

# Biographies: AMS Student Conference Planning Committee Members

14th Annual AMS Student Conference

Shaping Your Future in Weather, Water, and Climate

January 3–4, 2015

Phoenix, AZ

Kelsey Mulder,  
Co-Chair



Kelsey Mulder graduated from the University of Oklahoma with her B.S. in Meteorology in 2010 with minors in Sociology and Mathematics. She then got her Master's in Geography at East Carolina University where she was a research assistant for Dr. Burrell Montz studying emergency management in North Carolina. Her thesis was based on risk perceptions of flash flooding in Boulder, Colorado. Currently, Kelsey is in the third and final year of her PhD in Atmospheric Science at the University of Manchester in the UK. She is conducting a climatology of tornadoes in the British Isles, sidelining in tornado reporting issues worldwide, and studying tornadogenesis in squall lines.

Kelsey has previously worked for the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in Norman, Oklahoma on the Severe Hazards Analysis and Verification Experiment (SHAVE) and was a student worker at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Societal Impacts Program (SIP). Kelsey's interest are in societal impacts of hazards, low CAPE, high shear environments for tornadoes, and global tornado climatologies. When she's not in the office, Kelsey can be found biking, hiking, running, swimming, riding horses (and competing too!), baking on rainy days, and exploring Europe!

Rosimar Rios-Berrios,  
Co-Chair



Rosimar Rios-Berrios is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at the University at Albany, SUNY. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Theoretical Physics and a curricular sequence in Atmospheric Science and Meteorology from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagez (UPRM).

Rosimar grew up on the tropical island of Puerto Rico, where she experienced the effects of various tropical cyclones that wreaked havoc the island. Those experiences flooded her mind with many questions and inspired her to pursue a scientific career in meteorology. During her undergraduate years, she had various research experiences studying different aspects of tropical cyclones. These experiences included a summer internship at the NOAA Hurricane Research Division sponsored by the NOAA Educational Partnership Program, and a summer internship at the National Center for Atmospheric Research under the auspices of the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program. As a graduate student, Rosimar is interested in using ensemble forecasting techniques to investigate the dynamics of tropical cyclones in moderately sheared environments. She was a recipient of the 2012/2013 AMS Graduate Fellowship, and is currently funded by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Rosimar served as the President of UPRM's AMS Student Chapter for two consequent years before joining the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. This is Rosimar's fifth year as a member and second year as a Co-Chair of said committee. Besides studying hurricanes and working with the AMS, Rosimar loves traveling, dancing, hiking, exercising, reading fiction books and experiencing real seasons.

Daniel Rothenberg,  
Co-Chair



Daniel Rothenberg is fourth-year graduate student and doctoral candidate in the Program in Atmospheres, Oceans, and Climate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA. Because MIT loves acronyms and interdisciplinary stuff, he also enjoys participating in the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change in the MIT Center for Global Change Science and in the Center for Environmental Sensing and Modeling at the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology.

Hailing from Louisville, KY (weather pun!), Daniel grew up fascinated by the weather. After volunteering at the local WFO in high school, he pursued a Bachelor's of Science in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University, which he completed in 2011 *magna cum laude*. While at Cornell, he worked with Dr. Natalie Mahowald, and earned the 2011 AMS Father James B. MacElwane award for his undergraduate thesis on volcano impacts on climate and biogeochemistry. After a short stint working with Google and the NCDC on improving the pairwise homogenization algorithm used to quality control the USHCN temperature record, he began his graduate tenure funded by an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship under Dr. Chien Wang at MIT, focusing on modeling aerosol-cloud-climate interactions.

Beyond pure science, Daniel is strongly involved in science policy work through the MIT Science Policy Initiative. In 2014 he participated in the AMS Summer Policy Colloquium to further this activity. When not in his office writing high-performance Python code or meeting with congressional staff on Capitol Hill, Daniel is also active in the Cambridge innovation scene, offering collaboration and advice to start-ups looking to dive into meteorology or other environmental topics. At the end of the day, he enjoys performing classical violin with ensembles at Harvard, MIT and BU, skiing, and drinking lots of coffee. In addition to being a 5-year veteran of the Student Conference Planning Committee, Daniel also chaired and organized the 2013 Graduate Climate Conference at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Dr. Thomas Guinn,  
Faculty Co-Chair



Dr. Tom Guinn is an Associate Professor and the Program Coordinator for both the Meteorology and Operational Meteorology Programs at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Prior to coming to ERAU in 2008, he served as a weather officer in the United States Air Force for over 22 years.

