

Tribute to Jay Fein

1937-2016



Richard Anthes

31st Conference on Climate Variability and Change

98th Annual Meeting of AMS

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Austin, Texas

Why a tribute to Jay?

- Best program manager* I have ever worked with.
- Instrumental in GPS/MET and COSMIC-without Jay these programs would not have happened.
- Critical to the success of many other programs, including field programs like MONEX, TOGA-COARE and the NCAR Community Climate System Model.
- A truly nice, generous and gracious man-but could be tough!



- Management and leadership. Management takes care of programs successfully-like a good mechanic. Leadership initiates and then makes programs happen. Both are needed. Management and leadership in the same person are rare.
- Rick's gratuitous comments: (1) Career management positions at NSF and other agencies are essential. (2) Who you know matters (based on earned trust)

Brief Story of Jay's Life

- Born in 1937 in Brooklyn, NY
- During WWII Jay and his brother collected scraps of paper and metal for the war effort
- In high school, no interest in science or math
- Tired of 1st job as a machinist, went to a community college, then Rutgers for degree in engineering
- Served in U.S. Air Force as a weather observer and forecaster

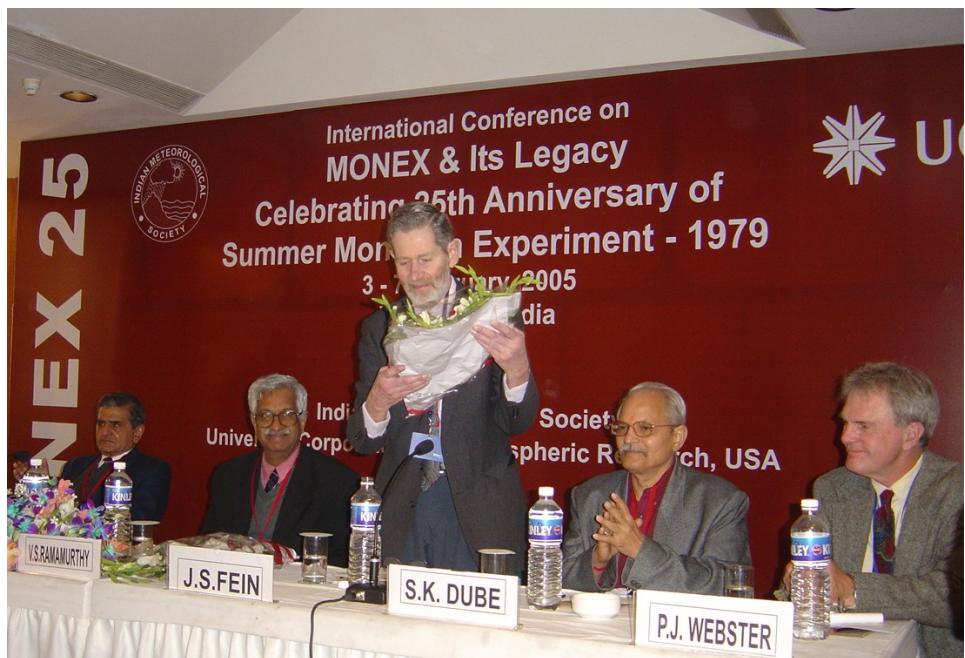
Brief Story of Jay's Life

- Assigned to Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota where he worked from 1962-1965
- One snowy night, saw ad in BAMS for FSU, with pretty girls and palm trees

