AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Winter/Spring 2018 Volume 7 Issue 3

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

This past month we had our first speakers for our Colloquia series that takes place throughout the school year. Lindsay Rice had a talk regarding her career as an air quality specialist. It was an opportunity to hear about a career within the field that some may not realize was an option. Next, we had Wendy Abshire and Keith Seitter from the AMS both talk to our club, as well as anyone from the community who was interested. They discussed how their career started in meteorology, and how they took the path that they had. Both had different paths in the same diverse field. This enlightened many club members, but it also allowed the graduating seniors more insight into what to not only look forward to, but what to prepare for in their future. We do have another speaker coming in this month who is a California of University of Pennsylvania alumnus, Josh Pirring. He will discuss his role with the National Weather Service (NWS) Hazard Simplification (HazSimp) project. ■

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

The last few weeks of the Fall 2017 semester featured a variety of new events hosted by the Millersville University Student Chapter of the AMS (MUAMS). From giving back to the community to training our members, we provided numerous opportunities for the students to participate in volunteering as well as professional development. In particular, we recently secured a stretch of roadway for Pennsylvania's Adopt-a-Highway program. On November 30th, 15 students from all class levels took time out of their afternoons to assist in cleaning up a busy stretch of roadway in the nearby town of Willow Street, PA. This event allowed students to experience selfless volunteerism and contribute to the beautification of local roads.

The MUAMS, in coordination with the National Weather Service in State College, PA, hosted a Basic Skywarn Training class for its members on December 6th. The training attracted more than 65 students, who all enjoyed an engaging and insightful session presented by NWS CTP forecaster Bill Gartner. For our meteorology majors, this allowed students to take a step forward in joining the diverse field of meteorology as trained weather spotters for the National Weather Service.

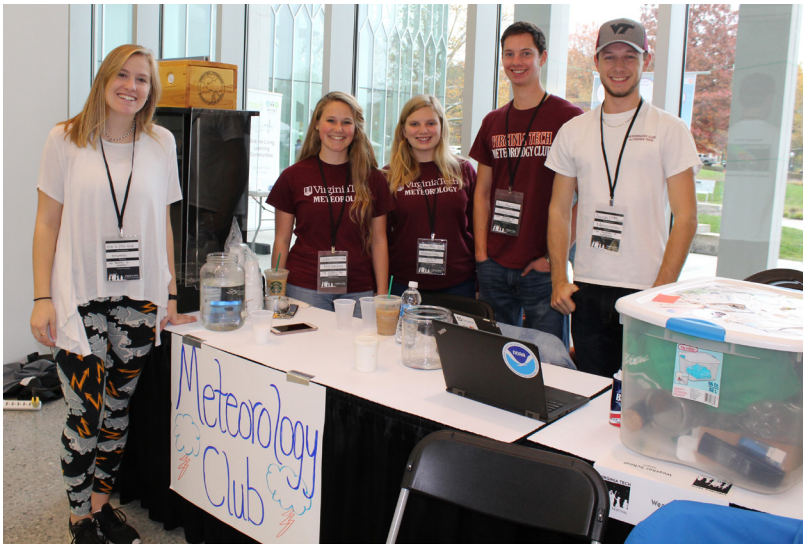
Also in December, Sara Housseal, a junior student in our AMS chapter with a small business in photography, hosted a professional headshot session. One of the most important parts of a LinkedIn profile is the profile picture, as your professional identity is marked by your appearance and can influence first impressions by potential employers. With all the necessary equipment and skills, Sara provided students with a collection of professional-quality photographs at a generous price. She plans to continue offering headshot sessions in the future. These events, among many others sponsored by the MUAMS, allow the Chapter to benefit its members, give back to the community, and exemplify the importance of being well-rounded. ■



BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the AMS attended Virginia Tech's fourth annual Science Festival on November 7th, 2017, on the Virginia Tech campus. The Science Festival is a STEM driven educational outreach event that is geared towards youth of all ages. This year there were approximately 6,000 attendees at the festival, all of which had one common interest – topics in STEM.

