

## REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

*A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists*



**Who:** Paul Knight

**What:** State climatologist

**When:** CCM since 1994

**Where:** University Park, Pennsylvania

**Why:** To renew his knowledge base and broaden consulting opportunities



**How:** Paul Knight is the Pennsylvania State Climatologist. He is a senior lecturer of synoptic meteorology at The Pennsylvania State University and the manager of the Weather Communications Group. Paul has been the senior forecaster for *The New York Times* weather page since 1986. He, along with four other colleagues, produce the weather page for the *Times* and *International Herald Tribune* each day. Paul is also producer, cohost, and on-camera meteorologist for *Weather World*, a 15-minute weeknight weather magazine show that was seen on three PBS stations in Pennsylvania for more than 20 years and is now broadcast on Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Paul received the AMS TV Seal in 1980, and as he approached mid-career with two children planning to attend college, he was seeking a new level of professional competence. The CCM program seemed like a good fit since he could continue to work full-time and yet invest his energies toward the certification program. Credentials are an important part of success in an academic environment, and the CCM program provided this without a massive disruption to his work schedule..

**In His Own Words:** "As a Certified Consulting Meteorologist, I receive inquiries primarily from lawyers about civil cases such as icy conditions, wind damage, and flooding. Most queries I refer to other consultants in the AMS directory, but when the case allows me to explore new techniques of interpolation or to learn about datastreams that I have not used before, then I will accept those cases.

"When I advise students on selecting career paths, I choose a card from my personal experience by pointing to the three seals that I have obtained: CCM, CBM, and NWA. My philosophy to the students is that when they receive their diploma, they transition from 'paying to learn' to 'getting paid to learn.' The CCM affords another opportunity to stay on the path of being a lifelong learner."

*For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Web site at [www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html).*