From the Director
By Emily CoBabe–Ammann

A Modern Look for UCP

As you all know, we have an anonymous email through which anyone can submit a comment to me. In the last year, I’ve had only one email come through the pathway – and it gently asked that we might consider some new webpages for UCP. (I’m not sure that I should be glad that there has been only one email or worried….)

The email was bang on. Within the first few days of my arrival last April, the UCP webpages were on the ‘to–do’ list. The pages were outdated. Half of the links on the front page were actually password protected. Some of the UCP programs didn’t even show up. They weren’t particularly attractive or useful. And why should they be? Each program has its own awesmazing page. It’s their identity, how their sponsors know them, how they communicate to their communities.

In building a vision for UCAR Community Programs that includes both the individual programs and our collective work, a cohesive message through our web presence is critical. It is the first impression we make to the outside world together. And it’s our opportunity to identify where we are and where we are going.

In the last six months, we have embarked on a journey to create the new UCP webpages. With the help of UCAR Communications and JOSS’s Tania Sizer – and with input from UCP Directors, we built a website that uses the templates used throughout UCAR and NCAR – but represents us. As you all know, it went live a couple of weeks ago on a soft roll out.

On the new site, you will see an emphasis on our theme of service in education and training, scientist and program support, data and visualization, and innovative small satellite programs. It’s a site that not only focuses on what we currently do in our programs, but also what we offer our prospective partners. It highlights our ongoing work on UCAR’s Strategic Planning, as well as new initiatives like Climate Services. It also gives our staff quick links to important UCAR sites, including HR, timecards, etc.

This is a general call for help! Please take 15 minutes. Noodle through the pages. Bring comments and suggestions – let us know what would make this site work for you and for our sponsors. Send comments to Carey Reynolds!

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
Update from the UCP Directorate:

This month we are very excited to announce that Lana Kimayeva has come on board as the new UCP Director of Business and Operations. Lana will support UCP–wide programs or projects by incorporating proactive and innovative solutions to address business opportunities and challenges. Specifically, she will oversee, design, support and lead strategic initiatives in the areas of business operations, funding opportunities, and operational efficiencies. Lana has over 10 years of experience leading high performing teams and managing complex program portfolios at non–profit, government–affiliated organizations including Internews, IREX, and AmeriCorps NCCC. Lana will begin with UCAR Community Programs on June 16th, 2014. Please join us in welcoming Lana!

News from COMET:

COMET’s Open House is June 5 from 2–4 PM in CG2, third floor. Come meet our staff and learn about our offerings. Talk to instructional designers about our development processes. See how we create 3-D visualizations. Find out what we’re doing with instructional videos. Experience how we conduct virtual classes. Learn about the WMO Global Campus concept. See our latest MetEd lessons. Find out about our AWIPS–2 Validation project. Learn about the EVMS (our new project management tool). Refreshments provided!

Latest MetEd Publications
1. Tropical Cyclone Intensity Analysis
This lesson provides guidance for operational forecasters needing to combine different intensity methods to determine the intensity of a tropical cyclone. Each of the intensity methods is summarized, focusing on both strengths and weaknesses. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1083

2. Ensemble Applications in Winter
This lesson provides an introduction to ensemble forecast systems using an operational case study of the Blizzard of 2013 in Southern Ontario. The module uses models available to forecasters in the Meteorological Service of Canada, including Canadian and U.S. global and regional ensembles. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1073

3. Tropical–Extratropical Air Mass Interactions in South America
Case studies of tropical–extratropical air mass interactions over South America are presented in this module. Synoptic features associated with cold air intrusion into tropical latitudes and the incursion of humid, tropical air masses into midlatitudes are identified. Conceptual models illustrate the synoptic environments and the role of the Andes in the meridional movement of air masses. Refer to: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1023

For a list all modules on MetEd, including recent translations, please visit MetEd’s Module List at: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_detail.php

JOSS Update:

On May 6, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (JOSS) released the Third National Climate Assessment. This report -- which was developed over four years by hundreds of the Nation’s top scientists and guided by a 60–member Federal Advisory Committee -- confirms that climate change is affecting every region of the country and key sectors of the U.S. economy and society. The Third National Climate Assessment is available to download and can be explored interactively through USGCRP’s newly redeployed website, GlobalChange.gov. The White House launched the report with a series of press and stakeholder events. The report received nationwide media coverage -- including front page articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, and others and GlobalChange.gov received over 300,000 hits in the first week following the report’s release.
A day at the White House: JOSS’s Brian Duggan, Steve Aulenbach, and Karyn Sawyer joined the launch event for the U.S. National Climate Assessment on May 6. Steve, Brian, and Travis Kuennen (not shown) worked with the NCA website developers on back-end processes associated with the site, including web hosting and security. (Photo courtesy David Allen, JOSS.)

