AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Winter/Spring 2017 Volume 6 Issue 3

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO MAYAGUEZ

The Meteorological Society-Chapter of the University of Puerto Rico-is proud and happy this November because the new student recruits are going to be honored as members of our chapter. During this month, the rookies helped us with our workshops, demonstrations, and counseling at different activities in/out of our campus. One of the most important activities was the Open House where hundreds of high school student attended, to be counseled by the university staff on which undergraduate study should they pursue. Also, the Physics department celebrated the 2016 Physics Summer Research Symposium, the first symposium in collaboration with meteorology students; some of our members exposed their summer research here. Because it has been a hard semester, we decided to have a little fun making a road trip to Parque El Cemi in Jayuya, Puerto Rico where we camped for a weekend; enjoying the natural environment while we learned about our own history, in the nearby museums. ■



HIGH PLAINS

The 2016 recipient of the High Plains Chapter of the AMS and NWA Jim Johnson Scholarship wass Riley Weller from Palmer, Nebraska. Riley graduated from Palmer High School in May 2016 and will attend the University of Kansas in the fall. He plans to double major in astrophysics and computer science. Riley's ambition and dedication to hard work were evident in his essay and made him an excellent choice for the scholarship. The scholarship was established to honor Jim Johnson, one of the instrumental people who helped start the chapter in 1996. His weather career spanned several decades, first with the U.S. Air Force and then with the National Weather Service (NWS). Jim retired as a NWS Lead Forecaster from the Dodge City, Kansas office in September of 2006.

The 18th Annual High Plains Conference occurred on August 10th and 11th in North Plate, Nebraska. The event consisted of 20 presentations with 4 keynote presenters. The keynote speakers were Chris Strager (the regional director of NWS Central Region), Aaron Johnson (Science Operations Officer of NWS Dodge City, KS), Martha Skulski (Nebraska State Climatologist and director of the Nebraska State Climate Office in Lincoln, NE), and Nancy Gaarder (weather journalist for the Omaha World Herald in Omaha, NE). There was also a banquet dinner the night of the 10th with featured speaker Josh Wurman (Center for Severe Weather Research in Boulder, CO) presenting after the meal. Josh Wurman also brought down one of his Doppler on Wheels during the afternoon of the 10th for attendees to see during the conference. In addition to the presentations, a Ruby Stufft 70 years of Service Award was given to Gerry Osborn from Ainsworth, NE. Mr. Osborn and occasionally his wife took

HIGH PLAINS (CONTINUED)

weather observations for the NWS for the last 70 years never missing a day of reporting. Looking towards the future, the 19th Annual High Plains Conference will be located in Dodge City next year. ■



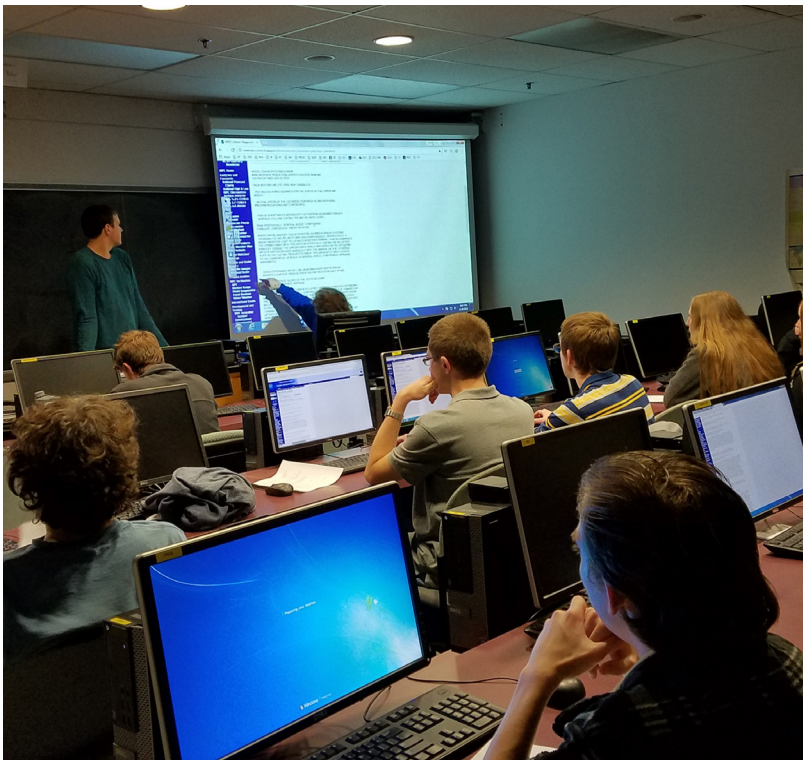
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Every year OUCAMS sends a care package overseas to members of our military. This year, we raised over $80 in donations and were able to send three packages to Afghanistan. We recently received word that they all made it there and that the service members are happy to have them! ■