The Blue Ridge Chapter partnered with WDBJ7 TV station out of Roanoke, Virginia, to educate visitors about a variety of topics in meteorology within the "Science is bigger than you think" section of the festival. The Blue Ridge Chapter's exhibit, the "Mystery of Weather", was a hands-on, minds-on display of weather activities for visitors. The main display of the exhibit was a homemade tornado machine used as a tool to educate the public about severe storm formation and tornado safety. We also had an atmospheric model created with shaving cream and water that engaged visitors to think about the formation of clouds and different types of precipitation. WDBJ7 brought along a mock TV station set-up for attendees to practice how to give a weather report and discover what happens behind the scenes. The fourth year of the Virginia Tech Science Festival was a success yet again and the Blue Ridge Chapter looks forward to participating in the event again next year. ■



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

The Rutgers Meteorology Club was quite busy as the fall semester came to an end. The monthly meetings went over various important information from club outreach opportunities in the spring to the fall trip to Washington, DC. A new portion of our meetings includes Rutgers Meteorology trivia with a twist of Pictionary which was quite competitive and exciting for the members to participate in. Outside of the meetings, members of the Rutgers Meteorology Club went to Washington, DC for a weekend of sightseeing and learning in our nation's capital. The eight members who went had a great weekend away from the Banks of the Old Raritan. They got to visit the NOAA Headquarters' Science on a Sphere and even got a little bit of a sightseeing tour to the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The club had a great time and was excited for the next adventure to the AMS 2018 Annual meeting. A weather event that impacted the Northeast in early January changed a few members' plans, but the club was still represented by a few members. With the new semester starting, those attendees look forward to sharing their AMS 2018 experience with the rest of the club at the upcoming monthly meeting. The spring semester has a lot planned and the club looks forward to the outreach experiences planned, Spring Trip, and other campus events such as Rutgers Day on April 28th!



LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles chapter of the American Meteorological Society held its annual banquet and group meeting on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Les Taix Freres restaurant in the Silverlake area of Los Angeles. 28 members showed up to hear hurricane chaser, Josh Morgerman a.k.a. iCyclone give a fantastic presentation on all his chases of the past 2017 hurricane season all around the world. The presentation was in a Top 10 format with the Atlantic being the biggest of the world chases. He was in the eye of Harvey, Irma, Maria & Nate. It was a fantastic presentation of videos and commentary that kept the rapt attention of the entire group. We also had our raffle, annual rain contest prize and a quick update on the drought and fire damage in California and what may be in store for our winter weather by JPL climatologist, Dr. Bill Patzert. All in all it was a wonderful meeting with like-minded weather enthusiasts in the greater Los Angeles area. ■