He was born and raised in the small town of Armstrong, IA located in the north-central region of the state. After graduating high school he attended Iowa State University (ISU) for his B.S. in Meteorology (1985). While working toward his degree at ISU, he also received an Air Force ROTC scholarship, through which he earned his commission in 1985. During his time in the Air Force, Dr. Guinn attended Colorado State University for his M.S. (1989) and Ph.D. (1992) in Atmospheric Science through the Air Force Institute of Technology program. In 1995 he was awarded the AMS "Banner I .Miller" Award for work stemming from his dissertation on hurricane spiral bands.

Dr. Guinn's current academic and research interests include both aviation meteorology, aviation meteorology education, and tropical storm dynamics. In addition, he has taught a variety of courses including: Survey of Meteorology, Aviation Weather, Synoptic Meteorology, Advanced Weather Analysis, Dynamics of the Atmosphere, and a graduate course in Advanced Aviation Meteorology. In his free time Dr. Guinn enjoys experiencing aviation weather first hand as a private pilot.

Joshua Alland



Josh recently finished his first year as a graduate student at the University at Albany, SUNY under a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. He researches TC intensification processes and recently served as a forecaster in the HS3 field campaign.

Josh is originally from Minnesota but became interested in TC research after witnessing firsthand the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He had the opportunity to intern at the Hurricane Research Division (HRD) under NOAA's Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, where he examined the influence of the height and depth of a TC's warm core on its intensity. He continued working with HRD scientists for his senior thesis, in which he compared observed and HWRF data during the rapid intensification of Hurricane Earl (2010). Josh also completed a separate project, in which he compared the genesis and intensification of African Easterly Waves that travel north and south of the African Easterly Jet.

Josh graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Meteorology from Iowa State University. He was an active member of the Iowa State Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. He served as Academic Chair his junior year and President his senior year, during which years the local chapter was awarded the AMS Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year. He increased the variety of professional development to members, an example being bringing over 30 members to the 2013 AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. He also organized new and innovative outreach activities, such as pushing to make mobile home parks better prepared for severe weather, urging school districts around the community to become StormReady, and tutoring young scholars for Science Olympiad. In his spare time, Josh loves to play tennis, support Serena Williams and Roger Federer when they are on the tennis court, participate in events to help the community, spend time with family and friends, and relax on the beach (if there is one nearby). Josh is very excited to help as co-chair in training on the Student Conference Planning Committee!

Kristy Carter



Kristy is a first year Masters student in Geography at the University of South Carolina. She is studying snowfall climatologies and avalanches under Professor Cary Mock, a prominent member of the American Avalanche Association.

Kristy is originally from the Sunflower State (Kansas) but graduated with her BS in Meteorology and a minor in Music Performance from Iowa State University in May 2013. She spent the 2013-2014 school year working as a program instructor for an outdoor education center in New York teaching meteorology and other environmentally related courses as well as outdoor sports like rock climbing and canoeing. While at Iowa State, Kristy was very involved with the Iowa State Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society having served as the Outreach Chair, Treasurer, and Vice President. Kristy is also a member of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee and is excited for another great year as part of the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee!

Academically, Kristy spent much of her undergraduate career working on a research project looking at the influence nocturnal low level jets have on wind energy. Only recently did Kristy wrap up this project with the sending of the write-up to be reviewed. Kristy was also a 2011 Hollings Scholar and as a change of pace from her other undergraduate research, decided to complete her internship with the National Weather Service in Anchorage, AK. Her project analyzed significant snowfall events in Prince William Sound, AK. This project was continued for her senior thesis during the Fall of 2012 and is the inspiration for her graduate study pursuits. In her free time, Kristy is most likely playing her french horn, running, rock climbing, or on an outdoor adventure.

Ángel F. Adames



Ángel is a fourth-fifth year PhD student in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington (UW). His graduate work is mostly focused in the understanding of the structure and propagation of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), through the use of large datasets and employing analysis techniques. He currently works under the supervision of John M. Wallace under an NSF graduate research fellowship. He was briefly involved in the field campaign DYNAMO as part of an NSF travel fellowship.

He has been involved in several extracurricular activities in his stay in Seattle. He is currently outreach co-coordinator of his department, is student representative of the College of the Environment's diversity committee, is historian in SACNAS and is actively involved in UW's AMS chapter working as recruitment chair.

