

## October STAC Newsletter

**Dr. Gene Fisher as Future STAC Commissioner:** Please join us in welcoming Dr. Gene Fisher as the next In-coming STAC Commissioner. Gene is the Executive Officer for the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NWS). She is responsible for a broad spectrum of scientific, financial, and administrative activities for NCEP's nine centers which provide national and global operational weather, water, climate, and space weather products and services. In the NCEP Office of the Director, Dr. Fisher oversees strategic planning, financial management, personnel management, policy, and interagency and international issues. Gene received a PhD in Atmospheric and Space Science and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan and has a B.A. in Planetary and Space Sciences from Boston University. She helped create the AMS Committee on Space Weather, has served as co-chair of the Space Weather Conference, and led the writing of policy statements during her time on the committee. Gene is an excellent choice for Future STAC Commissioner and we are delighted that she is joining the STAC team! Her term officially begins in January 2017.

**Update to STAC Responsibilities:** The Commissioners decided that the responsibilities of STAC as defined in the AMS Organizational Procedures need to be updated, so we approached AMS Council during the fall meeting to get their input. The resulting discussions indicated that the Council is in favor of altering the STAC responsibilities to more accurately represent the current duties of the Commission. The draft proposed text is as follows:

To be responsible to the Council for advancing science and technology by promoting the open exchange of ideas, strengthening our disciplinary communities, enhancing collaboration and creating bridges across these communities, embracing diversity, celebrating and fostering excellence, and cultivating the next generation of scientists and leaders. STAC will also assess the progress of research and operations and inform the Council where support seems needed and of cases where important projects are in jeopardy for lack of funds; to receive input from the scientific and technological activities Committees and Boards and highlight those items on which the Council should take action and to transmit these to the Council with its recommendations; to recommend to the Council the establishment of new Committees and Boards or the dissolution of those no longer serving a useful purpose; to establish and review the terms of reference of the Committees and Boards.

The remainder of the STAC responsibilities would remain unchanged, and focus on the awards that STAC oversees and committee activities, which were updated last year. Dave Stensrud, [djs78@psu.edu](mailto:djs78@psu.edu).

**100th Anniversary of the AMS:** The AMS Centennial Committee is busy planning activities associated with the 100th anniversary of the AMS. They are focusing on five broad activities: celebration activities, legacy initiatives, institutional transformation, reaching beyond, and cross-cutting. The 2020 AMS Annual Meeting will be held in Boston to put an exclamation point on the anniversary and the event should be very memorable. STAC Boards and Committees are encouraged to think about participating in the 2020 Annual Meeting. Dave Stensrud, [djs78@psu.edu](mailto:djs78@psu.edu)

**Researcher Involvement Committee:** The AMS formed this committee last year to gain a better understanding of how researchers view AMS conferences and the Annual Meeting. This led to a lot of discussion at the fall Council meeting about how to emphasize the importance of research at the Annual Meeting and provide flexibility to conference planners for meeting structure and activities. STAC should begin to see some changes at the 2017 and 2018 Annual Meetings, with more in the works. Research will be emphasized more strongly in meeting communications, there will be increased ability for grassroots session proposals put into place, and AMS will experiment with the meeting structure. Last, the idea that meetings should be fun was discussed and strongly endorsed. This last part is important for all to think about – in addition to sharing great science, how can we make our meetings fun and memorable? This usually means networking and social events that get people together to talk in a location away from the conference venue. Dave Stensrud, [djs78@psu.edu](mailto:djs78@psu.edu)

**97th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting Programs:** The conference and symposium programs for the Annual Meeting to be held in Seattle for 22-26 January are now posted at: <https://ams.confex.com/ams/97Annual/webprogram/>. Please remember to pass along your Session Chair listing to your lead meeting planner by **14 October** as well as your Program Chair Funding form if needed. Final edits to the program must be in place by **1 November** for them to be reflected in the final program that is distributed on-site. The final preplanning conference call will be held in mid-November, program chairs will be notified soon with the details. Claudia Gorski, [cgorski@ametsoc.org](mailto:cgorski@ametsoc.org).

**STAC Annual Meeting:** STAC will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, 22 January, in Seattle from 11 AM to 3 PM. Also, just before we meet (10 to 11 AM), Claudia Gorski will provide an overview for all who are conference program chairs (or those who would like to be). Last year we started hosting this meeting on Sunday and will continue what 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. Also, we are developing the agenda for the meeting and seek your input for any topics you would like to have included. Please share your ideas with us! Dave Stensrud, [djs78@psu.edu](mailto:djs78@psu.edu).

**Board and Committee Meetings:** Several Boards and Committees hold meetings during the week of the Annual Meeting. If your board or committee has not reserved a room for your meeting, the deadline is **1 December**. Go to this link and fill out the Meeting Room Request Application: <https://ams.confex.com/ams/E2017/nontech/sessions/index.cgi>. Melissa Weston, [mweston@ametsoc.org](mailto:mweston@ametsoc.org).

**Student Travel Grants and the Student Assistant Program:** Student Annual Meeting travel grants and the Student Assistant Program applications are due **14 October**. Go to <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/information-for/students/> for additional information. Donna Fernandez, [dfernandez@ametsoc.org](mailto:dfernandez@ametsoc.org).

**AMS Elections:** Voting for the 2017 AMS President-Elect (President in 2018) and Council is open to all AMS full members. The Society values everyone's vote. The deadline to vote is **22 November**. Go to: <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-election-information/>.

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