

*The Cooperative Institute for Research  
in Environmental Sciences (CIRES)*

**Annual Report  
on NOAA Cooperative Agreement NA67RJ0153**

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Susan K. Avery, Director  
Paul D. Sperry, Executive Director

University of Colorado at Boulder  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Boulder, CO

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CIRES as a joint institute between the University of Colorado and NOAA by definition establishes links between many different units in both organizations. It is the largest of seven institutes within the University of Colorado system and maintains eight departmental plus three programmatic affiliations on campus. The various departments can be thought of as providing the academic foundation for the *disciplinary* research we conduct within CIRES. The university programs tend to be academic activities that focus along *interdisciplinary* themes. As the largest of the eleven NOAA Cooperative or Joint Institutes, CIRES maintains a close affiliation with nine NOAA laboratories, most within the Boulder community.

CIRES is internally structured into both divisions and centers. The four divisions tend to group themselves along *disciplinary* lines and include:

- Atmospheric and Climate Dynamics
- Cryospheric and Polar Processes
- Environmental Chemistry and Biology
- Solid Earth Sciences

The five centers are intended to cross traditional boundaries to facilitate *interdisciplinary* research and include:

- Center for Limnology
- Center for the Study of Earth from Space
- Climate Diagnostics Center
- Colorado Center for Chaos and Complexity
- National Snow and Ice Data Center (World Data Center)

CIRES currently has over five hundred employees distributed between Fellows, graduate students, undergraduate students, research scientists, associate scientists, and administrative staff. This distribution when broken down by affiliation reveals that approximately half of the organization is associated or affiliated with NOAA laboratories, while the remaining half is associated with university laboratories.

CIRES is continuing to develop its *K-12 Outreach Program* that has already been recognized as an exemplary model by a scientific research institute. Its projects are of high quality and combine rigorous science with innovative learning practices. Ongoing projects include professional development for K-12 teachers, classroom presentations for students, mentoring and partnership programs with teachers and students, and undergraduate course development for pre-service teachers at the University. CIRES

hosted this year's Colorado regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl and is closely interacting with NOAA and CU public affairs and outreach staff.

Rather than individually list all research activities, we have chosen to highlight some of our major research initiatives and the more interesting developments of the previous year. NOAA's recent review of CIRES provides a more detailed summary of scientific accomplishments over the past few years. A list of recent CIRES publications and presentations is also attached.

## **WESTERN WATER ASSESSMENT**

The Western Water Assessment is a highly interdisciplinary program being facilitated by CIRES that will closely integrate with NOAA's existing assessment programs. Formal collaborations have expanded during the year and now include NOAA's Climate Diagnostics Center (CDC) and National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC), the University of Colorado departments of Geography and Economics, the Institute of Behavioral Sciences (IBS), the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), the Natural Resources Law Center (NRLC), the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), and various groups within CIRES. The primary scientific areas of focus include 1) Environmental Quality, 2) Social Science and User Needs Assessment, and 3) Climate Variability, Snowpack and Applied Hydrology.

During its first year, the program conducted a seminar series that brought together scientists from multiple disciplines, water managers, and other stakeholders. In addition, a climate variability and water resources conference was held to review the current status of hydroclimatic science and technology, water management and water policy as they relate to the Interior West. It also sought to project future developments in these fields, especially as related to improved capability for prediction of climate variation. CDC also held several workshops to present NOAA forecasts, experimental products, and an overview of ENSO-related climate variability in the West to water managers. Ongoing work is focusing on South Platte basin user identification, involvement, and outreach with collaborative research across a wide spectrum of natural and social sciences. Assessment components are addressing user needs, climate, hydrology, water quality, environment, and social vulnerabilities.

## **PREDICTION OF CLIMATE VARIABILITY**

CIRES scientists contributed substantially to understanding and predicting seasonal-to-interannual climate variability through a wide range of diagnostic and modeling studies. Published studies examined fundamental topics such as: 1) the effects of the seasonal cycle on the response to tropical forcing, 2) asymmetries and non-linearities in the extratropical response to forcing from El Niño and La Niña, 3) the effects of the 1997-98 El Niño on individual storms, 4) effects of mid-latitude sea surface temperatures on extratropical predictability, and 5) the relationships between tropical heating and U.S.

precipitation. This research has contributed substantially to improvements in existing climate forecast products and to the development of new forecast products within NOAA.