He obtained a B.S. in physics at the University of Puerto Rico- Mayagez (UPRM) in 2010. There he was an active member of the "Sociedad Meteorológica de PR (SMPR)", UPRM's local chapter of the AMS, gave weekly radio weather briefings and was active in summer and university research programs.

In his free time Ángel likes to do long-distance biking, completing the Seattle-to-Portland and Seattle-to-Vancouver, BC bike rides in the last two years. He also practices running, weight training and enjoys hiking. In his stay in Seattle he's also learned to ski (and loves it!). In his leisure time he also likes to drink coffee and watch soccer games.



Kevin Biernat



Kevin is a first-year graduate student in the Atmospheric Sciences Doctoral Program at the University at Albany, SUNY. Currently under an AMS Graduate Fellowship, Kevin has begun working under the advisement of Drs. Lance Bosart and Daniel Keyser on research involving the interactions of tropopause polar vortices with the North Atlantic Jet and resulting downstream developments of extreme weather events. Kevin plans on obtaining both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences while at SUNY Albany.

Kevin grew up in the Metropolitan Detroit area in Michigan and began his undergraduate education at the University of Detroit Mercy. He then transferred to Central Michigan University (CMU) to fulfill his dream of studying meteorology. He had a rewarding experience in the meteorology program at CMU. During June 2012, he attended the NCAR Undergraduate Leadership Workshop, which gave him the initial drive to peruse atmospheric research and attend graduate school. Throughout his junior year, Kevin worked with Dr. Leigh Orf at CMU to research the impact of elevated dry layers on wet microburst formation and strength. As a recipient of the 2012 NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship, he then completed an internship during the summer of 2013 at the National Weather Service office in Huntsville, AL. There, he created a climatology of tornadoes impacting the Huntsville, AL county warning and forecast area, sorted by numerous synoptic and mesoscale parameters and parent-storm convective mode. Aside from research, he was very active in the Student Chapter of the AMS (SCAMS) at CMU. After serving for a year as the conference committee chair of SCAMS, he served as President of SCAMS at CMU during 2013. During his senior year, he enjoyed working as a meteorology lab assistant and tutor for the program. Kevin graduated CMU in May 2014 Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science in Meteorology and minors in Geographic Information Sciences and Mathematics.

Kevin is excited to be a member of the AMS Student Conference planning committee, and looks forward to continue serving in years to come. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys traveling to new places, sightseeing, and hiking, as well as simply watching a new movie, a TV show, or a good hockey game, preferably involving a Detroit Red Wings victory!

Jennifer DeHart



Jennifer is a fifth year graduate student at the University of Washington in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 2010 with a B.S.E. in Earth Systems Science and Engineering (concentration: meteorology) and a minor in Art History. Her research interests involve tropical cyclone structure, particularly in the presence of environmental shear and orographic influences. She is the former graduate co-president of the UW AMS chapter and participated in the UofM chapter in undergrad. She also volunteers with UW's Atmospheric Sciences Outreach program.

During the past few years, she has been able to participate in several field campaigns, such as assisting the Texas Tech team during VORTEX2 in 2010 and serving as a forecaster for NASA's HS3 campaign in Wallops, VA from 2012-2014. She also participated in her first science flight as a member of NASA's Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) in 2010.

In her free time, Jennifer enjoys watching sports (college football especially – go blue!), attempting to play soccer, hiking, skiing, dog/cat sitting for her friends, and complaining about the lack of convection in Seattle. This is her second year on the planning committee.

Aryeh Drager



Aryeh Drager is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University (CSU), where he works under Prof. Sue van den Heever on topics relating to tropical convection and tropical cyclones.

Aryeh grew up in Peekskill, NY and West Hartford, CT, and he completed his undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. As an undergraduate, Aryeh completed two summer research internships, one at the Hurricane Research Division (HRD) in Miami, FL through the NOAA Hollings Scholarship program and one at CSU through the CMMAP Summer Internship program. At HRD, he worked under Dr. Paul Reasor investigating how simulated hurricanes responded to large increases in large-scale vertical wind shear within the experimental version of the Hurricane Weather Research and Forecasting (HWRF) model that was in development at HRD. During his summer internship at CSU, Aryeh worked under Matthew Igel and Prof. Sue van den Heever using CloudSat data to investigate the relationship between sea-surface temperature and the morphology of deep convection over tropical oceans.

