# AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Spring/Summer 2019 Volume 8 Issue 4

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### SOUTHEAST ARIZONA (SEACAMS) AND CENTRAL ARIZONA

The Southeast Arizona (SEACAMS) and the Central Arizona AMS chapters held the 2019 All-Arizona State Meeting on February 16th, 2019, hosted by SEACAMS and NWS Tucson. The meeting featured four interesting topics: 1) WMO International Cloud Atlas – Past & Present, given by Ron Holle, who served as the technical editor for the 1987 revision and Glenn Minuth, who is a civilian retired from the Department of Defense at Fort Huachuca; 2) the Arizona Tornado Outbreak of 6 October 2010, given by Glenn Minuth; 3) the effect of Weather and Climate on Saguaros, given by a Tucson-area geologist, William Peachey; as well as 4) Weather and Climate Extremes Committee of the World Meteorological Organization, given by Dr. Randy Cerveny, President's professor of Geographical Sciences at the Arizona State University. The meeting was also live streamed on SEACAMS' Facebook webpage. ■



### WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Every year a few members from the WIU Severe Weather Club travel to Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL, to help the Boy Scouts of America earn their weather merit badge. Our number one goal for our club is being able to make an impact on helping out communities around our area. The SWC have thrived in outreach by helping in multiple events every year including this one. We enjoy making a positive influence on others and to be able to teach our future leaders/meteorologists of America. ■



Pictured: Molly Naslund (right) and Luke Saeger (left)

# STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT OSWEGO

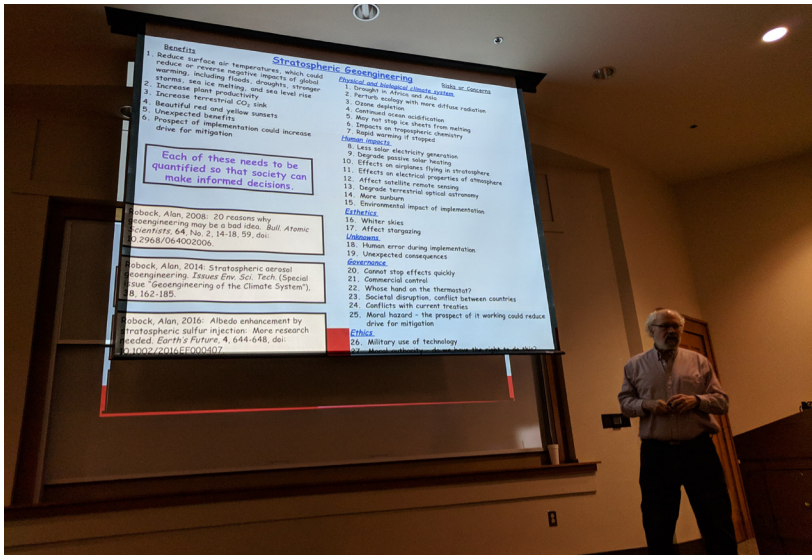
In March, Oswego State Student Chapter of the AMS (OSSCAMS) helped send 22 students to the Northeastern Storm Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. Here, students heard presentations from a vast array of topics and had the opportunity to network with other students, professors, and professionals in the field of meteorology. This month, OSSCAMS has many events planned, such as an alumni panel, a visit from a local private forecasting firm, and finally elections for next year's officers! ■




# COASTAL LOUISIANA

The Coastal Louisiana chapter of the American Meteorological Society (CLAMS) was launched on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge on the night of January 24th. The newly-formed chapter was honored to have Dr. Alan Robock, a Rutgers University Distinguished Professor and IPCC author, as its featured speaker. Dr. Robock gave a talk titled, "Stratospheric Sulfur Geoengineering – Benefits and Risks" to an audience comprised of LSU faculty, students, local media, and others from the community with an interest in weather and climate.

CLAMS officers were elected at the chapter's second meeting held on February 21st at LSU. Broadcast meteorologist Dr. Steve Caparotta was elected President; Eric Rohli, a Data Analyst with the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC), was elected Vice President; and LSU graduate students Deirdre Smith and Amy Polen were chosen to be Secretary/Treasurer and Outreach Officer, respectively. Dr. Caparotta also gave a talk titled, "South Louisiana's Radar Coverage Gap Vulnerability and Possible Solutions."




