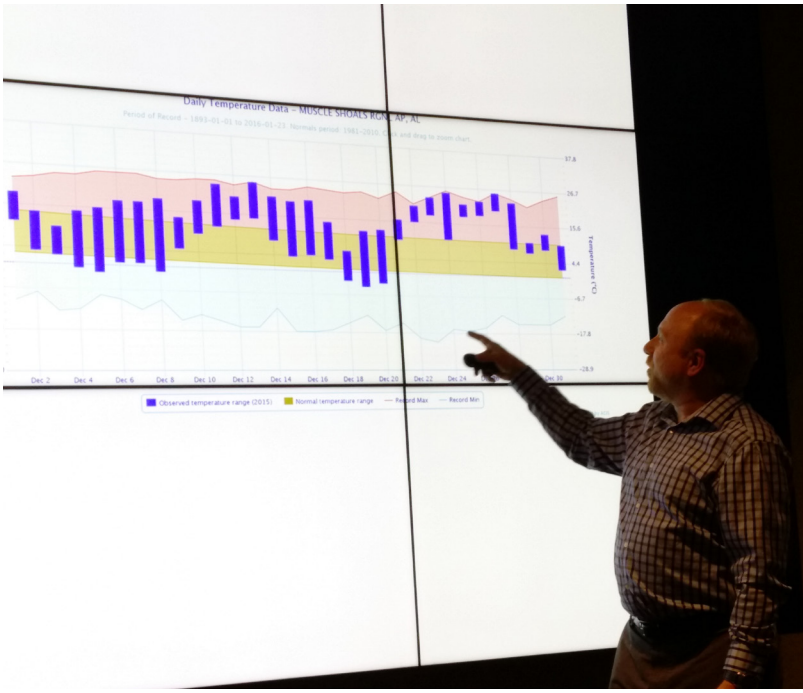
AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Spring/Summer 2016 Volume 5, Issue 4

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

HUNTSVILLE

The Huntsville Chapter has been busy this spring with many activities, ranging from professional development to community awareness. In January, the chapter invited Mr. Kristopher White from the National Weather Service in Huntsville to speak with our chapter. His talk, titled "The 2016 Winter and El Niño Winters in the Tennessee Valley" was very informative and well received. Our February meeting took us to a local non-profit, Nexus Energy Center, where members learned about energy conservation and alternative energy options. Our March meeting will take us to the Harvest Community Storm Shelter in Harvest, AL, where we will learn about a grassroots effort that brought in funding to build a community shelter with the capacity to protect 500 people. Our April meeting will be presented by Tim Troutman and will look at how tornadoes and severe weather impacted the Civil War, and we will also hold our chapter elections. For more information about the Huntsville Chapter visit our website. ■



LYNDON STATE COLLEGE

Lyndon State's AMS Chapter held the 41st annual Northeastern Storm conference in Saratoga Springs New York on March 4–6. This year our keynote speakers included Cindy Fitzgibbon, Matthew Lazzara, and Rick Curtis. The conference was extremely successful with over 340 attendees! ■



ASHEVILLE

It has been exciting times for the AMS Asheville Chapter for the last 3 months.

In December 2015, our very own Glenn Kerr, selected as the First Executive Director for American Associate of State Climatologists (AASC), was invited to give a special presentation on the current state, mission, and future direction of AASC.

In February, the Asheville Chapter co-sponsored the special presentation by Greg Fishel, WRAL Chief Meteorologist, who was invited by the UNC-Asheville Student Chapter, for his personal trip from ideology to science on climate change. At this meeting, the Asheville Chapter also announced Kelly Dobeck as the inaugural winner of its scholarship for UNC-Asheville Student AMS Chapter members.

