AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2020

American Meteorological Society, 45 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-3693

MARY GLACKIN: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2020 Annual Meeting in Boston celebrating our 100th anniversary was outstanding success with record attendance. We were fortunate to have this meeting early in the year as by March, COVID and its associated restrictions had gripped the US and the world. This required moving all activities on-line including, ultimately the 101st meeting originally scheduled for New Orleans, LA in January 2021. I can't say enough about the hard work and dedication of AMS staff and volunteers to meet these challenges. Below I list of some the more significant accomplishments of 2020.

AMS moved forward on several fronts to make our community a welcoming space where all can contribute to their maximum. Council approved its only cabinet level organization to help guide all of the Society's efforts – the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet with the inaugural chair of Dr. Melissa Burt. An early accomplishment was implementation of implicit bias training for staff and volunteers. To meet current challenges and better support our members the Board of Women and Minority was reformulated as the Board of Representation, Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity (BRAID) under the leadership of Dr. Arron Penã. The Ethics Committee was stood up and Council adopted a Code of Conduct expanding beyond the traditional research and publication guidelines. New awards honoring our diverse current and existing members were established or awarded for the first time this year including the Syukuro Manabe Climate Research Award, the Joanne Simpson Tropical Meteorology Research Award, and the Warren Washington Research and Leadership Medal. And, the Broadcast Meteorology Award was renamed for Dr. June Bacon-Bercy.

Thanks to the generosity in our community, the AMS Centennial Campaign concluded with an amazing $11M raised. Much of these funds will support students and early career members of our community. Several Centennial initiatives moved forward focusing on engaging broader society. These efforts were the impetus to reorganize the Commission of Education and Human Resources to the Education and Community Engagement Commission with a focus on education, member support, and service to society.

Despite it being a fully virtual meeting the 101st Annual Meeting was a success. The meetings' theme was *Strengthening Engagement with Communities through our Science and Service*. It kicked off on Sunday with a Presidential Session on *Building a Culture of Anti-Racism in the Weather, Water and Climate Community*. Other highlights included the new National Science Foundation Director, Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan sharing NSF's strategic goals and New Orleans Mayor Latoya Cantrell speaking about increasing resiliency of New Orleans through community engagement.

AMS Council appointed a search committee for a new executive director led by Dr Kevin Petty. After nearly 20 years of service, Keith Seitter planned to step into an Emeritus role. I am very grateful to Keith and all of the AMS staff for their dedication. From managing to secure a federal loan/grant for pandemic relief, to launching our first weather enthusiastic offering *Weather Band*, to moving meetings on line, their performance was stellar in a very challenging year.

Mary M. Glackin
2020 AMS President

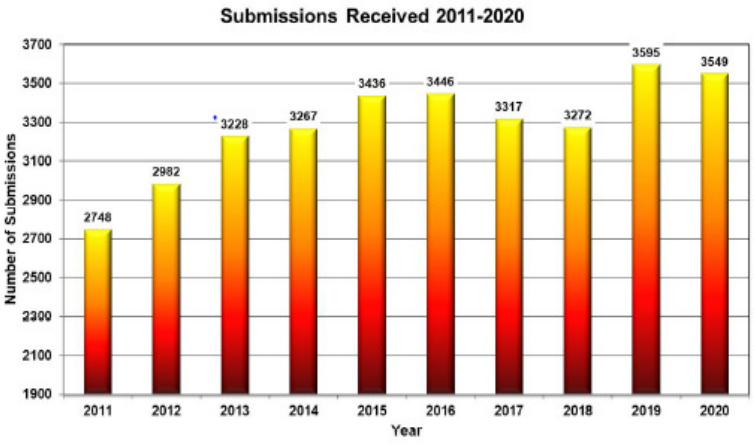
PUBLICATIONS

AMS journals are known for rigorous peer review and for publishing high impact papers. AMS provides above-average levels of customer service for authors, and staff support for volunteer editors that allows AMS to attract highly regarded members of the community to serve on our editorial boards. During 2020, we continued efforts (begun in 2018) to streamline editorial workflows, cut costs, and further reduce production times keeping publication operations in line with standard practices across the scholarly journals publishing industry. Along with the September 2019 reduction in page charges, the above enable us to promote AMS journals as a good value for authors at a time when research budgets are shrinking, and publication options are expanding.

