



# JCET NEWS

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## Bringing Earth data down to Earth

It is not widely known that NASA conducts Earth Science with satellites orbiting the Earth and collecting data, let alone provides free access to its data for use by policy makers and individuals. At a recent event “Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) in the Americas: Earth Observations to Benefit Society,” participants from an array of Latin American countries had the opportunity to learn how they can become involved with GEOSS and to discuss their needs for earth observations from space.

The event was held on August 6th at NASA Headquarters, and JCET’s Dr. Ana Prados was a co-coordinator and presenter of NASA and NOAA science data and programs, including the Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET). Since she began managing the ARSET program in 2008, Dr. Prados has been working hard to facilitate use of NASA resources for environmental management in Latin America. She has provided hands-on trainings through the ARSET program in Costa Rica and Colombia and more activities are planned in Colombia for 2015. Four summer JCET interns have supported the ARSET program thus far, and the most recent UMBC student, David Barbato, joined the ARSET team to focus on translation of materials into Spanish.

Dr. Prados work focuses on training non-remote sensing experts on how to access and apply NASA’s data for their needs. Examples of these are how to manage flooding in Colombia or how



**Fires burning across the Yucatan Peninsula and Central America taken by the Aqua Satellite (Photo: NASA).**



**Floods in Colombia, 2011**

to monitor smoke from forest fires in the U.S.

NASA’s Administrator, Charles Bolden, attended and took part in a panel discussing Latin American countries’ needs for air quality and disaster management, to name a few. Dr. Prados’ panel discussed existing GEOSS programs led by NASA and other Federal Agencies.

“As a result of this event, several countries have already come back to us wanting to collaborate.” There are many ways for a country to participate. Individuals can attend workshops given by Dr. Prados and the ARSET team on how to access free NASA data. Another option is NOAA’s GEONETCast where a country can install a receiving station, at a cost of only US \$ 5,000—

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10,000. After that, the receiving broadcast is free and it includes NASA and NOAA data on weather, environment, climate and disasters.

According to Dr. Prados, “the next step is to strengthen these collaborations and seek further ways to build

their capacity to use NASA data in their everyday activities. We are planning activities in Colombia in 2015 and will continue to translate ARSET materials into Spanish.”

## Congratulations!

### Awards

- Dan Miller receives NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) award: “Investigating the Effects of 3-D Cloud Structure” under the direction of Dr. Zhibo Zhang.
- Dr. Larrabee Strow wins ROSES proposal on AIRS Forward Model Improvements.
- Dr. Glenn Wolfe wins ROSES proposal jointly with University of Maryland College Park as part of the Atmospheric Chemistry Campaign Data Analysis and Modeling (ACCDAM) call to leverage formaldehyde measurements to improve air quality

models and satellite-driven emission estimates.

- Drs. Zhibo Zhang and Pengwang Zhai are Co-I’s on a recent ROSES call “Pre-Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) Science Team (ST).

### Honors

- Dr. Lorraine Remer is listed along with other NASA researchers in Thomson Reuters “The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds 2014.”

### Events

- Ms. Michelle Graf, Dr. Laurie Cook and Dr. Susan Hoban conducted a NASA’s BEST

(Beginning Engineering, Science and Technology) robotics training at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, WA September 15-18.

### Welcome to JCET

- Dr. Scott Rabenhorst has officially moved from the Physics Department to JCET.

### Departures

- We wish Dr. Elena Georgieva well in her new NASA civil servant position.
- Dr. Tilak Hewagama has moved to a full time position at University of Maryland, College Park.

## Upcoming Events

### NASA’s BEST offers Professional development workshops for Educators

The NASA’s BEST team led by Dr. Susan Hoban, is offering a series of free educator professional development events at the UMBC telescope this fall. The next session is on November 20th from 7-9 PM. The sessions are designed to introduce educators to important, fundamental STEM concepts and skills delivered in an engaging environment. NASA’s BEST team will share NASA educational resources for supporting the classroom teacher in creating hands-on and minds on

lessons that develop STEM habits of mind. For information on other sessions, visit: <http://jcet.umbc.edu/?id=46706>

### Graduate Student Seminars

Join our next seminar at UMBC on 10/28 by Reed Espinosa on “Open Imaging Nephelometer Scattering Measurements from the 2014 DISCOVER-AQ Field Mission.” View remaining seminars on JCET’s website: <http://jcet.umbc.edu/?id=46109>.



Joint Center for Earth Systems  
Technology (JCET)

5523 Research Park Drive  
Suite 320  
Baltimore, MD 21228  
410-455-8812

Inquiries/comments, contact:

Valerie Casasanto  
vcasa@umbc.edu

[Jcet.umbc.edu](http://jcet.umbc.edu)