

Invited Speakers Biographies

14th Annual AMS Student Conference

Shaping Your Future in Weather, Water, and Climate

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Wendy
Schreiber-Abshire



Wendy Schreiber-Abshire is a Senior Project Manager for UCAR's COMET Program in Boulder, CO where she leads internationally recognized training efforts currently in the areas of satellite meteorology, hydrology, climate, water resources, winter weather, and tropical meteorology. Her primary duties include managing sponsor relationships and supervision of the science staff who contribute to content on the MetEd website. She began her career at NCAR in 1983 where she participated in several landmark field programs and research studies, including JAWS and microburst research, convection initiation investigations, and she served as a radar meteorologist during GALE.

Wendy joined the COMET Program in 1990 as a staff meteorologist and contributed to numerous training endeavors supporting the National Weather Service modernization. In 2003, after years spent developing training, Wendy became the COMET Residence Course Coordinator, which provided her the opportunity to interact with many atmospheric science professionals. Through the years Wendy has authored and co-authored over 50 scientific papers including journal articles and conference preprints.

She earned a degree in Meteorology from Metropolitan State College of Denver (B.S. 1985) and a degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Wyoming (M.S. 1989). Wendy is a long-time member, past Councilor, and 2012 Vice-President of the National Weather Association. She is also a Fellow and current Councilor of the American Meteorological Society, and also chair of the AMS's Membership Committee. She is also a member of the American Geophysical Union and the Denver-Boulder Local AMS Chapter. Wendy has also experienced career growth through participation in the 2001 AMS Summer Policy Program, the 2004 UCAR Leadership Academy program, and in 2009 she was appointed and continues to serve as an Ombudsperson for UCAR. In these capacities Wendy has learned a great deal about communication, coaching, and conflict resolution.

Wendy's current career objective is to: "increase both scientists' and the public's knowledge of atmospheric science to improve forecasts and weather-related decision-making and to benefit policy decisions affecting the earth-atmosphere system." She continues to have a great deal of passion for mentoring others in the geosciences and owes her own mentors a great debt for the opportunities that have been afforded to her! When she's not working Wendy enjoys being married to the love of her life, spending time with her two "twenty-something" aged sons, and her friends. She loves sports, especially Colorado Rockies baseball and CU NCAA basketball, and recently started collecting antique aprons and post cards.

Chris Alston



Chris Alston graduated from Rutgers University in 2010, where he obtained a degree in meteorology. After graduating, he went on to participate in a post-baccalaureate research program at the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes at Colorado State University. There, he researched land falling east coast hurricanes under the leadership of Dr. Wayne Schubert. Chris also spent a short time at Impact Weather in Houston, TX to learn more about the private sector and operational forecasting. He then moved back to NJ to pursue a career in operational weather forecasting at Weather Works LLC. After spending nearly a year there, Chris landed a job at Mars Chocolate North America as a seasonal forecaster and commodity analyst. Supporting energy, edible oils, dairy, and coffee research, his passion for weather forecasting and willingness to continue to improve the weather forecasting methodology was evident. Recently, Chris was promoted to lead meteorologist of Mars, responsible for all forecasting across the globe and all research initiatives. In his +3 years at Mars Inc., Chris's experience has ranged well beyond weather forecasting. His scope of expertise has grown to include price risk management, trading derivatives, price and yield modeling. Chris also sits on the AMS Board of Private Sector Meteorologists. Outside of his professional endeavors, he enjoys traveling across the world, spending time with friends and family, playing music, and mentoring students. If interested in private sector work, I would advise tapping into the AMS Board of Private Sector Meteorologists (<https://www.facebook.com/AMSBPSM>), the perfect resource for learning more.

Dr. Jeffrey Anderson



Jeff Anderson first became interested in weather in the snowy foothills of the Wasatch Mountains where he built many of his own instruments during high school. This naturally led to a B.S. in meteorology from the University of Utah along with a second major in computer science in 1984. Research on object-oriented simulation systems on very early parallel computers led to a M.S. in computer science from Berkeley. Then, it was back to the atmosphere with a Ph.D. exploring global atmospheric dynamics from Princeton University in 1990. A postdoc at NOAA's Climate Analysis Center focused on extended range numerical prediction (10 days to a month). He then accepted a position as a scientist at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab (GFDL) where he remained until 2001. During his time at GFDL, he worked on the development of a new atmospheric model and also had a chance to teach numerical weather prediction as an adjunct professor at Princeton. Since 2001, he has been at the National Center for Atmospheric Research leading the development of the Data Assimilation Research Testbed, a community ensemble data assimilation facility. He still has some time to do basic research on data assimilation methodology. He particularly enjoys working with students, ranging from middle schoolers through postdocs.

John Brost



John (J.J.) Brost grew up in Arizona and was fascinated by the Monsoon thunderstorms. He pursued his passion for meteorology at Arizona State University and began working with the National Weather Service (NWS) in Phoenix as a student in 2001. He later transferred to Eureka, California to serve as an Intern with the NWS and then traveled to Amarillo, Texas for a General Forecaster position. Finally, JJ came "home" to Tucson in 2011 becoming the Science and Operations Officer (SOO). As the SOO, JJ is responsible for integrating new science and technology into forecast operations. This involves training the staff when new techniques or tools become available. JJ also works with the University of Arizona to identify areas where the research community can help the operations community and vice versa. In addition, JJ works with the Service Hydrologist to improve the local office understanding of hydrologic impacts across the desert southwest.

Melissa Burt



Melissa Burt is the Education and Diversity Manager for CMMAP, the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes, an NSF Science and Technology Center, working to enhance understanding of global climate through K-12, undergraduate, and graduate study as well as informal education and public presentations. She is also committed to improving and increasing diversity in STEM by designing programs to encourage participation, increase access, and retention for members of historically underrepresented groups. In addition to her work with CMMAP, Melissa is finishing up her Ph.D. in the area of climate modeling, focusing on the role of clouds in Arctic climate change. She received her M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Colorado State University in 2008 and B.S. in Meteorology from Millersville University in 2005. Melissa serves as Chair of the Board on Women and Minorities for the American Meteorological Society.

Dr. Jimmy Correia



Jimmy was born in Shelton, CT growing up with no memory of being a weather nerd except watching endless amounts of The Weather Channel. Jimmy is fond of surviving the following weather debacles in his middle thru high school years: Hurricanes Gloria and Andrew, Superstorm 1993, and one wee tornado outside Lake Ontario. Following what can only be described as a slacker's mentality to high school, he pursued a degree in Physics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Not understanding quantum dynamics, he turned to weather at SUNY-Albany. Finding a passion for severe storms forecasting, interning at NWS Albany, and scared to go into the real world, he attended FSU for his Master's degree working on the Surprise snowstorm of January 25th 2000, and then moving to Iowa State University for a Ph.D. focusing on numerical weather prediction and mesoscale convective systems. He reluctantly graduated during the economic meltdown of 2007, new daughter in tow, and found a post doc in regional climate modeling at Pacific Northwest National Lab. In the midst of divorce, Jimmy left to pursue his severe storm interests at the University of Oklahoma with CIMMS and SPC. He is a proud educator/mentor while being the warn-on-forecast, social science, and Hazardous Weather Testbed liaison.

