

# AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

QUARTERLY DIGITAL PUBLICATION/SUMMER\_FALL 2012/VOLUME 2

## FEATURED CHAPTER

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



Western Kentucky University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

**President:** Tara Wagoner

**Vice President:** Emily Yates

**Treasurer:** Chris Johnson and Brian Urbancic

**Public Relations:** Will Paschall

The student chapter of the American Meteorological Society at Western Kentucky University was inaugurated in 2007, with the focus set as a student involvement and outreach organization in conjunction with the meteorology program at WKU. With 38 students currently registered with WKU AMS chapter, our goal is to provide our members with numerous opportunities to get involved in the atmospheric sciences outside of the classroom setting. During the 2010-12 academic years, 40 students presented and/or attended regional and national conferences. Seven awards were given to students who finished in the top three in student research competitions. Two students presented at the annual Severe Weather Workshop in Norman, Oklahoma in 2011. As part of the research presented at these conferences, three undergraduate students have submitted a manuscript to the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS)*, describing synoptic-scale influences on the historic Mid-South 1-2 May 2010 heavy precipitation event.

This work has been published in the May 2012 issue of *BAMS*. Our chapter works closely with the NWS offices in Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN, by volunteering on a variety of projects and service/outreach needs. Lastly, our members get the opportunity to participate in our nationally recognized "*Field Methods in Weather Analysis & Forecasting*" field course.

In order to financially assist our members with these activities, the WKU AMS chapter organizes numerous fundraising efforts. This includes new t-shirts and weather calendars for sale, a number of food stands, and a dedicated room on campus that serves as a full snack bar for anyone to enjoy. The Department of Geography and Geology has also provided generous stipends to help those who are actively engaged in research, to present their findings at professional meetings.

### Featured Chapters Needed!

We will be running out of featured chapters for the newsletter soon. If you would like your chapter to be featured in an upcoming issue, please email an MS Word document to Kelly Savoie ([ksavoie@ametsoc.org](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org)). The text should include a short introduction about your chapter and may include information on past activities/fundraisers that have been successful. You may also highlight a particular activity or speaker or any other news that others chapters may find interesting and useful. Please limit your text to 300 words or less. We also encourage you to submit a photo along with your submission. Please email your photo as a separate jpeg file. We will highlight chapters in order of receipt.



# News from AMS Headquarters

Annual Meeting Edition

The AMS Annual Meeting, an unparalleled and one-of-a-kind professional development event, is your opportunity to connect, engage, and interact with fellow chapter members and colleagues. Check out our brochure at <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2013/index.cfm/newsroom/annual-meeting-marketing-materials/> to learn more about this professionally rewarding and personally satisfying event!

## Chapter Breakfast

The chapter officers' breakfast meeting will be held at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the AMS in Austin, Texas on Tuesday, 8 January 2013, from 7 to 9 am. This is being arranged by the Committee on Local Chapters Affairs in conjunction with the Society. The chapter awards will be presented to both the winning regular chapter and student chapter for 2011-2012. We will also be awarding first, second, and third place ribbons to the best local chapter posters! Posters will be judged on content and design. We ask that every chapter be represented so if officers will not be attending the Annual Meeting, please try to designate a member to act as your chapter's representative.

## Poster Display

The poster display will be held at the Convention Center. Display panels will be available as well as pushpins. Each chapter will be allotted a 4' x 8' poster space to display a poster related to their local chapter history and recent activities. You may view posters from the 92nd Annual Meeting at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/index.html>. The Local Chapter Affairs Committee created a guideline for the poster award competition; it may be viewed online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/posterguidance.html>. It is requested that chapters submit an abstract (limited to 250 words or less) of what

they will be displaying in order to promote attendance. Even if your chapter is unable to display a poster, abstracts on chapter history and activities are also welcome. Posters may be setup beginning on Sunday, 6 January at 12pm.

**The registration deadline for chapter representatives attending the breakfast meeting AND the registration deadline to reserve poster space and to submit an abstract is 19 November 2012.** Please mail, fax, or email the form at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/bkfst2012attach.pdf> and send abstracts to Kelly Savoie by email ([ksavoie@ametsoc.org](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org)).

