



**MASTER PROGRAM**  
*for applied polar and marine sciences*



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



**IFM-GEOMAR**

Leibniz-Institut für Meereswissenschaftler  
an der Universität Kiel

**DAAD**



Universität Hamburg



Universität Bremen

**CAU**

Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



**AWI** 



# [POMOR-NEWSLETTER]

DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010

# POMOR-Newsletter

## Master Program for Applied Polar and Marine Sciences at Saint Petersburg State University

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No. 1

### Editorial

Snow, candlelight, scent of the Christmas tree mixed with tangerines and cinnamon. Time of reflection, inner poise and excited expectations. The eternal question: What will the New Year bring? It doesn't really matter what nationality you are, where do you live and what you do. In December it's almost always the same: Everybody draws a balance and makes his New Year's resolutions.

For us this December is something very special: We are going to release the very first edition of the POMOR-Newsletter. For the past seven years we have achieved a lot of things. We have educated three generations of young polar and marine scientists (not all of them are on the Pole or at sea or in science now, but anyway they are our Pomors, at least in their hearts), and the fourth is undertaking their first exams. Hundreds of lectures were held, only a few of them were cancelled. Thousands of pages were read by our students, hundreds of pages were written by them. A lot of ideas were generated and many of them were put into effect. Thousands of miles were explored on land and at sea. Dozens of meetings were held. We had billions of smiles and some tears, too. Seven years is nothing compared to eternity, but quite much for a courageous innovative educational program like POMOR is. Many things were done and some of them were forgotten or postponed. We produced a lot of reports and press releases without having our own newsletter. But postponed is not abandoned, like Germans use to say. In this very first issue we are glad to introduce you to our big and small achievements, to thank the people who gave birth to POMOR and are still working on it. Furthermore, we just want to keep all the partners, colleagues and friends informed how things are going for us.

After merry, careless and at the same time reflective Christmas days, filled with expectations and uncertainties, the magic has gone, but not without affecting our hearts. We wish everyone to keep this "Ghost of Christmas" alive in their everyday life, studies, work and science and fulfill at least 50% (!)\* of their New Year's resolutions as we hope to fulfill ours: to release the POMOR-Newsletter every three months!

\*Recent research shows that while 52% of participants in a resolution study were confident of success with their goals, only 12% actually achieved their goals  
(source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Year's\\_resolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year's_resolution))



Here they are, the new Masters of Science graduated from POMOR in November 2009 holding their brand new diplomas of the University of Bremen in their hands. Congratulations!!! We don't say "Good bye", just "See you!!!" And all the best wishes for your future life! *See page 2*

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# Master Diploma Award of the University of Bremen

Finally the time has come. The doors of the legendary Peter Hall, where Peter the Great used to hold meetings with his ministers and to decide the fate of the country, are open. The yesterday's students look very smart. They flow into the Hall, a little bit nervous, bringing their family and friends. Since five years it has become a tradition to celebrate the Diploma Award here, in the main building of the University, in this special Hall. The Hall fills slowly with people. Opening words from the Vice-rector and the Dean of the Faculty for Geography and Geoecology Nikolai Kaledin and from Heidi, greetings from Professor Eva-Maria Pfeiffer from the University of Hamburg, congratulations from Professor Dullo and a warm speech from Vassily Dmitriev with the famous poetry about the modules in German. And then comes the culmination of the evening: the Award. It's like a kind of some cinema award: flashlights, trembling hands and voices of the students, funny and hearty comments from Heidi and – the most important thing – happy smiles. There was not a single unhappy face in the Hall. Isn't that a good sign? Yesterday's students, today's alumni and what they are going to do after graduating from POMOR

**Julia Antsibor** is working as laboratory assistant and engineer at the University of St. Petersburg, Faculty for Geography and Geoecology, Laboratory of Geoecological monitoring.



