

**SOS Users Collaborative Network Meeting  
2008 ASTC Conference  
Notes**

**8:30 - 10:00 am on Monday Oct 20<sup>th</sup>**

**See participant list for attendees.**

**8:30 Introduction/Updates**

Around the room, several new members/participants

Updates:

Ned Gardner, joined NOAA Climate Program Office

Introduce, thank Dan Pisut and Kate Royce, SOS installation in Ocean Hall, lots of traffic

**8:40 Evaluation**

Kate Haley Goldman: update on program-wide evaluation, survey broad outcomes across the sphere installations

- Engaging program-wide
- Nature and range of impact, wide range of contexts, content, facilitation
- 1st steps, across all sites, looking at context and impact on typical audience
- HUGE effort, will need help from all of the network
- Developing eval instrument with OEd, observations and interviews at all sites, will devise interview protocol and training
- Training modules will be online later in the winter
- Institutions will need to collect the data (50-60 interviews)
- When and how? currently creating the training modules, online later in the winter (DEC/JAN)
- Cheryl Kessler will check in on context of your sphere in next month or so
- Data collection February-May of 2009, can troubleshoot if there are issues with timing there
- After, will have an idea of the spectrum of impact
- Emergent study, later will do more small investigative studies, this is to get an idea of the big picture
- This study gives us indicators of where to go... on a whole network eval can't correlate as tightly to variables/lit principles
- Results available next summer (july/aug of 2009)
- Designing study now, please contact Kate if you have ideas

Q: Gretchen; can we align this with our institutional eval efforts (if already taking place)?

A: yes, lets coordinate data collection, align instruments, designing them now

Q: will account for time you have had sphere installed and established?

A: yes, will work with institutions, wide variety

Q: Frank: challenges around defining Env Lit from a particular POV for study. Will work with you on climate piece...

A: Content piece is huge. Will be looking for misconceptions and indicators that have already been developed. Trying to further focus

JM: reminder to notify us of POC for evaluation at your institution/keep info up to date. They are Kate's contacts.

Carrie: Context for this eval study: Eval continues to be emphasized (NSF Framework) must demonstrate impacts of grant programs  
Thank you for helping with this!

### **8:50 Upcoming Funding Opportunities**

[See Carrie's Powerpoint]

Next Opportunity:

Published December Omnibus, due middle Feb 2009, awards June 2009

Small capacity-building grants, open only to network members

Priority: Build institutional capability to make SOS an up-to-date, dynamic science display

2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity:

June 2009 Larger opportunity for installation/content/possibly docent training, awards issued 2010

Reactions:

- Maurice: good idea, lots of conversations about moving further, opp to work on visualizations
- Carrie: would allow you to buy software/comp/equip to allow you to develop content/storytelling capabilities
- Gretchen: agree, great idea, interactivity and layering interest, "tinkering grants" would be very helpful to allow to explore
- Carrie: could use to partner with other entities as well, primary recipient must be network member
- Maurice: idea; very focused training for using a tool like final cut express, would build capacity across institutions, allow us to advance beyond the visualization level...
- Kate: After experience completing data set, caveat, a nightmare to make an image sequence, involves a lot of computing. Data crunching centralized, if institutions come up with a concept...
- Dan: we could potentially support, but software must be compatible
- Kate: you at institutions are masters of the content that reaches your visitors, we (Dan and Kate) help facilitate
- Carrie: Does it make sense to expect everyone to become an expert in final cut? Many different levels of production... Can support on multiple levels (central support for more high end productions, training for lower levels)

- Leon: But a set of baseline standards, common tools would be helpful so that when we start sharing things will be compatible and we will be able to scale up ideas
- Maurice: across the network, knowing each of our capacity and where we can go for help to move to the next level would be very helpful. Common platform would be a great investment
- Bette: Wiki would be a great way to share this information at all levels of production
- Maurice: best practices, dos and don'ts
- Carrie: standardization and baseline standards, wiki, \*this could be a grant\* We lack in-house capability but can fund through grants
- Also, beyond shows, this funding can be used for docent training... develop scripts. Think creatively. Also, big emphasis on eval, fyi
- Maurice: how about clicker tech and other eval techniques?
- Carrie: incorporating clickers (audience response) into programming, that would be fine, expanding on work of Doug and McWane. If someone wanted to develop and share with other institutions...
- Please contact John and Carrie with additional thoughts (in the next month)
- Ned: Re: earlier discussion, development of higher end capacity is more complicated than providing frames to be rendered, but there may be other ways to build capacity, we can continue the discussion
- Carrie: May need to build NOAA capability
- Joe in Denver: We have some in-house development capabilities (after recent install and producing two products), can contribute to this discussion
- John: Started as funding opps discussion, moved to content, remember the larger opp is next June for bigger productions

