

The AMS Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting held a successful 29th Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting (WAF) and 25th Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction from 4-8 June 2018 at the Grand Hyatt hotel in downtown Denver, Colorado. We had over 260 attendees, with 209 oral presentations spread over 32 sessions as well as 55 posters presented during two joint poster sessions.

We also hosted four invited keynote speakers. These included AMS award winner Becky DePodwin of AccuWeather (AMS Award for Exceptional Specific Prediction) and WAF Committee award winner Dr. Curtis Alexander (WAF Committee Early Career Award). Dr. Pam Heinselman (NSSL) was invited to discuss the Warn-on-Forecast project, of which she is program manager, and Dr. Andrew Brown (ECMWF Director of Research) gave an update on ECMWF's operations on the recent occasion of the 20th anniversary of their implementation of 4D-Var. In addition, we continued our recent tradition of hosting a NOAA Model Development Forum, moderated by EMC director Hendrik Tolman, leading to lively discussions on the future of the NOAA modeling suite.

Beyond the scientific content, we held several networking events at the conference. The week began with a well-attended ice breaker reception on Monday evening. On Tuesday, a number of attendees came together for a women's dinner. Finally, the AMS Board for Early Career Professionals organized a happy hour on Wednesday evening which attracted numerous students and early career professionals in attendance.

Many students were in attendance, and as with all recent WAF/NWP meetings, we elected to dedicate a large portion of our AMS/STAC funding to support student presentation awards. With a special thanks to those who volunteered to judge presentations, the award winners are listed below:

29th WAF - Outstanding Student Oral Presentation

- [Jeremy Berman](#)
- [Nicholas Leonardo](#)
- [Christopher McCray](#)
- [Jacob Radford](#)

25th NWP - Outstanding Student Oral Presentation

- [Ryan Connelly](#)
- [Jonathan Thielen](#)

29th WAF/25th NWP - Outstanding Student Poster Presentation

- [Montgomery Flora](#)
- [Anthony Lyza](#)
- [Erik Nielsen](#)