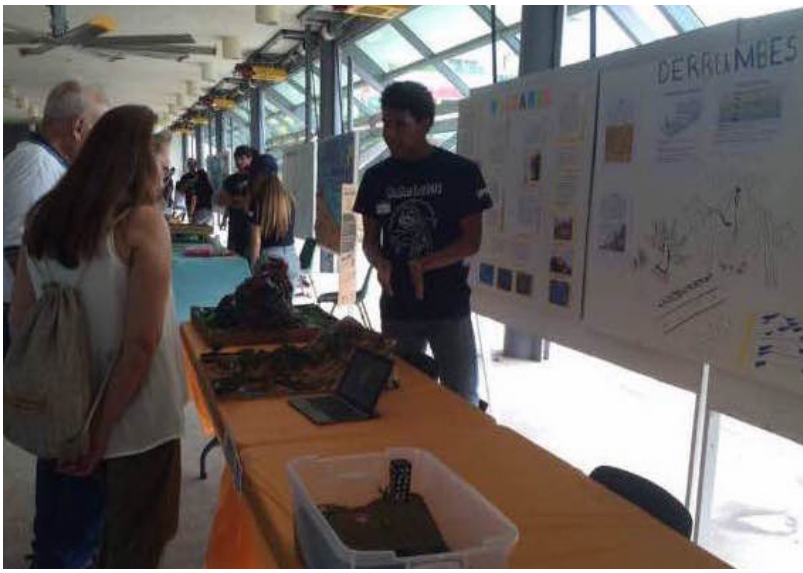
In March, Chapter officers were invited and attended the launch of the Collider, a new coworking and event space designed to bring together people from government, business, and academia around climate science and data in downtown Asheville. The *Asheville Citizen Times* described the event as a historical moment for putting Asheville at the center of climate data industry.

There are more exciting events to come in late March and April. A visit to Civil Air Patrol is scheduled on March 29, 2016. The Asheville Chapter will host its April meeting at the Collider on April 26, 2016 with a special presentation by the world-renowned climate scientist, Dr. Tom Peterson, co-sponsored by the Collider. For more information on those forthcoming activities and/or on the Asheville Chapter, please visit us at our website or send us an e-mail at asheville.ams@gmail.com. ■



UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO MAYAGÜEZ

The University of Puerto at Mayagüez (UPRM) AMS Student Chapter hosted its Ninth Weather Festival on March 4, 2016. The activity served as a preamble of the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Local Chapter, 10 years of creating awareness of atmospheric and natural phenomenon to our community with safety as a goal. Around 200 pre-college and college students as well as community members arrived to the UPRM campus, where they learned about meteorology, climate change, earth sciences, and physics. Guided by our enthusiastic members and field professionals, they had the opportunity to build original radiosondes, develop their own forecast alongside local broadcasters, and participate in the first High School Weather Challenge competition. The contest consists of teams from different high schools coming together to take tests in general meteorology and atmospheric sciences and present a weather forecast as TV broadcasters. Among the invited entities the chapter had the participation of professionals form the Emergency Management Office, two local TV channels, meteorologists from the Eco-Exploratorium museum, and university professors. Other societies with which the Local Chapter has made allegiances also participated, such as the Society of Physics Students and the Society of Women Engineers. The activity served, once again, to remind our members that the chapter's sole purpose is to inform and educate the community and the future professionals that can become valuable assets to our society and the atmospheric sciences field. ■



EMBRY RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY–DAYTONA BEACH

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach Chapter sent seven people to tour NASA Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and visit their Weather Office. Students got to see a radiosonde launch and advanced lightning detection equipment, and got to take a peek at daily operations. The trip provided the opportunity for students learn about alternative career paths for meteorology students. ■



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

This year the Iowa State University Student Chapter significantly overhauled their storm chasing seminar, a favorite event of many students in the meteorology program. The purpose of the storm chasing seminar is to convey the importance of safety in chasing, to learn more about forecasting severe weather, and to allow students to put their skills to the test in a virtual storm chase. In previous years, the virtual chase required students to either view pre-rendered radar data or have students manually load in radar data to make chasing decisions. This made it less like viewing radar during an actual chase and caused unnecessary distractions detracting from the seminar. This time, the chapter was able to use a Python program to send archive radar data, live storm reports, and warnings out to Gibson Ridge radar software as if it was happening in real time. In addition, videos and images from the archive case were used to show students what they might be seeing if they were actually chasing, and the warning audio that would have been heard over the radio at the locations impacted was played when warnings were issued. A location placefile system was used to track the "locations" of each chase team. Teams that were within a safe distance of reported tornadoes or funnel clouds were awarded points. Teams that made poor decisions like core punching were penalized with hazards like hail damage, and some were even hit by a tornado to simulate potential real life hazards with chasing. ■



SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

The Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter's ninth annual StormFest was held on February 5th and 6th at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, PA. This educational outreach event is geared toward teaching children and their families about meteorology and the earth sciences through hands-on activities. Attendees were able to complete an array of activities such as: Make a Weather Map, Home-made Thermometers, Cloud Spotter Guides, Make a Rock, Cloud in a Bottle, and several other activities pertaining to the Earth Sciences. The event featured The Weather Channel's Nick Walker, who engaged with the public and performed two of his "Weather Dude" shows that focused on weather preparedness and safety. The continued success of this event each year is possible through the support of our volunteers. In addition to members from the Southwest PA Chapter, volunteers this year included students from the California University of Pennsylvania Department of Earth Sciences, the Ohio University Chapter of the AMS, Alpha Phi Omega-Lambda Omega Chapter, and forecasters from the Pittsburgh National Weather Service. Next year the chapter will celebrate their 10th anniversary of StormFest. ■



WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

The West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (WCFLAMS) held March's meeting on the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus. Dr. Lynn K. (Nick) Shay from the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami was invited to give a talk on "Characterizing the Loop Current Complex Response to Hurricane Forcing." Both chapter and community members were joined by USF faculty and students for this engaging talk. Dr. Shay discussed the importance of the loop currents in relation to hurricane intensity and forecasting. He also talked about many field instruments used to collect data for this research that were a part of the NOAA Hurricane Field Program. ■



DENVER BOULDER

On Thursday, February 25, 2016, the Denver Boulder Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (DBAMS) toured the NOAA facility in Boulder, Colorado. Participants received a firsthand glimpse at some of the important services and technologies used by NOAA to both protect and educate the public about our ever changing world. Highlights of the tour included the Denver Boulder National Weather Service Forecast Office, the Space Weather Prediction Center, and Science on a Sphere.

The Denver Boulder National Weather Service Forecast Office provides northeastern Colorado with weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings using state-of-the-art remote sensing information systems and models. The Space Weather Prediction Center closely monitors the sun for solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections, the energy from which can disrupt communications and even damage satellites and terrestrial power grids. They provide alerts and warnings to aid in mitigating the impacts of these space weather events on our day-to-day lives. Science on a Sphere is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and a system of projectors to display environmental data on a 6-foot diameter sphere. It is a popular educational tool that illustrates the coupling of the atmosphere with the hydrosphere and how the surface of Earth has evolved over time.

This was a well-attended event for the DBAMS, providing an opportunity for many longtime members to become reacquainted and participate in an evening of fun and enlightenment. ■



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

The Rutgers University Meteorology Club has been very busy these past few meetings, from exploring the Northeast Storms Conference to beginning the transition into next semester! At the beginning of the month, the club went to Saratoga Springs, NY, for the weekend to listen in on some talks by scientists around the meteorological field. Learning from their skills adapted from AMS, members quickly reached out to people in the field and engulfed the reality of preparing for the future.

Also, we had Anthony Adams, a recent Rutgers alum, talk to us about his work. Adams is working in researching and modeling hurricanes and has developed a strong passion for the field. He urged all members to make sure you get a job that you love. To finish off the rest of the meeting, the preliminary round of next year e-board elections began. Members expressed huge interest in filling a leadership role for next year! Finally, more outreach opportunities were discussed as well as the exciting annual Rutgers Day, where we get to show off our "Tornado in a Bottle" and "Weather in a Tank!" ■

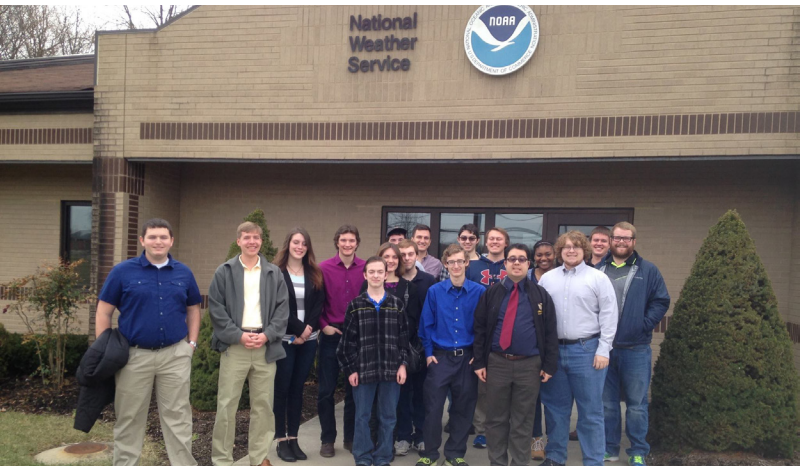


MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

MU-AMS has been very busy this spring semester! In February, seventeen chapter members visited the NWS Forecast Office Philadelphia/Mount Holly. They received a tour, learned about the continuous operation of the WFO, and met some of the staff meteorologists.

