AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Winter/Spring 2016 Volume 5, Issue 3

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

CENTRAL ARIZONA

Central Arizona started the fall semester with a student mixer hosted by guest speaker and local chapter member Amber Sullins, Chief Meteorologist for Phoenix ABC15 News. Amber shared her education and work experiences, including her time in the El Paso market and the challenges, hard work, and timing that landed her dream job in Phoenix. The students witnessed firsthand the power of setting, pursuing, and reaching goals.

The annual Monsoon Wrap-Up carried the first general meeting for fall, and an El Nino review and SNOTEL lecture at the second fall meeting was timely considering the strength that El Nino achieved. WFO Phoenix hosted a tour for the chapter in November, which for many chapter members was the first time they were able to see their NWS partners in action.

Central Arizona has been restructuring to become more accessible and relevant to their members. They are currently operating under an Executive Steering Committee, and will hold general elections in May. They also voted to become a joint chapter with the National Weather Association (effective December). ■



LYNDON STATE COLLEGE

The past few months have been quite busy for Lyndon State's AMS Chapter. On December 11th, the club held their annual campus-wide Talent Show. We had 15 acts participate and all funds raised from the event were donated to the Holly Cannon Memorial Scholarship Fund. Holly Cannon was a very active member of our club who passed away last January from complications due to Crohn's and Colitis. As a club we were honored to put on this event in her name and in total we raised 500 dollars for her scholarship fund.



In January, 11 of our members traveled to New Orleans for the National AMS Meeting and had a blast! We were proud to represent Lyndon among the many other schools that were in attendance! We were also honored to receive first place in the student chapter poster competition!!

With The 41st annual Northeastern Storm Conference right on our doorstep, the club is hard at work preparing and we are excited to put on another successful conference this year. ■

DENVER-BOULDER

On December 3rd, 2015, the Denver Boulder Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (DBAMS) hosted astronomical artist and science journalist Michael Carroll for an out-of-this-world evening at the NCAR Mesa Lab in Boulder, Colorado. Mr. Carroll's talk, Living in Methane Monsoons: The Bizarre Weather on Saturn's Largest Moon, took us on a tour far beyond earth. - to Titan. Titan is the only moon in the solar system with a substantial atmosphere, one made up largely of methane. The discussion of data and images of Titan combined with Mr. Carroll's illustrations of this bizarre world of cold methane lakes and methane snow-capped mountains provided an evening that provoked imagination. Mr. Carroll's work has appeared in such magazines as TIME, Scientific American, National Geographic, Astronomy, Popular Science, Asimov's, and others. He is the 2012 recipient of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Science's Jonathan Eberhart Award for best science article of the year. His 26 books include Alien Volcanoes (Johns Hopkins University Press 2008), and Living Among Giants: Exploring and Settling the Outer Solar System. His novel On The Shores of Titan's Farthest Sea is his most recent work. ■



HUNTSVILLE AREA

The Huntsville Area chapter had a very active fall and winter. The fall started with a panel discussion titled "Realities of Severe Thunderstorm Warning" headed by David Ernst (WAFF News), Brad Travis (WAFF News), Ryan Wade (University of Alabama in Huntsville, Atmospheric Sciences), Chris Reed (Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency), and Chris Darden (National Weather Service, Huntsville AL). Interesting facts, such as that 9 out of 10 emergencies are related to natural disasters, most of which are associated with a severe thunderstorm warning, were discussed. The role of each panel member's organization in the weather enterprise was also discussed, and the panel answered questions from attendees. In early October, our chapter participated in the annual Rocket City Weather Fest. The October meeting, held at Below the Radar (a local brewery), highlighted the role of atmospheric scientists in the design and launch of space vehicles. This presentation, titled "Application of Terrestrial Environments in Orion Assessments" was given by BJ Barbre (Jacobs). The December meeting was our first ever meeting with a remote speaker, where attendees listened to Dr. Greg Carbin (Storm Prediction Center) present the "Meteorological Memories of 2015." Finally, the January meeting was presented by Kris White (National Weather Service, Huntsville AL) and focused on winter weather, including past and present ENSO years. The Huntsville chapter holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of the month, and our meetings are open to the public. More information can be found at http://www.huntsvilleamsnwa.org/ and facebook.com/groups/hsvamsnwa/. ■



