



**OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY
NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Cerry Leffler
(405) 325-2541
cerry@ou.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2006

Norman Meteorologist Travels to China

NORMAN- Dr. Jeffrey Basara, Director of Research, Oklahoma Climatological Survey, will travel to Wuhan, China under special invitation from Mr. Chunguang Cui, Director of the Institute of Heavy Rain. Dr. Basara is one of six Americans invited to meet with Chinese scientists within the China Meteorological Administration to share expertise in and ideas for environmental networks and atmospheric monitoring.

Dr. Basara will present information on the Oklahoma Mesonet, Oklahoma's weather network, and related technologies used to gather and study mesoscale and microscale phenomena. In particular, the Chinese Government is interested to learn how Oklahoma has established long-term remote monitoring of atmospheric conditions.

According to Dr. Basara, China is rapidly modernizing their country's environmental monitoring capabilities because they suffer from intense rainfall events. Intense rainfall coupled with a large population and little to no data available can create a disastrous situation. Currently, China has less than 10 atmospheric radars covering an area just slightly larger than the United States. In comparison, the U.S. has over 120 NEXRAD Radar sites.

Dr. Basara stated "this trip represents another example of how the Oklahoma Mesonet has gained significant prominence in long-term environmental monitoring. Along with the recent International Workshop on Soil Moisture Monitoring in Noordwijk, Holland, traveling to China and exchanging ideas demonstrates that the Oklahoma Mesonet is perceived by many within the international community as a network of excellence."

For more information on the Oklahoma Mesonet, Oklahoma's weather network, please visit our website at www.mesonet.org.

