

25TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

2001

INCORPORATION

Following a community meeting at NSF, the hydrology community organized a consortium to address shared infrastructure and research needs across the hydrologic sciences. CUAHSI was incorporated in Washington, D.C. on June 25, 2001, with 33 founding universities aligning behind a common goal.

CYBERSEMINAR PROGRAM

CUAHSI launched its Cyberseminar program, creating a free, open venue for water scientists to share and access research at a time when doing so often required travel to a conference or waiting for a journal publication. Cyberseminars were recorded to make the content available asynchronously, lowering the barrier to both disseminating and discovering scientific work. Now with an archive of more than 200 presentations, the program remains a resource for research, career development, and training for the water science community.

2003

HYDROSHARE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS

Led by researchers at Utah State University, the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI), and CUAHSI, with contributions from many different researchers in the water science community, HydroShare began as a collaborative, NSF-funded cyberinfrastructure project to enable users to publish, share, discover, access, analyze, and collaborate around hydrologic-related data and models. HydroShare launched for community use in 2015, and operations transitioned to CUAHSI in 2018. Today, HydroShare supports users across water, climate, and geohazards research, and enables reproducible and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data practices.

2012

CLOUD COMPUTING FOR WATER SCIENCE

CUAHSI launched a free JupyterHub cloud computing service for the water science community, enabling researchers to develop, run, and share web-based scientific notebooks spanning multiple coding languages and libraries. The practical impact was immediate: setting up and running a complex model like the Regional Hydro-Ecological Simulation System, a process that could take weeks or months on a researcher's own machine, could now be completed in minutes. The service also integrated directly with HydroShare, supporting collaborative research around published data.

2017

CUAHSI JOINS NOAA'S COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS IN HYDROLOGY (CIROH)

CUAHSI became one of 28 institutional partners in CIROH, a new NOAA-funded initiative housed at the University of Alabama alongside the National Water Center. Through this partnership, CUAHSI contributes to advancing US water prediction capabilities, including community modeling, hydroinformatics tool development, and the integration of sociological and economic dimensions of water resilience, all while helping to train the next generation of water scientists.

2022

THE NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS

Heading into its 25th year, CUAHSI secured a new NSF Cooperative Agreement (2026–2028) to sustain and evolve its core programs and services, alongside five new awards from CIROH, reflecting continued community investment in CUAHSI's role in the water sciences.

2025

2008

COMMUNITY HYDROLOGIC MODELING PLATFORM (CHyMP) LAUNCHES

CUAHSI convened the first in a series of workshops to identify the need for a substantive, university-led community modeling effort in hydrologic science. The initiative, known as the CHyMP, brought together researchers from universities, government laboratories, and federal agencies over multiple workshops to develop a shared vision and identify concrete steps for implementation. Supported by the NSF, CHyMP was a forward-looking effort whose goals anticipated much of what would later take shape as the National Water Model.

2015

WATER PREDICTION INNOVATORS SUMMER INSTITUTE LAUNCHES

A collaboration between the NOAA National Water Center, The University of Alabama, and CUAHSI, a seven-week immersive program for graduate students was launched to bring together students and researchers to advance national water prediction and flood forecasting capabilities. Over ten years and 250+ fellows later, it remains an important pipeline for the next generation of water scientists.

2017

CUAHSI VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY FOUNDED

CUAHSI launched an inter-university online graduate education program, enabling students to take specialized courses for credit from leading faculty across institutions nationwide and beyond.

2024

HYDROSHARE MOVES TO THE CLOUD

CUAHSI completed the migration of HydroShare to a commercial cloud platform -- a foundational step for the next phase of growth and sustainability.

