

THE UCP PULSE

From the "Guest" Director

by GLOBE Director, Tony Murphy



On occasion, the Pulse will be featuring special program highlights written by UCP directors. This month's highlight is written by Tony Murphy, GLOBE Director.

Dear UCAR/UCP Friends,

Twenty Years A-Growing, the title of a well-known Irish memoir, could very well be used to describe The GLOBE Program, as 2015 marks its 20th Anniversary on Earth Day, April 22. This is a milestone in many ways....20 years of Earth science data collection by K-12 citizen scientists; 20 years of earth science education by committed educators; 20 years of a worldwide community dedicated to improving students' understanding of local and global environments....and all still growing.

GLOBE's mission is simple: to promote the teaching and learning of science; enhance environmental literacy and stewardship; and promote scientific discovery for young people, through development of a K-12 Earth Science curriculum implemented worldwide. The program expanded rapidly in a world hungry for high quality Earth science instruction ensured by NASA, NOAA, and NSF sponsorship.

Now twenty years a-growing, GLOBE has expanded to a worldwide community of students, teachers, and scientists in more than 100 countries, collaborating on inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the Earth system. In the GLOBE section of this newsletter, you can find details about many of the events and new products (including our new mobile app for data collection) that the GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO) has planned for our Anniversary Year. In addition, events are being planned independently by our regional offices, country coordinators, partners, and schools in The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, India, Estonia and Tanzania... and the list keeps growing.

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)

We Want to Hear From You



As another way for staff to communicate with Emily, the UCP Director's Office has an online anonymous suggestion box.

[Submit your comments or suggestions anonymously.](#)

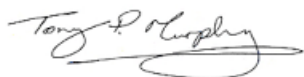
I would like to invite you, the UCP and UCAR Community, to become involved with GLOBE too. I'd like to encourage you to join the GLOBE International Scientist Network (GISN). This is your chance to

- mentor GLOBE students and teachers throughout the world;
- engage with students in collaboration on your scientific research, or theirs;
- share a blog post about your current research; or
- assist in a GLOBE classroom in person or virtually.

The relationship is full of potential. You can engage with students here at home or in a part of the world that interests you. You'll feel good to be a role model to students who hunger for the real-world opinions of working scientists – and you can certainly use the GLOBE database for use in your own environmental research. See the current GISN member list [here](#). It won't be long before you are hooked on GLOBE.

Aside from our anniversary celebrations, 2015 is turning out to be a very exciting year for GLOBE because of our new partnerships with satellite missions, initially focused on NASA. You're probably aware of the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite that was launched in on January 31, 2015. SMAP measures the moisture in the top 5 cm (2 inches) of soil over the entire planet every three days. On Earth, having determined when the satellite is overhead by entering their GPS coordinates and finding the flyover time, GLOBE students are taking their own soil moisture measurements simultaneously on the ground. In doing so, students are able contribute to data collection and analysis for a NASA satellite mission. Imagine how exciting that is to kids in California, Cameroon, or India! SMAP is only the latest of several NASA satellites with which GLOBE has developed a partnership. The CloudSat, GMP and Calipso missions are also engaging GLOBE students and making an impact on their lives.

GIO is excited about these and many other activities we have in store over the next few months. The 20th Anniversary, beginning on Earth Day 2015, marks an important milestone for the Program. It is a cause for reflection and celebration and a time for me to invite you to explore ways to become involved. Start by [joining our mailing list](#) for news and opportunities. Or give me a call, and let's chat.



Dr. Tony Murphy
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A major focus for UCP is making sure the science from NCAR and UCAR institutions are translated in novel ways to a variety of audiences and stakeholders.

UCAR TWITTER FEED

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UCAR

NCAR

Closures/Emergencies

Locations/Directions

Find People

Home

About UCP

UCP Programs

Community Resources

UCP Services

For Staff

UCAR

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

service • education • data • logistics

THE UCP PULSE

Calendar of Events

GLOBE

GLOBE International Scientist Network (GISN) Webinar: "Role Model Training" – March 19, 11 a.m. MT/1 p.m. ET

GISN Webinar (Panel Presentation): "GISN Stories: 20 Years of GLOBE Research and Education Outreach" – April 23, 11 a.m. MT/1 p.m. ET

Climate Voices

Geoengineering Webinar: "Geoengineering: What are the Potential Geopolitical and Ethical Issues?" – March 25, 1:00 p.m. MT

SciEd

NASA Discovery/New Frontiers Program Educator Workshop – March 7, 9:30-3:30 MT

The UCP Pulse February 2015

From the "Guest" Director

Calendar of Events

Climate Voices News

COMET News

COSMIC News

GLOBE News


JOSS News

SciEd News


Unidata News

VSP


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https://www.ucp.ucar.edu/ucp-pulse-february-2015/calendar-of-events[3/16/2015 8:02:50 AM]

THE UCP PULSE

Climate Voices News



Climate Voices is on Social Media!

