

Biographies: AMS Student Conference Planning Committee Members

15th Annual AMS Student Conference

Beyond the Weather: Embracing the Interface of Science and Society

January 9–10, 2016

New Orleans, LA

Josh Alland



Josh is a graduate student at the University at Albany, SUNY under a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. He researches TC intensification processes and served as a forecaster for the HS3 field campaign. Josh also participated in the 2015 AMS Summer Policy Colloquium.

Josh is originally from Minnesota but became interested in TC research after witnessing firsthand the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He had the opportunity to intern at the Hurricane Research Division (HRD) under NOAA's Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, where he examined the influence of the height and depth of a TC's warm core on its intensity. He continued working with HRD scientists for his senior thesis, in which he compared observed and HWRF data during the rapid intensification of Hurricane Earl (2010). Josh also completed a separate project, in which he compared the genesis and intensification of African Easterly Waves that travel north and south of the African Easterly Jet. Josh graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Meteorology from Iowa State University. He was an active member of the Iowa State Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. He served as Academic Chair his junior year and President his senior year, during which years the local chapter was awarded the AMS Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year. He increased the variety of professional development to members, an example being bringing over 30 members to the 2013 AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. He also organized new and innovative outreach activities, such as pushing to make mobile home parks better prepared for severe weather, urging school districts around the community to become StormReady, and tutoring young scholars for Science Olympiad. In his spare time, Josh loves to play tennis, support Serena Williams and Roger Federer when they are on the tennis court, participate in events to help the community, spend time with family and friends, and relax on the beach (if there is one nearby). Josh is very excited to help as co-chair on the Student Conference Planning Committee! If you ever want to get in contact with Josh, e-mail him at jjalland@gmail.com.

Kristy Carter



Kristy is a graduate student at the University of South Carolina ironically studying Snow Science. More specifically, Kristy's thesis is entitled: Synoptic Climatology of Extreme Snow and Avalanche events in Southern Alaska, and focuses on the impacts large snowfalls have on avalanches in Prince William Sound, AK.

Kristy is originally from the Sunflower State but graduated with her BS in Meteorology and a Minor in Music Performance from Iowa State University in May 2013. She spent the 2013-2014 school year working as a program instructor for an outdoor education center in New York teaching meteorology and other environmentally related courses as well as outdoor sports like rock climbing and canoeing before heading to the University of SC in the fall of 2014. While at Iowa State, Kristy was very involved with the Iowa State Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society having served as the Outreach Chair, Treasurer, and Vice President. Kristy is also a member of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee and is excited to take on the roll of Co-Chair of the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee! The 2016 conference in New Orleans will be Kristy's 6th consecutive student conference! Academically, Kristy spent much of her undergraduate career studying wind energy and nocturnal low level jets. As a change of pace in 2012, Kristy decided to pursue an internship with the National Weather Service in Anchorage, Alaska through the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship. She analyzed significant snowfall events for three cities in Prince William Sound, AK to improve snowfall forecasts for the area. This project was continued for her senior thesis during the Fall of 2012 and was the inspiration for her graduate study pursuits. Outside of Research, Kristy is a TA for a weather and climate class and is the manager and lead facilitator for the University of South Carolina's Challenge Course. In her free time, Kristy is most likely playing her french horn, running, rock climbing, or on an outdoor adventure in pursuit of snow. If you ever want to get in contact with Kristy, e-mail her at carterkristyc@gmail.com.

Daniel Rothenberg



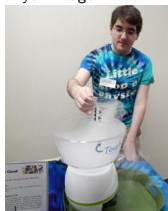
Daniel is finishing up a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His major research focus is on improving the physical representation of aerosol-cloud-climate interactions in global models and understanding aerosol indirect effects, although he's also participated in field and lab campaigns aimed at elucidating fundamental CCN and IN properties of aerosol.

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Daniel earned a BS magna cum laude in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University in 2010, where he conducted research with Natalie Mahowald on how biogeochemical cycles respond to climate forcing (work which earned the 2011 AMS Macelwane Award). He's also worked with Dave Randall at the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes at Colorado State University, and participated in the Google Summer of Code, working jointly with Google, the Climate Code Foundation, and the National Climatic Data Center to improve surface temperature homogenization algorithms.

This is Daniel's 6th year on the Student Conference Planning Committee, and second as a co-Chair. When he's not planning your Student Conference, Daniel is active in the science-policy community; at MIT, he is a student within the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change and an executive member of the Science Policy Initiative representing them within the National Science Policy Group. He regularly makes pilgrimage to Washington to talk with legislators about the importance of federal investment in basic research and the geosciences, often on behalf of MIT, the AMS Policy Program, or other scientific organizations. Beyond his policy work, he's a heavily invested Pythonista who advocates for more transparent, reproducible research leveraging tools such as version control and open source software.

