

Climate Change at the Poles: Research Immersion Experience at Bellingshausen, Antarctica

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Abstract

We brought a party of 15 scientists, graduate students, and educators to King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands, just off the Antarctic Peninsula, for an international workshop on Antarctica and global climate change in January 2010. Participants included professors, young scientists and graduate students from the Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics, the University of Maryland, the University of Wisconsin, and Michigan Technological University. Lindsay Bartholomew, an education and outreach specialist at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, connected the workshop via video and Internet with an audience of museum visitors. Scientists living and working at Bellingshausen, including Hans-Ulrich Peter, an eminent ecologist from Jena University (Germany), and Bulat Mavlyudov (Institute of Geography, Moscow), a distinguished glaciologist, participated in the workshop. Field trips led by Peter and Mavlyudov and others were made by day and lectures were held by night. Professors and graduate students made cutting-edge presentations on such subjects as permafrost, glaciology, and global climate models. Three workshop teams conducted field research projects at the foot of the Bellingshausen Dome icecap - two on carbon cycling and one on permafrost. Major funding sources for the workshop included the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Russia), Wilderness Research Foundation (USA), NSF, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Alfred Wegener Institute (Germany), Museum for Science and Industry in Chicago, INACH, the Chilean Antarctic Institute, and IAU, the Uruguayan Antarctic Institute, provided air charter services. On King George Island, our group was billeted at Russia's Bellingshausen science station.

The suspects



J. Baeseman

I. Repina



V. Alexeev

F. Fernandez

How do you count penguins? 1, 2, 3, 4, ...



Antarctica International



Group photo



Lectures



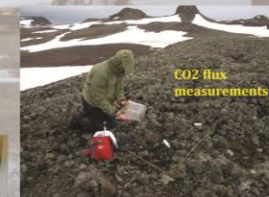
Lesson on the glacier



Ice coring lesson



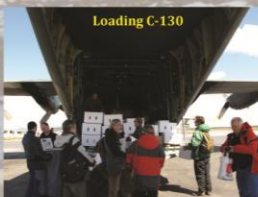
Ice caves



CO2 flux measurements



Punta Arenas, Hostal Bustamante. Getting ready.

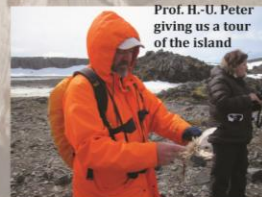


Loading C-130



Seal striking a pose

We are in Antarctica!



Prof. H.-U. Peter giving us a tour of the island

Acknowledgments

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Russian Antarctic Expedition
National Science Foundation
Wilderness Research Foundation
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Chicago Museum of Science and Industry
Alfred Wegener Institute
Jena University