

Student travel grant report by Mr. Eric Prokocki

MARIDV: networking and future opportunities

As a PhD student in the final year of my degree in Geology, I was extremely delighted to attend the MARIDV conference to present a portion of my PhD research to a broad range of premier scientists in the field of marine and river bedform dynamics. As a process Sedimentologist in Geology, bedforms are obviously an extremely important feature to study and understand with respect to unraveling Earth's history as recorded in carbonate and siliciclastic deposits. Thus, the questions and discussions I engaged in during this conference were priceless, and significantly augmented my knowledge base regarding bedform development, evolution, and preservation in both fluvial and marine environmental settings.

The specific research I presented at this conference involves the morphology of bedforms across the marine-tidal-fluvial hydraulic zones, and thus bridges the two main environmental settings this conference is organized for. Therefore, I was able to acquire insight from researchers who focus on marine bedforms, and from those studying river bedforms. Receiving this diversity of knowledge has thus propelled my PhD research to a higher level.

In a general sense, attending MARIDV granted me the opportunity to see how differing disciplines (e.g. sedimentology, geomorphology, engineering, and biology) attack the science of bedforms, and has given me multiple viewpoints to utilize in my current PhD studies, and future research projects I will undertake involving bedform dynamics.



Fig. 2. Sharing dinner and laughs with students, faculty, and post-docs at one of the oldest pubs in Caernarfon.



Fig.1. Image capturing the intimate atmosphere of MARIDV where all talks were given on the same forum for all attendees to view.

One of the many wonderful parts to the MARIDV conference is the attendance size. Larger conferences (i.e. hundreds to thousands of attendees) tend to be much less personable, and it is difficult to interact with individuals you would like to speak with. In direct contrast to larger conferences, MARIDV promoted direct contact/interaction with students, faculty, and post-docs who are just as (if not more) interested in the topic of bedforms than myself (Fig. 2). Unfortunately, this opportunity does not present itself as often as everyone would like. I was also very happy to watch, listen, and learn from researchers across the world who I can only interact with face to face at conferences such as MARIDV. It was exciting to share data and ideas with these individuals, and to discuss potential future collaboration efforts.

From a student's perspective, I highly recommend that both Masters and PhD students consider attending the next MARIDV conference. It offers the unique opportunity to have extremely informative conversations with researchers 'after hours' that can alter and shape your current research in very positive ways. Overall, the MARIDV conference significantly broadened my thoughts on marine and river bedforms, and I greatly look forward to attending the MARIDVI conference!