PALMETTO

Without knowing it during the planning stages, the Palmetto Chapter's tour of the Lake Murray Dam and Hydroelectric Plant in November 2015 turned out to be a very timely event for the chapter. The tour had been scheduled a few months in advance but became increasingly relevant after the historic flooding that occurred in South Carolina during October. In the aftermath of the October flooding, the floodgates at the dam were opened for the first time in 46 years to release thousands of gallons of water. The water release resulted in flooding downstream causing nearly 100 people to evacuate their homes. The tour of the dam lasted about an hour and a half, and around 25 members of the chapter were in attendance. One of the most fascinating parts of the tour was seeing how some of the equipment being used in the dam today is the original equipment from when the dam was built in the 1930s. Not only was this event a huge success for the chapter, it also provided a different perspective on the recent floods. ■



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

The Rutgers University Meteorology Club visited the AMS annual Conference down in New Orleans this year! At the AMS conference, the club encountered many different talks and engaged in networking throughout the conference. The student conference was where more of the club members networked and engaged with other students from different schools. Interestingly enough, many students were ecstatic in exchanging business cards and resumes with peers and future employers! After the student conferences, the club participated in the senior conference by visiting many talks and asking pivotal questions to each scientist. The amount of participation and passion the club members had showed ambition towards learning and getting their name out in the public. Overall, the Rutgers Meteorology Club was very well off following this conference. Not only did students learn a great deal with current research, but also had the opportunity to find out what and where they want to be after graduation. This conference ultimately was used as a foundation for those who love meteorology and want to pursue it in through research, broadcast, or by any other means! ■



SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

The fall semester of 2015 was an exciting time for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT AMS) chapter. One of our greatest achievements was becoming Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors. SDSMT AMS looks forward to building a relationship with the Rapid City NWS and working with them to help promote Weather Ready Nation initiative across our community. Members also had an opportunity to meet and have a discussion with the Director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center and Professor of Geography at the University of Colorado Boulder, Dr. Mark Serreze, about career opportunities, his research and experiences studying the Arctic's climate.

The chapter established a mentoring program for undergraduate students. The graduate student members helped the undergraduates with preparing forecast and educating them on what to look for when giving a weather discussion. Also the chapter held a mentoring session with a focus on internships, which allowed for undergraduates to see what type of opportunities are available for a meteorology internship and learn from the graduate students' internship experiences.

Once again we participated in our semi-annual highway cleanup on our adopted stretch of highway in the Black Hills. Also members volunteered to help teach visiting high school students about weather forecasting, education, and careers in meteorology.

A new semester brings new opportunities and we look forward to what the upcoming semester has to offer! ■



SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

The Southeast Arizona Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (SEACAMS) had a tour to the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base 25th Operational Weather Squadron (OWS) at Tucson, Arizona on Tuesday, January 19th. The mission of the 25th OWS is to provide accurate, timely, and relevant weather analyses, forecasts, warnings, and briefings to Air Force, Army, National Guard, Reserve, and Combatant Command forces operating in the western continental United States, Canada and Mexico.

Additionally, the 25th OWS produces all aviation hazard forecasts for flight levels above 18,000 feet across the entire U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility. The officers at the OWS explained the responsibilities of the 25 OWS to our SEACAMS members, and gave a tour of the operations floor where the forecasters work. This tour was a great success for southeast Arizona meteorologists. A meteorologist from the Central Arizona Chapter of AMS in Phoenix also joined this visit. ■



SOUTHEAST TEXAS/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

The start of the New Year was an active period for the chapter with two big events: the AMS Annual Meeting and the annual JASON Project outreach. The chapter was able to send three members to the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. These members gave presentations on two rare weather phenomena, a meteotsunami and a heat burst that occurred in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. The chapter was also honored to receive a third place award for its local chapter poster.