## Evgenia Bazhenova

"After graduating from St.Petersburg State University I started a PhD study at the AWI on September 1 2009. The prerequisite for this study was successful work on my master thesis under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Stein (AWI). After the first year of my master's I was lucky to go onboard the biggest German research vessel „Polarstern“ to the Arctic. It was a good chance to collect a lot of material to be used in further investigations within my master research and also during the doctoral study. Currently I am working at the section of Marine Geology and Paleontology. Here one can learn many new techniques in marine-geological research using the laboratory equipment available."



**Ekaterina Khoreva** is a PhD student at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Department for Meteorology

**Elena Grigoryeva** is junior research assistant at the Institute of Geoecology of the Russian Academy of Science



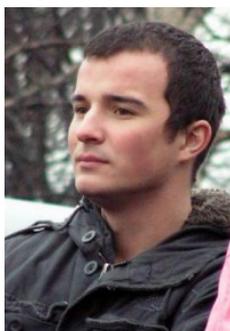


**Larisa Bermes** is looking for a PhD position

**Alexander Sosnin** is looking for a PhD position to continue his scientific career and working as a system administrator in a electronic payment company



**Peter Ivliev** is a PhD student at the Rostov University and at the same time he is working as technician in Beeline telecommunications company.



**Igor Sergienko** is looking for a job in the science and wants to apply for a DAAD scholarship. Meanwhile he freelances as web-designer

**Ivan Ryzhov** has got a PhD position and is junior scientist at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute. He has also applied for a scholarship of the DAAD



**Violetta Vereshchagina** has got a PhD position at the University of St. Petersburg. At the same time she works as engineer in the Maritime Department of Tranzas company

**Polona Rozman** is working on her PhD thesis at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven in the division Climate Science/Sea Ice physics



**Aleksey Zheleznov** is PhD student at the University of St. Petersburg and also lecturer at the Department of Geomorphology

### **Alexander Ryndin**

"So, that's it. Two nice, incredible, but also quite hard years of being a POMOR student, are now in the past and only memory. Tens of exercise books have been filled with my handwriting, hundreds of hours were spent in classes, and thousands of hours were just in thought. I can talk a lot now about, how it was going, and lectures and seminars, and exiting practice in the Arctic, and how great it was all organized...but my words will be meaningless and value nothing....for anybody who hasn't already been in touch with all these things.

I was in science more or less for almost seven years, and I can say, I was deeply in science, when I worked in the Russian Academy of Science and during my stay at the Baltic Sea Research Institute in Warnemünde, where I was working on my master thesis, and it was fun and I enjoyed it....but what did I start to do after POMOR?.....well, now I'm working in an online brokerage company and also enjoy it. And what is interesting, it's somehow related to ecology, emission trading and EU ETS.....you would ask, how did this happen?...and I can't give the answer....things are changing, interests are changing, wishes as well...but, writing this, and I can't guarantee that tomorrow I will not say "Enough! Sorry Arctic, I'm coming back!")

Wishes are changing every single day, but only experience is permanently constant, and great experience means gratefulness to every person and circumstance you had ...just means I appreciate POMOR and every person who was with me in those two years.

No matter what you are doing, the key is to do with interest and passion – that is the case of your satisfaction. Good Luck every new student of POMOR....without doubt, you'll like it!!"



## HOW THE POMOR STUDENT IS. THE VISION OF POMOR III

We made a small survey and asked the alumni 2009 two questions: to describe a POMOR student, how he/she is and to name the strongest impression during two years of studies. That's what we got.



Professor Dr. Rebecca Rendle-Bühring (University of Bremen, MARUM) has been teaching at POMOR since 2002. She comes to St. Petersburg twice a year to give lectures and exercises in the Module 1 and the Core Module

We asked Rebecca to comment this result:

### Main features of a POMOR student

- Responsible
- Inventive
- Curious
- Highly motivated
- Ambitious
- Funny
- Strong
- Clever
- Determined

### Strongest impressions

- Summer practice
- Diploma Award
- Lectures and the exam by Rebecca Rendle

"I was very surprised and honoured to hear that the students wrote such kind comments about my courses. I am so pleased that they enjoyed the lectures and practical work and, that they have good memories of our time working together. I have certainly had a great time teaching the POMOR students because they are very hard working and enthusiastic! I wish them all further enjoyment in their studies and their careers in the future!"