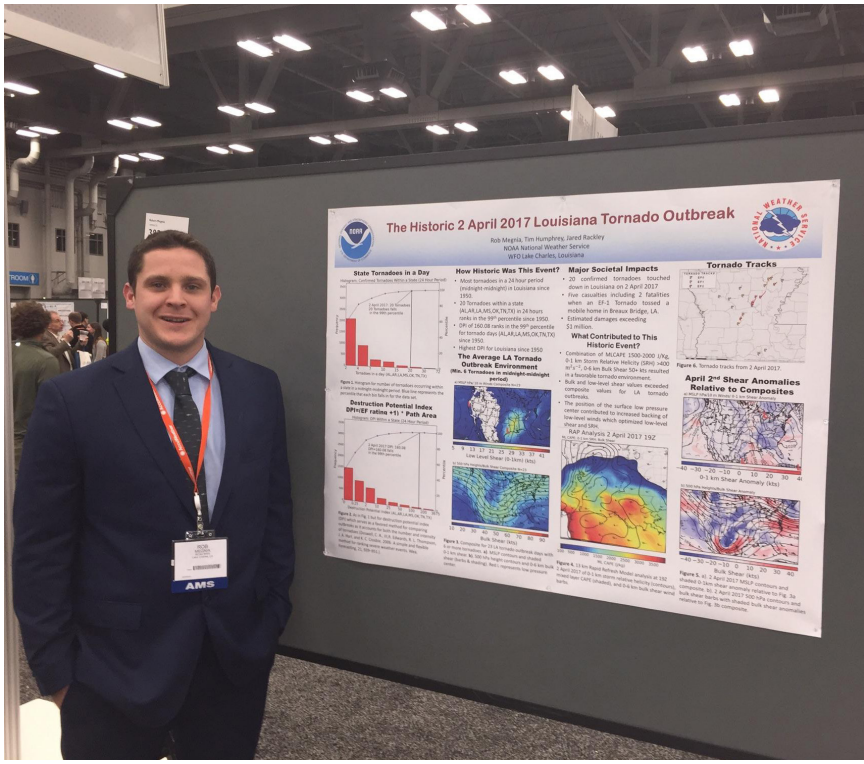
SE TEXAS/SW LOUISIANA

The start of 2018 was active for the Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana chapter with two big events that occurred during the month of January.

The first event was the 98th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Austin, Texas. Five chapter members contributed to the meeting by presenting research and serving on committees. In addition to the contributions of our individual members, the chapter displayed a poster highlighting its activities during the past year. A local chapter meeting was held later in the month where Rob Megnia presented his poster on the 2 April 2017 Louisiana Tornado Outbreak which was on display at the Annual Meeting. Rob also provided a review of the Annual Meeting for those who were unable to attend.

The second big event for the chapter in January was the annual JASON Learning Project in Southeast Texas. The JASON Project was founded by Dr. Robert Ballard with the goal of providing learning experiences about STEM fields for K-12 students and their teachers. This year's theme was "Forces in Nature." Chapter members preformed experiments that demonstrated: center of gravity, the force of pressure, the Coriolis force, and the centrifugal force. In addition to the demonstrations, members explained how they use their knowledge of natural forces to predict the weather. Approximately 6,500 students from schools across Southeast Texas attended the JASON Project this year. ■





PALMETTO

The 24th Annual Palmetto Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (PAMS) Allen Weber Mini-Technical Conference will be held on Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 in the Carolina Room at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The event lasts roughly from 9 AM to 3 PM, with some breaks, a midday lunch, and a brief chapter meeting. An agenda/abstracts will be sent out prior to the event.

For those of you who haven't attended a PAMS Mini-Tech before, it is a series of presentations, each usually lasting about 15 minutes, on a variety of weather and climate-related topics. Over the years, we have had presentations given by personnel from the National Weather Service offices in Columbia, Greer and Charleston, SC, Savannah River National Laboratory, SC DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality, state and regional climate offices, state and local emergency management agencies, USC Department of Geography, media, private industry, military/Shaw AFB, and many others.

Mini-Tech Abstract Deadline

If you would like to make a presentation, please submit a title and brief abstract (1 paragraph should suffice) via e-mail by Wednesday, March 14th. There is no need to send your presentation beforehand. You can simply put it on a USB drive and bring it with you. Screen, projector, computer, etc will already be set up.

If you would like to participate in the lunch at the event (pizza), we will ask for a $5 payment from you on that day to cover those expenses. You are free to bring your own lunch. Also, we will ask for PAMS dues ($15/year) at the event, but payment is voluntary.

There will also be a remembrance of Matt Paker, who passed away last March.

The Carolina Room is located on the bottom floor of the airport next to the baggage claim area, in a hallway behind the escalators. (It is the same venue in which the last five Mini-Techs were held). The address of the airport is: 3250 Airport Blvd, West Columbia, SC 29170. Specific driving directions and maps are available via the airport website. You may park in the parking garage or use surface parking. Parking passes will be distributed at the meeting that will allow you to exit the airport without you having to pay for parking. Contact Steve Weinbeck if you have questions. ■

EAST MISSISSIPPI

The East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS is excited to announce the 16th Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held on March 24 and 25, 2018 on the campus of Mississippi State University in Harned Hall. The conference is held annually at Mississippi State University to provide meteorologists across the southeast an opportunity to learn, network, and to further understand the current state of the weather enterprise. This year, we are honored to have four distinguished members of the meteorology community serving as our keynote speakers:

- Bryan Norcross, Senior Hurricane Specialist; The Weather Channel
- Mark Sudduth, Founder of Hurricane Track and Storm Chaser
- Carl Parker, Storm Specialist; The Weather Channel
- Rick Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist; NWS Norman, OK

Registration for the annual Symposium is open online through March 20. We will also be accepting registration at the door during the conference. For those interested in presenting research, we are also accepting abstracts from potential speakers through March 10.

