2019 American Meteorological Society Election News and Awards

Professor Jim Steenburgh was elected as an Academic Representative to the AMS Council, the governing body of the Society. He will begin his term at the conclusion of the AMS Annual meeting in January. His election highlights Jim’s well-deserved recognition in our field.

Two of our alumni will also be recognized by prestigious honors at the 2019 Annual Meeting for their contributions in the field.

The Yvern E. Suomi Technology Medal

Patrick Minnis, NASA

For numerous, innovative advances in remote sensing techniques to understand clouds and radiative processes.

Patrick was recognized by the Department as our distinguished alumnus in 2008.

The Henry T. Harrison Award For Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist

Steven A. Root, CCM, WeatherBank

For providing innovative meteorological solutions to clients, and leadership in creating understanding across America’s weather enterprise.

Steve was also recognized as the Department’s distinguished alumnus in 2015.

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:

You can join me in thanking Dr. Kevin Perry (kevin.perry@utah.edu) for his broad shoulders and outstanding service to the Department of Atmospheric Sciences and the College of Mines and Earth Sciences during the past seven years. From leading substantive revisions to the department’s curriculum early in his term to shepherding the university’s review of the department during the past academic year, Kevin demonstrated deft handling of administrative tasks. What I’ve admired most about Kevin is his relentless attention to the success of every student in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, assuring that they developed not only the necessary technical skills but also the higher-order communication and leadership skills essential to their long-term success. Kevin improved the educational experiences of students both in our college and throughout the university through his many efforts to improve advising, scholarship opportunities, and research experiences. By way of example, Kevin established the student-led Ute Weather Center to provide undergraduate students with invaluable, hands-on operational weather forecasting experiences. It’s hard to measure Kevin’s significant impact on students throughout the University through his participation and leadership on numerous university-wide committees focused on student issues. Kevin is now enjoying a well-deserved year-long break from administrative and teaching responsibilities in order to focus on his growing research program to characterize hazardous dust sources in Utah, which includes analyzing thousands of soil samples that he has collected from the Great Salt Lake perimeter.

Please consider supporting our students while also recognizing Kevin’s service to the Department of Atmospheric Sciences by contributing in his honor to the department’s development fund: https://auxiliary.apps.utah.edu/ugive/designation/2164

Kevin and his predecessors, including Jim Steenburgh and Ed Zipser, are a tough act to follow, but the Department of Atmospheric Sciences is blessed with many established and emerging leaders. With the full support of his faculty, Professor John Horel has been appointed chair for the 2018-2021 term. John very skillfully avoided serving as chair over the past three decades, but he is more than prepared to take the helm. John noted, “the department is in a very solid position to build on its strengths and grow. Our expertise is directly relevant to the University’s new capital-campaign theme (Safeguard the Natural Environment for Future Generations), which highlights water availability, climate change, and air quality issues”. Thus, as we work together to produce outstanding graduates, and understand and address the grand challenges in front of us, the Department of Atmospheric Sciences is clearly positioned as central to the mission of the University of Utah. Thanks to all of you in advance for your support of John as he takes on this new leadership responsibility.

Professor Zhaoxia Pu will be honored as a Fellow of the AMS at the 2019 AMS Annual Meeting for her outstanding contributions to the atmospheric sciences over many years.

Donations may be made online here: https://umarket.utah.edu/ugive/index.php?gift_id=107. If you would like to sign up, please email atmos-info@lists.utah.edu if you have an opportunity or information to share with our students.

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

Donations may be made online here: https://umarket.utah.edu/ugive/index.php?gift_id=107. If you would like to donate your time to a specific departmental 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 University of Utah to:

Atmospheric Sciences
University of Utah
135 S. 1460 E., Rm. 819
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0110
Promotion to Professor for Dr. John Lin

Dr. John Chun-Han Lin was promoted to the rank of Professor effective July 1, 2018. John was recognized by students, faculty, and the University administration to have excelled in teaching, scholarly activities, and service to the field since joining the Department in 2012. He created a course that is transforming our graduate students’ understanding of how to define and communicate a research topic as part of their preparation for the Department’s written or oral examination. John has also established one of the largest research groups in our department, Land-Atmosphere Interactions Research (LAIR), and built a state-of-the-art laboratory facility to measure greenhouse gases and pollutants, the Utah Atmospheric Trace gas and Air Quality (U-ATAQ) lab. His research undertaken under his direction spans spatial scales from urban blocks to the globe and seeks to understand the interplay between anthropogenic emissions, greenhouse gases, and pollutants that affect human health.

Emeritus Appointment for Research Professor C. David Whiteman

Dr. C. David Whiteman retired on August 31, 2018 and has been appointed by the University of Utah’s Board of Trustees to the prestigious rank of Research Professor Emeritus. Dave’s research career at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and University of Utah over the past 40 years has focused on mountain meteorology, including valley and basin winds, their interactions with flows from larger scales, and their role in air pollution. Dave has combined his expertise in field work with analyses and modeling, leading to nearly 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and a widely used textbook, Mountain Meteorology: Fundamentals and Applications. Dave came to the University of Utah in 2005 with a passion to pass on his experiences and knowledge to students in the classroom and outdoors. He has been an especially effective instructor, advisor and mentor to students and postdoctoral associates. Dave has been a colleague that faculty try to emulate regarding his approach to work collaboratively and compassionately with students and researchers on campus and across the globe.

