Welcome to our New Graduate Students!

Lucas Bohne is originally from Rapid City, SD and graduated from the University of Utah with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences. He is currently working with Dr. Court Strong.

Marcel Caron is a B.S. graduate of the University of Maryland’s Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Science. He is working in Dr. Jim Steenburgh’s research group.

Kyle Fitch is from Ritzville, WA and is working on his Ph.D. with Dr. Tim Garrett. Kyle earned a M.S. in Applied Physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a B.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington.

Funing Li is a member of Dr. Xiaozia Pu’s research group. He is originally from Yancheng, China and has a B.S. in Applied Meteorology from Nanjing University and a M.S. in Meteorology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Zhixiao Zhang has a B. Engineering in Lighting Protection from the Chengdu University of Information Technology and a M.S. in Atmospheric Science from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Dr. Zhaoxia Pu’s research group.

Contribute Financially:

Could your company give our juniors or seniors a tour of resources or equipment used in Atmospheric Sciences or a related field? Please email atmos-info@lists.utah.edu if you have an opportunity for our students.

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Alex Lokhovskiy is originally from Scappoose, Oregon and graduated from the University of Utah with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences. He is currently working with Dr. Zhaosixia Pu.

Mani Rajagopal is from Tiruvannamalai, India and has a B.Tech. in Information Technology from Velammal Institute of Technology and a M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Srinivasa Phule Pune University. He is pursuing his Ph.D. as a part of Dr. Ed Zipser’s research group.

Ahmad Talaei joined the department from Utah State University, where he received his M.S. in Physics. He also has a M.S. in Nuclear Engineering and B.S. in Nuclear Physics. Ahmad is originally from Iran and is a member of Dr. Tim Garrett’s research group.

Alex Weech is a graduate from the University of Utah with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences. He is originally from New Hampshire and is currently working with Dr. Court Strong.

How to Contribute to the Department:

Contribute in one of the following ways to help our students learn, our department grow, and our research expand.

Contribute Financially:

Financial donations allow our department to purchase new equipment, computers, and resources for our students. They also help fund our student-run Ute Weather Center and scholarships given to our undergraduates.

Donations may be made online here: https://umaret.utah.edu/give/index.php?gft_id=107. If you would like your donation to go to a specific department fund or endowment, please note this in the “Special Instructions” box. Thank you for your generosity and support.

If you would prefer to mail your donation to our office, please send a check payable to The Department of Atmospheric Sciences to:

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The following employment summary is made for graduate students who were admitted between 2000 and 2015 and received either a M.S. or Ph.D degree. One third of our graduates are employed by Universities as tenure track faculty. The diversity of positions which our graduate students pursue is quite impressive. The following employment summary is made for graduate students who were admitted between 2000 and 2015 and received either a M.S. or Ph.D degree. One third of our graduates are employed by Universities as tenure track faculty. The diversity of positions which our graduate students pursue is quite impressive.

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Dr. Ping Yang Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Ping Yang received the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. He has made seminal contributions to research and teaching. His work has significantly advanced the understanding of the Earth's atmosphere.

Dr. Ping Yang is currently a professor at The University of Texas at Austin, where he continues his research into atmospheric sciences.

Friends and Alums

November 2016 – September 2017

Dr. Perry presents Dr. Yang with the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award

Donor Recognition

The students, staff, and faculty of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences gratefully acknowledge the support of the following individuals. Large or small, your donations enhance the quality of our program and education of our students.

Endowments:

Hassan H. Badruzzaman Endowment for Student Support
Thomas L. Endowed Scholarship
David J. MacKinnon and Marjorie A. McDonald Endowed Scholarship Dinner
Endowment Fund
George & Christine Willier Endowed Scholarship
Edward J. Zipser Endowed Research Fund

Memorial Funds:

Dr. Noshibuki Futako Endowed Memorial Fund
Kyle Tatez Memorial Travel Fund

Dr. Strong Visits Climate Scientists in Pakistan

Professor Courtney Strong visited Pakistan in August to establish new collaborations on climate research and provide professional training for faculty from several Pakistani universities. Traveling with University of Utah Professors Steve Burian (Civil & Environmental Engineering) and Tariq Bajurri (Economics), Dr. Strong explored how our knowledge of climate-water modeling in the Wasatch Range can be applied to Himalayan glaciers and snowpack relevant to Pakistan’s future water supply. He found the widespread embrace of climate change science by governmental agencies to be invigorating as he met with scientists at the Global Change Impact Studies Center, the Ministry of Climate Change, the National Disaster Management Authority, the Pakistan Meteorological Department, and researchers from more than a dozen universities. This week-long visit was coordinated by the U.S. Pakistan Centers for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) (http://www.waterrchut.edu/uspCASW), which was established with financial support of the University of Utah from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under a five-year Cooperative Agreement signed in 2014.