For more on prices, directions, and even more details on the Southeast Severe Storms Symposium, please visit our website or follow @SESVR18 on Twitter. You can contact our chapter at eastmsnwaams@gmail.com with any questions about the conference or other chapter activities. ■



GREATER MILWAUKEE

On September 28, 2017, the Greater Milwaukee Chapter hosted a presentation titled "Public Safety Weather Support from NWS Milwaukee for the 2017 U.S. Open Golf Tournament", by Mr. Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service Milwaukee/Sullivan office. He spoke about decision support services (DSS) provided by the NWS during the U.S. Open at Erin Hills Golf Club outside of Milwaukee early in June of 2017. The NWS provided personnel on-site each day of the tournament to assist emergency managers in decisions related to public safety. Weather hazards such as storms and heat were the prime concerns. Mr. Halbach emphasized the role of the NWS in partnering with the Washington County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Among the AMS Chapter members and friends in the audience were UW-Milwaukee Atmospheric Science Professor Clark Evans; retired WITI-TV meteorologist Vince Condella; and Weather Company meteorologist Jonathan Erdman.

Four weeks later, on October 25, the Greater Milwaukee Chapter hosted a presentation by Dr. Paul Roebber, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Professor Roebber spoke about the subject matter of his recently coauthored book: "Minding the Weather: How Expert Forecasters Think". Both events were followed by lively post-meeting gatherings, during which the speakers joined AMS Chapter members and friends for conversation in an informal setting. ■





UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

zotCAMS, the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at UCI, hosted our first official guest speaker in November in our inaugural year as a student chapter. It was a pleasure to have Alex Tardy from the NWS San Diego Office to UC Irvine to speak about career opportunities in NOAA and the NWS. As a school with an undergraduate degree in Earth System Science but not a formal meteorology program, this was a critical presentation for our undergraduates to gain awareness about meteorology careers. To start off the new quarter, zotCAMS participated in the Anteater Winter Involvement Fair to recruit new members. ■



OHIO UNIVERSITY

Ohio University's AMS Student Chapter (OUCAMS) had another active semester, collaborating with other organizations to make their events even more successful! The chapter attended an Ohio University football game with the Geography Department's graduate student organization, to cheer on the Bobcats as they faced off against their rivals from Miami University (OH). While it was a cold and windy night in Athens, it was an exciting game, and a great way to connect with other students in the department.

Collaboration continued as OUCAMS fundraised and laced up for the 3rd Annual Athens Race for the Cure! The race was in support of breast cancer services in Southeast Ohio, along with continued research through the Susan G. Komen foundation. The goal was to raise $500. By pairing up with the Ohio University Geography Club, the 1st Annual Geography Casino Night for the Cure was created to advertise the cause, with meteorology and geoscience-themed prizes. In total, the team ended up raising over $650! On race day, a record 14 team members participated in the 5K, capping off another successful Race for the Cure. The chapter is excited for the spring semester, with their 9th Annual Meteorological Symposium and a Python Tutorial in the works! ■





IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Iowa State University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society had some competition during the Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Bake-Off. Faculty, graduates, and undergraduates went head-to-head in a battle for the best chili and dessert! We also provided activities for the annual Science Night at an elementary school in Ames, IA. Kids tried out the tornado in a bottle, and created their own anemometers and cloud pictures! ■





LYNDON STATE COLLEGE

Fall was an enormously successful time for the Lyndon AMS Chapter, but it was merely the beginning of a monumental season! After a two-year absence, the chapter revamped the highly anticipated Annual Talent Show and came back stronger than ever. Nine performers got the incredible opportunity to showcase their talents and shoot for the very generous prizes for first, second and third place. The prizes were generously donated from local businesses around the Northeast Kingdom and the total proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund, geared towards helping families statewide recover from natural disasters. The show was an absolute blast for everyone involved, from stage hands to audience members, and we are already planning for next year!