There is continued author and funder interest in Open Access, and the "Open Choice" option for authors allow AMS to accommodate authors and funder requirements under our existing policies.

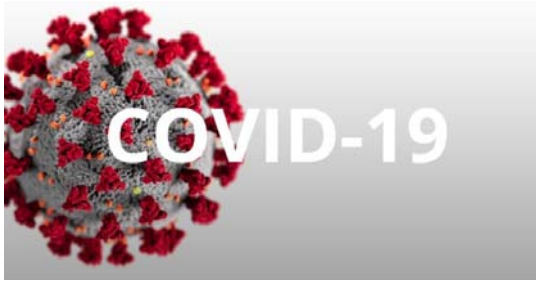
Highlights for 2020

- AMS journals received a total of 3549 submissions in 2020, resulting in a total of 34,042 published pages (not counting BAMS).
- BAMS published 3723 pages.
- AMS journals completed two hosting transitions in 2020 and ended the year at its new host that will provide expanded functionality.
- Plain-language significance statements are now an option for authors in all journals.



COVID-19 and AMS Publications

Throughout 2020, the Publications Department carried out normal operations. The move to work-from-home for all AMS staff starting in mid-March due to COVID-19 had no impacts on author and editor support, or on production schedules. Primary reasons for the minimal impacts were: (1) the option for staff to work from home one or two days per week was already long-established, and (2) the department's systems and workflows do not rely on physical office locations. In addition, key vendor services (submission tracking and author/reviewer database, composition and related services, online hosting) also continued normal operations during this time.



In response to COVID-19 disruptions on researchers' work and personal lives, we made our journals content freely available from 25 March through 30 September 2020**.** Normally, all AMS journal articles are freely available one year after publication date. Responses from institutional library staff as well as individual readers indicated that the access was helpful.

AMS Books program ramp down

The ramping down of the Books program was completed in 2020. Ongoing Books activities have been incorporated into the responsibilities of other department staff. Books for which there are existing contracts with authors will be published. We will continue to support distribution and promotion of these books, as well as books we have previously published, including through the AMS online bookstore and through our distribution partnership with University of Chicago Press. It is possible that AMS will occasionally publish a book of particular importance to the community, but these are expected to be rare exceptions: we are not actively seeking new titles.

MEETINGS

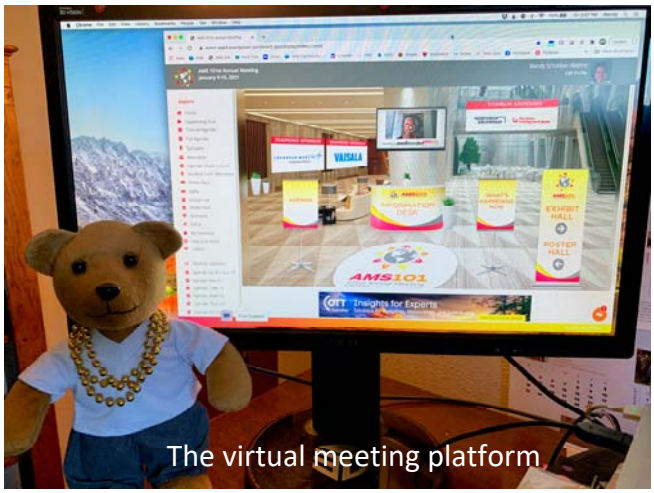
The Society came out of the very successful 100th AMS Annual Meeting in January 2020 with a great deal of momentum. That meeting featured 38 conferences and symposia and boasted a record number of presented papers (over 4000) as well as a record attendance of over 5700. Then, in March, the COVID shutdowns forced a rapid change in all aspects of the meetings operations. Most specialty conferences planned for the year were deferred for future years at the request of the volunteer program committees, but two, the 19th Conference on Mountain Meteorology and AMS Washington Forum, were successfully administered as virtual meetings.