## GOOD NEWS

Working on this issue, exactly on the Christmas Eve, we received very good news: One former student has given birth to a child! It's already the second Christmas POMOR baby. Congratulations to the happy mama and all the best wishes for the new born! All good things come in threes. Who will be next? ;-)

## FACES

Our guest today is Professor Vladimir N. Troyan – professor of Saint Petersburg State University, one of the founders and POMOR program leaders. We are very honoured that he agreed to answer some questions for the first release of our newsletter.

NK: What made you interested in polar and marine sciences?

VT: My interest in polar and marine sciences has a long history. I was a PhD Student in 1964, when I had participated in the expedition to Spitsbergen from "SEVMORGEO". We worked for 4 months in the field and lived in simple tents, but the natural surroundings were so romantic and beautiful! In spite of the very difficult conditions I remember this first expedition as a realization my dream. Since that time I fell very much in love with the northern part of our planet.

NK: Why did you support the idea of POMOR?

VT: I supported the idea of POMOR for different reasons: first of all it was important for our students to get a high level education in this new interesting international master program. Secondly, during the last 20 years St. Petersburg University had successfully cooperated with many German universities in the field of research and education. This new concept could give new impulses for our cooperation. And at last but not least, this idea was developed by very nice persons, which have had a great interest in Russia and worked many years with Russian scientists. I'm speaking about Professor Dr. Jörn Thiede and Dr. Heidi Kassens.

NK: The master program you initiated in 2001 is already 8 years old. It has made a successful career on the education market. What do you think is the secret of its success?

VT: It is great that our former students have found their place in very complicated times and many of them have continued their academic career. I think the secret is very simple: they have excellent knowledge not only in basic research but in applied research, too. Besides, they have international experience during the practice and contact with German supervisors and professors.

NK: What do you think the future for polar and marine research and consequently for POMOR is?

VT: I think polar and marine research will

develop roughly. The great interests of many countries in the polar zones for the exploration of oil and gas deposits will be one of the main problems in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is clearly without doubt that at least during the next 200-300 years POMOR students will have a successful career!



*"We did not meet any people in taiga sometimes 300 km, only bears, wolfs, foxes and other representatives of the wild nature"*

NK: Please tell us in some words about current scientific projects you are working on.

VT: My fields are seismic prospecting, processing of geophysical data and mathematical modelling of geophysical processes. The current research projects are: "Diffraction seismic tomography", "Statistical methods for seismic data processing", "Complex investigation of geophysical fields", "Inverse seismic problems".

NK: Do you have any advice for our new students?

VT: We have very good students this year. I would like to advise our students to use these two years to get maximum knowledge from their professors; it will be the basis for their future career. The Russian Commander Count Suvorov said: "Train hard, fight easy". Our life is a battle, but I am sure YOU will be the winner!

NK: Are there any interesting stories about your university days that you would like to share?

VT: My student life was very interesting and turbulent, but in my memory it is very clearly my participation in

geophysical expeditions in different parts of Soviet Union that left the greatest impression: Far East, Middle Asia, taiga along Lena river, Baikal Sea, Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Krasnodar Region, Black Sea, Volga Region, Spitsbergen and many other places. I have seen wonderful nature. We did not meet any people in taiga e.g. along Lena river sometimes 300 km, only bears, wolfs, foxes and other representatives of the wild nature. I remember a lot of stories from the university time, but in the short interview it is very difficult to tell them all, but I can say it was the best time in my life.

NK: This newsletter will be released at Christmas time. You have travelled all around the world. Where do you think Christmas and New Year are most spectacular? And why?

