I am very happy to introduce the latest issue of our Departmental Newsletter. The Department continues to be an extremely vibrant and active place to work and study. There is much to catch up on since our last publication.

In terms of hiring, we have recruited three more faculty: Oliver Elison-Timm, Rob Fovell, and Brian Rose. The Department now boasts 20 faculty! We have never been bigger! We currently also have more than 80 students in our graduate program – another high for us that puts us up there nationally. While we have seen rapid growth in the past few years, the Department remains a very friendly and sociable place to work and interact.

I will admit that the growth has certainly been challenging in terms of fitting everyone into our current space but it’s certainly working. Having said that, we certainly cannot wait to relocate into our new four story building in 2020. The planning for the new building was delayed due to a number of factors – the main one being the incorporation of the new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity into the same building, which itself offers new opportunities for collaboration. The design phase for the building is wrapping up now and we expect to be breaking ground this year. The Department will be on the top floor together with the Center of Excellence (see below) and we hope to be joined on that floor by the local office of the National Weather Service. The Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC) will be on the 3rd floor together with the NYS-Mesonet. This co-location of strengths here at UAlbany is truly exciting.

A Center of Excellence was awarded to the Department and ASRC in January 2014 and exists to facilitate applied research through collaboration with the private sector. We have been busy establishing applied research projects with a number of companies with an interest in economic development in New York. This is a great opportunity for students to see how our cutting-edge research can be applied in industry.

I would like to try and share with you just how vibrant the Department is these days with a few highlights. In addition to the joint DAES-ASRC weekly seminar series we have a number of specialist groups that meet most weeks including: a Climate Group, a Tropical Group, a Tropical Climate/Intraseasonal Discussion Group and of course our Friday Map Discussion Group. We also have a Student-Staff-led Computing Group that meets several times a semester to discuss data analysis and visualization techniques. We have an Earth Day Group consisting of faculty, staff and students that is active in the Spring semester and meets to plan and implement a family Earth Day event in April that is held on the University campus.

I hope this gives you a flavor of some of the things going on in the Department. There is more to enjoy in the rest of this Newsletter. If there is anything you wish to learn more about, do not hesitate to get in touch!

Best wishes

Chris Thorncroft
Professor and Chair
**DAES Hosts 6th Annual Alumni Reception in New Orleans**

On January 12, 2016 DAES hosted its 6th annual alumni reception at the American Meteorological Society (AMS) annual meeting at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Over 120 faculty, alumni and friends of the department were in attendance.

Special thank you to the Albany Alumni Association, Riskpulse and MESO for sponsoring both the event and the attendance of four undergraduate students at the event.

Join us on Tuesday January 24, 2017 6:30pm – 9:00pm at the 7th annual alumni reception in Seattle, Washington. Alumni and friends of the department are welcome to attend.

**DAES receives 6th NOAA CSTAR program grant**

DAES was awarded its sixth National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research (CSTAR) Program grant in April 2016. Led by Assistant Professor Kristen Corbosiero with DAES co-investigators Drs. Andrea Lang, Justin Minder, Brian Tang, Ryan Torn, Lance Bosart, and Daniel Keyser, the new CSTAR award will explore the representation of high-impact weather events in current numerical prediction models, investigate biases in these models, and develop diagnostics to improve forecaster awareness.

Partnering with DAES in the research is the Albany National Weather Service (NWS) office, as well as eight other NWS offices across the eastern United States, the NOAA Storm Prediction and Weather Prediction Centers, the NOAA Earth and Science Research Laboratory, and the New York State Mesonet, based at UAlbany. These partnerships represent a strong research-to-operations pathway which plays a critical role in UAlbany’s mission. Ultimately, the research will facilitate the effective communication of model biases and potential improvements to developers, allow for the formal evaluation of promising visualization and diagnostic techniques, and apply scientific research findings to the development of NWS conceptual models and forecast checklists.

Originally developed and led by Profs. Bosart and Keyser, the department has been continuously funded by the CSTAR program since 2001, supporting the applied research of more than 25 graduate students, many of whom now work in NOAA research labs or for the National Weather Service (NWS).
In summer 2015, DAES Assistant Professor Brian Rose was awarded $544,681 through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Development (CAREER) Program. The CAREER Program offers NSF’s most prestigious awards in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. The grant, entitled “CAREER: Understanding the role of oceans in the planetary energy budget”, is supporting innovative new research on the role of ocean heat uptake and heat transport in climate change. Dr. Rose and his students are studying the mechanisms by which regional patterns of ocean heat uptake influence global climate sensitivity through atmospheric lapse rate, water vapor and cloud distributions.