Moving forward, the chapter has plans to meet 6 to 8 times per year. CLAMS will aim to foster collaboration and continuing education for the meteorological community and related sciences at LSU and surrounding areas in south Louisiana. Plans are in the works for future meetings to include a visit to the newly-established LSU Center for River Studies and to host a speaker who will focus on the upcoming hurricane season. ■

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Students from the Iowa State University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological society gather round and pose in front of their weather jeopardy board game. The Chapter presented their fun weather-themed trivia game at a local elementary school's science night. Community outreach through events such as these school visits and science nights are an important part of the ISU Chapter. Motivated efforts are made by the Chapter to reach as many individuals as possible, including as many students as possible so that some of them may be inspired to also pursue a career in meteorology! ■




# EAST MISSISSIPPI

At a bi-weekly chapter meeting in late February, the East MS Chapter of the NWA and AMS held a professional conference workshop. At the workshop, multiple professional conferences were highlighted such as the AMS Annual Meeting, NWA Annual Meeting, Baron Conference, SeCAPS (local conference hosted by the University of South Alabama), as well as our own local conference, the Southeast Severe Storms Symposium. Officers, as well as past attendees of said conferences, spoke to the structure, student benefits, and networking opportunities at each conference. Dr. Kim Wood was a guest speaker and highlighted the benefits of not only attending a professional conference but being involved in AMS in any way possible. Officers in depth explained the details of the upcoming 17th Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium, which will be held March 23rd and 24th on the campus of Mississippi State University. The keynote speakers for the conference include: Louis Uccellini, director of the National Weather Service in Silver Spring, MD; Erik Rasmussen, meteorologist at NSSL and project manager for VORTEX-SE in Norman, OK; Janice Huff, chief meteorologist at WNBC-TV in New York City; Aubrey Urbanowicz, chief meteorologist at WHSV-TV in Harrisonburg, VA, an alumna of MSU's program; and Will Simmons, a pilot for Hurricane Hunters in Biloxi, MS, an alumnus MSU as well. ■



# SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

Student members of the newly-formed Swampscott High School pre-college chapter participated in that school's STEM night by setting up a table to teach community members about cloud formation. This included the ever-popular "cloud in a bottle" demonstration. The student members, under the direction of their teacher, Brian Casey, used the AMS Project Atmosphere curriculum materials to prepare their activities for the night. Here, chapter co-president Nick Reiser, along with co-president Dylan January and chapter member Jen Soucy, demonstrates the process to a young STEM Night attendee before he makes his own cloud. ■



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at UC Irvine (zotCAMS) continued our successful forecasting workshop series this winter by covering topics including Santa Ana winds, wildfires, and other California extreme events. The theme of our spring quarter workshops will be severe weather. During March we were excited to remotely host our guest speaker, Elisa Raffa, who is a broadcast meteorologist in Missouri. Elisa discussed her career path into broadcast meteorology and shared tips on improving weather communications. The winner of our winter (December-February) rainfall forecast contest was recently announced with a prediction of 14 inches. Unlike last year's record dry winter in Irvine, this year's rainfall accumulated 14.03 inches - great forecast!

We are looking forward to a few upcoming outreach events this spring with booths at the Celebrate UC Irvine festival and at a local elementary school's Earth Day science fair. zotCAMS is also planning a hike to see the Santa Ana doppler radar in Black Star Canyon and a spring field trip to our local National Weather Service Office in San Diego, California. ■



# UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

On March 13th, the AMS Student Chapter at the University of Delaware hosted three alumni who had graduated in recent years to discuss their different career paths and answer any questions students had. The panelists were Margaret Orr (left), Alex Seymore (center), and Alissa DiSciasio (right). Each have gone down different paths once leaving the University of Delaware. Margaret had graduated from the University of Delaware in 2018 and is currently a graduate student at the University of Georgia. Alex Seymore graduated in 2017 and is currently a broadcast meteorologist for WBOC in Salisbury, MD. Alissa DiSciasio was also a part of the class of 2017 and went into the private sector, working as an air quality consultant and forecaster. ■






# MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

On the 8th of March, the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at Millersville University drove two vans north to Saratoga Springs, New York, for the 44th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference. The students who attended were treated with a variety of research project presentations and notable keynote speakers. Amusingly, the theme was nor'easters and there was measurable snowfall on the final day, Sunday, of the event. On the first night, students explored Saratoga Springs until the first Keynote Speaker, Keith Carson. For the second day, attendees learned about winter weather, cyclones, climate, severe weather, remote sensing, and operational meteorology in fifteen-minute-long seminars. The Saturday night Keynote Speaker was Dr. Kevin Kloesel of the University of Oklahoma, who made his points in a heart pounding, purposeful way. Finally, the students attended the final Keynote Speaker from Accuweather, Becky DePodwin, on Sunday morning.

