I’m sure that none of you are surprised – at least none of you who have met my kids – that Nic and Soph have been asking me what my New Year’s resolutions are for 2014. And they aren’t just asking, they are taking notes. Sometimes they are fascinated with the simple notion that we can use the New Year to make promises to ourselves. More often, I think they are waiting to see how long the resolutions last before they are lying in a heaping puddle on the floor. But it has got me thinking about what I hope for UCP in the New Year and what my New Year UCP resolutions are. It goes without saying that I want all of the UCP programs to thrive in 2014. The hard work and excellence that I see every single day from all of the programs should be rewarded! But what are the specific things I’m going to work on to help that along? Two things come to mind.

**Become a more deliberate communicator.** We have worked quite a bit in the last few months to increase our internal and external communications. We have the UCP Pulse, which you all receive, but it is also sent up to the President’s Council, the Board of Trustees, and the PACUR to give our broader community a sense of what we are doing. By the end of January, thanks largely to Tania Sizer in JOSS, we will have new UCP Directorate web pages up. Along with the new website will come a new communications process that will increase the flow of UCP news to UCAR, the UCAR website, and beyond.

That’s all great, but becoming a better communicator for UCP is more mindful than that. I’m working to develop a routine about how I communicate our programs to the outside world, so that we become a drumbeat that our sponsors, stakeholders, partners, and leadership understand and are drawn to support. In order to do that, I also need information on what the programs are doing on a regular basis. We are looking at revamping the 4U Network to help us all learn more about each other – and to get me the information I need to be able to continuously speak about the exciting things our programs are doing right now.

“Alignment” is my watchword for 2014. You have all heard me present a vision for UCP that includes, beyond our core program missions, opportunities for increased teaming to provide ‘integrated’ services to stakeholders. How do we build the bridge that connects stakeholders to science? A major step along that path is to understand where major stakeholders are and what they need, and then to align our programs (individually or collectively) to their goals. Each UCP program already does this extremely well – we align to our sponsors’ needs and to our audiences every day. But we can develop new pathways and discover new arenas to play in, if we target specific areas of work and align ourselves within that new context.

In mid-December, I spent some time with James O’Meara, who (among his many hats) is an education strategic lead for UNESCO. We spent most of our time together talking about
From the Director (cont.)
“alignment”. How do we take already successful programs and, working together, develop a collective understanding of a new area of work and then adapt some portion of our programs to support that new area? There are lots of paths to follow in doing this – some are top down (e.g., look at UNESCO’s strategic plan on education and see where we can play) and some are more internal (e.g., inventory our core strengths, identify strengths and look for opportunities that could use them). I think very early in 2014, you will all begin to hear more about some of this alignment, particularly in the areas of International Education and Climate Services. This will happen as UCP Directors and I (and many of you) begin to come together around these themes, looking at the funding landscape for opportunities, and charting pathways forward that will build a reputation for UCP as a whole in these new areas.

So, I wish you and yours a Happy New Year – one filled with fun, laughter, and imagination! Can’t wait to see what is on our horizon!

Look for the NEW UCP Website coming in March!

Budget Office Updates
By Kelly Smith
This month we are very excited to announce that we have brought two new staff members on board.

Dawn Williams is a Budget Analyst I and will review and approve proposals and support financial statistics, analysis and data management. Dawn has over 10 years of professional administrative experience; previously working in the COSMIC program and most recently at NEON. Dawn can be reached at dawnw@ucar.edu or at x8671.

Carey Reynolds is our new Administrative Assistant III and will be the first point of contact for our office and will provide comprehensive administrative support to the Directorate. Carey comes to us with over 16 years of administrative support experience, most recently as the office manager at the STAR Institute. Carey can be reached at careyr@ucar.edu or at x2604.

Please join me in welcoming both Dawn and Carey!

Awards and Recognition
UCAR JOSS employee Dr. Fabien Laurier was nominated to serve as Director of the Third National Climate Assessment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Prior to this assignment with OSTP, Fabien served as Advisor for Climate Change Adaptation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality where he worked on the development of the President’s Climate Action Plan and implementation of Executive Order 13653 "Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change."

Congratulations to Wendy Abshire, who has been elected to a 3–year term on the Council of the American Meteorological Society!

Thanks to Loretta Quinn and Chrystal Pene of JOSS for their time and effort in managing the 2013 UCP AGU booth.
**COMET News:**

**Latest MetEd Publication**

Caribbean aviation modules. The lessons covering aviation-related forecasting challenges in the Caribbean were expanded this month.

- Tropical Fog: *A Look at Fog That Impacts Aviation in Guyana* applies concepts covered in the module, Fog: Its Processes and Impacts to Aviation. It examines the fog processes at a tropical location: Guyana. A basic overview of the main fog types is provided, and then a detailed analysis is done for a representative fog event at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana.

- **Caribbean Radar Products** provides examples of radar imagery from various locations in the Caribbean and includes examples of different meteorological and non-meteorological features to show features seen in island locations.

**African Satellite Meteorology Education and Training (ASMET) modules. Three new modules have been added to the ASMET collection. Each deals with a different aviation weather hazard.**

- **ASMET 7: Detecting Clear Air Turbulence: South African Case Study** helps prepare forecasters to detect regions of clear air turbulence (CAT) using satellite imagery, tephigrams, and NWP products.

- **ASMET 7: Convective Weather and Aviation in West and Central Africa** teaches forecasters how to produce warnings and forecasts related to hazards associated with convective systems.

