Academic Affiliates

The Academic Affiliates program (AAP) is comprised of colleges and universities which grant Bachelors' and/or Masters' degrees in the atmospheric and related sciences, and was developed to provide the opportunity for these institutions to participate in the UCAR community's scientific and educational activities.
AAP MEMBERSHIP

1. Air Force Institute of Technology
2. University of Charleston
3. Clark Atlanta University
4. Jackson State University
5. University of Kansas
6. University of Louisiana at Monroe
7. Lyndon State College
8. Universidad Metropolitana
9. Millersville University of Pennsylvania
10. State University of New York at Brockport
11. University of North Dakota
12. Plymouth State University
13. Saint Cloud State University
14. San Francisco State University
15. San Jose State University
16. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
17. United States Naval Academy
18. Florida Institute of Technology (new)
Guests

- Rick Anthes (UCAR),
- Jack Fellows (UCAR/UOP)
- Tim Killeen (NCAR)
- Tim Spangler (COMET)
- Mohan Ramamurthy (Unidata/BHE)
- Kelvin Droegemeier (BOT, Chair)
- Shirley Malcom (BOT)
- Ron McPherson (AMS)
- Bob Henson (UCAR Newsletter)
Major Agenda Items

• AAP’s place in the re-competition of NCAR management (R. Anthes)
  – Currently in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year of cooperative agreement
  – Community building and engagement as a hallmark of UCAR
  – Importance of AAP involvement/inclusion in the proposal (don’t underestimate the importance of AAP)
  – The need for solid institutional support for inclusion in the proposal
  – Linkage between UCAR and NCAR would be impossible to re-create today (Kelvin)

• New interactions and opportunities b/w NCAR and AAP member institutions emerging from the reorganization (T. Killeen)
  – Update of NCAR Strategic Plan; call for input from AAP members
  – Five lab structure better for cross-cutting and support for research at the boundaries of traditional disciplines: New observations (e.g. HIAPER), Future of supercomputing, multi-scale weather-to-climate thrusts, including GIS, partnerships in hydrologic sciences

• Access to the NCAR Library for certain online subscriptions (Web of Science/Met Monographs) – the ongoing saga (J. Fellows)
  – Some progress was made toward providing access to the \textit{Web of Science} as a package deal for 100+ institutions (AAP and regular members), but it is laced with legal issues that are far from being resolved. Don’t yet ask for a username and pswd.
  – Overview of new initiatives within UOP
Major Agenda Items

• AMS Policy on the B.S. in Atmospheric Science/Meteorology (M. Ramamurthy)
  – Many suggestions came out of last year’s AAP meeting; some were incorporated into the policy statement
  – The policy statement over-specifies the curriculum without recognizing caps on total semester hours in degree programs at many universities
  – Wording on the math requirement doesn’t allow for math courses taught within the degree program or other innovative and yet equally rigorous approaches to the calculus/ODE sequence.
  – Technical writing, writing across the curriculum, recitation/problem solving components, and capstone courses were also discussed.
  – Tony Hansen will lead the development of a draft proposal to review the policy language to make it less rigid and more malleable while maintaining the rigor and comprehensiveness that is expected.
  – Several issues remained unresolved due to time limitations: AAPs will continue this discussion via email.

• The Radar Module and other COMET initiatives (T. Spangler)
  – COMET currently has available 300-350 hours of multi-media instruction free to educational institutions (20% of users are students and faculty)
  – Webcasts are being embedded in COMET modules – Jim Moore in Jet stream Circulations
  – Coming soon on a PC near you. The darling of undergraduate faculty: An interactive skew T-log p module. Look for it by the spring semester.
  – To get COMET announcements, register through the COMET homepage.
  – COMET Workshop in August (7th) 2006
  – COMET will Webcast the Radar Conference in ABQ and make the slightly edited version available via COMET MetEd – in lieu of a Radar Module, or maybe as a prelude to a Radar module. There is broad community support for a Web-based Radar module to replace the antiquated large-pizza sized laser disk of years ago.
Other Initiatives

• Mohan announced the next Unidata workshop which will be schedule in mid-June 2006. The theme will be: *Expanding the Use of Models in Higher Education*. Topics include models in GIS format; ensembling; WRF to IDV.

• Stemming from last year’s meeting came a request to organize the NCAR Webcasts onto a single, easily locatable, Web site (except for Unidata Webcast which are distributed via all_community listserv. Working with Eron Brennan and his staff, we can now get to all the NCAR Webcasts via

  http://www.ucar.edu/webcasts/

• Some institutions are building short courses around these Webcasts. Lyndon State, for example, is offering a noontime course where students and faculty use a Webcast to spawn discussion on a particular topic, and faculty are there to help interpret the content.

• AAP working with UCAR IT to expand real-time participation in NCAR seminars via Access Grid. Access grid, however, it not necessarily convenient or robust.
Special thanks to our guests and the UCAR staff, especially Susan Friberg and Susan Warner for assisting with meeting logistics.