In early March, 14 students traveled to Saratoga Springs, NY, for the 41st Annual Northeastern Storm Conference. They attended talks and poster sessions along with listening to keynote addresses from a meteorologist for WCVB StormTeam5 in Boston, MA, a second keynote address from the Research Meteorologist/Associate Scientist at the Antarctic Meteorological Research Center and the Space Science & Engineering Center housed at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and a final keynote address from the Chief Meteorologist for the Southwest Airlines Operations Coordination Center.
On March 16th, Ken Carey, Vice President of Science and the Engineering Business Unit of Earth Resources Technology, visited the chapter providing an educational talk along with sharing words of wisdom for all in attendance.

In mid-March, the MU-AMS chapter officers traveled to nearby Franklin & Marshall College and presented three sessions for over 52 kindergarten through 6th grade students on weather at an event called Super Saturday. The students learned about severe weather and how to draw weather maps. The event was run by the Lancaster County PArtners for Gifted Education (LC PAGE), which is a volunteer nonprofit group of parents, school staff, and students who work to raise awareness of gifted students' educational needs and parenting challenges. ■









NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

BOARD ON ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES (BEIPT) SEEKS CANDIDATES TO FILL A "STUDENT MEMBER" POSITION

The American Meteorological Society's, Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC), Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies (BEIPT) is seeking candidates to fill a "Student Member" position on the board. Interested students need to be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate-level program at an accredited institution and have an interest in environmental information processing technologies. The successful candidate will serve on the BEIPT and the EIPT Program Committee for a defined term and support the Board's activities based on the Terms of Reference.

Please contact Woody Roberts by 30 April 2016 if you are interested. ■

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

17th Conference on Mountain Meteorology

Joint 21st Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography and Climatology Conference and 20th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction

Student Travel Grants

Travel grants are available for senior undergraduate and graduate students to attend AMS meetings held in the U.S. or Canada. AMS recognizes the considerable benefit that students can gain from attending conferences even if they are not presenting a paper.

Travel Grants Application Deadlines:

- **22 April 2016**–44th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology
- **29 April 2016**–32nd Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
- **29 April 2016**–22nd Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence ■

AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

The Board for Early Career Professionals recognizes the significant achievements of early career professionals within their community, society, scientific discipline, and profession. Please nominate a deserving early career professional for the Award for Early Career Achievement. Nominations are due by 1 June 2016. Submit nomination packets to the AMS Board for Early Career Professionals at amsbecp@gmail.com. ■

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATIONS

The Local Chapter of the Year Awards are presented each year to a regular chapter and a student chapter. The award will be given for chapter activities conducted during a 12-month period from 1 May through 30 April of the year the application is submitted. The complete application package must be received by 1 May and may be sent electronically by e-mail to Kelly Savoie by the deadline date. Award winners are notified in October and are acknowledged at the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting. Award applications and information may be found on the AMS Web site. ■

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

As the reporting of election results is a requirement, please update your online local chapter directory listing when your chapter elections have been held. If you need your local chapter account number for access, please contact Sang Lee. Updated election results should be entered no later than 1 June 2016. 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 2016. This will ensure that your chapter remains active in our files and that you receive important e-mails from AMS Headquarters. The chapter directory is online and you can update your election results here. ■

CHAPTER CHANNEL IN BAMS

The Chapter Channel is a spread of photographs and explanatory captions published in BAMS. We want to see your local chapters in action! The AMS would love to have more chapters participate in the Chapter Channel section of BAMS.

What we're looking for in photographs (300 dpi: JPG or TIF format):

- Participation in science fairs, visits to television stations, working out in the field, just to name a few;
- Posed group shots at relevant events;
- Engaging images from speaker presentations (please obtain permission from the speaker to use the images as well as necessary information to explain what's happening).

Please include as much information as possible for the caption.



Photographs for the Chapter Channel section of BAMS should be e-mailed to chaptersinaction@ametsoc.org by the 15th of each month for possible publication. ■

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 Kelly Savoie no later than July 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.	Elizabeth Smith, Chair Wesley Rondinelli, 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