ISSUE NO. 2

AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

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FEATURED CHAPTER

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER

The WCSU Meteorology Student Chapter, founded in 2000 and based at Western Connecticut State University, is a growing program and is making the word "involved" something not to take lightly. In just the past year, we have participated and worked hard in many different areas. Our chapter takes part in the Weather Challenge, a national forecasting competition in which universities compete for the title of best forecaster. This year we have a record number of WCSU students taking part in the challenge with 23 participants. In addition, we are a part of the BRIDGE program in which middle school students from surrounding communities come to the university and get to work with meteorology students one on one to help increase interest of the sciences. The students are taught the weather basics, how to make a forecast, and are able to make a weather broadcast using our very own broadcast room equipped with a green screen. Over the past two years, other involvements include the Relay for Life during the spring semester, as well as traveling to various conferences. This past January, our chapter, for the second time, sent six students to the annual AMS conference in New Orleans, LA. On October 13th, our chapter hosted its 4th Tri-State Weather Conference where speakers from around the country came and presented on various atmospheric science topics including Hurricane Irene and the anomalous October snow storm of 2011. Also, during the course of the academic year, many local schools and groups around the Danbury area come to take tours of our state of the art Weather Center in which chapter members volunteer their time to show the center around. Additionally, a few chapter members travel with some WCSU administration to local high schools in the area and speak in front of physical science classrooms to juniors and seniors to let them know meteorology is an amazing field of study! This year our chapter is providing an inspirational service for those children that lost everything in the disaster in Haiti with "Care Bears for Haiti". We will be collecting as many stuffed animals as possible to send to Haiti to give the children something to hold on to while they attempt to stay positive during the reconstruction efforts.



From L to R, John Choquette - Vice President, Dave Haliczer - Secretary, Frank Gaetano - President, Andrew Pineiro - Treasurer

All chapters are encouraged to share their activities, newsletters and other interesting events with other AMS members through the "Chapter News" section of the AMS Web site as well as the "Chapter Channel" Section of the AMS Bulletin (BAMS). The majority of chapter news submissions submitted to Headquarters are featured on the AMS Web site (http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/news.html). Please email your news to chapnews@ametsoc.org. We ask that you submit your news in paragraph format.

The Chapter Channel Section, which is part of Nowcast in BAMS, focuses on particular topics or events that readers will find both fascinating and useful to some degree. Although all chapter submissions are not published in BAMS, a complete summary will be posted to the AMS Web site each month. Note that chapter news is posted as received and is not edited.

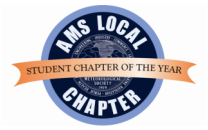
The San Diego Chapter has a new Facebook page!
Check it out at http://www.facebook.com/amslcac#!/groups/AMSSanDiego/

Chapters of the Year

We are happy to announce the Chapter of the Year Award winners for 2011-2012. Every year the Local Chapter Affairs Committee is tasked with choosing the winners for this award (both student and regular chapters) and once again this year's applicants were outstanding. With so many impressive applicants, the job of selecting winners for this award is a difficult one. The nomination deadline for the 2012-2013 awards is 1 May 2013.



West Central Florida "For extensive social media use to broadcast meetings to a worldwide audience, continued support of local outreach and education in the local community, and continued excellence in professional development of members."



Iowa State University "For going above and beyond in outreach activities in the local community, development of a web conference to interact with other local chapters in their region, excellent professional development speakers and activities for its members, and continued support of AMS and its initiatives."



North Florida; Ohio University; Oregon; Southwest Pennsylvania; University of Alabama-Huntsville; University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Thank you to all the chapters who submitted applications for the award!

News from AMS Headquarters

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

The online Chapter Directory (http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/newdirec/) lists all AMS local chapters along with the contact information for each officer. Chapters are responsible for keeping their own listings up-to-date. Since news and information from AMS Headquarters is sent to the email addresses referenced in the online chapter directory, it is crucial that your information remain current. If you need to update your listing, please contact Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) for your chapter account number. You may update and access your listing at http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/chapdirupdate/index.cfm. Please keep your chapter account number and instructions on how to update your listing on file and be sure to pass it along to incoming officers each year.