In addition to atmospheric science, Aryeh is keenly interested in science education, and during his final term at Dartmouth, he completed an honors thesis project investigating the use of supplemental web-based video lectures in introductory physics classes. In the fall of 2012, Aryeh graduated from Dartmouth College magna cum laude with a B.A. in Engineering Physics and a minor in Applied Mathematics. He then spent some time working as a teaching assistant at Dartmouth before starting at CSU in summer 2013.

As a student at CSU, Aryeh has been supported through an AMS Graduate Fellowship and an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. His current research uses numerical models to investigate processes such as the release of symmetric instability and the development of convective cold pools. Away from his desk, he enjoys participating in science outreach activities (see photo), creating masterful pieces of art with sophisticated media such as Crayola crayons, and gazing at the Colorado skies' stunning cloud formations. After two years' attendance at the AMS Student Conference, Aryeh is in his first year serving on the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. Please feel free to contact him; he can be reached at [first\\_name@atmos.colostate.edu](mailto:first_name@atmos.colostate.edu).

Dan Halperin



Dan Halperin graduated with a B.S. in Applied Meteorology and minor in Mathematics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in 2009. He received an M.S. in Meteorology from Florida State University (FSU) in 2012, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at FSU.

Dan's research involves evaluating tropical cyclone (TC) genesis forecasts from global numerical models. Using those historical forecasts, he is developing a statistical model that provides real-time TC genesis probabilities based on global model forecasts. The goal is for the statistical model to become a useful guidance tool for operational forecasters.

Dan was an active member and previous president of the local AMS chapter at ERAU. While at FSU, Dan had the opportunity to participate in NASA's Genesis and Rapid Intensification Processes field campaign and flew on board a research flight into Hurricane Earl. Currently, he is working on his dissertation and plans to graduate in the Spring of 2015. In his spare time, Dan enjoys kayaking, paddleboarding, and trying to learn how to play the piano.

Aaron Hill



Aaron is a second year graduate student at Texas Tech University in the Atmospheric Science Group, working under Drs. Christopher Weiss and Brian Ancell. He graduated in 2012 from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Atmospheric Science and an emphasis in meteorology. His research interests primarily involve improved predictability of dryline convective initiation through mesoscale data assimilation and utilizing the TRMM satellite for improved flood prediction in remote areas of the world.

Aaron first became interested in scientific research after attending the 2011 AMS Student Conference in Seattle, WA. He joined Robert Houze's group as an undergraduate student and quickly learned that research was what he wanted to pursue. Furthermore, he has enjoyed experiences as an intern for the ABC News affiliate in Seattle, WA and at the Oxnard, CA NWS forecast office, investigating HRRR model biases along the coast. He enjoys field work with the Severe Storm and Hurricane Research teams at Texas Tech, particularly when it concerns beautiful supercell thunderstorms. Outside of research, Aaron has served as AMS Student Chapter President for chapters at Washington and last year at Texas Tech, currently serving as secretary for his local chapter. He is a principal planner for Lubbock's annual Severe Weather Awareness Day, a community event to showcase the importance of severe weather awareness through various emergency management booths and hands on experiments put on by the Texas Tech AMS Student chapter. Additionally, he loves forecasting and recently took on the challenge of managing the Texas Tech WxChallenge team, bringing a record number of students onto the team for the competition.

In his spare time, Aaron plays for the Blue Northers softball team, a combination of Texas Tech Atmo. students and NWS employees. He enjoys a good craft beer, watching football, golfing, and hiking in the Caprock Escarpment east of Lubbock (when it's not blazing hot). This is his first year involved with the planning committee and he is looking forward to a successful conference!

Stacey Hitchcock



Stacey Hitchcock is wrapping up her M.S. at the University of Oklahoma and is excited to begin her PhD at Colorado State University in the Spring of 2015. This is her third year on the Student Conference Planning Committee. While she is interested in a wide variety of meteorological topics from ice storms to social science, she just completed work with the National Severe Storms Laboratory on the Mesoscale Predictability Experiment (MPEX) with her advisor, Michael Coniglio. At CSU she will be working on a project related to the PECAN field experiment, numerical weather prediction and data assimilation. She was awarded an American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowship in 2012 after graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors from the University of Oklahoma's School of Meteorology program with minors in Math and Geographic Information Systems.

