

EXHIBITION ON ANTARCTIC CAMPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, 15 YEARS OF TRAJECTORY

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INTRODUCTION

"The Science Weeks" have been held since 2001 at the Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, and their most outstanding activities are: half-hour scientific talks, demonstrative experiments, exhibitions in the Central Hall, guided visits to laboratories, interactive classes and workshops, demonstrations, poster explanations, models, simulations and numerous didactic experiences, and these continue today.

Particularly, "The Earth Science Week" lasts three days and there we present a stand specially dedicated to **geosciences in Antarctica and its adjacent seas**. Over the first 15 years we have received students from more than 600 schools and it is estimated that 22,000 students have visited our stand, in addition to undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, passers-by, totaling over 30,000 visitors, approximately.



Panoramic view of the Central Hall of the Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, UBA, during the Earth Sciences Weeks, in one corner the Antarctic camps stand, plus a close-up view of the tents, ropes, sleds, penguins and also some posters and maps exhibited to explain to students and passers-by in general.



Engineer H. Ochoa, an Antarctic pioneer and his family encouraging students to pursue undergraduate and doctoral studies related to Antarctica.



Some of the workshops and conferences titles developed for high school students and their teachers.

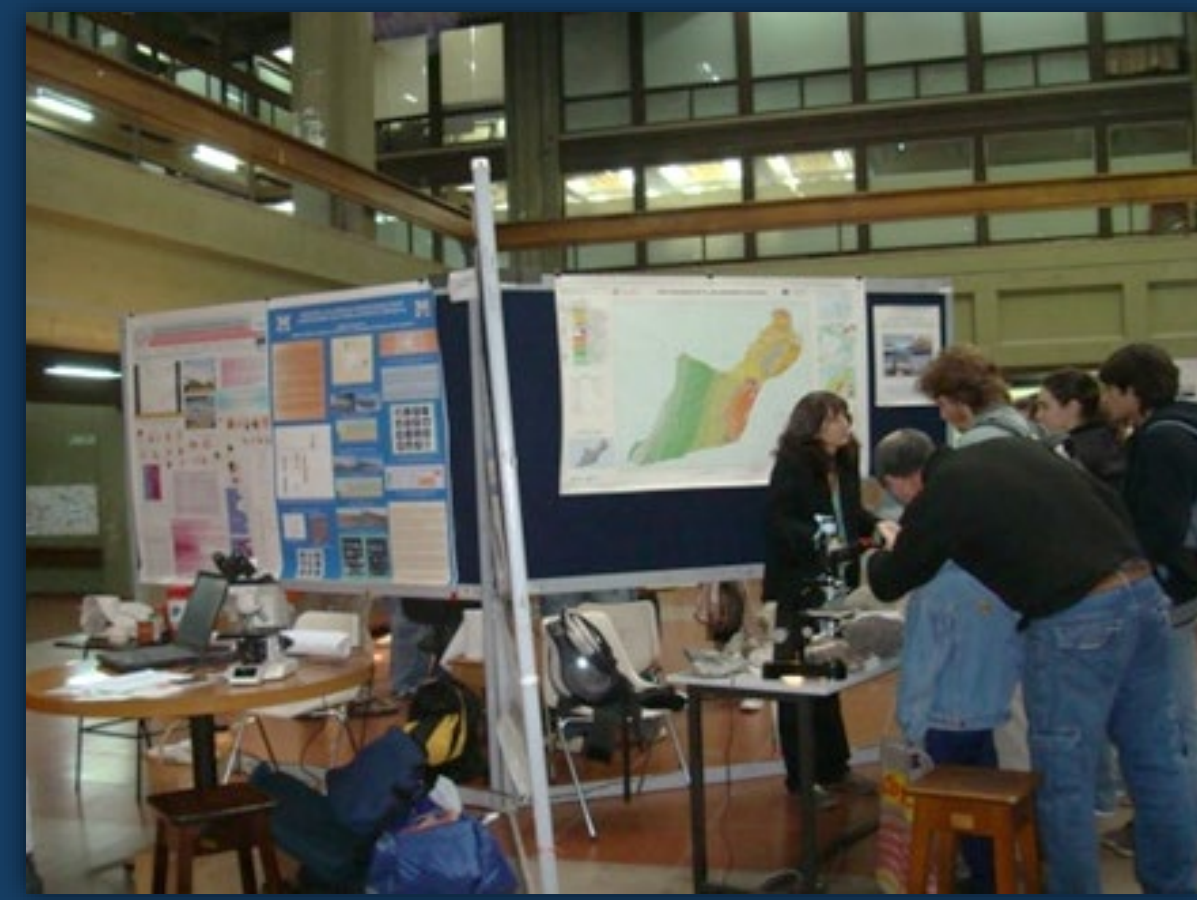
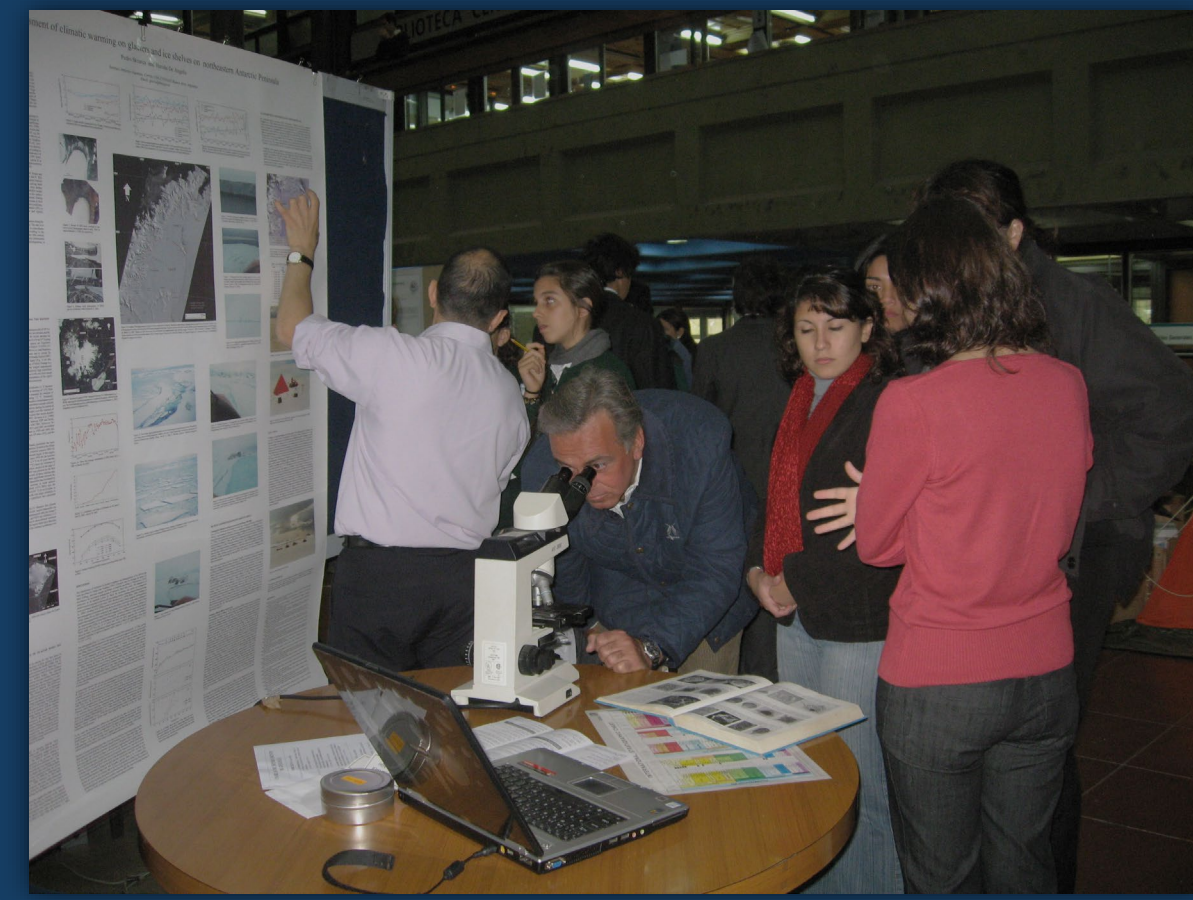
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The activities were divided into:

