

# CIMSS Education and Outreach

**E**ngaging the public concerning weather and climate is a lot like, well, weather and climate! Events for all seasons with something for everyone.

2011 Education and Outreach activities kicked off at CIMSS in January with two educator workshops on climate change, one during the workweek for pre-service teachers and naturalists from the Aldo Leopold Nature Center (ALNC) in nearby Monona, WI, and a second for school teachers held on a Saturday.



*11 January 2011 Workshop*

ALNC was gearing up for the opening of their new Climate Change Center. Participants from both workshops wanting to go deeper could take a web-based Global and Regional Climate Change course offered during the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) spring semester.

These workshops were followed by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) 10th Annual WeatherFest event in Seattle, a science fair for families. CIMSS featured the ever-popular weather applets on two touch-screen monitors and, for the second year in a row, the crowd-pleasing 3D globe with imagery and animations developed at SSEC.

*Rick Kohrs demonstrating the 3-D globe, displaying the Earth's climate and weather systems as they appear from space.*

The next event was a collaboration with the Federation for Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) and a Sally Ride Science Educator Institute which involved presenting at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in February followed by a webinar conducted from CIMSS in March.

The main event in April was an open house in conjunction with the campus-wide Science Expeditions where the UW-Madison welcomes learners and explorers of all ages to experience science as discovery. Visitors to our

building (Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences) got to do it all: view the globe, visit the Antarctic Meteorological Research Center, interact with the applets, tour the roof, you name it!

Next up was a web seminar specifically for National Weather Service (NWS) storm spotters on the topics of climate change, climate mitigation and emerging applications to access weather and climate data with mobile devices.

Nineteen storm spotters participated in this May event and eleven provided feedback via a follow-up survey. One attendee commented, "Thank-you for putting together this web seminar. As a



*Weather balloon launch facilitated by SSEC researcher Erik Olson.*



*Dave Jones answering questions on the roof.*

weather spotter, I found the information helpful, even humbling, to know climate change is already happening. Great job!!!"

From something brand new to a time-tested favorite: June featured the 19<sup>th</sup> annual CIMSS student workshop.

Ten future scientists from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and as far away as Connecticut, visited the UW-Madison

*Photos by Margaret Mooney, Patrick Rowley, and Mark Hobson.*



*Students, chaperones, and WKOW's Brian Olson pose in front of the green screen at WKOW-TV 27.*

campus for this popular “weather camp.”

Most events took place at the AOSS building with presentations and activities led by grad students, academic staff, senior scientists, faculty and NOAA researchers.

In addition, participating students also enjoyed field trips to Washburn Observatory, the UW-Madison Planetarium, WKOW-TV 27, Weather Central broadcast and media communications company, the National Weather Service, the UW-Madison Geology Museum, Devil's Lake, and a boat ride on Lake Mendota for a limnology dredging expedition.

Workshop graduates left significantly smarter about Earth System Science and infinitely wiser about future



*3D Globe displayed at the Wisconsin State Fair.*

college and career choices, especially the educational opportunities at the UW-Madison.

With support from NOAA, CIMSS organized a teacher workshop at the ESIP summer meeting in Santa Fe in July. The workshop's overall theme was Earth science education with an integral strand dedicated to climate literacy. Breakout sessions were led by ESIP members from NOAA, NASA, CIMSS, EPA and several Universities around the country.

Also in July was Grandparents University, where over a dozen UW-Madison alums and their grandchildren enrolled in the meteorology major held at AOSS. This is a fun and educational event with building-wide involvement.

Activities took place in the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Department's 14th floor computer lab, the CAVE (CIMSS Analysis and Visualization Environment), the 3D globe room and the roof.

August was UW-Madison Day at the Wisconsin State Fair. CIMSS/SSEC was there too!

In September, students on field trips from local schools learned about CIMSS/SSEC data via the 3D Globe and the weather applets during the first annual Wisconsin Science Festival's “Street Fair” at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery.

And while the calendar year was winding down, outreach was still going strong with participation at the NOAA NPOESS Preparatory Project (NPP) Educator's Launch in October. The conference was held in conjunction with the NPP satellite launch at Vandenberg Air



*Margaret Mooney at Grandparents University.*



*Patrick Rowley uses the 3D Globe and Applets to explain weather and climate processes and remote sensing data visualization at the Wisconsin Science Festival.*

Force Base in Lompoc, California. With approximately 100 teachers from across the country at the workshop, CIMSS staff led sessions showcasing CIMSS Online Satellite Applications, including Satellite Applications in Geoscience Education for grades 7-12, and Satellite Observations in Science Education.

**Margaret Mooney  
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