

December STAC Newsletter

Election Results: Congratulations to Roger Wakimoto on his election to 2017 President- Elect and to the new Councilors. Details at: <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-election-information/> .

Severe Local Storms Conference Summary: The 28th conference on severe local storms was held at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower in Portland, OR from 7-11 November 2016. The conference was co-chaired by James Marquis (University of Colorado-Boulder and Center for Severe Weather Research) and Jana Houser (Ohio University). There were 348 total presentations, 183 of which were given during 4 poster sessions and 165 of which were given during 28 oral sessions, with a total registrant attendance of 318. Sessions spanned a variety of topics related to severe storms meteorology, including, among many others: climatologies of severe storm events and their environments, results from recent field projects, high-resolution simulations of severe storms, hail and microphysical studies of storms, convective-scale numerical forecasting techniques, and operational and societal responses to storms. The conference began with three invited presentations made by individuals representing physical science research, social science research, and forecasting operations. Each talk highlighted the current state of knowledge, recent successes, and areas where improvement is needed within the context of the topic being discussed. Emphasis was placed upon the need for cross-topic collaboration between experts in the three areas that were highlighted. A subsequent open panel discussion welcomed audience participation to deliberate over ideas of how to address some of the mentioned inadequacies of the current state of physical, social, and operational research. Additionally, the panel and audience discussed ideas for future multidisciplinary research that will improve overall national response to severe weather. Several events outside of the program facilitated professional and social networking among conference attendees, including a conference-wide ice breaker reception, a women's dinner-reception, a student luncheon, a networking event for early career professionals, and an evening presentation of several observational, modeling, and data assimilation research techniques often used in the severe storms community. There was a significant increase in the number of student participants from previous severe local storms conferences; the number of student-submitted abstracts was up approximately 30% from the 27th conference (106 total poster and oral abstracts). Student presentation winners were: 1st place oral - Jessica McDonald (St. Cloud State), 2nd place oral – Tomas Pucik (European Severe Storms Laboratory), 3rd Place oral – Sam Childs (Colorado State University); and 1st place poster – Brock Burghardt (Texas Tech University), 2nd place poster – Tristan Kading (University of Connecticut), and 3rd place poster – Anja Raedler (Munich Re). James Marquis, jmarquis@cswr.org and Jana Houser, houserj@ohio.edu .

2017 Annual Meeting: Details on the 17th Presidential Forum: Earth System Observations in Service to Society have been posted to our Web site along with a full listing of events and town hall meetings. <https://annual.ametsoc.org/2017/>. We are anticipating record attendance and for those that still need a hotel room, we are adding another hotel to our room block and will be posting the details to our travel page. Claudia Gorski, cgorski@ametsoc.org

Special Memo from the President: For a special memo from AMS President Fred Carr to all Presenters at the 2017 AMS Annual Meeting go to: <https://www.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/news-reports/monthly-stac-newsletter/memo-from-ams-president-fred-carr-to-all-presenters/> .

2018 Annual Meeting: Meghan Summers is working with the 2018 Annual Meeting program chairs on compiling the Call for Papers for the Austin Meeting. We will distribute the information during our 2018 Annual Meeting preplanning meeting that will be held on Thursday while in Seattle. All information will also be sent out to the program chairs in early 2017. Claudia Gorski, cgorski@ametsoc.org

New Membership: Melissa Weston is now updating the STAC membership with input the Commissioners have received from the Boards and Committees (B/Cs). The revised membership rosters will be posted in January on the individual (B/Cs) web pages. All B/Cs can now include new members approved by Commissioners in B/C functions, including the meetings at the AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle in January. David.Stensrud@psu.edu .

STAC Membership Responsibilities: The STAC membership responsibilities are summarized on the STAC web site at: <https://www.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-member-information/membership/> . This page has links to the chairs' and members' position descriptions and "Membership Guidelines and Processes." Now is a good time for chairs and members to review these documents as we move to a new operating year. If you have questions about these guidelines, contact one of the Commissioners or bring your questions to the STAC or B/C meetings in Seattle. David.Stensrud@psu.edu .

AMS Awards: Nominations for AMS Society awards are not due until May 1, 2017, but now is a good time to be thinking about deserving individuals and their nominations. The Annual Meeting in Seattle is a good place to build support for a nomination package and to line up individuals willing to write supporting letters. David.Stensrud@psu.edu .

Becoming an AMS Member: Membership in the AMS has many benefits, which area summarized at: <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/membership/ams-membership-benefits/> . If you or someone you know is not a member and they are planning on attending the Annual Meeting in Seattle, you/they should know that the registration price difference for members vs. nonmembers is the price of membership. So encourage all nonmembers you meet to become members of the AMS. David.Stensrud@psu.edu .

Reminders

Program Chair Planning Process for Specialty Meetings: On Sunday, 22 January from 10 to 11 AM, prior to the STAC Annual Meeting in Seattle, a brief overview will be given on the planning process for AMS Specialty Meetings (Conferences and Symposiums). The meeting will cover the steps from the initial planning and site selection process through the conference and will cover the roles of the program chair, program committee, and the AMS Staff. The agenda and meeting location will be provided in December. Claudia Gorski, cgorski@ametsoc.org .

STAC Annual Meeting: STAC will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, 22 January, in Seattle from 11 AM to 3 PM. Last year we started hosting this meeting on Sunday and in Seattle we will continue with Sunday for our big annual event as it proved to be an effective practice. It is **important** that **every Board and Committee** of STAC have at least one representative at the meeting to help us set the course for 2017. Note: it is fine if you have two representatives (especially your Vice or future Chair) as we have room available for them. Also, use this link <https://www.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/news-reports/stac-annual-meeting-summaries/agenda-for-stac-annual-meeting-seattle-jan-22-2017/> to view our preliminary agenda for the meeting. We still welcome your input for any topics other you would like to have included. Please share your ideas with us! David.Stensrud@psu.edu .

Upcoming Meetings: <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/meetings-events/> .