## **SPACE WEATHER MODELING**

“Variability” is the unifying theme for recent advances in ionospheric modeling by CIRES Scientists at NOAA's Space Environment Center (SEC). Maps of the electric field variability have been assembled representing one of the key drivers of the Earth's upper atmosphere. The use of these maps has shown the fundamental importance of electric field variability in shaping the global temperature and composition structure of the thermosphere. In a similar vein, a Coupled Thermosphere Ionosphere Model (CTIM) is being run in a near real-time operational mode to track the hour-by-hour changes in the ionosphere in response to geomagnetic activity. Capturing this aspect of variability is one of the fundamental challenges of the National Space Weather Program. Metrics have been developed and are being used to quantify the accuracy of these models.

The Department of Defense recently awarded one of their Multi-Disciplinary University Research Initiatives (MURI) to CIRES/NOAA. This is a multi-million dollar, five-year effort to develop a Global Assimilation of Ionospheric Measurements (GAIM) model. The universities involved in this work are the University of Colorado, Utah State University, University of Texas at Dallas and the University of Washington. The objective is to develop a global ionospheric model that would specify and forecast the space weather environment very much as numerical weather models assimilate data to forecast global meteorological weather.

## **CROP RELEASE OF REACTIVE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS**

During the past year, CIRES and NOAA scientists collaborated on new measurements of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are released from crop plants as a result of wounding. They developed an analysis technique using proton-transfer chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS) that allows online, simultaneous measurement of numerous VOCs without preconcentration or chromatography. They observed that the harvest or cutting of major crop species (clover, alfalfa) and urban grasses leads to a large release of VOCs. Much larger releases of VOCs were found when the cut vegetation dried. The reactive aldehydes released are the precursors of organic nitrates and ketones that become HO<sub>x</sub> sources in the middle atmosphere. It is thus predicted that cutting and drying of crops and lawns will contribute to long-range transport of reactive nitrogen species, impact regional ozone formation during the summer months, and also contribute to oxidant formation in the upper troposphere.

## **A METHOD TO DETECT SPACE-TIME PATTERNS IN HIGH DIMENSIONAL COMPLEX SYSTEMS**

CIRES scientists discovered a series of methods that allows space-time patterns in nonlinear complex systems to be characterized and revealed. Based upon Karhunen-Loeve techniques, these methods allow sets of patterns, corresponding to eigenstates, to be defined under various conditions. For example, one can detect the eigenstates corresponding to probabilities in a data set, or one can define eigenstates corresponding to frequencies of recurrence in the given data. A variety of forecast algorithms can then be constructed. One of them shows considerable promise when applied to real earthquake data from southern California.

## **ANTARCTIC ICE SHELVES BREAKING UP DUE TO DECADES OF HIGHER TEMPERATURES**

Two ice shelves on the Antarctic Peninsula known as the Larsen B and Wilkins are in "full retreat" and have lost nearly 3,000 square kilometers of their total area in the last year. Researchers at CIRES' *National Snow and Ice Data Center* (NSIDC) and the *British Antarctic Survey* attribute the retreats to a regional warming trend. The trend has caused the annual melt season to increase by 12 days to a total of 20 days over the last 20 years. Satellite photos monitored by NSIDC show that the Larsen B ice shelf has continued to crumble after an initial small retreat in spring 1998. In a series of events that began in November 1998, an additional 1,714 square kilometers of shelf area caved away. On the opposite side of the peninsula, the Wilkins Ice Shelf retreated nearly 1,100 square kilometers during early March of last year. The recent warming trend has led to greater amounts of ponding melt on the shelf further weakening it. Melt water at the surface acts to increase the extent of fracturing in the ice. The weight of the water essentially forces the cracks open, so a relatively small amount of climate warming can destroy a large, centuries-old ice shelf.

## **NEWTONIAN GRAVITY CONSTANT EXPERIMENT**

Recent determinations of the Newtonian gravity constant have produced values that differ by nearly 40 times their individual error estimates ( $>0.5\%$ ). CIRES and NOAA scientists conducted an experiment to resolve this situation by using laser interferometry to track the trajectory perturbation of a falling object in the presence of a one-half metric ton source mass. This experiment is the only laboratory determination of gravity that does not suspend the test mass from a support system, therefore it is free of many systematic errors associated with supports. The measured value of G was  $(6.6873 \pm 0.0094) \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ sec}^{-2}$ .

