

Ithacation

Cornell Chapter of the American Meteorological Society Newsletter

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Dear Alumni:

Hello! We are so happy you're here to celebrate our 7th annual Alumni Weekend. We hope you enjoy revisiting the department and sharing your experiences with students, faculty, and staff. CCAMS has been very busy this year and we would like to take a moment to tell you a few of the things we've been up to.

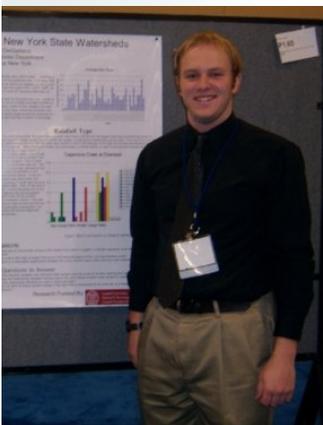
During the first months of school, we held our annual Snowfall Contest. Like other years, it cost one dollar to make one guess as to when the first inch of accumulated snow would fall. Half of the money raised went to CCAMS and half went to the winner. Usually the contest was limited to people within the department, but this year the contest was open to the entire Cornell campus and Ithaca community. The contest was a huge success, doubling the amount of money normally raised.

Shortly after our snowfall contest came to an end, CCAMS sent three members of its new Education and Outreach committee to volunteer at Ithaca's Spooky Science Fair, hosted by the Ithaca Sciencenter. The event was aimed at sparking children's interests in the sciences and attracted over 700 children of all ages.

This past January, over fifteen CCAMS members attended the 89th Annual AMS Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. This was one of the largest groups of CCAMSers to ever attend a national conference. To top it off, at least four of the attendees were fully funded by the AMS. While at the conference, students participated in an Alumni dinner during which they had the chance to meet and speak with several Cornell Alums.

In March, one student attended another conference, the Northeastern Storm Conference hosted by Lyndon State College. An array of speaker and panel discussions was available at the conference. This conference provides ample opportunities to meet and socialize with students from other schools in the Northeast.

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Andrew Shook '09 presents his senior honors thesis research at the AMS Student Conference.

Secretary's Report

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At the end of March, CCAMS initiated a Department clean-out day. The process took about three weeks during which the student lounge and room 1102 were cleared out, cleaned, and redecorated. CCAMS funds were used to purchase a new couch and rug and SAFC funds were used to purchase new posters. Additionally, several skew-T log-P maps were laminated to promote student collaboration through the use of dry erase markers.

This weekend, as you all know, we are hosting the 7th annual Alumni Weekend. Thanks to your participation, this is one of the largest Alumni Weekends ever held with over twenty-four alumni attending.

Finally, as the academic year comes to a close, CCAMS plans on hosting its annual photo contest. The winner will get their picture framed and hung in the student lounge. CCAMS will also be hosting several social events including a formal, study week study break session, and a student research symposium.

We hope you enjoy your time on campus and getting to know the current students. As Alumni Weekend would not be possible without your participation, we thank you greatly for coming. You are the backbone to our club; a link to its past, present, and future. Thanks again for your time and consideration. Enjoy your stay and the nice weather!

Best,
Kristen Yeager and Andrew Shook
CCAMS Co-Presidents 2008-2009

Highlights from the AMS Annual Meeting by Jennifer Newman '09



Cornell students enjoy the Western theme of a conference reception
Challenge: Can you find Sam Cramer?

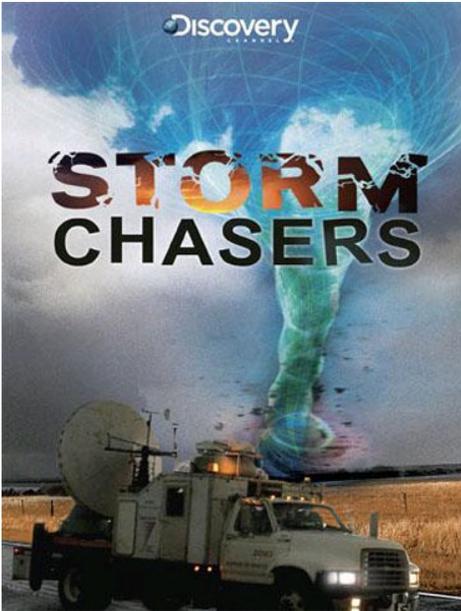
The 89th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society was held in Phoenix, Arizona on January 11-15, 2009. The theme of the meeting was "Urban Weather and Climate – Now and the Future", which is quite relevant to current concerns about global warming. However,

presentation sessions at the meeting focused on a variety of topics, from space weather to atmospheric chemistry. More than a dozen students from the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department at Cornell attended the meeting. Students attended poster sessions and talks, met representatives from companies and graduate schools, and learned more about career opportunities in atmospheric science. In addition, several students presented original research, either through oral presentations or poster sessions.