AMS LOCAL CHAPTER BOOTH

AMS Local Chapters will once again have their own booth at the 93rd Annual Meeting. If you would like to participate by creating some handouts/brochures, or if you would be interested in volunteering a portion of your time to man the booth, please contact Kelly Savoie. We are looking for volunteers during the following high traffic times:

Monday, 2:30–4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 9:45–11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 2:30–4:00 p.m.
Thursday, 9:45–11:00 a.m.

It will be a fantastic way to promote your chapter!

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINES

19 November 2012 - Registration deadline for chapter representatives attending the chapter officers' breakfast meeting AND registration deadline to reserve poster space. Please mail, fax, or email the following form http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/bkfst2012attach.pdf.

19 November 2012 - Deadline to submit a chapter abstract for publication in the Annual Meeting Program. Please send abstracts to Kelly Savoie by email (ksavoie@ametsoc.org).

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for taking the time to check out our newsletter! The next newsletter will be published in early February. If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events, Webinars, conferences, etc. in the next issue of the Newsletter, please email Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) no later than January 15. To view prior newsletters, see http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/newsletters.html

The American Meteorological Society's Beacons Program—Building Connections between and among AMS National and Local Chapter Members

The American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Beacons Program is an initiative of the AMS Membership Committee, and is firmly rooted in former Executive Director Kenneth Spengler's legacy of fostering the AMS as an open, inclusive, and welcoming organization. The program consists of a cadre of nearly 75 'ambassador' members whom "put a friendly face on the AMS". Beacons have been serving at several annual and regional AMS (and National Weather Association) venues to demonstrate our commitment to each other, and the value of the AMS to members and others who might consider membership in the AMS.

AMS Beacons would very much like to reach out to and connect AMS Local, Student and Pre-College Chapters to identify opportunities to strengthen and develop professional and personal relationships, as well as ideas that will be mutually beneficial. The membership committee has recently engaged the Local Chapter Affairs Committee to promote Beacon interaction at the Local Chapters Town Hall and at the Local Chapter Officers Breakfast at the upcoming 93rd AMS Annual Meeting, planned for 6-10 January 2013, in Austin, Texas. We encourage Local Chapter members attending the Annual Meeting to let Beacons know how the national AMS can better connect with Local Chapter members, and Local Chapters can be do the same with the national AMS. Many Beacons are local chapter members and obtain a deep understanding of how the AMS can help serve local chapters. Beacons will be in attendance at the Local Chapter Officers Breakfast Tuesday morning in Austin, and will be available at the annual meeting all week (just look for the bright yellow lanyards!). Please take advantage and reach out to our proudly serving Beacons...if they don't reach out to you first!

The Young Meteorologists Program

In an effort to increase children's awareness of severe weather preparedness, the AMS Policy Program teamed up with nonprofit organization PLAN!T NOW, the National Weather Service and the National Education Association (NEA) to produce The Young Meteorologist Program (YMP). Launched on 29 October, the program is a free online resource and computer game that educates and empowers students about severe-weather science, weather awareness and safety in a fun, full-animation format. The AMS Education Program has helped promote YMP through its AERA teacher network. YMP is available at www.youngmeteorologist.org.

DID YOU KNOW...

Mount Washington Observatory has been offering traveling educational programs since 1999. In 2009, the Observatory launched distance learning, bringing the science and excitement of Mount Washington anywhere in the world via live, interactive video conferencing technology. Visit the MWOBS Web site at http://www.mountwashington.org/education/distancelearning/ to learn more!

Deadline November 15!

Are you a student interested in private sector meteorology? Want to grow your professional network and business acumen? Apply to the AMS Board for Private Sector Meteorology's Student Mentorship Program! For more information about the BPSM mentorship program, including student testimonials, mentor profiles, and an application, please visit http://www.ametsoc.org/boardpges/bpsm/mentorshipprogram.html, or contact BPSM@ametsoc.org.

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

CHRIS SCHULTZ, CHAIR
JIM KURDZO, CHAIR-ELECT
KELLY SAVOIE, AMS LIAISON

AMS HEADQUARTERS
45 BEACON ST. BOSTON, MA 02108

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AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

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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