## **THE JOINT AIR-SEA MONSOON INTERACTION EXPERIMENT (JASMINE)**

The University of Colorado (CU) and the NOAA's Environmental Technology Laboratory (ETL) collaborated on a joint NOAA/NSF-sponsored study of monsoon interactions in the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. The JASMINE study is part of NOAA's *Global Ocean, Atmosphere, Land System* (GOALS) program, which also has a North American monsoon component. It was conducted aboard the NOAA *R/V Ronald H. Brown* and is the most comprehensive investigation of air-sea interactions ever done in this region. Groups from the University of Hawaii, the University of Washington, and CSIRO joined scientists from CU and ETL in Canberra, Australia to conduct the 40-day study. El Niño is the major source of interannual variability of the monsoons and it is hypothesized that air-sea interactions (particularly in the Indian Ocean) are one source of break and active periods within a given monsoon season. While information is sketchy, initial evidence suggests that the balance of physical processes driving both atmospheric deep convection and the upper-oceanic heat budget in the Indian Ocean are much different from those in the Pacific Ocean warm pool. There is thus considerable concern that numerical models optimized for the Pacific warm pool may not be effective when applied in the Indian Ocean. Data collected included direct measurements of air-sea fluxes, Doppler radar studies of monsoon convection with the ship's C-band radar, plus upper ocean budgets of heat, momentum, and salt and their response to the monsoon. The weather cooperated with the cruise plan and a complete set of measurements were obtained in both active and break monsoon periods.

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## HONORS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

**AKIN, Kenneth**

Received the Group Achievement Award for POLARIS Project Team

**AVERY, Susan**

Awarded *Elizabeth Gee Memorial Lectureship Award*

Appointed Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

**BENDICK, Rebecca**

Recognized for Outstanding Student Paper at the Fall AGU Meeting in San Francisco

**BILHAM, Roger**

Elected to Fellowship in the American Geophysical Union at the Fall Meeting in San Francisco

**BURGDORF, Catherine**

Received Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion "stellar support recognition

**COPLEY, Shelley**

Received Mortar Board Honor Society Outstanding Professor Award

**COSTA, David**

Received a NOAA Outstanding Performance Award

**DUTTON, Geoffrey**

Received NOAA Outstanding Science Papers of the Year award

Received NASA Group Achievement Award for POLARIS campaign

**FREI, Allan**

Selected as a finalist for the Association of American Geographers 1998 Nystrom Award

**GAO, Ru-shan**

Received NOAA/ERL Outstanding Scientific Paper award (co-author)

**GOTTAS, Daniel**

NOAA/ETL Certificate of Recognition for outstanding contributions meeting the data management and analysis needs

Received NOAA/ETL/ET7 Team Achievement for CALJET

**HOLLOWAY, John**

Presented an invited talk to an undergraduate colloquium at Fort Lewis College in Durango

**HAN, Yong**

NOAA/ETL Certificate of Recognition for contributions to the DOE Atmospheric Radiation Measurements Program

**HAYES, Patrick**

Part of team that received a bronze medal for NOAA/NASA Pathfinder work



**HAYS, William**

Keynote Speaker, 6th ECOD Workshop, Sundvolden, Norway  
Keynote Speaker, 2nd European Paleontological Congress, Vienna, Austria

**HOLCOMBE, Troy**

Received Chandler-Misener Award for scientific paper on research on Lake Erie

**HURST, Dale**

Received NASA Group Achievement Award for POLARIS

**LANDER, James**

Recognized for outstanding and long term research contribution by the 7th  
International Conference on Natural and Man-made Hazards, Crete

**LEWIS, William**

Elected President, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography  
Received the Naumann-Thiemann Medal, Int'l Society for Pure and Applied  
Limnology, Dublin, Ireland

**MAPES, Brian**

Received Editor's Award from the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*

**MARCHBANKS, Richard**

NOAA recognition for critical contributions to ETL

**MILLER, Leroy**

Received an NSF International Research Fellow Award

**MILLER, Tim**

Served as CIRES representative for the Colorado Combined Campaign

**MOORE, Fred**

Received NASA Group Achievement Award as a POLARIS Project Team member

**OSTROVSKY, Lev**

Received an Orson Andersen Fellowship for 6 months research at Los Alamos  
National Laboratory  
Included in the 1998-99 edition of Strathmore's Who's Who  
Included in the new editions of Marcius' Who's Who in the World; Who's Who in  
America; and Who's Who in Science and Engineering  
Included in the reference book "Renowned Russians"

**PERSSON, Ola**

Received NOAA Silver Medal Award as lead scientist for CALJET research team

**RAVISHANKARA, A.R.**

Awarded the 1998 Polanyi Medal from the Faraday Division of the Royal Society  
of Chemistry, United Kingdom

**RAY, Eric**

Received NASA Group Achievement Award for POLARIS Project Team

**ROMASHKIN, Pavel**

Received NASA Group Achievement Award for POLARIS

**ROSENLOF, Karen**

Received the 1998 NOAA/ERL Outstanding Paper Award  
Presented an ozone research lecture at Bear Creek Elementary