The 101st Annual Meeting was held 10-15 January 2021. AMS President Mary Glackin worked with overall program chairs Tanja Fransen and Nate Johnson, along with the many volunteer program committees and the AMS staff, to convert the meeting to al all-virtual event instead of the in-person meeting scheduled to be held in New Orleans. The theme for the 2021 Annual Meeting was *"Strengthening Engagement with Communities through our Science and Services,"* and it included 39 conference and symposia.

The transition to being a fully virtual meeting was not an easy one for a meeting as large and complicated as the Annual Meeting, but the meetings staff rose to the challenge. There were some minor technical issues at times, but overall, the meeting platform performed well. By all measures the meeting was a success with over 3000 papers presented and about 4700 registered attendees (both of which are well above any annual meeting other than the prior 100th Annual Meeting).

Virtual "A Night in New Orleans"

Alan Sealls moderating the virtual awards ceremony



The virtual meeting platform

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The AMS Education Program continues to fulfill our earth science literacy mission on behalf of the AMS membership and complete all our activities despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2020, the program celebrated its 30th anniversary and also reached the milestone of completing the 50th consecutive semester of the AMS DataStreme program, the semester-long teacher professional development courses in weather, ocean, and climate science.

2020 Highlights

- Successfully completed all three offerings of the Fall 2020 DataStreme courses to 77 participants, despite significant COVID-19 stresses on teacher participants and staff.
- Awarded the first DataStreme Fee Waivers to teacher participants with financial need this semester. There were 10 recipients.
- Continued to meet faculty and student demand for our Weather, Ocean, and Climate Studies curriculum sets. Despite the turbulent times for academia, our undergraduate course sales held strong due in part to their design being well-suited to online implementation.
- Continued to actively engage in the weather, water, and climate communities served by the AMS, including continuing to promote atmospheric science education research (ASER), being a part of developing the Action Climate Empowerment (ACE) Strategic Plan for the U.S., collaborating with AIP & AGI, and participating in NAS webinar, Imagining the Future of Undergraduate STEM Education
- Completed successful 100% virtual offering of Project Atmosphere Summer 2020 teacher professional development course. Key field trip elements were delivered remotely, and the course design allowed for strong group bonding.

- Adapting to support evolving bookstore sales models (necessitated by the pandemic) to meet demand for our Weather, Ocean, and Climate Studies curriculum.

Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) Program

AMS began awarding certifications to K-12 teachers in 2020. The Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) Program was established by the AMS to recognize and support educators actively engaged in raising Earth science literacy. CAT specifically connects K-12 educators to AMS, which strengthens their connection to the atmospheric science community and its resources.

There were 28 teachers awarded their CAT certification in 2020.

POLICY

The AMS Policy Program has three primary goals: 1) to help ensure that policy choices take full advantage of information & services relating to weather, water, & climate, 2) to increase awareness of how society's welfare depends on Earth system observations, science, & services, and 3) to facilitate collaboration across the enterprise to most effectively serve public interest.

The work toward those goals, the Policy Program uses three primary approaches: 1) we develop the capacity within the scientific community to contribute to the policy process (e.g., the Summer Policy Colloquium), 2) we inform policy makers about well-established scientific understanding and new advances (e.g. memos and Hill briefings), and 3) we synthesize knowledge at the interface of science and policy through workshops and studies. We also help advance and defend science.

2020 Highlights

- Release of study: "New Minds for New Science: The Forecast for Work in the Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise" — This study looks at how the workforce is undergoing a period of rapid change due to a wide range of technological and societal shifts. These drivers of change will touch virtually every professional field and individual career throughout the world over the next 1–3 decades. The study examines workforce influences and needs for the weather, water and climate enterprise.
- 20th Sumer Policy Colloquium offered as a fully virtual event — Due to COVID, the Colloquium was retooled to be fully virtual. About 25 participants and 50 speakers took part in what was ultimately a very successful Colloquium.

