# AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Spring/Summer 2020 Volume 9 Issue 3

## AMS AND COVID-19

On behalf of the AMS Council and staff, I would like to extend our sincere sympathy to anyone impacted directly or indirectly by the novel coronavirus, and gratitude to the healthcare workers and organizations battling this pandemic. For those members of the community required to be at their places of business for public safety, thank you and stay safe. As we all practice social distancing in an effort to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and its potential strain on our healthcare systems, we've created a list of helpful AMS resources that you can access online.

**How to Reach AMS Staff?**

Please contact us the same ways as always. In most cases, email is the best way to reach us. If you are trying to reach a staff member by phone and reach voicemail, leave a message! It will be delivered to us via email, and we will respond when we are able.

**An Update on AMS Meetings**

As of 19 March, we have made the decision to reschedule the following upcoming meetings:

- The 2020 AMS Washington Forum is now planned for 26–28 October 2020
- The 34th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology is now planned for 9–14 May 2021
- The 13th Fire and Forest Meteorology Symposium is now planned for 11–13 May 2021

Please check often for additional updates on the AMS Meetings and COVID-19 page.

**AMS Online Offerings**

There are a number of ways to learn and connect with your fellow AMS members and meeting attendees online, such as:

- Join the discussion and connect with fellow members virtually on the AMS Community
- Explore a new field or brush up on yours in AMS Journals Online: all content published over 12 months ago is free and open access.
- View over ten years of recorded meeting presentations for free on our archived presentations page
- Consider organizing a webinar around a topic of interest to the AMS community, or convene around one of the recorded webinars available in our webinar directory?

We also have two podcast series for you:

- AMS on the Air: Bringing you cool stories, news, and research in the weather, water, and climate community.
- Clear Skies Ahead: Learn about careers in meteorology and beyond. Join AMS as we talk to experts working in the weather, water, and climate sciences.

We are dedicated to advancing the well-being of the weather, water, and climate community and the broader public that we serve, and we will continue to actively monitor this fluid situation and keep you informed.

Best regards,
Keith Seitter, CCM
Executive Director

# NOMINATE YOUR CHAPTER FOR CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The Local Chapter of the Year Award is the most prestigious recognition that National AMS can offer to a local chapter. Awards are given to one regular and one student chapter that have demonstrated particular excellence and success over the past year. Other highly successful chapters that are not awarded Chapter of the Year may be awarded Honor Roll recognition for that year. These awards are all given out by the AMS President at the Local Chapter Breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting.

In order to win the Local Chapter of the Year Award, chapters must complete a nomination form detailing their successes in outreach, communication, and connection to National AMS. The awards are based on chapter activities conducted during a 12-month period from 1 May through 30 April of the year the nomination is submitted. The nominations are reviewed and judged by the Local Chapter Affairs Committee.

## 2019 Chapter of the Year: Asheville, North Carolina



The complete nomination package must be uploaded to the AMS awards system by **1 May.** Award winners are notified in July and are acknowledged at the Local Chapter Breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting.

Submit your nominations here: https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/ams-awards-honors/awards/chapter-awards/

For more information, look at the Sample Local Chapter of the Year Award Application put together by the Local Chapter Affairs Committee and Guidance from the Local Chapter Affairs Committee on the Chapter of the Year Award Competition Please note that no chapter can win Chapter of the Year more than twice in a row, but can still be considered for a position on the Honor Roll.

## 2019 Student Chapter of the Year: Ohio University



# CHAPTER HAPPENINGS



## ATLANTA

The Metro Atlanta AMS/NWA meetings provide opportunities for interaction, networking, and collaboration between Atlanta area meteorologists across all sectors. Thanks to the work of President Violeta Toma, and fellow officers Sid King, Jesse Marks, and Jason Martinez, the chapter experienced a successful end to 2019, which included members teaching portions of an introductory weather course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Emory University, a guest lecture from the Weather Channel's Stephanie Abrams, and an end of the year banquet at Mellow Mushroom.

# BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the AMS attended the 100th annual AMS conference in Boston this January. Members in the club who attended the conference went to some of the many talks that were being given, met meteorologists from all around the world, and got to network with companies and grad schools from across the country. This was such an amazing experience and the club is very excited to attend the 101st annual AMS conference in New Orleans next year!

