Graduate students meet, work, and interact across institutions through CISM:

**Shared Research**

Students at different institutions work together on several research areas of CISM. The CISM Graduate Student Forum, monthly Access Grid meetings and the Graduate Student list server are used for a general call out for help or information, while phone calls and emails to individuals are a common occurrence.

**CISM email list server and forum**

The CISM graduate student forum provides a simple way to keep an ongoing dialogue between CISM students, while the email list server provides a means to send out reminders and distribute our monthly newsletter. Topics discussed on the forum range from programming problems to the location of the next Graduate Student Retreat.

**Conference Support**

CISM students can provide mutual support to each other at conferences. Graduate students make a point to attend each other’s presentations and posters. With this support, students find it easier to integrate within the scientific community.

**Access Grid**

Monthly access grid meetings allow CISM graduate students to share research, practice presentations, discuss meetings, and ask any questions of each other.

The first retreat was held in September 2003. Seven students participated in the meeting, which was led by J. Hughes. The main topic of discussion was Ethical Behavior in the Context of Science. Two recent Ph.D.s, David Murr (Dartmouth) and Niescja Turner (UTEP) also participated. Sessions included “The Goals of CISM”, “How to survive graduate school”, and “Getting along with your advisor”.

The second annual CISM Graduate Student Retreat was held September 17-19, 2004. Ten CISM PhD students from five institutions participated with CISM Director Jeffrey Hughes and two early-career scientists, Genene Fisher (American Meteorological Society) and Michael Wiltberger (NCAR) (pictured below-left with J. Hughes). The 2004 topic was “Careers in Space Physics” and “How to find a job after Graduate School”. The students also used this meeting as an opportunity to organize themselves better, initiating the Access Grid, Newsletter, Webpage and Forums.

The Graduate Retreat not only allows the Graduate Students to meet each other face to face and to discuss important issues facing the scientific community, but also to share experiences with each other, such as Yong Gong and Christina Lee’s first feel of the Atlantic Ocean.

**Graduate Student Webpage**

A Graduate Student Webpage is currently under construction. The site contains (or will contain) Access Grid minutes, a gallery of photos from the Graduate Retreat and scientific meetings, links to every student’s homepage, a list of student presentations and publications.

[http://sprg.ssl.berkeley.edu/~clee/CISM/cism_student.html](http://sprg.ssl.berkeley.edu/~clee/CISM/cism_student.html)

**Graduate Student Newsletter**

Every month a newsletter is sent out to the entire Graduate Student community. This Newsletter provides, among other things, the minutes for the Access Grid that month and reminders of important dates and deadlines.

Each newsletter also includes a section devoted to a brief summary of each Graduate Student’s work (both research and scholastic) over the past month.

**Broader Experiences**

Beyond their individual research areas and those emphasized in their own institutions, CISM graduate students

- gain familiarity and experience with problems of the whole sun-earth system
- work with established scientists at other institutions
- form relationships with peers that will continue past graduate school