Dr. Peter presents Dr. Yang with the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award

Experience The Boundary Layer From Within

Like many activities in life, such as skiing or surfing, paragliding can quickly become a lifestyle. For me, paragliding was a gateway to atmosphere science, and more specifically, boundary layer meteorology. The micro-scale phenomena within the boundary layer is what keeps soaring pilots endlessly interested in the sport. The processes involved with fair weather convection are easily overlooked as "interesting" in our field; and shallow cumulus clouds dotted across a sundrenched summer landscape does not constitute an extreme event, nor do they threaten life and property. To soaring pilots, however, there is nothing more intoxicating than the invisible columns of air our feathered friends exploit so effortlessly to travel large distances.

A paraglider consists of strings attached to nylon fabric which is carefully sewn into a shape that comfortably fits when weighted with a person beneath in a harness. There is no motor. It's strongly minimal and fits in a backpack that can be stowed in the overhead bin of an airplane. To travel distance in a paraglider, known as cross country (XC), pilots require in-depth knowledge of how the boundary layer evolves throughout any given day. Here in the Western U.S., those who can identify key features of how convection organizes in response to synoptic scale conditions coupled with the details of the underlying terrain, can find themselves flying for hours across otherwise inaccessible areas.

August typically yields the best soaring conditions in Utah, and this year was no exception. My friend Cody Mittanck once replied, "It's like sitting in a lawn chair all day while traveling with University of Utah Professors Steve Burian (Civil & Environmental Engineering) and Tariq Bajurri (Economics), Dr. Strong explored how our knowledge of climate-water modeling in the Wasatch Range can be applied to Himalayan glaciers and snowpack relevant to Pakistan’s future water supply. He found the widespread embrace of climate change science by governmental agencies to be invigorating as he met with scientists at the Global Change Impact Studies Center, the Ministry of Climate Change, the National Disaster Management Authority, the Pakistan Meteorological Department, and researchers from more than a dozen universities. This week-long visit was coordinated by the U.S. Pakistan Centers for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) (http://www.waterrchut.edu/uspCASW), which was established with financial support of the University of Utah from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under a five-year Cooperative Agreement signed in 2014.

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The Department of Atmospheric Sciences recognizes one individual with our Distinguished Alumni Award each year. We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Ping Yang is this year's recipient. Dr. Yang holds a B.S. degree in Theoretical Physics from Lanzhou University, a M.S. degree in Atmospheric Physics from the Lanzhou Plateau of Meteorological Physics/Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a Ph.D. degree (1995) from the University of Utah. Dr. Yang's Ph.D. advisor was Dr. John Horel, and his dissertation was titled "Light Scattering by Nonspherical Ice Crystals: Theoretical Study by Finite-Difference Time Domain Technique and Geometric Optics Methods".

Dr. Ping Yang is Professor and Head of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. He is the holder of the David Bullock Harris Chair in Geosciences. Dr. Yang has published 292 peer-reviewed journal papers, 11 book chapters, and 3 books. The citations (based on the Web of Science) of his journal publications are 8,605 with an H-index of 45. Dr. Yang received the 2017 University-level Research Award. He received the Ascent Award by the AGU Atmospheric Sciences Section in 2013. He is a Fellow of the Optical Society of America, a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, and a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. He currently serves as an editor for the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, an editor/editorial board member for Theoretical and Applied Climatology, and an associate editor for the Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy & Radiative Transfer. He is also on the editorial board of Remote Sensing of Environment.

We are extremely proud of Dr. Ping Yang and were pleased that he was able to travel to our campus in late September 26 to give a lecture and receive his award (see photos). Dr. Yang gave a very entertaining and informative seminar titled "Atmospheric Optics & Radiative Transfer: Genesis and Evolution". In his seminar, he traced the history of atmospheric optics and provided insight into the personalities of the scientists who made seminal discoveries in the field.

To read Dr. Yang's full bio and learn about past Distinguished Alumni Award Winners, please visit our Student Highlights page.
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How to Contribute to the Department:
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Contribute Time:
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