During her undergraduate, she gained research experience through the National Weather Center Research Experience for Undergraduates program and the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship program. She spent the summer of 2010 working at the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma on a project entitled Updraft Helicity as a Forecast Parameter, and the summer of 2011 working in Boulder, Colorado at the Earth System Research Laboratory on a Climate Change outreach project. During the summer of 2012, Stacey participated in the Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry (DC3) field project as a part of the ballooning team, and worked on a short research project on Tropical Cyclones in New Zealand.

As an Undergraduate, Stacey was heavily involved in several student groups. She served as the coordinator and co-coordinator of the School of Meteorology's Freshman Mentoring Program for three years, the president of the OU Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (SCAMS) during her senior year, and as an officer on the Student Affairs Committee for two years. Stacey also spent 5 months in the University of Reading's Meteorology department in Reading, England during her study abroad experience. Stacey is passionate about meteorology as a whole, and eventually would love to teach meteorology at a University while still pursuing her research interests. When she isn't involved with meteorology, Stacey enjoys performing with the University of Oklahoma's Steel Drum band, playing tennis and ultimate frisbee, running, cooking, and traveling.

Carl Jones



Carl Jones graduated from Florida State University in 2012 with a B.S. in Meteorology. As of October 2014, he is a forecast meteorologist for Iteris, Inc., providing real-time decision support for various state D.O.T.'s around the nation. He has also contracted as a meteorologist for Riskpulse, Inc., performing such tasks as conducting general weekly weather outlooks for the contiguous United States, providing precipitation probabilities for the San Francisco metro area, and supplying seasonal outlooks like the 2014 Tropical Season Outlook for the Atlantic basin. Other contracting work includes being meteorologist for the Florida Country Music Superfest responsible for over 80,000 attendees. Carl's past experience includes volunteering at the National Weather Service in Jacksonville from 2013 - 2014. There he assisted in researching the role of storm relative inflow and outflow on different shear/CAPE environments. Carl also led in the acquisition of new operational satellite products to NWS JAX. In addition, he performed in outreach programs such as leading presentations on lightning safety with respect to athletics as well as educational videos for NWS JAX social media websites. During his time at Florida State University, Carl was an active member in the North Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society/National Weather Association from 2010 - 2013. His main interests lie in operational and satellite meteorology. Carl maintains a weather blog writing on unique weather events in the North Florida area ([www.northflwx.wordpress.com](http://www.northflwx.wordpress.com)). Besides meteorology, he spends his time playing bass, cooking, fishing, and of course watching the Florida State Seminoles.

Ryan Kramer



Ryan Kramer is a second year graduate student at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science working towards his PhD in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography. His research focuses on understanding the response of the global hydrological cycle to climate change. In 2013, he received his B.S. in Meteorology with honors at Penn State University. He previously served as the president of the Penn State Branch of the American Meteorological Society and the Penn State Chapter of the National Weather Association. Additionally, as an undergraduate Ryan was a research intern at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Biospheric Science Branch and completed a NOAA Hollings internship at the Charleston, SC National Weather Service forecasting office.

This is Ryan's second year as a member of the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. He looks forward to contributing new ideas to help organize an engaging and informative conference for attendees.



Alex Krautmann



Alek Krautmann is a Research Associate with the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP), which is a NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program, at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey in Norman, OK. His work has most recently involved preparing a series of climate workshops for environmental professionals at Oklahoma and Texas Native American tribes. In 2012 Alek earned his M.S. from Ohio University, where he served as Associate Director of Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis and completed thesis research investigating summer heat waves in the Midwest. At Ohio University he taught two undergraduate meteorology labs, assisted the senior synoptic course, coordinated student outreach and was recognized by the school as one of the Outstanding Graduate Student Leaders. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2010 with a B.S. in Meteorology and minor in mathematics. While at the University of Oklahoma he was active in the AMS student chapter, Oklahoma Weather Lab, volunteered as a National Weather Center tour guide, and participated in a study abroad to Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. During the summer of 2009 Alek worked at the Charleston, SC NWS office through the NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program and completed an upper-air climatology for the office. Due to interests in government and public policy, he attended the 2011 AMS Summer Policy Colloquium in Washington DC and 2014 Climate Science Day on the Hill. He is originally from St. Louis, MO and enjoys swimming, hiking, traveling, and following Cardinals baseball. This year will be Alek's sixth AMS Student Conference and fifth on the committee. Feel free to email him at [alek.krautmann@gmail.com](mailto:alek.krautmann@gmail.com).