A big thanks to our Climate Voices intern from CU Boulder, Betsy Noecker, for getting these up and running!

- General Climate Voices Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateVoicesNetwork?ref=bookmarks>
- Top-secret Facebook Group for Climate Voices Speakers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/climatevoices/> (Note: This group is not visible or open to the public. To join the group, you can friend the Climate Voices Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/climate.voices.5>. This is a space for Climate Voices Speakers to share ideas, resources, and videos of their presentations, as well as provide feedback and engage in conversation with other Climate Voices speakers.)
- Twitter: twitter.com/climate_voices
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6932931&trk=anet_ug_hm

New GreenFaith Partnership



Climate Voices has formed a new partnership with [GreenFaith](#)--Interfaith Partners for the Environment that will give us an opportunity to participate in the upcoming GreenFaith Climate Science Days.

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)

GreenFaith member institutions will be inviting Climate Voices participants to speak about climate change with congregations on April 19th and/or April 26th in conjunction with Earth Day. GreenFaith network members include congregations of many faiths, committed to GreenFaith’s mission “to inspire, educate and mobilize people of diverse backgrounds for environmental leadership.”

Geoengineering Webinar

From last week’s release of the “Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth” by the National Research Council to recent articles in major mainstream news sources, climate intervention – or geoengineering – is a topic in which the public has increasing interest.

How prepared are you to answer questions about geoengineering in your public speaking engagements?

In order to support our Climate Voices participants, we are offering a two-part geoengineering webinar series and a geoengineering slide deck in March 2015, through the support of the National Science Foundation.

The first webinar, “Geoengineering: What is it and what technologies are being explored?” was held on March 4. This webinar panel presentation covered the basics of climate intervention, or geoengineering, including two types of technologies that are being proposed. Dr. Phillip Rasch from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory presented the basis of marine-cloud brightening, and Dr. Simone Tilmes from the National Center for Atmospheric Research present stratospheric aerosol loading. They discussed how we might proceed with research for each area, what these experiments might tell us, and share some of the things we should be aware of as we consider these technologies. They also discussed the recent “Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth” report released by the National Academies Press in February 2015. This panel presentation was recorded, and will be accessible from the [Climate Voices website](#).

On March 25 (1 p.m.), we invite you to participate in our live webinar: “Geoengineering: What are the potential geopolitical and ethical issues?” In this webinar, Dr. David Victor will discuss the geopolitical and ethical issues involved with the geoengineering technologies that are being proposed. David is an internationally recognized leader in research on energy and climate change policy as well as energy markets. His research focuses on regulated industries and how regulation affects the operation of major energy markets.

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THE UCP PULSE

COMET News



The COMET Program was pleased to host two events in February: The Sedimentation Impacts under Climate Change (SIUCC) Course and NOAA's Satellite Science Week 2015 meeting.

The SIUCC Course was a three-day, instructor-led, in-classroom course where participants explored methods to scope, conduct, and document an assessment of impact (with uncertainty) from a changing climate on watershed and channel sedimentation.

The NOAA Satellite Science Week 2015 meeting was held to review and discuss the state-of-the-science portfolio of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series (GOES-R) and the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) programs. This included a discussion of products, their availability and maturity, risk reduction science activities, and calibration/validation.

Latest MetEd Publications

Overview of Watershed and Channel Sedimentation



This [lesson](#) provides an overview of the primary influences of watershed and channel sedimentation. The focus is on the three primary processes in sedimentation: generation, transport, and deposition.

Advanced Himawari Imager (AHI): What's Different from the GOES-R Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI)



This [lesson](#) provides an overview of the AHI on Himawari and highlights its differences from the GOES-R Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI). It discusses AHI's improved capabilities in spectral coverage, spatial resolution, and imaging interval over the MTSAT-2 imager; the differences in spectral coverage and scan strategy and the impact on products; and how AHI data and products benefit forecasters.

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

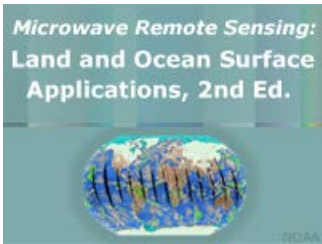
[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)

Microwave Remote Sensing: Land and Ocean Surface Applications, 2nd Edition



This [lesson](#) introduces the concepts and principles basic to retrieving important land and ocean surface properties using microwave remote sensing observations from polar-orbiting satellites.

