

# AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Summer/Fall 2017

Volume 7 Issue 1

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### ASHEVILLE

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

In May 2017, an outing was held at the local Sierra Nevada Brewing Company for a tour and discussion of how climate change could impact the production of beer. The tour also included a meet & greet with Scott Jennings, head brewer of Sierra Nevada.

In July, in collaboration with the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the Asheville AMS hosted a webinar given by Eric Blake from the National Hurricane Center on the tools for operational forecasts as well as reanalysis efforts for historical storms. The Asheville Chapter then also coordinated attending a minor league baseball game on-site at historic McCormick Field to see the Asheville Tourists! We had over 20 persons attend the event and participate in this fun social gathering.

There are more exciting events to come before the year ends. There will be three events in September; one focused on the processes and procedures for monitoring weather and climate from the perspective of NCEI.

The local chapter will also be hosting a coffee break at Asheville's Collider to help spread the word on our activities. Finally, the month will end with a Chapter picnic for members, families, and potential new members. For more information on those forthcoming activities and/or on Asheville Chapter, please visit us at [our website](#) or send us an [e-mail](#). ■



### GREATER MIAMI

The Miami AMS Chapter memorialized the 25th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew's devastation of South Florida by having its June, 2017 meeting at the National Hurricane Center. The meeting featured a three-in-one presentation entitled "Forecasting Advances made since the 25th Anniversary of Hurricane Andrew". The three speakers were Robert Molleda and Andrew Hagen, both of the National Weather Service Miami Office and Daniel Brown of the National Hurricane Center.

Hurricane Andrew made landfall in South Florida on August 24, 1992 as one of the most devastating hurricanes to ever strike the continental United States. While each of our three June meeting speakers focused on different aspects of scientific advances in meteorology during the past 25 years, each of their presentations was replete with graphic imagery that displayed the unspeakable devastation in Miami-Dade County by the storm. The speakers artfully contrasted the state of hurricane science as it was during the approach of Andrew in 1992 with

## GREATER MIAMI CONT.

some of the key current hurricane science technological advancements and improvements. One of the more striking points of progress showed the difference between the actual 1992 Hurricane Andrew watches and warnings in comparison to what they would be with today's improved forecasts. Another dramatic forecasting improvement highlighted was the improvement of the quality and quantity of graphical forecast products widely available now compared to virtually from twenty-five years ago. For example, did you know there were no "cones" predicting the area of likely impact of Tropical Storm Force winds prior to Andrew's landfall? Since the one day track forecast error was approximately 100 nautical miles in 1992, NHC's 72 hour forecast "cone" for Andrew would have been approximately 300 miles wide!

Some of the NHC forecasters who were on duty at NHC during Andrew's landfall, plus more than a dozen survivors and others who weathered the storm in their homes were present and encouraged to openly add their personal recollections during the talks. The combined effect of the technical/scientific presentations with survivor anecdotes created a somewhat emotional experience for the audience. Some survivor stories effectively expressed the terror and hopelessness they experienced while having their homes disintegrate around them. One NHC forecaster's eye witness account of the collapse of the WSR-57 (radar at the previous National Hurricane Center) as winds picked up to 164 mph provided a glimpse into the trepidation and uncertainty of that moment.

Some of the most important lessons learned after Hurricane Andrew were the ever-increasing need for accurate hurricane forecasting, enforcing stringent building codes in hurricane prone areas, vigilant personal disaster preparation and the need for creating emergency survival plans that could sustain one's family for 72 hours after a disaster.

After Hurricane Andrew destroyed the previous NHC, the new National Hurricane center was rebuilt in 1995 several miles inward with walls that are several feet thick, redundant communications and power supplies, and with all of the latest satellite and computing technology. The National Hurricane Center is collocated with the Miami Office of the National Weather Service on the University Park campus of Florida International University. ■



## SUNY OSWEGO

The 8th Annual Great Lakes Atmospheric Science Symposium (GLASS) will be held on Saturday, October 14th, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The one-day symposium will be held in the Shineman Science Building on the campus of SUNY Oswego in Oswego, NY. A keynote dinner will follow the symposium. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Paul Markowski, a leading supercell and tornadogenesis researcher from The Pennsylvania State University.

