Summary of Spring 2014 Usercomm Meeting:

More detailed notes from the meeting can be viewed at
http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/committees/usercom/2014Apr/summary.html .

DeSouza Award: Henceforth, nominees will be discussed and voted on during or prior to the spring meeting. The awardee will appear at the subsequent fall meeting. Rich Signell of USGS is this year's winner and we look forward to the ceremony and his presentation in September.

Triennial Workshop: Active discussion took place on whether people felt that the triennial workshops were still worth holding. There was a strong consensus that, indeed, the workshops were of strong benefit to the community. Thus, plans continue for the 2015 workshop, to be held the week of June 21 at Center Green. Committee members suggested several possible themes:

1. Unidata in the Cloud
2. Remote Sensing
3. Software Carpentry / Scientific Computing

Since the recently-approved five-year NSF proposal listed the move to the cloud as a key goal , the consensus choice was the first one. Steve Lazarus and Mike Baldwin have agreed to serve as co-chairs. The plan is to make this workshop more "hands-on", with fewer speakers, than was possible at the 2012 workshop at the Mesa Lab.

Joshua Young and Kevin Tyle will contact 2012 attendees to assess the value of the 2012 **Navigating Earth System Science Data** workshop.

The next section of the Usercomm summary lists specific software packages, some but not all primarily developed by Unidata, that were discussed at the meeting:

Python: Interest in using Python was a key theme during this meeting. Kim Hoogewind is currently teaching a programming class at Purdue where Python and FORTRAN are taught in parallel. Rich Signell gave a short demonstration of using Wakari, which enables sharing of iPython notebooks on the web. Kevin Tyle has been using Python, and its netcdf4, matplotlib, and basemap packages to quickly and easily visualize data hosted on OpenDAP servers. Ryan May has a prototype for skew-t display with Python. Unidata staff have held a Python workshop and are continuing to work on the development of Python modules that leverage Unidata software.

AWIPS2: Not much has changed since the fall meeting. Michael James is awaiting the release of a 64-bit version of EDEX2 and CAVE which he will then need to configure and distribute to the beta testing community.

IDV: The upcoming release of version 5 represents a big step forward, with improved performance and adaptive resolution. Brian Mapes hosted an IDV regional workshop at the University of Miami-RSMAS subsequent to the Usercomm meeting which went very well. Version 5 will be released to the community in early summer to allow time for spring semester courses to wrap up.

THREDDS: An update to the THREDDS data server was problematic. The committee voiced its concern as to the rushed nature of the rollout of this update. UPC staff admitted that the update's deployment did not follow best practices and resolved to take steps to avoid similar problems in the future. Better communication with the community is key.

RAMADDA: Jeff Weber demonstrated the use of Unidata's RAMADDA server to host teaching resources that would be contributed by community members. Committee members were especially encouraged to submit content to this server.

In the next section of the summary, we highlight some of the larger projects that were discussed:

High Impact Weather Prediction Project (HIWPP):

Tim Schneider, Bonny Strong, and Don Murray from NOAA gave a presentation on this new initiative from NOAA (http://hiwpp.noaa.gov). Model output from this project could be made available to the community with Unidata envisioned as a possible conduit. The presenters demonstrated the *Terraviz* visualization technology to display some of the prototypical model output (e.g., from the FIM) which looked especially interesting.

Open Weather & Climate Services:

Mohan Ramamurthy gave an update on the status of this project, dubbed "The Reston Project". Currently progress is delayed while legal issues are being worked out with NOAA and the commercial entities. There continues to be interest among the committee members in the access to the data and server-side computing resources that this project might provide, although their remained some disagreement as to how valuable this data might actually be.

Site contacts:

Jennifer Oxelson and Doug Dirks are working on a new template for surveying users at college and university sites that use (or might use) Unidata software. Committee members will contact sites this summer.

Next meeting: September 15-16 (Mon-Tue), 2014