

Meeting Summary

15th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction

Edgar L. Andreas, NorthWest Research Associates, Inc., Lebanon, NH
Daniel J. Vimont, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Ralph C. Foster, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

The AMS STAC Committee on Air-Sea Interaction held its 15th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction at the Doubletree Hotel–Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon, on 20–23 August 2007.

Air-sea interaction encompasses time and space scales that range from turbulent exchange across the air-sea interface that is dominated by wind waves to the global scales that manifest in climate variability and phenomena such as El Niño. The Conference on Air-Sea Interaction likewise included 13 oral sessions, comprising 54 talks, that reflected this breadth of scales. For example, it addressed the very large scales with sessions entitled “Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions and Their Contributions to Climate Variability on All Time Scales,” “Air-Sea Interaction in Paleo-Climates,” and “Unresolved Issues in ENSO Dynamics and Prediction.” The Conference acknowledged the smallest scales in sessions on “Sea Surface Physics: Waves, Whitecaps, and Aerosols,” “In Situ Turbulent Air-Sea Flux Measurements,” and “New Parameterizations for Air-Sea Coupling.” Finally, the Conference considered the mesoscale between these two extremes with sessions called “Atmosphere and Ocean Responses to Gradients in Sea Surface Temperature,” “Remote Sensing Applied to Air-Sea Interaction,” “Applications of Satellite Ocean Vector Winds to Air-Sea Interaction Processes,” and “Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions and Influences on Tropical and Extratropical Storms.”

The Conference also included one formal poster session, with 16 posters, on Tuesday afternoon. But because of the abundant space at the Doubletree, the posters were displayed the entire week and, thereby, generated many good discussions during the coffee breaks.

The Conference covered new ground for our Committee by holding joint oral and poster sessions on Wednesday afternoon with the 14th Conference on Middle Atmosphere, which was running concurrently. The theme of these joint sessions was “Middle Atmosphere/Troposphere/Ocean Interactions.”

As usual, the Conference on Air-Sea Interaction featured a best-student-paper competition. Students entered in this competition made 11 oral and five poster presentations during the Conference. All of these student talks and posters were very good. Laura Ciasto, of Colorado State University, and Emily Harrison, of the University of Delaware, were awarded first and second places for their oral presentations, “Observations of Large-Scale Ocean-Atmosphere Interaction in the Southern Hemisphere” and “The Effects of Rainfall on the Ocean Surface at Low Wind Speed,” respectively. Scott Capps, of the University of California–Irvine, and Abdou Aziz Mbengue, of Centre d’étude des Environnements Terrestre et Planétaires (CTEP), Vélizy-Villacoublay, France, won first and second place awards for their posters, “Using QuikSCAT-Derived Surface Winds and a GCM to Improve Predicted Wind Speed Variability and Ocean Surface Fluxes” and “Satellite Estimate of Specific Humidity over the Ocean Using Microwave Radiometry,” respectively. To encourage students to participate in the Conference and to recognize the students’ contributions, the Committee on Air-Sea Interaction arranged for all students who entered the student competition to receive a complimentary copy of the *Glossary of Meteorology*.

The social highlight of the Conference was a “banquet” on Wednesday evening at the Portland Zoo. Besides picnic fare, the evening featured an outdoor concert of country-rock music with performances by, among others, Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Famer Chris Hillman, formerly of the Byrds.

The program for the Conference, abstracts, and extended abstracts and recordings of many of the presentations are archived on the AMS website at

http://ams.confex.com/ams/15isa14m/techprogram/programexpanded_420.htm.

The 16th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction will be held in conjunction with the AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on 11–15 January 2009.