The Lyndon Chapter rung in the new year by attending the National American Meteorological Society annual conference. Despite the numerous travel obstacles, multiple members made their way to Austin, Texas for a week of learning, socializing and networking. Lyndon's AMS Chapter won Chapter Honor Roll for their work last year, as well as placing second in the poster contest. Everyone from first-time attendees to seniors enjoyed the various presentations by professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds, and some even walked away with a few business cards and new connections. It was a week of unmatched opportunities and memorable experiences! ■





WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

In January, several members of the West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society participated in an outreach event at Learning Gate Community School, a local environmental school in Tampa, Florida. They performed several weather experiments for Ms. Alisa's 2nd grade class. Former hurricane hunter, Barry Damiano, showed students the Cartesian Diver experiment while Amy Polen explained how clouds form using the cloud in a bottle experiment. Marc Escudie taught students about the formation of tornadoes and demonstrated using a tornado in a bottle. Michelle Saunders and Jennifer Collins helped students learn about convection using dyed cold and hot water. This is one of several outreach events that members take part in each year. ■





NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

AMS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 2ND!

Attention undergraduate students! The deadline for scholarship applications is quickly approaching. Don't miss the opportunity to apply for funds (some as much as $10,000.00) to help with your education costs for the 2018-19 academic year. The deadline is February 2, 2018. Contact Donna Fernandez if you have questions. ■

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/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
- 33rd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology - Ponte Vedra, FL 16–20 April 2018
- 10th International Conference on Urban Climate/14th Symposium on the Urban Environment - New York, NY, 6–10 August 2018

AMS encourages chapter members to attend/present or get involved in our specialty meetings. Here is a link to a listing of 2018 meetings. ■

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION (NCEP) STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NCEP is offering up to 10 paid summer internships targeted towards current undergraduate and graduate students to work in areas that will meet the future needs of the ever-broadening weather-climate-water user community. Students may be involved in activities that improve understanding of forecasting issues and address critical aspects of operational model development. Each student will collaborate with one or more scientists at our five centers located in College Park, MD: Climate Prediction Center, Environmental Modeling Center, NOAA Central Operations, Ocean Prediction Center, and Weather Prediction Center.

Applications are due February 5, 2018.

For more information and to apply: http://www.ncep.noaa.gov/student-internships/ ■

LOCAL CHAPTERS RECOGNIZED AT 2018 AMS ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 140 individuals representing 43 chapters attended the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast on January 9, 2018 at the AMS Annual Meeting in Austin. Wesley Rondinelli, outgoing Chair of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee (LCAC) talked about the benefits of local chapters collaborating with other chapters in their area through organizing conferences or having joint meetings. Kelly Savoie from AMS Headquarters mentioned the importance of updating information in the online chapter directory to stay connected to national AMS as well as the new online system for Local Chapter Award nominations (see more details below). The LCAC also mentioned that they are looking for new members for terms starting in 2019. If you are interested in being a part of the LCAC, please email Committee Chair Sally Riccardi as soon as possible.

