

AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Fall/Winter 2020

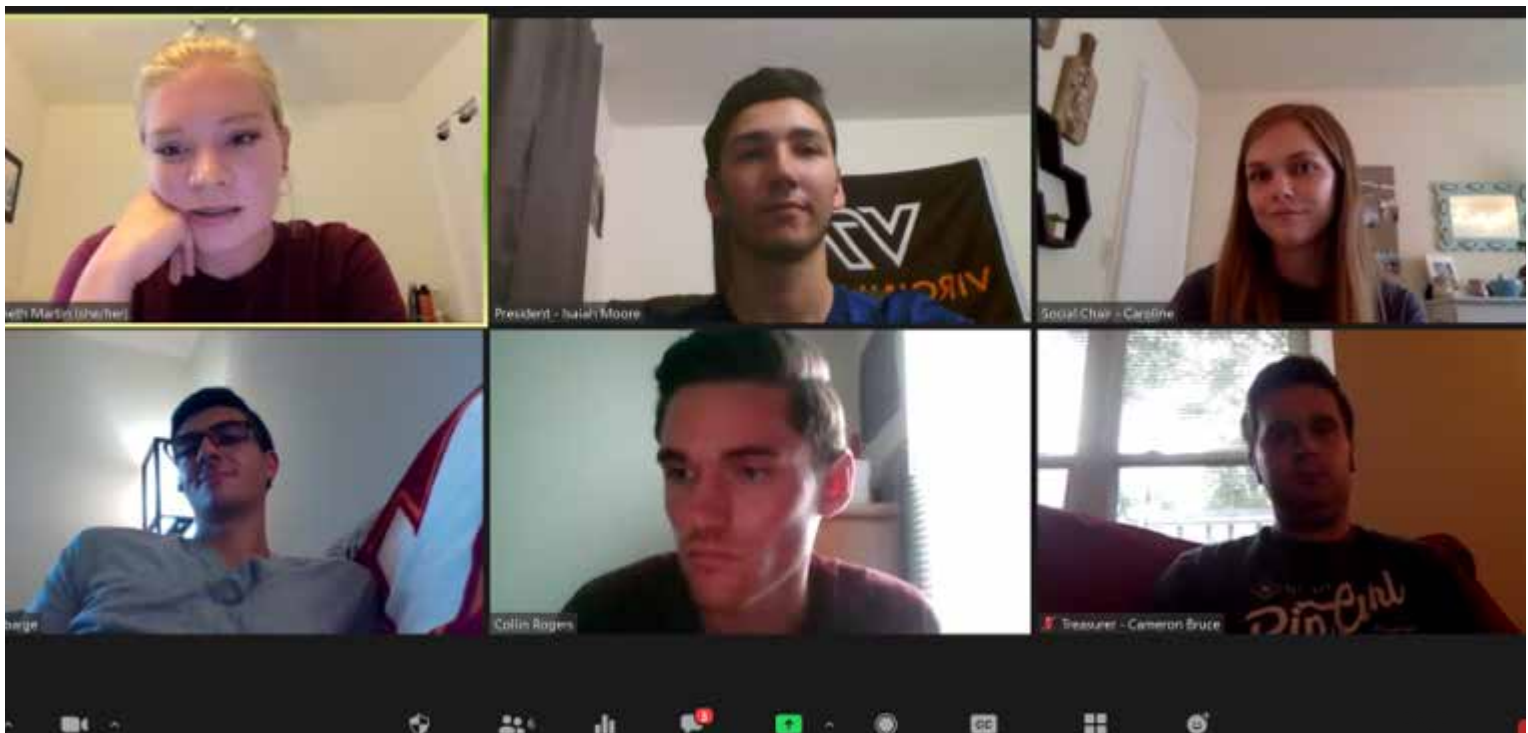
Volume 10 Issue 2

BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the AMS welcomed our new members with a meeting over Zoom in order for them to meet other new members and get to know the officers. This was a great opportunity for new members to meet each other and ask any questions they may have for the officers without too many other people being there. Zoom can be awkward to communicate through, but we made sure to break the group into breakout rooms (separate smaller groups) so it is easier to ask questions and get to know others.