Christina Crowe



Christina Crowe currently serves as the Executive Officer for the Director of the National Weather Service in Silver Spring, Maryland. She got her start in meteorology at the University of Missouri–Columbia, where she investigated the correlation between convective snow and large snowfall accumulations. She became a member of the first class of NOAA Hollings Scholars, performing her summer internship at the NWS office in St. Louis, Missouri. The experiences of working several severe weather events helped solidify her passion for operational meteorology. She also worked as a teaching assistant while completing her B.S. in Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences in 2007. Christina then went on to the University of Alabama in Huntsville as an AMS Graduate Fellowship Recipient to investigate the Hurricane Rita (2005) tornado outbreak and dual-polarimetric radar analysis of severe storms. In addition, she worked as a SCEP Intern at the NWS office in Huntsville, developing outreach materials and learning the ropes of operations, until she completed her Master's degree in 2009. Since graduation, Christina has worked at NWS offices in Springfield, MO, and back in Huntsville, leading their social media programs and coding work, including for transition to AWIPS II. During her time in Huntsville, she quickly gained experience responding to high impacts weather events ranging from significant snow storms to the 27 April 2011 Super Outbreak. In the spring of 2014, she was selected for her current 2-year rotation where she serves first on the staff of the NWS Director then as a Program Coordination Officer, serving Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, the NOAA Administrator. Besides her operational experience in meteorology, Christina has published several papers on convective snowstorms and dual-polarimetric analysis of tornadic storms. She has also been recognized as a research fellow for the Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS) at the University of Alabama, focusing on integrating social science (specifically, education) into meteorology.

Dr. Christopher Davis



Chris Davis is the Director of the NCAR Advanced Study Program and a senior scientist in the NCAR Earth System Laboratory, Mesoscale and Microscale Division where he has worked for 24 years. For the past 15 years, he has been studying the formation of tropical cyclones. Chris was a PI of the PREDICT project held in 2010. Chris has led an NCAR effort to predict tropical cyclones in the WRF model and new MPAS model. Chris has also been engaged in many areas of mesoscale research such as mesoscale convective systems, subtropical cyclones and developing new methods to evaluate mesoscale weather forecasts.

Charlotte Dewey



Charlotte received her Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from the University of Northern Colorado (2009). She began her professional career in the National Weather Service in 2008, where she completed her SCEP (Student to Career Education Program) at the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) in Boulder, Colorado. Charlotte worked as a space weather forecaster monitoring current space weather conditions and issuing alerts, watches, and warnings for imminent space weather events, and also completed training to become a space weather forecaster in 2010. Charlotte started working as a Meteorologist Intern in the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Phoenix in 2010 shortly after graduating with her Bachelor's degree. Growing up in Colorado, Phoenix weather and climate has been a big learning curve and one that has surpassed any of her expectations. Summer monsoon forecasting is both challenging and exciting in the Southwest states.

Dr. Clark Evans



Prof. Clark Evans is an Assistant Professor with the Atmospheric Science Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Since 2014, he is also the Program Coordinator for the UWM Atmospheric Science Program. Clark joined UWM's faculty in 2011 after completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Advanced Study Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Meteorology from Florida State University in 2004, 2006, and 2009, respectively.

Clark's research interests lie with better understanding the dynamics and predictability of meso- to synoptic-scale meteorological phenomena, particularly tropical cyclones and severe local storms. He actively advises several graduate students and collaborates with colleagues at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the National Weather Service, and multiple universities on research in these areas. He has published eight manuscripts in the peer-reviewed literature and has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on multiple federally-funded research projects.

Currently, Clark serves as an Associate Editor for Monthly Weather Review, a member of the American Meteorological Society's Weather Analysis and Forecasting statement revision team, and a member of the 17th Cyclone Workshop Scientific Steering Committee. He is a past recipient of the American Meteorological Society's Father James B. Macelwane award for undergraduate research and of an American Meteorology Society/Industry/Government Graduate Fellowship, among other accolades.

On a personal level, Clark is interested in meteorology, spirituality, running, sports, the outdoors, photography, cartography, and historical accounts. He counts his wife of five years, Susanna, as well as his mom and grandparents among the people that inspire him. More information about Clark's research, academic and professional resources for students, and full contact information can be found on his webpage at <http://derecho.math.uwm.edu/>.

Rebecca Haacker



Rebecca is the Director of the SOARS Program and the SOARS Center for Undergraduate Research at the UCAR Center for Science Education. The SOARS Program is an NSF-funded undergraduate-to-graduate bridge program with a mission to broaden participation in the atmospheric and related sciences. For over 18 years, SOARS has successfully supported students entering careers in the geosciences, and many SOARS alumni have leadership roles in academia, research institutions and private industry. Rebecca is passionate about helping students identify their strengths and unique skills and has connected countless students with careers they love. Rebecca is leading national efforts to share evidence-based practices in supporting undergraduate research. The newly formed NSF-funded SOARS Center for Undergraduate Research provides community building, resources, support and professional development for faculty and scientists leading research experiences for undergraduates. Prior to joining UCAR, Rebecca was faculty in the US, Germany and in Central America. Before moving to the US, she managed multiple conservation and research projects for the European Union and the German Development Agency in Central America and served as field director of the Marine Wildlife Refuge Punta de Manabique, Guatemala. In every project she led Rebecca made sure to involve undergraduate students in research and fieldwork. Rebecca received her B.Sc. in physical geography and a M.Sc. in geography and cultural anthropology from the University of Hamburg, Germany. Rebecca is a certified mediator and has extensive training in employment law, diversity issues, student mentoring, and counseling.

Brian Hoeth



Brian is currently working as part of small team of four Emergency Response Meteorologists (ERMETs) at the National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region Headquarters (SRH) Regional Operations Center (ROC) in Fort Worth, Texas. Brian provides regional weather briefings and other weather intelligence support to regional and state partners, in particular to FEMA and the state of Texas Department of Emergency Management. Brian's work in the ROC also entails providing logistical and technical support to NWS field offices throughout the NWS Southern Region. Another main focus of Brian's job is improving awareness of Regional-level impacts to both Regional and National leadership within the NWS.