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

The Millersville University Student Chapter of the AMS has many annual institutions, such as a guest lecture series and the Met-Mentor Program. This past semester incorporated a new series of professional development workshops led by upperclassmen to pass on valuable knowledge. The first seminar focused on internships, featuring participants from local and national summer internships to discuss internship opportunity discovery, application, and expectations. Millersville places a heavy emphasis on experiential learning and undergraduate research, and it is important to pass on past knowledge to the next class. Following the internship workshop, the résumé-building workshop allowed students to get expert advice on writing a résumé or curriculum vitae for internships and job offerings. "Internships are essential for gaining experience and networking in our field. Since résumés are a key tool used to obtain these internships, we felt it appropriate to give useful tips in hopes of improving student applications," explained Amber Liggett, junior meteorology major and local chapter president. After the initial presentation, students could work one-on-one with upperclassmen to review or start their own individual résumés. The semester concluded with a forecasting workshop, which focused on obtaining good sources and forecasting techniques with emphasis on the national Weather Challenge competition. "The forecasting workshop allowed students to get a firsthand look at model data, where to get the data from, and how to create an accurate forecast with the data provided," said Brandon Molyneaux, a senior meteorology major and the workshop leader. The workshop series was very successful, and the local chapter looks forward to the annual return of this great institution. ■



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

The final meeting of the semester included two speakers. The first speaker was one of our members, Alyssa Stansfield, and she gave a presentation about her experience with NCAR's Undergraduate Leadership program that she attended this past summer. She shared what she learned from the program to the members and gave the tips that she was given so the members could also benefit from what she learned.

Our next speaker was not physically at the meeting, but he was there via Skype. Mike Carmon, a weather observer at the Mount Washington Observatory, gave the club a presentation about life and work on Mount Washington. He talked about the living experiences on the summit, how the observers gather and record their weather data, applications of the data, and some of the crazy weather phenomena that happens on the peak of Mount Washington. He also talked about personal experiences of living on the mountain. After his presentation, he answered questions from the members of the club.

The chapter recently had 21 members of the club attend the 16th Annual AMS Student Conference and the 97th Annual AMS Meeting from January 21st to January 26th. The members of the club were given the opportunity to network with future employers, learn about different jobs fields that they could go into with a meteorology degree, and they were also able to explore the different opportunities that they can aspire with a background in meteorology. Seniors Stephanie Van Oppen, Alyssa Stansfield, Tyler Janoski, and Kristina Mazur presented posters at the student conference and the professional conference about research that they have been conducting with professors.

