A tall, modern building with a distinctive triangular top is illuminated at night. The building's facade is dark, but its windows and a vertical strip of lights on the right side are glowing. The sky is dark blue and purple, with several bright white lightning bolts striking down. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

16 years serving students, and
the UNIDATA community

Gilbert Sebenste, Staff Meteorologist
Northern Illinois University

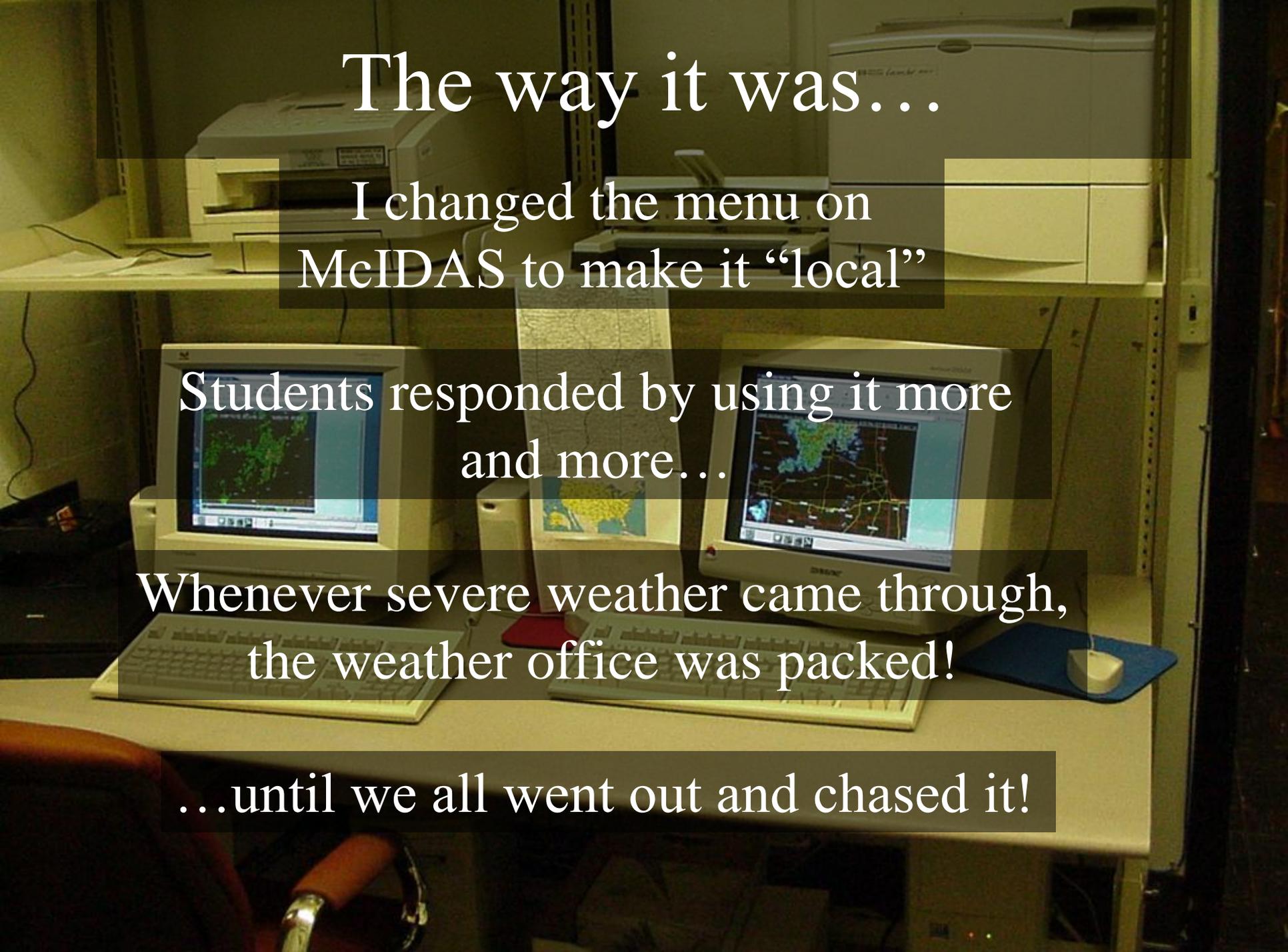
The way it was...