GLASS is presented by the Meteorology program at SUNY Oswego and is sponsored by the Oswego State Student Chapter of the AMS & NWA. The purpose of this conference is to provide an opportunity for students and professionals across the Northeastern U.S. to share their research.

Submissions in the form of oral presentations are being solicited on weather events that affect the United States, especially those that are unique to the Great Lakes. Potential topics include lake-effect snow, Nor'easters and other winter weather, severe thunderstorms, and other synoptic/mesoscale meteorology. The deadline for abstracts is September 29.

More information is available about conference details and registration at the [student chapter website](#). For further information, contact the [student chapter email](#). ■



## CORNELL

The Cornell Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (CCAMS) celebrated its first ever Cornell Reception at the 97th annual AMS Conference in Seattle, Washington. The Reception was held at the Sheraton Hotel, and attracted CCAMS students, alumni, and faculty. With over 50 in attendance, the event brought us closer together and created an environment to foster further

networking and meaningful collaboration. The Reception was also held to celebrate the 2017 Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award, which was given to Cornell Senior Lecturer and CCAMS Advisor Mark Wysocki. The Co-Presidents of the 2017-2018 CCAMS are looking into turning the Cornell Reception into an annual event. ■



## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Twice a year during the fall and spring semesters, the Iowa State University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society organizes a Student Faculty Dinner. During this event, students interact with faculty outside of classes and office hours, offering a unique opportunity to get to know their professors better in a more comfortable environment at Hickory Park in Ames, Iowa. Students and faculty eat dinner and network, hear professors' stories, and learn more information about their fields of study. By offering this event twice a year, this ensures that all new students are accommodated just in case they recently joined the major or were unable to attend the first meeting. The Student Faculty Dinner is an exceptional way for students and faculty to interact in a more comfortable way, all while eating some delicious food. ■





## MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

The Millersville University Student Chapter of the AMS has recently diversified by forming a Space Weather Group as a subset of the chapter. The group is committed to the study of heliophysics and space weather as extracurricular enrichment for Millersville's academic minor in the same. The group has begun high-altitude balloon launches to measure solar flux high in the atmosphere, reaching altitudes near or above 30 kilometers (100,000 feet). Using commercially available instruments to measure UV, gamma, and x-rays, the students hope to eventually record temporal changes in the radiation profile of the atmosphere, as well as

special events such as solar flares. Despite the group's recent genesis, it was met with a variety of interested students from different class levels at the university, including multiple freshmen. With near-perfect timing, the new Space Weather Group aims to study the upcoming August 2017 solar eclipse by launching balloons into the path of totality. By emphasizing the diversity of atmospheric sciences and promoting student-led research, the Space Weather Group hopes to spread knowledge and awareness of the interactions between solar and terrestrial atmospheres. ■



## SOUTHEAST TEXAS/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Crawfish season is a unique part of Gulf Coast culture and has a significant economic impact on the region as well. To learn more about the crawfish industry, the Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana chapter visited Tallgrass Farms in Roanoke, Louisiana. Mr. Burt Tietje gave the chapter a tour of the crawfish farm and explained the process of crawfish farming. He also described the complexity involved in raising crawfish and the major impact that weather and climate have on the process. The tour was both informative and enjoyable for chapter members as it combined their interests of climate and weather with a unique topic with which many were not as familiar.

After the tour, members enjoyed a chapter dinner and conducted official business. This official business included approving a donation by the chapter towards the Lynn L. LeBlanc Scholarship at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. The Lynn L. LeBlanc Scholarship is awarded to deserving undergraduate students who major in atmospheric sciences at the university. Given the large

number of alumni of the University of Louisiana-Monroe who are members of the chapter, this was a fitting way to give back to the university and to support the future field of atmospheric scientists. ■





# OHIO UNIVERSITY

Children from the local community visited our campus for a day full of science experiments. Several departments set up tables for the kids to experiment, including the meteorology department. OUCAMS showed the kids daily weather observations from our local weather tower and made tornadoes in a bottle.



