JCET NEWS

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SPRING 2014

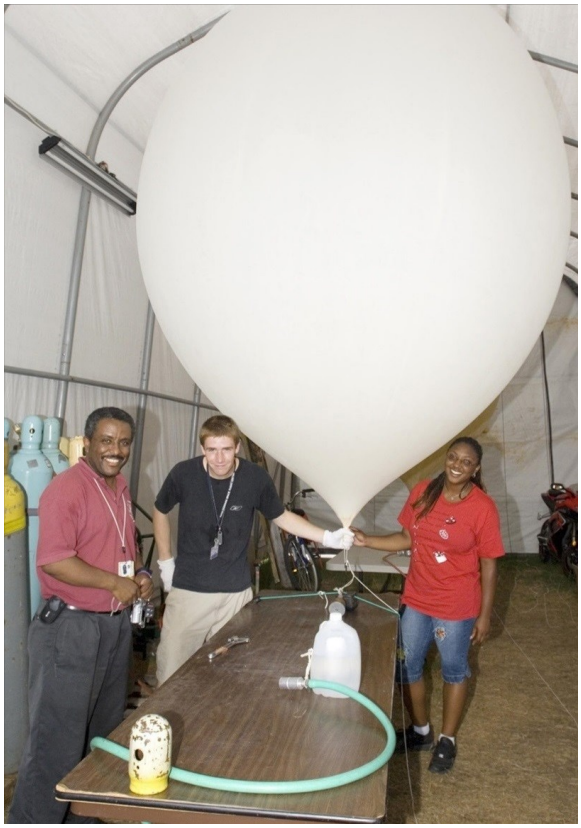
JCET has a new Director!

After a long search, JCET is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Belay Demoz as its new director. Dr. Demoz will also hold the position of Professor of Physics.

Dr. Demoz was one of the first JCET'ers back in 1998 (Faculty in the Department of Physics), and fondly remembers the early discussions with Harvey Melfi, Steve Platnick, and others molding the vision for JCET.

Dr. Demoz has his own vision for JCET to look for innovative ways to grow and strengthen the center. "I strongly believe that technology is what makes JCET unique and it should play a larger role in UMBC's story," said Belay in his vision statement to UMBC (2/25/14). He believes technology is important to JCET's growth because there will be a need for individuals trained in measurement-modeling-analysis. Technology opportunities also provide great hands-on learning and mentoring opportunities for undergraduate students.

Dr. Demoz comes to us from Howard University where he was Professor of Physics and Atmospheric Science. He also served as a NASA Scientist from 2002 to 2008. Dr. Demoz holds a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Physics and his M.Sc. in Atmospheric Science from the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada-Reno and a B.Sc. in Physics from the Asmara University, Eritrea, East Africa.



Belay Demoz with students readying instruments for balloon launch to study the atmosphere. Photo: Belay Demoz

Dr. Demoz has come full circle and is proud to join JCET once again after more than a decade.

"I'm very happy to come back to JCET/UMBC in the footsteps of the two great directors/mentors and help guide its future vision."

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"We are delighted to have Dr. Demoz join our team to further strengthen JCET's research and academic mission," said Ms. Danita Eichenlaub, JCET's Administrative Director.

Dr. Demoz will begin his appointment on August 1, 2014.

Let's give Dr. Demoz a warm welcome back to JCET!

Congratulations!

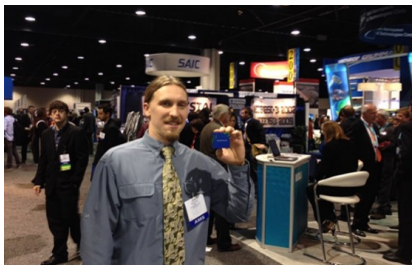
• Fred Huemmrich (PI) and Petya Campbell (Co-I) have received a grant from the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) to monitor behavior (carbon fluxes and efficiency of light use) of terrestrial vegetation under varying environmental conditions. Results may improve the understanding of ecosystem responses to environmental stress.

• Bian Huisheng received a grant from USRA to study the impacts of aviation emissions on surface air quality.

• Dan Miller (UMBC graduate student under Dr. Zhibo Zhang) has been selected for the highly competitive NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) for modeling and research of cloud three dimensional structure.

• The 2014-15 JCET Graduate Fellowship was awarded to Alexandra St. Pé (Department of Geography & Environmental Systems) for "Bridging the Science and Policy Divide: Using Doppler Wind Lidar to Support Maryland Renewable Energy Policy."

• JCET graduate students win awards:
- John Sullivan's presentation was selected as the best poster in the 18th Joint Conference on the Applications of Air Pollution Meteorology at the 94th AMS Meeting in Atlanta, GA.



- Adriana Lima-Roche received the Atmospheric Sciences Outstanding Student Paper Award at the AGU Fall meeting in San Francisco, CA.

• Laurie Cook graduated May 17th with her D.Ed. in Science Education. She now joins JCET as Faculty Research Assistant.

• Howard Motteler has rejoined JCET as an Associate Research Scientist.

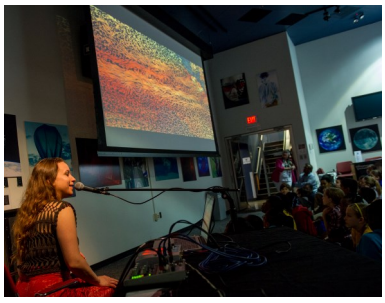
• Christopher Shuman is now affiliated with the Department of Geography and Environmental Systems.

• Promotions: Both Ruben Delgado and Glenn Wolfe have been promoted to Assistant Research Scientists.

Other news

Beautiful Earth plays at Goddard

The Beautiful Earth Program (NASA grant) led by JCET's Valerie Casasanto was held June 5, 2014 at the Goddard Visitor Center. The STEM education program utilizes a three-pronged approach of multi-media, science, and hands-on to inspire and engage students into STEM. The program included a live performance of the multimedia show 'Bella Gaia' by world vocalist Kristin Hoffman with NASA visualizations of Earth from space. Dr. Bryan Duncan (NASA Aura Mission Deputy Project Scientist), gave a talk on the Science on a Sphere. Many hands-on activities followed including a Lego satellite building activity. An audience of 140 middle schoolers and their teachers and parents took part in the event.



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