This month, UCAR launched a new website to serve as its primary public outreach hub. UCARConnect is a one-stop-shop for UCAR and NCAR science, with videos, essays, teaching materials, capabilities and hazards briefings, and live web events. Each month, there is a new theme. In February, we featured “Outsmarting Winter Weather” looking at winter weather and transportation. In March, UCARConnect focused on “Floods: Weathering Water’s Extremes”. Information on climate impacts and the IPCC Working Group II “Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability” report are soon to follow.

How did UCARConnect come into being? It’s a great example of what can happen when groups across the institution come together to work on a common project. UCARConnect was actually started as a team effort to look at how to find, organize and make available all of the different kinds of multimedia assets we had from around UCAR and NCAR. It was, in essence, a library–like project for the public good and to address member University needs. And it was supported by folks from all across the organization.

When it was presented to me soon after I arrived, I was tremendously impressed with the wealth of assets we had here at UCAR. I was coming from the world of education, where I knew only too well how much audiences (teachers, students, the general public, museums) were starving for content. Could UCARConnect become more than an archive of what we had? Could we add some components for specific audiences and make it a destination site to meet a wide variety of needs? The answer is, obviously, yes!

UCARConnect is truly a cross–enterprise collaboration. It is managed by Teri Eastburn in Spark, building on her experience and interest in online, interactive communities. Lisa Gardner, also from Spark, handles the K–12 activities for students and teachers. Zhenya Gallon from UCAR Communications brings their materials to the table each month. Bruce Mueller and Steve Deyo from COMET coordinate the video development. Shawn Winkleman and Jeff Van Damme support the technical infrastructure and the live UCARConnect events, and other educational and library representatives from both UCAR and NCAR ensure that appropriate resources for the monthly theme aren’t missed.

Additionally, I should add that this is only the beginning for UCARConnect. Version 2.0 will be looking to add a place for online community interaction and other recommendations in response to stakeholders’ input! Sharon Clark
serves as the web engineer for the project and keeps the UCARConnect Management Team and myself aware of what is and isn’t possible in terms of web technological innovations.

Have a look at the new UCARConnect site at “ucarconnect.ucar.edu”. Play around with the site and see what it has to offer. Got ideas for the site? What would you like to see as a theme? Let the UCARConnect team know, starting with Teri! (eastburn@ucar.edu)

Awards and Recognition

- The following UCP Staff were recognized at the UCAR President’s Council Reception in March 6th for their 15 year tenure with UCAR.
  
  **COMET:** William Bua
  
  **COSMIC:** Sergey Sokolovskiy
  
  **JOSS:** Kyle Terran and Tara Torres
  
  **Unidata:** Jeff Weber

- The Society of Government Meeting Professionals awarded **Kendra Greb** the Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) designation on Feb. 18, 2014. This certification is designed for planners and suppliers whose work is governed by the rules and regulations of the federal government. Individuals who have earned their CGMP have obtained the highest designation available that is specifically for government meeting professionals.

JOSS News:

The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report considers the vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems, the observed impacts and future risks of climate change, and the potential for and limits to adaptation. The report is expected to be released March 31st. Working Group II's Technical Support Unit is staffed by a mix of UCAR-JOSS employees (3/5ths) along with staff from Carnegie Institution for Science. Here is a link to the main WG II page: [http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/index.html](http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/index.html)

Newly Redesigned Version of IGFA/Belmont Forum website goes live on March 28, 2014

JOSS employees Tania Sizer (Web Developer), David Allen (Assist. Director, USGCRP, offsite employee in DC), and Travis Kuennen (Systems Admin, who provided some technical support) have spent the last three months creating a new version of the ifgagcr.org website. The new website is built using the Drupal CMS (Content Management System).

JOSS Announcement:

Cathy Clark of JOSS will be retiring on 19 June 2014.

We Want to Hear From You

The UCP Director's Office now has an online anonymous suggestion box as another way for staff to communicate directly with Emily. Comments or suggestions will be submitted anonymously to Emily's email: [https://www.fin.ucar.edu/ucpdir/internal/suggestionbox.php3](https://www.fin.ucar.edu/ucpdir/internal/suggestionbox.php3)
Unidata is pleased to announce that Josh Young joined the Unidata Program Center as the Community Services Manager on March 10, 2014. He comes to Unidata from the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, D.C. where he served as the Program Manager for the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee Support Office (IOOC SO). At the IOOC SO, he supported member agencies in coordinating federal ocean observing and engaging the broader science community. See More on Josh at: http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/blogs/news/entry/unidata_program_center_welcomes_josh

DLS Update:

*The Curriculum Customization Service Integrates with Google Apps*

The Curriculum Customization Service (CCS) is an on-line teacher planning tool that integrates curriculum, interactive learning resources from DLESE and NSDL, and teacher-contributed materials, to support teachers’ differentiated instruction to meet the diverse needs of students. The project began in 2008 and has since expanded to 6 districts in 3 states, integrating additional content areas in math and science, and developing new services for all users. CCS is a joint project between UCP’s Digital Learning Sciences (DLS), the Institute of Cognitive Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Denver Public Schools.

