

NEWS ADVISORY

March 4, 2011

CU-Boulder Students to Launch Radar Experiment: Why Does North Boulder Tend to Receive More Snow Than South Boulder?

About 100 University of Colorado Boulder students will be using Doppler on Wheels radar as part of an experiment between now and April 15 to investigate why north Boulder tends to receive more snow than south Boulder.

The radar equipment, which many people are familiar with from the Discovery Channel series on tornadoes titled “Storm Chasers,” will be deployed during two snowstorms in Boulder. Groups of two or three students will rotate to assist in the operation of the radar every two hours between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The students, primarily non-science majors, are taking a class titled Weather and Atmosphere taught by Assistant Professor Katja Friedrich of the atmospheric and oceanic science department. The National Science Foundation is loaning the equipment as part of an educational project in which students will learn how to conduct scientific measurements and interpret data.

“With this activity we want to provide our undergraduate students with some hands-on experience and hope to get them more interested in science,” Friedrich said.

Media are welcome to visit the radar site when it is in operation during a snowstorm. To be added to an e-mail notification list of when students are likely to be operating the equipment, and the two site locations, send an e-mail to Friedrich as early as possible at Katja.Friedrich@Colorado.EDU.

Friedrich also can be reached by cell phone at 720-939-6507. Or contact Peter Caughey in the CU-Boulder Office of Media Relations and News Services at 303-492-4007 or caughey@colorado.edu.

No radar deployments will occur during CU-Boulder’s spring break, March 21-25, or on weekends.

More information about the project, “Teaching Flow Over Mountains” or the TOM experiment, is posted at <http://rain.colorado.edu/TOM-experiment>.

-CU-