Overall, the conference was a positive experience for freshmen and sophomore students who had not previously attended a professional development event and returning students. All the students had the opportunity to network with professors and students from Northeastern states and the speakers. The students in attendance walked away with both new lessons and people to learn from and get to know. Returning home, the students now look forward, with the rest of the chapter, to our 11th Annual Public Weather Awareness Day. ■



# CORNELL UNIVERSITY

From March 8-10, five undergraduates from the Cornell Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (CCAMS) attended the Northeastern Storm Conference (NESC) in Saratoga Springs, NY. In its 44th year, the NESC is organized by NVU-Lyndon to promote learning and collaboration among the media, academic, private, and public sectors of meteorology.

The NESC was anchored by three keynoted talks. Friday night featured Keith Carson, a broadcast meteorologist who worked alongside Jim Cantore and Greg Forbes at The Weather Channel, and currently works for WCSH in Portland, ME. The highlight of Carson's talk was an informative yet comedic segment he prepared for his station on climate change skepticism. Dr. Kevin Kloessel – a professor and emergency manager at OU – presented during the Saturday evening banquet. His talk was passionate and impactful, and covered possible reasons why meteorologists and emergency managers struggle to communicate risk in a way that prompts the public to take action. AccuWeather meteorologist Becky DePodwin presented on Sunday morning. She quite candidly discussed the challenges of a degree and career in meteorology from a mental health perspective.

Cornell was well-represented at the conference. Michael French '03, now an associate professor at Stony Brook University, gave a talk on how tornado dissipation can be predicted from radar data. Tyler Leicht '18, now a PhD candidate at SUNY Albany, presented his research on the effect of North Pacific ridge patterns and tropical cyclones on warm North American temperature anomalies in October 2018. Finally, current undergraduate Jack Sillin '22 gave a weather briefing on mesoscale snowfall banding in the winter storm which impacted parts of the northeast on March 9-10.

Many thanks to the NVU-Lyndon AMS Chapter for organizing such a fantastic and informative conference – one that CCAMS hopes to attend for many years to come! ■



# NORTHERN VERMONT UNIVERSITY - LYNDON

The 44th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference, organized by Northern Vermont University – Lyndon's AMS chapter, was an incredible success! The Chapter had the honor of hosting over 250 attendees at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York. Sessions consisted of student and professionals presenting a plethora of topics, from assessing model reliability to the importance of collaboration in research. The keynote speakers also provided multiple perspectives into the field of meteorology, including emergency management and mental health awareness applied to meteorology. Being the largest student-run conference in the nation, the Northeastern Storm Conference has managed to provide visibility and insight to a myriad of potential career paths, paving the way for successful futures for all students. Regardless of background, all attendees have the opportunity to feel welcome, which the Chapter hopes to sustain in years to come! ■



# UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO - MAYAGUEZ

Last March, the University of Puerto Rico AMS local chapter eagerly celebrated its eleventh annual Weather Fest, after missing it the past year due to the catastrophe of Hurricane Maria. This year's theme was Hurricanes: Are You Prepared For Them? During that day, almost 400 students from different schools, universities, and other institutions around the island visited the festival, carried out on the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez's coliseum. This year, we received two weather forecasters from local stations (WAPA and WOLE 12), that covered the event live in their respective channels. Our festival always aims to educate the community, primarily about weather phenomena (how they work, and how to be prepared for them). Along with this we hope to motivate high school students to pursue studies in STEM and atmospheric sciences. Other student associations from our campus oriented the public about different scientific topics such as climate change, geology, physics, and oceanography. In addition we had multiple booths from science offices, research sites, and related institutions such as Red Sismica, CARICOOS, Ecoexploratorio, Arecibo Observatory, and Sea Grant. After all the exhausting days of preparation, and a long day of multiple presentations, the most gratifying feeling was shared among our chapter members after impacting in such a positive way the lives of so many students, teachers, and visitors. ■







