



# JCET NEWS

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## JCET Receives Cooperative Agreement Renewal!

The Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology (JCET) has been awarded a five year renewal of its cooperative agreement with the NASA Goddard Earth Sciences Division. The agreement is expected to bring up to \$46 million to the JCET program and UMBC over the next five years.

JCET, now in its 20th year of operation, was started as an idea by Dr. Harvey Melfi (Professor Emeritus, Physics), Dr. Larrabee Strow (Physics), Dr. Howard Motteler (Computer Science) and Dr. Tim Foresman (Geography), some 20 years ago to provide a bridge between NASA and academia. The Center has become a model of successful collaboration with NASA Goddard to provide research faculty to NASA as well as educational and research opportunities to UMBC students. Through the years, JCET has brought leading scientists to UMBC in research areas that align with NASA's Earth science interests, such as climate and radiation, atmospheric chemistry and dynamics, and solar system sciences, including geophysics.

JCET Director, Dr. Belay Demoz, was among the early original JCET Faculty members. Dr. Demoz reminisces about the early days of JCET and the vision of this unique center. He recalls a dinner outing near Ponca City, OK, with Dr. Melfi and discussing the idea of JCET when Dr. Melfi was contemplating early retirement buyout from NASA Goddard. Dr. Melfi took the buyout and bought a convertible Mazda Miata and became JCET's first Director. "I'm not sure where the Miata is but JCET is surely alive and well. It's amazing that 20 years has passed! I'm very fortunate to be associated with JCET."

Since 1995, JCET has come a long way growing its faculty by three-fold, increasing its research areas, and contributing to a vibrant undergraduate and graduate atmospheric physics program. Dr. Demoz is proud that the center has grown so much and pleased that NASA Goddard has extended JCET's renewal for another 5 years. "I look forward to a fruitful five years and many more vibrant and productive years for JCET!"

In a recent video address congratulating the JCET community, UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski sums it up well. "All of this is building the university and giving us a chance to think about not only who we are today but who we can become. We know that the next 20 years is going to be brighter than what we might have even imagined in 1995 because of the work of you as first rate scientists and engineers...the future is even better than the past or the present and it's because of what you are doing and we simply wanted to say thank you."

<http://tinyurl.com/olw9xc7>

## Events

### Explore at NASA Goddard Day

Goddard opened its doors to the public on Saturday, September 26th with approximately 20,000 visitors. Several JCET folks volunteered at the event. Dr. Jasper Lewis (pictured below) assisted with hands-on activities at the Global Precipitation Mission (GPM) booth. The focus of the activity



was on the water cycle and how satellites such as GPM take measurements of precipitation from space.



Valerie Casasanto (Outreach Lead for the ICESat-2 Mission, pictured above) led a hands-on glacial putty race activity related to melting glaciers and the ICESat-2 Mission.

## Congratulations!

**Keith Evans** received an award for his excellent work in developing the Goddard SO<sub>2</sub> web page on September 25, 2015, at the NASA Goddard Contractor Awards Ceremony.

**Fred Huemmrich and Ali Tokay** have been re-affiliated with the Geography and Environmental Systems (GES) department.

**Simone Lolli** won a proposal from ACTRIS (Aerosols, Clouds, and Trace gases Research InfraStructure Network) entitled "MICROphysical characterization of cirrus clouds by Lidar and RADar instruments (MICROLIRA)." Simone Lolli, under the supervision of Earlinet PI Gelsomina Pappalardo, will study microphysical properties of cirrus clouds using Lidar, Radar and radiosondes.

**Jill Engel-Cox**, former JCET fellow, has a new position as Program Director for the Clean Energy Manufacturing Analysis Center (CEMAC), a new center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

## New JCET Faculty

**Dr. Adriana Rocha Lima** (former UMBC graduate student under Dr. Vanderlei Martins) has taken a Post-doc Research Associate Position at NASA Goddard with Peter Colarco in the Atmospheric Chemistry & Dynamics Laboratory (Code 614).



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