Matthew Lauridsen



Matthew Lauridsen is a graduate student in atmospheric science at Texas Tech University, where he works with Dr. Brian Ancell. He graduated with a B.S. in Meteorology from Iowa State University in 2013. While at Iowa State, Matthew was a member of the Iowa State Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, and served as Webmaster for both the AMS chapter and Iowa State's Wind Science program.

Matthew's research interests involve the interactions between wind turbines and the atmosphere, and he is currently researching atmospheric perturbations caused by wind turbine arrays via the wind farm parameterization in WRF. His curiosity in the connections between wind energy and meteorology was initially spurred by the development of wind turbines on a family farm in Iowa. That interest eventually led him to participate in the Wind Energy Science, Engineering, and Policy (WESEP) REU at Iowa State University, where Matthew analyzed the impact of a turbine wake on surface temperature, stability, and dew duration. During his free time Matthew enjoys biking, hiking, cooking, and watching ISU and TTU sports. This is his first year on the planning committee.

Holly Lussenden



Holly is a first year PhD student in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences program at Mississippi State University. She will conduct social science research involving effective communication of weather hazards and response to hazards.

Originally from Minnesota, Holly grew up watching all types of weather, from blizzards to tornadoes, which sparked an interest in Meteorology. This led her to pursue a degree in Meteorology/Climatology (with a math minor) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating in 2012. While there, Holly interned at the High Plains Regional Climate Center and got hands-on experience working with all types of people from professional climatologists needing technical support, to children at outreach events, to farmers looking for climatic data. She also got to lead a project that created a wind chill climatology for the High Plains regions. Towards the end of her time at Nebraska, she was looking for what her next steps should be and found societal impacts in meteorology, which quickly became her passion within the Atmospheric Sciences community.

This passion led her to East Carolina University to pursue a master's degree in Geography under Dr. Burrell Montz. Holly's thesis was titled "Geographic Differences in Emergency Management Decision-Making: A Case Study of Severe Weather in the Midwest." She worked with emergency managers to understand the ways in which that community is influenced and how they make decisions during severe weather, specifically with regards to tornadoes. Also while at ECU, Holly and friends, Chris Zarzar and Robbie Munroe, founded a local AMS chapter and conducted (and still are conducting!) research on the use of emergency manager's social media pages during Superstorm Sandy. In her spare time, Holly LOVES to travel (anywhere!) and explore new places, play tennis, go hiking, go to the beach or lake, and watch Husker/Pirate/Bulldog football.

Peter Marinescu



Peter Marinescu is a second-year graduate student at the Department of Atmospheric Science at the Colorado State University. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Applied Economics from Cornell University.

After working as a financial analyst in New York City for three years, Peter decided to pursue his true passion for atmospheric science. He went back to school, taking post-baccalaureate classes at Stony Brook University, SUNY. After completing internships at Colorado State University's CHILL Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) and NASA's DEVELOP program at Langley Research Center, he realized he would like a research career and applied for graduate education.

Having always been interested in clouds, his current research focuses on studying how aerosol particles, such as dust or smoke particles, impact the microphysics and dynamics of convective cloud systems. Peter is active in many of the student groups at Colorado State University,, including the local chapters of the AMS and American Association of Aerosol Research (AAAR). This is Peter's third time attending the AMS Student Conference and his first year on AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. Outside the world of atmospheric science, Peter enjoys hiking, snowboarding, and playing most sports, especially tennis and soccer.

Annareli Morales



Annareli is a first year Ph.D. student in Dr. Derek Posselt's research group at the University of Michigan's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences. I successfully completed my M.S. in Atmospheric Science (Summer 2014) at Colorado State University co-advised by Drs. Sonia Kreidenweis and Russ Schumacher. My M.S. thesis focused on exploring the effect of latent heating to the development of a mesoscale vortex observed during the September 2013 Colorado extreme precipitation and flooding event.

Annareli graduated in 2012 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in atmospheric science and geology. During her time at Illinois, she was a member of the AMS student chapter and various other organizations on campus. She participated in the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program for two summers at NCAR in Boulder, CO. Besides staring at clouds, Annareli enjoys badminton, tennis, and kickboxing. She also enjoys volunteering with the local student chapter of the American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR) doing community outreach events to teach the public about clouds and aerosols.

