



"As a Fulbright-Ministry for Foreign Affairs Arctic Scholar, I taught a course on international science collaboration in the Arctic at the University of Akureyri. This bachelor's level course taught students about the Arctic ecosystem, both in Alaska and Iceland. They also learned how large-scale oceanographic projects studying these regions are designed and implemented.

I also worked on two collaborative projects. In the first, we combined my skills in benthic ecology and my collaborator's skills in microbiology to analyze and better understand the ecological importance of the bivalve *Arctica islandica*, a clam commonly found in the Eyjafjord region, and what they might be used for in other applications, such as bioplastics. The preliminary data is being used to apply for a Rannís grant.

The second collaboration was to offer a virtual joint summer course at UNAK for students at St. Mary's College of Maryland, an institution in my home state, and students at UNAK. The course was titled *Ecosystems and their Role in Shaping Society and Economies on the International Stage*. The course was well-received and we plan to continue the collaboration."

Dr. Christina Goethel, (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences and St. Mary's College of Maryland), Fulbright-Ministry for Foreign Affairs scholar, hosted by the University of Akureyri.

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