

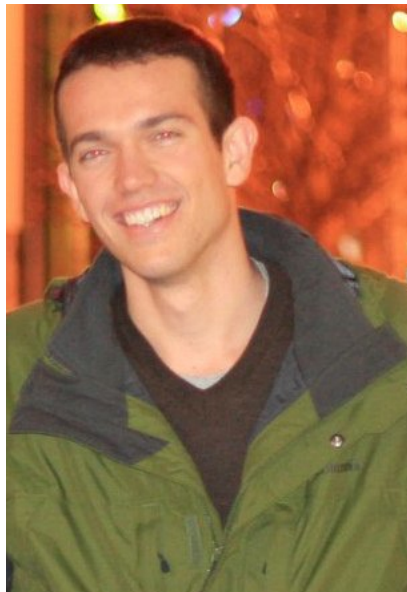
Student Conference Planning Committee 2012



Co-Chair: Nicole Grams

Nicole Grams is a first-year interdisciplinary graduate student in Geoinformatics at the University of Oklahoma and a research assistant under Dr. May Yuan at the Center for Spatial Analysis. She obtained a B.S. (Cum Laude) with Departmental Honors in Meteorology and minors in mathematics and physics from Ohio University in 2011. She currently volunteers at the Norman, OK NWS, but was first a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) intern at the Charleston, WV NWS office, and later interned at the National Hurricane Center as part of the NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship. In this capacity, she successfully developed the first formal methodology for verification of the Sea, Lake, and Over-land Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model using GIS, and completed an honors thesis on this topic. Nicole also served as the President of the Ohio University Student Chapter of the AMS, during which time she led efforts in obtaining the StormReady seal for the OHIO Athens campus and an AMS Honorable Mention award for Chapter of the Year (2011). Nicole grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland, OH and has always had an interest in hydrology and coastal flooding. Her other professional interests include GIS application development and emergency management; these are avenues she discovered a

meteorologist could pursue by attending the Student Conference! In her free time, Nicole can be found teaching figure skating lessons in Oklahoma City and playing viola in the OU Civic Orchestra. You can contact Nicole at anytime at nicole.grams@ou.edu.



Co-Chair: Alek Krautmann

Alek Krautmann is a graduate student in the Department of Geography at Ohio University and Associate Director of the Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis. 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, public outreach 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, completing an upper-air climatology for the office. He has also worked with the Oklahoma Climatological Survey as a Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) Intern during the summer of 2010. Due to interests in government and public policy, he attended the 2011 AMS Summer Policy Colloquium in Washington DC. At Ohio University Alek teaches two undergraduate meteorology labs, assists the senior synoptic course, and his current masters thesis research involves investigating summer heat waves in the Midwest. He is originally from St. Louis, MO and enjoys

swimming, hiking, traveling, and following Cardinals baseball. This year will be Alek's third AMS Student Conference and second on the committee. Feel free to email him at alek.krautmann@gmail.com



Co-Chair: Owen Shieh

Owen Shieh is currently a Meteorology Ph.D. candidate and NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Hawaii. Owen received his B.S. in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University in 2007 and his M.S. in Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma in 2010. He was awarded the James B. Macelwane Award by the AMS for his undergraduate research at Cornell that proposed a reason for the local minimum of tropical cyclogenesis in the eastern Caribbean Sea. While in Oklahoma, Owen was immersed in mesoscale meteorology, which included collecting tornado observations in the field and performing numerical simulations of supercells in hurricane rainbands. Currently, at the University of Hawaii, Owen's research focuses on improving tropical cyclone intensity prediction through an official collaboration with the U.S. Navy/Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. With his military collaboration sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, Owen will directly apply the results of his Ph.D. research to U.S. Department of Defense operations throughout the Pacific and Indian Ocean basins.