Outside of his professional activities, Daniel is a skier, tennis fanatic, and an avid violinist performing with ensembles and chamber groups around Boston and Cambridge. You can follow his activities at <http://danielrothenberg.com/> or on twitter (@danrothenberg). Feel free to reach out to him at darothern@mit.edu!

Aryeh Drager



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

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

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

As a student at CSU, Aryeh has been supported through an AMS Graduate Fellowship and an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. His current research uses numerical models to investigate processes such as the release of symmetric instability and the development of convective cold pools. Away from his desk, he enjoys participating in science outreach activities (see photo), creating masterful pieces of art with sophisticated media such as Crayola crayons, and gazing at the Colorado skies' stunning cloud formations. Now in his second year serving on the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee, Aryeh is excited to be a co-chair in training and is looking forward to attending his fourth AMS Student Conference. Please feel free to contact him; he can be reached at aryeh@atmos.colostate.edu.

Dr. Tom Guinn

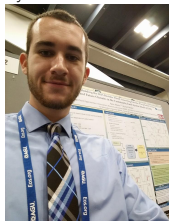


Dr. Tom Guinn is an Associate Professor and the Program Coordinator for both the Meteorology and Operational Meteorology Programs at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Prior to coming to ERAU in 2008, he served as a weather officer in the United States Air Force for over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

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

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

Ryan Adams



Ryan Adams is a recent graduate of California University of Pennsylvania where he obtained his B.Sc. in Earth Science with a concentration in Meteorology. He plans on attending graduate school in atmospheric science or applied statistics, ultimately pursuing a doctoral degree. Last summer, Ryan participated in the SOARS program under the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. The 10-week research experience took place at NCAR where he studied observational variables that describe or are conducive to extreme flooding events. This coming summer, he will participate as a second year protege in the SOARS program.

Ryan grew up in west central Pennsylvania a few hours east of Pittsburgh. The variable nature of the weather in the mountains of Pennsylvania fueled his passion for studying the weather. His interests include climatology, mountain meteorology, applied statistics, boundary layer meteorology, weather/climate effects on human health, and many others. Ryan is a member of the following: American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union, National Weather Association, and the Pennsylvania Geographical Society.

Tom Bedard



Tom (on the right), when he's not busy messing up a Google Doc, is the Weather and Climate Program Specialist at the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. At the NDPTC, he is tasked with weather and climate course development and delivery. Familiar with both a chromakey and an AED, Tom has a blended background of meteorology, first response, and emergency management. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from Penn State and has previously worked for the State College National Weather Service WFO (volunteer), AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions, Penn State Emergency Management, and four Emergency Medical Service agencies. This diverse background allows him to pursue his interests at the intersection of science and operations. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society Emergency Management Committee, International Association of Emergency Managers, the Hawai'i Emergency Management Professionals group, and maintains his Pennsylvania EMT-Basic/Instructor certification.

Tom is an avid hockey and lacrosse fan; two sports that are unfortunately absent from his residence on O'ahu, Hawai'i. In their absence, he finds ways of watching Penn State sports despite the difference in time zones. He is also an avid hammock-er, if that was ever a thing.

Jeremy Berman



Jeremy is a third-year graduate student at the University at Albany, SUNY in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. His research has focused on mesoscale convection and the evolution of errors within a numerical modeling framework. Additionally, he has interests in jet dynamics, along with previous work in tropical cyclone prediction.

Jeremy is originally from the great city of Chicago, IL., where the diverse weather patterns attracted his attention to the skies. This, combined with his deep passion for mathematics and science, led him to attend the University of Miami (UM) in Miami, FL. in the fall of 2010. Besides bleeding green and orange, Jeremy further explored his interests in meteorology during these years. He was an active member of the UM Chi Epsilon Pi Meteorological Honors Society and the UM student chapter of the American Meteorological Society, where he participated in outreach events at local schools and designed campus-wide weather forecasts. He also participated in a summer internship at the University of Chicago relating intense storms to the fragmentation of Antarctic ice sheets. More closely related to his current research interests, he collaborated with a UM professor on tropical cyclone forecast tracks and performed bias diagnostics with regards to current hurricane models. In spring 2013 Jeremy graduated UM with a B.S. in Meteorology and Mathematics, with a minor in Physics, along with Departmental and University Honors. In his free time, Jeremy is a super enthusiastic fan of the game of chess, with numerous national achievements under his belt. He also loves movies, bowling, all Chicago sports, pizza (who doesn't?!), and catching up with friends. This is his first year on the committee, and he is hoping for an exciting AMS Student Conference for all!

