



To: Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Dr. Lee Williams, Dr. May Yuan, Dr. Jeff Kimpel, Dr. Pete Lamb, Dr. Ken Crawford

From: Dr. Eve Gruntfest, Director (egruntfest@ou.edu) and Heather Lazrus, (lazrus@ou.edu) Post-Doc

Re: **Social Science Woven into Meteorology** (SSWIM) Year One Report

Date: June 1, 2009

The passion for weaving social science inside and outside the National Weather Center is growing. We are pleased to summarize the first year of the Social Science Woven into Meteorology (**SSWIM**) program. Our work has two main components: capacity building and research. Eve and Heather revised the original workplan to develop three **SSWIM** documents: 1) the Strategic Plan with our guiding vision and mission, 2) the Activities report, and 3) the Living Road Map. These documents provide more details on our presentations, publications, workshops, outreach, and proposal activities (attached as pdfs and available at www.sswim.org).

The revised plans reflect the interests and specializations of Heather Lazrus, the new post-doc, and an appreciation of the growing interest in the integration of social science into the National Weather Center. **SSWIM** is committed to integrating a sustainable social science presence into weather and climate research and practice. As with other groups located in the National Weather Center, we are fostering partnerships within the building, across the University of Oklahoma campus, as well as nationally and internationally.

We have established an Advisory Council. Every person we asked to serve accepted our invitation (members listed in attached pdf). For the first year we depended on the advice from meetings and correspondence with Dr. Crawford, Dr. Kimpel and Dr. Lamb. We will actively engage our Advisory Council starting in fall 2009. We have broadly disseminated our one-pager (attached) to introduce **SSWIM** inside and outside the National Weather Center.

SSWIM Personnel

The **SSWIM** group is composed of a small but dynamic team with individual and complementary strengths and areas of expertise. We come from disciplines including geography, anthropology, communications, and meteorology.

-Dr. Eve Gruntfest

- Developed the proposal and budget with Dr. Ken Crawford
- Launched **SSWIM** on May 1, 2008
- Holds a .25 appointment
 - In residence in Norman 2008, 2009: June 16-20, September 1-30, December 1-5; February 1-28 and March 1-31 – 109 days
 - Actively works on **SSWIM** from her homebase in Colorado Springs

- Heather Lazrus

- Visited Norman in June 2008

- Signed the Post-doc offer letter July for 3-year appointment
- Began work as **SSWIM** Post-doc in Norman January 31, 2009
- Defended her dissertation at U. Washington May 14, 2009

-Gina Eosco

- OU Communication Ph.D. student .25 research assistant 08-09 academic year

-Monica Zappa

- Joins the **SSWIM** team as a .50 Ph.D. graduate research assistant August 2009 pursuing a Ph.D. in Geography at OU

SSWIM Proposal Activity Highlights

-Proposals written and funded

- Advanced WAS * IS Workshop: Beyond Storm-Based Warnings Communication of Probabilistic Hazard Information September 15-17, 2008, 50 stakeholders and forecasters working closely with Hazardous Weather Testbed: \$15,000 from NOAA Central Regional Team

-Proposals written and in review

- Integrating Social Science into Tsunami Research and Mitigation, NOAA, over 3 years: \$320,791
- International Science and Technology Linkage Fund with Geologic and Nuclear Sciences Group, Wellington, NZ: two years of travel funding
- Science and Technology Center, The National Center for Flood Research and Education: Living with Floods, with University of Iowa, National Science Foundation, over 5 years: \$305,911
- Response to calls for Stimulus funding possibilities: DELUGE (Disasters Evolving Lessons Using Global Experience) and others

SSWIM Conference Co-sponsorship

- NexGen Warning Services Workshop Norman, OK December 2-4, 2008 (with John Ferree)
- Consideration of Future Weather Workforce December 4, 2008 (with Quyen Arana – 40 participants - K 20 Center)

SSWIM Year One Highlights

The **SSWIM** team is actively promoting social science in weather and climate work. In our first year, our team has given more than two dozen presentations to University classes, professional societies, and academic meetings.

Eve Gruntfest builds on her 30-year career as a geographer who bridges social science, meteorology, hydrology and engineering. Some activity highlights include

- Chair of Board on Societal Impacts - American Meteorological Society (AMS)
- Member of President's Advisory Council on University Relations for UCAR
- Associate editor of *Journal of Flood Risk Management*
- Member of Editorial Board for AMS journal *Weather, Climate and Society*
- Co-directing WAS * IS (Weather and Society Integrated Studies through NCAR Societal Impacts Program)

- Planning with J.J. Gourley of NSSL and others to bring behavioral questions on flash floods to the Severe Hazards Analysis and Verification Experiment (SHAVE) program
- Developing the Flash Flood Risk Analysis Project – Interdisciplinary and interagency – (with NCAR, NWS Springfield) mapping – observation and monitoring protocols of daily risky travel patterns including mapping low water crossings
- Serving on graduate committees for OU Ph.D students Randy Pepler and Somer Erickson, OU Master’s Student Rachel Butterworth, U of Colorado Ph.D. Student Julie Malmberg, Advisor: U of Colorado Master’s Student Cedar League

Heather Lazrus broadens **SSWIM’s** scope by inviting anthropologists and other social scientists to consider climate and weather and to use new methodologies. Some highlights are

- Invited to advise the United Nations University Summer Academy in Munich
- Serving as a social scientist on the National Weather Service Assessment team evaluating NWS performance during the eruption of Mt. Redoubt in Alaska
- Participating in the American Meteorological Society Summer Policy Colloquium

SSWIM Year One Summary

SSWIM’s Year 1 has been filled with program initiation work, building partnerships, academic, governmental, and public outreach, and proposal writing. We are pleased that seeds have been planted that can yield strong sustainable well-rooted trees. Numerous excellent potential graduate students are considering work with **SSWIM** at OU. We expect that the growing relationship with the Hazardous Weather Testbed will yield numerous future fruitful partnerships between researchers, product developers, forecasters, and a wide variety of stakeholders.

SSWIM is building a strong reputation and momentum. In Year 2 we will add to our work with an emphasis on campus collaborations along with more writing and publishing. **SSWIM** will continue to respond to national calls for social science throughout NOAA and its partner agencies.

Thank you for supporting **SSWIM**. With your support for **SSWIM** we are confident that The National Weather Center will lead efforts to weave social science into the fabric of weather and climate research and practice.