Prior to working at the NWS SRH ROC, from September, 1998 - August, 2011, Brian supported and worked for the NWS Spaceflight Meteorology Group (SMG) located at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Brian began his career working for United Space Alliance and Lockheed Martin, NASA contractors, as a computer programmer. He wrote software applications that were directly used by the SMG for Space Shuttle support. His primary accomplishment was the development of the Mission Support Forecast Editor Graphical User Interface that SMG used to issue the majority of their shuttle mission weather products from 2002 through the end of the Space Shuttle Program in 2011. In 2004, Brian moved into the SMG office as a contractor Techniques Development Unit (TDU) meteorologist and in 2006 Brian maintained his role as SMG TDU, but he made the transition from contractor to the NWS.

In 2008, Brian switched roles at SMG, moving from TDU meteorologist to Lead Forecaster. Brian's career at SMG culminated in July 2011 when he had the honor and privilege of being the Lead Forecaster for the final NASA Space Shuttle mission.

Brian holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Math Pre-Meteorology from Ohio University (class of 1996) and a Master of Science degree in Meteorology from Texas A&M University (class of 1998).

Dr. James Kimpel



Dr. James (Jeff) Kimpel is the Past President of the American Meteorological Society and served on the National Academy of Sciences Board on Natural Disasters. Previously, he chaired the Board of Trustees of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for the Atmospheric Sciences, and the National Weather Service / National Centers for Environmental Prediction Advisory Panel. Jeff is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in Vietnam in 1967–1968. He was elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society in 1989. He is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist (#567).

Jeff earned a B.S. degree in Psychology from Denison University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Meteorology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma in 1973 and has served as the Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, the Director of the School of Meteorology, the Dean of the College of Geosciences, and the Senior Vice-President and Provost of the Norman Campus. He retired as the Director of the federal National Severe Storms Laboratory in 2010.

While at OU he earned four major teaching awards and worked with Ft. Valley State College, an historically black college in Georgia, to raise over \$2.5M in scholarships for students pursuing degrees in the Geosciences.

Dr. Kimberly Klockow



Kim Klockow is a UCAR postdoctoral researcher and policy advisor for social science integration at the NOAA OAR Office of Weather and Air Quality. Prior to her postdoc appointment, Kim worked in the U.S. Senate as an AAAS congressional science fellow. Her career objective is to foster a human-oriented approach to making our nation more resilient to extreme weather hazards. She holds a Ph.D. in human geography and M.S. in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma, and B.S. degrees in Meteorology and Economics from Purdue University.

Dr. Delores Knipp



Dr. Delores Knipp graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Atmospheric Science from the College of Agriculture. She subsequently joined the US Air Force where she became an aviation forecaster and the lead weather officer for NORAD. After earning an M.S. in Atmospheric Science at University of Missouri, she joined the faculty in the Department of Physics at the US Air Force Academy in 1984. Shortly thereafter she was selected for sponsorship to UCLA where she earned a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science with an emphasis in Space Physics in 1989. Upon re-joining the Physics faculty at the Air Force Academy she led a multi-year effort to create the Air Force Academy's Meteorology program along with a Geospace and Atmospheric Physics course—a unique course on the effects of the space environment on civil and DoD systems. Dr. Knipp took the lead role in establishing USAFA Space Physics and Atmospheric Research Center. In 2007-2008 she began work with the University of Colorado on a multi-university research initiative investigating environmental effects on satellite drag. Dr. Knipp has been an invited speaker on space weather education at the American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the American Meteorological Society (AMS), and at NASA forums on space education. Dr. Knipp is an instructor at national summer short courses that introduce advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students to the discipline of space physics. Additionally, Dr. Knipp co-authored the 2006 decadal assessment of the National Space Weather Program. She teaches a graduate course in Aerospace Environment at University of Colorado. In 2011 she completed an undergraduate textbook: Space Weather and the Physics Behind It. She serves on the Science and Technology Advisory Committee for the AMS's Space Weather Committee and is the Editor-in-Chief of AGU's Space Weather journal.

Dr. Gary Lackmann



Gary Lackmann earned BS and MS degrees in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington in 1986 and 1989, respectively. During this time, he worked at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, and as an arctic field scientist for the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He earned a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences at the State University of New York, University at Albany in 1995. Dr. Lackmann then held a postdoctoral appointment at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, followed by a faculty post at the State University of New York, College at Brockport. He joined the faculty of North Carolina State University in 1999, became an associate professor in 2004, and a full professor in 2009. In 2011, he assumed the role of Director of Graduate Programs in the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at NC State. Teaching and mentoring are continuing sources of inspiration for Dr. Lackmann. His teaching foci are synoptic meteorology, numerical modeling, and professional development. He recently authored a textbook entitled *Midlatitude Synoptic Meteorology: Dynamics, Analysis, and Forecasting* (2011). He was honored in 2004 with the LeRoy and Elva Martin Award for Teaching Excellence, and in 2012-2013, with the NC State Outstanding Teacher Award and Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. This year, he was awarded the AMS Edward N. Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Lackmann's research focus is synoptic-dynamic meteorology. In recent years, he and his group have extended their work towards the weather-climate intersection, specifically the relation of weather extremes such as tropical cyclones and heavy precipitation, to climate change. Professional service includes the position of subject-matter editor for the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* (2006 to 2013), and extensive involvement with the UCAR/Unidata governing committees from 2003-2012. Since 2009, Dr. Lackmann has been a member of a UCAR-appointed review team that evaluates the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction (UCACN), and in 2014, he joined the Science Advisory Board for the UCAR Developmental Testbed Center (DTC).

Todd Lericos



Todd Lericos is the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, a position he has held since November of 2012. Todd grew up in southwest Florida and began his career in Meteorology by joining the Air Force in 1991 as a Weather Observer. His first assignment was Homestead AFB, arriving 8 months before Hurricane Andrew hit the base in August of 1992. A passion for weather forecasting in high impact situations was instilled in Todd by that event. He later deployed all over the World to provide weather forecast support to various military operations. This included a deployment to Haiti in 1994 for Operation Uphold Democracy and an assignment to the Middle East to support Operation Southern Watch in 1995. After leaving the Air Force in 1997 to pursue a civilian career in Meteorology, Todd attended Florida State University from 1997-2002. He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Meteorology. An opportunity to serve in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) at the Tallahassee, Florida National Weather Service (NWS) Office in 1999 began Todd's career in the NWS. That opportunity led to a permanent position in the NWS in 2002 as Journeyman Forecaster in Spokane, Washington. Todd then served as Science and Operations Officer (SOO) at the NWS office in Caribou, Maine from 2006 to 2011. He then moved on to become the SOO at the NWS Office in Tallahassee replacing his long time mentor in that position. When the opportunity emerged to lead a Weather Forecast Office in October of 2012, he accepted his current position at NWS Las Vegas.