Renee Curry



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. 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. She is currently obtaining her PhD from Colorado State University within the Graduate Degree Program of Ecology. She is working with Dr. Scott Denning of the Atmospheric Science Department/CMMAP program on weather/climate education and the global carbon model called the Simple Biosphere Model. Her dissertation research focuses on the very significant drought in the grasslands and cropland of the U.S. Great Plains that occurred from 2010–2012. She has been involved on the Student Conference Planning Committee for many years and 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!

Jennifer DeHart

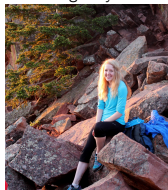


Jennifer is a fifth year graduate student at the University of Washington in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 2010 with a B.S.E. in Earth Systems Science and Engineering (concentration: meteorology) and a minor in Art History. Her research interests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

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

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

Erin Dougherty



Erin is first year graduate student at the University of Albany, SUNY and is a recent graduate from the University of Virginia, at which she obtained her B.S. in Environmental Science. Though fascinated by weather at a young age while playing in snowstorms and watching summer thunderstorms, it was not until she started doing climatological research with a professor at UVA that she decided to pursue this field as a career. Aside from conducting research on the relationship between flu mortality and climate in New Zealand at UVA, Erin has participated in summer research internships through SOARS and the CSU-CHILL REU in Colorado. This past summer while in SOARS, she participated in the PECAN field experiment as part of the ground-crew, deploying instruments into nighttime mesoscale convective systems. Now at the University at Albany, Erin continues to research severe weather, specifically focusing on the role of vertical wind shear in tropical cyclone intensity changes.

Outside of doing research, Erin was the president of a forecasting club at UVA for the past couple of years during which she performed outreach events, broadcasted forecasts on the local radio station, and hosted guest lecturers. To keep her sane, Erin is an avid runner and was part of her university's club cross-country team during her undergraduate career. Aside from running or doing anything weather-related, Erin loves to travel, cook, read, practice photography, hike, and do anything outdoorsy. This is her first year on the Student Conference Planning Committee and she is very excited to be a part of it!

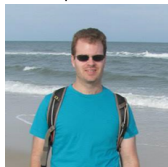
Matt Flournoy



Matt is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma and a recent graduate of Penn State (2015). He is currently working on a case study from the PECAN field project involving severe nocturnal convection under the guidance of Mike Coniglio, and hopes to pursue similar topics for his Ph.D. His passion for severe weather began at a young age the first time he watched Twister.

While at Penn State, Matt became involved with the Campus Weather Service and local branch of the AMS. After two years and one long chase day in the Northeast, he and a group of friends formed the Penn State Storm Chase Team. As inaugural president, Matt helped draft the group's constitution, organize guest lectures and fundraising activities, and guide the team around severe storms on its first 10-day chase trip in the Plains in May 2014. Last summer, he had the opportunity to return to the Plains through the Hollings program and study supercell simulations at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK. This opened the door for his graduate school work and involvement in the Plains Elevated Convection at Night (PECAN) field project. As a mobile sounding operator, he was responsible for launching weather balloons throughout the night, driving in heavy rain at night, and taking breathtaking lightning photos at night. As a first year member of the SPCPC, Matt is excited to get involved and help plan a fabulous student conference in New Orleans!

Dan Halperin



Dan Halperin graduated with a B.S. in Applied Meteorology and minor in Mathematics (2009) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). He earned an M.S. (2012) and Ph.D. (2015) in Meteorology from Florida State University (FSU). Dan's dissertation research involved evaluating tropical cyclone (TC) genesis forecasts from global numerical models. Using those historical forecasts, he developed a statistical model that provides real-time TC genesis probabilities based on global model forecasts. The goal is for the statistical model to become a useful guidance tool for operational forecasters. Dan currently is a postdoc at the University at Albany, SUNY studying the prediction of hurricane intensity forecast error.

Dan was an active member and previous president of the local AMS chapter at ERAU. While at FSU, Dan had the opportunity to participate in NASA's Genesis and Rapid Intensification Processes field campaign and flew on board a research flight into Hurricane Earl. In his spare time, Dan enjoys kayaking, paddleboarding, and hiking.

