

Biographies: AMS Student Conference Planning Committee Members

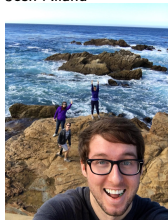
16th Annual AMS Student Conference

Observe the Leaders of Today, Become the Leaders of Tomorrow

January 21–22, 2017

Seattle, WA

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 AMS Summer Policy Colloquium in 2015.

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

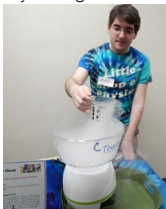


Kristy is a graduate student and NSF IGERT Fellow working on a co-major PhD in Meteorology and Wind Energy Science, Engineering, and Policy at Iowa State University. She finished her MS in Geography at the University of South Carolina in May 2016 ironically studying snow science and the impacts large snowfalls have on avalanches in Prince William Sound, AK.

Originally from the Sunflower State, Kristy 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 an undergraduate 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. This is Kristy's second year as a Co-Chair for the AMS Student Conference and the 2017 conference in Seattle will be Kristy's 7th consecutive student conference! Kristy is also a member of the AMS Centennial Committee and is the Past Chair of the AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee.

Academically, Kristy spent much of her undergraduate career studying wind energy and nocturnal low level jets. In 2012, she started studying significant snowfall events in southern Alaska following an internship with the National Weather Service in Anchorage, Alaska through the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program. This project was continued for her senior thesis during the Fall of 2012 and was the inspiration for her MS as well. Kristy ultimately returned to Iowa State and the wind energy research in summer 2016 to complete her PhD. Outside of Research, Kristy is a health and safety instructor for the Red Cross and volunteers for the NE Iowa BSA COPE and Climbing Committee. In her free time, Kristy is most likely playing her french horn, running, rock climbing, or on an outdoor adventure. If you ever want to get in contact with Kristy, e-mail her at carterkristyc@gmail.com.

Aryeh Drager



Aryeh Drager is a fourth-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 third year serving on the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee, Aryeh is excited to be helping out as co-chair and is looking forward to attending his fifth(!) AMS Student Conference. Please feel free to contact him; he can be reached at aryeh@atmos.colostate.edu.

Stacey Hitchcock



Stacey Hitchcock completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in meteorology at the University of Oklahoma and is now a Ph.D candidate in atmospheric science at Colorado State University. Currently, she is working with Russ Schumacher on a few different projects including analysis of the frequent soundings launched during the Plains Elevated Convection at Night (PECAN) field experiment and numerical simulations of quasi-stationary mesoscale convective systems. During her Master's, she worked with Michael Coniglio on impacts of assimilating the relatively high resolution soundings collected during the Mesoscale Predictability Experiment (MPEX) on short term convective forecasts. 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, and the summer of 2011 working in Boulder, Colorado at the Earth System Research Laboratory. During the summer of 2012, Stacey participated in the Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry (DC3) field project as a part of the ballooning team. While at OU, Stacey 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 for a study abroad.

Since moving to CSU, she has continued to stay involved in a number of activities. This is her fifth year on the student conference planning committee, and over the last year, she has also sat on the 2017 AMS Program Committee. She is a graduate representative for the atmospheric science department at CSU, coordinates a local high school severe weather presentation, and has done a number of outreach weather balloon launches. Stacey loves field work, and is very excited to be launching even more balloons during some up and coming projects. Stacey is passionate about meteorology as a whole, and eventually would love to become faculty in an atmospheric science/meteorology program. When she isn't involved with meteorology, Stacey enjoys performing in steel drum bands, playing tennis and ultimate frisbee, running, cooking, and traveling.

Erik Nielsen



Erik Nielsen graduated from Texas A&M University on 2013 with a B.S. in Meteorology, and completed a M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Colorado State University in 2015. 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, collocated 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 third or fourth year on the Student Conference Planning Committee. He is also a huge San Antonio Spurs fan!

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, Mesoscale Meteorology, Numerical Weather Prediction, 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.

Massey Bartolini

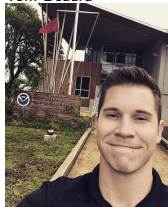


Massey Bartolini is a first-year graduate student at the University at Albany, SUNY, having recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in May 2016 (B.S., Atmospheric Sciences, concentrations in Climatology and Weather Forecasting). He is currently studying lake-effect snow under the advisement of Prof. Justin Minder.

Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Massey loves to study extreme weather events impacting the Mid-Atlantic, specifically snowstorms as well as the occasional tropical storm or severe weather outbreak. While at UNCA, he worked on an independent research project studying mesoscale snow banding in two Southeast U.S. winter storms, and participated in two UNCA field projects (hikes to service a remote, high-elevation rain gauge network in the Smoky Mountains, and weather balloon launches during winter storms). During the summer of 2015, Massey also had the opportunity to attend the National Weather Center Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, where he studied several thermodynamic and microphysical factors influencing the rain/snow transition zone in Sierra Nevada winter storms, using a spectral-bin microphysical model. Massey enjoys working with observations, and hopes to continue studying mid-latitude cyclones and mesoscale winter precipitation features.

In addition, Massey was involved with the UNCA Student Chapter of the AMS, having served as Treasurer and then President. During that time, he helped plan guest speakers, develop a webpage for student local weather forecasts, collaborate with the local Asheville AMS professional chapter, and coordinate student trips to the AMS Annual Meeting in 2014 and 2016. This is Massey's first year on the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee, and he is excited to be contributing to the AMS Student Conference in Seattle! In his free time, Massey enjoys hiking, golf, and time-lapse photography, among other outdoor activities.

Tom Bedard



Tom Bedard is a catastrophic risk analyst for Risk Management Solutions, a Rescue EMT for Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad, a course developer and FEMA instructor for the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC), and a Mission Assignment Specialist for FEMA's Operations Cadre. He graduated from Penn State with a degree in meteorology in 2014 and has previously worked for AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions and as an on-site staff member for the NDPTC.

Tom's interests in meteorology are focused on weather impacts to emergency management and first response operations and he is active with the AMS Emergency Management Committee. He currently resides in Hoboken, NJ.

Jeremy Berman



Jeremy is a fourth-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 second year on the committee, and he is hoping for an exciting AMS Student Conference for all!

Jennifer DeHart



Jennifer is a seventh 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 and OLYMPLEX in Washington state during the 2015-2016 winter. 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 fourth year on the planning committee.

Erin Dougherty



Erin is a second-year graduate student at the University at Albany, SUNY in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. She is researching the role of vertical wind shear on hurricane intensity using observational data from Hurricane Bonnie (1998).

Her interest in weather traces back to 4th grade, during the historic President's Day snowstorm of 2003, which dumped enough snow in Virginia to get school cancelled for a week. This event got her interested in meteorology, because she wanted to understand the science behind predicting the weather. Ever since then, she has been involved in atmospheric science in a myriad of ways, from middle and high school science fairs, to being the president of her university's weather club for several years. While obtaining a B.S. in Environmental Science with an atmospheric science concentration at the University of Virginia, Erin got involved in climatological research and soon after sought more research experiences. She analyzed radar data in the CSU-CHILL Research Experience for Undergrad (REU) the summer after her sophomore year, followed by two summers as an intern in the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Sciences (SOARS) program. While in SOARS, she researched hurricane structure (leading her to her current research in graduate school), and also performed field work in the Plains Elevated Convection at Night (PECAN) field campaign.

Beyond the classroom, Erin enjoys hiking, running, travelling, cooking, photography, and writing. She has enjoyed being part of the planning SCPC for the second year in a row!

Matt Flournoy

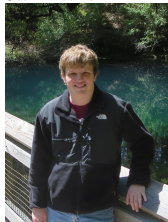


Matt is a second-year graduate student at the University of Oklahoma and a 2015 Penn State grad. He is currently working on a case study from the PECAN field project involving nocturnal tornadogenesis under the guidance of Mike Coniglio, and hopes to pursue similar topics for his Ph.D. His passion for 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. A couple months later, 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 in summer 2015. 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. His incredible weather balloon launching skills were also utilized in spring 2016 when he participated in the Mesoscale Predictability Experiment (MPEx-mini) campaign.

In his extensive free time, Matt enjoys playing piano at a local Church and bossing kids around on the soccer field as a referee. This is Matt's second year on the planning committee, and he is looking forward to a great student conference in Seattle.

Sean Freeman



Sean is currently a second-year Master's student in Sue van den Heever's group at Colorado State University, under a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Sean's research is on the differing environmental conditions that lead to tornadogenesis and on cloud microphysical processes. Additionally, Sean is a certified Remote Pilot (drone pilot) and flies small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) for his research. He also flew sUAS and launched soundings for a local field campaign, C³LOUD-Ex.