VT: Christmas and New Year celebrations in European countries and the USA are very different in comparison to Russia. First of all we celebrate Christmas (Rozhdestvo Christovo) officially only since last decade. This tradition was lost during Soviet time. I like very much the Christmas time in Germany, especially in the small old towns with lovely Christmas markets, Church Services and nice music in the churches during that time. But recently the European traditions have become very popular in St. Petersburg. Our wonderful city looks like the best European capitals. Many Russian people are very happy - now the celebration begins on 25<sup>th</sup> of December (European Christmas) followed by New Year (1<sup>st</sup> of January), Russian Orthodox Christmas (7<sup>th</sup> of January) and finally 14<sup>th</sup> of January, so called Old New Year (Sylvester's Day after the Church calendar)! We preserve the old traditions and adopt a new one. Russian people are always open for celebrations!

NK: How are you going to spend your Christmas vacation?

VT: Hopefully I will spend my Christmas vacation relatively far from St. Petersburg in Karelia at my friends' in a small village. I very much like winter forests and silence. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2010 for all our colleagues and students in program POMOR. Thank you!

NK: Thank you very much for this interview. Merry Christmas and all the best wishes for the coming New Year for you and your family!

## IFM-GEOMAR “there and back again” by Anna Nikulina

I graduated from POMOR in 2004 and immediately started to look for possibilities to continue my project in some way. I applied for a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD to work at the Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences under Professor Dullo who was my supervisor.

After waiting half a year for a response, meanwhile being a PhD student at the faculty of Geography and Geoecology in St. Petersburg, I got it. Yuhu! I was lucky to come to Kiel to one of the best marine institutes in Europe and the world! I stayed there for almost a year studying the foraminifera of the Baltic Sea in conjunction with the geochemistry of the sediments where they live. Time ran fast and I, together with my samples, came back to St. Petersburg University to continue my work. And then I was lucky again! Professor Dullo invited my colleague Irina Polovodova and myself to IFM-GEOMAR to get more samples, to accomplish the chemical analysis and to finish the PhD work at the University of Kiel. Meanwhile for different reasons I switched the topic of my thesis more to geochemistry. So I worked as hard as never before in the laboratory and at the desk, reading piles of papers, loading a huge amount on data to my mind, coming up with new ideas, writing my first internationally reviewed scientific papers and finishing everything in one year. But however hard it was to work and live in a foreign country, I always had fun to work beside incredible scientists and nice people. Yeah, at the end of the thesis presentation, I had to thank so many people who helped me, advised me, supported me, that there wasn't enough space on one slide. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2008 I defended my thesis on anthropogenic footprints versus natural variability in sediment geochemistry in the fjords of Kiel Bight with excellent. It is actually another quite long and gripping story how a thesis defence happens in Germany. And then... I was a Doctor rer-nat, in other words Frau Doctor Nikulina. In addition, after the award, there was champagne with friends and a traditionally ridiculous doctor hat. This hat is not a real one, but made by your friends with reference to your work and personality, it is almost as fun to make one as to get one. Besides the cheerfulness that I had there was a bitter feeling, a kind of emptiness, of course tiredness, but no relief as if I hadn't won but lost. This chapter of my life was finished. And I needed to think about a future job. Now I am again at the IFM-GEOMAR as a guest scientist in the Laptev Sea project working with Dr. Dorothea Bauch on oxygen isotopes as markers for the origin of water masses in

the Arctic.

Christmas is all around, this time real Christmas with a whole day of snowing that is so rare in Kiel. The excitement fills our department today, the Christmas party starts in a couple of hours, the lights are already twinkling in the social room, and the smells are spreading through the hall... In a week, the holidays will start. This year I'm going to Portugal to catch a glimpse of the sun. But in Germany, the anticipation of Christmas is so intense and cheerful that even under the low cloudy sky and usual rain you feel joy filling you. Germany with its Christmas markets, sparkling Christmas trees, light garlands across the streets, hot wine, candied almonds, smell of roasted sausages and advent presents may be the best country to be in at Christmas time.



Anna graduated from POMOR in 2004. In 2008 she obtained her PhD at the IFM-GEOMAR. After some weeks of practical work in the port of Hamburg provided by Hanse-Office she took part in NABOS. Now she is back in Kiel working on a new project.



