

## ASLI News

June 2010

Welcome to the second issue in 2010 of ASLI News! In this issue, there are some updates about the upcoming 2011 ASLI Conference, a nice summary of the 2010 ASLI Field Trip in Atlanta, some ASLI Business news, and a couple of articles that may be of interest to our community. Also there is a list of new and upcoming atmospheric science titles. Enjoy!

### [Join the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Atmospheric Science Librarians International \(ASLI\) in Seattle, Washington!](#)

#### **CALL for PAPERS**

14th Conference of Atmospheric Science Librarians International (ASLI): Communicating Weather and Climate: Making the Most of the Information, 26–27 January 2011, Seattle, Washington.

Communication is a key component of the information world, and it can be seen in a variety of ways: from finding that elusive fact or article reference, to showcasing research or data collections available through both print and digital media, or taking a dataset, analyzing it and utilizing it to create a new resource. With the help of the internet and new technology, communication is now paramount, but is constantly evolving, altering how we search for, manage, and use the treasure troves of meteorological and climate data and information.

Check the ASLI listserv for the full call for papers announcement.

Please submit proposals electronically to: Kari A. Kozak; ASLI Chair-elect; University of Iowa Libraries, 453 Van Allen Hall; Iowa City, IA, 52242; ph: 319-335-3024; [kari-kozak@uiowa.edu](mailto:kari-kozak@uiowa.edu).

The deadline for receiving abstracts is October 1, 2010.

### [Chihuly and Coffee - Highlights from the ASLI Annual Meeting Field Trip, January 2010](#)

Judi Triplehorn once again planned an interesting and fun field trip for our annual meeting attendees. We visited two disparate local libraries. Our first visit was to the Library & Information Center of the Georgia Institute of Technology (a.k.a. Georgia Tech). Following that, we toured the library and facilities of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. A fun time was had by all and we learned some interesting things along the way. Any field trip that wraps up with a stop at a gift shop is a winner in my view! Some highlights from our visits follow.

- Linda Musser

## **Georgia Tech**

Life is different at an urban institution; they employ ten fulltime security personnel and are open 24x5 except during finals when hours are longer. Tech has 20,000 students, one-third of whom are graduate students. They have a student advisory board which meets 4-5 times per year with them. The membership is pulled from the best students.

Robert Fox, Associate Director for Public & Administrative Services gave us a tour of the facilities, which are under renovation. It is part of their plan to refresh spaces every two years and do deep cleaning annually.

At the entrance, there are plasma screens showing PC availability information. They are upgrading their plasma to be a touch screen to aid in navigating the building (e.g., select a name and the location flashes). They re-use old monitors to allow double monitors at public workstations. They have spaces where students can record their presentations for later critique and have set aside library spaces where teaching assistants (TAs) can meet with students. (They found that first and second year students are intimidated going to TA offices whereas library meeting spaces are seen as less intimidating.) There is a coffee shop in the library itself. The library sponsors spots on the campus radio station and shows short films (~15 min.) on Thursdays followed by faculty commentary.

The film space was quite interesting. Convia overhead power/data/lighting/signage scheme was very industrial looking but effective. Interesting wall lighting in one area. Four-tube neon lights (white, pink, blue, green) allow for variable lighting and change in ambiance. Essentially creating a variably color wash on the walls. There was creative use of screens, hanging from ceiling, to pull down to create visual separation for user spaces. Not a noise barrier but a good visual separator.

Other notable aspects of their facilities included tables in multiple shapes and sizes that are fliptop for easy storage/stacking. They provide flipcharts in public areas, which are very popular. They allow users to move them around. Budget is around \$200 annually. Whiteboards are also available. Their onsite printing service includes large format printing.