# METRO ATLANTA

Situated in bustling Atlanta, Georgia, meteorologists in the Metro Atlanta chapter of the AMS/NWA have always come from many different industries in the public, private, and academic sectors. After a brief hiatus, the Metro Atlanta chapter returned in a big way in the 2018 calendar year. President, Adam Baker, and fellow officers, Violeta Toma, Sid King, and John Hester worked throughout the year to engage the weather interests of people from diverse backgrounds. Members were able to enjoy a variety of events, such as a lecture from on-air meteorologists from The Weather Channel, tours of the CNN Center and the Delta Operations Customer Center, and social mixers in restaurants in downtown Atlanta. These chapter meetings have also provided opportunities for interaction, networking, and collaboration between Atlanta area meteorologists across all sectors. The Metro Atlanta chapter will continue to stay busy in 2019 and beyond as the team continues to build towards the future, with the ultimate goals of strengthening a community of meteorologists and weather enthusiasts throughout the area and fostering scientific innovation and professional growth. ■



# OREGON

On January 29th, 2019, the Oregon Chapter of the AMS granted George Miller a lifetime membership. Mr. Miller has served the meteorology community for over four decades as NWS MIC/AM, professor, author, and speaker. The Oregon AMS is grateful for his knowledge, leadership, and his many presentations made to the chapter over the years. George Miller is an icon and we are honored to bestow this lifetime membership to one of our greatest pioneers. ■

# NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

## CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Please update your online local chapter directory listing when your chapter elections have been held. Updated election results should be entered no later than 1 June 2019. Please keep in mind that the chapter president/chairperson is required to be a member (Associate, Member, Student) of the Society. If the chapter president/chairperson is not a member or pending member of the Society, then the chapter will not be recognized as being active. You may apply for Membership online. Please update your last election date even if your officers were reappointed for 2019. This will ensure that your chapter remains active in our files and that you receive important emails from AMS Headquarters. Instructions on how to update your listing are available online. ■

## CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nominate your chapter for the Chapter or Student Chapter of the Year Award through AMS's online award system! Simply go to the AMS Awards page and nominate through the Awards portal. The deadline for the Local Chapter of the Year nominations is 1 May 2019. ■




## ADDITIONAL AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

AMS invites members and friends to submit nominations for consideration for Society Awards, Honorary Member, Fellows, and Lecturers. Each year the AMS honors individuals, teams of people, and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the atmospheric and related sciences, and to the application of those sciences. We encourage you to review the various AMS awards. The deadline is 1 May 2019. ■

# SUMMER IS WEATHER CAMP TIME

## CONTRIBUTED BY H. MICHAEL MOGIL

It's quite possible that NWA members have received queries about summer weather camps (or will be receiving these in the days and weeks to come). There are a lot of young adults with an interest in weather. Last year, Paul Gross (WDIV-TV, Detroit) was among those who interfaced with a family and guided their child to our weather camp.

While many weather camps are already full, the Southwest Florida Weather Camps (both middle and high school) still have some openings. And since we accept (and encourage) students from across the U.S. to attend (we've even had a Canadian student participate), we wanted you to be aware of our full-day camp programs. The middle school camp will be held July 7-12, 2019, and the high school camp will be held July 14-19. The tuition for camp is low, but because we are not affiliated with a university, we require that parents come to Naples to chaperone their students (and also participate in some of camp activities). Yes, it's almost the predecessor of a parent-focused weather camp!

For more information, please feel free to direct people to http://www.weatherworks.com/nwxcp/ or contact us at weathercamp@weatherworks.com. ■

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# NATIONAL SKY AWARENESS WEEK IS COMING

## CONTRIBUTED BY H. MICHAEL MOGIL

For nearly a quarter of a century, National Sky Awareness has been celebrated. The event is even included in Chase's Calendar of Events.

This year the "celebration" spans the full week of April 21-27; to help celebrate, we are specifically reaching out to broadcasters and others in the weather community (including AMS Student Chapter members) who interface with the public, schools, and others to help SHOWCASE THE SKY ABOVE. This can be done via school talks, part of storm spotter training, and most importantly broadcaster activities (e.g., on-air special weather segments and blog posts).

