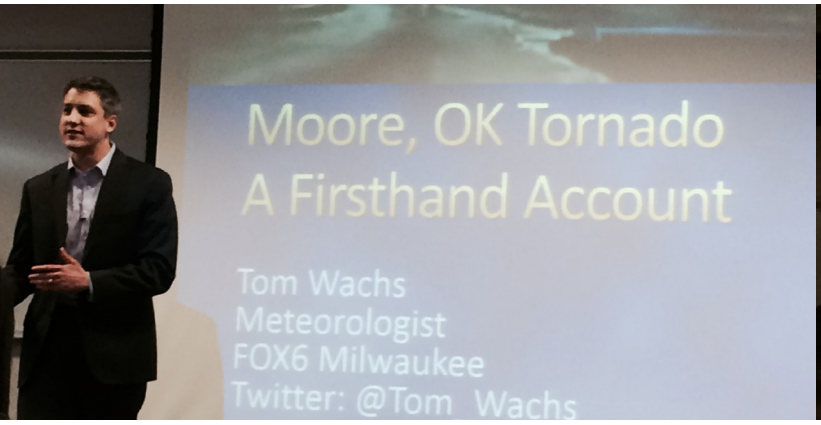
AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

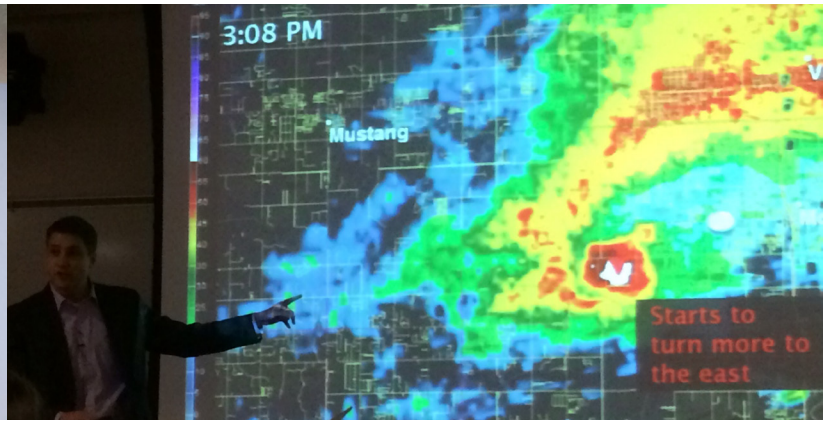
Summer/Fall 2016 Volume 6 Issue 1

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

GREATER MILWAUKEE

On April 6, 2016, the Greater Milwaukee Chapter hosted a presentation titled "The Moore, Oklahoma, Tornado...A Firsthand Account", by meteorologist Tom Wachs from Milwaukee's WITI-TV (FOX6). Wachs was in the Oklahoma City area on May 20, 2013, working on assignment for a Kansas City television station. His talk was a riveting narrative of his encounter with the deadly Moore, Oklahoma, tornado and the destruction in its wake. In addition to detailing the events, Wachs summarized some of the lessons learned on that day, which ended with 24 people dead in the wake of a massive EF5 tornado. Among the AMS Chapter members and friends in the audience were UW-Milwaukee Atmospheric Science Professor Clark Evans; WITI-TV meteorologist Stephanie Barichello; meteorologist Jonathan Erdman (The Weather Company); meteorologist James McCormick (Air Force Weather Agency); and Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association President Skip Voros. More than a dozen from the audience joined a lively informal gathering with the speaker following the talk. ■





SOUTHEAST TEXAS/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

June marked the beginning of a new chapter year and the beginning of hurricane season, one of the more arduous times of the year for meteorologists along the Gulf Coast. In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, chapter member and KATC Chief Meteorologist Rob Perillo presented a talk entitled "Surviving 3 Decades of Hurricane Seasons in Cajun Country". Rob recounted experiences from several major storms to impact Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana including: Hurricanes Andrew, Lili, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, Isaac and Tropical Storm Allison. Regional cultural attitudes, resilience and demographic responses to repeated storms were addressed in the presentation. Afterwards, chapter members discussed best practices for communicating with and preparing communities for impending tropical systems. Later in the month, Mr. Perillo presented a condensed version of his talk at the 44th AMS Conference on Broadcast Meteorology held in Austin, Texas. ■

