

# AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Spring/Summer 2021

Volume 10 Issue 4

## LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Dear AMS Local Chapters,

Please take some time and get your Chapter of the Year nominations ready to go. All nominations are due on May 1, 2021.

The Chapter Awards are presented each year to a regular chapter and a student chapter. The award will be given for chapter activities conducted during a 12-month period from 1 May through 30 April of the year the nomination is submitted. Award winners are notified in July and are acknowledged at the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting. Visit the [Chapter of the Year Awards](#) page for more information on nomination requirements.

The Local Chapter of the Year Award is presented to recognize chapters for their efforts to support chapter membership and its growth, their community through educational outreach

and service, and the national Society through volunteerism and other activities. The award consists of a banner for the chapter and a certificate for each serving officer.

The Local Student Chapter of the Year Award is presented to recognize chapters for their efforts to support chapter membership and its growth, their community through educational outreach and service, and the national Society through volunteerism and other activities. The award consists of a banner for the chapter and a certificate for each serving officer.

For more information and to begin your nomination, [visit this link](#).

You can also view the webinar that the Local Chapter Affairs Committee put together last year on how to make your nomination the best it can be.

# CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

## SOUTH DAKOTA MINES

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 restrictions presented, the South Dakota Mines AMS Student Chapter (the "Weather Club") has still enjoyed a rewarding year. We have welcomed several new members, from the freshman to graduate level. Although our weekly meetings needed to be via Zoom, we were joined by several guest speakers virtually. Attendees learned about a variety of career paths a degree in atmospheric science can lead to, as well as invaluable advice on getting to those careers. Additionally, we had excellent community participation in our annual Weather Club Calendar fundraiser, with over forty excellent photo submissions for just twelve months!

The remainder of the spring semester looks promising for the Weather Club. Our twice-annual highway cleanup event was recently allowed to resume after a cancellation last fall due to COVID concerns. We plan on hosting more local speakers and continuing to build relationships in the Rapid City community. We are especially excited for future collaborations with the recently renewed Black Hills AMS Chapter.

The Weather Club wishes all members of the AMS community good health in these trying times. We look forward to a mostly normal fall semester!

## SOCIEDAD METEOROLÓGICA DE PUERTO RICO



Recording... You are viewing the M. Benta López's screen View Options -

**TRABAJO ACTUAL**

Isabel M. Benta López

- Manejadora y Analista de Programas
- Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, HQ
  - NOAA Science Council
    - support and advice NOAA Leadership and senior scientists
      - Including NOAA's Chief Scientist – political appointee
    - Develop and manage any projects and policies under it
      - NOAA Science Report (logic model)
      - NOAA Administrative Orders
    - NOAA Research and Development Enterprise Committee
  - NOAA R&D analysis
  - Science communication – Congressional reports
  - Scientific Integrity
  - NOAA Lab Liaison/Representative
  - Supervise contractors
  - Others...

2020 NOAA SCIENCE REPORT



During the middle of the semester, the SMPR students set some time apart from classes to assist with monthly meetings and webinars designed for them. The SMPR chapter had a special guest during February, the meteorologist Isha M. Renta. Isha is currently the Manager and Program Analyst of NOAA & OAR. But she also graduated from the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez campus.

During the Zoom meeting, students had the opportunity to learn about her beginnings as a student. And also her journey of becoming such a successful person in her field. She gave us insight into her achievements and accomplishments. Being a minority in her job made her work harder to open the path for the Spanish community. And thanks to her, a multitude of tools from NOAA are now available for the Spanish community. Her workshop was mainly about how reaching your dream is not a straight

path. There will be challenges and frustration, but the importance of it is that you never stop learning. To always remember that we, as future meteorologists, must use science to help others. Thanks to her words of encouragement, each student left with an extraordinary message. We are thankful for sharing a space with our fellow meteorologists. We hope to have another workshop with her in the future.

Also, our Chapter had its monthly meeting. In this meeting, we discussed future projects, workshops, and meetings for the rest of the semester. Our biggest project for this semester is the Weather fest which is happening soon. We are finishing the details for this big event so that it can occur without any problem. Also, the members have been working on perfecting their skills in weather forecasting so we can be ready for the next hurricane season!

# NORTHWEST INDIANA



The Northwest Indiana Chapter is currently in the process of hosting our spring speaker series: the Valpo AMS Speaker Series. The Series consists of five events; three virtual presentations from professionals in the STEM field, a joint game night with the FIT Student Chapter, and a senior panel.