**SEFFF, Christoph**

Received NOAA/ETL recognition for outstanding performance

**SHERIDAN, Patrick**

Received Letter of Appreciation from editors of Geophysical Research Letters and Journal of Geophysical Research for quality of manuscript reviews

**SMIRNOVA, Tatiana**

Received FAA Aviation Weather Research Program award (RUC/MAPS Implementation group)

**SPEISER, Theodore**

Served as a Judge for Best Student Posters, Fall AGU Meeting in San Francisco

**SPERRY, Paul**

Listed in Who's Who in Science and Engineering

**SPETZLER, Hartmut**

Awarded 3-month fellowship from Alexander von Humboldt foundation in Germany

One of CU faculty honored during Spring Academic Recognition

**THOMPSON, Sarah**

Received "Stellar" support recognition

**THOMSON, David**

Award for one of top three posters, Research and Development category, National Instruments Worldwide Conference on Measurement and Automation

**VARANI, Annette**

Awarded Editor Seat of the AM-1 outreach web site, study section, Earth Observer, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

**VÖMEL, Holger**

Received NASA Group Achievement Award for OMS/POLARIS

**WAHR, John**

Awarded *Vening Meinesz* medal from the Universities of Utrecht and Delft, The Netherlands

**WEIL, Jeffrey**

Chosen to serve as Chairman, AMS Committee on the Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution

**WHITE, Allan**

Received Department of Commerce Silver Medal, ET7 Division Achievement for CALJET

**ZHANG, Lingling**

Recognized by NOAA for work in the Cloud Radar Project

**ZAVOROTNY, Valery**

Listed in Marquis "Who's Who in Science and Engineering", 1998-99

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

**ANGEVINE, Wayne**

Gave a presentation to the Colorado Soaring Association, Ft. Collins

**ARGE, Charles**

Served as a judge at the Nederland Junior High School Science Fair

**ASNER, Gregory**

Served as consultant to Tropical Forest Foundation, Belem, Brazil

**BATES, Gary**

Volunteer at Boulder Energy Conservation Center

**BILHAM, Roger**

Presentation to CU Boulder Fine Arts on Seismology and Music

**CHESIRE, Laura**

Volunteer at Denver Art Museum

Volunteer for American Institute for Graphic Arts Halloween Fundraising event

**CHURCH, Lee**

Active member, Mile Hile United Way Charity Golf Tournament

**CORNWALL, Christopher**

Volunteer facilitator, Boulder County Health Department

**COSTA, David**

Serves as a volunteer firefighter and medic, Boulder Rural Fire Department

Presented a talk to a 5th grade class on the Arctic

Serves as a volunteer at Boulder City Channel 8

**CRONIN, Gregory**

Assisted with the Earth Systems Science Teachers Workshop

**DeCLERK, Karen**

Served as CIRES Colorado Combined Campaign Coordinator

Food bank volunteer for Boulder County AIDS Project

Served on Boulder Area Human Resources Association

**ERICSON, Renea**

Volunteer work with *United Parents of Denver*, a support group for premature and critically ill children

Received the Baby Steps Award from the *American Association for Premature Infants* for creation of the "Premie Purple Heart"

**EUBANK, Charles**

Served as a Science Fair judge at the Eisenhower Elementary School

**EVANS, Robert**

Provided instruction, data analysis, and information to the Total Ozone

Measurement Programs of Australia, South Africa, Argentina, and Norway

**FARLEY, Paul**

Boulder County Poultry Coordinator for 4-H and Extension Programs

Project Leader for 1998 Colorado Poultry Camp

Made presentations at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library and the Boulder Stamp Club

**FOZZARD, Richard**

Meritorious Typing award from the Western Stenographic Society

**FREHLICH, Rod**

Served on Board of the Village Arts Coalition in Boulder

**FRITZ, Richard**

Worked with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment during the 1997-1998, 1998-1999 high pollution season

Represented NOAA/ETL on the Boulder County Clean Air Consortium

Served as a Consortium judge at the Boulder Valley Science Fair

**GEORGE, Joanne**

Serving as treasurer of *Calico and Boots*, a non-profit group which performs traditional American dance for a wide variety of audiences

**GILLES, Mary**

Served as a judge for the Eisenhower Elementary School Science Fair

Service as lead judge of the Junior Physical Sciences Division, Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Served as a member of the All Science Team for judging of the entire Junior Sciences Division, Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

**GUENTHER, Douglas**

Served as an elementary school science fair judge

**HARTTEN, Leslie**

Served as science fair judge at both Eisenhower Elementary School and Horizons Elementary School in Boulder

Participated in a nature walk for CIRES "Take our children to work day"

