

September 1, 2005

Ms. Demuth,

Please consider me for selection to participate in the WAS\*IS workshop. I was informed of the workshop by my colleague Robert Henson, member of the UCAR media staff. Bob attended the three-part forum on the future role of the human in the forecast process that I organized and chaired for the recent American Meteorological Society's Weather and Forecasting Conference. Based on the subject material of the three sessions, Bob felt I could potentially contribute significantly to the WAS\*IS Workshop.

During the past several years, I have concentrated my research on the relationship between all the sectors within the field of meteorology, how we can improve the information we produce for our users, and how to improve communication and understanding of this information. This interest is illustrated by my chairing two forums on the future role of the human in the forecast process, and chairing the upcoming Symposium on the Public and Private Sector Partnership scheduled for the AMS Annual Meeting in 2006. All my forums and symposia address how weather information and communication of the information impacts society.

I have also been on the forefront of the research addressing the cognitive psychological aspects of weather forecasting and plan to move forward to include the psychology of users. This would include investigating how users respond to weather information, to what information they are most motivated to respond, and how to best educate them.

One of the important conclusions from the first forum on the future role of the human in the forecast process was that improving communication between meteorologists and users would result in the most perceived improvement in forecast information. We cannot allow the small, incremental improvements in computer guidance to drive the improvements in forecast information. Dr. Cliff Mass of the University of Washington said, "The divide between what meteorologists know and what the users know has never been so great". We need to close that divide and help users understand what weather information they need to know during all types of weather threats, so they can make more informed decisions about what actions to take.

The experience from participating in the WAS\*IS workshop would supply me with the enhanced knowledge necessary to move forward in my career. As a Senior Forecaster, who routinely produces the forecast information for users and directly interacts with them, my perspective is critical in the process of improving society's response to new sources and formats of weather information. Whether I remain as a Senior Forecaster, or become a Science Operations Officer in the National Weather Service, this workshop will improve my ability to convey critical weather information to users in the most effective manner possible. Most importantly, I will be able to share my experiences with my colleagues, so the meteorological community and all users of weather information will benefit from the conclusions drawn from this workshop.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Neil A. Stuart  
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