Dr. Jon Martin



Professor Jonathan Martin joined the faculty in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at UW-Madison in 1994 after completing his Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington.

Professor Martin has received numerous accolades for his teaching, including the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award, a fellowship in UW's Teaching Academy, and the Mark H. Ingraham Distinguished Faculty Award. He was chosen for the prestigious UW Vilas Distinguished Service Professorship, for distinguished scholarship and excellence in teaching and service. The Princeton Review recently ranked Professor Martin among the top 300 best professors in the nation.

Professor Martin's research expertise is in mid-latitude weather systems. Over his career he has authored over 50 scientific papers, as well as the leading textbook on mid-latitude atmospheric dynamics. He also appears regularly on Wisconsin Public Radio as part of the two-man "Weather Guys" segment. He recently served for 9 years as Chair of the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and is currently spending his sabbatical year conducting biographical research on the life and work of Prof. Reginald C. Sutcliffe of Sutcliffe Development Theorem fame.

Second Lieutenant
Katherine M. Meinig



Second Lieutenant Katherine M. Meinig is a Weather Officer at the 25th Operational Weather Squadron (25 OWS) at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, AZ. The 25 OWS is responsible for producing and disseminating mission planning and execution weather analyses, forecasts, and briefings for Air Force, Army, Guard, Reserve, and combatant command forces operating at 82 installations and sites in an 11-state region of the western United States. The 25th OWS also produces 7,000 weather warnings, watches, and advisories, 20,000 terminal aerodrome forecasts, 86,000 graphical aviation hazard products and 26,000 flight weather briefings every year. 2d Lt Meinig provides operational support to aircrews, ground forces, planners, and senior leaders across the entire U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility.

2d Lt Meinig earned her commission and Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Iowa State University in 2012. Her operational assignments include duty as a Senior Duty Officer, a Lead Meteorologist, a Zone Supervisor, and a Flight Weather Briefer. She manages on-the-job training and the career development course as the Flight Training Monitor and oversees the physical fitness program as the Squadron Unit Fitness Program Manager. She serves as a Lead Mission Briefer for the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB showcasing the Davis-Monthan mission and units. 2d Lt Meinig works with the Department of Defense STARBASE program and the local community to motivate elementary students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) as they continue their education.

Andrea Melvin



Ms. Melvin graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1997 with her Bachelors of Science in Meteorology. She was not interested in forecasting, research, or broadcasting. Instead, she had a strong desire to work with K-12 teachers and students in particular the use of software to visualize atmospheric phenomena. Her interest in weather began in elementary school after seeing the NOVA documentary on Dr. Howard Bluestein's TOTO experiments. Even though the documentary showed storm chasing in the early years, Ms. Melvin has not participated in an organized chase. Growing up in rural Oklahoma gave her many opportunities to sit out in the back yard and watch cloud development and storms approaching from the west.

Ms. Melvin works for the Oklahoma Climatological Survey as the Outreach Programs Coordinator. Each day is a new adventure. A typical day involves working on many projects at once like preparing for workshops, organizing field trips to the National Weather Center, beta-testing software, visiting schools, giving tours of Mesonet stations, preparing web site materials, answering emails from students and teachers, and increasing our agency presence on social media platforms. During the summer, she is busy hosting two residential weather camps from middle and high school students. She is an instructor of the OK-First Program which trains public safety officials to use weather data in their daily operations. Outside of work, Ms. Melvin enjoys watching soccer, crocheting gifts for friends, and researching family genealogy. After a long day at work, curling up with a good DVD or book helps her unwind. She has one daughter who is currently a junior at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Josh Morgerman



Contact Info

Website:

www.icyclone.com

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Stormchaser and adrenaline junkie Josh Morgerman (founder of iCyclone.com) has been prowling the earth for violent cyclones since age 21 and is currently one of the world's most active and prolific hurricane chasers. Combining an aggressive chase style with iron determination, this Southern Californian has an incredible "batting average"—a near-100% success rate getting into a storm's inner core, where the real action happens. And he has a penchant for chasing difficult-to-reach storms in exotic locations—“the ones no one else will go after”.

Morgerman's original chase turf was the USA only. That changed in 2007, when he singlehandedly hunted ferocious Category-5 Hurricane Dean on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula—the only chaser to do so. This launched a string of solo, daredevil Mexican chases that established Morgerman as a specialist in Mexican hurricanes. Since 2007, he's logged seven successful hurricane chases in Mexico—on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts—and in doing so has captured rare video footage and useful data for the USA's National Hurricane Center.

In 2013—when the Atlantic failed to produce any chaseable hurricanes—Morgerman expanded his focus to East Asia, chasing and penetrating the inner cores of an incredible four typhoons in just over a month. That season ended with the epic Category-5 Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines, in which Morgerman collected the only known complete datasets from the storm's inner core. His graphic video from the cataclysm went viral, with over 440,000 views and 1,130 Likes—extremely high numbers for a single tropical-cyclone video: <http://youtu.be/4wrgrJwYdy8> 2014 saw Morgerman prowling closer to home, when he and his cameraman were the only chasers to penetrate the eye of Hurricane Odile—the most violent in the history of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Experienced on camera, on air, and before large audiences, Morgerman has appeared on CBS News, NBC Nightly News, BBC World Service, Discovery International, ABC News in Australia, and many other news outlets. He currently provides on-the-ground, real-time hurricane coverage exclusively to The Weather Channel. His data are regularly used by the National Hurricane Center in seasonal postanalysis, and his Super Typhoon Haiyan work was featured in the American Meteorological Society's 31st Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology. Upcoming speaking engagements include the AMS Student Conference in Phoenix, AZ, in January and the National Tropical Weather Conference in South Padre Island, TX, in April.

Dr. Ilissa Ocko



A Postdoctoral Fellow at the Environmental Defense Fund, Ilissa is responsible for climate science analysis and research. Ilissa also has a background in developing science graphics and is especially passionate about communicating science to non-experts through illustrations, journalism, and presentations. Ilissa earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from Princeton University, and was supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and the American Meteorological Society Industry/Government Graduate Fellowship. She was one of three Princeton graduate students in 2013 to receive the Emerging Alumni Scholars Award for excellent dissertation research and communication skills. Ilissa graduated magna cum laude from the University of Michigan with a B.S.E. in Earth System Science and Engineering. She also holds a certificate in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School.