For our first virtual speaker, we collaborated with Jared Guyer (a Valpo alumnus) from the Storm Prediction Center. It was a successful event as we were able to learn about his past experiences at Valparaiso University as well as the journey he took to get to his current position as a lead forecaster at the SPC. This event also allowed professors to connect with Jared as well as current students, which was a neat added bonus.

Our second event was a joint meeting with the FIT Student Chapter where we played games such as Kahoot, Weather Pictionary, Among Us, and Jack Box. It was great to meet with another Student Chapter and we look forward to doing more joint events in the future hopefully!

Our last two virtual presentations will take place on April 6th and April 13th. Feel free to check out our Facebook (@ValpoAMSNWA) or Twitter (@NWI\_AMS) to find out more about the virtual events.

## MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

As restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are still in effect throughout Millersville University's campus, it has been difficult for the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at Millersville to conduct any in-person events. The one exception to that is the continuation of the project, Millersville University – Piedmont Area Arctic Front Tracking (MU-PAST), led by Dr. Richard Clark. So far this semester, the groups that were created to manage different areas of the project have been able to get together several times. All in all, the project is still going strong, as the MU-PAST team has collected important data, launched weather balloons, and continuously observed forecasts.

On the other hand, the MU-AMS Student Chapter has been able to hold a couple other

virtual events to keep the members involved with the organization. One such event that was held recently was a game night on Zoom where several members involved in the MU-AMS Student Chapter got together and played the game, Among Us. It was a great time and the members who attended the game night were able to meet other members in the organization.

The MU-AMS Student Chapter has also been given the opportunity to have a meeting with President Wubah of Millersville University, which will be conducted on March 29th, 2021. The officers and several other members of the MU-AMS Student Chapter are excited for this wonderful opportunity and are looking forward to having a successful meeting with President Wubah.



# GREATER NJ/NYC/PHILLY PRE-COLLEGE

The Greater NJ/NYC/Philly Pre-College AMS Chapter continued to hold virtual programming events.

On February 6th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region 3's Hurricane Program Manager, Mike Bilder presented to our chapter. As the Hurricane Program Manager for Region 3, Mr. Bilder assists local emergency management personnel in preparing for the impact of hurricanes and associated extreme weather events. In his presentation, Mr. Bilder provided insight into how FEMA prepares for, and responds to, weather emergencies. He also shared advice in how to pursue a career in meteorology and emergency management. We thank Mr. Bilder for his generosity!

Our next chapter event happened on March 6th with two current Penn State meteorology students. Christopher Long, a senior in Penn State's meteorology program, presented research about the development of the Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI). The WSSI allows the public to understand better the severity of winter weather events through a graphical depiction. Long's research included analyzing the accuracy of the WSSI and identifying potential areas for improvement. Next, Grant LaChat, also a senior in Penn State's meteorology program, presented on his trip with the Penn State Storm Chasing club in May 2019. On that trip to the Great Plains, the club conducted a study about small hail for the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, in addition to chasing storms. Our chapter thanks Chris Long and Grant LaChat for their engaging presentations.

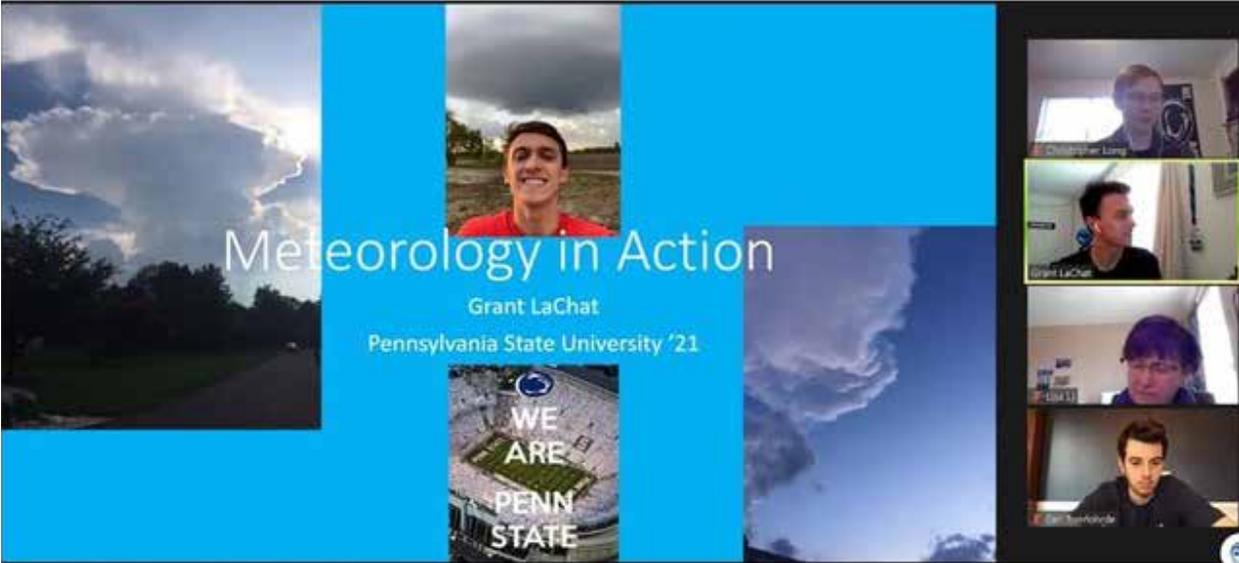
Our chapter looks forward to the coming months and more virtual programs, and we also hope to meet in person as soon as cases are lower, and vaccinations become widely available in our area!