On Tuesday, September 29th, the chapter held their first meeting of the semester for all members. Ashley Ballard, who is a Virginia Tech Alumna, gave a great presentation on Meteorology in the private sector. She shared her story from the time she graduated at Virginia Tech up until today where she is working as a meteorologist and geospatial analyst for Monarch Weather and a software developer at METCON. Members were able to hear from someone who was in the exact same place as they are in now and hear what steps she took in in order to get to where she is today! Also, members from the Central Virginia Chapter of the AMS joined us in our meeting as both chapters have agreed to welcome all members to each other's meetings.

The chapter will continue to hold more virtual events and follow the protocols in place by Virginia Tech in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community safe.



CENTRAL VIRGINIA



The Central Virginia Chapter held a virtual meeting on August 20, 2020. Richard Griffith, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, give a brief summary from Sussex, England about the Great Britain-based Climatological Observer's Link (COL) weather observers network and his own weather station. COL is celebrating its 50th anniversary and has 350 amateur weather observers whose data are published in monthly bulletin. A Central Virginia Chapter member recently participated in a COL virtual meeting. The Chapter looks forward to continuing our international connection with COL.

The guest speaker was Dr Jeff Love, Research Geophysicist and Advisor for Geomagnetic Research for the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. He spoke about the "Geomagnetic History Recorded at the Fredericksburg, Virginia Observatory". Dr Love explained the Geomagnetism Program established its first observatory at Cheltenham, Maryland in 1900, prior to being moved to Fredericksburg in 1956. The site is used for geomagnetic monitoring, calibrating magnetometers for satellites, as well as meteorological, seismic, gravity and cosmic ray monitoring. Changes in magnetic declination and intensity due to changes in the Earth's core have been noted from 1900-2020 with 11-year solar influenced cycles and annual variations. Dr Love noted how the geomagnetic field generated by space current can cause operational problems for power grids, loss of radio communications, reduction of global positioning systems, and adverse satellite operation. He proceeded to present a map of the high hazard areas on the national power grid within the United States, with one of the highest hazard areas located within Virginia. Love noted that a primary cause for this is that the rock in Virginia is a poor natural conductor.

The Central Virginia Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) met virtually on October 15, 2020. Members from both the Blue Ridge and George Mason University (GMU) chapters joined in on the call. President Effertz announced that he will be leaving Virginia for Colorado for a new job opportunity and will be stepping down as President either at the end of the year or at the next spring election. The AMS's Weather Band was announced and all members were encouraged to join when it is officially released.

The 2020 Mid-Atlantic ChaserCon will be held virtually this year over four Saturdays in October and November. Chris White gave an update and announced the hosts and speakers. Tim Berkoff, a researcher at NASA gave a broad overview of the Langley Research Center and his programs and projects including the Chemistry and Physics of the Atmospheric Boundary Layer Experiment (CAPABLE) site which validates space-based observations of surface-level pollution as observed from the European Space Agency's TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI). Chuck Turner gave an overview and history of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) collaboration with NASA-Langley which began in 2010. Together, NASA and DEQ share data for both research and regulatory purposes.

Finally, the guest speaker was Amber Verstynen, a junior at GMU, president of the GMU AMS chapter, and an intern at NASA-Langley. Her talk was titled "Analysis of Measurement Variability During the 2017 Ozone Water-Land Environmental Transition Study (OWLETS) Campaign Caused by Boat Emissions and a Comparison to the National Air Quality Forecast Model." As an intern, Verstynen used the data collected during the OWLETS study to look for "titration events" caused by boats emissions. Verstynen defined a titration event as an event where oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) react with ozone in the air to form nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and oxygen. Verstynen showed how the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Air Quality Forecast Model does not always predict the volatility of ozone over water. Real measurements show areas of much higher and lower ozone over water. Verstynen was able to show that NO_x emissions can substantially lower ozone levels in the wake of boats going through the Chesapeake Bay while substantially raise NO_2 levels.



GREATER NYC/NJ/PHILLY



The Greater NJ/Philly/NYC AMS Pre-College Chapter continued to hold virtual meetings, making the best out of the restrictions that the Coronavirus pandemic imposes on us. Since July, we've held two virtual events, the first being a Zoom presentation with Mr. William Syrett, the manager of Penn State's Weather Observatory and an Associate Teaching Professor of the Department of Atmospheric Science and Meteorology. During the meeting, Mr. Syrett presented to our chapter about Penn State's Weather Camp for high school students, Penn State's renowned

meteorology program, and what makes their program one of the best in the country. To top his presentation off, Mr. Syrett gave helpful advice to the older members of our chapter who are beginning the process of college applications.

