

**AMS Scientific and Technological Activities Commission  
Semiannual Report for the Council  
Ward Seguin, Commissioner  
August 20, 2014**

Summary

The STAC Semiannual Report provides a brief summary of routine responsibilities as well as new initiatives. For routine responsibilities, the report includes information on named sessions and symposiums, conference and symposium sponsorship and support, meeting funding requests, support for AMS Statements and the Glossary of Meteorology. The report includes new activities: a monthly newsletter, five year plans, STAC guidelines for the review of Society awards, and the restructuring of the web site.

The following is a report of STAC activities for January-August 2014.

### **STAC Web Page Updates**

Building on the great work of Mary Cairns and Brian Mardirosian of a couple years ago, we have slightly restructured the STAC web site and added new content, <http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/>. The objective is to continue to keep STAC members informed on STAC and Society activities and increase its utility. We want STAC members to use the web site as a starting point for Society information needed for awards; membership; and conferences, symposiums, and meetings.

### **Newsletter**

A STAC Newsletter is being prepared monthly to keep STAC members better informed on what's happening and what's planned. Recent specialty conference sessions and events are summarized and upcoming activities hosted by the Boards and Committees (B/Cs), other Commissions, and by AMS offices are publicized. (<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/news-reports/monthly-stac-newsletter/> )

### **Five year plans**

STAC B/Cs are preparing five year plans this year. The plans are intended to facilitate communication and coordination between the Commissioners, AMS staff, and the B/Cs; and to encourage B/Cs to broaden their activities beyond just sponsoring symposiums and conferences. To date, twenty-one of the thirty-six B/Cs have prepared plans. B/Cs can format their plans by year or function. The most repeated feedback from chairs, who have prepared these plans, has been -- they wish the plans had been in place to inform them of their responsibilities when they became chairs.

### **Society Awards review TORs**

STAC terms of reference (TORs) or guidelines were prepared for Society awards. STAC is responsible for reviewing: The Charles L. Mitchell Award, The Award for an Exceptional Specific Prediction, The Francis W. Reichelderfer Award, The Helmut E. Landsberg Award, The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology, and the three Lecturer Awards. The purpose of these TORs is to provide award committee chairs and members with centralized guidelines and instructions for these reviews. (<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-member-information/awards/> )

## **Named Sessions and Symposiums**

The Severe Local Storms Conference is scheduled for November 3-7, 2011, in Madison Wisconsin. The organizers will host a named session for Tim Samaras, Carl Young and Paul Samaras, who were killed while deploying instrumentation in the path of a tornado near El Reno, Oklahoma during the evening of May 31, 2013. They are being honored for their revolutionary work in the area of in-situ observations. The Executive Committee approved this named session on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee on Climate Variability and Change submitted a named session request for its specialty meeting scheduled for Phoenix in January 2015. The named session is to honor Eugene Rasmusson and Klaus Wyrtki and cover ENSO Tropical-Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions, and Global Impacts: 20 Years after TOGA. This named session was approved on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

A named session for Peter Lamb was submitted for the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Variability and Change with the 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Societal Applications: Policy, Research and Practice. This session is also planned for January 2015. This session was approved on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

The organizers of the 20th Conference on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics submitted a named session request to honor Peter B. Rhines for his groundbreaking theories on the large-scale circulation, jets, waves and eddies. This conference will be held in Minneapolis, June 15-19, 2015. This session was approved on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

One other named session and two named symposiums have been submitted for approval.

## **Conference and Symposium Sponsorships and Support**

The Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones has agreed to serve as the permanent sponsor for Symposiums on Prediction of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO): Processes, Prediction and Impact. Organizers of the MJO are now working with Pat Harr, chair of the Committee. The 3<sup>rd</sup> MJO Symposium will be held during the week of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

On a trip to India recently, Bill Gail invited Vinod K. Gaur to put together an all-day session on Thursday at the AMS Annual Meeting focused on Prediction Challenges of the South Asian Monsoon. IMD/IMS through their Head Dr. Shailesh Nayak will design the academic content of a full day session on this topic allowing for a mix of invited as well as submitted talks in consultation with the AMS. Arrangements have been made for the Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones to co-chair this all day session.

A new conference on High Performance Computing was proposed by Brian Etherton of NOAA, and is scheduled for the week of the 2015 Annual Meeting. This conference will be sponsored by the Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies (BEIPT). In addition, Bill Gail was approached by Peter Neilley, of The Weather Channel Companies, to consider initiating a conference on software engineering. Woody Roberts, chair of BEIPT, and Peter Neilley are now discussing a possible software engineering session during the 2015 EIPT conference and the possibility of a new, separate conference in 2016.

In April the STAC Commissioner worked with Andrew Molthan of Bill Gail's Annual Meeting planning committee to identify Boards and Committees willing to participate in Bill's Core Science Keynote talks. To date, 13 B/C conferences have signed up to provide these talks at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

- 31st Conference on EIPT
- 27th Conference on Climate Variability and Change
- 20th Conference on Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography
- 19th Conference on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for the Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface (IOAS-AOLS)
- 18th Conference on Middle Atmosphere
- 17th Conference on Atmospheric Chemistry
- 12th Conference on Space Weather
- 10th Symposium on Societal Applications: Policy, Research, and Practice
- 7th Conference on the Meteorological Application of Lightning Data
- 6th Conference on Environment and Health
- 5th Symposium on Advances in Modeling and Analysis Using Python
- 19th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction
- 29th Conference on Hydrology

### **Meeting Fundings Requests**

Thirty-four conference/symposium funding requests have been approved so far this year. These support student best paper awards, travel assistance, registration and abstract fee assistance for conferences held or scheduled for 2014 and 2015. The full list of these approved requests will be included in the fall STAC annual report.

### **Statements**

The Executive Committee recently provided comments on the updated Statement Guidelines being prepared by a committee led by Incoming-STAC Commissioner, David Stensrud. Bill Gail has asked the committee to provide a revised version of the Statements Guidelines for Council review and approval in September.

### **Glossary of Meteorology**

STAC members continue to provide Mary Cairns, Chief Editor of the *Glossary*, with new and update term definitions upon requests. So far this year, 13 reviews were completed and incorporated into the *Glossary* to date with a dozen more in progress.