Sean grew up in West Virginia and Kentucky and graduated with my bachelor's degree from Florida State University in meteorology and computer science. He has been involved in research since high school at the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University. While at Florida State, Sean completed a senior thesis investigating the transport of anthropogenic pollutants by Hurricane Sandy. In addition to his thesis work, he also participated in the NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) in 2013. In Summer 2015, Sean returned to SARP as its coding mentor, giving lectures and individually teaching 32 students about programming. Outside of work, Sean enjoys traveling, cooking (we have lots of baked goods), and watching college football (Go Noles!).

Amber Hill



Amber is currently a second year Ph.D. student at Kent State University studying Geography. Her research focuses on climate change perceptions and adaptations for resource dependent and indigenous communities in Southwest Alaska. Amber has a Master's degree from Millersville University in Integrated Scientific Applications and a B.S. in Earth Science with a Meteorology concentration from California University of PA.

Amber is currently the president of the Geography Graduate Student Association (GGSA) at Kent State, which allows her to serve as a liaison between the general graduate student population and administration, as well as plan events for graduate students. When Amber is not focusing on research, she can be found traveling or spending time outside hiking and kayaking.

This will be Amber's second year serving on the SCPC. Amber can be contacted by email (ahill59@kent.edu) if you have any further questions or research ideas!

JP Kalb



JP is a recent graduate (May 2016) from San Jose State University with his Bachelor's in Meteorology. JP did his Bachelor's thesis on the San Francisco Stratus and the development of a method to forecast the delays at San Francisco International Airport that occur due to the stratus the night before the FAA issues their ground delay program. JP has lived in the San Jose/Santa Clara area his entire life even in college as a commuter student. JP is in his second year of being on the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee and has been active such as co-chairing the Conversations with Professionals panel in 2016. JP is currently searching actively for a career in Meteorology on top of applying for graduate programs especially in aviation meteorology. JP is currently working at San Jose International Airport as a weather observer, which helped inspire his thesis and pursuit of a career in aviation meteorology.

When not working or job-hunting, JP can be found going on an adventure (usually on his bike or on a train), on his laptop or at a sports game. JP is also very fond of sports [especially the Yankees and most Bay Area teams except the 49ers], food and Mountain Dew. JP can be contacted by email at jpkalb1990@yahoo.com, Twitter: [@wxjp2nyy](https://twitter.com/wxjp2nyy), Phone: 408-569-7539.

Gaige Kerr



Gaige Kerr hails from Southeastern Wisconsin and attended Cornell University and graduated in May 2015 with a B.Sc in Atmospheric Sciences and a minor in Music. During his time as an undergraduate he worked as a research assistant with Arthur DeGaetano and had a research traineeship at the Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec. Currently he is a first year Ph.D student in the Morton K. Blaustein Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is a member of the Waugh Research Group which focuses on atmosphere and ocean dynamics and transport. In particular, Gaige is interested in particulate matter and tropospheric ozone and investigating their impact on human health in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

In his spare time Gaige enjoys running, cooking German and Indian foods, playing classical piano, and traveling. This is his second year on the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee, and he's looking forward to being in Seattle in 2017 (and visiting the famed gum wall). Feel free to contact Gaige at gaige.kerr@jhu.edu or (920) 285-5177!

Ryan Kramer



Ryan Kramer is a 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 fourth year as a member of the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee. He looks forward to serving as the committee liaison to the AMS Board of Early Career Professionals.

Kenzie Krocak



Kenzie is originally from the Twin Cities, Minnesota. She recently graduated with a B.S. in meteorology from Iowa State University, and is currently a masters student at the University of Oklahoma under the advisement of Dr. Harold Brooks. Her work focuses on probabilistic forecasts of severe weather on a wide range of temporal and spatial scales.

During her undergraduate studies, Kenzie 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. Kenzie has stayed involved at OU by being a teaching assistant for non-major meteorology courses, by planning and hosting visiting students weekends for new graduate students, and by coaching competitive figure skating in her spare time.

Elizabeth Lennartson



Elizabeth is a masters student at the University of Iowa within the Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Department. She researches the effects of aerosols and meteorology on air pollution over the Korean Peninsula.