The day after the conference ended, January 27th, the members of the club did not hesitate to begin to participate in outreach opportunities. A few of the members of our club had a local Cub Scout pack visit Rutgers to learn more about the weather. They were given demonstrations about the formation of tornados using a tornado simulator, and they were taught about warm and cold fronts using our Weather in a Tank demonstration. Our club has many more upcoming outreach opportunities; giving back to our community is one of the main goals of the Rutgers Meteorology Club! ■



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

On Saturday, November 5th the Texas A & M Department of Atmospheric Sciences celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Texas A & M AMS Student Chapter. Larry Peabody, Class of 1960, the first President of the Chapter, is shown cutting the first slice of the anniversary cake. Bill Read, Class of 1978 and former Director of the National Hurricane Center, is pictured in the background. The event was hosted and organized by Dr. Don Conlee, Class of 1994, Associate Professor in the Department. ■



SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

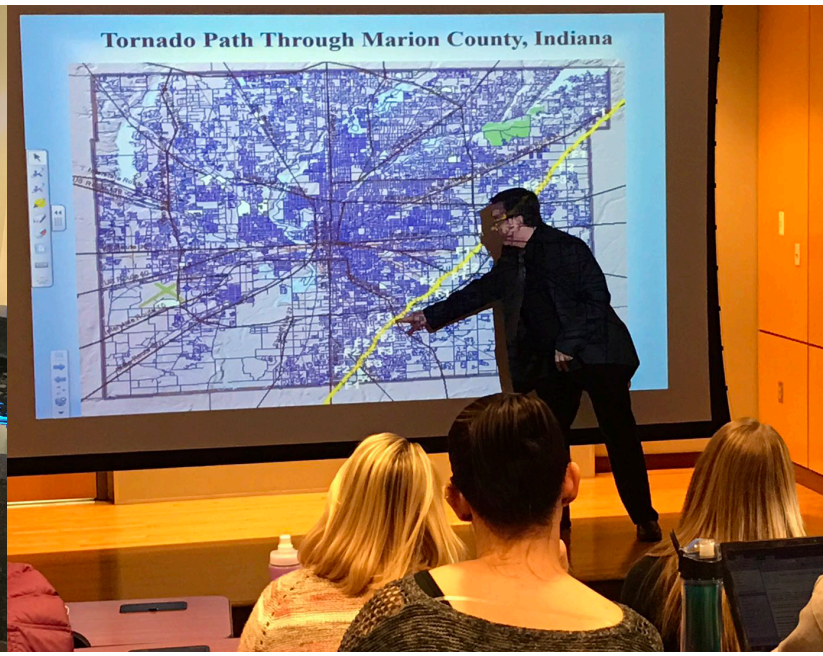
The AMS Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter takes pride in its colloquia series. In November, we had two guest speakers give presentations at California University of Pennsylvania. Both of these talks were free to the public. The first speaker was Jason Levit from the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, located in Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Levit's talk focused on the value of computer skills in today's job market for meteorologists. He discussed important software applications as well as current and upcoming computer programming languages that were relevant to atmospheric scientists. In addition to stressing the importance of being well rounded, Mr. Levit examined the chances that students had of obtaining a career in atmospheric science after college and suggested other career opportunities in peripheral fields that could utilize computer skills and provide valuable experience for meteorology careers going forward. Jason Levit has earned his Bachelors and Masters in Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Jamie Mitchem from the University of North Georgia, located in Dahlonega, Georgia also gave a talk at CalU. Dr. Mitchem gave an informative presentation on meteorological hazards communications. This talk was streamed to the public via the chapter's Periscope account. In his talk, he focused on various extreme weather events that required important communication techniques between meteorologists, emergency management, and the general public. He used some case studies of past extreme weather events like Hurricane Matthew to gather his observations on the disconnect between warnings issued by meteorologists and the way those warnings are received by the public. Dr. Mitchem also discussed the ineffective warnings that have been put out in the past and solutions to prevent this from happening in the future. Dr. Jamie Mitchem has earned his Bachelor's in Geophysics, Master's in Meteorology, and Ph.D. degree in Geography.

During the winter break it was back to work for some educational outreach. On January 13th, at the Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh, chapter members hosted the first ever WeatherQuest. The event was from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event had various stations so students in grades 3-8, could learn all about weather and climate. These stations helped introduce basic knowledge through fun demonstrations and experiments that teachers could not do in the classroom. Chapter members are committed to involving students in hands on activities for the purpose of understanding the earth system.