GREATER MIAMI

On May 18, 2016, Robert Rogers and Neal Dorst of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorology Laboratory's (AOML) Hurricane Research Division (HRD) collaborated with Chris Landsea of the National Hurricane Center to give a three-segment seminar on the 60 year history of the HRD. The three talks which were originally presented in March 2016 at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, FL were featured at the May 2016 Miami American Meteorological Society local chapter meeting in order to reach a broader audience. The talk was attended by nearly 50 scientists and hurricane enthusiasts who filled AOML's conference room.

The HRD began operations in 1956, when thirty scientists assembled at a converted warehouse at Morrison Air Field (now Palm Beach International Airport) to collect weather data from around the Caribbean and analyze tropical weather patterns. The group's operations also included flying Air Force Hurricane Hunter aircraft directly into hurricanes to make in situ observations. Over the next 60 years, HRD scientists have enhanced their annual field program, expanded their studies to include satellite data, computer simulation models such as HWRF, and climatological studies. The talks can be downloaded here. ■



Former AOML scientist Dr. Christopher Landsea, currently the Science and Operations Officer at the National Hurricane Center, shares a number of significant analysis and forecasting milestones directly derived from AOML hurricane research.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Iowa State University Chapter of the American Meteorological Society was hard at work in the months approaching the chapter's second annual science fair. The event, held on April 9, 2016, encouraged elementary-aged children (first-fifth grade) to explore a scientific topic of their choosing and present their research findings to a panel of judges in hopes of claiming the coveted first prize- tickets to the Science Center in Iowa. Through this educational event, these children had the opportunity to not only broaden their scientific knowledge, but also gain a better grasp on public speaking. Topics presented by the students included everything from a study of chromatography to the use of waste as a source of alternative energy. In order to offer the kids a form of reprieve from being in the spotlight after a long day of these presentations, students were also given the opportunity of exploring the activity room. In this room, there was an array of craft projects available, such as making homemade anemometers or creating cloud types out of cotton balls, as well as simulations and demonstrations, including our chapter's very own tornado simulator! All in all, the science fair proved to be enormously successful, with six times as many students participating in comparison with last year. Greatly enjoyed by students, parents, and members, this is likely to be an event that will see another year. ■



