The National Science Foundation's Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) Student Community

Leda Sox
Utah State University

Timothy Duly

Barbara Emery

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Recommended Citation
Sox, Leda; Duly, Timothy; and Emery, Barbara, "The National Science Foundation's Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) Student Community" (2014). Physics Student Research. Paper 15.
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The National Science Foundation's Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) Student Community

Available at: http://works.bepress.com/leda_sox/27
The goal of these workshops is to better understand the behavior of atmospheric regions, from the neutral middle and upper atmosphere (stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere), through the ionosphere, to the exosphere. The behavior of these regions is explored through modeling and observations of chemical, energetic and dynamical processes on regional and global scales. Although there is no formal student group within the CEDAR community, the workshops are very student-focused. The Workshops include a student session prior to the meeting, which aims to give students basic tutorials on the research topics they will encounter at the meeting. Roughly 40% of the participants at the CEDAR Workshops are students.

1. Student Experience Before the Workshop

The CEDAR Workshop immerses both undergraduate and graduate students in the scientific conference environment. At the workshop, students have ample opportunity to attend workshops, network with their peers and senior scientists and present their research, in either poster or oral presentation format. As a primer for the conference, a Student Workshop session is planned for the Sunday preceding each CEDAR Workshop. These Student Workshops are conceived, organized and moderated by the two Student Representatives on the CEDAR Science Steering Committee. Freedom is given to the Student Representatives to plan and organize the session however they best see fit. In general, however, these student-focused sessions contain 6-8 tutorial-style talks on a chosen theme within the CEDAR science field. Table 1 gives examples of past Student Workshop themes. These tutorials are supposed get students up-to-speed on basic CEDAR science and/or engineering topics in order to prepare them for the more in-depth discussions and discussions they will attend during the main CEDAR Workshop. Figure 1 shows attendants at the 2007 Student Workshop listening to presenter Dr. Jeff Forbes’ tutorial talk.

In addition to the tutorial talks, there is usually a career advice panel at the end of the student session. The panels have included professors, research scientists, post-docs and senior graduate students. The advice these panelists give ranges from how to successfully complete and defend your dissertation, to landing a post-doc, to how to maintain your career in the long-term.

To break up the day-long student session, a lunch is provided for the students and for a break at the end of the day, students take part in a soccer game, which has become an annual tradition. Figure 2 gives an example schedule of the Student Workshop (from 2014).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student Workshop Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Aeronomy Instrumentation: Where Does the Data Come From?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Ionospheric Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Waves and Tides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Magnetosphere-Ionosphere (MI) Coupling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Equatorial Aeronomy: Phenomena and Outstanding Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Instrumentation: How Can We Probe the Upper Atmosphere?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Space Weather Influences on the Ionosphere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Student Experience During the Workshop

Students participate at the main CEDAR Workshop by attending the individual workshop sessions, giving talks at these sessions or presenting posters at the poster sessions and going to any of the social/networking events throughout the week. At the CEDAR Workshop, the poster session is split between two days, based on which region of the upper atmosphere the research focuses on: Ionosphere-Thermosphere (IT) or Mesosphere Lower-Thermosphere (MLT). Students are encouraged to participate in the Student Poster competition, which is judged by non-students, and awards first and second prizes for graduate students and honorable mentions for graduate and undergraduate students. All students who participate in the competition are given feedback on their poster presentations. In Figure 3, graduate students can be seen explaining their posters to senior scientists during the 2014 IT (a) and MLT (b) Poster Sessions.

Figure 1. Attendants at the 2007 CEDAR Student Workshop listen to a tutorial given by Jeffery Forbes.

Figure 3. Graduate students participate in the student poster competitions, explaining their posters to senior scientists during the IT (a) and MLT (b) sessions.

3. Student Experience After the Workshop

After having met at the CEDAR Workshop, students continue to stay in touch through social networking such as the CEDAR Students Facebook page (seen in Figure 4). The Facebook page was created by past CEDAR Student Representative, Tim Duly, and is maintained by current Student Representative, Lindsay Goodwin. CEDAR Students also meet up at other conferences and work together at summer schools like the NSF Incoherent Scatter Radar and Heliophysics Summer School.

Figure 4. CEDAR Student Facebook page. Photo courtesy of Lindsay Goodwin.

4. The Student Representative Experience

Two Student Representatives are members on the CEDAR Science Steering Committee (CSSC) each year. They are nominated by themselves, their peers, or are nominated by members of the CSSC and then chosen for the position by an NSF representative. They are tasked with planning, organizing and executing the Student Workshops. The Student Representatives also advocate for the student community at all of the CEDAR Workshop planning meetings including a business meeting in the fall at NSF headquarters, a spring teleconference and meetings during the Workshop.

Figure 5. Past CSSC Student Representatives, Dr. Kathlyn Greer and Dr. Timothy Duly, attend a CSSC planning dinner during the 2013 CEDAR Workshop with senior CSSC members.

References

1. National Science Foundation CEDAR Funding Program: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5003
3. National Science Foundation Incoherent Radar Summer School: http://aminos.com/workshop

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to acknowledge the support for the CEDAR Workshops from the National Science Foundation and all of the work that goes into planning the meetings by the CEDAR Science Steering Committee. Special thanks goes to all of the students and scientists who attend the CEDAR Workshops.

The Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) research program is a successful grass-roots community initiated group of scientists and engineers whose research focus is the Earth’s upper atmosphere. Along with CEDAR funding opportunities, the National Science Foundation (NSF) also sponsors a week-long CEDAR Workshop each summer.