

School of Rock 2013:
Exploring Ocean Cores and the Geology of the Pacific Northwest
1-9 April 2013; Victoria, Canada

My name is Jane Londero. I am a High School Math and Science Teacher in Whitehorse, Yukon. Before becoming a teacher I was an exploration geologist and spent 10 years working in Northern Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, Costa Rica and Finland on base metal and gold projects. At our school I also get to teach Mining 12 and Geology 12.

I recently had the opportunity to be aboard the *JOIDES RESOLUTION* as it docked in Victoria, B.C. and participate in the IODP School of Rock!!!



There were 19 teachers and 4 instructors – Jennifer Collins, Larry Krissek and Dotti Pak and Phil Rumford, the curator of the IODP Core Library in College Station, Texas. There were 2 Canadians, myself and Sarah Thornton, who is a Lab Assistant at the University of Victoria. The other participants were from all over the United States – Virginia, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, California, Texas, Hawaii, Nebraska and Delaware. The U.S. participants were teachers from Gr. 6 to High School, with various backgrounds in Science, along with a Ph.D student studying microfossils and a curator of a museum who had extensive experience with ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles).

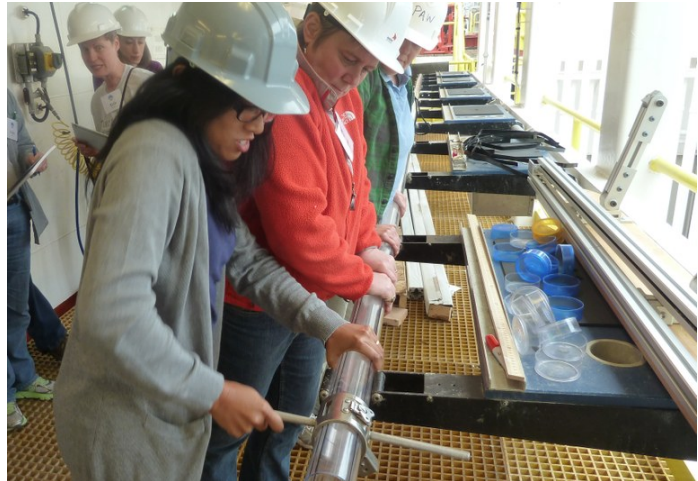
We lived on board the *JOIDES RESOLUTION* as if we were out at sea, starting with breakfast between 6-6:45 am with the drill crew, technicians and maintenance staff. We would eat with the crew and got to know the areas of the ship, such as the labs, the drilling platform, the bridge and living and recreation areas.

We would start our sessions at 7 am which included tours of the different regions of the ship – the engine room, the bridge, the drill platform or the labs where the core was received during a cruise and would be processed, analyzed and then studied by the onboard scientists.

We were lead through lectures and labs that had us taking samples of core taken from previous voyages, sampling them for microfossils, viewing them under the microscopes and coming up with data that would give us information about climate change over time.

Larry, Dotti, Phil and Jennifer gave us lots of background about how the voyages operate, how the drilling process works and how the drill samples are processed.

Having people that had actually participated in some of the cruises, describing the sea and drilling conditions and the camaraderie of the scientists and technicians to get the best samples for the project was invaluable. (** I should say at this point that one of the conditions that I looked into when I was applying to the School of Rock was that the ship was going to stay at the dock for its maintenance, as I get terribly seasick!!) Larry and Dotti's descriptions of some of the conditions when drilling off Greenland and Antarctica were terrifying at the same time extremely entertaining!!!



Larry gave a talk about some of the history of the exploration of Antarctica and about the procedures that present day “explorers” need to go through if they are studying in that area. It was very interesting, especially when he was describing the wildlife found there. I relayed some of his stories to my gr. 9-12 students and it seemed to give them a new interest and appreciation for the South Pole!!



With such a huge range in experience and knowledge of Earth Science, all the sessions that we had with the Instructors involved a lot of discussions of how the material can be used to present and discuss the information in the classroom.

The group chosen to attend this School of Rock was varied and became an extremely cohesive group, sharing experiences in classrooms, background knowledge and fun stories about teaching or work while figuring out the labs and doing the sample preparation and viewing the slides under the various microscopes.

As a teacher from Canada I was extremely interested in the variation in education systems within the different states, both at the public, private high school level and at College and University level in the United States. Sarah, the other Canadian, also found the discussions interesting as she could compare them to her work at the University of Victoria!!!

There are many activities that we went through during “the School” that I will be able to use in my Mining and Geology classes and can pass on to the other Science teachers at my school and community.

I really enjoyed the experiences that I had aboard the *JOIDES RESOLUTION* and the opportunity to learn about the IODP program. The people that I met during the program all had interesting backgrounds that related to education or even just life experiences from around the world. I feel that the selection committee for the program did a great job of assembling a wide variety of candidates that could all work together and exchange ideas. I would like to thank them for the program and hope that other teachers will be able to take advantage of this program as we find out more about the Earth through the history of the oceans and its sediment and marine life!!!!