After the business portion of the breakfast meeting, winners of the poster awards were announced. 31 chapters presented some amazing posters at the Annual Meeting making the judging process very challenging. AMS President Roger Wakimoto 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 the Chapter of the Year Award winners. Kristofer Tuftedal from the Iowa State University chapter and Elisabeth Cohen from the Denver Boulder chapter shared their successes and challenges on fundraising, community outreach, member retention/recruiting, and speakers.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR DENVER-BOULDER



STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



CHAPTER HONOR ROLL

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



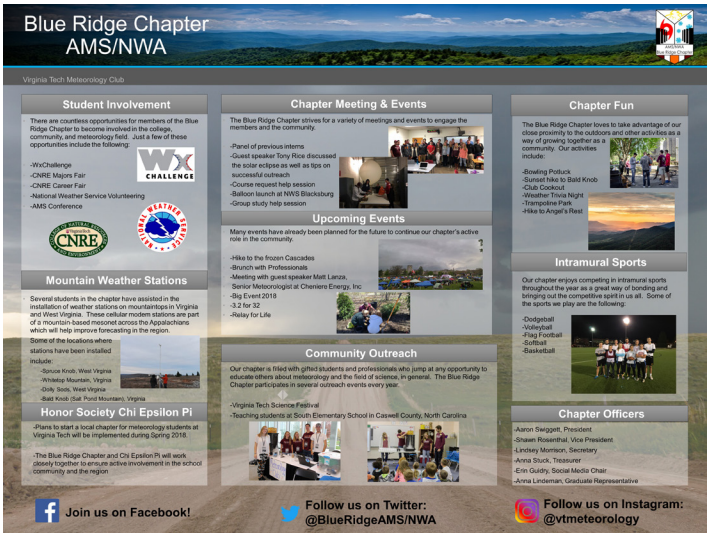
CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS

REGULAR CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS

1ST PLACE: BLUE RIDGE
2ND PLACE: FORT COLLINS ATMOSPHERIC SCIENTISTS
3RD PLACE: SOUTHEAST TEXAS/SW LOUISIANA

STUDENT CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS

1ST PLACE: IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
2ND PLACE: LYNDON STATE COLLEGE
3RD PLACE: OHIO UNIVERSITY





CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATIONS NOW ONLINE!

Starting this year you can nominate your chapter for the Chapter or Student Chapter of the Year Award through AMS's new online award system! You no longer have to complete a paper application. Simply go to the AMS Awards page and nominate through the Awards portal. AMS created an instructional video on the process to help you with the transition. Please keep in mind that this is a general video for awards and that the Chapter Award nomination screen will include different requirements. The deadline for the Local Chapter of the Year nominations is 1 May 2018. ■

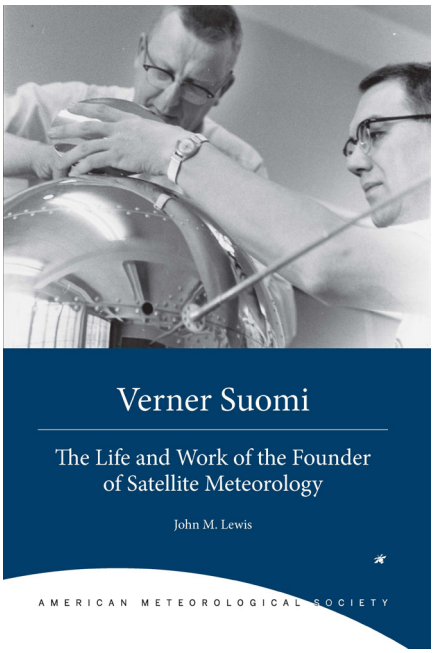
DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR CHAPTER'S ONLINE DIRECTORY LISTING

It is very important to keep your chapter officer information up to date in the chapter directory as email addresses used for newsletter distribution, Annual Meeting activities, important deadlines, and other news of interest are sent to contact information listed in the directory. Instructions on updating your information are available on the Chapter Information page on the AMS website. ■

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. ■

NEW RELEASE FROM AMS BOOKS



The newest release from AMS books is Verner Suomi: The Life and Work of the Founder of Satellite Meteorology. Drawing on personal letters and oral histories, this biography presents a complete picture of the well-rounded man who launched the field of satellite meteorology and in the process changed forever the way we understand and interact with the world around us. List price is $30 and the AMS member/student price is $20. For more details and ordering information, visit the AMS Bookstore.

The next newsletter will be published in 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.	Sally Ricardi, Chair Amber Liggett, 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**