In October, AMS Certified Chief Meteorologist Dan Zarrow of NJ 101.5 FM presented to our Chapter. He shared what a typical day is like for him as a radio meteorologist. He also presented a tour of his "home weather studio" as well as a tour of the in-person studio at NJ 101.5. Aside from the tour, Dan Zarrow provided us with insightful advice on how to become a broadcast meteorologist and advice on searching for and choosing a college meteorology program.

The NJ/Philly/NYC Chapter of the AMS thanks both Mr. William Syrett and Dan Zarrow for their time and generosity!

It's hard to believe that it has been over half a year since COVID-19 restricted all of our lives. In that half-year, the Greater NJ/Philly/NYC AMS Pre-College Chapter has stayed connected and engaged through a common thread: our relentless passion for weather.

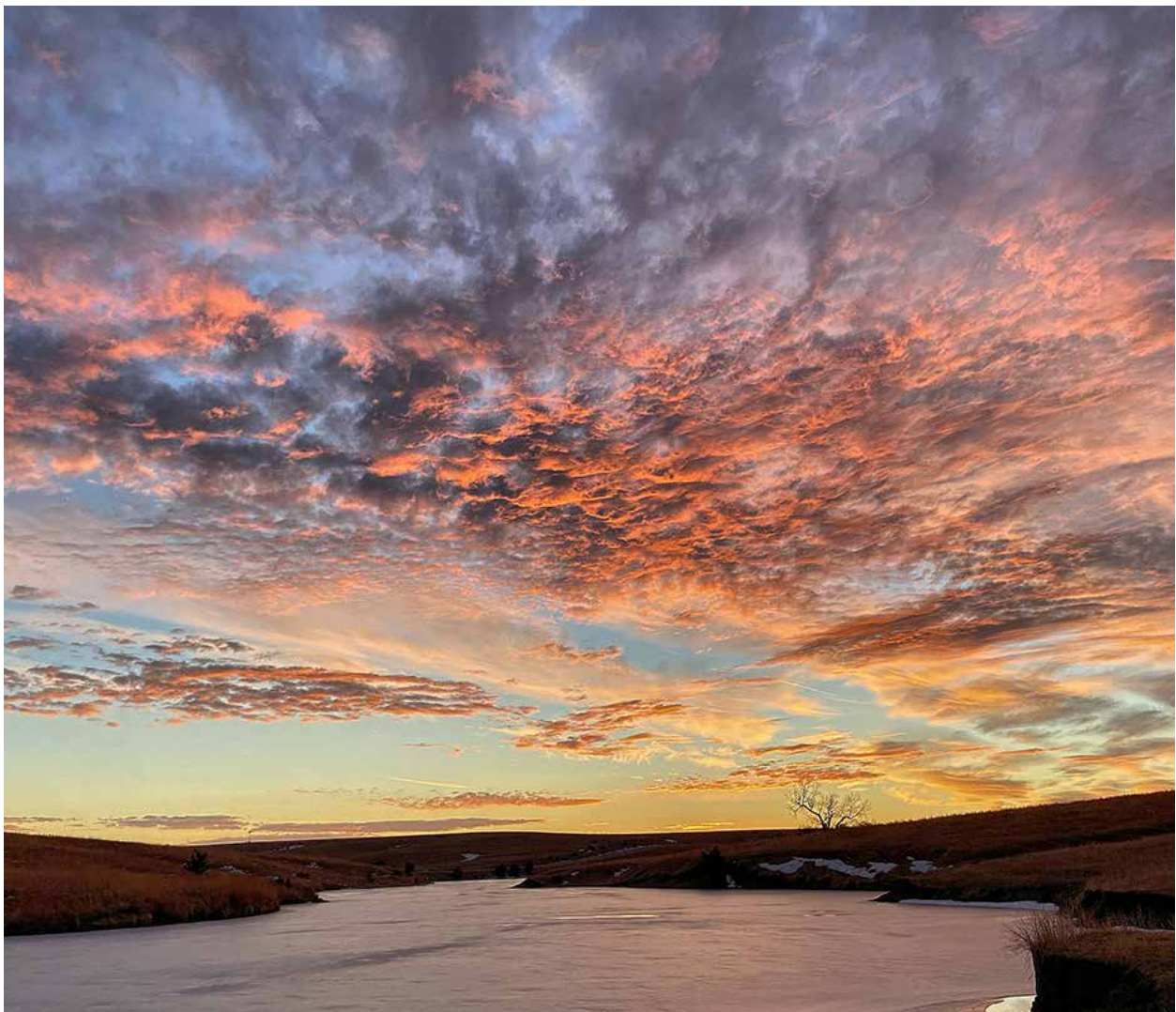
Written by Jerry Zhou, Secretary



HIGH PLAINS

The NWA/AMS High Plains Chapter held a virtual meeting over Google Meet on Wednesday, September 30th and began around 11:30AM. There were a total of 17 chapter members that were able to attend. The meeting started off with a treasury report. Next, Jeremy Martin reminded everyone that he would like to step down as the President of the High Plains chapter at the end of the year due to other commitments taking up most of his time. If anyone is interested in becoming the President please let one of the chapter officers know.

The next discussion was on what to do with the High Plains Chapter Conference next year. There was talk of a virtual conference but if all goes well, the next conference will be at North Platte. More discussion will be needed if we should go virtual or in person for next year's conference. Last Sam Meltzer gave a talk about blowing sand and HABOOBs across Arizona. Sam volunteered at NWS Phoenix office before being hired on at the North Platte office. The meeting then came to end around 12:15PM. The next High Plains Chapter meeting is expected to be on October 28th at 11:30 AM..



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

This fall the Iowa State University AMS chapter decided to join forces with the University of Oklahoma AMS chapter for a Zoom chapter mingling night. Almost



chapter mingling night. Almost 40 students between both chapters hopped on to meet each other, discuss highly controversial topics (like, which is better, cats or dogs?), and share our love of the atmospheric sciences. Thanks to our newly found skills with Zoom and the lovely chapter presidents, this event was a hit! In our very digitalized world, we can meet even more students than before. Thanks so much to the OU AMS for being willing to join

us for an incredibly fun night! We plan to do this event with other student chapters throughout the year, and hopefully continue this as a tradition.