## **Atlanta Botanical Garden**

Lu Anne Schwarz is the librarian at the ABG and has arguably one of the nicest facilities I've seen, coupled with a miniscule budget! Enter at the Hardin Visitor Center, which is a gorgeous building (love the wood ceilings!) featuring a one-of-a-kind Chihuly chandelier titled the [Nepenthes Chandelier](#). (For the non-botanically familiar readers, Nepenthes are more commonly known as pitcher plants.) You then walk through the gardens to reach her library, which actually consists of collections in several spaces. The Sheffield Botanical Library and Orchid Reference Library include over 8000 books and 125 journals. Focused on botanical literature with a strong focus on plants of the southeastern U.S. and materials aimed at a K-12 audience, it was a fascinating place to visit. I was inspired to think of creative ways to justify requesting pillows and beanbag chairs for my library, not to mention puppets! Lu Anne has created a wonderfully welcoming environment for her users.

### ASLI Business News

- **ASLI submitted a letter of concern regarding recent cataloging changes by the Library of Congress.** An email letter was sent to Paul Frank, Library of Congress, Policy and Standards Division was sent in May regarding the proposed classification changes from "Climatic changes", QC981.8.C5 to QC902.8-903.2 as a subtopic under "Temperature variations".

- **The ASLI Executive Board is discussing the ramifications of corporate sponsorship (different from corporate membership).**

- **Two of our members have been selected to serve on the AMS ad hoc Committee on Data Stewardship:** Jean Phillips (Space Science and Engineering Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Gene Major (NASA/GSFC Library). The committee is organizing a session to be held with the 27<sup>th</sup> IIPS Conference at the AMS in Seattle and is looking for papers in the following thematic areas:

- The role of data centers and institutional repositories
- Data Citation
- Enabling Data Discovery
- Enabling Data Standards and Interoperability
- Data Curation

See the posting on the ASLI listserv for more details.

### Dr. Joanne Simpson, Pioneering Meteorologist 1923-2010



Since the last newsletter went out, the meteorological community lost one of its pioneers. Dr. Joanne M. Simpson of NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center passed away on March 4, 2010 at the age of 86. She was the first female meteorologist to earn a Ph.D., the first to develop models of clouds, and she discovered the dynamic mechanisms that keep hurricanes moving. She was born March 23, 1923 in Boston, MA and received her Masters and Doctorate at the University of

Chicago. Her Ph.D. faculty advisor was Dr. Herbert Riehl. She chose clouds as a research topic and Dr. Carl-Gustaf Rossby, whom she also studied under, remarked it was a good subject "for a little girl to study." Her books and papers are numerous. She joined NASA/Goddard in 1986 and led the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM). Dr. Simpson was also a past president of the American Meteorological Society. Although I did not know her personally, everyone at Goddard "knew" Dr. Simpson. I recall her presence at many of Goddard's seminars and colloquia and she was always the one with the quick, pointed questions.

- *Gene Major*

See:

Some very warm, personal blogs about Dr. Simpson

<http://hurricaneharbor.blogspot.com/2010/03/passing-of-joanne-simpson-meteorologist.html>

<http://blog.ametsoc.org/uncategorized/nothing-will-stop-her-from-being-a-meteorologist/>

John Weir's excellent article on the life of Dr. Simpson including her years at NASA  
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Simpson/>

See also:

Tao, Wei-Kuo and Robert Adler. 2003. Cloud Systems, Hurricanes, and the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission: A Tribute to Dr. Joanne Simpson (Meteorological Monographs), American Meteorological Society.

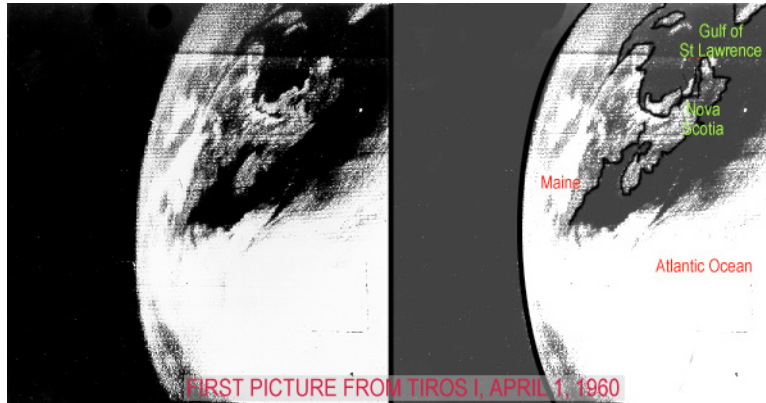
### **TIROS-1 and the "first" weather image from space?**

In April, the weather community celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the successful launch of the Television and Infra-Red Observation Satellite (TIROS-1) from Cape Canaveral on April 1, 1960.

