

Prior to going on this cruise, I really did not know what to expect. I knew that I would be out of my comfort zone with my limited amount of knowledge about the chemistry of the ocean. Little did I know that I would be taken to a new universe of micro culture. It has been an amazing experience learning about all of the different tiny organisms that make up our oceans. It makes you realize how small one can seem in this big world of ours. It also shows how much hope a drop of water can hold.

During my time on this cruise, I have been able to gather different pieces to this elaborate puzzle. Through interviews and observations, I was able to piece together what each scientist of each discipline was contributing to this project. I also learned why it is necessary for each of them to be here in order to complete a significant study of these incredible creatures called coccolithophores. In a way, it is kind of like someone writing a symphony with all its intricate parts created separately, then waiting to put it all together to see how it plays out. It was wonderful to see how excited everyone was to explain to me what they were studying. It was like going to a grown up science fair with students excited to show how instruments work, what they found, and what they learned from it all.

I have also been excited to learn about the behind the scenes production of the crew. Each person has a job to do that is important to keep this ship running. Everyone on board works with such respect towards each other. It is also interesting to see all of the different jobs that one can have that can bring you all around the world.

It also is amazing to me that these cruises happen all around the world every day. That there are people so dedicated to their science that they are willing to leave their families and life back home to explore the oceans so intensively. I have met a lot of incredible people from all over the world with different ideas and backgrounds. I feel very fortunate to be able to be a part of this experience.

Number of Profiles: 27

Number of blog posts: 50

Number of comments or questions by others: 37

Number of clarifications and or answers from me: 35

Number of tweets: 25