

Annual Report – 2006-2007 – Weather Center – Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology (PAM) Department

Initiatives

The Weather Center has plans to initiate a climate diagnostic tool that will issue seasonal advisories for the Northeastern region on real-time. Another initiative related to the implementation of numerical weather prediction in collaboration with IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center. Both initiatives are contingent upon the upgrading of the computing capacity at the Weather Center, a task that is currently being undertaken by the University Computing.

The contact with IBM Research Center was established following the First Tri-State Weather Conference that was organized by Professor Eisenson, the then-Acting Director of the Weather Center.

The Center installed a state-of-the-art “Wall of Monitors” (AV System).

The Weather Center continues to maintain an instrument package on the roof of the Science Building along with a camera that is accessible both on the university website as well as <http://achieve.weatherbug.com/>. Current and historical data is available.

School Initiatives

The October event was a success. The Meteorology Program (represented by Rob Eisenson and Albert Owino) met parents and prospective students, and a number of prospective students expressed the wish to join the program at Western Connecticut State University. Following the event, a student, Raymond Luvara, from Trumbull CT, began an internship in the Weather Center in October 2006.

Assessment

MTR 370 – Internships Curricular changes were made this year in order to include the Center as a possible venue for internships which were previously taken at off-campus sites. The proposal already has advanced through both the Program Review Committee (A&S), and the university-level committee, CUCAS. We await administrative approval.

General Education

Eight students took part in the weather lab during this academic year. This lab that offers meteorology students the opportunity to prepare and disseminate weather information to the public and various newspapers on real-time basis enhancing the education received in classroom.

Faculty Staffing Changes

Albert Owino was appointed Director of Weather Center; this change which went into effect on August 28, 2006.

Student and Faculty Honors

Outside the university, Austin Greenfield is employed at Radio 80, WLAD.

Gary Lessor, Assistant Director of the Center got a Public service Award from the Governor's office for over 20 years' Community Service on elections. The Attorney-General's office has retained Gary Lessor as expert witness in the case of Addario vs State of Connecticut.

Alumni & Community

High school junior Vicki Feyk finished training in the Weather Center. She also participated in the October Weather Day event, giving information to attendees. She will be coming back to the Center in June 2007. Vicki's ambition is to learn advanced forecasting and tracking tornadoes.

Outstanding Faculty

The First Tri-state Weather Conference was a success. Future conferences are likely and will be held in conjunction with the Center.

Albert Owino presented his initial research on the development climate diagnostics (Hurricanes) in the 10th CSU Faculty Research Conference.

Service to region

The Weather Center web site is updated throughout each day to provide updated weather forecasts for the university community and throughout the Greater Danbury area.

The Center provides daily forecasts for the following clients:

- New Haven Register,
- New London Day,
- Waterbury Republican,
- Meriden Record Journal, and
- Schenectady Gazette.

Other clients include:

- United Illuminating and
- Boehringer Ingelheim.

The Center also is called upon by numerous attorneys and state officials to provide reports on weather conditions. Their interests are related to the weather and how it relates to ongoing litigation.

The Center provided tours to over 300 students of elementary school age in surrounding towns for first-hand weather production to newspapers, television and radar observations. Students had the experience on television production during such tours.

In an effort to enhance the visibility of the Center in the region, the Center is working in partnership with the Public Relations Department of the university.

WLAD and the Weather Center internships for radio broadcasting continue.

The Center also is planning to get a clearer Business and Marketing Plan for the upcoming academic year.