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.

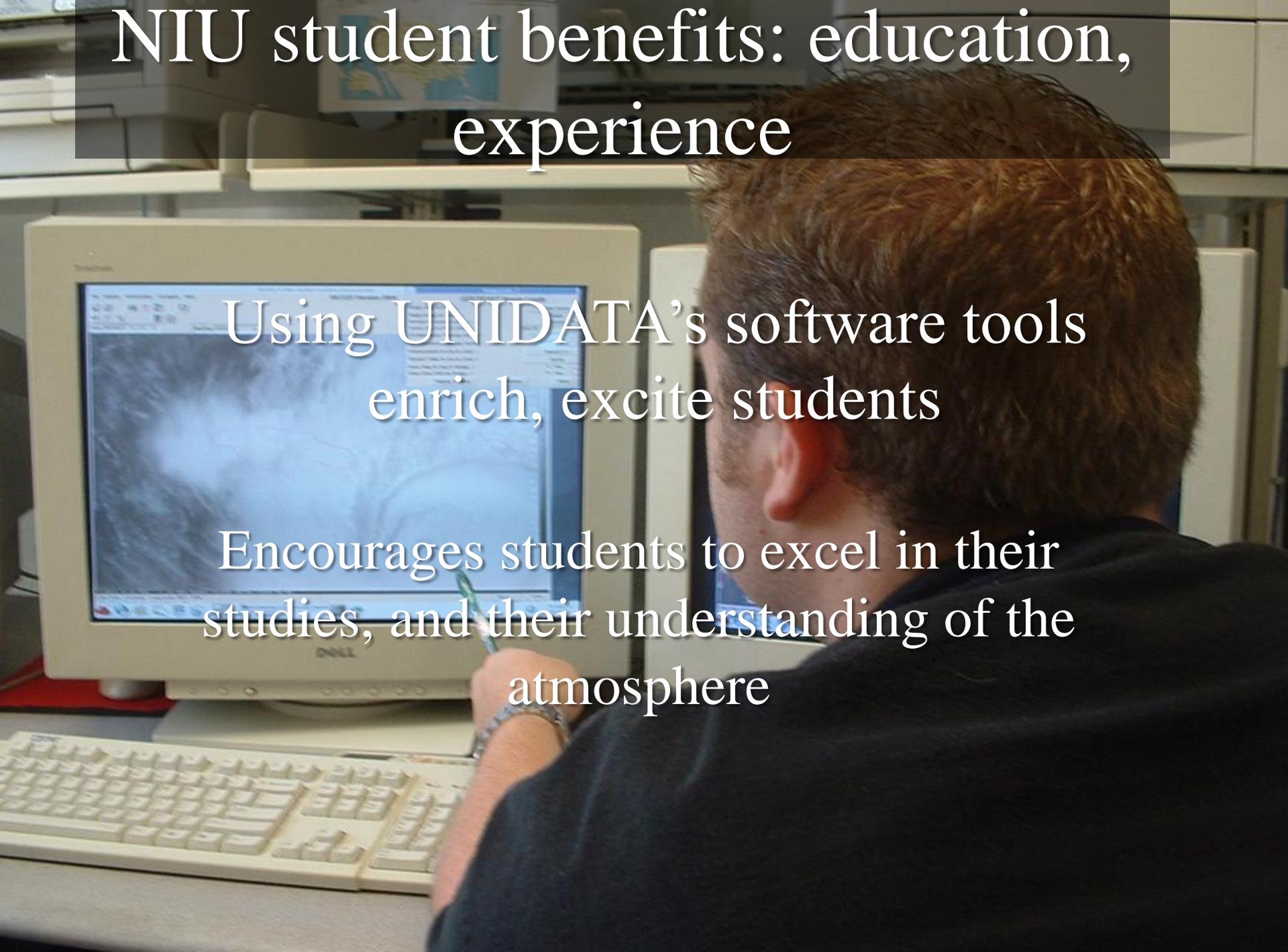
Today at NIU Weather From NIU...to the world.

- 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!

National Center for
Atmospheric Research

N130AR

Two examples...

Solution...

GEMPAK! And...a VNC connection.