Elizabeth is originally from Woodbury, MN. When she was eight years old, her neighbor's house was hit by a lightning strike and burned to the ground. Thankfully, no one was harmed, but this event is what sparked (no pun intended) her interest in weather. As a junior undergraduate, she attended the AMS Student Conference and Annual Meeting for the first time and realized she was drawn to air pollution and human health sessions. She had the opportunity to intern at the Earth System Research Laboratory under NOAA's Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, where she researched the meteorological influences on ground-level ozone at Trinidad Head, CA. This work continued into her undergraduate senior thesis when she studied stratospheric intrusion ozone events.

Elizabeth graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Meteorology from Iowa State University. She was an active member of their AMS Student Chapter where she served as social chair, a daily forecast lead for the Iowa State newspaper, and a mentor to younger undergraduates. In her spare time, you can find Elizabeth cooking, traveling, working out or playing with her two young nephews.

Tashiana Osborne



Tashiana Osborne is in the first year of her doctoral program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. Her research is within the Climate-Ocean-Atmosphere Program under an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and a San Diego Fellowship. Tashiana is dedicated to learning and communicating information about human and natural influences on Earth's atmospheric, hydrologic and oceanic systems. She engages in research and activities focused on the dynamics, effects of and changes in Western U.S. weather and water events, which, in turn, affect water resources, the economy, fisheries, and other factors of human and ecosystem vitality. She seeks opportunities of adventure to uncover and share more about the fascinating planet we call home.

Tashiana completed her Bachelor of Science degree at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She graduated with a double major in meteorology and hydrology and a minor in mass communication. While at SCSU, Tashiana interned with the NOAA North Central River Forecast Center, and with CNN Domestic and International Weather. She conducted research through a Bahamas paleoclimate NSF REU, and through the DEEPWAVE field campaign studying atmospheric gravity waves and cloud stereo photogrammetry in New Zealand. After graduating, Tashiana interned with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in science journalism and multimedia. She was then involved in a field campaign with the Center for Severe Weather Research before moving to California to begin graduate studies.

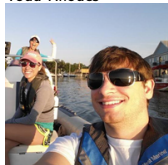
Tashiana currently serves as VP Representative of Graduate Women in Science & Engineering, and is excited to team up for planning the 2017 AMS Student Conference! Outside of her courses, research and leadership activities, Tashiana enjoys spending time in nature, participating in outreach events, adventuring, writing poems, yoga-ing, helping and learning about others. Contact: Tashiana@ucsd.edu

Minh Phan



Minh Phan is currently a first-year Master's student in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at East Carolina University. Minh has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography with a Certificate in Atmospheric Science from the University of Georgia. Minh's interests include the atmospheric sciences and the nexus between meteorology, communication, and social sciences. Minh's master's thesis focuses on mobile weather applications on smartphone devices and understanding how people interpret, perceive, and utilize this information on a daily basis. Minh has engaged in a variety of research endeavors, with topics in biometeorology, social media utilization and tornado debris, and perception of the probability of precipitation. Minh currently works with the National Weather Service through a virtual internship to develop infographics and visuals for NWS social media accounts and enhance communication strategies. He also serves on the National Weather Association Board on Societal Impacts. Minh does not enjoy writing about himself in third person, but Minh does enjoy playing sports like volleyball, soccer, and tennis. He also loves to go hiking, travel, and meet new people whenever he can.

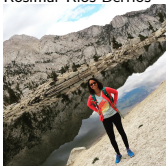
Todd Rhodes



Todd is a student at Coastal Carolina University working towards his PhD in Coastal and Marine Systems Science. His research focuses on inertia-gravity waves in the Polar Regions and their effects on polar stratospheric clouds. In 2015 he received a B.S. in Physics and a B.S. in Mathematics with university and Latin honors at Francis Marion University.

Born and raised in South Carolina, Todd has invested in his community to promote STEM education and research. In doing so, he has volunteered at NASA Saturdays of the Pee Dee, Science South, and Hour of Code. As a new member to AMS, Todd is excited to get more involved. Feel free to contact Todd at ctrhodes@coastal.edu.

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 a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship during 2013–2016. 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 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 TV shows, and dancing ballet.

This is Rosimar's sixth 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.

