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Julie Bryce, Professor, Earth Sciences (CEPS) ~ Sweden

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Thanks to the support of an International Development Grant from the Global Education Center, Professors Bryce and Varner developed further scholarly connections with Stockholm University (SU) and Swedish collaborators in studying the Arctic System and its changes under a warming climate. The goals of this International Development Grant were two-fold: 1) to examine the foundation for an exchange program with Stockholm University in the Earth and environmental sciences and 2) to further develop research links with Swedish researchers. To meet these goals, Bryce met with a SU program coordinator as well as faculty in the Departments of Physical Geography, Geological Sciences and Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry to work together on assessing potential fit for UNH-SU student exchange programs. Varner stayed in residence at SU for a month to develop further research ties with SU faculty to strengthen these connections. During the fall when they overlapped in their visits, they worked on a proposal to the National Science Foundation to develop student field experiences collaboratively with SU scientists and their University of Helsinki colleagues. They also traveled together to a field site above the Arctic Circle to collect some important samples in the “shoulder season,” a less frequently sampled part of the time series of thaw in many Arctic sites and to participate in a
research symposium held by the Climate Impacts Research Centre based at the Abisko Scientific Research Station. Varner gave a keynote at this symposium, and they further discussed project ideas to strengthen research proposals to support continued UNH collaborations in studying carbon and mercury exchange in thawing Arctic wetlands.

(l. to r.) Julie Bryce and Ruth Varner after sampling late season water chemistry

Shoulder-season in the discontinuous permafrost zone in Northern Sweden