## SWEDEN CALLING by Irina Polovodova

Irina Polovodova has graduated from POMOR in 2004. She wrote her PhD thesis at IFM-GEOMAR and since April 2009 she works at the University of Gothenburg. Below she shares her impressions about her current work and about the country she is living in.

Honestly speaking, about one year ago I couldn't even imagine that I will be working in Sweden by now. After finishing my PhD at IFM-GEOMAR (Kiel) I planned to continue my research in Germany and waited for evaluation of my proposal. But things happened so quickly and here I am, in the country of IKEA, Volvo, Astrid Lindgren, Alfred Nobel and Ingmar Bergman. I came to Gothenburg due to a free postdoc position in marine micropaleontology and paleoceanography of the Gullmar Fjord, which was opened at the Department of Earth Sciences at Gothenburg University. The project I am involved in has the aim to detail the climatic responses of temperate Roman and Medieval Warm Epochs and the Little Ice Age derived from floral, faunal and isotopic records from the Gullmar Fjord sediments. I am responsible for analysis of benthic foraminiferal assemblages in two sediment cores. I have to admit that I have learned a lot of new things over last eight months and not only in terms of research but also about Sweden and its people.

At first everything seemed new and so different in this country comparing to Germany where I spent 2.5 years before moving to Sweden. It seemed so funny that people do really enjoy to queue here! Wherever you come to a shop, a market or a pharmacy you need to get a piece of paper with a number from a machine and wait in line until your number will show up at the counter.

Another interesting thing is that apparently being a Nordic nation people here are very dependent on weather. In winter, when it is cold, dark and rainy, most people get really depressed and complain all the time about everything including the weather. But in summertime when days are very long and the sun is shining, everybody is happy and cheerful and tries to spend every spare minute of their time outside and to get as much sun as possible before the winter comes back.



In general people are very friendly here and everybody speaks perfect English. So, this country is a real paradise for foreigners, because you never feel isolated due to language problems. But certainly, learning a new country and its culture fits much better together with learning the language. So, this is what I am doing at the moment and fortunately Swedish is very similar to German and is easy to learn. The only difficulty is that there are not that many rules but lots of exceptions!

There are a lot of other interesting facts about Sweden and its people, like using term "hekto" instead of 100 grams in cooking; Swedish miles, which are equal to 10 km instead of 1610 m; tobacco product called "snus", which is put under the upper lip instead of smoking and is prohibited in the rest of Europe. But there are many more things to learn and explore, because it takes a lot of time to learn something new. So, I am looking forward to it!

## IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME



Dear colleagues and friends!

The end of the year is always ambiguous: at this time we sum all our achievements up and aim for something new in the coming year. We had a very successful and good year 2009. Our "children" grew up and became independent self-confident and in a way experienced masters of science, ready to work or to continue in science. We have started the POMOR 4 with 25 enthusiastic and highly motivated students. So POMOR is full of life. Like every organism it is changing. I wish all of us more positive changes, sustained development and success in all our beginnings. I wish our students successful passing of all the examinations, and our professors and examiners patience, good mood and interested students!



Dear all!

After a successful, but also turbulent year we can say: Yes, we did it! We have already educated the third generation of POMOR and we have started with the fourth. It would be impossible without reliable partners, old and new friends and, of course, good students & alumni who hopefully will stay with us also in future. I would like to thank everybody who supported us in this or that way, helped us or just was with us. I wish all of you Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Dear colleagues, dear friends, dear students!

Looking back at the year 2009, we can be proud of POMOR. After two years of intensive and strong studying, after expeditions, after spending time in laboratories and libraries, "pomors-3" reached their goal. We enjoyed teaching them, changing POMOR for them and for their successors and actually living our master program. I wish all of us good health in the coming year, new ideas and achievements, to keep together and to find new faithful friends. I wish our POMOR youngsters to pass all the exams successfully and to enjoy the deserved vacation!

### IMPRESSUM

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Everybody is invited to join Editorial staff and/or to be independent author. Please send your ideas, critics etc. to Nadezda Kakhro.