



GLANAM Newsletter No. 2 - April 2014

Important Diary Dates – Please make a note

2014 GLANAM Annual Meeting in Durham (September 2014)

GLANAM Fellows arrive Sunday 7th sept in Durham.

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

Friday 12th - rest day for fellows.

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

2015 GLANAM Annual Meeting in Svalbard (June 2015)

13-16 June, 2015 - Workshop and excursion (for all)

17-19 June, 2015 - Scientific writing course (transferrable skills course for ESRs/ERs)

More details to follow.

News

Half a year has passed since the first official GLANAM meeting in Jæren, Norway. Since that time, all the fellows have started their individual research projects at their respective institutions. To keep the GLANAM network updated about what the fellows are working on, a recurrent focus of the newsletter will be put on news from individual GLANAM institutions. In this newsletter, we turn to the University of Bergen, Norway, where the GLANAM fellows are consisting of Benjamin Bellwald, Björn Morén and Lukas Becker.

Benjamin and Björn are both early stage researches, while Lukas recently became an associate researcher to the GLANAM network. Since the members of this trio arrived to Bergen, they have all been busy both in – and outside their offices. This is presented in their respective interviews below.

Benjamin Bellwald

We heard you went on a scientific cruise recently. Where did you go, and for how long did you stay?

As rumors cannot be disproved, I will tell you the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth: I was on a scientific cruise in Hardangerfjorden (Western Norway) on R/V G.O. Sars for about a week in the end of February.

Who arranged the cruise?

The cruise was under the lead of Haflidi Haflidason. In addition to the annual student cruise, the ship time could be extended to test new coring equipment.

How was the weather? Did you get seasick?

The weather was as it always seems to be at that time of the year in Western Norway: A lot of sunshine and no clouds at all, or the other way round. I don't know anymore, it was quite stressful onboard. Although it was winding quite strong from time to time, the waves were comparably small, and I didn't get seasick. I don't know the feeling of seasickness yet, and I'm already considering selling my seasickness pills at the next GLANAM workshop.

What is your goal with the collected data, and what have you done with it this far?

Using geophysical and geological data from the cruise, we will examine different types of mass movements and detect their triggering mechanisms in space and time. As the cruise ended just four weeks ago and I had a trip back home to Switzerland, I just started with the interpretation of the TOPAS lines.

How was the food on the ship? You did not have to fish I hope?

Fishing is a skill the GLANAM project still has to teach me, I never did it in my (long) life. But as I was already on a GLANAM cruise on R/V G.O. Sars last June, I knew what was expecting me: Excellent food. I can really recommend the food prepared by the team.

Do you have any advice to the other GLANAM members how to spend the free time on the ship?

I had no free time during this cruise. For future cruises I encourage the GLANAM community to mail me how to spend potential free time; maybe I should start reading a book about fishing...

Björn Morén

Almost half a year has passed since the first GLANAM meeting. What have you been up to during this time?

Good question. A little bit of this and a little bit of that, I guess. I've been spending quite a lot of time trying to set up a bathymetric dataset of the central part of the Norwegian Channel,



The two GLANAM members Prof. Haflidi Haflidason (left) and Benjamin Bellwald (right) onboard R/V G.O Sars in February, 2014. Photo: Benjamin Bellwald

with limited success. I've also spent some time with a couple of sediment cores and hopefully I'll have some radiocarbon dates from them available in time for EGU, along with some interpretations of horizons I've made from TOPAS seismic lines in the Norwegian Channel.

How do you like Bergen in general?

Apart from the rain (and it rains a lot), I like Bergen. Surprisingly enough the climate here feels much less humid than Stockholm, which I appreciate. It's of course much smaller than Stockholm, but I thought I would need longer to feel at home here. On the other hand, I think I would make an excellent hermit, so maybe I shouldn't be surprised.

How are the ski slopes in the surroundings of Bergen?

Bergen itself hardly gets any snow and it's one of the things I miss from home. But because of the rain here, the mountains inland get a lot of snow, so you only have to go for an hour and a half to find good skiing. I haven't tried the off-piste more than a few of the areas that were available right from the lifts, but the plan is to shift the emphasis from lift-bound skiing to alpine ski-touring next winter.

Have you always been skiing, or is it something that has evolved since you moved to Bergen?

I started skiing when I was twelve, but made a ten-year detour to snowboarding when I was fifteen or so. For the last seven or eight years I've gone back to skis, but I wouldn't call myself an amazing skier. It just happens to be one of my biggest hobbies.



What is your best ski memory?

Doing research in Norway also gives Björn the opportunity to ski, which is one of his biggest hobbies. Photo: Björn Morén.

It's hard to choose one but a memory that might be more funny than good is when my youngest brother and I were trying to ski all the pistes at the resort in one day and my skis got caught in a mound of snow, which toppled me over and I basically cartwheeled down the entire slope. Not unexpectedly, my brother thought this was hilarious, but for me it was mostly unpleasant.

Have you ever triggered an avalanche?

Luckily, I've never been close to an avalanche, and if I die (of old age, obviously) without ever having seen one up close, I'll be okay with that.

Lukas Becker

Rumors say that you went to USA for a conference recently. Which conference was it?

That's correct! It was the 44th International Arctic Workshop, this year held at INSTAAR's brand new building in Boulder, Colorado.

Who is participating in this conference, and how often is it arranged?

The participants were mainly coming from different states in the US, but as well as far away as Shanghai in China, Iceland, UK and of course Norway. It is arranged yearly and will in fact take place in Bergen in 2015 - A good opportunity for many within the GLANAM project.

What did you present?

I presented a poster on the new data that we obtained off an 18-meter long sediment core from the upper parts of the Storegga slide, south of the Vøring plateau. We just split the core a few weeks ago and the core was scanned with an Itrax XRF every 0.5 mm. The special thing about this core is the extremely high resolution. With our current age model, we are seeing a continuous marine sedimentation rate of about 2.2 mm per year over the entire last 8200 years. This is giving us around 4 data points every single year, hopefully showing even some seasonal changes in the ocean circulation at this location. Hopefully we'll even be able to see a North Atlantic Oscillation signal, which hasn't been possible so far in a marine core due to too coarse resolution.

What was your main conclusion?

So far we don't have any conclusions, except of that we see that the resolution that we will get is phenomenal, as almost no data interpretation has been done to this point. This will commence now and will be filling my days for the next weeks and months.

Do you feel that the conference gave you something back? Can you recommend this conference to the other GLANAM members?

Yes, absolutely! I think the conference is useful for everyone of us working somewhere in or with the cryosphere. It is a relatively small and informal conference making it a good place to present and discuss even the latest work with colleagues from all over the world.



Lukas went to the USA for the 44th International Arctic Workshop in Boulder, Colorado. Photo: Lukas Becker.