NIU faculty benefits: research



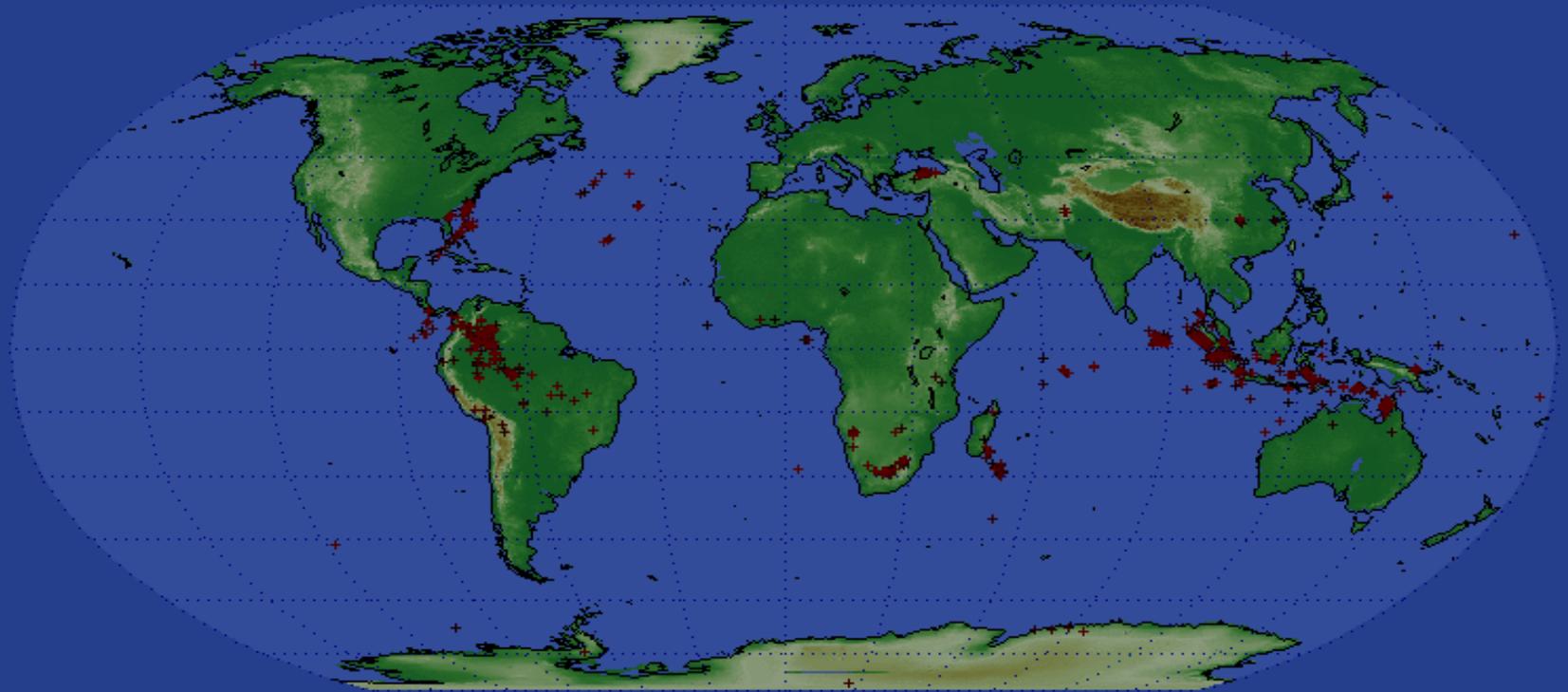
Dr. Walker Ashley: Lightning and urban convection in Atlanta, GA...with other cities to come...



Dr. Mace Bentley and Dr. Ashley: interest in lightning impacts across southeast Asia using GLN data.

This is GLN!

GLN 15 min Lightning Plot Ending 02-Mar-2010 20:21:00 UTC



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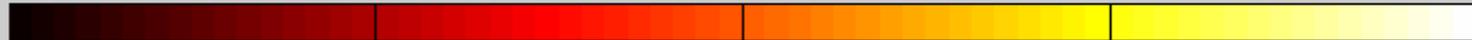
20:06

20:36

21:06

21:36

22:06



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



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

Uhhh, one question I have...

Hey Steve, when is LDM 6.9 out? 😊