



## News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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### Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

#### Editor's corner

*Anders Gustavsson*

**Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg** inform about news within Strömstad Academy.

It is with regret that I have to announce that **Climatologist Eugen Ungethüm** passed away on February 5. He was born in Kiel in 1935 and was elected Strömstad Academy member in 2009.

**Physicist Lars Broman** has written an obituary on **Cimatologist Eugen Ungethüm**

I want to urge a previous call for all members to verify and complete their personal information on the Academy website. Also try to recruit new members to the Academy, not least young scholars. Please, send suggestions to **Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg** [per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se)

I wish new contributions to the March issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 March 2024: [anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no](mailto:anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no). Send short articles, opinion articles and/or reviews of new scientific literature. Swedish contributions should have an English translation. Texts should be in Word- or Open Office format!

Please, also send contributions to the Academy's publication series Acta Academia Strömstadiensis, AAS, to [peter@wahrborg.se](mailto:peter@wahrborg.se), the video series SAV to: [gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com](mailto:gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com) and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: [per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se](mailto:per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se)

### Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor

**February's monthly report from Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the Board**

The month of February has almost come to an end. Spring has started to make itself known. We have signs of spring in southern Sweden. It gives new power and new energy to all of us.  
The light comes back to us all.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson  
Layout: Per Flensburg

## **The communication pattern in Strömstad Academy needs to be tightened up**

It is the Board's responsibility to be available and to provide information to its members. How do we fix that? First of all, we have our News Forum, where information from the Chairman of the Board and the Vice-Chancellor is posted once a month. All members can write in the News Forum. We have all the minutes on the website so members can download them as soon as they are adjusted. They can also access the memos from AU meetings by contacting our eminent secretary Marylou Wadenberg. There are webinars where you can participate as well. For webinars, information is sent out from the person responsible for the respective webinar. They are also advertised on the website.

Strömstad Academy also has two Facebook pages, one internal/private group and one public. We are also available on You Tube. There is a collaboration with Strömstads Tidning on regular guest columns. Our website is also important for potential members.

Communication is about reaching each other: speaking, listening and understanding. It creates relationships, binds individuals together into groups and makes it possible to achieve common goals. Communication is one of our most important tools as a leader in Strömstad Academy. Currently, the communication pattern is problematic. A lot of emails are sent without reflection to the members. It is difficult to understand and disrespectful! When we have to address a few members on a matter, the entire Board does not need to be addressed. The amount of email that is sent is very large and becomes very difficult to manage.

A quote from member Sten Philipsson's email 2024-02-05: "I think it would be fantastic if emails from board members could be put in a single loop. Now they drop in consecutively and fill the inbox in a way that makes it difficult (at least for me) to keep track of the various contributions and keep an overview. In addition, it would be very good, I think, if we could keep some discipline so that the posts that do not directly concern the work of the Board are placed in a separate discussion forum. We have talked about this before but it is perhaps justified with a reminder."

There needs to be a change in the communication pattern. The way we communicate is not effective. Communication needs to be tightened up so that it becomes efficient and clear. Do not automatically address the email to all board members. Direct the email to those it concerns. Per gives some tips about this in a special article in this News Forum.

The communication pattern today is more reminiscent of the communication pattern in a club, and not in an association! That academics are difficult to manage is well known, but that you cannot respect a way of communication and good associational manners is actually surprising. It can't be due to forgetfulness, can it?

## **The courtship of the Minister of Education that did not come off - shame on the one who gives in**

The courtship of the Minister of Education came to a somewhat snowy end. The Minister of Education refused to meet and referred to something that was not called for in the letter at all. Åsa has just approached the Minister of Education, LottaEdholm, together with four network members in the so-called 'village school rebellion'.

First of all, four different letters went to the Ministry of Education. When the administration act's 21 days had passed, a new letter was sent. After four letters, we got in touch with a political secretary who directed us to a digital meeting with the department. This awakening was about the government having to take care of the closing down of village schools and assign the Swedish National Agency for Education to work on the issues surrounding the closing down of village schools.

We were provisionally given a full two hours for courtship. The main character became the political secretary who became a very positive contact. We presented our material and it was very well received. We not only got to hand over our presentation material, but we also got to send in extra documents together with our advice on the government's actions.

Now we believe that Strömstad Academy should do the same. We will continue to write letters and ask for a meeting with a political secretary. We must reply to the letter which received an odd answer. We have to take a new approach and ask to see a political secretary. We must sharpen the arguments, of course. Asking for a courtship at the Ministry of Education is persistent work and we do not give up. This is important to us at Strömstad Academy. If we take new steps and sharpen the tone a little, it will probably work eventually. If we still can't get a meeting, we can use other methods and take other routes.