Nine student members of the chapter were selected to attend this year's 97th Annual American Meteorological Society Meeting from January 22nd through the 26th in Seattle, Washington. We were very thankful that the AMS provided 6 student assistant positions (a record for us) to our students who applied, allowing more of our members to be able to attend the conference. Our students assisted professionals throughout the conference with presentations, registration and giving them information about the conference. All of the students enjoyed all of the conferences and symposia offered in Seattle. ■





SE TEXAS/SW LOUISIANA

This January the Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana chapter of the AMS/NWA participated in the annual JASON project. The JASON Project is a non-profit organization that connects students to real science and exploration to inspire and motivate them to study and pursue STEM careers. The theme for this year's edition of the JASON Project was "Wild Weather". The main attraction was a giant tornado machine used to teach the students about severe weather. The over five foot tall tornado was a hit with both the students and their teachers. In addition to an auditorium presentation, chapter members also provided hands on activities about weather balloons and how they are used to help forecast wild weather events such as flash floods. On average, over 5,000 students from school districts across Southeast Texas attend the JASON project each year. ■







IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

For the students of the Iowa State University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, the good times were as plentiful as the corn during a visit to the Center Grove Apple Orchard on October 30th. Every year, as the fall season comes to a close, our chapter makes a visit to the apple orchard in order to enjoy an array of fall-themed festivities before they're gone. Some of the highlights of the trip include an adventure through the treacherous corn maze and a leap into the corn pit!

Though the primary goal of the trip to the orchard is to alleviate some built-up stress from midterms and any future stress that might result from impending finals, a secondary goal exists of breaking down some barriers between members in order strengthen the unity of the organization. Since this event typically brings in a mixture of underclassmen and upperclassmen, we highly encourage freshmen to interact with the older members, particularly during the corn mazes and haysack races, as we typically organize into teams to compete! As a result, our freshmen students feel more comfortable in their environment and are more likely to participate in the future.

With goats and apple cider donuts galore, this event was incredibly successful and will undoubtedly make a reappearance next year with the hopes of welcoming future freshmen. ■



SOUTHEAST ARIZONA AND CENTRAL ARIZONA

The 2017 Arizona All-State AMS Chapter Meeting was held in Tucson, Arizona on February 11th, 2017. The meeting joined the Southeast Arizona Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (SEACAMS), the Central Arizona AMS Chapter, and the Tucson National Weather Service. Approximately 35 people from both Chapters attended the event. It was the first time that SEACAMS held this state-wide event.

The meeting hosted the Arizona lightning photographer Ralph Wetmore II for an amazing photography tour of lightning from 30 plus years in Southeast Arizona! After the talk, the Tucson NWS officers led a tour to the NWS Forecast Office, ending with a balloon launch. The event was a great successful get-together for the Arizona meteorologists! ■



NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

NCAR EXPLORER SERIES

Looking for ideas for your next chapter meeting? Get an inside look at the advances our scientists are making in areas of study that stretch from Earth's oceans, forests, and cities up through the layers of the atmosphere to the scorching swirls of plasma on the Sun. Watch one of the upcoming 2017 presentations with your chapter members and have a discussion afterward. Visit the website for more information on the NCAR Explorer Series. ■

STUDENT CHAPTERS: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW OR DIFFERENT TO PLAN FOR YOUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING?

The AMS Committee on Emergency Management invites interested chapters to partner with student chapters from the International Association of Emergency Managers. Invite their officers to speak at one of your meetings, attend one of theirs, or consider planning a joint event featuring a local emergency manager or a tour of a local Emergency Operations Center.

