During the 18th International Sedimentological Congress (26th September/1st October) in Mendoza, Argentina, I got the opportunity to present the first results of my PhD research (ESF-CARBONATE-Project) on benthic foraminifers from cold water coral mounds and adjacent environments. The Special Symposium on cool-water carbonates (SS-7) provided an excellent frame for my talk „Holocene benthic foraminiferal variability in the cold-water coral and fjord trough deposits of the Stjernsund, Northern Norway“. The evolution of the foraminiferal assemblages and climatic implications of two well dated cores (on and off mound) were presented. During the Congress I had interesting discussions and I got some motivating feedback on my research from both other PhD students and senior scientists.

On Saturday 24th October the IAS sponsored a special Student Field Course „Sedimentation and controls in a retroarc foreland basin: an example at the foot of the Andes“. There, I had the chance to gather experience in the field and to tie first contacts with other PhD students.

In addition to my own work, numerous presentations and keynotes from experts in e.g. the following sessions enhanced my scientific knowledge and understanding:

- SS-1. IODP and ICDP records shed new light on tectonic, climatic and environmental processes
- TS1-6. Deltaic – Shallow marine systems I
- TS2-1. Marine carbonates: environment and processes
- TS8-1., 8-2, 8-3. Taphonomy and paleoecology in paleoenvironmental reconstructions and sequence stratigraphy
- TS2-8. Isotope stratigraphy and chemostratigraphy
- TS2-4. Carbonate diagenesis and geochemistry
- TS2-2. Terrestrial carbonates: depositional processes and climatic records

As a whole, I experienced the ISC as a successful and inspiring meeting.

Best regards
Nina Joseph