

DC-AMS Newsletter

Washington, DC Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

Summer 2011 Issue



Chair's Corner

By Andrea Bleistein

The 2010-2011 DC-AMS Chapter Year concluded on the evening of June 1, 2011 at our Annual Science Fair and Scholarship Winner Banquet at the SAIC-hosted venue in McLean, VA (see pic below). If you attended this exciting affair, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. We had a record number of attendees and a record number of student projects on display – 16 in total – and were able to award our Scholarship Winner, Brian Fitzsimmons, with a \$1000 check to go towards his first year at University of Virginia for Astrophysics.

Our keynote speaker Howard Bernstein, from WUSA9 NewsNow, gave an overview of his experiences working as a television broadcaster in New York, Louisiana, and Washington, D.C. Some of his takeaway messages to the student attendees were for them to do what makes them happy and to follow their instincts no matter what career path they decide to take. Howard also spent a lot of time with the individual students learning about their science fair projects. Our top 3 student science fair winners for 2011 are:

1st: Christopher Gerlach 2nd: Connor Alsheimer 3rd: Siddarth Plakkot

I want to again thank SAIC, who donated the \$1000 to the scholarship, and to those of you who donated to cover the meals of the student and parent attendees. I also have the team of DC-AMS officers to thank again for all of their hard work throughout the year to get us to this special event.

I have some exciting news to report for the upcoming 2011-2012 chapter year. The DC-AMS will have a new Chair to continue leading the Chapter in outreach, education and networking – Katie Collins Garrett. Katie works at the National Weather Service Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) and she has been actively involved with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Heritage Program. She will be an exceptional Chair for the DC-AMS Local Chapter and I look forward to seeing what new things the chapter will do in the future. Katie's full bio can be found in this newsletter and will be posted on our officer's webpage.

Right: The 2011 regional science fair DC-AMS award winners.

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the District of Columbia chapter of the
American Meteorological Society



THE DC-AMS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET: A WRAP ON 2010-11

By Doug Price, Recording Secretary

On Wednesday, June 1, 2010, the Chapter held its annual scholarship awards banquet in McLean, Virginia. SAIC graciously hosted and sponsored the dinner affair, as we honored Brian Fitzsimmons with a \$1,000 Scholarship Award to go towards his first year at University of Virginia in the fall 2011 for Astrophysics. Howard Bernstein, morning meteorologist at WUSA-TV-9, gave an inspiring and enlightened speech to an audience of approximately 100 students, parents, DC-AMS chapter leaders and supporters. We also bid a fond farewell to our chapter President, Andrea Bleistein and Vice- President, Renee Curry, and introduced our new President-elect, Katie Collins Garrett.

Local students from 4th through 12th grade also presented their posters from the school year for a final science fair judging. Three of these students, Christopher Gerlach, Connor Alsheimer, and Siddarth Plakkot were recognized with cash awards for their work. There was stiff competition for the final award, which was decided by a final margin of one-hundredth of a point!

DC-AMS thanks all of those who were able to attend the event. This includes the 2011 AMS President, Jon Malay, who provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the national AMS. Special thanks goes to SAIC and all of our sponsors for their support of the chapter throughout the past year. Cheers!



Outgoing Chair Andrea Bleistein with \$1000
DC-AMS Scholarship winner Brian Fitzsimmons



Banquet Keynote Speaker Howard Bernstein
of WUSA-TV9

2011 DC-AMS Scholarship Banquet Science Fair Winners



Winners of the mini science fair conducted among the student attendees of the annual banquet..

Top —1st place winner - Christopher Gerlach - “Severe Thunderstorm Wind Gust Climatology: An Analysis of Correlated Thermodynamic Convective Parameters and Doppler Radar Signatures.”

Left —2nd place winner - Connor Alsheimer - "Thunder, Volts and Lightning"

Right— 3rd place winner - Siddarth Plakkot - "Force Balances and Hurricanes"

Special thanks goes to the following individuals for donating student meals or to the scholarship fund: Roger Pierce, Anthony and Violeta Baltz, Mary Hart, Elizabeth Haynes, Jerry Dittberner, Joe Witte, and Edward Dunlea



Chair's Corner continued from page 1

DC-AMS is lucky to have this team for 2011-2012. Treasurer: Jacob Hamblin; Corresponding Secretary: Bryan Jackson; Recording Secretary: Doug Price; Webmaster: Brandon Meitz; and Science Fair Coordinator: Kevin Shaw. Katie Collins Garrett has already recruited a Vice-Chair to support her and work with the continuing officers - Tony Fracasso's bio can be found below.

As my time as an officer of the DC-AMS Chapter comes to an end – I again want to express what an invaluable experience it has been to me both in my career and personally. I encourage each of you to consider this professional development opportunity in the future to continue the tradition of one of the most active local AMS chapters in the country. I know I will see many of you at future meetings and look forward to supporting the local chapter in other ways as my own professional and personal paths change. Thanks again to all the members for making this such a fun position!

2011-2012 Chair



Katie Collins Garrett works for the National Weather Service in Camp Springs, MD where she is a forecaster at the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center. She earned her Master's degree from Texas A&M University in 2007, where she also led the university's storm chase team, TASC, and was a member of the Texas A&M Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. While attending Ball State University in Muncie, IN, to earn her Bachelor's degree in Operational Meteorology and Climatology, Katie volunteered at the Indianapolis NWS office and was an active SKYWARN observer.