Written by Jerry Zhou, Secretary

## My "Blue Sky" Activities

- Planning
- Training
- Exercises
- Relationship Building
- Public Outreach







## GEORGIA TECH

The Georgia Tech student chapter of AMS (StORM Club – Students Observing and Researching Meteorology) had the pleasure of virtually attending the 101st annual AMS conference in January! Members of our chapter had the invaluable opportunity of listening to interesting talks and seminars, meeting meteorologists from around the world, and networking with likeminded students, companies and grad schools!

After the conference, our chapter held a joint meeting with our department's earth science honor society, SGE (Sigma Gamma Epsilon), to kick off our spring semester. This meeting featured a panel of upperclassmen students, who shed light into their experiences at major conferences, and provided their wisdom to help attendees make the most of their experiences when networking at career fairs, grad school fairs, and navigating through job searches amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Yellow Jackets are excited for many more events and opportunities in the coming months, and are looking forward to “swarming” into the 102nd annual AMS conference in Houston next year!

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

The Central Virginia Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) met virtually on February 25, 2021. Requests were made for screener and judges for a local science fair and for candidates for chapter officers for the spring election. Chapter President Peter Effertz presented a talk about the functions of his new employer, the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) Global Monitoring Laboratory. CIRES conducts global monitoring of carbon dioxide, global radiation, aerosols, total column ozone distribution and water vapor at four locations: American Samoa, Utqiagvik/Barrow, Alaska, the South Pole, and Mauna Loa, Hawaii.

## BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the AMS has continued to operate fully online due to COVID-19. Our virtual February meeting was held on February 10th with Matt Lanza as our guest speaker. He talked to the club about his path to becoming lead meteorologist at Cheniere Energy Inc. and what it is like to be a meteorologist for an energy company. He gave great advice to members seeking jobs in the

private industry and shared stories about his journey as well.

The Blue Ridge Chapter will continue to hold virtual meetings for the remainder of the semester. We will have more alumni from Virginia Tech talk to the chapter for future meetings to give members an idea of all the possibilities out there in the field of meteorology.



# FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

**CREATE COMMUNITY SCIENCE.**

**CREATE CHANGE.**

AMS-ASTC-AGU Thriving Earth Exchange

## SCIENTISTS WANTED

AMS-sponsored Thriving Earth Exchange projects are seeking volunteer scientists for various community science projects, including ocean rise measurements, green house gas inventories, and local flooding assessments. Your knowledge and skills will make a critical difference in science equity and the future of community science.

Other Thriving Earth exchange projects are also in need of scientific expertise. [Learn more and apply today](#)

## JOIN THE AMS WEATHER BAND

The AMS Weather Band reaches beyond core AMS membership of professionals to engage with anyone eager to learn more about how the atmosphere works. Weather enthusiasts from all over the world and all walks of life are joining now to share, connect, and learn. Join the Band or contribute content at [amsweatherband.org](http://amsweatherband.org)

