

## Fusing Research and Outreach in the International Polar Year

C.C. Knight

NOAA Research Outreach Office, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305; 303-497-6401;  
Fax: 303-497-3384; E-mail: Carol.Knight@noaa.gov

The International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 is to be “an intense, internationally coordinated campaign of research that will initiate a new era in polar science,” say the Co-Chairs of the IPY Joint Committee (<http://www.ipy.org/about/index.htm>). The idea of focusing scientific research in and around both the north and south polar regions follows, by 50 years, the groundbreaking and important contributions to Earth system sciences and observations of the International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958. Polar Year research will encompass a wide range of scientific disciplines – including projects that cut across these broad research realms (Figure 1). To foster polar knowledge and understanding for many audiences, IPY organizers also are encouraging proposals in the social sciences, in outreach, and in education. NOAA and its research partners maintain a long-established respected research presence in both the Arctic and the Antarctic, and our scientists today are planning new or expanded research thrusts in the polar regions. Now is the time to look at opportunities to fuse outreach and education with research and to explore ways in which NOAA researchers and research partners can coordinate with outreach and communication professionals to spread the word far beyond the poles for the IPY and coming years.

*Serving as a focal point for  
NOAA's Arctic research activities*



Figure 1. Collage showing areas of interest of the IPY NOAA activities. See Arctic Research Office IPY Theme Web site: <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/aro/ipy-1/>.