost any foreigner, namely “Hyggelig”.

“The first word that comes to mind is “hyggelig” because the people that I’m around, those that I work with, have been very welcoming and have been very open, I’ve appreciated it so much.”

On another note, Constance admits that the system here is different from what she is accustomed to and that she’s learning how to understand teaching from a different perspective, to understand a different kind of student-teacher interaction. Furthermore, Constance envisions bringing some of the strengths of the system here together with some of the strengths of the system from the U.S. to make a kind of hybrid teaching style.

### **More power to you**

Constance points out that the primary difference between teaching Danish and American students is not so much about the students as it is about the structure of the system.

“I find the difference in power balance very interesting. I’ve always thought of myself as somebody who doesn’t like power and avoids power situations, but it feels very strange to be in the classroom and not have the power that I had in the U.S.”

Power distance, accord-

ing to Constance, is not about power tripping, but can be seen in the teacher’s ability to direct the feedback loop. According to her experience it is this feedback loop that she highlights as a keystone for learning. But she openly acknowledges that how this process works at ASB is still unknown.

### **Destination nowhere**

With her contract as a guest researcher and lecturer ending this semester, Constance stresses that she would gladly accept a contract extension. With the insight she’s gained from a lifetime of traveling and cultural interaction, Constance hopes that she’ll be able to continue to learn more about how a hybrid teaching style could prove beneficial to every-

one at ASB. In the meanwhile, she’s content with establishing a home away from home in a place that she’s been trying to get back to since the age of 16.

P.S. Unfortunately, Constance’s whiteboard did not include the secret to the Da Vinci Code, but rather the secret to her latest research project...and the mystery continues...

If you have any questions you would like to ask Constance Kampf, she can be reached by e-mail at: [cka@asb.dk](mailto:cka@asb.dk)

