



In Memoriam: The Contributions of Dr. Raymond W. Arritt to Regional Climate Modeling

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Dr. Raymond W. Arritt's sudden and untimely passing in November of 2018 was a shock to all who knew him. Ray was one of the international leaders of the regional climate modeling community, and during his career made outstanding contributions in modeling regional climate and impacts. This presentation will honor his influence in the field.

Dr. Arritt's role dates back to the beginning of regional climate modeling, including his involvement in initiating the first intercomparison project for regional climate models, the Project to Intercompare Regional Climate Simulations (PIRCS). He also played a central role in the later development and implementation of the Multi-RCM Ensemble Downscaling (MRED) project and the North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program (NARCCAP), and was a substantial contributor to the World Climate Research Programme's Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX). He was a valued collaborator and modeler in North American CORDEX, but he additionally promoted inclusion, engagement, and collaboration with CORDEX Central America and Latin America. Ray was also a valuable collaborator in the Global Energy and Water Exchanges (GEWEX) project's initiatives, and most recently, was a significant contributor to the Framework for Assessing Climate's Energy-Water-Land Nexus using Targeted Simulations (FACETS) project.

Dr. Arritt's research contributions in atmospheric science and regional modeling most notably fostered greater understanding and improved simulation of the Great Plains low level jet, mesoscale convective systems, land-atmosphere interactions, and the role of convective parameterization in simulation uncertainty and fidelity. Ray's research was also transdisciplinary. He engaged with other disciplines and worked to better understand the implications of regional climate change in hydrology, economics, and agriculture; and vice versa, in the implications of land-use change on climate. Ray also spent significant time mentoring and training other regional climate scientists during his career, not only at Iowa State University, but around the world. In short, his passionate and dedicated efforts to serve, expand, and advance the community will be greatly missed.