

Millersville visit on April, 20th, 2009.

Lodovica Illari, visited Millersville to discuss how the project had progressed this semester and future plans. As summarized by Rich Clarke, Millersville has found the rotating tank useful in their teaching. It did not 'revolutionize' their teaching, but proved very useful as demo. Plans are to continue to use the turntable as a demo in appropriate introductory classes. Student surveys suggest that the experiments were well received and that students are enjoying the break from more traditional, lecture-based formats.

Lodovica also discussed a possible extension of the Weather in a Tank to include a modeling component. Both Rich Clarke and Alex DeCaria are very interested in this aspect and would like to be involved. They both think that the students would benefit from such an extension. We discussed the MU experience with a possible overlap project called LEAD, which uses NWP models in teaching synoptic meteorology.

Ajoy Kumar and Alex Vandercourt are also teaching with 'weather in a tank' materials in oceanography. Ajoy has used the tank this semester in his class Intro to Oceanography and Alex administered pre-post tests in his World Ocean class providing valuable data for our Control group.

Ajoy has been using a large rotating tank built by Prof Soong on the specs of the MIT large turntable. This semester he used the experiment in demo mode, but has found it quite challenging since his turntable is located in a relative small room where he cannot easily accommodate all of the students in his class. Next semester Ajoy will use the experiments in a hands-on laboratory course in which students work in turn in small groups. This might solve the logistic problems.

Finally we discuss our plans for a final meeting at MIT to round off the project. Everyone seems to be keen on the idea.