We'll be posting more information about this "celebration" at our website -- http://www.weatherworks.com/public-programs, including links to cloud articles, social media posts, and more.

Please let us know what you were able to do to help in this US-wide weather education effort so we can better plan for even more outreach in 2020.

Oh, enjoy the sky show above with family and friends, as well. ■

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# FATHER JAMES B. MACELWANE AWARD

Paper submissions for the AMS Father James B. Macelwane Award are being accepted. The student must be enrolled as an undergraduate at the time the paper is written, and no more than two students from any one institution may enter. The award offers a $1,000 stipend and partial travel support to the AMS Annual Meeting. Information and access to the application can be found on the AMS website here. Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez at dfernandez@ametsoc.org. ■

# TRAVEL GRANTS

Applications for AMS specialty meeting travel grants have opened. Students can apply to experience an AMS conference for free! These grants cover air travel, hotel room, and conference registration fee. Information and applications are on the AMS website here. Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez at dfernandez@ametsoc.org. ■

# SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The AMS Department of Career Development will be maintaining a list of professional development opportunities on the AMS website. If you have an upcoming conference, workshop, webinar, or other opportunity that you would like to promote, please email a short description of the event along with a link to additional details, to Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org). ■

# 100 YEARS OF AMS

AMS wants to include all members of our community in the Centennial celebration! Chapters are encouraged to join in – download the Centennial Quick Start Guide for ideas on how to get involved in this milestone event. From contests to social media campaigns and many other activities, there are so many ways to participate in this year-long celebration! To get you started, every chapter should have received an AMS Centennial Banner (distributed at the Annual Meeting; if you haven't yet received your banner, please reach out). Throughout the year, take photos with your banner or #IamAMS t-shirts and share them on Instagram and Twitter with the hashtag #AMS100. ■

AMS100
American Meteorological Society
SINCE 1919

# UPDATES ON AMS MEETINGS

- There is student funding available for the 22nd Conference on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics, 24-28 June 2019 in Portland, ME. The program will be posted in early April.
- We'll have funding available for students for the 2019 Joint Satellite Conference, 28 September - 4 October 2019 in Boston, MA. Check the website for information - coming soon!
- Check out all of the specialty meetings we'll be holding this spring, summer and fall. Hope to see you there!
- Save the Date for the 100th Annual Meeting coming up in Boston, 12-16 January! Celebrate our Centennial with us! ■



# AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Happy Spring AMS Local Chapters,



Here within the AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee (LCAC) we are working on a few different tasks and wanted to send a quick update to everyone through this newsletter. One of our major efforts is to build a better connection between us and you, our local chapters, so we can serve you better. To this end, we have assigned a representative to each local chapter so they can be your direct line to the LCAC and the larger AMS body. You should be receiving an email from your direct LCAC contact person soon, if you have not already. Tangent to this is our administrative effort to clean-up the members list on the AMS Local Chapter Officers Facebook page. For that, we will be contacting each member and verifying that they are still a member of an AMS Local Chapter. If they are, great! If not, then they will be removed from the Facebook group.

Lastly, since we are in the midst of the AMS Centennial we are working on creating a hashtag for this event so the local chapters can broadcast any centennial related events to the wider community. Attached to that is our effort to create a symbolic torch to pass around to the different chapters so that each chapter can get a picture with it to celebrate the AMS Centennial. If you have any ideas for hashtags connected with the AMS Centennial, local chapters, and the idea of 'Pass the Torch,' please send them our way. Also, for the centennial we are increasing our efforts to help foster collaboration amongst the local chapters around the Boston area since the AMS Centennial Annual Meeting will be in Boston, MA. So, keep your eyes open for the possibility of a small event featuring the Boston local chapters during the AMS Annual Meeting in 2020 and welcome them into your cohort.

Best,
LCAC Member Tanya Peevey ■

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

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| 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. | Amber Liggett, Chair<br>Kristofer Tuftedal, Chair-Elect<br>Jordan Stillman, AMS Liaison<br><br>**AMS Headquarters**<br>45 Beacon St.,<br>Boston, MA 02108 | **www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC**<br>**@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**. |