In addition to this fundamental research, Dr. Rose is leading the development of climlab: an innovative open-source software toolkit for climate modeling. climlab provides the computational building blocks for a variety of climate models in a very modular Python-based framework designed for easy interactive use. With this software, Rose is bringing climate modeling and active computationally-based learning into the classroom, with new courses at both undergraduate and graduate level. climlab is designed to emphasize transparency, reproducibility and accessibility of model-based computation, and thus enable more and better science. The source code, documentation, and lecture notes are all freely available online and frequently updated. Dr. Rose is presenting his work to date with climlab at the AMS meeting in January 2017 (Seventh Symposium on Advances in Modeling and Analysis Using Python).

For more information, visit: https://github.com/brian-rose/climlab

Professor Christopher D. Thorncroft named 2017 Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS)

“Those eligible for election to Fellow shall have made outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences or their applications during a substantial period of years,” says AMS. New Fellows elected each year by the AMS Council at its fall meeting come from names submitted by the Fellows Committee of not more than two-tenths of 1 percent of all AMS members.

Thorncroft has been on the faculty of the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences since 2001, and previously served as university Fellow and lecturer at the University of Reading (UK), where he received his doctorate in meteorology in 1988. Thorncroft has chaired DAES since 2008, and is the co-director of the NY State Mesonet, a $30 million project that will deploy 126 automatic weather stations throughout the state, constituting the nation’s most advanced early warning weather detection system.

His major research focus is on improving understanding of the processes that determine the nature and variability of the West African monsoon, including how this impacts Atlantic tropical cyclone activity. He has also had leadership roles in several field campaigns in the West African and Tropical Atlantic regions.

In recent years, Thorncroft has lectured statewide on climate change and its impact and, with the Rockefeller Institute of Government, hosted forums to educate New York State emergency managers and the public about climate change and extreme weather.
Eric graduated Magna Cum Laude from The State University of New York at Albany, in May of 2006, receiving a B.S. in Atmospheric Science, with a minor in Broadcasting. While in Albany he participated in an internship operating the live doppler radar for atmospheric research for the national weather service. Now the Chief Meteorologist at CBS Boston WBZ in Boston, Massachusetts, Eric answers questions posed by the DAES:

**What got you interested in meteorology?**

Geek from birth pretty much sums it up. I think we all have that similar story. We were out watching storms. We sent snow reports into local TV stations. We got excited when warnings scrawl on the screen. Watched endless hours of Weather Channel and knew all the segment times by heart. There’s something that’s just ‘there’ as a young kid that most meteorologists have in common. Big notable storms when I was younger included the March 1993 Superstorm, the Great Barrington, MA tornado in 1995, and the Blizzard of ’96. I was already interested, but some of those events helped seal the deal.

**What made you choose us for your undergraduate studies?**

When you’re picking the right school for weather, your choices are already limited. It’s not like a business or accounting degree that you can find at many major universities. So I looked at the usual Northeast candidates (UAlbany, Lyndon State, Plymouth State, Penn State). I also threw in Miami for good measure because I had an interest in tropical weather.

But in the end, UAlbany had a strong program, it was close to home, and the price was right! I always figured I could talk my way into TV, and was fortunate enough to have it work out. But in all honesty, I liked that it was a strong science program so that if the TV thing never worked out, I would have more options with my B.S. in Atmospheric Science instead of a more TV friendly curriculum.

**Give us a brief synopsis of what you enjoyed about the program.**

The one thing I think back on and remember the most about the UAlbany Atmospheric Science program is the camaraderie. I’m not going to lie to you – we were all a bunch of nerds. I always tell kids on my school visits that there’s NOTHING wrong with that. If you have a passion, I don’t care if it’s dissecting ants. Just go for it. All of us were in the same boat, helped each other out through a difficult program, and made good friends. There are few majors that breed that sort of close relationship with your classmates.

