AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Fall/Winter 2017-2018 Volume 7 Issue 2

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

DENVER/BOULDER

The Denver/Boulder American Meteorological Society (DBAMS) local chapter is excited for the upcoming activities this year! In late September 2017, DBAMS kicked off the new chapter year with a networking happy hour at Boulder's Southern Sun. This provided the opportunity for members to network with professionals in the field of meteorology, as well as greet both new and current colleagues. Guests included Dr. William B. Gail, former AMS President, and other representatives from NOAA, NWS, and UCAR/NCAR.

DBAMS is actively preparing for the upcoming events this fall/winter for its members. In October, the chapter took a tour of NCAR's Research Aviation Facility, home to several research aircraft used in field campaigns studying atmospheric science and atmospheric chemistry. In November, the chapter will be hosting a panel of experts to discuss the 2013 September floods that impacted the Front Range of Colorado. The panel will provide varying perspectives of the event, including operational forecasting, communication, and research. Finally, a seminar in December will explore the capabilities and contributions of the new GOES-16 satellite in tropical cyclone forecasting and research.

For more information about the Denver/Boulder AMS local chapter, membership, and upcoming events, check out our Facebook page or send us an email. ■

EAST MISSISSIPPI

The East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS has kicked off the year at Mississippi State with enormous success. Four meetings into the year, all of the chapter's meetings have been some of the most attended in recent years. The chapter also partnered with the National Weather Service Office in Jackson, Mississippi to certify students and other members in basic spotter training. 42 members were newly certified at the end of September.

The local chapter has also been active in fundraising and gathering donations for hurricane relief, specifically from Harvey and Maria. Thanks to the members and partners across the MSU campus, over $700 was raised and donated to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Harvey relief. Additionally, more than half a dozen boxes of donations were collected for the people of Puerto Rico for the victims of Hurricane Maria.

As we head toward 2018, the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS is deep in the planning phases for the 16th Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium. More information will be coming in the next few weeks about the Symposium, to be held in spring 2018.
Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more on our chapter events and activities. Also follow our Symposium on Twitter for the latest on dates, locations, and speakers. ■



HIGH PLAINS

The High Plains Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association held its 19th High Plains Conference on Meteorology and Climatology in Dodge City, Kansas, on August 9-10. WFO Dodge City hosted the two-day conference, which was organized by SOO Arron Johnson, meteorologist Wesley Hovorka, and meteorologist Laren Reynolds. Thirty six attendees represented ten WFOs, two students and two private sector employees. Central Region Director Chris Strager kicked off the keynote talks, followed by Karen Kosiba from the Center for Severe Weather Research, Dr. Grady Dixon from Fort Hays State University, Dr. Chris Karstens from the Storm Prediction Center, and Dr. Mike Coniglio from OAR/NSSI/Storm Prediction Center. Twenty presentations also occurred throughout the conference, representing topics as diverse as the High Plains weather itself. Click here for the full agenda.

The High Plains Chapter is supported by the NWS and includes the offices of North Platte, NE, Hastings, NE, Goodland, KS, and Dodge City, KS. Other meteorological entities from the media and private forecasting realms also support the chapter. The chapter-sponsored (almost) annual conference has prided itself on being a place to view high quality meteorological and climatological presentations by those in the forecasting and research communities alike. The relaxed atmosphere also provides an avenue for first-time presenters to develop into seasoned speakers, while bringing invaluable information on forecasting for the High Plains attendees. The 20th High Plains Conference will be held in Hasting, NE in 2018. ■





LYNDON STATE COLLEGE

Lyndon's AMS chapter is officially back in action and ready to take on this year's events!

September was a busy month for the chapter members as there were multiple events held to get all the new and returning members involved and ready to take on the upcoming year. Events included were the traditional fall barbecue, Mount Washington hike and car wash. All of these events were a great success, but when it came to the highly anticipated Burke Mountain hike, Lyndon AMS wanted to try something a little different this year. For those who didn't hike but still wanted to participate in a chapter activity that day, got to participate in the Out of the Darkness Walk put on by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. With 212 participants total, 13 from our chapter, the walk raised over $16,000. The success of this new event quickly became one we will try again in the future! ■



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

The Millersville University Student Chapter of the AMS successfully engaged another group of new freshmen meteorology majors in their annual Met-Mentor Program this fall. This program serves to supplement orientation activities by allowing freshmen to make new friends and connections with upperclassmen in the meteorology program. Furthermore, it is meant to enhance the mentees' experience in the meteorology program, as they learn from their mentors about forthcoming classes and the plethora of opportunities available both at the university and around the country. Recognizing the full potential of this program, mentors and mentees bond from various activities at the beginning of the semester, mentors strengthen friendships amongst each other and become a go-to resource for the new freshmen throughout the year, and the mentees build strong bonds amongst each other, which will prove invaluable as they work through the meteorology program together.