Our students definitely love showing off our new ISU AMS apparel. This year ISU AMS decided to extend the order to alumni and families, so many more people can enjoy the soft t-shirts and warm crew necks. It is special to our students that we have a way to represent our club to the rest of Iowa State University. There's nothing more exciting than showing up to class and seeing four other friends wearing the same shirt as you.



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

As with many other universities across the nation, the Fall Semester has been very different from past semesters here at Millersville University. A majority of classes have been held online along with many in-person events and activities for various organizations on campus being cancelled. The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society here at Millersville University has not let any of the current circumstances stop them from holding meetings and exciting events virtually for the students within the organization.

The semester opened up with the start of this year's Met-Mentor program. It was extremely successful, and many students volunteered to be a mentor to one or two incoming freshmen in Millersville University's meteorology program.

Following the start of the Met-Mentor program, MU-AMS held several other events through Zoom

meetings with members of the organization. Multiple fun activities were held for the students to try and give them a break from everything going on. A game night was held in September where everyone could interact with one another and have an enjoyable time playing games that could be played virtually.

Along with that, other online events were held, with one being the first speaker series of the semester with Dr. Ariel Cohen, Brian Haines, and Greg Heavener. As difficult as it has been so far given the current circumstances, MU-AMS has managed to keep its members busy and excited for new events and activities.





OHIO UNIVERSITY

The fall semester for the Ohio University Chapter of the American Meteorological Society has been a challenging one due to the majority of students and members not being able to return to campus. Therefore, we have developed some solutions to continue virtually. We regularly meet on Microsoft Teams weekly with a good turnout. I look forward to these meetings since it gives a sense of still being together.

Thankfully, our fundraising chair hosted a Krispy Kreme Virtual Fundraiser. We sold 40 dozen donuts! Our outreach chair has been diligent on reaching out to elementary schools that we can virtually call to teach them about the weather and will span over a few weeks. We have also planned trivia nights to help connect with our members more and have brought back meteorology into our regular meetings. We have one member or officer volunteer for a weather briefing which allows us to be continually aware of weather conditions around the United States. In addition, we have also introduced a student series where one student talks about their specific field of interest in meteorology. This helps show the numerous opportunities and options for those who enjoy meteorology but are still unsure which path to take.