The 2015 AMS conference will be her second time attending the student conference and full conference. She loves meeting great, new people during the conferences, listening to the great presenters, and exploring the beautiful host cities. This will be her second year on the planning committee. Please feel free to contact her at [annareli@umich.edu](mailto:annareli@umich.edu).

Zachary Sefcovic



Zach is a first year Master's student in Geography at East Carolina University. He currently is working as a research assistant with Dr. Burrell Montz, studying weather-driven decisions by emergency managers across the National Weather Service's Eastern, Central, and Southern Regions. In addition, Zach is the Secretary for the East Carolina Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

In May 2014, Zach graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Meteorology at Valparaiso University. While at Valpo, he was the 2013-2014 President and 2012-2013 Vice President of the Northwest Indiana Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. During his tenure, Zach was instrumental in planning the 2013 and 2014 Great Lakes Meteorology Conference, a local undergraduate-focused meteorology conference held every spring at Valparaiso University.

Zach was the recipient of a 2012 NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship from the NOAA Office of Education. During the summer of 2013, he was the Hollings Scholar Intern at the National Weather Service in Newport/Morehead City, North Carolina. While there, he worked on a comprehensive tropical cyclone climatology for Eastern North Carolina that analyzed all tropical systems that impacted the region from 1851-2013. For the summer of 2014, Zach was selected to be a student volunteer at the National Weather Service in Newport/Morehead City, North Carolina where he has been working on various projects for the office, including recent tornado climatology for the MHX CWA, the 60th Anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, and assisting with office social media efforts. Zach hopes to pursue a career in the National Weather Service, as a lead forecaster, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, or Science and Operations Officer.

In his spare time, Zach is a huge sports fan. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, he is a huge supporter of all of Cleveland's major sports teams, especially the Cleveland Indians. However, when it comes to collegiate athletics, he proudly cheers on the Michigan Wolverines, in addition to the Valparaiso Crusaders and East Carolina Pirates. Zach hopes to visit every MLB stadium, Big Ten Football stadium and Big Ten Basketball arena.

Owen Shieh



As the Weather & Climate Program Manager at the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC), Mr. Shieh leads a team of subject matter experts and instructors to develop and deliver hazardous weather and climate-related FEMA-certified training courses for emergency managers and first responders across the United States. Mr. Shieh was a former NSF Graduate Research Fellow and holds a M.S. in Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma and a B.S. in Atmospheric Science Magna cum Laude with Distinction in Research from Cornell University. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Meteorology from the University of Hawaii alongside his work at NDPTC.

Mr. Shieh specializes in hazardous weather research and forecasting, with expertise in the dynamics and prediction of tropical cyclones, severe thunderstorms, and tornadoes. Currently, in addition to his work at NDPTC, Mr. Shieh's doctoral research at the University of Hawaii focuses on improving tropical cyclone intensity prediction through an official collaboration with the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. Having completed Typhoon Duty Officer training at the JTWC, Mr. Shieh bridges the gap between the tropical cyclone research and operational forecasting communities.

Mr. Shieh served as a National Co-Chair of the AMS Student Conference (2012-2013) and currently sits as a member of the AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, together with government leaders across the field. He was selected to participate in the AMS Summer Policy Colloquium (2012) and has been invited to speak at national conferences and universities, including the U.S. Air Force and Naval Academies. This is Mr. Shieh's 10th AMS Student Conference, and he looks forward to meeting and speaking with the students. He can be reached at [oshieh@hawaii.edu](mailto:oshieh@hawaii.edu).

Samantha Tushaus



Samantha Tushaus graduated with her B.S. in meteorology in 2012 from Iowa State University, where she studied hail validation using dual-polarization radar. She recently (August 2014) earned her Master's degree in atmospheric science from the University of Michigan, where she used a Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithm to study the relationship between precipitation observations, atmospheric characteristics, and mountain orography. After graduation she started a research position at the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She will be using radar and satellite radiometry to study surface snowfall.

Samantha has pursued research concerning radar meteorology, lake-effect precipitation, and orographic precipitation throughout her undergraduate and graduate career and has spent time as a researcher at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Colorado State University, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research Advanced Studies Program. She also manages the "Down to Earth" column in the American Institute of Physics magazine *Physics Today*; the column focuses on atmospheric science research from graduate students around the country.