Aaron Hill



Aaron is a fourth year graduate student at Texas Tech University in the Atmospheric Science Group, working under Dr.'s Christopher Weiss and Brian Ancell toward his PhD in Geoscience. He graduated in 2012 from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Atmospheric Science and an emphasis in meteorology. His research interests primarily involve improved predictability of dryline convective initiation through mesoscale data assimilation, ensemble sensitivity analysis, and observation targeting. He first became interested in scientific research after attending the 2011 AMS Student Conference in Seattle, WA. He joined Robert Houze's group as an undergraduate student and quickly learned that research was what he wanted to pursue. Furthermore, he has enjoyed experiences as an intern for the ABC News affiliate in Seattle, WA and at the Oxnard, CA NWS forecast office, investigating HRRR model biases along the coast. He enjoys field work with the Severe Storm and Hurricane Research teams at Texas Tech, particularly when it concerns beautiful supercell thunderstorms. Outside of research, Aaron has served as AMS Student Chapter President for chapters at Washington and last year at Texas Tech, currently serving as secretary for his local chapter. He is a principal planner for Lubbock's annual Severe Weather Awareness Day, a community event to showcase the importance of severe weather awareness through various emergency management booths and hands on experiments put on by the Texas Tech AMS Student chapter. Additionally, he loves forecasting and recently took on the challenge of managing the Texas Tech WxChallenge team, bringing a record number of students onto the team for the competition. In his spare time, Aaron plays for the Blue Northers softball team, a combination of Texas Tech Atmo. students and NWS employees. He enjoys a good craft beer, watching football, golfing, and hiking. This is his second year involved with the planning committee and he is looking forward to a successful conference!

Amber Hill



Amber is currently a first year Ph.D student at Kent State University studying Geography and is planning to focus on climate change perceptions relating to National Parks. She is a recent graduate student from Millersville University in Pennsylvania working on her Master's of Science in Integrated Scientific Applications with a specialization in Climate Science Applications. She finished up her degree by working on her field practicum as a GIS Analysis intern at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in Port Alsworth, Alaska. Amber graduated with a BS in Earth Science with a concentration in Meteorology from California University of Pennsylvania with minors in GIS/Emergency Management and in Mathematics. Both universities have allowed her to participate in local chapters of the AMS and local educational and outreach programs including Science Olympiad, Public Weather Awareness Day (PWAD, Millersville University), and StormFest at Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh.

Amber is originally from Pittsburgh, PA and loves her Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates. When she is not watching her favorite sports teams win, you are likely to find her shopping with her friends and family or trying new food. Amber loves spending time outdoors by sitting out on the beach or hiking the snowy mountains. She also enjoys traveling to new cities to learn about their history by visiting museums and by hanging out at local spots.

This is Amber's first year as a member of the SCPC and she cannot wait to get more involved with the AMS! The 2016 Annual Meeting will be the fourth time Amber attends the student conference as well as the regular meeting. Amber has had great experiences in the past and would like to help other students make the same type of connections that she has. Feel free to contact Amber by emailing her at alhill@millersville.edu if you have any questions or want to find out more about her future goals.

Stacey Hitchcock



Stacey Hitchcock completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in meteorology at the University of Oklahoma and is beginning her second year as a Ph.D student in atmospheric science at Colorado State University. This is her fourth year on the Student Conference Planning Committee. During her Master's, she worked with Michael Coniglio at the National Severe Storms Laboratory on impacts of assimilating the relatively high resolution soundings collected during the Mesoscale Predictability Experiment (MPLEX). At CSU, she is working with Russ Schumacher on a few different projects using the high frequency soundings collected during the Plains Elevated Convection at Night (PECAN) field experiment and numerical simulations. She was awarded an American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowship in 2012 after graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors from the University of Oklahoma's School of Meteorology program with minors in Math and Geographic Information Systems. During her undergraduate, she gained research experience through the National Weather Center Research Experience for Undergraduates program and the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship program. She spent the summer of 2010 working at the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma on a project entitled Updraft Helicity as a Forecast Parameter, and the summer of 2011 working in Boulder, Colorado at the Earth System Research Laboratory on a Climate Change outreach project. During the summer of 2012, Stacey participated in the Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry (DC3) field project as a part of the ballooning team, and worked on a short research project on Tropical Cyclones in New Zealand. Stacey has been heavily involved in several student groups for a number of years. She served as the coordinator and co-coordinator of the School of Meteorology's Freshman Mentoring Program for three years, the president of the OU Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (SCAMS) during her senior year, and as a National Weather Tour Guide for six and a half years. Stacey also spent 5 months in the University of Reading's Meteorology department in Reading, England during her study abroad experience. Stacey is passionate about meteorology as a whole, and eventually would love to teach meteorology at a University while still pursuing her research interests. When she isn't involved with meteorology, Stacey enjoys performing in steel drum bands, playing tennis and ultimate frisbee, running, cooking, and traveling.