**Who were your most memorable professors or courses at UAlbany?**

All the professors did a great job at UAlbany, and I feel like I got a first class education. But I’m willing to bet a lot of the graduates from my class remember Mike Landin as being the most outrageous guy. To balance out the heavy thermodynamics and grueling calculus classes, Landin was the ‘communications’ guy. Maybe that appealed to me just because I was already leaning toward TV/radio. But he helped breed ‘excitement’ over events and what’s to come. Plus, we really got into the forecasting aspect in his classes. It’s the forecasting that I enjoy most...so the competition and learning in that arena was a lot of fun. It’s that excitement and animation that you NEED when you talk about weather in a public-facing job.

**What motivated your decision to pursue work in broadcast meteorology?**

While I think all careers in meteorology are beneficial for society, I went the TV route because I can’t sit still and hate being indoors. The thought of an office job scared the bejeezus out of me, and going into the TV field meant...well...a lot more time in fields. There’s more interaction in it instead of churning out a forecast.
FEATURED ALUMNUS CONTINUED

(important though that is) from my desk. I’ve even negotiated into my contract that they HAVE to send me outside. They’d hate me if they didn’t anyway. My first job in Springfield, MA was all over the place and I loved it for that reason. There was weather, reporting from the storms, even reporting that had nothing to do with weather. From there I went to the Weather Channel where I pretty much lived in an L.L. Bean jacket in crappy weather all across the country. There are few who really enjoy this, but the ones who do can really make a nice living from it...because no one else wants to do it! Spending 18 hours straight in a hurricane or snowstorm may not be for everyone, but I loved the travel and seeing all varieties of impactful weather. Now in Boston at WBZ we make sure to go out (typically once a week at least) and tell the weather story where it’s happening. If this element ever went away from the job, I’d be out!

What are the day-to-day duties that typify your current work?

A typical day starts at 2p and ends around midnight. That’s as short as it gets...so don’t go into television unless you’re a big fan of long hours. Normally I’ll come in at 2, put together a forecast (let’s get real, I already started working when I woke up and looked at the overnight models), and go record several radio hits. Our forecasts run 6 times an hour, every hour, from 2p to midnight. The afternoon is filled with various little things – taping promos, working with producers, making graphics, updating the website, taping for other outlets, etc. The newscast runs from 5-630, and then sometimes I’ll do the CBS Evening News after that. A little dinner and then it’s back to work writing a blog, checking out story ideas on twitter etc, making new maps, catching up on email...and then a 10p and 11p newscast. On days that I go out live, I’ll get into the office earlier. Often during the school year I’ll do a classroom visit before work...which immediately turns your shift into a 12 hour day. On days when we have a big storm, you work all day long. In the winter or during a hurricane that can easily mean an 18-20 hour day. At the Weather Channel we’d routinely start our live hits at 4a (keep in mind, you have to wake up and try to navigate into a disaster area before that), do live hits every 10-20 minutes until 2p, take a 2 hour ‘break’ to shoot and write a piece, then be live 4p-10p, then sleep 3 hours and do it again. So yeah...I really want to emphasize that TV is NOT a cakewalk job. It’s a lot more brutal than most people think. And no, we don’t use teleprompters.

What advice do you have for students interested in broadcast meteorology in atmospheric science?

Only do it if you love it. If you work in TV, you’re going to work holidays. You’re going to get hate mail. You’re going to have days when you blow the forecast and everyone will let you know it. You’re going to say the wrong thing on air at some point. I’ve been fortunate, but chances are you’re probably not going to make much money. You may do a hit with your fly open (been there). You may nearly get sick on air (been there too). So the only way it’s going to work is if you really love it. But it can really be wonderful if it is your passion.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

2nd Annual Weather and Climate Camp

The second annual University at Albany Weather and Climate Camp took place in DAES during August of 2016. The camp, led by DAES assistant professor Justin Minder, hosted twelve bright local high school students on campus for the week. Students learned the fundamentals of weather and climate science through hands on lab activities, demonstrations, lectures from guest speakers, and a field trip to the Whiteface Mountain Observatory. The week ended with students completing and presenting their own (impressive) original research projects in front of DAES faculty and graduate students. The camp was once again a great success and we thank all those who helped make it possible!