Owen's passion has always been with extreme weather and severe storms, particularly hurricanes and tornadoes, and he has been involved with many field experiments. He was a navigator for the Mobile Mesonet team in both seasons of the VORTEX2 project to study tornadogenesis in the Great Plains, and in 2008, he served as a scout for the NO-XP radar deployment into Hurricane Ike that made landfall near Houston, Texas. Most recently, Owen served in the DYNAMO field project as a radar scientist aboard the R/V Roger Revelle, a U.S. Navy research ship operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and was deployed for 35 days to the equatorial Indian Ocean to study the convection associated with the Madden-Julian Oscillation. Please feel free to e-mail Owen at oshieh@hawaii.edu.

Professional Co-Chair: Dr. John Lanicci



Dr. John Lanicci is a professor of applied meteorology and the coordinator of the M.S. in Aeronautics program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. He joined the faculty in 2006 after completing a 27-year U.S. Air Force career. Dr. Lanicci is a native of The Bronx, New York, and graduated from Manhattan College with a B.S. degree (Summa Cum Laude) in Physics in 1979, a B.S. (With Highest Distinction) in Meteorology from Penn State University in 1980, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Meteorology from Penn State in 1984 and 1991 through Air Force Institute of Technology sponsorship.

Dr. Lanicci first became interested in meteorology as an undergraduate at Manhattan. During his sophomore and junior years, the Northeast U.S. experienced one of the coldest winters on record (1976-77), followed by one of the snowiest (1977-78)! He became very interested in learning how these seasonal anomalies can happen, and started thinking about meteorology as a career. After hearing an Air Force weather officer speak at the ROTC commissioning ceremony at the end of his junior year, he decided to become a weather officer, and never regretted it. During his military career, he got to forecast weather around the world (including the maiden voyages of the Space Shuttle in 1981), live in different parts of the U.S. (including Alaska), go to grad school, travel to Europe, India (twice!), Australia, and most of the 50 states, and command the Air Force Weather Agency.

Dr. Lanicci has taught Survey of Meteorology, Current Weather Discussion, Aviation Weather, Weather Analysis, Advanced Weather Analysis, Forecasting Techniques, Environmental Security, and graduate courses on Advanced Meteorology and Weather and Air Traffic Integration. His research interests

include the integration of weather information into aviation operations, central Florida severe storms (who wouldn't be after a tornado hits your campus!), and the effects of climate change on national and international security.



Kyle Clem, Session Chair

Kyle Clem is a senior at Ohio University pursuing his BS in Meteorology. He is currently President of Ohio University's Local Chapter of the AMS and served as Vice-President during the 2010-11 academic year. Kyle is also a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon Theta Iota, Ohio University's Honors Society in Geography, and served as President during the 2010-11 year. Kyle was hired as a forecaster in 2009 for the Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis, Ohio University's student run public forecasting service. He has also served as a teaching assistant throughout his undergraduate career for the courses Introduction to Meteorology, Introduction to Synoptic Meteorology, and Advanced Synoptic Meteorology. During the summer of 2010, Kyle interned at WSMV Nashville, an NBC affiliate, under the guidance of broadcast meteorologist Dan Thomas. In the summer of 2011, Kyle was hired as an undergraduate research assistant under Dr. Ryan Fogt analyzing the relationship between the Amundsen-Bellinghousen Seas Low (located off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula) and large scale climate. Kyle is originally from Northeast Ohio near the city of Akron where his

childhood fascination of weather developed into an obsession to understand it. In his free time, Kyle enjoys running, mountain biking, and (attempting) to play just about any sport. This is Kyle's first year on the committee.



Ian Carlos Colon-Pagan, Session Chair

My name is Ian C. Colon-Pagan and I was born and raised in a family of four siblings by a single mother in Patillas, Puerto Rico. At the age of four, I experienced the power of Hurricane Hugo (1989), which compelled me into atmospheric science research. I conducted a number of hurricane studies while in middle school, and acquired my high school diploma from a specialized science and mathematics school. This motivated me to pursue a career in the atmospheric science, and later that year I entered the Physics Department of the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus, where I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree in May 2008. During that time, I became a protégé of the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Science Research (SOARS) Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which is a four-year undergraduate-to-graduate bridge program. In 2010, I obtained my Masters of Science degree in Physics at North Carolina A&T State University, funded by the NOAA's Interdisciplinary Scientific Environmental Technology Cooperative Science Center (ISET-CSC). In my research, I study the orographic effects on rainfall induced by the passage of tropical cyclones over

a mountainous island (Puerto Rico), which will help scientists and forecasters to improve the predictions of quantitative precipitation associated with the passage of this weather system over the island of Puerto Rico. Currently, I'm a graduate student at the School of Earth and Atmospheric Science of Georgia Institute of Technology seeking a doctorate in Earth and Atmospheric Science under the supervision of Dr. Judith Curry, Dr. Peter Webster, and Dr. Irina Sokolik. Future work will be in the Remote Sensing field.