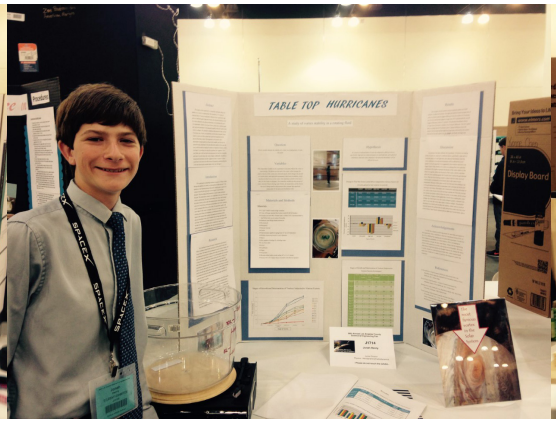
LOS ANGELES

The LA Chapter again (going on 3 decades) supported the 66th Annual LA County Science & Engineering Fair at the Pasadena Convention Center, March 18, 2016. Two members of our chapter judged the best "weather-related" projects in the Junior and Senior divisions (Middle and High Schools). After lots of deliberation, they decided to award one of the top prizes (1-year subscription to Weatherwise and invitation to our annual banquet for the students' families) to Madison Dietz, 7th grader from St. Martin of Tours School, CA. Her project was, "Make It Rain!-What Material Works Best in Seeding Clouds." Madison found that salt attracted more moisture than other materials. She also mentioned that silver iodide is a harmful substance. Also in the Junior Division, the other prize winner was Jonah Henry, 8th grader from Millikan Middle School in Los Angeles, with "Tabletop Hurricanes: A Study of Vortex Stability in a Rotating Fluid." Jonah tested different rotation speeds and sizes of vortices to test stability in his model hurricane. Honorable Mention in the Junior Division went to Brianna Terranova, 7th grader from St. Mel School, Los Angeles, for her project, "Does the Temperature of the Water Effect the Width of the Tornado's Eye?" Ms. Terranova used dry ice and water to create a tornado. Surprisingly, there were not as many El Nino projects this year as last.

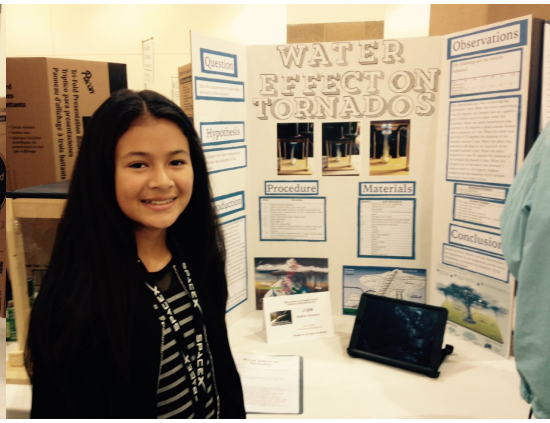
Judging projects this year were chapter members Scott Moore and Steve LaDochy. ■



Madison Dietz



Jonah Henry



Brianna Terranova

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE

The University of Louisiana at Monroe Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society had several significant events over the past year. The University of Louisiana at Monroe was at the center of devastating flash flooding that affected Northeast Louisiana. Students from ULM's AMS chapter volunteered to make sandbags, aided in cleaning out a flooded home and raised money that was donated to the Red Cross. Also last year ULM had a visit from a member of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserves also known as the "Hurricane Hunters" and an open seminar hosted by Weather Channel digital meteorologist Ari Sarsalari. ■



UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO MAYAGÜEZ

In Puerto Rico it is summer season, time to enjoy time with family and friends or vacation at the beaches, but the AMS student chapter of the University of Puerto Rico's Mayagüez campus (UPRM) continues working on its habitual labors. During the morning of June 28, 2016, a very special visit came to the university, a group of students from the Puerto Rico Weather Camp, directed by the NOAA Center of Atmospheric Sciences and organized by Dr. Yasmin Detrés, researcher at UPRM. The students were given an orientation about meteorology; using a Power Point presentation the chapter's members explained topics of meteorology such as: general theories of how the atmosphere works, impact of atmospheric phenomenon through our lifetime and to society, history and evolution of the atmospheric sciences, and workplaces for meteorologists. After this, the chapter's demonstration committee showed the students simple experiments, involving meteorology topics, for them to visualize and interact with physical examples of the discussed information. Finishing the day the students had the opportunity to ask questions concerning meteorology or other topics related to university programs and lifestyle, and information about the chapter. ■



WESTERN NEW YORK

In June, the chapter hosted Dr Nicholas Bassill, product developer for the New York State Mesonet, who presented an overview of this new weather network. The Mesonet is a statewide grid of 125 automated, unmanned weather stations, sited independently throughout our state to supplement permanent stations in locations where gaps exist in weather data reporting and real time weather monitoring.

Our club is questioning why there is no such weather station in West Valley, New York, where nuclear waste is stored in unstable glacial till. We need a station along Lake Erie covering the west and southwest directions from Buffalo where our weather comes from. The first major station is on the University of Buffalo Amherst campus where it misses the populated urban area and the suburban regions to the west and southwest of Buffalo proper. We will be petitioning the Mesonet's next locational studies.