The chapter also helped lead an outreach event at Virginia Tech. Two sessions of female high school students of 45 came to Virginia Tech to learn about women in STEM. Part of their tour at the university was to learn more about the meteorology program here. Club members shared stories about what they have done to get to where they are today and what they like about the meteorology program at Virginia Tech. We were also able to help professors build portable weather stations and show what equipment the program uses for research in our area.

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the AMS is also taking precautions from COVID-19 and has canceled all in person meetings and events. We are planning to have meetings online so that our members can get in touch with each other and make connections with other meteorologists while remaining in our own homes.



# CENTRAL VIRGINIA

The Central Virginia Chapter met on February 20, 2020 at The Grapevine Restaurant in Richmond, Virginia. Following a forecast discussion by Chapter President Peter Effertz, Carroll Ellis Jr., Geoscience Educator and Flight Director of the Henrico County Math Science Innovation Center Challenger Learning Center, gave an interactive presentation on Tornado Damage Assessments. Chapter members were given the criteria for Enhanced Fujita (EF) 1 through EF4 tornado damage and proceeded to analyze damage photos. Members were asked to determine the EF scale damage evident in various photographs. Members learned the criteria and the difficulties incurred when assessing damage in a highly educational presentation by Mr. Ellis.



Before the chapter meeting concluded, several members agreed to be judges for the Metro Richmond Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fair on Saturday, March 28, 2020.






# DENVER-BOULDER

We had a well-attended seminar in February on downslope winds along the Colorado Front Range presented by Paul Schlatter (Science and Operations Officer at the Boulder National Weather Service Office). People living along the Colorado Front Range, especially west of Interstate 25, experience wind gusts near 70 mph or stronger via downslope wind processes primarily from December to February. Paul explained the different kinds of downslope wind storms (boras and chinooks) and highlighted formation mechanisms, taking an ingredients-based approach to identify when and where the strongest winds will occur. The unique terrain of Colorado contributes to the development and intensification of the downslope winds that impact the growing population along the urban corridor of Colorado.

# GREATER NYC/NJ/PHILLY

In February, the Greater NJ/NYC/Philly AMS PreCollege Chapter visited Rutgers University Cook Campus, home of the RU Meteorology Club. Members sat inside of one of Rutgers' atmospheric sciences classrooms to learn from current students about majoring in Atmospheric sciences. In fact, one of our high school members, Katrina, is committed to Rutgers and will start classes in the fall!

We left the classroom to take a short walk down to the NBC StormTracker4 weather radar which was built in 2017 on campus in affiliation with the NBC 4 television station in New York. Students explained how they use collected data in their daily forecasts.

Next, we visited the RU weather watchers television studio and were introduced to students working on a morning forecast for the day. We saw the software that the RU TV network uses for their weather graphics. The students explained the process that it takes to make a forecast and the countless times that the weather watchers sometimes retake them.

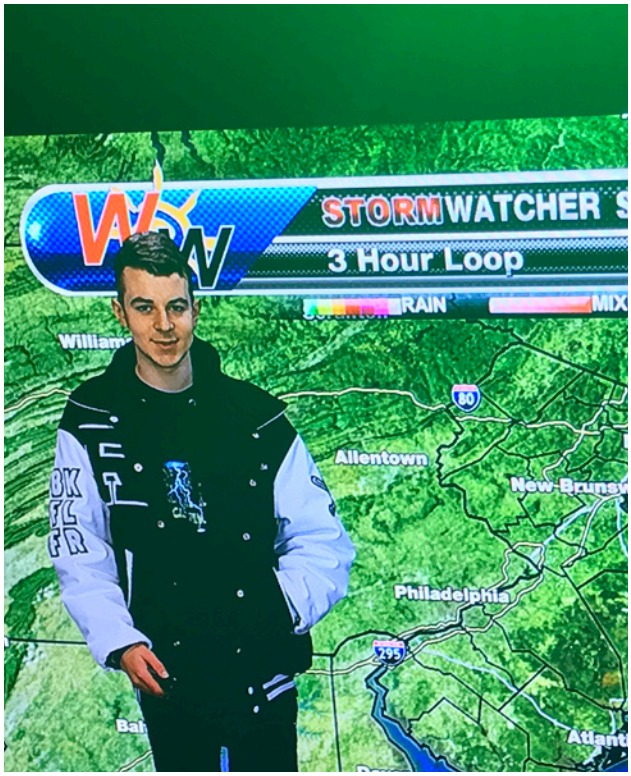
After the formal tour, Rutgers Students escorted one member who wanted the true college experience to the Neilsen dining hall for lunch! We are so appreciative to Ashley, Rohan and all of the RU Meteorology students for providing wonderful college planning guidance to us. They are great role models!