Kiel Ortega



Kiel became interested in meteorology growing up in Kansas. His interest stemmed from the tornadoes in Hesston (1990) and Andover (1991), and also from flying with his dad. His weather interest led him to the University of Oklahoma, where he earned his B.S. in Meteorology in 2005 and an M.S. in 2008. In June 2004, he began his career with the CIMMS and NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) as an undergraduate research assistant. His project was to verify an assortment of hail detection and sizing algorithms. This project revealed serious deficiencies with Storm Data hail reports, which led them to begin a virtual field project to collect hail reports: the Severe Hazards Analysis and Verification Experiment (SHAVE). SHAVE monitors storms from the National Weather Center and makes verification phone calls in the wake of a storm, collecting reports at a high spatial resolution. SHAVE has collected over 47,000 hail reports, while also collecting reports on flash flooding, wind damage and winter precipitation. Kiel has also ventured outside for true field projects, participating in VORTEX2 as a mobile mesonet operator, and assisting with numerous balloon launches in support of lightning and winter weather research at CIMMS and NSSL. The bulk of his field experience comes from the surveys he conducted, or assisted with, of nearly 50 tornadoes and damaging wind events. He currently works at CIMMS and NSSL as a research meteorologist primarily investigating radar algorithms for dual-polarized radar and the Multiple-Radar Multiple Sensor (MRMS) system.

Keli Pirtle



Keli Pirtle is public affairs specialist for the five National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Partners in Norman, Oklahoma: National Severe Storms Laboratory, Storm Prediction Center, National Weather Service Norman Forecast Office, NEXRAD Radar Operations Center and Warning Decision Training Branch. She handles media relations, external and internal communication programs, and special events. She also manages the Hollings Scholars internship program in Norman.

With NOAA since January 1999, she has more than 25 years of experience in public relations and media relations.

Keli earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Baylor University and a master's degree in communication from The University of Oklahoma. She also attended the University of Maryland's graduate program in journalism and public relations.

Bernadette Woods Placky



Bernadette Woods Placky is an Emmy Award winning meteorologist and director of Climate Central's Climate Matters program. In her role, Bernadette works with fellow meteorologists from across the country, providing resources and data on the connection between climate change and weather. Bernadette is often called upon to discuss and explain extreme weather events and has appeared on a number of national and local television broadcasts. Before coming to Climate Central, Bernadette spent 10 years as a TV weather forecaster. Her most recent station was WJZ in Baltimore, where she earned an Emmy for Best Weathercaster. Prior to that, she worked at both WLEX in Lexington, Ky., and KNWA in Fayetteville, Ark. Bernadette began her career at AccuWeather, Inc. Bernadette has a B.S. in Meteorology and a minor in French from Penn State University, where she is a steering committee member for MAPS (Meteorology Alumni of Penn State). She also carries both American Meteorological Society certifications —Television Seal of Approval and Certified Broadcast Meteorologist. She is currently a member of the AMS Committee on Applied Climatology and a board member of Penn State's GEMS (Graduates of Earth and Mineral Science).

Jamie Rhome



Jamie Rhome is the Storm Surge Specialist and Team Lead at NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, and serves as a subject matter expert on storm surge and coastal inundation for the National Weather Service's hurricane program. He is also the NOAA representative for the tri-agency (NOAA, FEMA, Army Corp. of Engineers) National Hurricane Program (NHP). The NHP conducts Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) that guide the decision-making process for protecting the public when a hurricane threatens an area.

Mr. Rhome oversees the National Hurricane Center's Storm Surge Unit, which produces official storm surge forecasts during tropical cyclone threats to the United States, supports the Nation's hurricane warning program, and facilitates post-storm response and recovery efforts. During the offseason, he leads storm surge research and development activities at the NHC including updates to the storm surge modeling system, development of new products, and post-storm analysis and validation studies. Mr. Rhome also participates in the National Hurricane Center's outreach program by participating in hurricane preparedness activities, addressing government, industrial, and private groups, participating in panel discussions, and partaking in numerous radio and television media interviews. Finally, Mr. Rhome serves as a subject matter expert on a World Meteorological Team aimed at improving storm surge predictive capabilities within other Nations, especially within the Caribbean and Central America.

Mr. Rhome received both his Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree in meteorology from North Carolina State University (1999, 2002). He joined the National Hurricane Center in 1999 as a marine forecaster in the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch. He became a hurricane specialist in 2006 where he issued track, intensity and wind forecasts as well as associated watches and warnings for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific basins. Mr. Rhome was selected to lead the NHC's Storm Surge Unit in 2008. He was also selected for a temporary assignment to the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy in 2008/2009 where he served as a scientific policy analyst within the Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations. Previous work experience includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Climate Office of North Carolina.

Dr. Elizabeth Ritchie



Elizabeth Ritchie is a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona (UA), Tucson, Arizona, where she has served as the Director of Graduate Studies since 2009. In addition she holds a joint appointment in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Her research interests are in the areas of tropical cyclone genesis, structure and intensity change, extratropical transition, and landfalling impacts, and large-scale circulation pattern controls on tropical cyclone behavior. Many of her research efforts have been a result of participation in field experiments including TCM-90, 92, 93, CAMEX-4, TCS-08, and the GRIP campaign in 2010.

Prior to joining UA, Ritchie served on the faculty at the University of New Mexico in a joint position between the Department of Electrical Engineering and the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences from 2001-2006. A considerable portion of her multidisciplinary research in remote-sensing signal detection of tropical cyclone patterns is a direct outgrowth of this time. During this time Ritchie moved from a research track to tenure-track position. From 1997-2001 Ritchie was a research Assistant Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School and from 1995-1996 she was a PostDoctoral Scholar at the Pennsylvania State University. Ritchie received her Ph.D. from Monash University, Melbourne Australia where she studied tropical cyclone genesis combining observations from the TCM-92 /93 and TOGA-COARE field experiments with a hierarchy of numerical models in process studies. She has been a member of the AMS since 1995 and has served the AMS in a number of capacities including: Councilor, Chair of the Max Eaton award committee; associate editor and editor of the Monthly Weather Review; organizer of the Simpson Symposium and the AMS Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology; and Chair of the AMS STAC on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones among others.

In the broader community, Ritchie has served: on the UJNR (US-Japan Natural Resources) Committee on Wind and Seismic Effects, Task Committee D: Wind Effects; as a member of several review panels for NSF and NASA; as Rapporteur and Topic Chair for the WMO International Workshops on Tropical Cyclones (IWTC) (IV, V, VI, VII, VIII); as member and Chair of the NASA Senior Review; as a member of the Joint Hurricane Test bed (JHT) Steering Committee; and as a member of UCAR's President's Advisory Committee on University Relations (PACUR). In her local community Ritchie is a co-founder of the "Adopt-A-School" program, a program to bring University faculty, staff, and graduate students into K-5 public school classrooms to help enhance science and math education.