Katie loves participating in outreach activities where she can share her passion for weather. She is heavily involved with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Heritage Program. She has been the NWS representative on the core team for NOAA Heritage Week and the development of the Gateway Exhibit located on the Silver Spring, MD campus. She also leads the NOAA Preserve America Initiative Internal Funding program which provides funding to all NOAA line offices, including the NWS, to help preserve the history of NOAA and tell the story of their organization's heritage.

Tony Fracasso is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service at the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center in Camp Springs, MD. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University and a Master's degree from the University at Albany (SUNY). Tony was a COOP observer for two years at Cornell's observation site and also worked for the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC). After graduate school he worked with a private weather company in Albany, NY before joining the HPC in 2006. Tony is currently part of the CoCoRaHS program and enjoys the warm DC summers and brief but sometimes snowy winters.

DC-AMS Treasurer's Report—April 2011



DC-AMS's ending balance as of 04/30/10 is \$7,133.23

04/01/10 Beginning Balance:	\$7,094.14
— Amounts Already included in Beginning Balance —	
• Business CD:	\$4,165.82
• Petty Cash	\$100.00
Income	
New Memberships (mail/cash/checks):	\$0.00
New Memberships (PayPal):	\$62.97
Interest	_____
Total Income:	+ \$62.97
Expenses	
Monthly Bank Services for cancelled checks:	\$5.00
Fedex Scholarships	\$18.88
Total Expenses:	- \$23.88
Ending Balance (04/30/10)	\$7,133.23

DC-AMS Treasurer's Report—May 2011



DC-AMS's ending balance as of 05/31/10 is \$7,706.86

05/01/10 Beginning Balance:	\$7,133.23
— Amounts Already included in Beginning Balance —	
• Business CD:	\$4,168.24
• Petty Cash	\$100.00
Income	
Donations (Check/PayPal)	\$150.00
Banquet Payments (PayPal):	\$576.21
Interest	_____
Total Income:	+ \$728.63
Expenses	
Monthly Bank Services for cancelled checks:	\$5.00
May Meeting	\$150.00
Total Expenses:	- \$155.00
Ending Balance (05/31/10)	\$7,706.86

District of Columbia
Chapter of the American
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DC-AMS

P.O. Box 13557

Silver Spring, MD

20911-3557

E-mail:



dc.ams.chapter@gmail.com

Want to contribute to a future DC-AMS Newsletter?

The DC-AMS officers are looking for chapter members content contributions for future DC-AMS Newsletters. Content can be in the form of articles, interesting personal weather stories, photographs, or maybe even some data analysis that you may be conducting. If you have something you feel is worth of including in a future newsletter, we encourage you to send it to the DC-AMS Corresponding Secretary, Bryan Jackson, at Bryan.Jackson@noaa.gov. We look forward to anything you may have to contribute.

Be sure to continue to visit the DC-AMS Website!

Now in DC: **A Few Clouds 94.0°F** | [Forecast](#) | [Obs](#) Next Meeting: **Sept 21, 2010** | Location: **NOAA HQ, Silver Spring, MD** | [Announcement](#)

 the District of Columbia chapter of the
American Meteorological Society 


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Latest Chapter News

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the open officer positions - please email us at dc.ams.chapter@gmail.com

[Sept 1, 2010] The 2010-2011 Chapter year officially begins. Check back for this years upcoming news and information!

[Sept 21, 2010] The first event of the chapter year will be on Sept 21, 2010 at NOAA HQ in Silver Spring, MD.



About DC-AMS

The DC-AMS is a non-profit organization that promotes the development and dissemination of knowledge of the atmosphere, oceanic and hydrologic sciences and the advancement of their professional applications. The Chapter is an autonomous local chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Membership is open to anyone who is interested in these sciences.

Activities include:

- Monthly events and/or meetings featuring themes in networking, outreach and education as it relates to the atmospheric, oceanic, and/or hydrologic sciences.
- Middle school and high school science fair judging. Winners selected from these events are invited to a banquet recognizing their accomplishments and encouraging these students to continue on an educational path leading to a career in the sciences.
- A generous scholarship program, in which the DC-AMS and its corporate sponsors reward local college-bound students.
- Joint activities with the local college/university AMS Student Chapters.

If you are employed or interested in the sciences and you want to play an active role in educating the Washington DC community about the atmospheric, oceanic, hydrologic or related sciences, you are encouraged to join us! If you are looking for the AMS's D.C. office, please visit ametsoc.org.

As always we want to encourage you to continue to visit the DC-AMS website at www.dc-ams.org. On this page you will find everything you need to know regarding upcoming meetings, club membership, archived newsletters, local DC area weather information and much more!

Don't forget to become our friend on Facebook!

From the DC-AMS chapter Facebook page you can:

- view invitations to the monthly meetings and other club outings,
- interact with Chapter officers and other DC-AMS members,
- post to the discussion board, and
- share interesting weather photos and links.

If you are on Facebook and want to link up with the DC-AMS Facebook Group, here is the address: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=110370134529>

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