

**Metro Atlanta AMS/NWA Chapter Minutes**  
**President James Belanger, President-Elect Daniel Dix, Treasurer Sean**  
**Miller, Secretary Caroline Zager**  
**November 17, 2011**

**Attendance:** 25

**Business:**

**Treasurer's Report**

As of 11/17/2011, Total Assets of \$1673.70 and no outstanding liabilities.

Paid Members: 18

Paid Student Members: 8

Please pay your chapter dues. Students: \$10, Full Membership: \$20, Corporate Sponsors: \$50

**President-Elect's Report**

Daniel visited with the UGA Student Chapter. Visit to Athens went very well. Discussed his work at The Weather Channel (TWC) primarily but also mentioned the desire for greater collaboration among the student chapter and the Atlanta AMS/NWA.

They are making plans to attend the February meeting at TWC.

**Polo Shirts**

Winning design was from Laura Belanger. Over xx number of votes were recorded online. Powerpoint presentation will be sent to the chapter's mailing list. For members who would like to order a shirt, keep in mind the following information:

The polo shirt is a standard polo (cotton pique) and will be purchased through [CorporateShirtsDirect.com](http://CorporateShirtsDirect.com)

Men's and women's sizes from XS to 5XL are available. Note: Women's shirts are cut differently from men's, so please indicate desire for men's or women's shirt when ordering.

Total cost is \$20 and this includes everything (tax, embroidery, and shipping). Easiest way to pay is by debit/credit card online via Amazon Payments link. Other options is to pay via cash or check to Sean Miller (make check payable to Metro Atlanta Chapter of the AMS).

If you pay online, please send an email to the chapter: [atlamsnwa@gmail.com](mailto:atlamsnwa@gmail.com) and indicate your size preference.

Deadline for ordering is Friday, December 9th. Note: Pre-pay orders will only be accepted.

Shirts will be available for pick-up at our next meeting on Thursday, January 12th.

### **Important Deadlines**

AMS Annual Meeting (January 22-26). Theme: Technology in Research and Operations - How We Got Here and Where We're Going. Location: New Orleans, LA  
Deadline for early registration is December 1st. After deadline, prices go up by \$40.  
For those of you attending the January meeting, check out the Atlanta Chapter's poster!

AMS Student Conference (January 21-22): Cost \$25. Must register in advance to attend conference. Deadline for registration is January 2nd.

### **Featured Presenters**

Dr. Hyemi Kim, *Senior Research Scientist in School of EAS, Georgia Tech*

Dr. Violeta Toma, *Research Scientist II in School of EAS, Georgia Tech*

Title of Presentation: Seasonal Predictability and Predictions

Dr. Kim began the presentation by reviewing the performance of the latest set of seasonal climate models. In particular, the presentation focused on the wintertime (NDJF) forecasts of NCEP's CFS v2 and ECMWF system 3. During NDJF, ECMWF s3 produces excessive precipitation in the equatorial Pacific, equatorial Indian ocean, and the West Pacific. CFS v2 produces excessive precipitation in the south Pacific in association with the South Atlantic Convergence Zone, in the South Indian Ocean, and in the West Pacific. A dry bias is found for both models over South America and Australia. Predictability was presented using the anomaly correlation coefficient of 2m temperature and precipitation anomalies. Wintertime seasonal predictability is greater over the tropics than the extra-tropics and also greater over the ocean than over the land. In terms of inter-annual predictability, ECMWF s3 (CFS v2) shows slightly higher predictability in terms of tropical 2 m temperatures (precipitation) during the wintertime than the CFS v2 (ECMWF s3). In terms of ENSO 3.4 predictability, ECMWF s3 shows significantly higher predictability than CFS v2.

After Dr. Kim provided the comparison of CFS v2 and ECMWF s3, Dr. Toma began the second-half of the presentation. She began her talk by discussing why they bother with seasonal predictions given their limited accuracy and reliability beyond one month especially for the winter season. She discussed the private sector need in the energy, insurance, and re-insurance sectors as reasons to provide these forecasts. Afterwards, Dr. Toma showed verification statistics for how well ECMWF s3 forecasts performed for

winter 2010. Generally, both CFS v2 and ECMWF s3 captured the continuation of La Nina conditions through the winter time months. In response, these models suggested the eastern (western) U.S. would be warmer (cooler) and drier than normal for DJF. In reality, December and January were cooler than normal especially across the SE and eastern U.S with warmer than normal conditions in the western U.S.. Since ENSO modulates at most only one-third of the total variability in winter temperatures across portions of the U.S., the lack of predictability last winter was attributed to a persistent negative Arctic Oscillation/North Atlantic Oscillation. Dr. Toma then presented statistical evidence linking enhanced snowcover across Eurasia during the autumn with cooler than normal winters across the eastern U.S. She also mentioned this enhanced snowcover is being driven by the rapid recession of Arctic sea ice during the summer and autumn. She concluded her talk by providing a temperature forecast for the upcoming 2011 winter for December, January, and February.

Once the talk was complete, the floor was open for questions from the chapter. Several questions were asked which spurred interesting topics for further research. James concluded the meeting by thanking Drs. Kim and Toma for speaking to the chapter and presented each with an AMS chapter mug.

### **Next Meeting**

#### **Thursday, Jan 12, at ES&T Georgia Tech**

Topic: Dual-Pol Doppler Radar and the Potential Impacts on Operations at NWS FFC

John Trostel - GTRI/PhD Candidate in School of EAS

Steven Nelson - Science & Operations Officer NWS FFC