Minder created the camp with a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development Program. The award is given to faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.
**Welcome New Faculty**

**Oliver Elison-Timm**
Dr. Oliver Elison-Timm joins the Department as a Research Associate Professor from his former position at the International Pacific Research Center at the University of Hawaii. He received his doctorate in meteorology from the University in Kiel, Germany. His research addresses climate variability and change ranging from past glacial cycles to future climate change projections. He deploys an Earth System Model of Intermediate Complexity (EMIC) to study the dynamics of glacial cycles, and statistical data analysis methods to downscale climate change scenarios onto regional-scale processes.

**Robert Fovell**
In August 2015, DAES welcomed Professor Robert Fovell as the newest member of the faculty. Professor Fovell previously served as professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1988 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Following a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Washington, he joined the UCLA faculty in 1991. Fovell’s research is based in mesoscale meteorology, primarily using high-resolution numerical models. He has written papers on squall lines, sea breezes, boundary layer rolls, gravity waves, climate classification and hurricane tracks, among other subjects.

**Brian Rose**
Dr. Brian Rose joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in September 2013 from his previous position as a NOAA Climate and Global Change postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington. He received his doctorate in Climate Physics and Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He studies the dynamics of past and future climate change through numerical and mathematical models of the coupled climate system. He is particularly interested in the role of the oceans in the global storage and transport of heat.

**Welcome New Staff**

**Annette Audi**
Annette Audi joined the department in November 2015 as a Research Support Specialist. Annette assists faculty and staff with grant-related payables including travel and payroll items. Annette has worked in the academic environment for 14+ years at various institutions including the Research Foundation. In her previous position, she was the Budget Administrator for Hudson Valley Community College where she was responsible for numerous monthly budget, board, county reports, annual budget compilation and capital construction payment processing. Annette is very happy to have joined our DAES family.

**Daniel McKenna**
Daniel McKenna joined the department in January 2016 as the department Secretary. His daily duties include that of receptionist and office manager. Daniel has worked in state service since 2010 and came to us from the Department of State, Executive Office of former New York State Secretary of State Cesar Perales. Daniel was the Designated Assistant Public Information Officer, empowered to act as Assistant Records Access Officer in response to NYSDOS Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests. Daniel is a UAlbany alumnus with a Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric and Communication and earned his Master’s in Business Administration from Empire State College. Daniel looks forward to working with colleagues, students and visitors of the DAES.

**Chaina Porter**
Chaina Porter joined the department in April 2014 as the Administrative Manager. Chaina worked at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for 8 years, more recently serving as the Executive to the Dean of the Lally School of Management for 4 years. Her current duties include managing the day-to-day responsibilities of the main office including budget management, personnel management and acting as a liaison between the department and the CAS Dean’s office.
Dr. Nick Bassill

Dr. Nick Bassill joins us to provide modeling assistance for the New York Mesonet, where he works locally with a number of scientists, including Dr. Ryan Torn and Dr. Christopher Thornicroft. Nick grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin for both undergraduate and graduate degrees in their Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences department. There he focused on modeling studies with an emphasis on parameterization variation and their impact on ensemble generation. After earning his PhD, Nick began a Post-Doc at the University of Utah with Ed Zipser, where he performed research on the Midlatitude Continental Convective Clouds Experiment (MC3E). Separately, work was also completed on the predictability of Hurricane Sandy.

Dr. Alan Brammer

Dr. Alan Brammer completed his PhD here at Albany in November and has stayed on for a postdoc position. Alan’s dissertation was titled “Evolution of African Easterly Waves and their Relationship to Tropical Cyclogenesis” and was completed under the guidance of Dr. Christopher Thornicroft. Alan came to Albany after graduating from Leeds University, UK with a 1st class B.Sc (Hons) in Environmental Science in 2010. Alan’s research interests have been on African easterly waves and tropical cyclogenesis over the Atlantic and his postdoctoral research work continues in this area, working with Chris Thornicroft and Jason Dunion on utilizing ensemble forecasts for tropical cyclogenesis over the Atlantic.