Overall, this was an interesting program for our chapter thanks to RU Meteorology and we look forward to visiting WeatherWorks forecasting service in Hackettstown, NJ in April to learn more about careers in Meteorology after college.

Authored by:
Ben Tomfohrde, Co-President

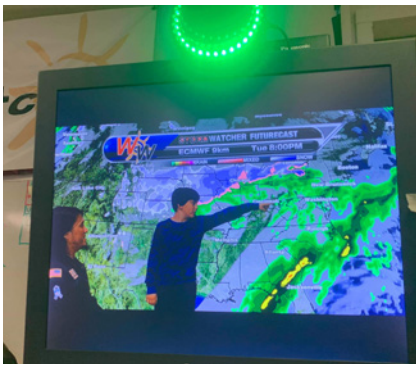





STORMWATCHER
3 Hour Loop
RAIN
Allentown
Philadelphia








Past Students: Where Are They Now?

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at Iowa State University enjoys sharing the knowledge of weather with the community. A new outreach event the chapter created is frostbite awareness! Members of the chapter worked hard creating hot chocolate packets that contained information about the dangers of frostbite and various ways to prevent it. Students then walked around Iowa State's campus offering these packets to help raise awareness about this dangerous weather. The student chapter enjoys implementing fun activities like this around the community to encourage the public to be more aware of the weather!






# MARYMOUNT

The Marymount School of New York Chapter has had a busy year so far. On a weekly basis, chapter members research, write, film and produce the weekend weather forecast for New York City. The video forecast is posted on YouTube for the school community (and beyond!)

On November 19, 2019, the chapter presented an online session entitled The 2020 Global Survey on Youth Perspectives on Global Warming and Climate Change at the 9th Annual Global Education Conference. In 2017-2018, students in the senior elective, Atmospheric Science, at Marymount School, created an implemented the Global Survey on Youth Perspective on Global Warming and Climate Change, which sought to determine if teenagers believe global warming is naturally induced, human induced, or both, and to uncover what local and global evidence leads teenagers to conclude that the Earth's average temperature is increasing (or not). Over 700 students worldwide complete the survey, and the results were surprising.

With the recent uptick in student interest in climate change and global warming, the class will conduct the survey again, to determine if teenagers' opinions have changed over the past two years. For the results of the 2017-2018 survey, visit: weather.marymountnyc.org . Results of the 2020 will be posted by the end of April.

On January 28, 2020, the chapter visited ABC Studios in Times Square for a taping of Good Morning, America. After the taping, members met Ginger Zee, Chief Meteorologist at ABC News. Members also met with Daniel Manzo, Meteorologist/Weather Producer at ABC News and Melissa Griffin, Meteorologist/Weather Producer at ABC News, for an in-depth discussion on the role of the meteorologist on a morning news show.



# MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at Millersville University has been active in making sure its members are given opportunities and the resources in order to expand their own skills and explore their interested fields of meteorology.

On March 2nd, Millersville University was officially became a part of the National Weather Service's Storm Ready Community. Millersville joined the 284 other Universities and Colleges and is now one of seven Storm Ready Universities in the state of Pennsylvania. As a celebration and an opportunity to spread storm preparedness, the MU- AMS hosted Skywarn Spotter Basic Training for its members and the public to join and become registered spotters.

13 members of the MU-AMS also attended the 45th annual Northeastern Storm Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York. This conference gave underclassmen an opportunity to experience a conference on a small scale, experiment with networking skills, and further explore a field of interest before attending AMS conference.

The MU-AMS has also had a successful year with bringing in monthly speakers for its members highlighting the different fields of meteorology. Speakers from the forensic, broadcast, private and public sector meteorology has come to Millersville and spoke to students to show how endless and versatile meteorology is.