We bestowed the Arthur W. Gielow meteorological award to Kayla Szykowny with a stipend covering the cost of her student membership in the American Meteorological Society. An award was given to Kenton Stewart in recognition of his long time membership in our chapter. Certificates of achievement were presented to Melissa Bender for forecasting within 5 inches of our total past winter snowfall and to Warren Glover whose prediction came the closest to the total 55.1 inch actual snowfall in Buffalo. ■

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

The Sixth Tri-State Weather Conference will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Science Building, Room 125 on the Midtown Campus of Western Connecticut State University, 181 White Street, Danbury, Connecticut. Continental breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. in the Science Building Atrium. Please arrive early for check-in and breakfast.

The conference is presented by the Meteorology Program at Western Connecticut State University and co-sponsored by the WestConn Student Chapter of the AMS, the New York City/Long Island Chapter of the AMS, NOAA/National Weather Service/Upton, N.Y and NOAA/National Weather Service/Taunton, MA. The purpose of the conference is to enhance education, professional development and communication among private and public sector meteorologists, researchers, educators, students, emergency management officials, and weather enthusiasts.

Submissions, in the form of posters, are being solicited on high impact weather events that affect the Tri-State region of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Potential topics would include, but are not limited to, nor'easters and winter weather, severe thunderstorms, tropical weather and hurricanes, climate change, and mesoscale meteorology. We are especially interested in presentations about significant historical weather events from the region from the past twenty-five, fifty, seventy-five and one hundred years or more. The deadline for abstracts is September 20, 2016.

For more details and registration information visit this link. Registrations and payments after the September 23 deadline will be accepted on a 'space available' basis.

For further information, contact Gary Lessor at 203-837-8552 or lessorg@wcsu.edu. ■

NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS!

AVAILABLE GRANT for the 2016 AMS 28th Conference on Sever Local Storms. Don't miss the chance to receive complete travel coverage to attend the 28th Conference on Severe Local Storms. The deadline for this conference is September 16 . Detailed information and applications can be found on the AMS web site. Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez. ■

VOTE NOW!

Voting for the 2017 AMS President-Elect and Council is now open to all AMS full members. The elected leaders of AMS are charged with advancing AMS's goals in the areas of weather, water, and climate. We value and appreciate your vote. The deadline to vote is 22 November 2016. Find more election information here. ■



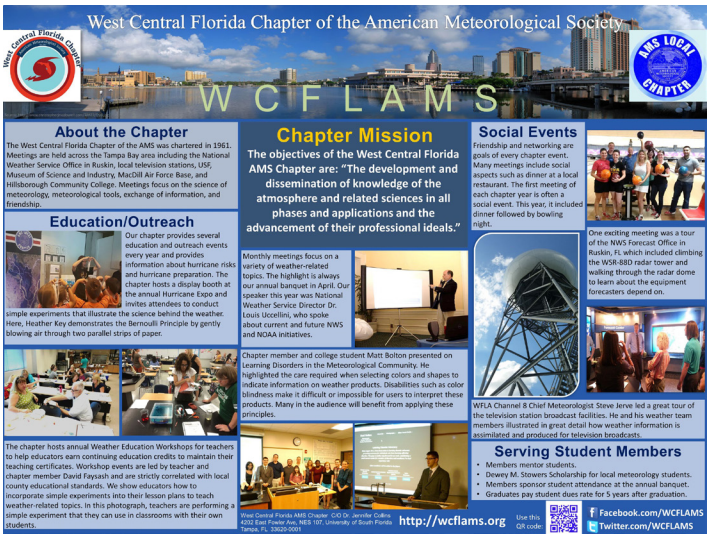
American Meteorological Society
97th ANNUAL MEETING | SEATTLE

LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICERS BREAKFAST

We would like to invite all local chapter officers to the chapter officers' breakfast meeting that will be held at the upcoming 97th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Seattle, WA on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, from 7 to 8:30 am. This is being arranged by the Committee on Local Chapters Affairs in conjunction with the Society. The chapter awards will be presented to both the winning regular chapter and student chapter for 2015-2016. We will also be awarding first, second, and third place ribbons to the best local chapter posters!