### **Honorary professors and an interesting letter to the entire Board by Sten Philipsson**

We support Sten Philipsson's letter about honorary professors. We cannot just devote ourselves to name-dropping possible honorary professorships. We need to know what the purpose of appointing honorary professors is and what criteria should be met. There were certainly such thoughts from the beginning of the Academy. The Board needs to have a consensus on honorary professors, and if we are to make well-founded decisions. We also need to be able to answer questions about why we would like to have them in the Academy? How are we now to appoint honorary professors? There have been countless suggestions of possible individuals. What method should be used for appointing them? I have asked Sten Philipsson to send his article to Nyhetsforum. All members should be allowed to read his article and make a critical review of the work of emeritus professors. He also believes that no Swedish universities appoint honorary professors. We need to highlight the purpose and criteria for appointment. We should be restrained, says Sten, and we completely agree. We also need to think about what we are going to use the honorary professors for? Not just spreading glory to Strömstad Academy. Sten believes that such a way would "only mean that we do not have enough self-confidence but need the status and rank of outsiders to feel that we belong and represent an organization we are proud of".

### **The science festival is approaching**

In the last Nws forum there was a lot of interesting information about the science festival, Strömstad Academy's biggest and most important event. It is exciting to have a new time for the science festival that is not in the midsummer week. It is good for long-distance participants who want to celebrate Midsummer with loved ones. It has been difficult to make it home for the midsummer celebration. Mark the science festival dates in your calendars.

There is a suggestion that Strömstad Academy should send out a personal letter via email. It is somewhat uncertain how often Nyhetsforum is read by members of the Academy. We naturally assume that Nyhetsforum is read, but a personal letter complements it. Even if not everything is ready with programs and costs, you can hopefully sign up. The local group that will take responsibility for and plan all the fun consists of Lasse, convener, Peter, Sveza and Rosa. Their plans are described elsewhere in this news forum.

The Science Festival is Strömstad Academy's main event. We mostly meet digitally during the year, but during the Science Festival we have the opportunity to meet in person. We are all looking forward to the Science Festival. Don't miss participating in the Academy's main event. Sign up. The Science Festival is open to everyone. We get to meet and enjoy together.

## Recruitment days as part of marketing – a proposal to reflect on

Do you want to be part of a vibrant and dynamic academic association? Then Strömstad Academy is the place for you. Are you a senior researcher and have the energy left to continue your work as a researcher under more relaxed forms and want to continue the social contacts with colleagues? Then Strömstad Academy is the best place for you.

Strömstad Academy continues to grow and we could try the so-called local recruitment days. If necessary, those who want to become new members can go to our website and see what is happening and taking place in Strömstad Academy. Recruitment days are an interesting event that we have not tried. We can try in one place or a few places?

Maybe we should start in Strömstad? Recruiting members isn't the easiest thing? Starting recruitment processes that run easily and smoothly is not always easy.

If we start locally, the coordinators for the local chapters may possibly be responsible with the help of local members. We need a budget for this. Recruitment days can also be linked to fairs that have graduates as a target group.

Are there local trade fairs for graduates where we can have a booth and use as a base to recruit members. Book fairs can be an opportunity? A stand at the book fair with recruitment days could be a possibility? The Gothenburg book fair is visited by many seniors who have worked their entire professional life in a university.

We need to take good care of prospective members. Prospective members need to meet our current members who speak well of the Academy. The critics who whine and vent their displeasure to everyone cannot attend recruitment days.

What strengths and opportunities are there with membership in Strömstad Academy? We must highlight that.

When we recruit new members, we plan for a pleasant introduction of new members. In the best case scenario, we get a new member with a lot of energy and a great deal of hope as a member of Strömstad Academy.

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## Lars Broman: Eugen Ungethüm in memoriam

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### Eugen Ungethüm Passed Away 5 February 2024

Our faithful Fellow Eugen has left us. Eugen was born in Kiel in Germany on 14 February 2035 and came to Sweden in 1963 as researcher at Uppsala University, where he defended his doctoral thesis in 1977. In the year 1979 he assumed a position as physicist at Sahlgrenska hospital in Göteborg. In recent years he has lived in Skee, a village (with its own train station!) within Strömstad municipality.

At Strömstad Academy he became Assistant Professor in Applied Climatology in October 2009. Over the years since, he has been one of our most productive Fellows. He has participated with presentations in three Science Festivals

and with essays in three Anthologies – maybe the most exciting is his autobiographical 'From Reactor Physics to the Over Atmosphere's Physics', and then 'Hospital Physics – an Exciting Travel as Researcher, Teacher and Engineer with Measuring and Medical Technology as Tools' in the Anthology Width and Depth, and 'Strömstad Academy Presents Itself' in Swedish in 2012. Since 2017 Fellows in Strömstad Academy have written monthly popular science Chronicles in Strömstads Tidning, and out of those Eugen has written no less than seven.

Eugen will be buried surrounded by his closest relatives. We, his colleagues in Strömstad Academy, will miss him a lot.

Lars Broman

Honorary Professor and former Vice-Chancellor,  
Strömstad Academy