Dr. Paul Roebber



Professor Paul Roebber is a University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee (UWM) Distinguished Professor (www4.uwm.edu/lets/math/people/faculty/roebber.cfm), Associate Dean for Academics in the UWM School of Freshwater Sciences (www4.uwm.edu/freshwater), and Director of the Innovative Weather program (www.innovativeweather.com). Professor Roebber holds advanced degrees in meteorology and physical oceanography from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and McGill University. He has published 65 papers and book chapters in the refereed scientific literature, and has won 34 grants from Federal and State agencies, as well as the private sector and the Government of Canada. He has directed 21 thesis students at the doctoral and masters level since 1994. Professor Roebber's expertise includes weather system dynamics and forecasting, climate dynamics, and data mining and analysis. He looks forward to talking with students about traditional and non-traditional careers in and outside of academia.

Dr. Angela Rowe



Angela recalls being in third grade and coming to her home to see that trees had been blown down in her Maryland yard due to a storm. That was the beginning of her curiosity and passion for understanding the weather that persists today. She pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology at Millersville University in Pennsylvania, where she had her first taste of field work during a tethered-balloon project investigating the wintertime boundary layer. This, combined with participating in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Oklahoma using dual-polarimetric radar to study severe storms strongly influenced her desire to attend graduate school.

During her time at the Atmospheric Sciences graduate program at Colorado State University, Angela initially used radar as a tool to study precipitation occurring during the monsoon in northwestern Mexico. This study area was expanded to include the mountainous regions of Taiwan, where she had the opportunity to participate in the Terrain-influenced Monsoon Rainfall Experiment (TiMREX) in 2008. Following earning her PhD at CSU in 2011, she immediately went back into the field, moving equatorward to the Indian Ocean for the DYNAMO/CINDY field campaign. Spending 5 weeks on a research ship operating the radar to investigate convection associated with the Madden-Julian Oscillation was a memorable experience that helped her gain a better appreciation and understanding for weather in that area as she continues to analyze this dataset as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Washington.

Angela's current research focuses on using radar data from this field project, in addition to satellite-based radar data, to improve understanding of tropical convection. In addition to research, she enjoys engaging in public outreach through an online Community Cloud Atlas, geared towards sharing pictures and knowledge of clouds to the public through social media.

Bob Ryan



Bob Ryan has been a Washington broadcast meteorologist since 1980. He served the Washington area longer than any other broadcast meteorologist. He was Chief Meteorologist with NBC4 for 30 years and before retiring in 2013, was Senior Meteorologist and head of digital weather strategies at ABC7.

Ryan began his career in the atmospheric sciences as an associate researcher in the Physics Section with Arthur D. Little Inc. in Cambridge, MA where he conducted research in cloud physics. He holds a B.S. degree in Physics and M.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University at Albany. While at ADL Ryan began to work part time as a broadcast meteorologist in Boston. Eventually his broadcast career became full time and his research career part time. He became the principal meteorologist with WCVB-TV in Boston, and the first meteorologist to regularly appear on the "Today Show" from 1978–1980.

In addition to his regular weathercasts, Ryan initiated and supported many one-of-a-kind programs at NBC4. For 25 years, his annual Almanac provided weather and environmental information and data to readers, and raised over \$500,000 for local children's charities. He created a program called "4-WINDS" (Channel 4 Weather Interactive Demonstration Schoolnet) which, with corporate partners placed more than 400 interactive weather stations in area schools. The project, still active, gives students a "hands-on" introduction to meteorology and what science really is and provides opportunities for practical applications of their science, math and geography studies. Ryan was also co-investigator for a NASA supported project (co-funded with NBC4) which in 1994 led to one of the first television weather sites on the Internet, WeatherNet4.

Outside his news and weather duties, during his career, Ryan remained actively involved in his science. He served the American Meteorological Society as Chair of the Committee of Broadcast Meteorology, Commissioner of Professional Affairs, Member of the Council of the Society and in 1996 as the only broadcast meteorologist elected President of the AMS. Additionally Ryan has been called to testify before various committees of Congress and served on the National Academy of Science, Board of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate. He served on committees of the National Research Council and the Advisory Committee of the Geoscience Directorate of the National Science Foundation. Currently, he co-chairs a new AMS Committee on Effective Communication of Weather and Climate Information. During his career, he has received numerous awards including regional Emmys for Weathercasting and the Ted Yates Emmy for outstanding service to the community. He has received the University of Albany "Distinguished Alumni" Award, the Charles Franklin Brooks Award from the AMS, for his outstanding service, and was one of the 1996 "Washingtonians of the Year".

Dr. Jonathan Rutz



Dr. Jonathan Rutz is a meteorologist working for the National Weather Service (NWS) at Western Region Headquarters in Salt Lake City, UT. As part of the Science and Technology Infusion Division, his job is to provide scientific guidance and support to regional operations. This can take a variety of forms, with some examples of activities below:

- Conducting operationally relevant research focused on improved understanding and prediction of major precipitation events
- Developing a system that produces regional forecasts of road surface conditions, which provide internal guidance to forecasters
- Acting as a research-to-operations focal point by providing the field with updates on new science and forecasting tools

Others within his division have different responsibilities, but they all revolve around providing local offices with what they need to produce excellent forecasts and communicate them to the product users.

Dr. Rutz's educational background includes a B.S.E. in Earth Systems from the University of Michigan (2009), a M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Utah (2011), and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Utah (2014).

Dr. Rutz's interest in meteorology began in high school when he tried to predict snow days. That interest has only grown since then. He is honored to have this opportunity to speak with you, and hopes to provide some useful information and guidance as you determine where a career in meteorology might take you.

Jason Samenow



Jason Samenow is currently the Washington Post's weather editor and the chief meteorologist at the Capital Weather Gang blog. At the University of Virginia, he earned a degree in environmental science, focusing in atmospheric science. He went on to earn a master's degree in atmospheric science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2000. From 2000 to September 2010, he worked as a climate change analyst for the federal government, monitoring, analyzing and communicating the science of climate change. He founded CapitalWeather.com in early 2004, the first professional weather blog on the Internet which was absorbed by the Post in 2008. Jason holds the National Weather Association Digital Seal of Approval.

Lietenant Christine Schultz



LT Christine Schultz is an officer of the NOAA Commissioned Corps stationed at NOAA's Ocean Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. She is the Ocean Prediction Center's Technical Operations Coordinator, leading and engaging in many interagency and international projects to enhance National Weather Service products and marine forecaster's ability to predict maritime weather.