Daniel Rothenberg



Daniel recently received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where his dissertation work focused on the fundamental physics of aerosol-cloud-climate interactions underlying the indirect effect. His work was funded in part by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. He is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher at an EPA Air, Climate, and Energy Center starting up at MIT's Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, focusing on air quality and regional climate policy in the United States, among other topics related to aerosols and climate.

Originally from Louisville, KY, Daniel pursued his B.S. in Atmospheric Science at Cornell University, graduating magna cum laude and with an Honors Distinction in Research for a thesis which also won the 2007 AMS Father James B. MacElwane Award for the top atmospheric sciences research project by an undergraduate. During his tenure as a doctoral student, Daniel served on the AMS SCPC for 6 years (including as co-chair from 2015-2016) and as the chair of the Graduate Climate Conference. He participated in many science policy activities, including the AMS Summer Policy Colloquium in 2014, and as an executive member of the MIT Science Policy Initiative; these activities included visits to Members of Congress, Executive agencies, and collaborations with the Union of Concerned Scientists and the National Science Policy Group.

Beyond his core research, Daniel is an advocate for open/reproducible science and a Pythonista/founding member of the aospy project; he actively contributes to several major open source packages in the Python data science community, such as xarray. When not working on his coding side-projects, he enjoys classical violin and performs with ensembles at MIT, Harvard, Boston University, and throughout the Boston area. He'd love to talk to students about science policy, open science, and the weather in general via e-mail at daniel@danielrothenberg.com or on Twitter, @danrothenberg.

Virginia Rux

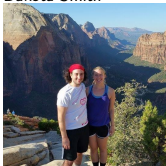


Virginia is currently a research assistant at NOAA/PMEL through the University of Washington's Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO). She helps with Moorings and Ice profiler data from the Alaskan seas to will help improve the understanding of Northern Pacific ecosystem dynamics and the relationship between the physical ocean and biological marine resources. She is also working for the University of Washington and the US Forest Service, analyzing time-series relationships of wind shifts using model grid resolution comparison to observations which impact wildfire direction and spread.

Virginia recently graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Sciences and an emphasis in Meteorology. During her time as an undergraduate, she was a competitive weather forecaster through the department and the WxChallenge for two years. Along with active forecasting, she spent a lot of time participating over three years with the student chapter of AMS. Virginia volunteered through assistantship at the AMS 93rd and 95th Annual Meetings and attended the AMS Student Conferences for the 95th and 96th Annual Meetings. This is her first year on the AMS SCPC and is excited to help out for the conference taking place in her locale.

When Virginia is not "sciening," she is parenting or dog grooming. Occassionally, she finds time enjoy oil painting, gardening, cycling, hiking and Subaru rally. vlklemm@uw.edu

Dakota Smith



Dakota Smith is a third-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.

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 three AMS conferences and this is Olga's second 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 first year graduate student at Stony Brook University (Stony Brook, NY) in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. She is currently studying boundary layer clouds off the coast of California in observations and different model simulations.

Arianna received a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Science from Lyndon State College, a small liberal arts college in northern Vermont. There she participated in several extracurricular activities which included serving on the Lyndon State AMS/NWA Student Chapter Executive Board for two consecutive years (2013-2015). She also participated in research experiences on and off campus. Arianna spent a summer doing research on campus investigating changes to the diurnal temperature range in the Northeastern United States. The following summer she was accepted into the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. During her three years in the SOARS Program, Arianna has spent two summers in Boulder working on climate modelling projects and one summer traversing the Juneau Icefield as a part of the Juneau Icefield Program (JIRP).

When Arianna isn't studying or doing research her favorite things to do are spend time with family, get outside, and talk about climate change! If you have any questions or would like to contact Arianna, you can email her at arianna.varuolo-clarke@stonybrook.edu.

Castle Williams



Castle Williams is currently a 1st year PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia. He holds a Master of Science degree in Geography, and both a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography (with an emphasis and certificate in the Atmospheric Sciences), as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Georgia. His overall research interests include examining how we communicate weather terminology and hazards to the public, as well as increasing the amount of interdisciplinary projects within the atmospheric sciences. In the spring of 2015, it was announced that he was the sole recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in the field of Communications. His recent publications have examined the various definitions and perceptions of the PoP by meteorologists and experts in our field, as well as the definitions of NWS wind products among a weather-salient public. At the beginning of 2016, Castle joined the National Weather Association (NWA) Societal Impacts Committee as a student member.