Over twenty Cornellians, both current students and alums, attended a dinner held on the Tuesday night of the conference. Cornell alumni reminisced about our professors' antics and of course, that infamous map room couch. Current students got a chance to see what career opportunities are available with a Cornell degree in atmospheric science, learning that all those math and physics classes will actually pay off!

I encourage current students to read through the AMS Meeting articles in this issue. The AMS Meeting is a fantastic opportunity for networking, and many funding opportunities are available for students.

Secretary's Report



This school year, CCAMS members participated in a wide variety of endeavors to further the club's involvement on campus and in Ithaca. I wanted to briefly highlight a couple of the activities with which I have been most involved.

I am currently working on an application for Cornell to be certified as StormReady® by the National Weather Service. Cornell already has a great infrastructure to warn its students, faculty, and staff during severe weather events and other emergencies. This system was augmented by the addition of three emergency alert sirens on campus last year. Participation in the free StormReady® program will increase the visibility of Cornell's commitment to the safety of its community. Cor-

nell would join 1400 other communities, including over 30 colleges and universities, which are a part of the program.

This March, Mark Wysocki and I attended the 34th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference, which was held in Springfield, Massachusetts and hosted by Lyndon State College. I presented my honors thesis research on stability indices for severe thunderstorms in the Northeast. Speakers included professors, professionals with a broad range of careers in meteorology, and students. The keynote speaker was Dr. Joshua Wurman, a scientist at the Center for Severe Weather Research in Boulder, Colorado, and a starring member of the "Storm Chasers" series on the Discovery Channel.

I encourage underclassmen attending their first conference and students seeking to present research to consider attending the Northeastern Storm Conference in future years. In particular, it can be beneficial for students seeking a cheaper alternative to the American Meteorological Society's Annual Meeting.

Our club's forecasting services continued to help the Ithaca community stay up-to-date on local weather. In addition to Weather-

Phone, we entered our finishing our third year of forecasting for Cornell athletics. Cornell's coaches have often told us how much they appreciate our help. Cornell students also participated in the national WxChallenge for the first time this year, and Leon Nguyen '09 qualified for the Collegiate Tournament.

CCAMS increased its participation in education and outreach activities in Ithaca. A committee for coordinating such events was established. This led to a visit to the Sciencenter in Ithaca and hopefully visits to local schools in the future. CCAMS members also participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at Cornell and volunteered at events such as "Into the Streets" and Cornell 4-H's Duck Race.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the CCAMS members who have been involved in other extracurricular activities, such as performing arts, athletics, and activism. I have been very impressed with the accomplishments that our members have made in other fields this year. I hope that students will continue to contribute their abilities to the growth and sense of community in CCAMS as well.

-Robert Gottlieb '09

Sophomore's Review of the AMS Meeting by Aaron Perry '11



View of Phoenix
Photo by Aaron Perry '11

This past January, I attended the American Meteorological Society's Annual Meeting and Student Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The AMS encourages juniors and seniors to attend the conference, but I found attending the conference as a sophomore to be especially helpful. It exposed me to areas of meteorology I either had never heard of, or knew little about. It helped me figure out generally what areas I'm interested in, and as a sophomore I still have the time to modify what classes I'm going to take to help me perform well in those areas.

There is so much to do at the conference that it can be a sensory overload. On the first day of the conference, they give you this giant textbook looking thing that they call a program, which has several hundred pages of workshops, presentations, and seminars going on during the conference. Granted several of the seminars are above the skill level of

some undergraduates, especially underclassmen such as myself, but there were also a ton of presentations at my level. After many of the talks, the speaker is more than willing to talk more in depth about something you found interesting during their session.

I also met many people while I was there, professionals and students alike. All were very helpful with advice and questions. Quite a few even offered contact information in case I needed help or advice later.

