Expedition Log for IODP Expedition 313
New Jersey Shallow Shelf

Week 11 – 10th July

First impressions of a trainee Staff Scientist extraordinaire. Dayton Dove

Hello,
I work for the British Geological Survey (BGS) and I'm here on the lift boat *Kayd* only briefly. My current role is trainee Staff Scientist, and I suppose there are two general goals for my time here. First off, I need to familiarize myself with the current project, see the freshly recovered core, preliminary data, and learn as much as possible from all on board so that I can be effective in assisting the science party in the near future, when they gather at the IODP Core Repository in Bremen, Germany. Here, I and other BGS staff scientists will facilitate science operations, assist the scientists themselves, ensure that IODP standards are being met and that the Expedition Report gets written.

C_Cotterill©ECORD_IODP_Dayton ready to go on a tour of the drill floor with ESO Drilling Coordinator Graham Tulloch

The second aspect of my time here is to gain this experience so that I can be better equipped as I become a more integral part of future IODP operations. This means I'm shadowing the current Staff Scientist and trying to ask as many questions of her as possible, or of anyone else for that matter! The Staff Scientist is onboard primarily to liaise between the Co-Chiefs and science party, as well as the science operations, and drilling staff. All of us BGS Staff Scientists are marine geoscientists

by trade, but on this project we fulfill a more logistical and organisational role, although participating in the science is permitted! Basically, we're here to make sure things are going smoothly and to provide assistance wherever necessary. The role also entails reporting on operations from the rig for both science and outreach purposes. To do job well requires a broad understanding of all operations on deck, from the drilling to the geophysical and sedimentological analyses. My early impression is that this role is important at all times, but particularly when challenges/problems arise.

C_Cotterill©ECORD_IODP_Dayton works on a "S.W.O.T" analysis of the ESO Lightning Emergency procedure following a lightning storm.

My first impressions are probably skewed, because operations have gone so smoothly since I arrived several days ago. It almost makes one think that achieving such things is quite easy. Perhaps related to this, the mood on board is very good and all parties seem to get on very well together. Having been involved in many previous geophysics cruises this is not always the case. Good relations onboard make life on a platform so much easier. But it also has a good effect on data recovery as everyone is more willing to 'pitch in'.

C_Cotterill©ECORD_IODP_Dayton dicusses the finer points of clinoform geometry with the Co-Chief Greg Mountain

While I have some experience working with the final data (core), this is my first time on any kind of drill vessel and it is a relatively steep learning curve. Luckily there have been people on board to patiently explain the various processes to me. I'm off in a moment to learn more about on board core curation, so there is much still to be learnt.

There was some question from the media concerning anecdotes of any extraordinary happenings. But I'm afraid to announce that the only extraordinary thing since my arrival has been the fresh daily brownies!

daily brownies!