

# Energy Budget *Detectives*

Sorting all this out requires information on a lot of different things, and lots of different skills to bring it all together. Here are a few of the key players in creating this diagram. More are highlighted on the web page.



**Takmeng Wong**  
Research Physical Scientist

As a research physical scientist, Dr. Wong analyzes CERES satellite data to track and understand climate change. He works with teams of other researchers and computer programmers to seek answers to his scientific problems and achieve the research goals of his project. Takmeng explains that it isn't enough to just do your own research; reading people's scientific papers and news helps him to keep up with the latest scientific breakthroughs in his field. When Takmeng decided he wanted to become a scientist, he took a special academic path that lead him to his job at NASA today. He went to college and studied meteorology, and continued on to get his Ph.D in atmospheric sciences.

"We inspect nature to see how it is working, and find patterns that will help all of society."



**Stacey Lee**  
Senior Project Planner

As a senior project planner, Stacey creates the CERES budget, tracks spending, and keeps an eye on what CERES was planning on spending versus what was actually spent. When scientists come up with new research ideas, Stacey creates "what-if" scenarios to see if CERES can afford those proposed ideas. Providing the financial constraints of a project allows the participants to make the most of their possibilities. Stacey has worked in finance for over 20 years, and it all began after she graduated from college with a degree in accounting. Stacey got a head start with a summer internship, and has worked for government contractors ever since.

"I work with a fantastic group of individuals who have one singular goal in mind— to make the world a better place," says Stacey. "The CERES group produces data that serves a worldwide scientific community. We all work hand-in-hand to produce the most accurate and useful data possible."



**Tim Marvel**  
Senior Graphic Designer

As part of the outreach team, Tim provides various graphic design and animation support for scientists at NASA. Each day is usually spent working on animations for space based missions, or on illustrations used in communicating science concepts. Tim has always been interested in film and animation, so he decided to get his Bachelor of Arts in Film Directing and 3D Animation, enabling him to work for several years in new media design before supporting NASA's missions.

Tim's job is valuable to the CERES team because he helps convey the CERES mission and the scientific data collected from it in a visual way that effectively communicates this information. Tim works closely with his coworkers, which consist of science writers and a Web programmer so that together, they can provide the necessary pieces that go into communicating science to the public.



**Vertley Hopson**  
Senior Computer Scientist

As a computer scientist, Vertley spends her time consulting with CERES supervisors, systems analysts and programmers to gather information about how and where they use the instrument's data. Once she understands their needs, she develops and runs codes for software to make sure the data product is high quality and meets everyone's needs. Vertley's job is especially important to CERES team members because this is the final step that ensures that people will be able see and use the valuable data.

Vertley has a bachelor of science in business and started work at NASA as an administrative assistant. As her knowledge, skills and abilities grew, she was able to become a computer scientist. Every day, Vertley uses her problem solving skills to make sure software is running smoothly and that scientists and the public have the data they need.