Attending talks is not the only thing to do at the AMS conference. There are several exhibitions taking place continuously throughout the conference, including a Student Poster Session where you can learn about the research of graduates and undergraduates from around the country. Another event is the Career Fair, which features exhibits from graduate schools, potential employers, and government agencies. One of the larger events is located in the main exhibit hall, which features exhibits from many different research laboratories and companies. This one was one of my favorites, because I got to learn about new technologies and discuss some of the

equipment I learned about in EAS 2500 (Meteorological Observations and Instruments) with the people who designed and built these instruments. I also received a wealth of information from all these exhibits, and the occasional freebie. (One guy from Lockheed Martin even gave me a textbook!)

There are also many things to do outside the conference, like the Alumni Dinner, a great opportunity to meet some of our distinguished alumni. And by virtue of going to the conference you're travelling to another part of the world. While in Arizona I hiked a mountain or two, travelled to Sedona, and had a great time exploring the city. (Shameless plug: If you're interested in travelling, look into studying abroad. I'm currently in Australia and loving every minute of it!)

I had a great time at the conference and learned a quite a bit about our field and my own personal interests. I highly recommend going to AMS Annual Meeting next year in Atlanta, Georgia. Going to a conference can be a large expense, but there are funding opportunities all over the place, including the AMS itself. It's definitely worth it; keep an eye out for more information at the beginning of next year!

Guide to Conference Networking by Robert Gottlieb '09



Exhibit hall at the AMS Meeting

The American Meteorological Society's annual meeting is the best networking opportunity available for students in atmospheric sciences. Each year thousands of members of the meteorology community converge in one location.

Here is a quick guide to getting the most out of networking at the AMS meeting, or any other conference you attend.

Present Research

If you have done any research either during the school year or a summer, this meeting is a great time to present it. You can do this by making a PowerPoint presentation and/or poster. People will get a chance to see your ability to complete and communicate good scientific work, and this is a huge plus for any graduate school or employment application.

Volunteer

You can also apply to be a student volunteer for the AMS. If you are selected for this, you will provide assistance to AMS staff members

during half of the conference and in exchange, the AMS will pay for your hotel and food expenses for the week. Attendees will have to talk to you for information and services, and this can still be a good way to meet weather enthusiasts from all over the world.

Plan Ahead

It helps to have a plan to get the most out of networking at the conference. You should figure out who you want to meet. Before the conference, search the Internet for listings of people in topics which particularly interest you. It helps to get in touch with some of these people ahead of time, tell them that you are interested in what they do, and ask them if they will be at the meeting. It can also be helpful to read a paper or two that each person has written so that you can add more to the conversation. Many people also find it helpful to bring résumés or business cards to give to potential employers.

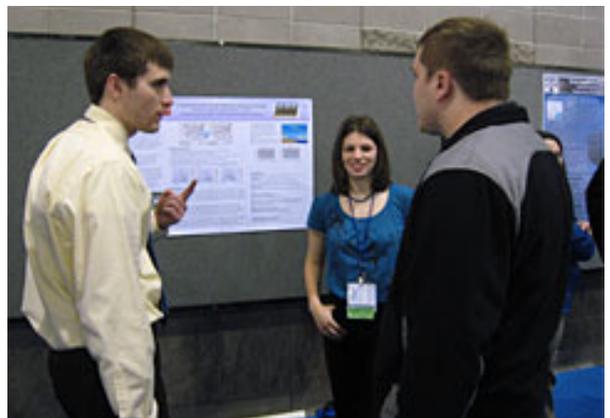
Attend Talks

When you arrive at the registration desk you will receive the program for the meeting. The main part of this book is a listing of every paper and poster that will be presented at the conference. The book also includes an index of authors. Look for the people

you picked beforehand and go to their presentations or poster sessions. Take some time to scan the schedule and look for other papers that seem interesting. Try to talk to some of the people presenting these as well.

Attend Special Events

There are three events during the meeting which are the best for meeting the most people. The first is the career fair, which is part of the student conference. Representatives from graduate schools and companies will be available to talk with students. Second, there are poster sessions. Researchers stand in front of their posters, making it quite easy to have long discussions with them. I got something close to a job offer by stopping at a poster that was similar to my research and talking to the professor. Finally, there are sessions at the exhibit hall. Most of the exhibitors are companies. (continued on page 6)



Jennifer Newman '09 presents at a poster session.