JP Kalb



JP is current a Meteorology Senior at San Jose State University. He is planning to either go into a career or attend graduate school after finishing his Bachelor's. JP served as the Co-Vice President of the Student Chapter of the AMS at San Jose State for the 2014-15 school year as a Junior. JP is currently serving as the club's forecaster by doing video forecasts as well as writing the forecast discussions. He also served as a student assistant in last year's AMS Conference in Phoenix. This will be JP's second trip to the AMS Student Conference and Annual meeting and first time as a member of the planning committee. JP is currently a Contract Weather Observer at Norman Mineta San Jose International Airport making the hourly METARs and the occasional SPECI. JP is also competing in the WxChallenge with his usual callsign of jp2nyy. JP is currently finishing up on his senior thesis on finding a way to start using forecast models to help forecast how much delay will occur at San Francisco International Airport due to the common Pacific Stratus phenomena. JP hopes to expand his work after his thesis to look at other airports and their flight delay issues and to help find a way to use weather models to help forecast the delays at those airports. JP also hopes to go on to graduate school to achieve expanding his vision of forecasting airport delays. Outside of class and forecasting, JP enjoys to bike, watching sports and keeping statistics for football and baseball especially for his old high school, and also trying to promote his forecasts on Facebook. JP can be reached easily at jpkalb1990@yahoo.com or at his twitter at [@wxjp2nyy](https://twitter.com/wxjp2nyy). JP's forecast work can be found at <http://sjsuscams.weebly.com/forecast.html>.

Gaige Kerr



Gaige is in his first year of graduate school at Johns Hopkins University where he is advised by Dr. Darryn Waugh in the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences. In May 2015 he graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Atmospheric Science. Gaige also has served as the President of the Cornell Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (CCAMS) during the 2015-2015 academic year. He is interested in fire weather, aerosol remote sensing, and the epidemiology of environmental aerosols.

During the summer of 2014, Gaige was able to work as a research intern at the Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec through the NSERC CREATE Training Program in Arctic Atmospheric Science. Here, he researched the spectral aerosol optical depth curvature associated with a representative sampling of Arctic and mid-latitude sites to test the presence of a brown carbon signal.

Gaige has attended three AMS student conferences and looks forward to planning and attending the next in "The Big Easy." In his spare time, he enjoys running, cooking, Couchsurfing, and playing the piano. For additional questions, feel free to contact him at gaige.kerr@jhu.edu!

Danielle Kozlowski



Danielle is currently finishing her Masters Degree at UAHuntsville working under Dr. Larry Carey, studying the role of lightning in severe storms. She graduated from the University of Missouri with her B.S. in Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences in December 2011 along with minors in Mathematics, Geography and her GIS Certificate. Danielle was involved in the AMS throughout her undergraduate career as well. During her time at Mizzou, she served as the Treasurer of the joint AMS/NWA chapter during her sophomore year, Campus Weather Service co-chair during her junior year and President during her senior year. Additionally, Danielle was an undergraduate research intern during the summers of 2010 and 2011 at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. At NASA's Short Term Prediction Research and Transition Center (SPoRT) she worked under her mentor Brad Zavodsky, and spent her first summer analyzing the SPoRT WRF and RUC models determining the impact AIRS data had on summertime convective forecasts in the southeast United States. Her second summer was spent focusing on analyzing the impact of the SPoRT and NSSL WRF forecasts from the tornado outbreak of April 2011 in Alabama. Danielle is currently serving a three-year term on the AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee that ends in Seattle 2017. During the fall of 2014, she had the opportunity to intern at Southwest Airlines in Dallas, TX. Some of her intern duties included creating weather forecasts for SWA's major airports: Atlanta, Chicago and Denver multiple times a day and helped with a significant winter weather research project for Chicago-Midway airport. She also participated in daily weather briefings that happened twice a day, meetings with the emergency planning department for severe weather operations at headquarters, and collaboration with the local WFO on writing, editing and grading TAFs for the airlines. Just recently in May 2015 she was hired on as Chief Meteorologist for a fantasy sports company called RotoCurve. Danielle puts together forecasts every afternoon Monday through Friday for MLB night games to help the fantasy players make decisions on their lineups. Outside of school, Danielle is originally from St. Louis, Missouri and a huge sports fan. She loves rooting for the St. Louis Cardinals, Green Bay Packers, North Carolina Tarheels and most importantly her alma mater, the Missouri Tigers! This will be Danielle's fourth year working on the Student Conference Planning Committee. Feel free to contact her at dmk0004@uah.edu

Ryan Kramer



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

Kenzie Krocak



Kenzie recently graduated with a B.S. in meteorology from Iowa State University. She is currently a masters student at the University of Oklahoma under the advisement of Dr. Harold Brooks. Her work focuses on the societal impacts on convective weather, and how to better communicate risk to the general public.