## Student Conference & Career Fair

The theme of this year's Student Conference is "Expanding Weather, Water, and Climate Prediction: Taking the Geosciences to the Next Level." The conference will be held Saturday-Sunday, January 5-6. This year's conference will feature a very diverse speaker base and a more interactive approach that will allow for increased question and answer time with both noted professionals and fellow students. Students are encouraged to submit papers on a wide range of topics. Visit <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2013/index.cfm/information-for/students/> for additional information.

## Other Programs of Interest

Openings for the 93rd AMS Annual Meeting Student Assistant Program, the AMS 2013 scholarship/fellowship programs and the Annual Meeting student travel opportunities will be posted to the AMS Web site in the fall. Watch <http://www.ametsoc.org/amsstudentinfo/index.html> for additional information and application forms.

## Consider Sponsoring a K-12 Teacher

Greetings! We wanted to let you know about an exciting initiative being organized by the AMS.

The National AMS, in collaboration with local chapters, is proposing a bold initiative to connect Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) K-12 teachers with some of the most innovative and forward thinking scientists, researchers, product developers, educators, forecasters, and undergraduate and graduate students in our Nation. This initiative will be held at the AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, January 2013 and proposes a partnership between our local chapters and local K-12 teachers to enhance our Nation's ability to understand the causes of and response to severe weather and climate events.

We would like your AMS chapter to consider sponsoring one or more local K-12 teachers to participate in AMS's Science Teachers Educational Outreach Initiative as well as find other sponsors for the initiative. A letter that can be used by your members to find sponsors may be found at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/index.html> under Latest Local Chapter News - STEM Teacher Sponsor Letter.

Regards,

2013 AMS Annual Meeting  
Organizing Committee  
AMS Local Chapter Affairs  
Committee

Learn more about student presentation competitions and awards at <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2013/index.cfm/information-for/students/student-award-opportunities/>.

## AMS Weather Studies 5<sup>th</sup> Edition turns the page to a new chapter in Earth science education

The days of the static science textbook are ending, and a new era utilizing digital and smart technologies is taking hold. The newest edition of AMS Weather Studies has QR codes embedded throughout the book. Unlike QR codes popular in advertising, these codes have been implemented in a way that brings textbooks to life. Students using smart technologies are able to scan these codes accessing figures, satellite image loops and videos demonstrating complex scientific principles that are foundations in meteorology.

Cutting-edge research and recent extreme weather events are included as tools to engage students. The fifth edition by explores the extreme weather events of 2011, such as the southeastern United States tornado outbreaks and extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Irene. Research on recently-identified atmospheric rivers, provides students with access emerging scientific discoveries. To receive more information or an examination copy please contact the AMS Education Program at (800) 824-0405 or email [amsedu@ametsoc.org](mailto:amsedu@ametsoc.org)

## AMS Summer Community Meeting

The AMS Summer Community Meeting will be held August 13-16 at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK. The themes of the meeting are Weather Ready Nation and the state of the weather and climate enterprise. The meeting will largely consist of panels highlighted by esteemed speakers representing the different sectors of the enterprise and time for open-ended discussion.

More information can be found at the meeting's website at [www.ametsoc.org/meet/fainst/2012summercommunitymeeting.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/fainst/2012summercommunitymeeting.html).

You can also follow along before, during, and after the meeting on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/amssummermeeting2012>), Twitter (@ametsocSCM2012, #AMSSCM2012), and LinkedIn ([http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4485464&trk=myg\\_ugrp\\_ovr](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4485464&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr)).

## Increasing Earth science opportunities at US minority serving colleges and universities

The AMS Education Program is seeking college and university faculty at minority-serving institutions (MSIs) to participate in an expenses paid workshop held in Washington, DC. The fundamentals of climate science and strategies for effectively bringing Earth science into MSIs will be covered. The workshop will be held May 2013, and successful participants will also attend the 2014 AMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 2012 Climate Studies Diversity Program cohort had 30 participants from 16 states and 1 outlying US territory. Activities included trips to lab facilities at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and strategy sessions held at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Howard University. This is part of National Science Foundation grant #1107968 that will bring AMS Climate Studies to 100 MSIs nationwide. Interested faculty should contact Elizabeth Mills at (800) 824-0405 or [onlineclimate@ametsoc.org](mailto:onlineclimate@ametsoc.org).

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for taking the time to check out our newsletter! The next newsletter will be published in early November. 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](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org)) no later than October 15. To view prior newsletters, see <http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/newsletters.html>

### 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

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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](mailto:AMSCHAPS@AMETSOC.ORG)*