At the end of our last week of classes, Dr. Fogt hosted a cookout for OUCAMS to celebrate and reflect on the past years achievements and to recognize the graduating seniors. Chapter members bonded over burgers, hotdogs, and games.

Every year, OUCAMS rents a cabin for the weekend during the spring semester to get out and enjoy nature. Ohio University is located close to Hocking Hills so we went hiking and explored caves and various hiking trails. The weather was beautiful! ■





## SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

Educational trips are crucial in helping the AMS Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter thrive. On March 24th and 25th, six student members traveled to AccuWeather. While there, they received a tour of AccuWeather while also getting to see the responsibilities of the professionals working there. They also visited Penn State's campus where they were familiarized with their meteorology program and met with several professors.

Students in the AMS Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter work exceptionally hard on our colloquium series to bring in presenters from across the United States to inform the California University of Pennsylvania community about different aspects of our discipline. These presenters also give students information about different career options and present challenges and trends relevant to their field. Betsy Kling, the chief meteorologist from WKYC-TV in Cleveland came to Cal U on March 31st to give a talk. In her presentation, Kling informed students about the changes and challenges that weather and media has faced with the advent of social media. She also talked about additional skill sets now needed in broadcast meteorology. This talk was free and open to the public. Our chapter

finds it extremely fulfilling to have different professionals and experts from all over the country give presentations on their specialized areas of study. ■



## ARKANSAS

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Meteorological Society conducted their second meeting of the year in mid-June, at the National Weather Service office in North Little Rock. Meteorologist Jeff Hood lead a presentation and discussion on the recent major river flooding event in northeast Arkansas. ■





## RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Rutgers University - New Brunswick held its annual Rutgers Day on Saturday, April 29 from 9AM to 4PM. The festivities included food trucks, petting zoo area, interactive games with various Rutgers student clubs and organizations, and live entertainment across all five campuses. The event brought out 100,000 visitors from all over including alumni, current students, and local families and residents. Rutgers University AMS chapter had a table set up on the Cook Campus with a tornado in a bottle demonstration along with a trivia board for all ages. Throughout the day, the chapter had 4 members present at the table interacting with all that stopped by and the entire day we had 15 members at the table for their respective shifts. The chapter members were able to teach about the science behind the tornado in a bottle as well as explain the answers to the trivia. Current chapter members also had the chance to meet and talk with chapter alumni who attended Rutgers Day and stopped by the table. Rutgers Day draws a large crowd of alumni

and current members were able to hear stories of what "use to be" during the alumni's time at Rutgers and talk about shared experiences and classes. Luckily, the weather held out and was sunny with only a few clouds that day which made for the perfect day for Rutgers Day. ■



## UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO MAYAGÜEZ

The Meteorological Society of Puerto Rico of University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez campus (SMPR) celebrated its 11th anniversary!

During the months of April and May the university was on strike and that was a setback for the planned activities for that period of time. Although the problems our university was facing, we decided to celebrate our eleventh banquet, because we wanted to recognize the effort that our members go through every day to reinvent our chapter, to educate people about meteorology, and help in our own way in such critical times in our country. This time, the chapter's members celebrated 11 years as the unanimous meteorological society of the tropical island; Puerto Rico. The activity was a mix of feelings: worry, happiness, sadness... but it brought us together, as the family we are, and this was very comforting. The SMPR is very proud of Karuska Matos and Evemarie Bracetti, two of our members of the chapter and now, this year, will continue studies in graduate school. Also, the new directive that was revealed that day: Iván Fontáñez (president), América Gaviria (vice-president), Kayleen Torres (secretary), Manuel Ramos (treasure), Yidiana Zayas (Magazine editor), Kevin Tardí (historian) and Carlos Rivera (Web-master). Altogether, we enjoyed the great food and music and shared time with current and past members.

