

Monday meeting Department of Geological Sciences (IGV) 1st September 2025

By Helen Coxall

IGV Administration and staff

- **It has been a very busy summer. Thanks to the administrative staff** for working extra at times. The reason was managing an unusually high number of recruitments, as well as summer courses and urgent invoices. This was an exception due to 2 x large grants hiring 8 people as well as the start-up steps for arrival of new staff members.
 - **Assistant head of administration starts tomorrow.** Joakim Gidmark starts 2nd Sept.
 - **Welcome Dr Sascha Zertani**, Assit. professor in Structural Geology. Starts today 1st Sept.
 - **THAWING project /Greenland bathymetric mapping projects Postdoc/PhD recruitments:** Completed over the summer for the 2 x KAW projects (7 postdocs a& 1 PhD). R220 in the marine group has been converted to accommodate our new research staff.
 - **Welcome postdoc researchers:**
 - Lukas Tanezer:** Water column acoustic/machine learning, supervisor Christian Stranne (THAWING)
 - **Tam Truon:** Auto bathymetric mapping: data analysis/machine learning supervisor Martin Jakobsson (KAV-Scholar) – starts mid-September
 - Matthew Danielson:** Auto bathymetric mapping: submarine glacial morphology (KAV-Scholar) – starts mid-September
 - **Extra IGV rooms in the T corridor** (3 rooms) have been prepared to accommodate these. The meeting rooms will come on line soon (Björn?)
 - **PhD candidate Deborah Olofsgård**, Geology group, 'Carbon capture and storage in metabasaltic rocks', in collaboration with Dept. of Civil, Environmental and Natural Resources, Luleå Technical University. IGV Co supervisors Richard and Magnus.
 - **The 2025 annual salary review.** For those involved in this, salary revisions will take effect from 1st October. SU has not yet informed us when this will be paid out. Personal development talks will take place in September and October. Viktoria: Admin. staff; Agatha: postdocs & researchers; Helen: lecturers, Research Fellows, & PhD students.
 - **Upcoming meetings:**
 - Centre for Paleogenetic (CPG) steering group:** Process underway to arrive at a new collective agreement on how the centre is financed and managed. IGV is one of 3 institutions, together with the NRM who are stakeholders in the CPG. Plan to make the CPG an official SU 'center', with, statutes, a director and a board.
 - Geovetenskapliga sektionsberedning:** 4th Sept
 - Data security (Research, education, Admin):** start-up meeting with the SU IT data security manager: 4th Sept
 - IGV board meeting:** 24th September: any items needing board support send to me
 - **Ongoing strategic recruitment: Sci Life Lab 'Assistant Professor in Biodiversity': LFN-2** meeting 9-10th September. IGV has 1 strong candidate (of 165 applicants) in the top 8. **Martin Quanström:** Dinosaur biodiversity. Good news. Presentation & interview will take place on Wednesday 10th September **12:05 - 12:25 at DEEP: Arreniuslabbet DEEP – Rum P216.** Thanks Volker Brüchert, Madeleine Bohlin & Christoph Du Praz for hosting Martin Tue/ Wednesday. Tough competition.
- General SU, geo-section and the Bolin Centre for Climate Research**
- **Lokaloptimeringsprojektet, LOP (28th Aug 2025):** LOP is SU's large-scale ongoing initiative aimed at optimizing premises useage to support current and future SU needs, including making more

teaching rooms available to support the humanities sections. We (Viktoria, Alasdair and I) met with SU's Real Estate management team for the LOP project to share IGVs perspectives about our specific teaching/ locality needs (classrooms).

-We emphasized our specialist requirements for optimally equipped and located classrooms in the Geohouse, so that we can easily transport teaching materials, e.g. rocks specimens, teaching lap tops, rotating water tanks, etc for teaching.

-The purpose of the meeting was to start a dialogue. No decisions were taken.

-Updates to come in the future.

Research

- **EU Science funding.** The EU plans to double Horizon Europe's budget to €175 billion (2028–2034), strengthening support for early-career researchers, team science, and high-risk "moonshot" projects. The move signals growing EU ambition for global scientific leadership, especially as the U.S. faces proposed cuts to federal research funding under Trump's draft budget.
- **SU Strategic Forsknings Området (SFO)** initiative – 'Data Driven Polar Research', Sept 4th information meeting.
- **AI chatbots lie (and hallucinate):** Article in the journal Science (25 Jul 2025): AI chatbots often fabricate or mislead due to role-playing prompts & training that favors pleasing users. This can cause real-world harm, yet regulation lags behind.

Seminars

- **REE symposium IGV**, Mon 24th November. William Olsson. All day. Hosts Laurens, Robert Iain Pitcairn. Registration opening soon.

PhD students

- **PhD course run by ACES:** Paul Zeigler, 'Open and Reproducible Science'. 7.5 hp. Teachers interested in contributing should contact ACES. Students. Roll out: Fall 2026.
- **Upcoming PhD defenses ('spiknings' coming up)**
 - Emelie Stål: 30th October
 - Tirza Weitkamp: 7th November
 - Trusha Naik: 1st December
 - Simone Simonara: 3rd December

Teaching

- Campus teaching starts today
- Marine Geoscience program intake: 13 admitted. 1 dropped. Looks like 8 at the moment. An improvement on previous years.
- New SU wide *AI policy for teaching*. Please share with students.
- Future audit of Distance programs coming: 'efficiency', should distance education cost less? Could this lead to a reduced payment for Distance

Other

- **Other introductions:** Montreal visiting Master student (Malin Kylander host)
- **Kitchen renovations.** Thank you to those involved with planning and coordinating renovations
- **Training opportunities for SU staff:** SSIF in Frescatihallen and the SU staff gym (near Lantis) autumn 2025: SU Employees have the opportunity to participate in group activities at SSIF in Frescatihallen free of charge.