Dr. Dustin Grogan

Dr. Dustin Grogan’s undergraduate and graduate work was completed at the University of California, Davis. In 2015, Dustin received a PhD under the advisement of Dr. Terrence Nathan and his dissertation was on the “Effects of Saharan Mineral Dust Aerosols on the Dynamics of an Idealized African Easterly Jet-African Easterly Wave System over North Africa”. After graduating, Dustin was awarded the National Science Foundation postdoctoral research fellowship. For his fellowship, Dustin is working with Dr. Christopher Thornicroft to examine the evolution of African easterly waves that are coupled to synoptic scale dust plumes over North Africa and the Atlantic Ocean, and examine how spatial variations in the background wind and temperature fields affect the dust-modified linear and nonlinear dynamics of African easterly waves.

Dr. Wenjian Hua

Dr. Wenjian Hua obtained his Ph.D. in atmospheric science (majoring in land-atmosphere/climate interactions) in 2014 and his B.Sc in meteorology. Wenjian’s research involves climate modeling, rainfall variability, vegetation-climate interactions and impacts of climate change on tropical rainforests. Wenjian is working with Dr. Liming Zhou on the nature and cause of the Congo rainfall variability. Before coming to UAlbany, Wenjian was a lecturer in the College of Atmospheric Sciences at Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology (NUIST), China.

Dr. Andrew Winters

Dr. Andrew Winters joins us from the University of Wisconsin–Madison where he recently completed his Ph.D. under the guidance of Dr. Jonathan Martin. At the University of Wisconsin, Andrew’s dissertation focused on understanding the dynamical processes that were conducive to the development of a vertical superposition of the normally distinct polar and subtropical jet streams and illuminating the impacts that superposed jet structures have on the production of weather at the surface. Andrew is working with Dr. Lance Bosart and Dr. Daniel Keyser as part of a NOAA grant to improve operational forecasts of extreme temperature and precipitation over the United States in the 8–10-day period.
DAES WELCOMED NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

Our department welcomed 19 new graduate students for the Fall 2016 semester. DAES now has 85 graduate students, making it one of the three largest atmospheric science graduate programs in the United States. Two of the new students (Massey Bartolini and Tomer Burg) were awarded prestigious American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowships for the 2016-17 academic year. An additional eight students are being funded from research grants, including five via the National Science Foundation Partnerships for International Research and Education award given to the University at Albany in 2015. This incoming class hails from 8 different states, and 4 different counties.

GRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

The department is proud to announce the recent Masters and Ph.D. graduates of Atmospheric Science.

Masters:  
Spring 2015: Travis Elless, William Lamberson, Ahmed Shaaban and Juan Sulca  
Fall 2015: Eric Adamchick and Matthew Vaughn  
Spring 2016: Hannah Huelsing, Adam Massmann and Pawel Slaski

Ph.D.:  
Summer 2015: Leon Nguyen and Naoko Sakaeda  
Fall 2015: Alan Brammer  
Summer 2016: Brian Butterworth

CLASS OF 2016 STUDENT COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

Atmospheric Science Program Outstanding Student: Tomer Burg (pictured left)  
Atmospheric Science Program Best Forecaster: Tomer Burg

Environmental Science Program Outstanding Student: Renée Martin (pictured left)

AWARDS CEREMONY

Honoring Legacies and Celebrating Excellence

On October 14, 2016, DAES recognized seven students during the DAES Annual Award Ceremony. Due to the generosity of past and present professors of the department, the department now has 6 scholarships and awards used to recognize the excellence of both undergraduate and graduate students.

The 2016 recipients are:

- **Bernard Vonnegut Teaching Award** to Philippe Papin and Hannah Attard  
- **Arthur Loesch Scholarship** to Marqi Rocque  
- **Bosart Family Scholarship** to Mike Main  
- **Narayan R. Gokhale Research Award** to Brian Butterworth  
- **George Tai-Jen Chen, PhD ’71 Scholarship** to Briah’ Davis  
- **Vince and Carol Idone Endowed Scholarship** to Mallory Gannon

From left to right, Philippe Papin, Brian Butterworth, Hannah Attard, Mallory Gannon, Chris Thornicroft, Mike Main, Marqi Rocque and Lance Bosart. (Not pictured, Briah’ Davis)
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016!