Lastly, we also introduced a weather workshop where upperclassmen introduce numerous meteorological phenomena and/or concepts in the club. We are also excited to announce that our meteorological symposium planning has been making great progress! We have reached out to our speakers and are planning out a lot earlier than last year which has put us in a good spot looking ahead for the spring semester. It will be held in late March.

OUSCAN (UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA)

The University of Oklahoma's Student Chapter of AMS & NWA moved to an online-only format for the Fall 2020 semester. The semester started off with a joint meeting with the Oklahoma Weather Lab, featuring Dr. Elizabeth Smith who talked about her path through severe weather research and getting a PhD. We had our first ever fully virtual social event with a kahoot trivia style game night, testing our members meteorology and pop-culture knowledge! The two winners got gift cards of their choosing.

The October general meeting featured Bill Walsh - a two time Emmy award winner and a broadcast meteorologist affiliated with WCSC-TV 5 Charleston. He gave our members a virtual station tour as well let us watch the weather brief being recorded live. Bill Walsh also answered numerous questions about the broadcast meteorology field. OU SCAN is also hosting a fundraiser for hurricane relief funds, in which professors are doing tik tok dances for a set amount of donations.

Finally, for our October social event, we did a joint-social with the Iowa State University Chapter of AMS.



SUNY OSWEGO

At SUNY Oswego, we have not been able to have any in-person meetings or events for our club due to strict COVID-19 restrictions. All meetings have been over Zoom since the beginning of the semester. In order to keep our members engaged we have done some of the following...

1. We invited Tom Nizioł to speak to our club members at our second meeting over Zoom! As you may know, Mr. Nizioł is an alumni of SUNY Oswego and has a long career in the field of meteorology. Mr. Nizioł shared his experiences that he had at the National Weather Service and the Weather Channel. His presentation was around ~40 minutes, and he took some questions for a bit after as well.
2. Our third meeting was a designated hang out/game night! This meeting was aimed as a de-stressor and to allow members to get to know each other better in a fun environment. We played multiple games of Kahoot, and played a few games of Among Us as well.
3. Our most recent meeting was our annual Internship/Scholarship night. We first informed members of the many scholarships available in the field, and then had some members share internship/work experiences that they had.

By the time the newsletter is posted, this meeting will likely have already happened! But this is our club's next upcoming meeting as of writing this.

1. On Tuesday October 27th we are having a joint meeting with SUNY Brockport's Meteorology Club! At this meeting we will be hosting guest speaker John Gordon from the NWS office in Louisville Kentucky. He will be sharing important information about how to make yourself stand out in the ever competitive job market! Mr. Gordon stressed how his talks have helped many in the field attain jobs in the weather enterprise, so we're looking forward to this meeting!

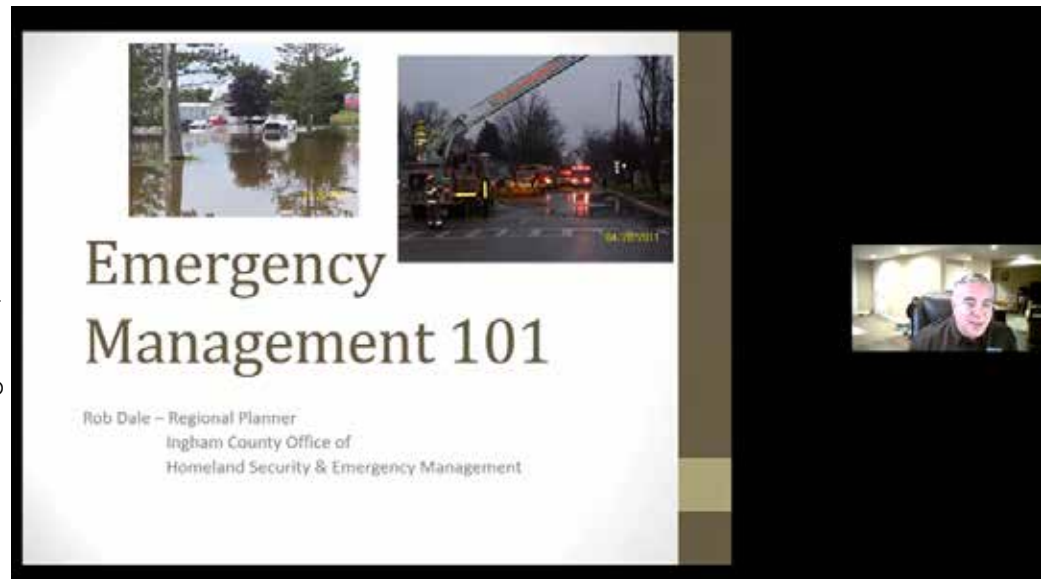
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN VERMONT AT LYNDON