- **ASMET 7: Forecasting Fog for Aviation: Kenya Case Study** focuses on making more accurate fog forecasts using satellite imagery, numerical weather prediction, and other available data.

**Additional COMET News:**

Bruce Muller and Bryan Guarente, both from COMET, visited the Korean Meteorological Agency (KMA) in Seoul, Korea to prepare a proposal for offering a series of workshops on mountain weather meteorology. The KMA is preparing for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

**JOSS News:**

*The Sandy Sea Level Rise Planning Tool team.*

A collaborative effort involving USGCRP, as well as Federal agencies including NOAA, FEMA, and the US Army Corps of Engineers---was awarded the GreenGov Presidential Climate Champion Award in November. The team was honored at the GreenGov Presidential Awards ceremony on November 5, 2013. The Planning Tool uses the best available scientific data to help state and local officials, managers, and planners rebuild for resilience to sea level rise and storms following Hurricane Sandy. To learn more go to: [http://goo.gl/jKf56w](http://goo.gl/jKf56w).

**Social Media Efforts**

The U.S. Global Change Research Program's social media networks are growing daily, with ~4,000 people following the program on Facebook and ~1400 on Twitter. Recently, the program recapped some of the top climate-related news items from 2013 (#ClimateHighlights2013) via social media; to get up to speed, Like the U.S. Global Change Research Program on Facebook or follow @usgcrp on Twitter.
SPARK Update

Each summer Spark hosts 20 undergraduates' leaders from the Member institutions to attend the NCAR Undergraduate Leadership Workshop (ULW). The students are nominated by a faculty member because the student is unsure of the proper career path, but the nominator knows the student has the aptitude to do research and is also a person whom their peers will follow. It is a retention and growth effort for the Members and the community as whole in the future.

If you work with a faculty member who mentors under graduates please let that faculty member know of this opportunity.

Spark staff members Becca Hatheway, Teri Eastburn, Lisa Gardiner, Marc Mueller, Tim Barnes and Randy Russell presented six workshops at the National Science Teachers Association Regional Conference in Denver December 12 – 14, 2013. Spark also supported a talk by NCAR scientist Jeff Keihl at the conference. Info about the workshops is available at spark.ucar.edu/events/nsta-regional-2013-denver

On December 19, 2013, Spark’s Lisa Gardiner co–presented a webinar for educators with Mary Haden (NCAR) and Eryka Thorley (NOAA) about including the impacts of climate change on human health in educational programs.

SOARS’ Inaugural Webinar Gives Tips to Interns.
SOARS hosted its very first webinar on December 3, 2013, by addressing a question many students are contemplating right now: How do I apply for an internship? The webinar explored not only what research internships entail and what value they offer to students, but also how to find the right internship and submit a competitive application. This was the first of a series of webinars to be held every other month that are geared toward undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty supporting student career development.

SPARK Update Continued

Spark is pleased to announce the launch of a newsletter for K–12 educators. The newsletter will help to build a community of K–12 teachers, disseminate new educational resources on the Spark website and UConnect at UCAR videos, and highlight educational resources from partners.
Sign up to receive future newsletters
View the first newsletter

GLOBE Update

The GLOBE Program Office (GPO) welcomes Deb Smith, as part time graphic designer. Deb came to GLOBE in May 2013 as a temporary Administrative Assistant and her talents in graphic design were soon recognized by GLOBE staff. She is now contributing to GLOBE projects in this capacity. Deb occupies office 2102 and can by reached by phone at X2659 or email at debsmith@globe.gov.

The 2014 GLOBE Program Calendar, illustrated by GLOBE students throughout the world, is now available on the GLOBE website.

Work continues with preparations for the 2014 GLOBE Learning Expedition, which will take place in New Delhi, India from 4–8 August. Updates appear regularly at http://www.globe.gov/events/globe-learning-expeditions/overview/gle-2014-new-delhi-india
NSDL Update

UCP’s National Science Digital Library (NSDL) provides valuable online resources for teaching and learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education: high quality open resources at all levels for educators, students, and the general public. With the increasing adoption of standards–based learning in K12 education, NSDL has added enhancements to the SLM that support the transition to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):

- Clicking on certain AAAS Benchmarks in a concept map provides both NSDL resources that support teaching the concept, as well as an information tab for NGSS, where equivalency relationships have been drawn between the two sets of standards.
- Within a given map, links on the topical "strand' title at the top of map enable drill–down that reveals just the benchmarks for the selected strand, such as earthquakes and volcanoes.
- Last but not least, the NSDL Science Literacy Maps have been optimized to perform with greater ease and efficiency on touch screens (iPads, tablets, etc.).

Explore and enjoy! Also check out NSDL on Facebook.

VSP News

11th Conference on Space Weather VSP and NASA co–hosted a session at the 94th AMS Meeting on Wednesday, 5 February 2014. Entitled “The Sun–Earth Connection: Ignore it at your Peril,” the sessions featured six well known speakers:

- Madhulika Guhathakurta: NASA
- Karel Schrijver: Lockheed Martin
- Robert Rutledge: NOAA Space Prediction Center
- Harlan Spence: University of New Hampshire
- Randy Horton: Southern Company Services
- Casper Ammann: NCAR Research Applications Laboratory.

A panel discussion follows the speakers, moderated by William Murtagh: NOAA/NWS/Space Weather Prediction.

The panelists included:

- Christopher J. Mertens: NASA Langley Research Center
- Steven Albersheim: FAA
- Bob Maxson: NOAA/NWS/Aviation Weather Center
- Thomas H. Fahey III: Delta Air Lines
- Bryn Jones: SolarMetrics Limited