In March, the CCS team launched a new version of the software that integrates directly with the Google Apps platform. The Google platform has seen wide adoption in school districts across the country, and this release coincides with DPS’ recent transition to Google Apps, a process similar to the transition UCAR is now undertaking. Teachers can now link their Google accounts to the CCS, enabling them to schedule and access resources and lesson plans from the CCS on their calendars. The seamless connection allows teachers to edit events and access resources either within the CCS or from the Google calendar. Future releases are planned to further integrate with the Google Apps platform, for example to enable CCS curricular resources to appear directly in teacher’s and student’s Google Drive.

Learn More About: https://ccs.dls.ucar.edu/support/static_pages/using_ccs.html
GLOBE News:

Earth Day April 22

Every year on April 22, over a billion people in 190 countries take action for Earth Day. GLOBE students plant trees, clean up their communities, contact their elected officials, and more—all on behalf of the environment.

Plans for The GLOBE Program were announced on Earth Day 1994 in Washington D.C. and one year later, on Earth Day 1995, The GLOBE Program officially began operations. It's understandable why Earth Day is such an important day for the GLOBE community. Visit the GLOBE Facebook page on Earth Day to find postings of GLOBE students’ Earth Day activities.

Outside the UCP Office:

Follow on Twitter as The GLOBE Program documents the green–up cycle of this box elder tree outside the UCP Office at FL4. We encourage you to share your own green–up or green–down observations on Twitter, too. Be sure to include the hashtags #GLOBEgreenup and #GLOBEgreendown, and follow us @GLOBEProgram.

SPARK Update:

UCARConnect
Website UCARConnect (ucarconnect.ucar.edu) was launched this month in response to today’s more active, open, responsive, and connected Internet and the opportunities high bandwidth affords. It seeks to be responsive to UCAR stakeholders to communicate and share resources and connections of greatest value and need using today's most effective digital tools. As we learn from UCAR Members and others, the site will adapt to meet needs and opportunities. Please send suggestions for new content or feedback about the site, to ucarconnect@ucar.edu.

The National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation Study Circle (NNOCCI)
Spark educators Eileen Carpenter and Marc Mueller are participating in the NNOCCI Study Circle, a collaborative effort led by the New England Aquarium. With support from the NSF Climate Change Education Partnership program, NNOCCI’s goal is to establish a national network of professionals who are skilled in communicating climate science to the American public in ways that are engaging and stimulate productive dialog. This program includes three face-to-face meetings with their cohort and ongoing remote and online work from February–December 2014. Eileen and Marc plan to share what they have learned from this experience at a future UCAR Education Group meeting. For more information about NNOCCI, visit: http://www.nnocci.org/What_.php

Ignite NCAR, March 6, 2014
The biannual Ignite NCAR event was hosted at the Mesa Lab with approximately 40 individuals in attendance. Six presenters from across the institution and guest presenter Bruce Jakosky of LASP had 20 slides and five minutes to enlighten us but make it quick! The presentations will be posted to YouTube shortly. The next Ignite NCAR event is scheduled for early autumn at the Foothills Auditorium. For more information about Ignite, and to watch the presentations, please visit: http://spark.ucar.edu/ignite-v
COMET News:

COMET's "pay-as-you-go" Webinar Series
The COMET Program offered our first "pay-as-you-go" webinar series on March 19–20, 2014. The topic was flash flooding and they were led by flood expert Matt Kelsch. The two webinars looked at different aspects of flash floods. The first examined the physical processes leading to intense rainfall and how meteorologists recognize these patterns via atmospheric indicators, observation platforms, and numerical models. Tools used to analyze rainfall accumulation in real time were introduced. The second webinar explored where water goes once it hits the ground and the influences of intense rainfall on runoff and stream response, including soil types, land use, watershed characteristics, and soil saturation. Both webinars were well attended, and COMET plans to hold another offering in the next few months.

Latest MetEd Publications

1. An Introduction to Observing Oil from Helicopters and Planes
This lesson teaches aircrews how to identify, describe, and report spills. Misidentifying natural events as oil spills is a common, and sometimes expensive, mistake. This lesson also points out common false positives when trying to identify oil spills. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1044#

2. Basics of Visible and Infrared Remote Sensing
This lesson presents the scientific and technical basis for using visible and infrared satellite imagery so forecasters can make optimal use of it for observing and forecasting the behavior of the atmosphere. Review of remote sensing and radiative transfer theory through a series of conceptual models is also presented. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1096#

3. An Introduction to the Downscaled Climate and Hydrology Projections Website
This video introduces the website, which is the result of a collaboration between several federal and non-federal partners, that provides access to downscaled climate and hydrology projections for the contiguous United States and parts of Canada and Mexico, derived from contemporary global climate models. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1104#

4. Writing TAFs for Convective Weather, 2nd Edition
This module uses a severe thunderstorm event to illustrate techniques for producing an effective Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) following current National Weather Service directives. It also addresses the importance of maintaining an effective TAF weather watch and updating the TAF proactively. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1085#