The Northern Vermont University Lyndon chapter has been keeping busy in the first half of the fall semester with plenty of online and outdoor socially distanced events. We have taken full advantage of Zoom and reached out to alumni all across the country to guest speak to the chapter. We are now also hosting monthly game nights that will test your weather trivia knowledge! The chapter is looking forward to what the spring semester holds, especially regarding to our annual Northeastern Storm Conference.



WEST COAST FLORIDA

The West Central Florida AMS Chapter (WCFLAMS) has started their meeting year with a focus on societal impacts and fostering of community. Chapter meetings through the first half of this year—so far, three social meetups and two formal meetings with guest speakers—are fully virtual, facilitated through Zoom.



Rooted in a philosophy of empathy and unconditional positive regard, the monthly social meetups arose out of Chapter President Matt Bolton's desires to foster a sense of community and solidarity amidst the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and to facilitate for members, especially those who may be or feel isolated, a safe space for open and accepting discussion. New for October, the latest meetup began with a 10-minute guided meditation practice.

On September 28th, the Chapter hosted Rob Dale, from the Ingham County (Michigan) Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Rob spoke about his various experiences in broadcast meteorology and, particularly, emergency management, and discussed the increasingly-important intersection of meteorology and emergency management. A recording of the talk is available on the WCFLAMS YouTube channel: https://youtube.com/channel/UCiQQqCNW9_ZBZPVdOhj5O4w

On October 30th, WCFLAMS hosted Dylan Allen, an aspiring high school student meteorologist from Montgomery County, North Carolina. Dylan spoke about his experiences as a presenter at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the National Weather Association and three research projects he has conducted as an intern at How The Weatherworks, a weather education company in Naples, FL. Specifically, Dylan discussed findings related to hurricane evacuation behaviors, the empirical measurement of weather curiosity, and the ways in which people respond, both psychologically and behaviorally, to severe weather. A recording of the talk is available on the WCFLAMS YouTube channel linked above.

November will feature a virtual game night and more typical, conversation-oriented meetup, and the Chapter plans to be active in Tampa-area holiday food and gift drives across November and December.

FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS



AMS MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The American Meteorological Society is pleased to announce the 2021 AMS Minority Scholarship Program. Now entering its twenty-eighth year, the scholarship is intended to help support college education for minority students traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, especially Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American/African, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander Students, who intend to pursue careers in the weather, water, and climate sciences. The two-year scholarships, funded through donations made by members to the AMS 100th Anniversary Campaign, are for \$3000 during the freshman year and \$3000 during the sophomore year (sophomore year funding depends on successful completion of the freshman academic year). Minority students who will be entering freshman year of college in the fall of 2021 are eligible to apply.

Thanks to your assistance, we have had a successful twenty-seven years. We have awarded the scholarships to over one hundred sixty outstanding students since the inception of the program. I hope that all of you will support us again in distributing information about this valuable program. Access to the information and application can be found here <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/information-for/students/ams-scholarships-and-fellowships/ams-minority-scholarships/>

AMS Television and Radio Sealholders, CBM's, and teachers associated with the AMS K-12 programs have also been asked to help with the circulation of this program. We look forward to receiving continued support in announcing the availability of the AMS Minority Scholarship Program. Information about the AMS fellowship and scholarship programs in general can be found on the AMS web site here <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/information-for/students/ams-scholarships-and-fellowships/>

If you have any questions about this program, please send an email to Donna Fernandez at dfernandez@ametsoc.org or call directly, 617-226-3907. Thank you for your time and support!