This past summer, Kenzie worked on the PECAN project, launching sondes for NCAR. During her undergraduate studies, she had the opportunity to intern at the National Severe Storms Laboratory with Harold through the NOAA Hollings program. Her unique project studied the communication of severe weather on Twitter. This experience solidified her desire to attend graduate school and earn her PhD in meteorology. Throughout her time at ISU, Kenzie remained active within the meteorology department. As a junior, she served as Vice President of the Iowa State Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. During her senior year, she served as President, where she helped implement new events such as a science fair, public severe weather awareness events, and upgrading the clubs tornado simulator. In addition, Kenzie also tutored the freshmen in calculus, and coaches figure skating in her spare time.

Holly Lussenden



Holly is a second year PhD student in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences program at Mississippi State University. She will conduct social science research involving effective communication of weather hazards and response to hazards under the direction of Dr. Kathleen Sherman-Morris.

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

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

Peter Marinescu



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

After working as a financial analyst in New York City for three years, Peter decided to pursue his true passion for atmospheric science. He went back to school, taking post-baccalaureate classes at Stony Brook University, SUNY. After completing internships at Colorado State University's CHILL Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) and NASA's DEVELOP program at Langley Research Center, he realized he would like to pursue a research career and graduate education. Having always been interested in clouds, his current research focuses on studying how aerosol particles, such as dust or smoke particles, impact the microphysics and dynamics of convective cloud systems. Peter is active in many of the student groups at Colorado State University, including the local chapters of the AMS and American Association of Aerosol Research (AAAR). This is Peter's fourth time attending the AMS Student Conference and his second year on AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. Outside the world of atmospheric science, Peter enjoys playing tennis, hiking, biking and snowboarding.

Carlos Martinez



Carlos is currently a Senior Meteorology major with a minor in Mathematics at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. While undergoing his undergraduate career, Carlos currently serves as president of the Texas A&M Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (TAMSCAMS). He is also undergoing Directed Studies under the direction of Dr. Don Conlee, investigating soil moisture probes used for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences' mesonet site. Stemmed by his passion in the Atmospheric Sciences and his desire to serve others oriented by his faith, he is interested in graduate school with interests on the societal and humanitarian impacts from weather and climate.

During the summer of 2014 he was privileged to be a part of the Significant Opportunities for Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program at NCAR, researching the relationship between Atmospheric Blocking and the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) using the CESM1 Large Ensemble. His work received grand prize at the Virtual Poster Showcase of the 2014 AGU Conference, and 3rd prize in the poster session of the Air-Sea Interaction Conference at the 2015 AMS Conference. He is also a recipient of the NOAA Hollings Scholarship program and was at the Earth Systems Research Laboratory in Colorado during the summer of 2015 researching the 'Usability of Atmospheric Data Products for Decision Makers and Modelers.'

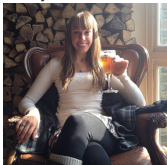
Outside of research Carlos enjoys running, writing, reading, sleeping, and is a fan of chips and salsa and Whataburger. As his first year on the Student Conference Planning Committee, he is ecstatic and looks forward in attending for his second time the AMS Conference! Feel free to contact him at clsm@tamu.edu.

Annareli Morales



Annareli is a second year Ph.D. student in Dr. Derek Posselt's research group at the University of Michigan's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences. She successfully completed her M.S. in Atmospheric Science (Summer 2014) at Colorado State University co-advised by Drs. Sonia Kreidenweis and Russ Schumacher. Her M.S. thesis focused on exploring the effect of latent heating to the development of a mesoscale vortex observed during the September 2013 Colorado extreme precipitation and flooding event. Annareli graduated in 2012 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Atmospheric Science and Geology. She participated in the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program for two summers at NCAR in Boulder, CO. Besides staring at clouds, Annareli enjoys badminton, tennis, kickboxing, and crafting. She also enjoys volunteering with community outreach events to spark a scientific interest in the next generation of scientists. She loves meeting great, new people during the conferences, listening to the great presenters, and exploring the beautiful host cities. This will be her third year on the planning committee. Please feel free to contact her at annareli@umich.edu.