Several members were also involved with outreach at the JASON Project at Lamar University for the eighth straight year. The JASON Project is a non-profit organization that connects students, in the classroom and out, to real science and exploration to inspire and motivate them to study and pursue STEM careers. Chapter members utilized stream tables to teach students about how rivers, deltas and wetlands shape the coastal environment. The outreach event was a huge success with nearly 7,000 students attended the JASON Project over a three week period. ■





SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

Thirteen members of the Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter attended the 96th Annual Meeting of the AMS in New Orleans, Louisiana. While attending the conference, members attended several different talks and panels while networking with many professionals from multiple fields of interest as well as representatives from graduate schools. This year, the chapter had two students and two faculty present. Chapter President John Troutman and Damon Matson presented their NOAA-Hollings Scholarship research during the Fourth Symposium on Building a Weather-Ready Nation and Student Conference Poster Session, respectively. Dr. Chad Kauffman and Chapter Advisor Dr. Mario Majcen also presented their research involving teaching pedagogy during the 25th Symposium on Education. At the Local Chapter Officer's Breakfast, the chapter received Honor Roll recognition for Outstanding Student Chapter and was awarded third place for their chapter poster.

Our chapter prides itself on its attendance not only at the AMS meetings, but the National Weather Association's meetings as well. In the past, some students that have attended conferences have been given opportunities for jobs and internships during these conferences. Last year, we sent ten students to the annual AMS meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Also, recently, we have been sending at least one freshman to conferences to begin developing professionalism early and gain conference experience as well. ■



NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

96TH ANNUAL MEETING ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

New Orleans knows how to draw a crowd. The 96th AMS Annual Meeting brought together more than 5,000 members of the weather, water, and climate community for a week of activity in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Total attendance came in at a record-breaking 3,780. The student conference drew approximately 800 attendees. In the Exhibit Hall, there were 96 booths with close to 690 staff members manning them. Weatherfest brought in hundreds more from the New Orleans area on Sunday. Other highlights included U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, who talked about the continued need for the entire enterprise to collaborate and share information to ensure society has the best chance to benefit; the Presidential Forum, with an outstanding panel of speakers, including retired Admiral Thad Allen, Max Mayfield, Kerry Emanuel, and Shirley Laska, who discussed personal experiences during Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and spoke about the importance of applying lessons learned to future events; and the 23/5 talks that featured various perspectives on weather, water, and climate from Mike Smith, Naomi Oreskes, and Bill Read.

You can view the 23/5 Talks as well as other videos from the Annual Meeting on the AMS YouTube Channel. With so many members of the community in one location, there were innumerable opportunities to network, learn, and connect with friends and colleagues. Many recorded presentations are available online with the rest uploaded by mid-February.

Thanks to all who took part to make #AMS2016 such a success. Next year's Annual Meeting will take place in Seattle, January 22–26, 2017. ■

LOCAL CHAPTERS RECOGNIZED AT 2016 AMS ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 160 individuals representing 43 chapters attended the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast on 12 January 2016 at the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Kristy Carter and Elizabeth Smith of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee (LCAC) talked about replacing the infrequently used Wiki page with a closed Facebook group page for chapter officers to help promote more discussion among chapters. The closed page is now live! Visit the page and request to join. This is for chapter officers only and you will be verified through your online Chapter Directory Listing so please make sure your officer information is up to date. They also mentioned that the LCAC will be posting updated Chapter of the Year and Poster Guidelines so chapters will have further information on the judging process. Information to help officers transition from one year to the next will also be posted in the coming months. The committee is looking for new members for terms starting in 2017. If you are interested in being a part of the LCAC, please email Kelly Savoie or Elizabeth Smith as soon as possible.

After the business portion of the breakfast meeting, winners of the poster awards were announced. 38 chapters presented creative and original posters at the Annual Meeting making the judging process very challenging. The addition of a link to chapter poster information in the Annual Meeting App helped promote the posters to Annual Meeting attendees. Outgoing AMS President Sandy MacDonald 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 a lively discussion where chapters shared their successful activities in addition to their challenges and were provided with advice from other chapter members. ■