At Iowa State University she got involved in the AMS and served as Vice President of the ISU Student Chapter in 2011-2012, and has stayed involved since. The 2015 Annual Conference will be her 5th AMS conference and her 2nd (and final) on the Planning Committee. She looks forward to meeting students and speakers alike, and hopes to help make this conference a rewarding experience for all attendees!



Justin Weber



Justin Weber is in his second year of his M.S degree at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. He is interested in the impacts of clouds on climate, especially the parameterization of clouds in general circulation models. He is currently working with Prof. Vince Larsen and the Climate Process Team where he helps develop the Cloud Layers Unified by Binormals (CLUBB) turbulence and cloud parameterization. This is his first year on the Student Conference Planning Committee.

Justin is originally from a small town in southeastern Wisconsin. His interest in weather started after he read "Flash, Crash, Rumble, Roll" in first grade. After that, his phobia of thunderstorms was replaced with a sense of awe. Helping on his uncle's dairy farm, playing with friends, and just exploring the woods, he'd always have at least one eye to the sky. He continued to explore meteorology by getting his hands on old textbooks and building a tornado simulator in his basement during high school. He then set off for the University of North Dakota (UND) where he reveled in the big sky surrounding him.

He had the great fortune of being involved in research at University of North Dakota. His freshman year, under the guidance and mentorship of Prof. Matthew Gilmore, he used the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model to simulate plausible environments, derived from the 20th Century Reanalysis Project, in which the Tri-State Tornado of 1925 may have formed. His sophomore year, he was involved in the Student Nowcasting & Observations of Winter Weather with the DOW at the University of North Dakota - Education in Research (SNOwD UNDER) by taking snowboard measurements during winter storms and promoting community involvement. His junior year, he began work with Dr. Jeff Tilley and Prof. Dave Delene on the simulated impacts of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) on deep convection and analyzed aircraft observed cloud droplet size distributions and their relationship to total cloud water and number concentrations. The summer preceding his senior year, he took part in the Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry (DC3) field campaign at the Huntsville, AL site with Profs. Gretchen Mullendore (UND) and Larry Carey (UAH) and launched radiosondes in pre and post convective environments.

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Justin Weber



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He also attended the Undergraduate Leadership Workshop at NCAR where he had the great privilege to meet some incredibly talented and wonderful people in our field, including some currently on the committee. Following the workshop, Justin began his senior thesis with Profs. Matthew Gilmore and Prof. Mark Askelson on Eulerian circulation budgets of numerically simulated tornado-like vortices in altered shear environments.

During his time at UND, Justin was highly involved in the student chapter of the AMS. He especially promoted community service, outreach events, and student conference attendance during his two year term as president starting his junior year. He graduated from UND, Magna cum laude, with a B.S. in Atmospheric Science and a Minor in Statistics. In his free time, Justin slows down the pace of time by volunteering at his local parish, meeting new people over a cup of coffee, running the beautiful trails of WI, and reading- especially biographies and weather history.

Chris Zarzar



Chris is a first year graduate student in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences' doctoral program at Mississippi State University. He is currently working with Dr. Jamie Dyer improving the feasibility of WRF applications on mobile workstations, and is also conducting research with the Northern Gulf Institute using UASs to better understand hydrometeorological dynamics in the Lower Pearl River Basin.

A Chapel Hill native, Chris's fascination with weather evolved from a childhood fear of storms. Meteorology and soccer lead Chris to pursue his B.S. in Atmospheric Science at the University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA). Chris was involved in a variety of undergraduate research projects and also gained experience in front of the camera as a broadcast meteorologist intern at WLOS News 13 in Asheville. While at UNCA, Chris was an active member of the local AMS student chapter. He graduated in 2011 and after a year off enjoying the mountains, he pursued his master's degree at East Carolina University.

Chris graduated with his M.A. in Geography at East Carolina University where he was a research assistant with Dr. Tom Rickenbach. Chris's thesis, "A Precipitation Organization Climatology for North Carolina: Development and GIS-Based Analysis", investigated the different impacts isolated storms and mesoscale precipitation features have on watershed hydrology. Upon attending East Carolina University, his past experiences with the UNCA AMS Student Chapter led him and fellow classmates, Holly Lussenden and Robbie Munroe, to form the East Carolina AMS Chapter.

This is Chris's first year on the Student Conference Planning Committee. When not researching and/or finishing classwork, Chris loves to explore and try new things—whether it be outside on a bike, board, or feet, or inside trying new recipes—it all comes down to the thrill of finding something new.