For a list all modules on MetEd, including recent translations, please visit [MetEd's Module List](#).

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THE UCP PULSE

COSMIC News



For UCAR's Thomas Bogdan, COSMIC-2 is Worth the Fight



In an article published in this month's issue of *SpaceNews*, Tom Bogdan explained that he is a leading advocate for the satellite system called the Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate (COSMIC), a joint project of the United States and Taiwan launched in 2006. The data from the six-satellite system

are used to monitor space weather and to improve forecasts of terrestrial weather.

The U.S. and Taiwan have been developing a follow-on system, called COSMIC-2. COSMIC-2 is set to launch in 2016 and in 2019. The initial set of six satellites is set to launch into an equatorial orbit; the second set of six satellites will launch into the same high-inclination orbit used by the original COSMIC satellites.

When asked by the SpaceNews reporter what helped win support for COSMIC-2, Bogdan replied, "In my mind, it was two things. First of all, what the articulation of the value of GPS radio occultation data has done to improve the forecast, particularly six to eight days out. There's a dramatic improvement from having global synoptic information over places like the ocean, the Arctic and the Antarctic, where data is generally limited."

"The second part," Bogdan said, "is that we have strong support from the Taiwanese, and that makes this a very economical mission as far as overall costs go. The actual benefit per dollar spent is very high on COSMIC."

[Read the entire article.](#)

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)

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ABOUT UCP

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THE UCP PULSE

GLOBE News



Approaching The GLOBE Program's 20th Anniversary!



The GLOBE Program is now embarking on a very important year – the program's 20th Anniversary. Celebrations for this special anniversary begin in earnest on Earth Day (April 22). Here are some of the important highlights/events GLOBE is planning:

- A new GLOBE data entry app will be available in mid-April for both iPhone and Android users; this app will allow users to perform data-entry on a large number of GLOBE science protocols directly from their phone or tablet. Users will also be able to collect their GLOBE measurements while in the field (and without an Internet connection). Once they return to their classrooms, teachers and students will be able to upload their data to the GLOBE website with a single click.
- Data entry recognition celebration – During the week of Earth Day, special recognition will be given to the schools that have been the overall best data contributors.
- A data entry challenge – During the week of Earth Day, GLOBE will be challenging the community to enter more data using the existing data entry forms and the new app (mentioned above).
- A website refresh – A new and improved www.globe.gov will be launched on Earth Day! The new look and feel of the site should make navigation and location of materials more efficient.
- A newly revised Teacher's Guide.

Registration for the 19th Annual GLOBE Partner Meeting in L.A. is Now Open!

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)



This year, GLOBE's Annual Partner Meeting will be held in Los Angeles. The meeting will be hosted by GLOBE Partner Henry Ortiz of the Los Angeles Unified School District, with help from the Organizing Committee. The theme of this year's meeting is "Strengths of a GLOBE-al Community of Scientists."

The annual meeting of partners, scientists, sponsors, and student researchers will be held on July 20-24. The Meeting of GLOBE Working Groups will be held on July 19. For more information, click [here](#).

GISN Webinars

The GLOBE International Scientist Network (GISN) is recruiting scientists to share their expertise in Earth system science with GLOBE students and teachers throughout the world. Currently, the GISN has 200 members. The network is growing and GLOBE welcomes you to become [involved](#)!

In 2015, GLOBE is offering a series of [webinars](#) to help participants learn more about GLOBE and the GISN. Upcoming webinars include:

- Webinar 3: "Role Model Training" – March 19, 11 a.m. MT/1 p.m. ET
- Webinar 4 (Panel Presentation): "GISN Stories: 20 Years of GLOBE Research and Education Outreach – April 23, 11 a.m. MT/1 p.m. ET

NASA'S SMAP Launched – And We Had Our Cake And Ate It Too!



GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO) staff held a launch party to celebrate the successful launch of the NASA Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) Mission on January 31, 2015 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Now that the SMAP spacecraft is in orbit, it will take measurements of surface soil moisture and produce maps of soil moisture with global coverage every three days. As part of the SMAP-GLOBE Program Collaboration, SMAP scientists will be using data collected by GLOBE students to help validate the satellite moisture measurements and monitor their accuracy. For more information, click [here](#).

Gary Randolph, GLOBE Training Coordinator and our SMAP cake!



Our cake after we...um...had partaken!

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THE UCP PULSE

JOSS News



New Hire



JOSS is pleased to announce that Rudy Estrada joined the program as a Systems Administrator on February 2. In addition to working with JOSS, Rudy will provide IT support to GLOBE and VSP. Welcome!