Bachelor of Science – Atmospheric Science
Tomer Burg  
*Summa Cum Laude*
Christopher Cardinale  
*Summa Cum Laude*
Nicholas Carll
Lenore Correia
Kurt Hansen  *Summa Cum Laude*
Renée Martin  *Summa Cum Laude*
Rachel O’Donnell  
*Magna Cum Laude*
Jesus Pichardo
Zubear Said
Michael Slifer  *Cum Laude*
Reed Williams
Zhouyuan Zhu

Bachelor of Science – Environmental Science
Michael Batza
Allison Bliss  *Summa Cum Laude*
Olivia Calandra
Michael Chadwick
Joseph Cleveland  *Magna Cum Laude*
Amanda Colley  *Magna Cum Laude*
Alexis Drumm  *Cum Laude*
Jad Edlebi
Ihsan Khan
Ariana London  *Cum Laude*
Renée Martin  *Summa Cum Laude*
Beth-Marie Russ
Julia Salwa
Toni Slyer
James Sommer

NYS MESONET EARLY WARNING WEATHER DETECTION SYSTEM

The New York State (NYS) Mesonet Early Warning Weather Detection System is a new advanced, statewide weather station network that provides unprecedented weather information across the state. This network is the first of its kind in New York and will consist of 126 surface weather stations that will detect weather phenomena across the entire state. This weather detection system provides federal, state, and local communities with access to high-resolution, real-time data, and more robust predictive models. Funded by FEMA, the network is designed, implemented, and operated by atmospheric scientists at the University at Albany with support from the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Each of the Mesonet’s 126 weather stations measures surface temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation, solar radiation, atmospheric pressure, snow depth, and soil moisture and temperature at three depths. In addition, 17 of the sites will be outfitted with LiDARs, microwave profilers, and sun photometers providing wind, temperature, and moisture profiles in the vertical. Another 20 of the sites will measure snow water equivalent for hydrological applications, and another 17 sites will measure the surface energy budget. All of this data are transmitted in real-time to a central location, where the data are quality-controlled and archived, and then disseminated to a variety of users. Real-time data along with graphical products are available to the public via website at [http://nysmesonet.org](http://nysmesonet.org).
Distinguished Professor Lance Bosart was honored as the Gal-Chen Lecturer at the University of Oklahoma School of Meteorology on March 31, 2015. Bosart was selected by UAlbany as the recipient of the Citizen of the University award in April 2016.

The University at Albany held its summer celebration to honor the 2015 Initiatives for Women Award recipients. PhD student, Hannah Attard received the Karen R. Hitchcock New Frontiers Fund Award. The award will be used to attend the SPARC workshop in Grindelwald, Switzerland. Attard was a recipient of a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship. Hannah will be working on a project titled “Exploring the Relationship Between Tropospheric Synoptic Events, Vertical Wave Activity Flux, and Sudden Stratospheric Warmings Using the NASA MERRA-2 Dataset.”

Ph.D. candidate Alicia Bentley was recently selected to participate in the Advanced Study Program (ASP) Graduate Visitor Program at NCAR during the summer of 2017 (June-August). Bentley received the first place oral presentation student award for “Noteworthy Cool-Season Extreme Weather Events over Central and Eastern North America Associated with Strong Extratropical Cyclones” at the 28th Conference on Climate Variability and Change at the AMS Annual Meeting.

As an undergraduate, Tomer Burg was selected by UAlbany to receive the Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research. As a new graduate student Burg also received an AMS Graduate Fellowship.

Undergraduate Amanda Colley received the Terra Award in recognition of her lead role in sustainability throughout her entire college career. In 2016 she served in a leadership position in all of the major sustainability groups on campus: UAlbany Students for Sustainability, UAlbany Outdoors and UAlbany Grow Green.

Assistant Professor Kristen Corbosiero and PhD student Stephanie Stevenson both received the Ford Foundation IFW Women in Science Award. The award was used to attend the Cyclone Workshop in Pacific Grove, CA.

Graduate student, Lawrence C. Gloeckler, received the AMS award for best presentation for “Tropical Cyclone Contributions to Madden–Julian Oscillation–Associated Extratropical Circulation Patterns” at the 4th MJO Symposium at the 96th AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Assistant Professor Andrea Lang was selected as a co-lead for NOAA’s Subseasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Prediction Task Force formed by NOAA’s Climate Program Office’s Modeling, Analysis, Predictions and Projections (MAPP) Program as a 3-year effort to advance NOAA’s and the Nation’s capability to model and predict sources of S2S predictability.