Some of the activities this year included an ice cream social before classes commenced, attending a Lancaster Barnstormers baseball game, a Ropes Course team-building event, an astronomy night hosted by the Space Weather Group, and the annual picnic dinner at Millersville's local park. During the Met-Mentor Program, camaraderie is strengthened and a sense of community is built amongst the earth science majors from the beginning of the year. In addition, both mentors and mentees often return each year to welcome a new group of incoming freshmen, and this maintains a cycle of giving back to the program which brought all of them together during their freshman years. ■



OHIO UNIVERSITY

The Ohio University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society completed their first Adopt-a-Highway of the semester. Students had fun giving back to the Athens community and the residents of the community appreciated our service. The chapter also participated in the Ohio University Homecoming Parade. Every year, the university does a contest to see what organization makes the best banner and this year our banner won 2nd place! In addition, chapter members took a trip to our local NWS Office in Charleston, WV. We got to learn about different aspects and jobs of the office, and we got to go to the base of the radar tower! ■





RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

On September 4th, the Rutgers Meteorology Club tabled at the Rutgers University - New Brunswick Involvement fair held on the College Avenue Campus. Over 500 clubs and organizations were tabling during the four-hour event. This event provided an opportunity for the Meteorology Club to introduce first-year students, transfers, and returning Rutgers students to the club and what it is all about. At the table, the club had a tornado simulator as well as a meteorology trivia board. Later in September, the club held its first club meeting welcoming many new members and did icebreakers and internship spotlights from the summer. Members were able to sign-up for the Rutgers Meteorology Open House to attend and speak with potential students about Rutgers, the major, and their experience as a student at Rutgers. It was a successful open house as it was attended by over 30 potential students and their family members. The club members were able to give a further insight into what it is like to study meteorology at Rutgers and the other countless opportunities the University has to offer. ■



SE TEXAS/SW LOUISIANA

After being postponed at the end of August due to Hurricane Harvey, the Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana Chapter of the AMS/NWA held its second meeting of the chapter year on September 30th. Dr. Steve Lyons, Meteorologist-In-Charge at the National Weather Service in San Angelo and former Hurricane Expert at The Weather Channel gave a presentation on storm surge, storm surge products, and his studies on the rapid intensification of tropical cyclones. Dr. Lyons discussed the uncertainties in storm surge and rapid intensification forecasting and the challenges they introduce to conducting evacuations for tropical cyclones. After the presentation, members of the media and the National Weather Service discussed their experiences working during Hurricane Harvey. The chapter will hold a future meeting to hear the perspective of emergency managers who responded to the record flooding that occurred during Harvey. ■

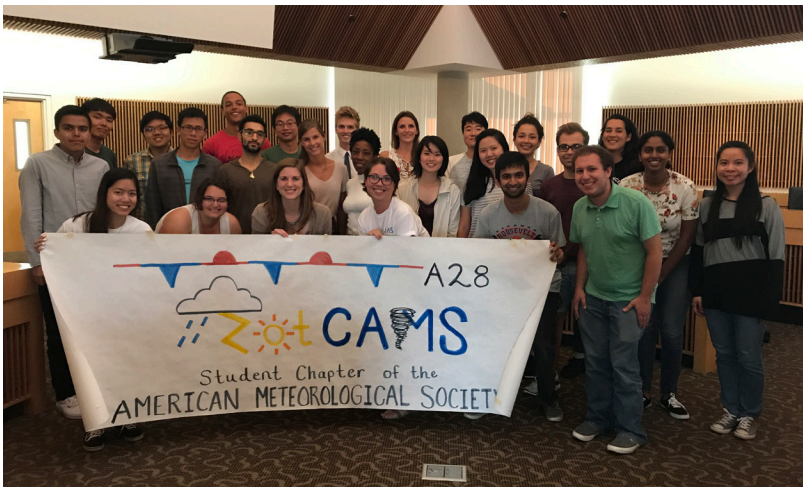




UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE

It's been an exciting start to the new school year for zotCAMS, the brand new student chapter of the American Meteorological Society at University of California-Irvine. Our board participated in the school's Anteater Involvement Fair in September, our first official recruiting effort. Our table showcased a Galileo thermometer and an inflatable Earth to recruit and welcome new members. To follow up on the success of that effort, we held our first open meeting on October 4th. Melinda Nicewonger and Zachary Labe led a great discussion on the basics of hurricane formation and provided some historical context for this year's active Atlantic hurricane season. The meeting was a huge success in terms of academic diversity, with 23 students in attendance from a wide range of majors - Physics, Chemistry, Earth System Science, Biological Science, Art, and Business Economics.