The 270-pound TIROS-1 was the first satellite designed to observe cloud cover from space and its legacy lives on through all the myriad weather satellites since: Nimbus, GOES, NOAA/POES, and the dozens of international meteorological satellites. It is common now to catch weather patterns from space on the Weather Channel and the Internet, but in 1960, this was truly an amazing achievement. TIROS-1 made 1,392 orbits and took nearly 23,000 pictures.

You all have undoubtedly seen the various NASA and NOAA and other web sites all showing that famous FIRST picture from TIROS or the FIRST weather picture from space (see below). But is it? The NASA/Goddard Library, in preparation for a TIROS display, uncovered a 26-volume Atlas of TIROS-1 photography in the Library. Each volume is very large and heavy with cloth binding and heavy stock pages of TIROS-1 photographs, sequentially numbered from Orbit 1, Frame 1. The set is a unique and rare collection of TIROS photographs and includes camera annotation for each image. It was prepared by the United States Naval Photographic Interpretation Center specifically for NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in 1961. To our knowledge it is the only such Photographic Atlas of TIROS-1 imagery in existence. While examining Volume 1, which starts with Orbit 1 Frame 1, the first picture in the Atlas was clearly NOT the one shown in the NASA and NOAA image archives! A little digging through the Atlas, and I found that the "first" picture was actually a photograph from Frame 8, Camera 2, Orbit M0017 taken on April 2, 1960 at 1603 GMT. Not only was the "first" picture not the first; it wasn't even taken on the first day of operation. To corroborate further, National Geographic Magazine did a feature article on TIROS-1 in the October 1960 issue (pretty rapid turn around!), written by the NASA/Goddard TIROS-1 project director, William Stroud, and illustrated with many amazing TIROS-1 images. Not one of those in the article was the image later claimed to be

the “first”. How did this happen? Who knows! In early 1960-61 TIROS-1 articles, NY Times coverage, and NASA project documentation, there is no mention of the first image, either. Perhaps someone from public affairs or perhaps the media just anointed it so. Regardless, the TIROS-1 grainy, low resolution first images of the Earth demonstrated that global and regional weather observations could be made from space. Think how far space-based meteorology has come the next time you watch the Weather Channel. – *Gene Major*



First picture from TIROS-1? Nope, this photo is from Orbit M0017, Frame 8, taken April 2, 1960.

### [Selected list of new and upcoming books \(May-Sept. 2010\)](#)

Ambaum, Maarten. 2010. *Thermal Physics of the Atmosphere (Advancing Weather and Climate Science)*, Wiley.

Chan, Johnny C. L. and Jeffrey D. Kepert (eds.). 2010. *Global Perspectives on Tropical Cyclones: From Science to Mitigation (World Scientific Series on Asia-Pacific Weather and Climate)*. World Scientific Publishing Company.

Cullen, Heidi. 2010. *The Weather of the Future: Heat Waves, Extreme Storms, and Other Scenes from a Climate-Changed Planet*, Harper.

Fine, Gary Alan. 2010. *Authors of the Storm: Meteorologists and the Culture of Prediction*, University Of Chicago Press.

Fleming, James Rodger. 2010. *Fixing the Sky: The Checkered History of Weather and Climate Control (Columbia Studies in International and Global History)*, Columbia University Press.

Gross, Paul. 2010. *Extreme Michigan Weather: The Wild World of the Great Lakes State*, University of Michigan Press.

Kazek, Kelly. 2010. *A History of Alabama's Deadliest Tornadoes: Disaster in Dixie*. The History Press.

Kohn, Edward P. 2010. *Hot Time in the Old Town: The Great Heat Wave of 1896 and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt*, Basic Books.

McIlveen, Robin. 2010. *Fundamentals of Weather and Climate*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press.

Petersen, Christine. 2010 *Earth's Changing Climate (Environment at Risk)*. Benchmark Books.