The infographic features a central sun with rays and a large yellow circle containing the text "For you!". To the left, a stylized grey and white wave graphic contains several callouts: "For the weather wary (and prepared)", "For teachers and learners and everyone in between", "For the radar obsessed", "For fans of the 1996 masterpiece Twister", "For double rainbow hunters", and "For flyers, fishers, and friends of the outdoors". Below the wave, a "Find us at..." section lists social media icons for Facebook (AMS Weather Band), Instagram (AMS Weather Band), YouTube (AMS WXBand), and Pinterest (AMS WXBand). To the right of the sun, a list of benefits includes: "Access to weather experts", "A monthly newsletter filled with weather insight", "A members-only online community", "Exclusive content and events", "Unique and stylish weather merch", and "Supporting weather, water, and climate science". At the bottom, a yellow cloud says "Just \$28 a year" and a white cloud says "Become a member today". The bottom right corner features the text "Learn more at [amsweatherband.org](http://amsweatherband.org)". A central text block reads: "A global community of weather enthusiasts" and "From the American Meteorological Society—a respected nonprofit organization at the forefront of atmospheric and related sciences for over 100 years".

## RECENT CAREER PODCAST RELEASES



In our March episodes of [Clear Skies Ahead](#), AMS talked to Jeff Strong, a Research Scientist at AIR Worldwide in Boston, Massachusetts and then Tom Kilpatrick, an Oceanographer at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), within the U.S. Department of the Interior, in Sterling, Virginia.

[Subscribe to Clear Skies Ahead here.](#)

### 2021 Fire Weather Research Workshop



8-9 April 2021

#### **Webinar: Fire Weather Research Workshop April 8 & 9, 2021 - 12:00pm-3:00pm Eastern Time**

This two-day workshop co-sponsored by the AMS Ad Hoc Committee on Wildfire Weather, Technology and Risk will provide the latest information and current state-of-knowledge on fire weather research to fire management agencies, scientists, students and other stakeholders. Topics include fuels and fire danger; remote sensing of the fire environment, fire weather indices and case studies, coupled fire-atmosphere modeling advances, and smoke modeling and impacts. Funding for the workshop is provided by PG&E. [Register Now.](#)

#### **Short Course Proposal Deadline has been Extended!**

If you are interested in teaching a short course at the [102nd AMS Annual Meeting](#), there is still time to submit a proposal. The deadline has been extended to April 15th. Short Courses will take place the weekend before the start of the conference.

Course topics that are of interest to the weather, water, and climate community include Processing & Using Remote Sensing Satellite Data, Intro to METplus, Python, Cloud Computing, and Data Management, to name a few. AMS certification holders receive three professional development points for leading a short course! [Learn More.](#)

[Submit a Short Course Proposal](#)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS



### 2021 AMS WASHINGTON FORUM

26–29 April 2021, Virtual Meeting

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/2021-ams-washington-forum/>



### 16TH CONFERENCE ON POLAR METEOROLOGY & OCEANOGRAPHY

01–04 June 2021, Virtual Meeting

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/16th-conference-on-polar-meteorology-and-oceanography/>



### 34TH CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST METEOROLOGY / FIFTH CONFERENCE ON ATMOSPHERIC BIOGEOSCIENCES

Postponed to 21–23 June 2021, Virtual Meeting

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/34agforest-5biogeo/>



### 13TH FIRE AND FOREST METEOROLOGY SYMPOSIUM

11–13 May 2021, Virtual Meeting. Please check the website often for updates!

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/13-fire-and-forest-meteorology-symposium/>



### 34TH CONFERENCE ON HURRICANES AND TROPICAL METEOROLOGY

10–14 May 2021, Virtual Meeting. Please check the website often for updates!

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/34th-conference-on-hurricanes-and-tropical-meteorology/>



### 30TH CONFERENCE ON SEVERE LOCAL STORMS

18–22 October 2021, Santa Fe, NM. Please check the website for updates

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/30th-conference-on-severe-local-storms/>



## AMS Local Chapter Affairs

This newsletter is constructed by members of the American Meteorological Society's Local Chapter Affairs Committee in conjunction with AMS Headquarters. The LCAC meets at every AMS Annual Meeting to help foster the growth of the local chapters.

E-mail the committee at: [amschaps@ametsoc.org](mailto:amschaps@ametsoc.org)

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## Committee Leadership

Kevin Thiel, Chair  
Adam Weiner Chair-Elect  
Tiernan Doyle, AMS Liaison

## Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

[www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC](https://www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC)  
[@AMSLCAC](https://twitter.com/AMSLCAC)

The next newsletter will be published in August. If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events or submit a write-up on a specific activity that was successful, please e-mail [Tiernan Doyle](mailto:Tiernan.Doyle@ametsoc.org) no later than July 26th. To view prior newsletters, [click here](#).