Weather-related emergencies are some of the most common events that local emergency managers will face and the ability to communicate useful weather information effectively to EMs is a skill in high demand. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 10,000 emergency managers in the United States, and that number is only projected to increase. Several states have hired meteorologists specifically to meet the needs of their state emergency management organizations. Partnering with IAEM student chapters affords the opportunity for both groups to learn from each other and gain valuable experience for the job market. The AMS EM committee has created a map to help find the nearest IAEM chapter, or browse the IAEM Student Chapter directory. For more information, contact the committee chairpersons. ■

LOCAL CHAPTERS RECOGNIZED AT 2017 AMS ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 100 individuals representing 33 chapters attended the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast on 24 January 2017 at the AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle. Elizabeth Smith and Wesley Rondinelli, outgoing and incoming chairs of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee (LCAC) talked about ways to promote more discussion among chapters and reminded everyone about the Local Chapter Officers closed Facebook page. Go to the Facebook page and request to join. This is for chapter officers only and you will be verified through your online Chapter Directory Listing so please make sure your officer information is up to date. See below for a refresher on how to update your chapter listing. Elizabeth and Wesley also mentioned that updated Poster Award Judging Guidelines have been posted to the AMS Web site so chapters will have further information on the judging process. The committee is looking for new members for terms starting in 2018. If you are interested in being a part of the LCAC, please email Sang Lee or Wesley Rondinelli as soon as possible.

After the business portion of the breakfast meeting, winners of the poster awards were announced. 27 chapters presented creative and original posters at the Annual Meeting making the judging process very challenging. The addition of a link to chapter poster information in the Annual Meeting App helped promote the posters to Annual Meeting attendees. AMS President Matthew Parker then presented awards to the Chapter of the Year and Student Chapter of the Year. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those that participated.

The Chapter Town Hall portion of the meeting featured a lively discussion where chapters shared their successful activities in addition to their challenges and were provided with advice from other chapter members. ■

CHAPTER HONOR ROLL

BLUE RIDGE
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY
OHIO UNIVERSITY
PALMETTO
SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR – WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA



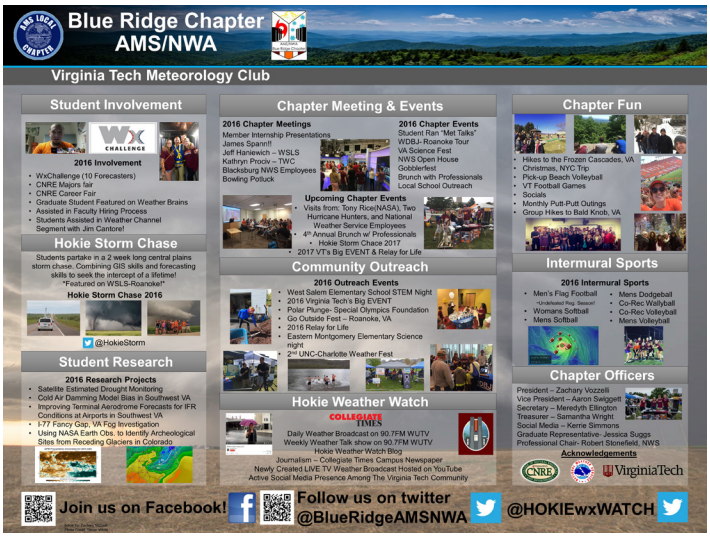
STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE



