

November 5, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I continue to be impressed with the global reach of the outstanding science conducted and supported by OAR scientists and staff around the world. Our employees also are outstanding citizens. I am happy to report that ESRL's Mark Cunningham, Station Chief of our atmospheric observatory in American Samoa, his family, and the observatory's groundskeeper are safe following the recent tsunami in which many people lost their lives and our observatory sustained substantial damages. Mark is a true hero – he ferried people from devastated, low-lying areas to the higher observatory site, providing safety and shelter. In fact, the observatory served as the second largest designated shelter area in American Samoa due to its elevated location and infrastructure which included an electric generator. As I write this note, there are still a few people living at the observatory. Events such as this are reminders that our NOAA colleagues sometimes work in remote locations and through difficult circumstances.

Arctic Report Card Released

Congratulations to PMEL's Dr. Jim Overland and JISAO -- Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean -- scientist Dr. Muyin Wang who are among the national and international contributors to the third annual Arctic Report Card. The Climate Program Office and Arctic Research Program provided support for the Report Card which states that warming of the Arctic continues to be widespread, and in some cases dramatic. To learn more, visit the [2009 Arctic Report Card](#) web site. Many thanks to Jana Goldman for facilitating a media teleconference to discuss the findings. Strengthening Arctic science and stewardship is one of NOAA's five strategic priorities outlined in the August 2009 Annual Guidance Memorandum that you can find [here](#).

OAR Hosts Science Communication Workshop for Scientists and Engineers at GFDL

On Oct. 27, the OAR Communications Office in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held a pilot workshop "Communicating Science: Tools for Scientists and Engineers Workshop" at GFDL for about 50 scientists. Dr. Ramaswamy and Brian Gross graciously agreed to host this pilot program. The workshop provided tools and techniques to help our scientists and engineers communicate their research to a variety of public audiences. If you would like to see what the scientists had to say about the workshop, a summary of their evaluations is available on the [iNet](#). Many thanks to Maria Setzer, Marsha Duggins, John McGreggor, and Mary Ann Kutny – the workshop would not have been a success without their hard work.

2009 NOAA Green Steward Award

Congratulations to Whit Anderson of GFDL for receiving a 2009 NOAA Green Steward Award. The theme for the award is "the actions we take on land ultimately affect the oceans we strive to manage and protect." Actions speak louder than words and Whit's efforts to install bike lockers at GFDL, including securing funding and designing and managing the installation process, will help inspire GFDL staff to bike to work year-round, helping to reduce OAR's carbon footprint. This is a great example of an individual putting NOAA's core values of providing science, service, and stewardship into action to make OAR's workplace greener. Whit is setting the bar for us all.

Richard W. Spinrad P.h.D., NOAA Assistant Administrator