Many of the members expressed an interest in learning more about careers in atmospheric and climate sciences, particularly since we don't have a formal meteorology program at the university. Our events for the year will therefore focus in part on networking opportunities and introducing members to potential career paths. For the upcoming quarter, we will host a guest speaker from the National Weather Service for a short lecture, open to all current and potential members of zotCAMS. We've also planned a field trip to the Irvine Ranch Water District, where we will learn about water quality, groundwater recharge, and what it takes to be a successful hydrologist for the company. ■



NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

2018 AMS MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Meteorological Society is pleased to announce the 2018 AMS Minority Scholarships. Now entering its twenty-fifth year, the scholarship is intended to help support college education for minority students traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, especially Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, and Native Hawaiian Students, who intend to pursue careers in the atmospheric or related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. The two-year scholarships, funded through donations made by members to the AMS Giving Program, are for $3000 during the freshman year and $3000 during the sophomore year (sophomore year funding depends on successful completion of the freshman academic year). Minority students who will be entering their freshman year of college in the fall of 2018 are eligible to apply.

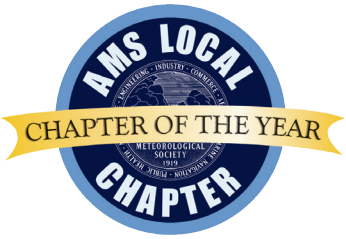
Thanks to your assistance, we have had a successful twenty-four years. Since the inception of the program, we have awarded the scholarships to over one hundred outstanding students. I hope that all of you will assist us again in distributing information about this valuable program. The information and application is in PDF printable format on the AMS web site. Feel free to print and make several copies for distribution.

We have also asked AMS Television and Radio Sealholders and teachers, associated with the AMS K-12 programs, to help with circulating the minority scholarship information. Additional information on all AMS fellowship and scholarship programs are available online.

Thank you for your time and support! If you have any questions, please email Donna Fernandez or call directly at 617-226-3907. ■

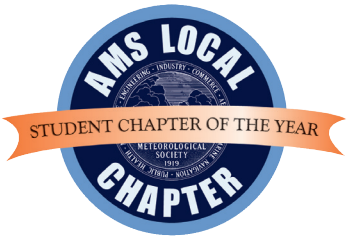
2016-2017 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED!

We are happy to announce the Chapter of the Year Award winners for 2016-2017! Every year the Local Chapter Affairs Committee is tasked with choosing the winners for this award (both student and regular chapters) and as always the applicants were outstanding. Awards will be presented to the winners at the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting in Austin in January.



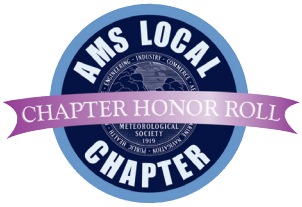
DENVER/BOULDER

"For their dedicated service to the community shown through their educational outreach, and their drive to offer new and unique membership and networking opportunities."



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

"For their continuous approach to offering new and unique opportunities in helping to support membership and member growth; along with their innovative and sustained drive to help their community through educational outreach, fundraising, and volunteering."



LYNDON STATE COLLEGE
NORTH FLORIDA
OHIO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT MAYAGUEZ

Thank you to all the chapters who submitted applications for the award!
The nomination deadline for the 2017-2018 awards is 1 May 2017.

VOLUNTEER AND AWARD OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The following 2018 Specialty Meetings have volunteer and award opportunities available to students:

- 33rd Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology/12th Fire and Forest Meteorology Symposium/Fourth Conference on Biogeosciences - Boise, ID, 14–18 May 2018
- 21st Conference on Air-Sea Interaction - Oklahoma City, OK, 11–15 June 2018
- 23rd Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence - Oklahoma City, OK, 11–15 June 2018
- 15th Conference on Cloud Physics/15th Conference on Atmospheric Radiation - Vancouver, BC, 9 – 13 July 2018
- 10th International Conference on Urban Climate/14th Symposium on the Urban Environment - New York, NY, 6–10 August 2018

For a full list of upcoming AMS meetings, please visit the AMS Website. ■



AMS ANNUAL MEETING

Don't miss the 98th AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX January 7-11, 2018. The Annual Meeting theme is "Transforming Communication in the Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise Focusing on Challenges Facing Our Sciences." With more than 3,000 submitted abstracts and over 30 conferences and symposia, the Annual Meeting is the world's largest yearly gathering for the weather, water, and climate community. If you have never been to an AMS Annual Meeting, listen to a few of your colleagues explain why they think it's important to attend in our Annual Meeting video. Some of the highlights include:

- Weather and Climate Industry Association (AWCIA) and Early Career Professionals Reception
- AMS Career Fair
- Presidential Forum
- Meet President-Elect and Acting President Roger M. Wakimoto and Presidential Forum Speaker Richard Alley
- Robert T. Ryan Symposium
- 46th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology
- 17th Annual AMS Student Conference
- Sixth Annual AMS Conference for Early Career Professionals
- Major Weather Impacts in 2017
- Local Chapter Posters

UPCOMING AMS ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

- Early registration deadline is December 1st for general meeting registration.
- Early registration deadline is December 15th for the AMS Student Conference. ■

The next newsletter will be published in February. 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 January 15th. To view prior newsletters, **click here**.

Local Chapter Mission
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.

Committee Leadership
Wesley Rondinelli, Chair
Sally Ricardi, Chair-Elect
Kelly Savoie, AMS Liaison

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AMS Local Chapter Affairs
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**