Kelsey Mulder



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

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

Erik Nielsen



Erik Nielsen graduated from Texas A&M University on 2013 with a B.S. in Meteorology, and he recently completed a M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Colorado State University. Erik's research focuses on the predictability of extreme precipitation and associated impacts. Further, Erik is involved in the policy and social aspects of warning communication, specifically in concurrent, colocated multi-threat scenarios. Currently, Erik is working on a PhD at Colorado State under the advisement of Dr. Russ Schumacher. Erik was recently involved with the Plains Elevated Convection At Night (PECAN) field experiment and will also be involved in the upcoming VORTEX-SE field experiment. He previously worked in the Storm Surge Unit at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. This is Erik's second year on the Student Conference Planning Committee.

Colin Raymond



Colin is a second-year Ph.D. student at Columbia University, where he studies regional climate modeling. He is particularly interested in using high-resolution models and statistical tools in combination to characterize and make projections of extreme heat events—and is pursuing this work with several researchers, including Dr. Radley Horton at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Dr. Jason Smerdon at Columbia. He graduated in 2014 from Cornell University with a B.S. in Atmospheric Science. While an undergrad, Colin participated in a summer internship at GFDL through the Hollings scholarship program. This is also Colin's first year on the SCPC (his 3rd AMS conference overall), and he has enjoyed being a part of this very competent team. Outside of coursework and research, he enjoys traveling, reading nonfiction, and visiting the museums of New York.

Rosimar Rios-Berrios



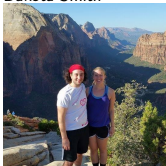
Rosimar is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She was a recipient of the 2012/2013 American Meteorological Society/Lockheed Martin Graduate Fellowship, and she is currently funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Rosimar's PhD work has focused on the problem of tropical cyclone intensification in environments characterized by moderate vertical wind shear. She is mainly interested in studying many aspects of tropical cyclones, but she is also interested in midlatitude-tropics interactions, sudden stratospheric warmings, land-sea breeze circulations, and orographic enhancement of tropical cyclone rainband precipitation.

Rosimar grew up in Puerto Rico, where she experienced the effects of various tropical cyclones that inspired her to pursue a career in meteorology. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.Sc. in Theoretical Physics and a curricular sequence in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM). During her undergraduate years, she had various research experiences studying different aspects of tropical cyclones. Those experiences included a summer internship at the NOAA Hurricane Research Division sponsored by the NOAA Educational Partnership Program, and a summer internship at the National Center for Atmospheric Research under the auspices of the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program. Rosimar also practiced her leadership skills during as president of the UPRM's American Meteorological Society (AMS) Student Chapter for two consecutive academic years (2010-2012). Her chapter was awarded Student Chapter of the Year (2010-2011), Local Chapter Honor Roll (2011-2012) and first place in Local Chapter Competitions at the 2011 and 2012 AMS Annual Meetings.

Outside of her research and leadership activities, Rosimar enjoys hiking, exercising, traveling, watching shows in Netflix, and dancing ballet.

This is Rosimar's fifth year in the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. Rosimar served as Co-Chair of the committee during two consecutive years (2013-2014 and 2014-2015). Feel free to contact Rosimar via e-mail at rrios-berrios@albany.edu or via Twitter @RosimarWx.

Dakota Smith



Dakota Smith is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University (CSU). His research is focused on using remotely sensed data to improve the modeling of land-atmosphere interactions in seasonal grasslands. Growing up in central Maryland, Dakota (on the left) was fascinated with the powerful nature of severe storms and nor'easters. In an effort to learn more about the atmosphere, he interned at the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins University in high school. After graduating, he participated in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) at the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus where he studied pollution in urban streams and groundwater. Shortly after, Dakota attended Pennsylvania State University to study meteorology. The summer after his freshman year, Dakota participated in another REU at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON). At LUMCON, he researched the annual and seasonal cycles of sea level along the continental United States coastlines. During his sophomore year at Penn State, he became a NOAA Hollings Scholar. Through the Hollings program he interned at the Center for Multi-scale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes at CSU. He enjoyed his experience so much he made CSU his eventual home after graduating from Penn State with a Bachelors of Science in meteorology. Now he's in his second year of working towards his Masters degree while also taking on a teaching assistantship. If you're interested in contacting him, please feel free to send a message to dakota@atmos.colostate.edu.