AMA ON CAREERS IN HYDROLOGY

Join AMS in the online Community on November 17-18 for an AMA on Careers in Hydrology!

Members of the AMS Committee on Hydrology— John McHenry (Baron Services), Guiling Wang (University of Connecticut), and Melissa Wrzesien (NASA) will be answering your questions about this interesting field.

Submit questions ahead of the event here - <https://forms.gle/kDYhgqVqQQhbyCsE6>

SUMMER TEACHING WORKSHOPS OPEN

Enhance your knowledge of Earth system science and earn graduate credit through AMS Education's teacher professional development programs. Over 22,000 teachers have boosted their STEM curriculum and impacted millions of students across the nation through these initiatives!

Project Atmosphere and Project Ocean are on-site professional development workshops. They are all-expenses-paid and are offered each summer for a hands-on learning experience in Earth science. Both workshops involve a full week, on-site experience with online components both before and after the on-site portion. For more information and to apply, visit the website:

<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/education-careers/education-program/k-12-teachers/>

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Attention Graduate and Undergraduate Students!

With Students of all ages back in classes, we want to share the array of programs AMS has for students!

AMS scholarships and fellowships range from \$1000 to \$25,000 and are open for applications - whether you will be a college freshmen or a graduate student, AMS supports your education and pursuit of a career in the atmospheric and related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. Check out the programs here [AMS Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

AMS offers outstanding opportunities for student members or member with student privilege in the weather, water, and climate sciences who wish to attend the AMS annual meeting. We hope that promising young scientists will take advantage of these benefits! This year the 101st AMS Annual Meeting will be virtual. You can find information on these great opportunities here [AMS Meeting Opportunities for Students](#)

Contact Donna Fernandez at dfernandez@ametsoc.org if you have any questions regarding these programs.

The graphic is a vibrant, circular collage with a sunburst background. At the top left, the 'AMS Weather Band' logo is displayed. The central focus is a large yellow sun with the text 'For you!' inside it. Surrounding the sun are various text boxes and clouds listing benefits and target audiences. On the left, a white banner says 'Find us at...' with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest, each labeled 'AMS Weather Band' or 'AMS WXBand'. A yellow cloud at the bottom center states 'Just \$28 a year'. A white cloud at the bottom right says 'Launching this Fall'. A grey cloud at the bottom right contains the website 'amsweatherband.org'. Other text boxes include: 'Access to weather experts', 'A monthly newsletter filled with weather insight', 'A members-only online community', 'Exclusive content and events', 'Unique and stylish weather merch', 'Supporting weather, water, and climate science', 'A global community of weather enthusiasts', 'From the American Meteorological Society—a respected nonprofit organization at the forefront of atmospheric and related sciences for over 100 years', 'For fans of the 1996 masterpiece Twister', 'For flyers, fishers, and friends of the outdoors', 'For double rainbow hunters', 'For the radar obsessed', 'For the weather wary (and prepared)', and 'For teachers and learners and everyone in between'.

The AMS Weather Band is a new global community of enthusiasts committed to advancing our shared understanding and appreciation of weather.

As a member of the band, you will gain insight into cutting-edge science from the American Meteorological Society, a nonprofit organization whose members have been at the forefront of weather research for over 100 years.

You will hear about the latest research in weather and climate from the scientists who are actually doing it, and engage directly with the professionals who turn that research into products and services that save lives, improve our infrastructure, protect our environment, and help our communities become more sustainable and resilient. And your membership fee will help support the efforts of the AMS, including scholarship programs for young scientists, hands-on programs for teachers and policy makers, and the publication of new research in the field.

We hope that this will be both useful and fun for new and existing members! If you are interested in contributing content to the AMS Weather Band and to learn more about member benefits, please visit the website: <https://amsweatherband.org/index.cfm/weatherband/>



Photo by Kelly Sikkema

AMS Local Chapter Affairs

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

Committee Leadership

Kristofer Tuftedal, Chair
Kevin Thiel, Chair-Elect
Tiernan Doyle, AMS Liaison

Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC
[@AMSLCAC](https://twitter.com/AMSLCAC)

The next newsletter will be published in February. If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events or submit a write-up on a specific activity that was successful, please e-mail [Tiernan Doyle](mailto:Tiernan.Doyle@ametsoc.org) no later than **January 15th**. To view prior newsletters, [click here](#).