

## Ambassador visual story from the field

### Arctic Carbon Cycling: Linking terrestrial and aquatic systems (ARC-LINK)



by Cheristy Jones

POLARIN Ambassador,

PhD Candidate, Earth and Environmental Science, University of New Hampshire

The Arctic is changing rapidly, with important consequences for carbon cycling. [ARC-LINK](#) is a research project focused on understanding how carbon and nutrients move through permafrost catchments in Greenland, comparing glacial and non-glacial systems at high spatial resolution. [We examine how carbon quantity and composition vary across the landscape and how aquatic carbon connects to CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions.](#)

My name is Cheristy Jones, and I am a fifth-year PhD candidate at the University of New Hampshire.

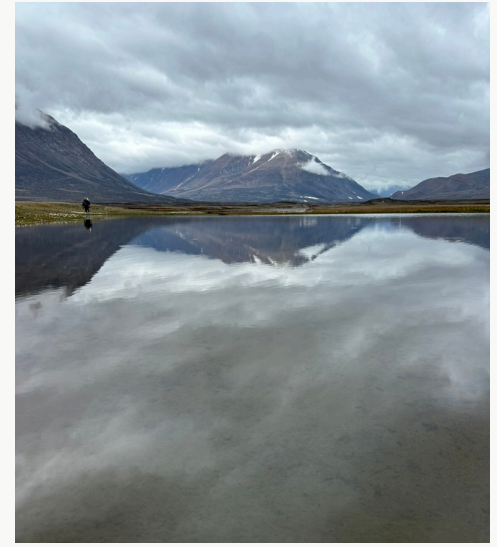
[Through a POLARIN grant, I had the opportunity to travel to Zackenberg, Greenland, to expand the scope of my dissertation research.](#) With POLARIN's support, my advisor, Dr. Ruth Varner, joined me in the field to collect data aimed at improving our understanding of Arctic carbon dynamics as these systems continue to shift. Beyond the research itself, POLARIN provided valuable experience in project planning, collaboration, and networking, as well as a unique opportunity to lead a large grant as a graduate student, skills that will continue to shape my career moving forward.

# *From Boston, USA to Zackenberg Research Station*



After a long trip from Boston, USA, we loaded onto a Twin Otter that carried us to Zackenberg Research Station. On our first day, we went through polar safety training.

Photo ©: C. Jones, R. Varner



The landscape was incredible! No trees, no roads, just wide-open tundra. We also got to see an old polar bear skeleton on the beach.

Photo ©: C. Jones, R. Varner



Photo ©: C. Jones



We hiked along different streams in the valley almost every day, collecting our water samples and our fluxes.



Photo ©: C. Jones, R. Varner

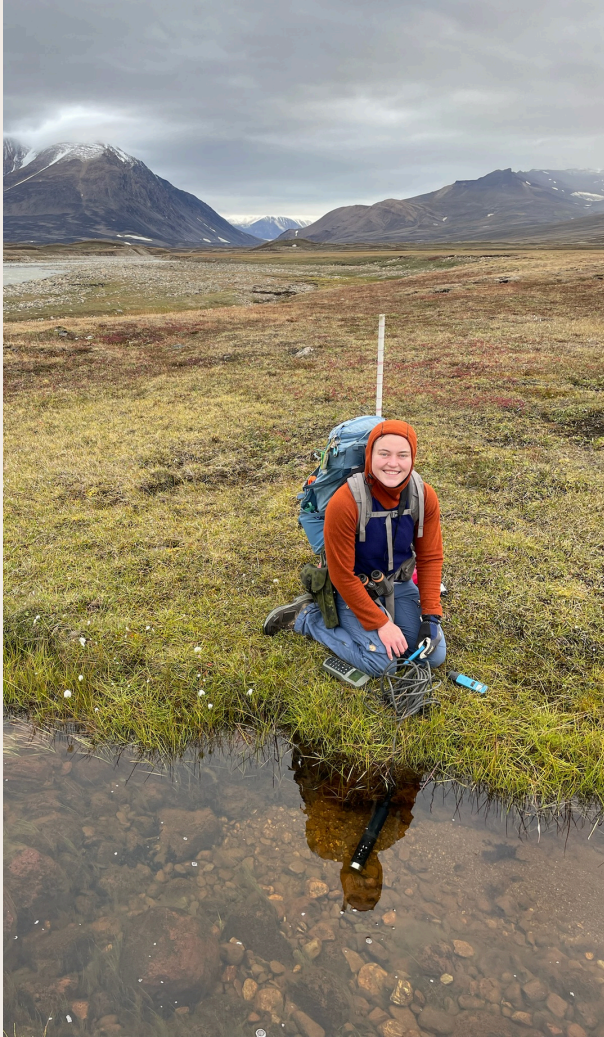


Photo ©: C. Jones, R. Varner

*And we saw slumping from permafrost thaw*



Photo ©: C. Jones, R. Varner



*Not to mention the  
wildlife*

Photo ©: C. Jones

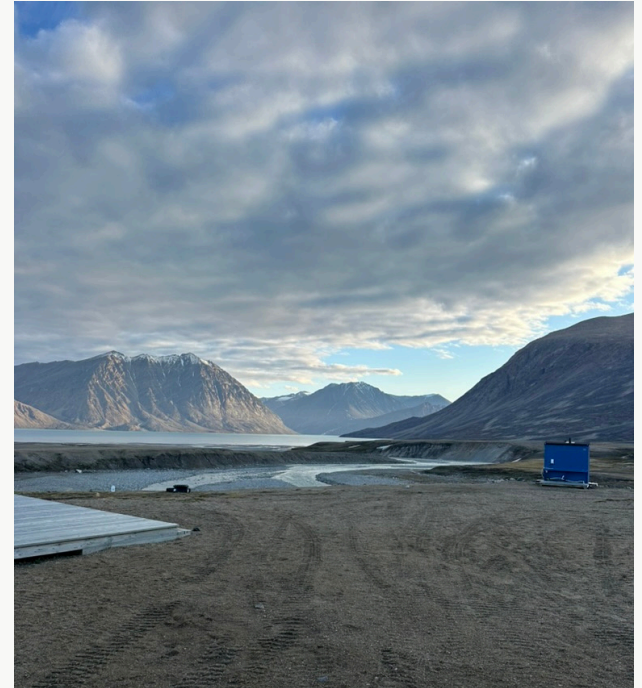


Photo ©: C. Jones

Our time in Zackenberg flew by and we were sad to leave all of the amazing new people we met. Hopefully, we will be back to expand our work in the future.



Photo ©: C. Jones

## ARC-LINK



Photo © C. Jones

Ambassador: C. Jones

Project PI: C. Jones

Text: C. Jones

Photo credits: C. Jones, R. Varner

ARC-LINK was one of the projects successfully selected through POLARIN's first call for transnational access to polar research infrastructures.

# POLARIN PARTNERS



Funded by  
the European Union