Although, Millersville recently decided to shut down to lessen the spread of COVID-19, the MU-AMS Student Chapter continues to hold weekly meetings and host speakers remotely to keep the strong sense of community and involvement for its members.

# NORTH FLORIDA

The North Florida Chapter has been busy since the AMS Annual Meeting, taking part in a couple of community service events in Tallahassee. On February 14, we attended the Capital Regional Science Fair, serving as judges in the "Earth and Environmental Sciences" category for middle and high school students around North Florida. More recently, we were one of many local organizations that participated in the "Super Clean Sweep" road cleanup project across the city. Later this spring/summer, we hope to get out in the community and talk to Tallahassee residents as part of the city's hurricane preparedness workshop series!




We spent some quality time outside of Tallahassee as well, taking a day trip at the end of February to Marianna, FL. There, we visited the county emergency operations center, which notably was in the eye of Hurricane Michael in 2018. After this, the group went to the Florida Caverns State Park for an afternoon in the caves. We had our last meeting on March 10 before operating remotely, but we're still going strong despite operating remotely. Upcoming events include an information session on undergraduate student research opportunities, and our elections for next year's Chapter officers!





# OHIO UNIVERSITY

During February and March, our chapter did a couple of fun activities as a group. First, being a group of seven of us went to the Southeast Ohio Food Bank and help packed 750 boxes of food goods for southeast Ohio. Second, a brunch of us went ice skating for a night at Bird Arena. As you may imagine there were slip and falls on the ice. Overall, many of us had a great time. Third, just a few weeks ago, we did our third adopt-a-highway for the school year. We maintain a two-mile stretch of the roadway, picking up trash and recyclable items while keeping Athens roadways clean. Finally, as many of our students are preparing to finish out the school year strong. Our time on campus has been cut short due to the spread of the coronavirus. I am very optimistic next year chapter will carry on the great work of serving the Athens community.

# UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT MAYAGUEZ

In the past weeks, the Puerto Rican Student Chapter worked with other organizations from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez such as Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), in the humanitarian project Aid for the South. The purpose of the project is to help citizens that have been affected by the earthquakes, by bringing them weather demonstrations and non-perishable food to the most impacted cities and communities.

Also, in February, during our first meeting of the semester, we practiced the emergency plan that we must follow if an earthquake occurs during our meetings. Additionally, the chapter was also part of the UPRM Open House were talks about the organization and the available opportunities for the university community were provided to students, parents and the general public.

Also, during International Women's Day, the girls of the society were able to share and commemorate this day with a purple t-shirt, as an opportunity to continue changing the limitations for women in society.