MEMBERSHIP

There has been a gradual decline in membership numbers across nearly all non-profit societies, including AMS, for a number of years. Given that, AMS has expanded marketing efforts to try to have lapsed members rejoin the society and to increase recruitment of new members.

2020 Highlights

- 11,336 individuals and organizations were members of the Society in 2020, down from the 11,752 who were members in 2019.
- 2020 was the first membership year in which full Members (including former early career members) were asked to self-select their dues amount based on income level. As of December 31, 2020, the average amount paid by an individual Member was $111, the same dues rate paid by full Members in 2019.
- With the 2020 dues renewal, we introduced an option for members to automatically renew their membership each year. By the end of the year, nearly 22% of those who were offered the option to auto-renew selected it.
- The 2020 membership year was also the first year members had to opt IN to receive their BAMS member subscription in print (all members continued to have automatic access to Digital BAMS). As of the end of the year, just 39% of members selected to receive print BAMS by mail vs. the 73% in 2019.

Membership by the numbers

Member Type	
Honorary	31
Member (including Fellows)	8103
Graduate Student Member	356
Associate (including Voting Assoc.)	613
Precollege Student	104
Precollege Teacher	173
Student Member	1916
Sustaining CIM	8
Regular CIM	47
Small Business CIM	6
Publications CIM	79
Total	**11,336**

AMS Weather Band

AMS launched a new offering for weather enthusiasts called the AMS Weather Band in November 2020. The project includes a new website, online community, and retail merchandise. The year ended with about 200 new Weather Band members.

AMS Community

The AMS Online Community platform continues to provide valuable content to AMS members. Virtual events and conferences were supported by new community pages, including the 19th Conference on Mountain Meteorology and the 101st AMS Annual Meeting.

In 2020, that content included the following "Ask Me Anything" events:

- Careers Renewable Energy (February)
- Careers in Consulting Meteorology (June)
- President-Elect Candidates (August)
- Thriving Earth Exchange Fellowships (September)
- Careers in Hydrology (November)

Highlights for 2020

- 4,986 unique logins
- over 400 new member profiles completed
- 1,549 posts to the Community's Open Forum
- 201 peer-to-peer messages
- 199 Recommends

Local Chapters

The chapter web site was updated to include documents and links to help local chapters with basic administration and planning tasks, as well as social media, yearly programming, fundraising, citizen science and volunteer initiatives.

There are currently 134 active local chapters: 70 student, 56 local, and 8 precollege. Four chapters were approved and/or reactivated in 2020.

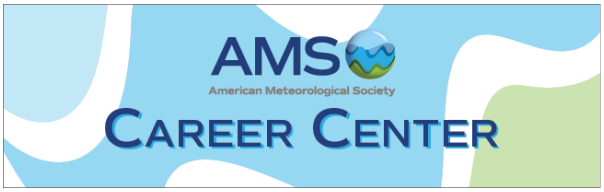
- University of Utah Student Chapter
- SUNY Brockport (reactivation)
- New Cathedral School (pre-college)
- Hampton Roads (reactivation)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

AMS provides many professional development and networking opportunities and offers a variety of resources to support members throughout their careers.

Career Resources Survey

The results of the Career Resources Survey we sent out in July showed that the most valued AMS professional development opportunities were the Webinar Program, CCM Program, Short Courses, and Conferences/Meetings.



Highlights for 2020

- 25 new webinars were produced
- 18 new podcasts were released
- 17 new Career Profiles added to the All About Careers in Meteorology page
- A section on Preparing Students for Employment in the Private Sector was added to the Career Guides and Tools page
- A link for retirees was added to the Professional Development page to direct them to ways to stay engaged with AMS
- A new Schools and Distance Learning landing page was created on the Career Guides and Tools site along with an updated Continuing Education page for a more polished look
- A Manage My AMS Certification page was created to make it easier for current AMS Certification holders to maintain their certifications
- Two AMA's in the online Community featuring careers in Hydrology and Consulting Meteorology

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AMS Certification Programs

The AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program and the AMS Certified Broadcast Meteorologist (CBM) Programs remain an important part of the AMS community. These widely respected programs continue to recognize meteorologists who have met the high standards of AMS certification.