Samantha Tushaus



Samantha is a researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studying remote sensing of shallow snowfall. She received her Bachelor's in meteorology from Iowa State in 2012, and her Master's in atmospheric science from the University of Michigan in 2014. At U-M she studied orographic precipitation using Bayesian statistical analysis with Dr Derek Posselt. She has participated in internships and research programs in Geneva, NY, and Boulder and Fort Collins, CO. She enjoys outreach, reading, cross-stitch, hiking, and travel, and spent much of summer 2014 traversing Alaska and central Europe! AMS 2016 will be Samantha's 6th AMS Conference, and her 3rd (and final) year on the Student Conference Planning Committee. She recently joined the Board of Early Career Professionals, and will be coordinating the joint session between the Student and Early Career Conferences. Her favorite part about being on the SCPC is hearing how impressed our speakers always are with the students that attend!

Olga Tweedy



Olga is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD) under a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. She studies middle atmosphere dynamics and stratosphere–troposphere coupling. As a graduate student Olga investigated the impact of polar ozone asymmetries on the stratospheric and tropospheric circulation. Currently she studies transport in the tropical lower stratosphere, which plays a key role in our understanding of how atmospheric composition is changing. In particular, Olga examines the variability of the tropical lower stratosphere ozone and other radiatively-important constituents (e.g., water vapor and aerosols) as well as the processes causing this variability. Olga is originally from Russia, but she graduated with B.S in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University (CCU) in 2013 with a strong interest in atmospheric chemistry and physics. While at CCU she worked over 2 years as a student research assistant at the Department of Physics and Chemistry where she was involved in several research projects. While in CCU, Olga investigated the impact of sudden stratospheric warming (SSW) on upper atmosphere (mesosphere and lower-thermosphere) composition and dynamics. During the summer of 2012, Olga had an opportunity to continue her research at National Center for Atmospheric Research as a visiting scientist. Outside of class and research, Olga enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors. She participated in two AMS conferences and this is Olga's first year as a member of the Student Conference Planning Committee. She is very excited about an opportunity to be more involved with AMS. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Olga by emailing her at otweedy1@jhu.edu

Arianna Varuolo-Clarke



Arianna is a junior in the Atmospheric Science Department at Lyndon State College in Northeastern Vermont. Since beginning her undergraduate degree, Arianna has known that she wants to create a career for herself that combines her passions for science and learning with her love for adventure and the outdoors. With these goals in mind, she is planning to pursue a graduate degree with a focus on polar climate and/or weather. With this goal, she also hopes to visit Antarctica one day, which would be the ideal combination of science and adventure. This past summer Arianna participated in the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program at NCAR. Her research project looked into how volcanic eruptions affect climate in a climate model. She also did research the summer before with one of her professors that looked at how climate change might impact the Northeast. Climate and climate change has been a reoccurring theme for her and some might say she is a bit of a tree hugger. This summer Arianna will spend two months in Alaska as part of the Juneau Icefield Research Program. Arianna has served as the Community Outreach Officer of her AMS Student Chapter for the past two years. Aside from studying, Arianna loves being outside and going on adventures. While growing up, she camped and hiked often. During her time at college, she became even more involved in the outdoors when she took a new hobby of rock climbing. She has also tried ice climbing and stand up paddle boarding and enjoys canoeing and kayaking when she has the opportunity. This is Arianna's first time on the planning committee and she is really excited! Feel free to contact her at amv10070@lyndonstate.edu.

Christopher Zarzar



Chris is a PhD student in the Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State University. He is researching hydrometeorological processes in coastal watersheds using Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

A Chapel Hill native, Chris' fascination with weather evolved from a childhood fear of storms. Meteorology and soccer lead Chris to pursue his B.S. in Atmospheric Science at the University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA). Chris was involved in a variety of undergraduate research projects and also gained experience in front of the camera as a broadcast meteorologist intern at WLOS News 13 in Asheville. While at UNCA, Chris was an active member of the local AMS student chapter. He graduated in 2011 and after a year off enjoying the mountains, he pursued his master's degree at East Carolina University. Chris graduated with his M.A. in Geography at East Carolina University where he was a research assistant with Dr. Tom Rickenbach. Chris' thesis, "A Precipitation Organization Climatology for North Carolina: Development and GIS-Based Analysis", investigated the different impacts isolated storms and mesoscale precipitation features have on watershed hydrology. Upon attending East Carolina University, his past experiences with the UNCA AMS Student Chapter led him and fellow classmates, Holly Lussenden and Robbie Munroe, to form the East Carolina AMS Chapter.

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