LT Schultz began her scientific career studying meteorology at Penn State University. Upon graduation in 2006, she immediately received her commission and began training with the NOAA Corps at the US Merchant Marine Academy. LT Schultz's first assignment was onboard NOAA Ship Rainier, a hydrographic research vessel based out of Seattle, WA. She spent three years as a junior officer working with sonar to chart coastal Alaskan waters. LT Schultz traded in her life jacket for extreme cold weather gear during her next assignment with NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory, Global Monitoring Division. LT Schultz served as the station chief for NOAA's Atmospheric Research Laboratory at the South Pole in Antarctica for 13 months conducting climate data acquisition and research. She also wintered at Summit Station, a remote climate research station on the Greenland ice sheet. LT Schultz has spent the last two years on land with the National Weather Service, and is pursuing a Master's degree in Geographic Information Sciences and Technology from the University of Southern California. She will return to sea this summer to sail on NOAA Ship Fairweather, an Alaska-based hydrographic ship, as the field operations officer.

Dr. Russ Schumacher



Russ Schumacher has been assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University since the fall of 2011. He received his B.S. with majors in meteorology and humanities from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 2001, and earned his M.S. in 2003 and Ph.D. in 2008 from the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. He received an Advanced Study Program Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and spent 2008-2009 at NCAR in Boulder. From 2009-2011, he was assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University. He received the prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation in 2010, and was selected as Outstanding Professor of the Year by the students of the department in 2012. His primary research and teaching interests are in mesoscale meteorology, weather systems, extreme precipitation, and numerical weather prediction.

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 is 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.

Dr. Jim Steenburgh



Jim Steenburgh is a Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Utah where he has been a faculty member since 1995 and served as Department Chair from 2005–2011. He completed his B.S. in Meteorology at The Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington.

Jim's research spans a wide range of topics in mountain weather and climate. Recent areas of interest include lake-effect snowstorms, inland penetration of atmospheric rivers, and improving numerical weather forecasts in areas of complex terrain. He led the numerical weather prediction team for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and has participated in a number of field programs, most recently the 2013–2014 Ontario Winter Lake-effect Systems (OWLeS) project in upstate New York where his team examined intense snowstorms on the Tug Hill Plateau.

A popular teacher and public speaker, Jim is the lead blogger for *Wasatch Weather Weenies* and a recipient of the University of Utah College of Mines and Earth Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award. His new book *Secrets of the Greatest Snow on Earth* explores mountain weather, avalanches and snow safety, and the basics of climate and weather forecasting for skiers and other snow enthusiasts.

Amber Sullins



Amber Sullins is Chief Meteorologist for ABC15 News. She anchors weather nightly on ABC15 newscasts and continually updates the most accurate Valley forecast on ABC15.com and ABC15 Mobile. Amber joined the ABC15 team in September 2009, but has spent her entire life in the beautiful Southwest.

Born and raised in Phoenix, she had a love for the monsoon from a young age, which led her to pursue a career in Meteorology. She attended the University of Arizona in Tucson and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Atmospheric Science with a double minor in Math and Journalism. Amber worked at the National Weather Service while attending the U of A and has stayed connected to her alma mater by currently serving on the Atmospheric Science board of advisors. She started her television career at KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas. Amber was honored with two back-to-back Texas Associated Press Broadcasters Awards there for Best Weathercasts in 2007 and 2008. She was also recognized again at the Texas Legislature for these awards in May of 2009 when a house resolution was passed in her honor. Amber also volunteered her time to help the efforts of the El Paso Extreme Weather Task Force, taught two semesters of meteorology classes at The University of Texas El Paso Center for Lifelong Learning and authored a weather activities book to help teach young children about severe weather safety. Amber has earned the American Meteorological Society's Certified Broadcast Meteorologist designation, the highest seal attainable for a television meteorologist. She is also a four time Emmy Winner. She was honored in 2010, 2013 and 2014 with the Rocky Mountain Emmy for Best Weathercast, as well as the 2013 Emmy for best On-Camera Weather Talent. In the summer of 2011, Amber was called on to go to New York and fill-in on Good Morning America where she covered the biggest heat wave of the year across the east coast.

When she's not working hard forecasting the weather, Amber enjoys spending time with her husband, two children and her long-haired miniature dachshunds, Willis and Lilly.

John Tharp



John Tharp is a forecaster for Weather Decision Technologies in Norman, Oklahoma. John recently joined Weather Decision Technologies after spending more than four years serving the worldwide oil and gas industry as a marine meteorologist with Wilken's Weather Technologies in Houston, TX. He received his B.S. in meteorology from Penn State in 2008. While at Penn State he was heavily involved in the meteorology department through leadership roles in Penn State's Campus Weather Service, working as a teaching assistant, and through undergraduate research that included field work in Panama in support of NASA TC4.

Jorge Torres



Jorge Torres is the Chief Meteorologist at KOB-TV in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before working in New Mexico, Jorge was the morning meteorologist for 4 years at KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas, where he earned the "Certified Broadcast Meteorologist" designation by the AMS. He's covered several significant weather events from destructive wildfires to record breaking floods along with the record cold snap in February of 2011 in west Texas and southern New Mexico, where temperatures plummeted into the single digits. Jorge's originally from Austin, Texas, but earned his degree in Meteorology from Texas A&M University (WHOOPI!), where he was President of TAMSCAMS and helped the university become StormReady. Although he loves and misses the Lone Star State, Jorge is enjoying his time in the beautiful *Land of Enchantment* where he can finally experience all 4 seasons of weather. When not providing the daily forecast, Jorge can usually be spotted at the gym, hiking, salsa dancing, trying new foods, and traveling! He's also a member of the NWA, Omega Delta Phi, and loves volunteering his time talking to children about weather and science. You can follow Jorge on Twitter at @JorgeTWeather or on Facebook at "Jorge Torres".

Dr. Jennifer Vanos



Dr. Jennifer Vanos specializes in the study of human biometeorology and bioclimatology, examining the separate and combined impacts of weather and climate on human health. Areas of current research include: applied synoptic climatology, air-effects epidemiology, extreme heat events, climate-conscious urban design, urban sustainability, climate extremes variability, bioclimatic landscapes, and understanding the broad impacts of climate change on human health. In-depth expertise has been gained in working with meteorological research equipment in field settings, as well as extensive long-term meteorological, synoptic weather, and air pollution datasets. Dr. Vanos began as an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University (TTU) in the Atmospheric Sciences Group within the Geosciences Department in Aug 2013, and also works within the interdisciplinary Climate Science Center (CSC) at TTU. She collaborates with lead climate scientists and experts across the South-Central US. Analysis of current and future climates in urban areas addresses micro-, meso-, and synoptic scale observations of meteorological parameters and air pollution, with emphasis placed on ozone and particulate matter in arid and semi-arid cities, where photochemical reactions are prominent and can be detrimental to urban environments. International projects have been completed or are ongoing in Korea, Russian Far East, Sweden, and Canada. Much of the research by Dr. Vanos and CSC colleagues is dedicated to discovering and effectively communicating the realities of weather impacts and climate variability to society, particularly to those vulnerable individuals affected the most.