Lastly, we want to congratulate some of our chapter's members which are doing internships in different places in the United States and Puerto Rico (NCAR, NOAA, and NWS). Thanks for being part of this family and we wish the best for you. Happy summer days! ■



## UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Once during the fall semester and once in the spring, members of the University of Delaware Student Chapter visited AP Environmental Science classes at Strath Haven High School in Wallingford, PA. We played the Carbon Journey game, developed by our advisor, Dr. Dana Veron. In this game, students act as carbon atoms and roll dice to move between four stations: the lithosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere. The game is played in two

rounds with two different lithosphere dice, to represent how humans extract carbon from the lithosphere for fuel, when it would otherwise be stuck there for millions of years. The game led to interesting discussion between the chapter members and the students and an opportunity for us to share what we learn in our coursework and our experience as young scientists. We plan to continue bringing this game to local schools in the coming years. ■

## NEW BOOK ON FLORIDA'S WEATHER AND CLIMATE

West Central Florida Chapter members Jennifer Collins, Robert Rohli, and Charles Paxton just published a new book on Florida's weather and climate.

The book, *Florida Weather and Climate: More Than Just Sunshine*, explores the conditions, forces, and processes behind Florida's surprisingly varied and dynamic weather. The book is aimed for the public to read, but also for a scholarly resource.

The book may be purchased at a discounted price of \$26 with coupon code AU817 if purchased through the [publisher's website](#) before **August 31st**. In addition, the book may be purchased at a discounted price with free delivery worldwide through the [Book Depository](#) website. The coupon code is not valid at the Book Depository; however, it is still discounted. ■





# NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

## BEWARE OF SPAMMING ATTEMPTS

A few chapters have reported a spamming attempt where an email that appeared to be coming from the chapter president was sent to the chapter secretary asking that funds be sent to them. Please be aware of this issue as the spammers have enough skill to duplicate email addresses. Make sure to confirm with officers directly in a separate email or phone call if you think an email message is suspicious. ■

## UPDATES TO THE AMS PRIVATE SECTOR BOARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Private Sector Mentorship Program is still going strong and the Private Sector Board has made some changes that they hope will be beneficial to both mentors and mentees.

After a year of trial, they will no longer be accepting applications from PhD students. This year they were only able to place 3 out of 8 who applied, and feedback from at least one of those mentors stated that they weren't able to provide much help. On the other hand, they will continue to accept applications from master's students and undergraduates; they were able to place 100% of the mentees from this pool.

The Board has also changed the calendar of the mentorship program. Starting in 2018 the program will be aligned with the calendar year, as opposed to the academic year. This will allow the mentorship program to capitalize on the enthusiasm both students and mentors show at the AMS Annual Meeting. Currently the Board collects names in January and then don't match those mentors and mentees until nearly 9 months later (to

coincide with the beginning of the academic year). The new calendar will be as follows:

- January: Collect names of mentors and mentees at the AMS Annual Meeting
- February: Announce mentor-mentee matches, and begin the program
- December: Mentorship program ends for the year

The mentor-mentee pairings will also last the full 11 months of the year; this will carry students through a full season of academic challenges (including the critical months leading up to and past graduation).

The [mentor signup form](#) is now open and will remain open permanently. The program is always in need of more mentors, and often each mentor who signs up is assigned two or three students to meet the demand. In an effort to capitalize on recent interest in the mentoring program, the Board will make it easier for interested mentors to sign up. ■

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE SOON!

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) is pleased to announce some impending opportunities for AMS student members in the weather, water, and climate sciences. We hope that promising young scientists will take advantage of these outstanding benefits! All student program information and applications will be available at the [AMS web site](#) within the [student resource pages](#). **Look out for availability of these programs in September! Questions?**

Contact [Donna Fernandez](#). ■

## VOTE NOW!

[Voting for the 2018 AMS President-Elect and Council is now open to all AMS full members](#) (full members include members, fellows, and honorary members). The elected leaders of AMS are charged with advancing AMS's goals in the areas of weather, water, and climate. We value and appreciate your vote. The deadline to vote is November 8, 2017. ■







## 98TH ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL CHAPTERS

### LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICERS' BREAKFAST

We would like to invite all local chapter officers to the chapter officers' breakfast meeting that will be held at the upcoming 98th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Austin, TX on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, from 7 to 8:30 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 2016-2017. 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 will once again be including a Town Hall meeting during the last 30 minutes of the breakfast. Winning chapters will have the opportunity to discuss what activities worked well for them over the past year, and meeting attendees interested in joining a local chapter will be invited to chat with chapter officers attending the breakfast. We ask that every chapter try to be represented. If officers will not be attending the Annual Meeting, please try and designate a member to act as the representative for the chapter. ■

