16 years serving students, and the UNIDATA community

Gilbert Sebenste, Staff Meteorologist
Northern Illinois University
The way it was...

1991: Students learned the state of the atmosphere on McIDAS, when we actually had data (fixed 1992)

Satellite images delayed 20 minutes, surface observations 30+ minutes...

MDR radar, resolution 32 km, delayed nearly an hour...

...and we liked it like that!
The way it was...

I changed the menu on McIDAS to make it "local"

Students responded by using it more and more...

Whenever severe weather came through, the weather office was packed!

...until we all went out and chased it!
Today at NIU Weather

From NIU...

- We utilize McIDAS, GEMPAK in part for student use, web site image generation...

- The LDM archives data for faculty and students and kicks off processes for sending out weather alerts via mobile devices, email, Web, and more.
Today at NIU Weather
From NIU...to the world.

• We share the data we have through the LDM, ADDE servers via McIDAS, THREDDS, Web...

• Our own NOAAPort receiver means less data coming in, and more going OUT to those who need it and use it (we feed or are backup to almost 70 servers!)...including UCAR/UNIDATA!
NIU student benefits: education, experience

Using UNIDATA’s software tools enrich, excite students

Encourages students to excel in their studies, and their understanding of the atmosphere
Two examples...

Samuel Shea, intern, 2004

Used McIDAS heavily in understanding current atmospheric state, watched the weather incessantly

Lead forecaster, WFO KLOT (Romeoville/Chicago, April, 2010)
Two examples...

Mike Falout, graduate student, 2010

Works full time, needs UNIDATA software, can’t drive out to NIU on most days to work on data. Oh, no!
Two examples...

Solution...

GEMPAK! And...a VNC connection.
NIU faculty benefits: research

Dr. Walker Ashley: Lightning and urban convection in Atlanta, GA...with other cities to come...

Dr. Mace Bentley and Dr. Ashley: interest in lightning impacts across southeast Asia using GLN data.
This is GLN!
The future of UNIDATA at NIU

Weather…and NIU

The marriage between meteorology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) grows deeper

“UNIDATA Anywhere”: students running the software on their own PCs, laptops, or as workstations

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Thank you so much for the award, and for being here!

Uhhh, one question I have…

Hey Steve, when is LDM 6.9 out? 😊