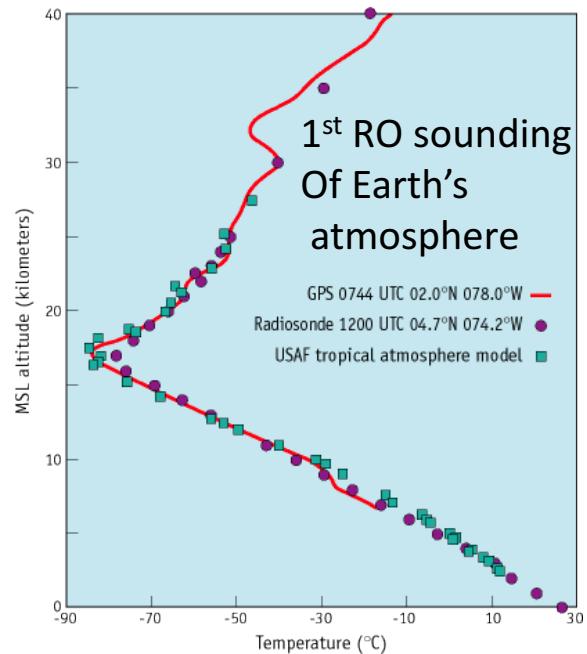


- Raced to FSU where he met his wife Sara Beck and got a PhD in meteorology
- Worked on tropical meteorology with T.N. Krishnamurti as a post doc.
- Brief faculty position at University of Oklahoma

- Went to NSF ATM in 1976. Associate Program Director for GARP (Global Atmospheric Research Program).
- Sponsored and managed many major international field programs (e.g. MONEX, TOGA-COARE, INDOEX)



- In 1986 became program director for ATM's Climate Dynamics program
- In 1980s and 1990s worked with UCAR and NCAR to develop the Community Climate System Model
- In 1992 partnered with Mike Mayhew (NSF EAR) on GPS/MET program-the first RO observations of Earth's atmosphere!



Jay played a leadership role in UCAR/NCAR
Community Climate System Model Program 1988
through his retirement in 2012



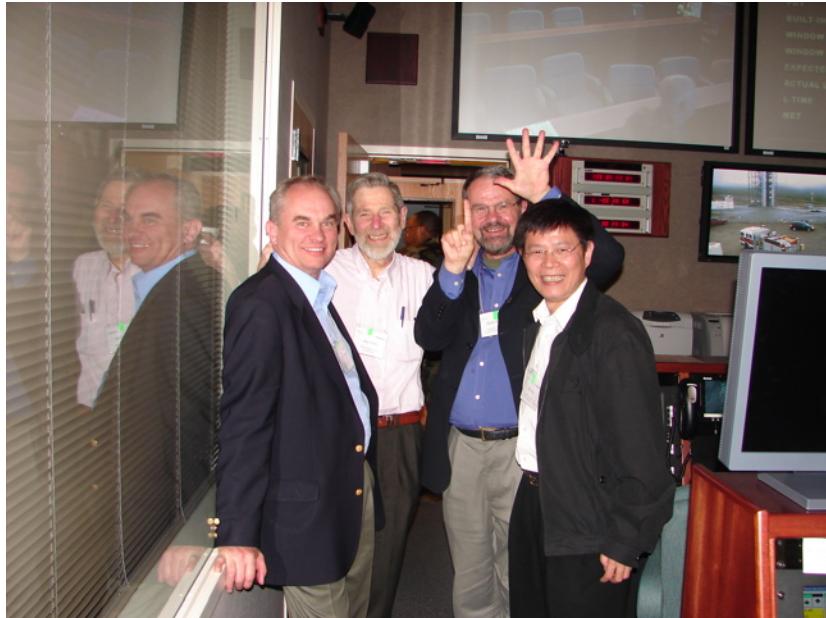
- In June 1997 I met with Jay over breakfast in Breckenridge to present COSMIC as an opportunity. We needed \$20M, more than Jay's entire budget.
- Jay worked tirelessly (and sometimes passionately) getting multi-agency funding for COSMIC and dealing with many other management/leadership issues with COSMIC.



Even a snowstorm in Estes Park at the 2006 COSMIC Retreat
Going over budgets by a window with the power off



COSMIC successfully launched!!



COSMIC Launched at
01:40 UTC on 15 April 2006



- In 2007 Jay was awarded the AMS Cleveland Abbe Award for his “extraordinary leadership, vision and support of the atmospheric sciences, including numerous international field experiments, two satellite missions, and community climate modeling activities.”
- Retired from NSF in 2012



“Being a program director is the best possible job at NSF”





Jay's Retirement Cake says it all