- 31 persons were approved as Certified Broadcast Meteorologists. There are 584 active CBMs.
- 15 persons were approved as Certified Consulting Meteorologists. There are 250 active CCMs.

Learn more about AMS Certification Programs at http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/.

DEVELOPMENT

As the American Meteorological Society closes out our Centennial Campaign, I am delighted to tell you that it was an unprecedented success. We surpassed our original goal of $9 million, and I am happy to report that AMS members and friends have raised a total: $10,298,052 in the following categories:

- Current: $5,263,622
- Short-term commitments: $872,991
- Charitable Gift Annuities: 387,189
- Estate Commitments: $3,774,250

The support for student scholarships, fellowships, and travel grants remains very strong. A final list of Campaign contributors will be provided online later this year.

Lockheed Martin continued its ongoing support as AMS Corporate Patron.

FINANCES

The Society completed the 2020 budget year with a positive bottom line, which was considerably better than expected given the challenges posed with the pandemic and all the major changes in programs and operations that resulted. Strong performance by the AMS journals and the 100th Annual Meeting, which occurred just before the pandemic, contributed to that positive result.

AMS applied for, and received, a Payroll Protection Program loan from the federal government under the CARES Act covid relief programs. This funding was used, as prescribed, to maintain full pay for all AMS staff positions even as some operational areas (such as AMS meetings) needed to ramp down in response to the pandemic.

Further, the Society's investments saw excellent returns in 2020 and ended the year with significant gains, further restoring reserves that had needed to be drawn from in some recent prior years. Charitable giving to the Society, much of which is used to support scholarships, fellowships, travel grants, and other student programs, was relatively strong given the challenges faced by most community members during the year, allowing the Society to successfully surpass even its "stretch goal" of $10 million for the entire 100th Anniversary Campaign.

THANK YOU

AMS Boards and Committees in 2020

AMS advances the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services for the benefit of society.

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The AMS Constitution and Bylaws is a multipage PDF document that is easily accessed on the AMS website. Please click on ametsoc.org/constitution to view the entire document. In accordance with the requirements in the AMS Constitution, Article XII is reproduced here.

ARTICLE XII. Guidelines for Professional Conduct

To enhance the benefits of the meteorological and related professions to humanity, to uphold the dignity and honor of the profession, and to provide guidance for individual members, institutional members, or for members in association with other professionals, the American Meteorological Society has adopted the following Guidelines for Professional Conduct. Only individuals and organizations who intend to abide by these Guidelines should seek admission or continuing membership in the Society; therefore, these Guidelines will appear on the membership application form and will be published at least annually in the official organ of the Society.

1. Relationship of members to the profession as a whole.

   A. Members should conduct themselves in an ethical manner and reflect dignity and honor on their profession.

   B. Members who are professionally active should endeavor to keep abreast of relevant scientific and technical developments; they should continuously strive to improve their professional abilities.

   C. Members engaged in the development of new knowledge should make known to the scientific world their significant results through the media of technical or scientific publications or meetings.

2. Relationship of members to colleagues.

   Members should not take credit knowingly for work done by others; in publications or meetings, members should attempt to give credit where due.

3. Relationship of members to clients and the general public.

   A. Members should base their practice on sound scientific principles applied in a scientific manner.

   B. Members should not direct their professional activities into practices generally recognized as being detrimental to, or incompatible with, the general public welfare.

   C. Members undertaking work for a client should fully advise him or her as to the likelihood of success.

   D. Members should refrain from making exaggerated or unwarranted claims and statements.

   E. Members should refer requests for service that are beyond their professional capabilities or their scope of service to those properly qualified.

   F. Members shall not use or display the official seal of the American Meteorological Society, the Radio Seal of Approval, the Television Seal of Approval, or the designation Certified Consulting Meteorologist or Certified Broadcast Meteorologist unless duly authorized by the Society.