

Metro Atlanta AMS Meeting - 9/14/2006  
GA Tech

- Dr. Chip West introduced new officers:
  - Chip West, President – MIC, CWSU
  - Stephanie Klipfel, President-Elect – MIC, Delta Meteorology
  - Randy Skov, Treasurer – Forecaster, CWSU
  - Trisha Palmer, Secretary – Forecaster, WFO Peachtree City
- Introduction of the new webpage
  - <http://www.ametsoc.org/chapters/atlanta/>
  - We would like to start Cirrus (newsletter) again
  - We will be posting meeting notes and future meeting schedules/locations on the webpage
- Future meetings:
  - Next meeting will be at Delta Meteorology
    - We need a list of names by the Monday before the meeting
    - We will send out an e-mail to notify everyone
  - To let members know about upcoming meetings, we plan to tell them at the current meeting, and then e-mail everyone at least *two weeks* prior to the meeting in question.
  - Other places/speakers of interest we plan for this year:
    - ATL tower (January – it should be dark out [hopefully it won't be foggy])
    - A speaker from GA Tech to explain about their graduate/undergraduate programs
- Issues for tonight: Dual AMS/NWA chapter, and increasing chapter membership.
  - NWA: Many local chapters are joint AMS/NWA chapters
    - AMS is more research-oriented, NWA more operationally-oriented
    - We'd like to propose a dual chapter
    - We need 50% membership to vote, and 2/3 majority vote to accept
    - National AMS guidelines state that we need separate constitutions for each local organization
    - We would split dues between each local organization – currently, dues are \$15 for full members – we would re-word the constitution(s) so that dues would be \$7.50 for local AMS, \$7.50 for local NWA.
    - We can either think about the proposal until the next meeting, or vote tonight.
    - → After discussion, it was decided to postpone voting until we have the next quorum. We will send out another e-mail with more information, including the benefits of having a dual chapter, etc.
  - Increasing chapter membership:
    - We have three NOAA offices, local TV stations/radio, Delta, CNN, TWC, and several private industry companies that employ meteorologists (i.e., this chapter should be huge)

- Chip proposes that we challenge ourselves to 100 active members this year
  - Students interning at TV stations – invite co-workers
  - Chip challenges Lans and John to 75% of their employees (although Chip only has four, so statistically speaking it's slightly easier for him to get 75% involvement)
  - What ideas do we have to increase chapter membership? What can we offer at meetings to make them more interesting so that more people will come?
- Randy Skov was '05-'06 Chapter President
  - Audrey Ewen won Student of the Year Award from UGA, but could not come to the Banquet (her check was sent out over the summer)
  - Randy presented her award tonight
- Treasurer's report: \$1961
  - Before dues collection tonight
- Guest speaker tonight – Dr. Marshall Shepherd, UGA
  - One of the goals of our organization – bylaws say that we need to distribute the knowledge of meteorology – thus we are inviting UGA and GA Tech to share with us information about their programs and research areas
- Notes from Dr. Shepherd's presentation:
  - Atmospheric Sciences is housed in the Department of Geography at UGA and is a component of "physical geography".
  - Geography department offers a certificate program in atmospheric sciences, rather than a traditional degree
    - Certificate program meets all requirements of NWS, AMS, etc., and students that have graduated from UGA have gone on to have successful careers in the NWS/NOAA, TV stations, private companies, and have succeeded in well-established graduate programs across the country
  - Have collaborative ties with ecology, geology, marine sciences, forest service (USDA on campus), etc.
  - Atmospheric sciences program is interdisciplinary – students are required to complete related science major along with the certificate program (i.e., hydrology, geology, etc.)
    - Approximately 20 students in the program currently, 1-7 graduate per year
    - 10-12 atmospheric sciences related graduate students currently
    - Program began in 2000
  - Very rigorous program
  - Some key partnerships
    - Mesonet
    - GA Automated Environmental Monitoring Network
    - State Climate Office is at UGA
  - [www.uga.edu/atsc](http://www.uga.edu/atsc)