News from JOSS Offsite Offices

USGCRP (U.S. Global Change Research Program)



Thank You! Tom Armstrong retired from Federal service at the end of 2014 after a distinguished career with the Department of the Interior and, most recently, as the Executive Director of USGCRP.

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)



Welcome! USGCRP is pleased to welcome [Chris Weaver](#) as Acting Executive Director, a role he takes on after three years of service to the Program as a detailee from the Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to that, Chris was one of the chief architects of the [National Global Change Research Plan 2012–2021](#), developed during 2010–2011.

Leadership and Service News



Justin Goldstein was named Committee Chair for the Earth Science Information Partner's (ESIP's) Preservation and Stewardship collaboration area.



Emily Seyller was appointed to the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

US CLIVAR

Variations Winter Edition on ENSO

The [2015 Winter Edition of Variations](#) examines *El Niño Southern Oscillation* (ENSO) observing system, predictability, and predictions. How have the prediction of ENSO and our understanding of variability improved? What does an observing system for ENSO look like for the future? The authors of this edition explore these questions and others.

US CLIVAR Launches Research Highlights Section to Website

A new section has been launched on the [website](#) to feature US CLIVAR-related research, with an emphasis on recent and interesting findings and a goal of sharing these highlights with the broader scientific community.

U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program

2015 North American Carbon Program Meeting



The Fifth Biennial North American Carbon Program (NACP) PI Meeting (PIM5) was convened in Washington D.C. from January 26 to 29, 2015. Over 370 participants and speakers from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico attended this event, which included 77 talks and 254 posters. Several break-out group discussions were also convened to focus on specific science and policy themes of the meeting.

An [international planning committee](#) representing scientists and governmental program managers from all three NACP nations organized this gathering, which was supported by USGCRP's Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group/U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program. Participants primarily comprised AmeriFlux, Fluxnet, NACP, CarboNA principal investigators, researchers, and students; those interested in the carbon cycle of North America and adjacent coastal waters; scientists and government managers associated with U.S., Canadian, and Mexican carbon programs; social scientists, policy makers, stakeholders; and others seeking to improve the scientific basis of decision-making. [See the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program website.](#)

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THE UCP PULSE

SciEd News



UCARConnect: Feature of the Month

The theme of the February [UCARConnect](#) was Earth's Energy Balance and Greenhouse Effect. This included three videos that can be viewed on the UCARConnect website, including:



- ["Tracking Earth's Energy Flow"](#)
- ["The Keeling Curve – The Story of CO₂"](#)
- ["Steroids, Baseball, and Climate"](#)

In addition, Randy Russell developed a [Teaching Box](#) on the [Greenhouse Effect](#) to compliment the featured topic.

The UCP Pulse February 2015

- [From the "Guest" Director](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Climate Voices News](#)
- [COMET News](#)
- [COSMIC News](#)
- [GLOBE News](#)
- [JOSS News](#)
- [SciEd News](#)
- [Unidata News](#)
- [VSP](#)

Boulder Area Teacher Workshop

Boulder Valley School District teachers held a [Modeling Workshop](#) at NCAR on February 13, which was moderated by Lisa Gardiner and Randy Russell. The overall theme of the day was modeling with presentations on climate and atmospheric modeling. The workshop also included contributions from teachers who use modeling in a variety of disciplines in their classrooms.



NASA Discovery/New Frontiers Program Educator Workshop

On March 7, SciEd Director John Ristvey hosted, and co-facilitated, a professional development workshop for educators at UCAR. This event was held concurrently at four locations around the country (the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, and UCAR). The NASA workshop featured a day of hands-on, standards-aligned activities around a theme: designing a mission to explore the solar system and engineering from NASA Discovery Program missions. To learn more, click [here](#).

AirWaterGas Teacher Professional Development

On March 7, Lisa Gardiner and Becca Hatheway continued the [AirWaterGas](#) teacher professional development program (on the implications and impacts of oil and gas development) with an onsite session. The year-long program, which is an NSF-funded component of the Sustainability Research Network Project at the University of Colorado, began on October 3, 2014. During the program, a cohort of eight middle school and high school science teachers will be deepening their understanding of climate change, energy issues, and the environmental impacts of oil and gas development in Colorado via three online courses and a residency at UCAR during July 2015.

National Engineers Week with Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES)

On February 24, John Ristvey and Randy Russell presented at CABPES with educational activities during Engineering Week (E-Week 2015). The SciEd team shared activities to students related to Civil Engineers' work in planning a virtual "Mission to Titan: Engineering in the Atmosphere," including a dropsonde design tester, a computer-based lab featuring a virtual weather balloon, and animations of NOAA dropsondes in action during a flight through a hurricane.