Dr. Michael Ventrice



Dr. Michael Ventrice was added to the energy forecast team at WSI during January 2013 after completing his Ph.D. dissertation at the University at Albany in New York. His Ph.D. work focused on the role of convectively coupled atmospheric Kelvin waves and the Madden Julian Oscillation on Atlantic tropical cyclone activity and global circulation patterns. Dr. Ventrice was hired at WSI to forecast the medium and sub-seasonal time ranges, focusing on U.S. and European temperature prediction. Since then, Dr. Ventrice has taken on a larger role where his responsibilities include the invention of new and or pre-existing weather indices that are incorporated into daily operations for medium and seasonal range forecasting. Due to the nature of his Ph.D. studies, Dr. Ventrice also consults with the tropical experts at the Weather Channel and National Hurricane Center during Hurricane Season.

During his four year stay in graduate school, Dr. Ventrice received the Max A. Eaton Prize for having the best student oral presentation and written abstract at the 2011 National American Meteorology Society's (AMS) Tropical Storms Conference, was the primary author of 5 peer-reviewed articles that were published in the Monthly Weather Review, participated in NASA's HS3 Global Hawk field campaign as a student forecaster, and was selected for a prestigious internship at Citidal Investment Group LLC. His Ph.D. research on convectively coupled atmospheric Kelvin waves and the Madden Julian Oscillation is now being used operationally worldwide for medium-range prediction of tropical cyclones and global circulation prediction.

Dr. Ventrice is a member of the AMS and a mentor for graduate students in the AMS Board for Private Sector Meteorologists.

Lieutenant
Commander Rebecca J
Waddington



LCDR Rebecca J. Waddington is an officer of the NOAA Commissioned Corps currently serving as the Executive Officer at the NOAA Aviation Weather Center in addition to being an Aircraft Commander on NOAA's King Air (B300C) aircraft. This assignment combines her aviation experience with her meteorological education. As Executive Officer, LCDR Waddington oversees several special projects and is also trained to work shifts on the Convective SIGMET forecast desk. LCDR Waddington works with aviation partners to determine how best deliver weather information to keep the aviation community and the public safely flying.

LCDR Waddington earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from San Jose State University in 2004. She began her scientific career by working as a student intern at the National Weather Service Monterey, CA forecast office. Following graduation, LCDR Waddington received her commission and began Basic Officer Training Class in March 2005. LCDR Waddington's initial assignment was aboard the NOAA Ship Ka'imimoana, an oceanographic research vessel. During her sea tour, LCDR Waddington became the ships Navigation Officer and received her working diver certification.

LCDR Waddington's first shore assignment was in the Storm Surge unit at the National Hurricane Center. In addition to predicting storm surge for all tropical cyclones impacting the US, she also spent time creating forecast products in the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch.

During her final year at the National Hurricane Center, LCDR Waddington applied for and was accepted to NOAA's flight program. By May 2010, she had earned her Commercial Multi-engine with Instrument pilot certificate. She moved to Silver Spring, MD and began her operational assignment aboard the King Air. NOAA's King Air is the premiere remote sensing airborne platform. LCDR Waddington has been involved in conducting surveys following major hurricane landfalls, tornados, and flooding events. In January 2013, she upgraded to Aircraft Commander. During this time she also earned her Master Degree in Aviation Science from Everglades University.

More information about NOAA Corps and aviation weather can be found in the following locations: <http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov>, <http://www.aoc.noaa.gov>, and <http://www.aviationweather.gov>.

Nic Wilson



Nic is the Energy Regional Segment Manager, Americas at Vaisala, working from its North America headquarters in Boulder, Colorado. Vaisala is a global leader in environmental and industrial measurement. Vaisala is passionate about weather, renewables and their impact on energy. It works with customers to continuously innovate weather technologies, help them fully understand weather risk, and assist them in getting more power from their project. Vaisala is uniquely qualified to support profitable energy decisions with an integrated suite of measurement, modeling and analysis tools. In his role, Nic is responsible for Vaisala Energy business performance in North and South America, as well as managing a nine-person sales team covering the region with more than \$10 million in sales annually. Nic holds a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from Creighton University in Omaha, NE, an M.S. in Professional Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, and an MBA from the University of Arizona's Eller College of Management in Tucson, AZ. Nic has worked for Vaisala more than eight years in a variety of roles including product management, business development, and sales management. In 2010, Nic took on the challenge of a three-year expatriate assignment in Hamburg, Germany starting up the Vaisala Energy business in Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Upon returning to the USA in 2013, he was a member of the due diligence teams for the acquisitions of Second Wind and 3TIER to create the leading provider of weather risk management services for the energy industry. In his free time, Nic enjoys playing competitive amateur soccer in Denver after being a part of two Division 1 College Cup teams at Creighton University from 2000-2003 and playing semi-professionally with the Chicago Fire Reserves and VfL 93 Hamburg.

Ginger Zee



Ginger Zee is “Good Morning Americas” chief meteorologist, reporting on the nation’s weather throughout the morning broadcast. Previously she was weather anchor for the weekend edition of “Good Morning America.” Additionally, Zee reports across all ABC News broadcasts and digital platforms and also serves as chief meteorologist for ABC News. Since joining ABC News, Zee has covered almost every major weather event and dozens of historic storms. She broadcasted from the devastated Jersey Shore during Hurricane Sandy, the Colorado floods and wildfires, and covered the wreckage from tornados in Moore and El Reno, Oklahoma. In 2013, she covered extreme weather conditions ranging from the Boston blizzard to the record-breaking heat in Death Valley. Zee’s love of adventure does not stop at studying the atmosphere in the center of the storm. She has gone para-hawking in Nepal, para-glided from the Himalayas to the Andes, dove with sharks in the Bahamas, rappelled 27 stories down the exterior faade of the Wit Hotel in Chicago, plus has gone ice boat racing and surfing. Prior to joining ABC News, she was a meteorologist at NBC station WMAQ-Channel 5 in Chicago from 2006–2011, also filling in for several NBC and MSNBC News programs. Before that assignment, Zee worked at WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, MI where she part of the Storm Team 8, also covering the environment, science and the impact of weather throughout West Michigan. From 2003–2005, Zee worked at WEYI NBC 25 in Flint, MI. She began her career at WLAV FM/ WXMI in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zee, who has storm chased since college, has also been a guest with Reed Timmer’s TVN team on Discovery’s Storm Chasers, season four. The Emmy Award-winning meteorologist attended Valparaiso University and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in meteorology. She also served as an adjunct professor at the University from 2008–2011. Zee also holds the CBM Seal for Meteorology. She resides in New York City.