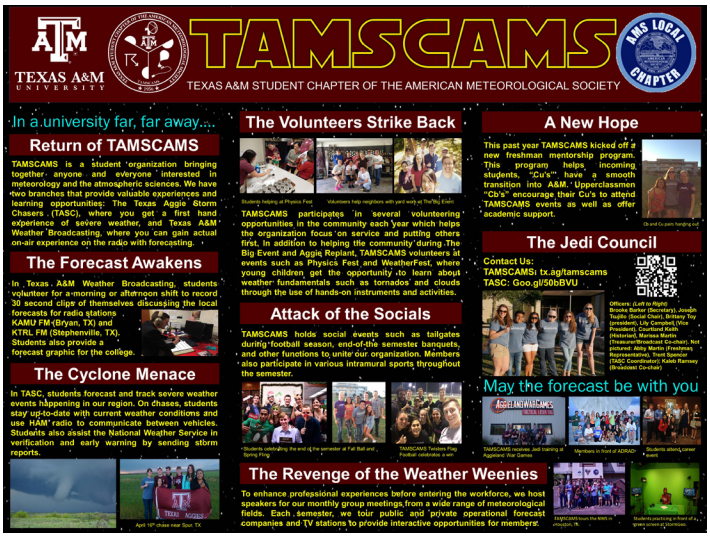


CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS

REGULAR CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS
1ST PLACE – BLUE RIDGE
2ND PLACE – FORT COLLINS
3RD PLACE – WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA



STUDENT CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS
1ST PLACE – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
2ND PLACE – IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
3RD PLACE – UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



SCIENCE FAIRS

Science fairs have already started and we want to remind you that "Certificates of Outstanding Achievement" are available through AMS Headquarters free-of-charge. If you would like to order certificates, please contact Katelyn Angland. We also encourage you to submit a summary of winners when the fairs have ended. The summary should be written in paragraph format and should include the name(s) of the fair winner(s), grade and school attended, project title, and award won. A summary of winners will be published in BAMS. Please send them electronically to Erica Callahan. ■

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATIONS

The deadline for the local chapter of the year awards is May 1st. Applications must be received by this date. Award applications and information may be found on the AMS Web site. ■

UPDATING CHAPTER OFFICER INFORMATION

Below are the steps to update your online chapter directory listing in the new system.

1. All officers and faculty advisors affiliated with the chapter must have an AMS online account in order to be entered and have access to the chapter directory listing. You will no longer need to use your chapter account number for access. Officers that do not already have an online account should create one through the AMS website. Your online AMS account credentials will be used to login to your directory listing from this point forward. Updates to officer information will be reflected immediately in the online chapter directory.

2. If you are an outgoing officer and are updating your chapter directory listing, once you remove yourself as an officer, you will be logged out and will not be able to log back in. The best way to handle this situation is to make all required changes/additions and then delete your information as a final step.

UPDATING CHAPTER OFFICER INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

3. If you are a new officer (meaning you have never served as an officer in the chapter before) and you have been tasked with updating your chapter directory listing, you will need to email Sang Lee to request access to your chapter account.

Please visit the AMS Web site for more detailed information on the new system and to access your chapter directory listing. The direct link to the login page can be accessed here. Contact Sang Lee if you are still having trouble getting into the system. ■

UPCOMING AMS MEETING DEADLINES

21st Conference on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics 19th Conference on Middle Atmosphere
26 – 30 June 2017 Portland, OR
Abstract Submission Deadline: 01 March 2017
Student presenter travel application deadline: 01 March 2017

45th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology/ Fourth Conference on Weather Warnings and Communication
21 – 23 June 2017 Kansas City, MO
Student Travel Grant Deadline for the Broadcast and WxComm conferences is April 28th.
More information here.

17th Conference on Mesoscale Processes
24 – 27 July 2017 San Diego, CA
Student Travel Award deadline is March 30th:
Information on Student Opportunities.

23rd Conference on Applied Climatology
26 - 28 June 2017 Asheville, NC
Abstract Deadline: 27 February, 2017

30th Conference on Climate Variability and Change, 24th Conference on Probability and Statistics, and 16th Conference on Artificial Intelligence
28–29 July 2017, Baltimore, Maryland
Abstract Deadline: 21 March, 2017

38th Conference on Radar Meteorology
28 August – 1 September 2017 Chicago, IL
Abstract Deadline: 14 April 2017
Application for Student Travel Awards: 14 April 2017
Information on Student Opportunities.

The next newsletter will be published in late April. 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 March 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.	Wesley Rondinelli, Chair Sally Ricardi, 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