(continued from page 5)

A lot of them are looking to sell various instruments, but it is possible to find out about some summer internships and jobs here. The exhibits hall is also a great place to find fun gadgets.

Make a Good Impression

Once you have decided who to meet, you obviously want to make a good impression. Do not be too shy or intimidated to talk to people. Most people will be happy to meet you, and if you come across someone who brushes you off, do not get too upset over it.

Asking questions about the person's research is a good way to

get just about anyone talking. The conversation does not have to only be about meteorology. Just let it go where it takes you. When you find someone you might want to work with later, it is a good idea to exchange information and thank them after the conference. Everyone will meet so many people at the conference that it will be difficult to remember every name and face. Sending an extra message can really increase how easily you are recognized at a later time.

I have talked about meeting future employers up to this point, but it is important and fun to meet other students as well. These people will

probably be some of your future collaborators. It is important to remember that there are hundreds of other students who are ready to take advantage of the opportunities that the AMS meeting provides. However, the conference is long, busy, and tiring. If you don't step away from the conference from time to time, you will be burnt out by the end of the week. Take some time to see what the host city has to offer.

The AMS meeting is full of great experiences and career prospects for its attendees, and I hope this advice helps you enjoy them to the fullest.

Acknowledgements

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CCAMS Officers 2008-2009

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Treasurer: Mike DeFlorio (mjd79)

Secretary: Robert Gottlieb (rjg45)

Apparel Chair: Chris Wood (csw34)

Conference Chairs: Jeff Zuczek (jsz7), Harrison Tsai (ht225)

Soda Fairy: Vacant (Now accepting applications, GED req'd).

Forecasting Chair: John Cintineo (jlc248)

Outreach Chairs: Mike DeFlorio (mjd79), Eowyn Connolly-Brown (ecc37)

Activities Chair: Julia Weiden (jlw226)

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Weather Humor

Personality Test

- What is your "catchphrase"?
 - Recall...
 - Recall...everything you've learned since kindergarten
 - Now Mr. Sun here...
 - NAILED it
- What are your typical Friday night plans?
 - Watching the fog roll in
 - Something stratospheric
 - A quiet night at home
 - Running t-tests
- When not in Bradfield, you're...
 - Meeting with Dean Henry
 - At the seminar in Sneer
 - At a NOAA conference
 - Practicing bass
- What is your preferred method of transportation?
 - Hummer
 - Bicycle
 - Sedan
 - Bootstrapping
- Biggest pet peeve?
 - Not printing clearly on exams
 - Disco music...and Q-vectors
 - Lateness
 - Overfitting regressions

Mostly A's...
You're a **Wysocki**.
Always up for a good time.



Mostly B's...
You're a **Colucci**.
You like to "think with a pencil."



Mostly C's...
You're a **DeGaetano**.
Never short of a good idea.



Mostly D's...
You're a **Wilks**.
You didn't think the results of this test were statistically significant.



A Meteorodream

Anonymous

I had a dream the other night
It really was most frightening.
My isobars were all mixed up
My cirrus glowed with lightning.

My temperature was absolute
My sky condition clear,
I climbed a pseudo-adiabat
Into the stratosphere.

My hydroscopic nucleus
Was part of an occlusion,
My anticyclone blew away
My latent heat of fusion.

My pressure gradient centrifuged
And broke my min thermometer.
My water tank was upside down
Upon my anemometer.

Then I awoke - a sudden gust
With light precipitation
Obscured the dream that gave my brain
Synoptic saturation.

In: The Thunderer, Volume IV, No. 3, p. 4, August 1947.

Reflections on Alumni Weekend

"What happens at the equator stays at the equator."

"The funniest memory I have is of Will Schwartz busting out his perfect Wilks impression."

"Wiffleball games, hikes down to Fall Creek, and hanging out with Chris Patricola—those are some of my fondest memories, Jen."

Wysocki Lecture Mad-Libs

(Clear throat) Good _____.
(morning/afternoon)

Now recall, on _____ we were
(day of previous lecture)

discussing _____ and I
(meteorology topic)

believe _____ asked a very good
(perplexed pupil)

question about, ahh yes, the _____
(infamous eqn.)

equation? Now to solve this equation, we'll need to use something called an *integral* and some mathematical *tricks*...

(humorous comment about fellow professor)

Now I'll just consult my table of integrals here...page _____ . Hey Skippy, nice
(large integer)

costume! Well, go out and enjoy some

(wx. phenomenon)