Posters will be judged on content and design. We will once again be including a Town Hall meeting during the last 30 minutes of the breakfast. Winning chapters will have the opportunity to discuss what activities worked well for them over the past year, and meeting attendees interested in joining a local chapter will be invited to chat with chapter officers attending the breakfast. We ask that every chapter try to be represented. If officers will not be attending the Annual Meeting, please try and designate a member to act as the representative for the chapter. ■

CHAPTER POSTER DISPLAY



The poster display will be held at the Convention Center in Hall 4E. Display panels will be available as well as pushpins. Each chapter will be allotted a 4' x 8' poster space to display a poster related to their local chapter history and recent activities. You may view posters from the 96th Annual Meeting. The Local Chapter Affairs Committee created a guideline for the poster award competition. You may view it online.

Chapter Poster setup starts from noon-5:30pm on Sunday, January 22. Teardown ends at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 25. The poster hall will be closed to the public after that time so please make sure you collect your poster by 4:00pm. If you would like to have your poster judged by the committee for the poster awards, please have it up by 11am on Monday, January 23. Poster setup on Monday begins at 8:00am. If you will be displaying a poster, please email a jpeg file of the final poster to Kelly Savoie by January 13th as photos of the chapter poster winners will be displayed on screen at the Chapter Officers' Breakfast on Tuesday.

To register for the chapter breakfast and to reserve poster space, please email a 'Chapter Poster/Officer Breakfast Reservation Form,' available on the Chapter Web Page, to Kelly Savoie by **November 21, 2016**. ■

ANNUAL MEETING APP

We will continue to list chapters displaying posters on the AMS Web site and link the page to the Annual Meeting App under the Special Events icon. Links to each chapter's web site will be included. ■

AMS STUDENT CONFERENCE INFORMATION

We are thrilled to announce the 2017 AMS Student Conference: *Observe the Leaders of Today, Become the Leaders of Tomorrow*, to be held January 21–22, 2017 in Seattle, Washington in association with the 97th AMS Annual Meeting.

Important eligibility requirement: You must be an active 2017 AMS student member to attend the AMS Student Conference. You must be an undergraduate or graduate student to present a poster at the Poster Session!

We encourage **active AMS student members** to submit abstracts for the 16th Student Conference Poster Session during the evening of Sunday, January 22, 2017. Presenters will also have the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Student Conference Poster Competition. Please submit your abstract electronically via the Web by October 3, 2016 and ensure you have applied for or renewed your AMS student membership prior to submitting your abstract. Authors of accepted presentations will be notified via e-mail by early-November 2016.

To keep up to date on AMS Student Conference news, search Facebook for "AMS Student Conference" and Twitter for "@AMSStudentConf".

For additional information, please contact the program chairpersons:
Josh Alland, University at Albany ; Kristy Carter, Iowa State University; Aryeh Drager, Colorado State University ■

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

AMS will offer some outstanding opportunities for AMS Student Members to attend the 97th AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington from January 22–26, 2017. Recipients of a travel award will receive financial support to attend sessions and events at the annual meeting and provides the chance for you to be among your peers and professionals in the field. Look for information and applications in September on the AMS web site. Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez. For additional information on awards, grants, and volunteer opportunities for students at the Annual Meeting visit the website. ■

The next newsletter will be published in early November If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events or submit a write-up on a specific activity that was successful, please e-mail **Kelly Savoie** no later than October 15th. To view prior newsletters, **click here**.

Local Chapter Mission	Committee Leadership	Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter	AMS Local Chapter Affairs
The AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee serves as a link between local student and professional chapters and the national AMS. The committee exists in order to provide guidance and support in the mission of all local AMS chapters.	Elizabeth Smith, Chair Wesley Rondinelli, Chair-Elect Kelly Savoie, AMS Liaison **AMS Headquarters** 45 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108	**www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC** **@AMSLCAC**	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**