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[Tweets by @AtmosNews](#)

THE UCP PULSE

Unidata News



Unidata Staff Head Back to the Classroom

On February 5, 2014, three Unidata Program Center staff members paid a visit to Professor Sam Ng and his collaborator Chris Kimmitt at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). We had the opportunity to sit in on Professor Ng's "Weather Analysis Techniques" course for undergraduate meteorology majors in the MSU department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

MSU Denver is the recipient of one of Unidata's 2014 [Community Equipment Awards](#). Their proposal solicited funds to update the meteorology program's Local Data Manager (LDM) server to better handle current data loads and also serve as a beta-test site for the AWIPS II Environmental Data EXchange (EDEX) server, giving students the opportunity to the National Weather Service's most up-to-date forecasting and weather analysis software package. The grant also funded upgrades to the MSU Denver meteorology department's computer lab, allowing students to access the AWIPS II CAVE client and improving 3-D visualization performance for Unidata's Integrated Data Viewer (IDV).

While it was exciting to see how students at MSU Denver are benefitting from the equipment purchased as a result of a Unidata Community Equipment Award, the visit was also an opportunity for Ng and Kimmitt to bring up difficulties they were experiencing with their installation. Specifically, they had been having trouble with data ingest into their new EDEX server, and asked UPC staffer Jeff Weber if he could help.



MSU Denver Professor Sam Ng walks students through use of Unidata's IDV to visualize current atmospheric conditions.

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)[Calendar of Events](#)[Climate Voices News](#)[COMET News](#)[COSMIC News](#)[GLOBE News](#)[JOSS News](#)[SciEd News](#)[Unidata News](#)[VSP](#)

THE UCP PULSE

VSP News



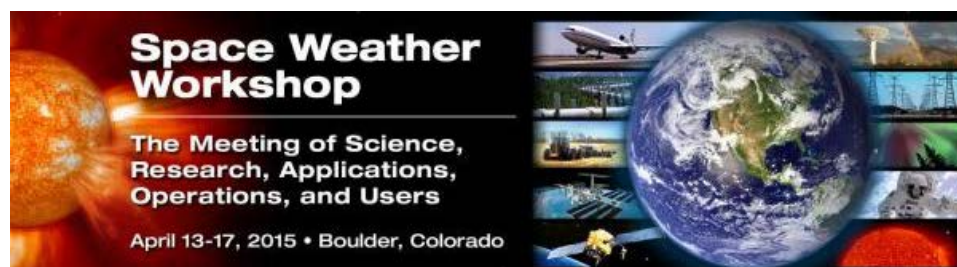
69th Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference (IHC), Charleston, South Carolina
(Supported by the UCAR Visiting Scientist Programs Jacksonville, Florida – March 2-5, 2015)



A Review of the Nation's Hurricane Forecasting and Warning Program: The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) hosted an annual forum for the responsible Federal agencies, together with representatives from the academic research community, industry, and other user communities such as emergency management, to review the Nation's hurricane forecasting and warning program and to make recommendations on how to improve the program in the future.

In 2015, in lieu of the traditional IHC, the OFCM held a forum—the Tropical Cyclone Research Forum (TCRF)—with the goal of educating attendees on the status and future plans of the Nation's hurricane forecasting and warning program, particularly as they relate to tropical cyclone research programs and priorities. For more information, click [here](#).

Space Weather Workshop



VSP is pleased to announce that the [registration](#) and hotel lodging website for the Space Weather Workshop (April 13-17)

The UCP Pulse February 2015

[From the "Guest" Director](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Climate Voices News](#)

[COMET News](#)

[COSMIC News](#)

[GLOBE News](#)

[JOSS News](#)

[SciEd News](#)

[Unidata News](#)

[VSP](#)

in Boulder is now available! You will be able to register, book your hotel lodging, and access local Boulder information.

Space Weather Workshop is an annual conference that brings industry, academia, and government agencies together in a lively dialog about space weather. What began in 1996 as a conference for the space weather user community, Space Weather Workshop has evolved into the Nation’s leading conference on all issues relating to space weather. For more information, click [here](#).

NEW Offsite VSP Employees

Barbara Emery-Geiger, Associate Scientist IV from the High Altitude Observatory (HAO), has joined VSP as a casual employee. She will act as the Science Adviser for the annual Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) Workshop. Her background is in upper atmosphere dynamics. Welcome!



New VSP Employee Barbara Emery-Geiger

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