

User Profile by Bill Gallus, Iowa State University

A 20 Year Evolution -

Allow me to take you on my personal journey using Unidata products.

As a weather enthusiast (possibly an understatement) currently responsible for teaching the majority of Iowa State's meteorology courses most directly involving



application to forecasting, I have thought of Unidata as a constant, essential, friendly companion for over 20 years.

I first used Unidata products as a graduate student at Colorado State in the late 1980s and early 1990s, playing around with GEMPAK to keep up to date with current weather. When I was hired as an assistant professor of synoptic and mesoscale meteorology at Iowa State in 1995, I arrived to find that GEMPAK was not installed, and the two means of accessing real time weather data that were available, WXP and McIDAS, were not meeting our needs.

[For Full Article >](#)

Policy Committee and Users Committee Update

The community's role in Unidata's governance is at the foundation of Unidata's success. We take this opportunity to welcome the new governing committee members, and thank those who have served in the past.

Policy Committee:

[Kerstin Lehnert](#), Director, Geoinformatics for Geochemistry and
Director, Integrated Earth Data Applications Research Group
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University

Kerstin brings a unique blend of experience in the dynamic and growing field of geoinformatics and data management to the Policy Committee.

[Kevin Kloesel](#)

Associate Dean for Public Service and Outreach
Director, Oklahoma Climate Survey
Associate Professor, School of Meteorology
OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences

Kevin has been a long time member of the Unidata community and user of Unidata tools. He brings a wealth of experience in the area of outreach, teaching, and the very timely topic of meso-networks.

[Steven Businger](#)

Department of Meteorology
University of Hawaii

Steven will continue as chair for a second term. He has provided great leadership as chair in a number of areas, including the development of Unidata's recent Strategic Plan, the Unidata 2013 proposal, and collaborations with external partners. Incidentally, the first day of the October meeting will be held at NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) in Boulder to learn about current NOAA projects and explore collaborative opportunities.

We want to thank Vanda Grubisic, University of Vienna, and Paul Ruscher, Florida State, for their service on the Policy Committee.

Users Committee:

[Francina Dominguez](#), is a hydroclimatologist in the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources and the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona. With Unidata exploring future roles in climate and linkages with the hydrology community, Francina's talents renewable energy for the research and education communities, Francina's talents will round out an impressive group of new governing members for both committees.

The Users Committee will miss Bill Gallus, (see Profile above), Iowa State University. We extend our sincere thanks to Bill for his exemplary three-year service.

As a reminder to the community, (taken from the April 2010 E-letter),



2010 Spring Users Committee Meeting

Each committee consists of representatives drawn from the University community. The [Policy Committee](#) comprises eight voting members, four agency representatives, and three UCAR/NCAR representatives. The Users Committee chair serves on the Policy Committee as well.

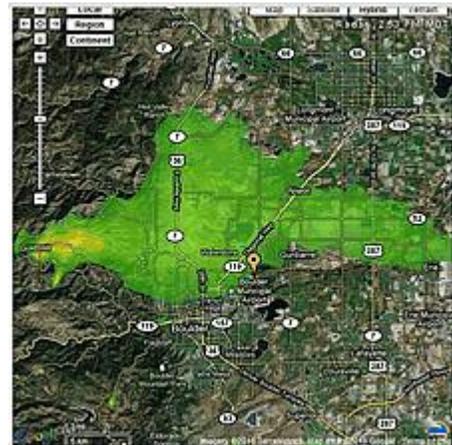
The [Users Committee](#) consists of ten voting members of which one is a student member, and new for the Users Committee this year is the addition of three non-voting agency representatives.

Four Mile Canyon Fire in Boulder

It started out to be a great 3-day Labor Day weekend, but Monday morning changed everything. A recreational vehicle's propane tank exploded in Emerson Gulch, and the fire burned the RV, and spread quickly due to the dry conditions in the area. Before we knew it, the area was blanketed with smoke, which eventually spread, like the wild fire it was, in Four Mile Canyon and beyond.

The Four Mile Canyon Fire in the foothills west of Boulder, as of today at 11:05 a.m. Mountain Time, has destroyed at least 169 homes, burned nearly 6500 acres, with only 30 percent containment. This is the most destructive fire in Colorado's history.

How has this affected the UPC? Some staff members reside in the nearby mountain community, but we're happy to report that they are safe. Sadly, we know of people who have



Image, courtesy of Weather Underground, from Labor Day that shows the radar signature of the fire and its smoke boundary.

lost their homes to this ravaging fire. Some people are assisting by providing refuge for people who are unable to stay in their homes, due to the threat of high winds and hot ashes that continue to endanger their homes and property.

See the photos below for some impressive snapshots of smoke and fires.



Photos by Jeff Weber

News Briefs

Unidata Users Survey - Next Week!

The Unidata Users Committee has been hard at work developing a Unidata users survey. We hope that you will take the time to complete the survey to assist with Unidata's strategic planning and to enable improvements in tools and services. The survey is fairly short, so be watching for the important notice sent to the Unidata community email list from the Users Committee chair, Tom Whittaker.

If you are not a member of the list, please sign up at:

<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/support/maillinglist/mailling-list-form.html>

Unidata Training Workshop 2010

Registration is now open. Please see the following link for more information. [Training Workshop 2010](#)

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