Produced a display for the Limon CO Heritage Museum on climate of the eastern plains

**HAUSER, Rachel**

Presented information at a Science Career Day for middle school girls

**HAYES, Patrick**

Helped put the 1998 Teacher Guide online for the Globe Program

**HEINRICHS, John**

Served as a Participating Scientist in the NCAR LEARN program

Participant in planning sessions for Earthworks Workshop

**HELMIG, Detlev**

Continuing member of CIRES Bolder Boulder team

**HOLLOWAY, John**

Presented an invited talk to an undergraduate colloquium at Fort Lewis College in Durango

**JOBSON, Bertram**

Active coach for the Boulder Little League baseball

**KNOWLES, Ken**

Received Boulder County Commissioners Volunteer Grant Award

**KUCERA, Patrice**

Presented a weather demonstration to children on "Bring Your Child to Work Day"

**LONGFELLOW, Cheryl**

Developed Earth Systems high school science teachers Workshop  
Served as science fair judge, Burlington Elementary School

**LOUGHE, Andrew**

Taught "The Science of Weather" to third graders in the Adams County schools

**LUSK, Cynthia**

Served as science fair judge

**LYNCH, Amanda**

Assisted implementation of Earthworks Workshop for teachers of earth science, August 1998.

**MAPES, Brian**

Judged student contributions for the Max Eaton prize at the AMS Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology conference  
Active participant in K-12 Outreach

**MARCHBANKS, Richard**

NOAA recognition for critical contributions to ETL  
Served as judge at Martin Park Elementary K-5 Science Fair  
Created a web page for an educational outreach program

**MASARIE, Ken**

Routinely sing and play guitar in the St. Vrain and Boulder Valley elementary schools  
Serve as coach of U11 Interleague boys soccer, St. Vrain Youth Soccer Association

**MASLANIK, James**

Provided exhibit materials and text for CU Museum presentation on space-related research  
Provided interviews to network news reporters and appeared in network news footage of Arctic field work activities at the SHEBA ice camp  
Acted as a presenter at Geography Department Career Days

**MILLER, Tim**

Served as CIRES representative for the Colorado Combined Campaign

**MOORE, Andrew**

Authored 25 questions for use by the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, a national competition for American high school students

**NEUMAN, Andrew**

Serve as tour guide of the NOAA Aeronomy Lab and the NIST buildings for children from the Commerce Childcare Center

**NISHIYAMA, Randall**

Received 5 year service certificate  
Assist summer interns and high schools with scientific projects

**NOLIN, Anne**

Presented an Earth Systems Science Workshop to the science teachers of the St. Vrain school district (co-organizer)

**O'NEILL, Michael**

Made three presentations at local schools concerning research being done at CMDL's South Pole research station

**PENLAND, Cecile**

Served as Career Day speaker at Louisville Middle School

**SAUNDERS, James**

Assisted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, in support of TMDL model calibration  
Assisted Metro Wastewater Reclamation District in the planning and implementation of several studies of reaeration in the South Platte River  
Served as Science Fair judge at Foothill Elementary

**SERREZE, Mark**

Served as judge for Martin Park Elementary School science fair

**SIEVERS, Robert**

Exhibited in Loveland's annual "Sculpture in the Park", August 1998  
Exhibited sculpture at ARS NOVA concerts, 2 Boulder churches, December 1998

**SIGREN, Beth**

Serve as an instructor in CU's Continuing Education Program

**SJODIN, Arne**

Assisted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, in support of TMDL model calibration

**SMIRNOVA, Tatiana**

Received FAA Aviation Weather Research Program award (RUC/MAPS Implementation group)

**SMITH, Catherine**

Contributed to Boulder School District Watershed Project

**SPERRY, Paul**

Judge for the regional Science Fair.

**STEVERMER, Amy**

Participant in plenary sessions for the Women and Girls in Science Roundtable program, Boulder County YWCA

**SUEPER, Donna**

Served as an elementary and middle school Science Fair Judge

**VÖMEL, Holger**

Made Antarctic presentation for Hodgkins Middle School  
Participated in Science Discovery Program at Flatirons Elementary school

**WEAVER, Alexandra**

Made 26 presentations for classrooms and public audiences outside the CU system

Made 4 presentations specifically for teachers outside the CU system

Chosen as Keynote speaker at the Girls and Women in Science Conference, Beloit College, Wisconsin

Served as Science Fair judge at Burlington Elementary school

Taught two courses in the adult education program, Boulder Valley School District

**WILLIAMS, Susan**

Elected to the Board of Directors of the Wild Bear Science School, Nederland CO; providing scientific guidance and helping to establish a Nature Center for Nederland