### **9:15 Updates from Boulder – Beth Russell**

[See Beth's Presentation]

Contents:

Software updates

Spherecasting

Flash tutorials

SOS training day in Boulder

Content updates

Software updates:

- Pips: Picture in a picture, can lay images on top of your data sets, may be georeferenced
- Z-rotation smoother: don't have to pre-render, have removed the 'stutter'
- Ability to rotate videos as well

Spherecasting

- Initial release in December, from Boulder initially

### Flash tutorials

- Tell Beth what you want her to show you how to do! Send suggestions, developing tutorial library
- Location: SOS page/ support/ tutorials

### SOS training day in Boulder

- Webinar options/con call? Potentially yes, but major benefit is the in-person support and training
- Yes, have people/interest but need longer lead time to find a date, in spring
- Send suggestions for topics
- In depth, assumes you have a sphere and know how to use it

### Content updates

- See presentation for list of new data sets
- Are real time data sets included in library updates? A: Yes, should be “Real time Category” there
- Revisiting Ocean Acidification data set
- Contact Beth if you have data you want to share! (incl, scripts, narration tracks, playlists, etc...)

### Discussion:

- GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment), detect changes in masses of ice in Antarctica/Greenland. MH interested in working with data for sphere.
- Carrie: this is what SOS can do. If you don't have institutional capacity for this type of thing, think about the small capacity building grants!

### 9:35 Follow-up from Action Items from Summer workshop

John McLaughlin

- Overdue for website for the network, we're working on this, is coming
- Exec summary from Summer workshop, will send out and post
- Sharing scripts for docents, please share with Beth
  - YouTube training/channels, NOAA can't create new ones right now
- Working groups? (e.g software, eval) Form working groups in the fall or after capacity building grants? Solicit interest from network for different WG, will post online to allow institutions to contact other inst with similar interests, to potentially partner on grants.
- Content pieces to Beth!
- Follow-up telecons with network; on WG, on CB opp, interest in hosting? Topics you want to discuss with the network? If you think of any, contact John, will help set up.
  - Carrie: as an example of telecon, get Ocean Hall piece, Energy Planet, get network on the phone and walk through 'lessons learned.'
- Revised draft Education Strategic Plan now available, many strategies that speak to SOS, good support, have strengthened these

- Opportunity for photo/caption: need photo of SOS installation, funded by ELG, please send photo of students/public interacting with sphere, your institution will be credited as well
- Have updated the handout about institutions, also ELG funding opps
- Carrie: Kenji Williams Bella Gaia on SOS. Kenji is interested in playing to spheres. If you are interested in a different/artistic use of sphere...

#### 9:50 Updates from participants

- John: Michael Starobin has asked us to share that Frozen piece is in production. 1<sup>st</sup> of year avail. Study of cryosphere. Glaciologist-developed, about 8 minutes long.
- Maurice: work plan at Goddard: Frozen, tour of the solar system: Jupiter; lunar story late 09; planet Mercury; near real time data for the sphere: atm chem., sea ice, solar observations; clicker evaluation techniques; installing high def pan tilt camera for use in web/spherecasting; GRACE; sea ice data will be avail from 1979 to present.
- Gretchen: in throes of content production grant: developed series of audio tracks to accompany real-time data, generic pointers
- Celestel: docent trainings, and local teacher training, good response and interest in more training. Keeping track of their interests/questions.
- John: thanks to those of you who filled out surveys from HI.
- Next workshop, 12-16 months after last one, this coming summer or fall, scheduled with Boulder team in Boulder, need to see if we have funding to support
- Carrie: we do not have a budget yet. Will not be able to issue grants if we do not get a budget. Are operating on the assumption we WILL.

#### 10:00 Adjourn