Dave and his wife, Johanna, established an undergraduate Mountain Meteorology Scholarship, which has been given every year since 2005 to an undergraduate who has excelled in the classroom or undertaken research related to mountain meteorology. The Department intends to continue the Mountain Meteorology Scholarship to support students in mountain meteorology research. Any contribution you are able to provide would be greatly appreciated and can be made online at https://www.umd.utah.edu/ogre/index.php.

Wasatch Weathervane Going Digital

To reduce our mailing costs, future newsletters will primarily be sent by email. If you prefer to receive them by US Mail, please indicate that on the form: http://www.atmos.utah.edu/forms/update-contact.php. We will be happy to mail them to you.
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:
- Jack D. Beekle Quail Endowment for Student Support
- Shih-Kang Fan Endowed Scholarship
- Dell Vaughn & Harriet Rae McDonald Atmospheric Sciences Awards Dinner
- Endowment Fund
- George & Christine Willkorn Endowed Scholarship
- Edward J. Zipser Endowed Research Fund

Memorial Funds:
- Dr. Norihiko Fukuto Endowed Memorial Fund
- Kyle Tiatte Memorial Travel Fund

Friends and Alums
Gifts received July 2017 – September 2018

Glenn D. Ahrens
Myra C. Akers
Breanda J. Allison
Sara Altus
Timothy Wayne Barker
D. R. Bell
Druce M. Benton
Lee A. Blyth
Keith Allen Brewer
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Ronald A. Brown
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David T. McNally
Richard J. Okeover
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Jim O'Neal
Julie H. Owings
David M. Paves
Paul Sobel

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The 2018 Dell Vaughn and Harriet Rae McDonald Atmospheric Sciences Awards Banquet took place on Thursday, May 3rd at the Officer’s Club on Fort Douglas at the University of Utah. Just over 100 people attended the banquet, which was preceded by a poster session highlighting the department’s research, along with hors d’oeuvres.

The presentation began with Dr. Kevin Perry reviewing the year in the Department, including awards won, research published, field programs, and many other exciting things that happened in the 2017-2018 academic year. After the department overview, Dr. Perry recognized undergraduate scholarship recipients and those students who graduated this year with their B.S., M.S., or Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences.

The awards included the Whitman Mountain Meteorology Award, [CJ Sawyer] and the Outstanding Senior Award (Andy Bland). Next we acknowledged our Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Representatives Sam Anderson (undergraduate) and Ross Petersen (graduate) for their service to the Department. SAC Reps are a valuable resource in Department in that they are the student’s voice to faculty and the Department Office. The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society presented its annual Outstanding Member Award to Braden Cluster. Alex Weech presented the award for the Forecast Contest Winner to Derek Hodges. The Ute Weather Center continued its tradition of having two forecast conference contests this year and the winners were Alex Weech (First Snowfall of the Year) and Samuel Smith (First 3“ Snowfall of the Year). The Dr. Norihiko Fukuto Memorial Fund Grant was awarded to graduate student Jaxon Masico and the Edward J. Zipser Award for Excellence in Graduate Research was presented to graduate student Derek Mallis.

Continuing a three-year tradition, the banquet closed with gag awards. This year we gave out the following awards: Fast As Lightning (Dr. Gannett Hall); Star in the Clouds (Lucas Bohme); The Stratocumulus Surfer (Chris Galli); The Thunder Clap (Sam Smith); The Wonka Award (Leslie Allaire). Each winner received a certificate and a silly gift.

Included in the photos above are [L-R, Top-Bottom]: Guests seated during the formal presentation; PhD Graduates Derek Mallis, Sarah Bang, and Andy Lesage; Whitman Mountain Meteorology Award Winner CJ Sawyer with Dr. Perry; Dr. Perry opening the presentation; BS Graduates Kai Tawa, Trinity Robinson, Zach Rick, Andy Lambert, Crystal Jazpja Green, Spencer Fielding, Braden Cluster, Jordann Brendecke, and Nicholas Bitter; MS Graduates Taylor McCorl, Tom Gowan, and Ross Petersen; poster session attendees; Ute Weather Center Forecast Contest Winners Alex Weech and Samuel Smith, along with Ute Weather Center Director Kai Tawa and Dr. Perry.

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Are you a researcher or professor or expert in Atmospheric Sciences or a related topic? We’d love to have you give a seminar in your area of expertise. Please email atmos-info@lists.utah.edu if you’d like to sign up.

Are you an alumni whose company has job or internship opportunities for students from our department? Please let us know about these chances for our students to grow and learn from you. Please email atmos-info@lists.utah.edu if you have an opportunity for students.

Contribute Experience:
What has your career been like since you left our program? Would you be willing to share information about it with our students?

Could your company give our juniors or seniors a tour of resources or equipment used in Atmospheric Sciences or a related field?

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