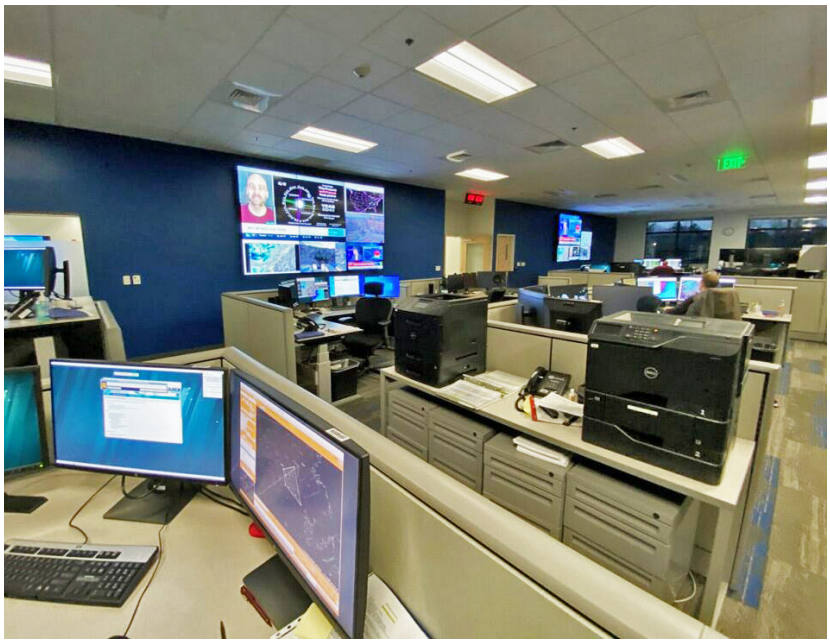
# ST LOUIS

In February, the St. Louis, Columbia, and Kansas City local AMS chapters of Missouri addressed a growing topic of conversation by featuring a panel including NWS officers, broadcast meteorologists, and students of meteorology and psychology to discuss mental health challenges in the meteorology community. Topics discussed included strained public perceptions, dealing with perceived "failures" of the job, and maintaining general mental wellness as an individual in the modern world. Insightful discussions were held detailing professionals' experiences and how they handled the stressors of notable events and what was learned through these experiences. A range of experience levels on the panel allowed for a wide range of advice on dealing with mental health and the struggles that accompany a career in meteorology. Stimulating conversations still follow regarding some of the discussions held during the panel amongst attendees and will hopefully continue to propagate throughout the community.

# UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT LOWELL



On Friday, February 28th UMass Lowell's AMS Local Student Chapter held a field trip to the local National Weather Service (NWS) office in Norton, Massachusetts. Eight dedicated students from our department shared transportation for the nearly 70 miles from our campus to Norton. Once there, we spoke with senior meteorologists from NWS about their work, experiences, and career pathways. As our department has a significant focus towards operational weather forecasting, this type of real-world perspective was greatly appreciated by the students. Our guides then went on to describe the competitive hiring process that is currently in place at NWS. This included a discussion of the small things that can make a resume stand out from the rest, including communication and leadership skills. While at the office, we also got a tour of the forecasting floor, where meteorologists were actively preparing forecasts for locations throughout southern New England.



After thanking our guides, our group ate dinner at nearby Patriot Place, an entertainment complex at the home of the New England Patriots. Despite the societal challenges that have rapidly developed shortly after our visit, we have planned seminars for the fall of 2020 that will show other public and private sector hiring entities to prepare future graduates for the highly competitive job market. We also hope to partake in other fun weather-related trips come this fall!

# ZOTCAMS (UC IRVINE)

In February the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at UC Irvine (zotCAMS) visited the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill to learn about sustainable ways to dispose of trash. We learned how the landfill maintains waste, captures methane for energy production, manages biological activity, and were given a tour of the landfill operations. We also met Wendy, Eric, and B, falcons who help keep seagull populations under control.



During the upcoming spring quarter, we are excited about our various outreach opportunities aimed to help students from low income and underrepresented groups in science to learn about weather and climate. We will be hosting a Skype-a-Scientist event in April to answer questions from 4th and 5th graders about Earth and atmospheric science and higher education. We will be part of an Earth day event where we will teach local students about weather using interactive experiments. We will also have an interactive weather booth at the Anaheim Science Fair and judge K-12 student science fair submissions.





# UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN VERMONT AT LYNDON

The NVU-Lyndon AMS Student chapter orchestrated the 45th annual Northeastern Storm Conference March 6th through March 8th and it was wonderfully successful! The conference hosted over 250 attendees from various academic institutions around the northeast and at numerous career stages, from undergraduates to retirees. The conference was composed of presentations on varying topics, from academic research to job experiences, exposing attendees to a full spectrum of topics in atmospheric sciences. New connections were fostered and old colleagues reunited throughout the weekend, making NESC not only academically intriguing but socially fulfilling as well. The NVU-Lyndon chapter had a blast coordinating the conference and hopes all the attendees enjoyed themselves as well. See everyone next year!

# FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

## AMS CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHERS




Please help AMS promote its new certification program for K-12 educators at chapter meetings and through other local community events. The Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) Program was established by the AMS to recognize and support educators actively engaged in raising Earth science literacy.

All active, in-service K-12 teachers and informal educators are eligible to become Certified AMS Teachers (CATs) through the AMS if they have a degree in atmospheric or related science and/or have completed two of the AMS Education Program's Professional Development Courses. For more information visit the CAT website.

We appreciate your support!

## TIERED DUES FOR AMS MEMBERS

A new dues structure for full Members was approved by the AMS Council (the elected governance of the Society) at their summer meeting. The dues for Associate and Student Members will not change. The new structure is being implemented this fall for the 2020 membership year.

