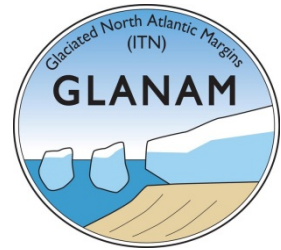


GLANAM Newsletter No. 1 - November 2013



The first official GLANAM meeting took place in Jæren, Norway between the 13th and the 18th of October, 2013. All research fellows and most of their supervisors were present and all were full of expectations. During the first day of the meeting we could see a number of interesting presentations from both supervisors and fellows. The focus of the presentations was put on the academic background and future contribution to the GLANAM network from all the participants. In addition, the supervisors gave geological introductions to the respective study area investigated by each one of the research fellows.

Moreover, an important note from the meeting was that the research fellows democratically appointed Katrien Heirman and Benjamin Bellwald to represent the research fellows at future supervisory board meetings. This will be a rotating duty among the fellows during the GLANAM lifetime, which means that the two representatives later on will have the opportunity to catch up on a missed hike in the rain.

To get hands-on experience of the glacial imprints of south-western Norway, a full-day excursion lead by Professor Hans Petter Sejrup was carried out in the Jæren area. Landforms were climbed, dug and observed as an introduction to the glacial dynamics that were present in this part of Norway during the last glacial maximum. This was an interesting and informative day where even the sun attended during the whole day.



Example of poorly sorted sediment – diamicton, deposited in the Jæren area due to the retreat of the Late Weichselian ice sheet. Internal beddings are seen in the sediment, which may indicate some cyclical pattern in the melt-off of the retreating ice sheet. Photo: Björn Morén.

The two last days of the GLANAM meeting was focused on a workshop for the research fellows. This will be a part of each official GLANAM meeting, where the theme of the workshop will vary. The theme of the first workshop was “communication”, where fellows were exposed to several exercises, often involving practical team-work and competitions. In addition to improve our communication skills, this workshop became a great team-building exercise which will be beneficial for the future of GLANAM.



All the GLANAM members who attended the first official GLANAM meeting, which took place from 13th to 18th of September, 2013 in Jæren, Norway. Photo: Lukas Becker.

We are all looking forward to the next GLANAM meeting, which will take place in Durham, UK, in early fall 2014. At that point there will probably be many more interesting presentations, most of all involving research results.

The provisional dates for the GLANAM meeting in Durham 2014 are presented below. These dates will eventually become confirmed.

GLANAM Fellows arrive Sunday 7th Sept in Durham, UK.

Monday 8th-Thursday 11th (short course for GLANAM Fellows on Enterprise Skills).

Friday 12th - rest day. GLANAM PIs arrive Friday 12th.

Saturday 13th- Sunday 14th (field course County Durham)

Monday 15th-Tuesday 16th GLANAM Annual Workshop

Monday 15th evening - conference dinner.

Tuesday 16th evening - GLANAM PIs and Fellows start to depart

Weds. 17th morning - remaining fellows and PIs depart

Meet the researchers

Two GLANAM research fellows will be interviewed for each issue of the GLANAM newsletter. This feature is called “Meet the researchers” where you can come closer to the GLANAM participants. For this issue, the two research fellows Julia Hofmann and Riccardo Arosio have been interviewed.

Julia Hofmann



Julia Hofmann is an early stage research fellow in the GLANAM network. Her PhD project focuses on the West Greenland glaciated margin history. Photo: Julia Hofmann.

-what are you working on at the moment, and how is it going?

At the moment I'm applying for ODP sediment samples which I'm going to use for an IRD-provenance study combined with Ar-Ar dating.

-you have moved abroad to get this position. How do you like your new town?

I've moved to Copenhagen and it has been great so far. It's a vibrant city with lots of interesting places to discover.

-why did you become a scientist?

Scientists get the opportunity to conduct research on areas which have been little investigated so far. Furthermore, I like experiencing the whole process, starting with data collection through to data processing and interpretation.

-favorite fieldwork moment?

There were many great moments, but I guess my favorite was during a field trip on Svalbard when we're riding snow scooters and enjoying the beautiful Arctic landscape.

-any hobbies or sports (what do you do away from work?)

I used to play basketball back home, so maybe I'll continue with that. Right now, I'm still exploring the city and surroundings.

-seen a good movie recently?

Not so new anymore, but I think “Django Unchained” is pretty good.

Riccardo Arosio



Riccardo Arosio is an early stage research fellow in the GLANAM network. His PhD project focuses on the Hebrides Ice Stream and the deglaciation of the Hebrides shelf and Firth of Lorn, western Scotland. Photo: Riccardo Arosio.

-what are you working on at the moment, and how is it going?

I wish I was able to say that I am immersed in careful and long readings on the nature of glaciers and glaciations, in sleepless lucubration about the chronology of ice advance and retreat. Or again, maybe I could picture myself with the head bent over an old dusty volume, absorbed in deep cogitation. Alas, truth is I have been away from my desk most of the time; from one induction to another, a couple of meetings and one conference. It has been an excellent time to do PR and exchange ideas with students of similar or different background.

-you have moved abroad to get this position. How do you like your new town?

Oban is a lovely little harbour town hidden up in the highlands, say a two hours and something drive from Glasgow, the last centre of civilization. That's by car, because trains and buses take at least one-and-a-half hour more. There is a picturesque bay with fishing boats and yachts anchored, and during sunny days there is also a fantastic view of the Firth of Lorn and the islands around. From Oban there are ferries that take you to a good number of big and small islands in fact (the internal Hebrides); I have been to a few, all quite barren and with stunning landscape. Amongst them there are the Garvellachs, with a famous diamictos-sandstones sequence that supposedly records the Snowball Earth event. Geology is in fact spectacular on the Scottish Highlands; they should be classified as *locus typicus* for geology.

On the other side of the coin there is not much happening up here. What there is it's an endless thin drizzle that doesn't get you really wet but is enough to discourage any kind of outdoor activities, unless you get used to it. I have been told that in winter people get insanely drunk for lack of other distractions. So generally the alternatives are: get over the weather and do sport, or become a drunkard. Still deciding which one is best.

By the way did you know that Oban is the Scottish seafood capital? Well now you do.

-why did you become a scientist?

Once, when I was a boy, I told my uncle Claudio I wanted to become a scientist.

"Ah!" he laughed, "you mean you wish to starve to death then!"

I guess I wanted to prove him wrong.

-favorite fieldwork moment?

The GLANAM fieldtrip around Jæren, of course!

-any hobbies or sports (what do you do away from work?)

I am part of the volleyball club here in Oban but I am planning to do much more in the next future. I like cooking and reading as well; I tend to prefer novels or anything unrelated to scientific essays, just to distract the mind from the papers and books we have to read during work time. Right now I am tackling the first chapter of *“El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha”*.

-seen a good movie recently?

No films, but I am watching “The Walking Dead - Season 4”. I love how ‘muricans solve their problems killing them.

Newsletter compiled by Oscar Fransner

Website. The GLANAM website is live at www.glanam.org A few things are being tidied up and you will soon receive emails on access to members area. Any corrections or requests for content should be sent to the webmaster, Steven Allan: Steven.Allan@durham.ac.uk