Renee Curry, Session Chair

Renee Curry graduated cum laude from the University of Oklahoma in 2007 with a Bachelor's degree in Meteorology. During that time, she spent six months studying at the University of Reading in the U.K. She obtained her Master's degree in Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma in May 2010. Her thesis focused on a dual-Doppler radar study of Hurricane Isabel that came ashore in North Carolina in 2003. Two mobile radars, the Shared Mobile Atmospheric Research and Teaching Radars (SMART-Rs), were utilized to collect data of the small-scale structures within hurricanes that can be used in models to improve flood forecasts. She has also been involved in national and international field projects with these radars, such as the Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment 2 (VORTEX2) in 2009/2010. She is also an alumna of the 2010 AMS Summer Policy Colloquium and the 2008 Weather and Society*Integrated Studies (WAS*IS) workshop at the National Center of Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

Renee worked as a climate scientist at the National Wildlife Federation in Washington DC until August 2011. In this role, she helped research and produce materials for the public, media, and policy-makers that focused on climate change and its connection to extreme weather, public health and wildlife. She is currently a PhD student at Colorado State University. Her primary focus involves using NASA remote sensing data to create climate change educational modules for teachers. While obtaining her PhD in Ecology within the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, she will also be working with Dr. Scott Denning of the Atmospheric Science Department/CMMAP program on carbon cycle research and weather/climate education.

She has been involved on the Student Conference Planning Committee for a few years and plans to continue to do so since it has been such a great and rewarding experience! Other than her love for weather, climate and outreach, she enjoys watching Oklahoma football and exploring the outdoor activities in Colorado!



Heather Dinon, Session Chair

Heather Dinon graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Meteorology and minor in Technical Mathematics from Plymouth State University in May 2008. She studied convective winds at the Florida Spaceport as part of her undergraduate research. While at Plymouth, Heather was also actively involved with the local chapter of the AMS, serving as secretary for two years. In addition, she was a member of the American Meteorological Society's Board of Higher Education for two years (January 2007-2009). Through that opportunity, she became involved with the Student Conference Planning Committee and is serving her 5th year on the committee. From 2010-2011, Heather had the pleasure of serving as co-chair of the Student Conference Planning Committee, and looks forward to continuing participation on the committee in future years!

Heather received a M.S. in Atmospheric Science from North Carolina State University in May 2011 under the guidance of Dr. Ryan Boyles and Dr. Gail Wilkerson. Her applied climatology research project explored climate variability for crop management in the southeastern United States. More specifically, she investigated the linkage between ENSO and crop yields, developed an evapotranspiration climatology based on the FAO-56 Penman Monteith estimation technique, and examined the relationship between solar radiation and photosynthetically active radiation. During her graduate research, Heather worked closely with the State Climate Office of North Carolina and actively participated in their outreach activities.

Currently, Heather is working as an applied climatologist for the State Climate Office of North Carolina. As part of her responsibilities, she will be leading the NC State Climate Office's interactions with the Pine Integrated Network: Education, Mitigation, and Adaptation Project (PINEMAP) project which is a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funded project through an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) grant. This project focuses on adaptation and mitigation strategies related to the southern pine forest. Heather is part of the extension team, which is mainly comprised of extension foresters and climatologists. This team plans to utilize several innovative approaches for disseminating information and new technological advances to forest landowners, industry, policy makers, and youth.

Other than her love for the weather and climate, Heather enjoys running, a good hike, reading, learning how to play tennis, and knitting! For more information about NC State University / State Climate Office of NC, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Heather at hadinon@ncsu.edu!