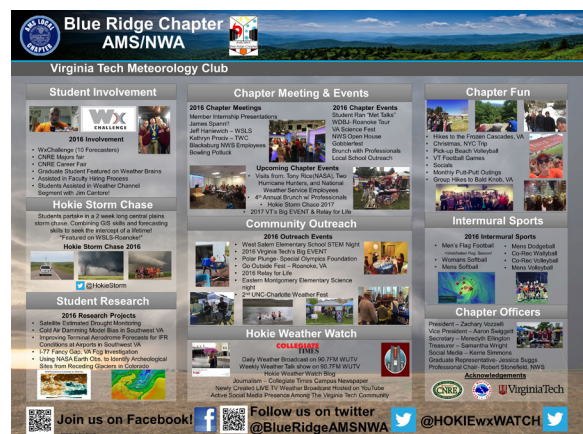
### CHAPTER POSTER DISPLAY

The poster display will be held in Hall 2-3 of the Austin 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 97th Annual Meeting online. The Local Chapter Affairs Committee created a guideline for the poster award competition as well as information on the poster judging processes on the [Chapter Awards site](#).

Chapter Poster setup is Monday, January 8th: 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM and tear down is by Wednesday, January 10th: 5:30 PM. If you would like to have your poster judged by the committee for the poster awards, please have it up by 11 am on Monday, January 8th. If you will be displaying a poster, please email a jpeg file of the final poster to [Kelly Savoie](#) by **December 29th** as photos of the chapter poster winners will be displayed on screen at the Chapter

Officers' Breakfast on Tuesday.

To register for the chapter breakfast and to reserve poster space, please email the following [form](#) to [Kelly Savoie](#) by **September 25th**. Forms are also available on the Chapter Poster [site](#). ■



### ANNUAL MEETING APP

We will continue to list chapters displaying posters on the AMS Web site and link the page to the Annual Meeting App under the Special Events icon. Links to each chapter's web site will be included. ■



## AMS STUDENT CONFERENCE INFORMATION

We are thrilled to announce the *2018 AMS Student Conference: Revamping the #conversation: How Communication Fuels our Profession*, to be held January 6–7, 2018 in Austin, TX in association with the 98th AMS Annual Meeting.

We encourage active AMS student members to [submit abstracts](#) about a wide range of topics. All accepted abstracts will be scheduled as poster presentations for the 17th Student Conference Poster Session during the evening of Sunday, January 7, 2018. The Poster Session is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their work to peers and potential collaborators. Presenters will also have the opportunity to participate in the 2018 Student Conference Poster Competition. Please view the [guidelines](#) for the student conference poster session and competition.

We welcome abstract submissions about student projects from across the atmospheric and related sciences, and we hope to accommodate all submitted abstracts at the Poster Session. Please submit your abstract electronically via the Web by **2 October 2017** and ensure you have applied for or renewed your AMS student membership prior to submitting your abstract. Authors of accepted presentations will be notified via e-mail by mid-November 2017. There is no abstract submission fee, but poster presenters will be required to register for the AMS Student Conference, which is separate from AMS Annual Meeting registration.

For additional information, please contact the program chairpersons: [Aryeh Drager](#), Colorado State University; [Stacey Hitchcock](#), Colorado State University; or [Erik Nielsen](#), Colorado State University. ■

The next newsletter will be published in November. 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 October 15th. To view prior newsletters, [click here](#).

<p><b>Local Chapter Mission</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Committee Leadership</b></p> <p>Wesley Rondinelli, Chair Sally Ricardi, Chair-Elect Kelly Savoie, AMS Liaison</p> <p><b>AMS Headquarters</b></p> <p>45 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108</p>	<p><b>Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC">@AMSLCAC</a></p>	<p><b>AMS Local Chapter Affairs</b></p> <p>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: <a href="mailto:amschaps@ametsoc.org">amschaps@ametsoc.org</a></p>
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