SPARK News:

New Name for Spark.
After completing the first of two 90-day plan, do, study, act cycles, beginning in June, Spark will now be known as the UCAR Center for Science Education. Stay tuned as the logo is finalized and the transition from Spark to the UCAR Center for Science Education is implemented. Thanks to Lisa Gardiner and Becca Hatheway for their work on the Design Team and for everyone who provided input and review.

• UCARConnect theme for June will be on Air quality and the FRAPPE field campaign this summer.

• SOARS Proteges are Here!
We are happy to welcome the 2014 SOARS cohort! Students will be here all summer, participate in research projects, learn about scientific communication and explore possible careers in the atmospheric sciences. NCAR/UCAR/UCP staff as well as colleagues at NOAA-ESRL, CU Boulder, Iowa State University, and University of Minnesota are volunteering as mentors.

• Publication:
Rebecca Haacker-Santos published a book chapter on on new ways of structuring geoscience undergraduate research:

• Proposal Funded:
Congratulations to Val Sloan and Rebecca Haacker-Santos: SOARS received a supplemental award “NSF Dear Colleague Letter NSF 14-015 (ARRG)” for disseminating best practices in undergraduate geoscience research. This award strengthens the new SOARS Center for Undergraduate Research and will provide resources and professional development for GEO REU PIs.

• AirWaterGas Professional Development Program:
Please share the following with your school contacts in the following counties: Adams, Delta, Garfield, La Plata, Mesa, Morgan, Washington, Weld, and Yuma. If space is available, teachers from other counties in Colorado will be considered.

• We are recruiting eight Colorado middle and high school teachers for a year-long professional development program associated with the AirWaterGas Project at the University of Colorado. Teachers will learn about the impacts of oil and gas development on the regional environment and global climate and develop educational resources to use in their classes. Applications are due July 18. For more information visit:
http://spark.ucar.edu/airwatergas-pd
Unidata Update:

Unidata is happy to announce the Community Equipment Award recipients for 2014. Seven institutions received funding this year:

- Creighton University
- Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Pennsylvania State University
- San Jose State University
- University of Iowa
- University of Missouri

This year special consideration was given to proposals that:

- Include installation of a prototype AWIPS II standalone EDEX server and CAVE client, coupled with the Unidata LDM, to test data ingest and display both locally, and using the CAVE thin client to connect to remote servers
- Implementation of or pilot projects with remotely-accessible storage systems for geoscience data (“cloud-based storage”)
- Implementation of or pilot projects with remote server-based data analysis or visualization systems (“cloud-based analysis”)

For additional details on the proposals funded this year, see the 2014 Equipment Awards page.

We received a total of thirteen responses to the 2014 RFP and funded seven of them, partially or fully.

We invite you to provide suggestions for the focus of future Equipment Award RFPs, and to keep your eyes open for the 2015 announcement. To get an idea of the wide range of recipient institutions and projects, including copies of successful proposals, visit the Equipment Awards page.

Unidata is hosting two student interns this summer: Florita Rodriguez from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, and Shawn Cheeks from Marshal University in Huntington, WV.

An announcement on these two interns appears on Unidata website: http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/blogs/news/entry/summer_interns_join_unidata_program

VSP News:

New VSP Employees:

- Weiguo Han has joined NOAA NESDIS STAR in College Park, Maryland, as a Project Scientist II.
- David Sidoti has joined the Naval Research Laboratory in Monterey, California, as a Student Visitor working with Dr. James Hansen.
- Aubrey Dugger has joined OHD RAL in Boulder, Colorado, as a Postdoctoral Researcher.