Ben Herzog



Ben is a first year graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelors degree in Soil, Environmental, and Atmospheric Science. While at Mizzou, Ben held several positions in Missouri's Student Chapter of the AMS, including President and Vice President. In the summer of 2009, he volunteered at the St. Louis NWS office. He is a class of 2009 Hollings Scholar, and worked for ten weeks at the Melbourne, FL NWS office working on research concerning lightning forecasting and experimental lightning warnings. At Oklahoma, he is working with Dr. Kristin Kuhlman and Dr. Don MacGorman on research relating total lightning data from the Geostationary Lightning Mapper on the GOES-R satellite to severe weather production. He has not yet decided if he wants to pursue a career in operational forecasting or in the research community, but he does know that he wants to do something working with severe weather and public awareness.

Currently, Ben is on the AMS Board for Outreach and Pre-college Education (BOPE). Ben is originally from St. Louis, MO, and outside of weather has a passion for the St. Louis Cardinals, Green Bay

Packers, and music. This will be Ben's third Student Conference, but the first time serving on the Planning Committee.



Kim Klockow, Session Chair

Kim Klockow is PhD student in Geography at the University of Oklahoma, having recently completed a Masters of Professional Meteorology there. She graduated from Purdue University with bachelors degrees in Meteorology and Honors Economics, and was the President of the Purdue University chapter of the AMS for two years. Her interdisciplinary research pursuits began during the 2004 Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at the University of Oklahoma, and they developed during graduate school to include several studies on economic, political, and psychological aspects of weather, weather information, and climate risk perception. During her masters, her primary focus was to study the economics of agricultural production and weather risk for the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. Kim's dissertation research focuses on developing

human-oriented rubrics of evaluation for severe weather warning system effectiveness (specifically tornado warnings), in conjunction with the Warn on Forecast program at the National Severe Storms Laboratory. She has attended both WAS*IS and the AMS Policy Colloquium, has had the opportunity to

work for the Societal Impacts Program (SIP) at NCAR in Boulder, and also has served as an REU mentor, advising three summer research participants. Additional professional service includes the AMS Board of Higher Education (2008 – 2010), and present service on the AMS Membership Committee and Societal Impacts Board. She is additionally active in the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and is heavily engaged in conference planning for both AMS and AAG. Present outreach efforts at home include planning for annual disaster relief fundraising benefits (an effort organized by OU meteorology students), tutoring/mentoring at-risk middle school youth in Norman, and providing counseling to students on campus. Kim sees herself as a meteorologist who has the privilege of participating in a fulfilling array of interdisciplinary studies, all geared toward advancing the benefits of meteorology to society. In her free time, Kim enjoys a good cup of tea, running, photography, dancing, great times with friends, and exploring the world.



Kelsey Mudler, Session Chair

Kelsey Mulder graduated from the University of Oklahoma with her B.S. in Meteorology in 2010 with minors in Sociology and Mathematics. She is now in her second year getting a Master's in Geography at East Carolina University. She is a research assistant for Dr. Burrell Montz studying emergency management in North Carolina. Her thesis is based on risk perceptions of flash flooding in Boulder, Colorado. 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 interests are in societal impacts and hazards. When not in the office, Kelsey can be found biking, hiking, riding her horse, or baking on rainy days.



Ethan Peck, Session Chair

Ethan David Peck is a third year graduate student working towards a PhD in atmospheric science at the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. His primary research interest lies in atmospheric coupling using the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model (WACCM). Ethan graduated with a BS in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University in 2009. This year will be the second year that Ethan has been part of the Student Conference Planning Committee and he is very excited to help organize a student conference that all attendees will remember!

Anthony Reinhart, Session Chair

Anthony Reinhart is currently in his second year at Texas Tech University working towards his PhD. Anthony has a Masters in Meteorology at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. His masters work entailed numerical modeling of outflow boundaries. He earned a bachelors degree in Synoptic Meteorology from Purdue University in 2007. Currently, his research deals with simulating supercells using a data

assimilation coupled with an EnKF technique that ingests observations from the VORTEX-2 field program into WRF. In particular, he will be looking at how microphysical parametrizations affect the cold pool as it evolves with comparisons between observations and the numerical simulations.

