History of CIMMS

CIMMS 40th Anniversary
November 15, 2018
Jeff Kimpel, Emeritus
Origin of CIMMS

• NOAA Cooperative Institutes established with the founding of CIRES between NOAA and U. of Colorado in 1967.

• Bill Smith heads up a Washington DC NOAA satellite unit and moves it to U. of Wisconsin in 1976 to collaborate with SSEC and Vern Soumi. CIMSS formally established in 1980.

• Rex Inman meets with Bill Smith and works with NSSL to establish CIMMS at OU in 1978. Rex becomes first CIMMS Director.
CIMMS Directors

• Rex Inman 1978 – 1980
• Yoshi Sasaki 1980 – 1986
• Doug Lilly 1986 – 1991
• Pete Lamb 1991 - 2014
• Randy Peppler (Interim) 2014 – 2017
• Greg McFarquar 2017 - ??
Host Rex Inman (left), chairman of meteorology, and guest Peter MacDonald, '57 engr, at the National Severe Storms Lab on North Campus. MacDonald, the chief of the Navajo Nation, was

Douglas Lilly, left, and Yoshi Sasaki, meteorology
CIMMS Research Themes

• Weather Radar Research and Development
• Stormscale and Mesoscale Modeling Research and Development
• Forecast Improvements Research and Development

• Impacts of Climate Change Related to Extreme Weather Events
• Social and Socioeconomic Impacts of High Impact Weather Systems
Challenges of “Dual Citizenship”

• Issues
  • Shared equipment
  • Insurance -- who can drive?
  • Evaluation of CIMMS employees working at NOAA locations
  • IT support
  • Recompete: “Special Award Conditions” – no radar R&D

• More Issues
  • Illegal logo
  • NOAA can’t accept gifts but CIMMS can
  • CIMMS Advantage: can consult!
Other Organizations Born in CIMMS

• Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms (CAPS)
  • One of first NSF Science and Technology Centers – 1988
  • Doug Lilly PI, Kelvin Droegemeier Co-PI

• DOE Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program (ARM)
  • Studies role of clouds for climate modeling – 1991
  • Pete Lamb site-scientist for Great Plains facility in Lamont, OK
Closing Remarks

• In 40 years ago CIMMS staff and scientists grew from a handful to 195
• In 40 years CIMMS annual expenditures grew from few $100k to $19M
• CIMMS typically supports a third of SOM’s graduate students and 30-40 undergrads per year
• Currently 12 NOAA and 6 CIMMS scientists are adjunct faculty
• Federal scientists can submit proposals through OU

• CIMMS, the heart of the NWC

CIMMS is in good hands!