

ARCUS Annual Meeting and Arctic Forum 2007
Student Travel Scholarship Program
Student Reflections on their Arctic Forum Experience

Arvid Bring

Stockholm University - Sweden

Pan-Arctic Drainage Basin Monitoring: Current Status and Potential Significance for Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Feedbacks

Thank you very much for your assistance during the Arctic Forum! All of the ARCUS staff certainly made me as a student participant feel very welcome and appreciated. My days in Washington really were a terrific experience and I will gladly try to express my experiences of the meeting.

I was very glad for the opportunity to participate in the Arctic Forum, which was both a great learning experience and an inspiring event for my future studies and research. The many interesting presentations gave me a lot of new information on current arctic research, and meeting with active scientists in the field was very motivating and valuable from a professional perspective. For me, the meeting resulted in several discussions about new research collaborations, and the experiences from the Arctic Forum reinforced my interest in science as a career.

Alexandra Jahn

McGill University - Canada

Interannual Variability in the Arctic Ocean Freshwater Balance

I greatly appreciate the student travel award that enabled me to attend the ARCUS Arctic Forum. It was a very inspiring conference, covering a wide area of arctic related research from changes in arctic river runoff to the tooth of the narwhal. I learned a lot from all of the talks and I took away many references that I wasn't aware of so far, which will help me with my research in the next months. Most importantly, I made some very important contacts with other scientists and students in my field during the meeting, and had some very interesting discussions. For me, this was the most beneficial aspect of the meeting, and the relatively small size of the meeting made it easy to meet and talk with other scientists and students. Overall, attending the ARCUS meeting was a great experience and I'm even more motivated now to continue to pursue a career in arctic research in the future.

Lorene Lynn
University of Alaska Fairbanks - USA
Carbon Flux from Melted Permafrost Cores

Attending the ARCUS meeting presented a terrific opportunity to share my research findings with others, to learn about what other researchers are doing in the Arctic, and allowed me to make numerous contacts, many of which I will be able to use in the future. I especially enjoyed meeting several researchers whose work I have admired and papers I have cited in my work. I was able to ask them specific questions related to my study. I formed new relationships with people with whom I may be able to collaborate in the future. The fellow students present were great company and we enjoyed sharing our research goals with each other. Most importantly, though, I have found a group of people who are interested in making science available to the public through translation and through action. I look forward to contributing to this effort by making science truly applicable to the general public and policy makers alike.

Nazune Menka
Arizona State University - USA
Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Persistent Organic Pollutants
and Its Impact on Environmental Science and Policy in Alaska

I would like to take the time to thank you for the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting and Arctic Forum. I can't tell you how beneficial it was for me as a graduate student. I able to learn an inordinate amount of new information about the current research and what is needed for the future.

The most beneficial part of the Forum was by far the opportunity to present my introductory research poster. I received great feedback and numerous mentor and academic contacts that will assist me in finding funding and resources to conduct my Master's thesis on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and its ability to initiate research on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). I was very impressed with the set up of the conference and more so the quality of people I was able to meet and interact with. I was given information about opportunities with the UAF IGERT program, possible NSF contacts, and the invitation to coauthor a paper on POPs in Alaska.

I look forward to continuing to work with ARCUS and one day being a professional member. Thank you again for your time.

Sebastian H. Mernild
University of Alaska Fairbanks - USA
Influx of Freshwater Runoff to the Northern Atlantic Ocean from East Greenland

As a young scientist and UAF IPY post-doc, it was a great opportunity for me to hear about the newest arctic research in hydrology, which inspires one like me to continue my hydrological work on Greenland (snow, glacier, and runoff modeling work) —an area where we have little information about Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) runoff and runoff from the entire island now and in the future. As we know, Greenland is the world's largest island and the GrIS the northern hemisphere largest permanent ice and snow covered area, apart from the arctic sea ice cover. Ice masses and snow cover are reservoirs of water that from a hydrological perspective are highly vulnerable to ongoing climatic variability and changes.

The meeting further gave me opportunities: 1) to compare my work and my results from Greenland with other results from the pan-arctic area; 2) to look into other monitoring programs in the arctic area; 3) to create connections to other research institutions around USA in the light of a research visit; 4) to see people who I until then only have read articles from; and 5) finally to discuss monitoring and model problems from my work with colleagues.

It was a very good meeting for a post-doc like me.

Asa Rennermalm
Princeton University - USA
Identification of Dominant Patterns in Pan Arctic River Discharge Trends

I am excited I got the opportunity to attend the ARCUS Annual Meeting and Arctic Forum. The program covered an impressive array of topics that widened my knowledge about the Arctic. The talks reinforced that the Arctic is a region undergoing large changes, probably in response to anthropogenic climate change. The Forum strengthened my interest in understanding the global impacts of arctic climate change, and the arctic environment's sensitivity to different strategies to mitigate anthropogenic climate change.

Maria Tsukernik
University of Colorado Boulder - USA
Synoptic Influences on the Arctic's Freshwater Budget: Case Studies From the Northern North Atlantic

I am really grateful to ARCUS for providing this opportunity. I have not attended any ARCUS meeting before and I was really excited to learn what ARCUS does and what is the state of the arctic research in the U.S. I met a lot of different people and generated ideas for the possible directions for my own research. I am thinking of coming back next year (depending on the meeting topic and my availability).

I was excited to see a community of arctic scientists working together and expressing their ideas. I believe that collaboration between different fields and integration of different approaches are key elements in true scientific discovery, and I was very pleased to see those processes in action. Arctic research has always been an intriguing journey, but with the modern technology and with the whole world watching we can do so much more in the upcoming years!

I realize that the rules for the student grant award were changed this year. I was amazed by the good work of ARCUS personnel who managed to arrange our travel smoothly and in a timely fashion. If it weren't for such pain-free arrangements, I would not have come and participated.

Several ARCUS employees expressed their concern for putting students in shared hotel rooms. Well, I can only say that I'm so glad that it happened, as I met a wonderful person, who became a new friend.