Anthony also participated in VORTEX2 with both the University of Nebraska and Texas Tech.



Rosimar Rios-Berrios, Session Chair

Rosimar Rios-Berrios is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM), where she is pursuing a major in Physics with a minor in Meteorology. Rosimar grew up on the tropical island of Puerto Rico (PR), where she experienced the effects of various tropical cyclones (TCs) that wreaked havoc in PR. Those experiences made her become interested on the study of TC dynamics, as well as in the improvement of numerical models that forecast TC track and intensity. She has conducted research in the TC field at UPRM through various undergraduate research experiences. She also worked at NOAA's Hurricane Research Division under the

sponsorship of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program. Recently, she worked on a collaborative research project with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and U. of Miami's Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) under the auspices of the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program. She is now planning to pursue graduate studies on tropical meteorology with a focus on TCs and data assimilation techniques.

Rosimar is currently serving her second year as the President of UPRM's AMS Student Chapter. During her first year as President, she contributed to increase the chapter membership by recruiting more than 30 new chapter members. She also helped in the development of the poster that won the first place at the past AMS meeting, Local Chapter Poster Competition. Besides studying hurricanes and working with the AMS, Rosimar loves to spend time traveling, dancing, working out, or just enjoying the lovely sea breeze at the beach.



Daniel Rothenberg, Session Chair

Daniel Rothenberg is a first-year Ph.D. student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He recently finished a BS in Atmospheric Science at Cornell University, where he became interested in high-performance numerical modeling of the atmosphere and climate through various summer internships - including one at CMMAP at Colorado State University. At MIT, he is shifting his focus to look at aerosol-cloud interactions and to become more involved with policy through MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change. His broad academic interests outside of meteorology - including computer science and mathematics - have led to him working with several Cornell and Bay-area start-ups (none of which have struck gold [yet]), participating in the Google Summer of Code under the mentoring of the

Climate Code Foundation, and even serving as a moderator on /r/science.

In his free time, Daniel enjoys coffee, skiing, more coffee, backpacking in the Northeast, slightly more coffee, and studying classical violin and guitar. And coffee. Sometimes playing violin while chugging coffee... but don't tell his conductor!



Chris Schultz

Chris Schultz is entering his third year as a PhD student at UAHuntsville. Chris' dissertation work involves developing an operational algorithm for the real time detection of severe weather using total lightning data from lightning mapping arrays. He also works with dual polarimetric radar data, and ground instrumentation for precipitation validation. Chris has served on the Student Conference Planning Committee since 2007, and also currently serves on the AMS Local Chapters Affairs Committee, and the AMS Atmospheric Electricity STAC committee.



Elise Schultz

Elise Schultz is in her third year as a Ph.D. Atmospheric Science student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAHuntsville). She is using dual-polarimetric radar combined with lightning mapping array data to study the cessation of lightning activity within thunderstorms. Elise earned her M.S. degree in Atmospheric Science at UAHuntsville in 2009. Her M.S. research focused on the behavior of lightning and updrafts for severe and non-severe storms in northern Alabama. Prior to UAH, Elise attended Iowa State University in Ames, IA where she earned her B.S. in Meteorology in 2006. At ISU, Elise was involved with the ISU AMS chapter. She was President of the chapter her senior year when the chapter earned AMS Student Chapter of the year. Elise is also involved at the national level of AMS as well as NWA. Elise is a member of the AMS Board of Outreach and Pre-college Education and serves on the NWA

Professional Development, Social Media, and Strategic Planning Committees. Elise has always had a great love for weather as far back as she can remember and hopes to continue spreading her love of weather through her research and outreach education.

Dr. O. C. St. Cyr

Dr. Chris St. Cyr is a space weather researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. He grew up in Oklahoma where he learned to appreciate the forces of nature and our ability to predict severe storms. His undergraduate degree is from OU, and his graduate degree is from the University of Florida. He has been a member of the SCPC for a number of years, and he supported the revolution that took it away from professionals and put it into the hands of students.