Ph.D. candidate Theodore Letcher was named one of two winners in the nationwide Early Career Researcher Video Competition hosted by the World Climate Research Programme and the Global Energy and Water Cycle Exchanges. It is associated with an important national effort to develop a large-scale regional hydroclimate project to better understand water, weather, and climate in the western U.S. Letcher took top honors for his video addressing water challenges facing Western North America.

Congratulations to undergraduates, Michael Main and Marquette Rocque on being recipients of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Class of 2016 Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

Assistant Professor Justin Minder participated in the Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA) - COMET Olympic Forecaster Training Course. This course was run by University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)’s COMET program to train the forecasters who will be issuing forecasts during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. Minder provided a half-day lesson on forecasting precipitation type over mountainous terrain. This marks the second year that Professor Minder has participated in this program.

In 2015 and 2016 respectively, undergraduates Rachel O’Donnell and William Flamholtz were nominated and selected to attend the NCAR Undergraduate Leadership Workshop. The workshop consisted of a five-day immersion experience at the National Center for Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado.

Ph.D. Candidate Rosimar Rios-Berrios assisted as a mission scientist for the Sensing Hazards with Operational Unmanned Technology (SHOUT) field campaign.
ALUMNI NEWS

**Greg Diamond** (BS ’13) is a Graphic Meteorologist and Weather Producer at The Weather Channel in Atlanta, GA.

**Thomas Galarneau, Jr.** (BS ’01, MS ’03, ‘07, PhD ’10) is an assistant professor in the Department of Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona.

**Elizabeth Levesque** (BS ’14, MS ’16) is working as a land-use planner at Cotleur & Hearing in Jupiter, FL.

**Adam Massmann** (MS ’16) is now a PhD student at Columbia in the Dept. Earth and Environmental Engineering.

**Elizabeth Moran** (BS ’13) is a Water and Natural Resources Associate with Environmental Advocates of New York in Albany, NY.

**David R. Novak** (MS’02) is the new director of NOAA’s Weather Prediction Center (WPC), based in College Park, MD.

**Dr. Melinda S. Peng** (’78, ’80, ’82) was selected by UAlbany as the recipient of the Excellence in Science and Technology award in April 2016.

**Dr. Venkatachalam Ramaswamy** (Ph.D.’82) has been selected to receive the 2017 UAlbany Excellence in Science and Teaching Award. Awards will be presented at the Excellence Awards Gala on April 29, 2017.

**Mike Slifer** (BS ’16) is a weekday morning meteorologist at WVNS-TV in West Virginia.

**Zach Szumloz** (BS ’15) is a Meteorologist and Electricity Demand Forecaster at Genscape, Inc. in Boston, MA.

**Daniel Thompson** (MS ’12) will return to the Capital District to join the National Weather Service Forecasting Office in Albany as a General Forecaster in November 2016.

**Michelle Tran** (BS ’13) is a Sustainability and Environmental Lead Consultant with LeighFisher in San Francisco, CA.

**Alicia Wasula** (BS ’98, MS ’01, Ph.D ’05) is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist working at Shade Tree Meteorology in Niskayuna, NY.

**Thomas Wasula** (BS ’96, MS ’98) has been promoted to a Senior Forecaster at the National Weather Service Forecasting Office in Albany, NY.

LOOKING AHEAD

**Governor Cuomo Announces Major Step Forward for Albany’s ETEC Initiative**

In February 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the University at Albany’s Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (ETEC) will be located on the Harriman Campus. Site planning is underway and construction is expected to begin in 2017, with completion targeted for 2020.

The University will redevelop 12 acres in the southwest corner of the Harriman Campus to construct the 236,000 square-foot, single-building complex which is being completed as part of the NYSUNY 2020 program.

The move ensures that the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) will be the centerpiece of UAlbany’s ETEC initiative, as well as UAlbany’s Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center and the New York State Mesonet, a state-of-the-art weather observation system developed to support better planning for extreme and dangerous weather events.

By coupling cutting edge research with economic development initiatives, it will spur the transfer of ideas and new technologies to commercial enterprises.

“This new complex will help keep New York on the cutting edge of technological innovation, as well as help ensure we are prepared for emerging threats, such as extreme weather and terrorism that are increasingly becoming the new normal,” Governor Cuomo said. “By bringing academia and the business sector together, we are enabling the industries vital to our preparedness effort to grow and thrive right here in New York.”
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