2014–2015 LOCAL CHAPTER AWARDS

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA



OHIO UNIVERSITY



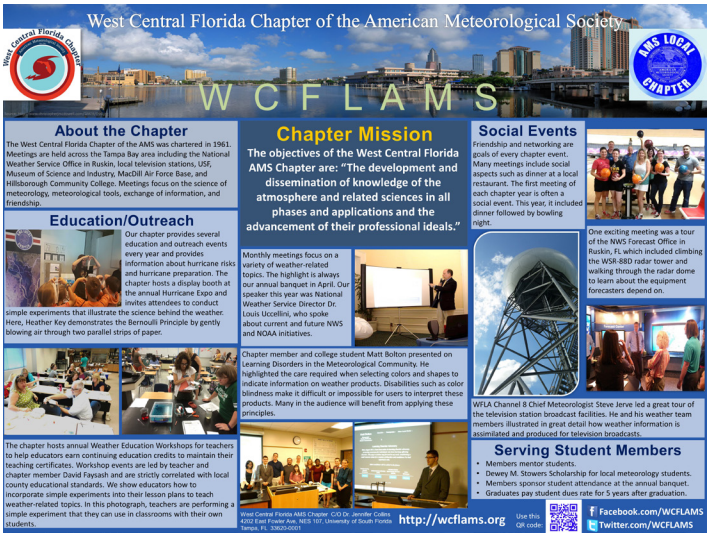
CHAPTER HONOR ROLL

Asheville
Iowa State University
Lyndon State College
Northwest Indiana
Southwest Pennsylvania

CHAPTER POSTER WINNERS

Regular Chapter Poster Winners
1st place - West Central Florida
2nd place - Washington, DC
3rd place - Southeast Texas/Southwest Louisiana

Student Chapter Poster Winners
1st place - Lyndon State College
2nd place - Concord-Carlisle
3rd place - Southwest Pennsylvania





ATTENTION AMS CHAPTERS... HELP BUILD A WEATHER-READY NATION!

NOAA and the National Weather Service are looking to local and student chapters across the country to help engage their communities in becoming ready, responsive, and resilient to extreme weather, water, and climate events. Get recognized as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador and contribute by:

- Leading or participating in local community preparedness events
- Building a stronger partnership with your NWS local forecast office and FEMA regional office.
- Registering events with America's PrepareAthon. Learn more at http://community.fema.gov/
- Using Weather-Ready Nation educational material when engaging with others in your community.
- Sharing community service successes with NOAA/NWS so they can be highlighted out across the country.
- Joining the WRN Ambassador twitter community @WRNAmbassadors

Recently, the University of Georgia AMS Chapter worked with their Office of Emergency Preparedness on campus to promote severe weather preparedness on and around the university. They created a short video to quickly inform students, faculty, and staff of the differences between a severe weather watch & warning, as well as providing safety tips. You can view the video on YouTube. This is a great example of how chapters can contribute beyond boots on the ground events.

Learn more about Weather-Ready Nation and the WRN Ambassador initiative at www.noaa.gov/wrn or by contacting Douglas Hilderbrand. ■

The next newsletter will be published in late April If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events or submit a write-up on a specific activity that was successful, please email Kelly Savoie no later than April 1st. To view prior newsletters, **click here**.

ABSTRACTS OPEN FOR VIRTUAL POSTER SHOWCASE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Attention undergraduate students! Online abstract submissions are now being accepted for the spring 2016 Virtual Poster Showcase (VPS).

- VPS provides an easy-to-use online interface where you will
- Write and submit an abstract
- Prepare a poster and accompanying video presentation
- Evaluate the work of your peers
- Receive and respond to feedback on your poster

Take advantage of the opportunity to

- Practice your presentation and communication skills, which nearly 90% of employers have indicated are important skills (American Geosciences Institute)
- Practice your poster presentation before presenting at a conference
- Build your academic resume with a citable abstract
- Receive quality feedback from your peers

Online abstract submissions close: 3 March

Submit your abstract

This showcase is sponsored by the American Geophysical Union (AGU), Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), Geological Society of America (GSA), American Geosciences Institute (AGI), and American Meteorological Society (AMS).

Don't have research to present this spring? Take part in the undergraduate and graduate **Virtual Poster Showcases** in the fall, a convenient and inexpensive alternative if you cannot attend a scientific conference. ■

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. ■

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATIONS

The deadline for the local chapter of the year awards is 1 May 2016. Applications must be received by this date. Award applications and information may be found on the AMS Web site. ■

AMS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Attention undergraduate students! There is still time to apply for an AMS Named Scholarship. The deadline has been extended to February 16th. Don't miss out on earning extra funds for college. ■

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.	Kristy Carter, Chair Elizabeth Smith, 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