-Exhibition of an Antarctic exploration camp in the central hall of the building, accompanied by didactic material, explanatory posters, collections of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks from different localities and ages of the Antarctic Peninsula, observations of petrographic sections under microscope, as well as examine megafossils of plants, invertebrates and vertebrates, mainly from the James Ross Basin (SE of the Antarctic Peninsula), from James Ross, Vega, Cockburn, Marambio (Seymour) and Snow Hill islands. Sediments from coastal regions of the Weddell Sea were also analyzed with magnifying glasses and microscopes and very small microfossil samples were observed, characterized, and they lived 70 million years before the present and were found in previous antarctic expeditions.

-Guided tours of the mineralogy, petrography, sedimentology, paleontology and micropaleontology laboratories, where equipment was shown and ongoing research projects were explained.

-Lectures and workshops of 45 minutes were prepared for students and teachers from high schools in the city of Buenos Aires, the surrounding areas of the province of Buenos Aires and cities far from Buenos Aires, developing a wide variety of topics on Antarctic geology, paleogeography and paleontology, which generated great interest in students as they could interact with the scientists and freely make their questions and comments.



Hand-sampled rocks and petrographic sections were added for observation, as well as Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossils collected on expeditions in the James Ross Basin, northeast Antarctic Peninsula. Maps, geological sheets and posters pointing out the lines of research in geology and palaeontology.

REACTIVATION OF THE ACTIVITY

The Antarctic camps exhibition was discontinued until 2019, and since then other didactic resources were used, such as immersive videos, presentations, etc. The new technology allowed a better understanding of the Antarctic habitat and researches, using higher resolution satellite images, best software for geological mapping of the different locations of the Antarctic Peninsula under study.



A more updated display of the Antarctic camps, observation of rocks and fossils under the magnifying glass, presentations of software for geological mapping and oculus for advanced all-in-one Virtual Reality of the Marambio Base area, as part of a cooperation project with Universidad de la Defensa, Argentina.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The experience was enriching, very successful, and as time went by, some geology, and palaeontology students confessed to us that as a result of interaction with scientists and seeing our enthusiasm, were triggers for studying geology and palaeontology at the University of Buenos Aires, and some of them are nowadays protagonists of Antarctic scientific life. We continue to disseminate our activity so that the new generations of Antarctic geologists can inspire the younger ones through their experience and, especially, so that the Argentine geological and paleontological community interested in Antarctica continues to grow.



The target audience included university and high school students, as well as children from the kindergarten run by the university, families of university staff and passers-by. Professors preparing petrographic thin sections to explain to the community about igneous rocks, volcanism and its genesis, about sedimentary rocks and fossils found in Antarctica.