Dues are a critically important source of revenue that allows the Society to offer programs for members, but it is important to ensure that dues are not so high as to be an impediment to participation. Accordingly, the new structure will set each member's dues based on that member's annual income. This approach will be more equitable and inclusive and will reduce membership barriers for many individuals in our community. We know that some early career and retired members, in particular, have found the previous "one size fits all" dues to be a financial challenge, despite the value that membership brings to them professionally and personally. Visit the website to learn more. :

## THE CULTURE AND INCLUSION CABINET

The AMS is introducing a new entity-the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet (CIC)- of the AMS organizational structure that is focused at a high strategic level on advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility that aligns with the goals of the Society. For more information on the Cabinet's function and structure, read all about it in the Front Page.

# 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 2020** Please keep in mind that the chapter president/chairperson is required to be a member (Associate, Member, Student) of the Society in order for the chapter to be recognized as active.

We ask that you update your last election date even if your officers were reappointed for 2020 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. Contact Tiernan Doyle if you have any questions and thanks for all your hard work as officers!

# CLEAR SKIES AHEAD PODCAST

The Department of Career Development released the most recent episode of Clear Skies Ahead its podcast series on careers in meteorology and beyond. This month's episode features Max Vido, a meteorologist at ACES Power in Indianapolis, Indiana. Check out this podcast and other great episodes here.

From students to experienced professionals in the private, public, or academic sector, AMS helps support your career at every point in your professional journey. The AMS Career Resources website provides you with career profiles, professional development and mentoring opportunities, job and intern boards, career guides, podcasts, videos, webinars, and more. Visit the site to see all the great tools AMS has to offer!

# 50 YEARS OF THE JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY!

AMS Publications has something we hope everyone can celebrate: 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the Journal of Physical Oceanography.

JPO's Chief Editor Jerry Smith has written an editorial reflecting on the science the journal has published decade-by-decade. The editorial has been published in JPO today, and is now available for everyone to read, fully open access on the AMS Journals Online site.

# STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM

The Student Travel Grant Program is available for the 2020 specialty conferences. Share, learn, and collaborate at an AMS meeting for free! Don't miss the chance to receive travel coverage to attend the conference of your interest.
Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez at dfernandez@ametsoc.org

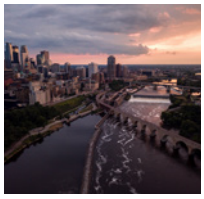
There are several funding and volunteer opportunities available for students.

# AMS MEETINGS INFORMATION



## AMS Meetings and COVID 19

Stay up to date with all of the latest news on the meetings schedule and how AMS is responding to COVID19.
https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings-and-covid-19/



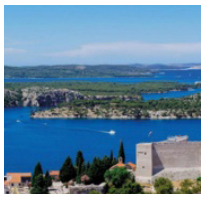
## Student Opportunities at the 34th Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology/Fifth Conference on Atmospheric Biogeosciences

Find travel grant and volunteer opportunities as well as award information for students.
https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/34agforest-5biogeo/student-opportunities/



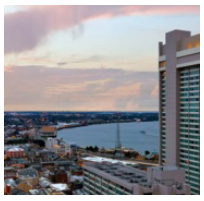
## Student Opportunities at the 19th Conference on Mountain Meteorology

Find opportunities for travel and volunteer opportunities as well as award information for students.
https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/19th-conference-on-mountain-meteorology/



## Student Opportunities at the 24th Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence

Find student assistant and award opportunities
https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/24th-symposium-on-boundary-layers-and-turbulence/student-opportunities/



## Save the Date for the 101st Annual Meeting

10 - 14 January, New Orleans Louisiana
https://annual.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/2021/

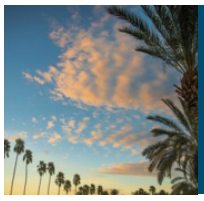




*Photo by Anthony Cantin*

## 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**

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## Committee Leadership

Kristofer Tuftedal, Chair
Kevin Thiel, Chair-Elect
Tiernan Doyle, AMS Liaison

## Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

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**@AMSLCAC**

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 Tiernan Doyle no later than July 15th. To view prior newsletters, **click here**.