

ICSU-related affairs, including the World Climate Research Programme and the planning of a decade-long interdisciplinary research program, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, whose scientific committee he chairs until November. He is also president of Global Change START International, an organization supporting regional networks and capacity enhancement in Africa and Asia—and notably in the context of ICSU’s international global change programs.

His service and achievements in the fields of climate change and natural hazards research have been recognized with the Orders of Canada (2008) and Ontario (2010). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. As a lead author and review editor for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he was a member of the team that was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

McBean will formally receive the IMO Prize in 2018.

MEETINGS

OBSERVING LEADERS OF TODAY TO BECOME THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Looking Back on the 16th Annual AMS Student Conference

KRISTY CARTER, JOSH ALLAND, AND ARYEH DRAGER
(AMS STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

The weekend of January 21–22, 2017 has come and gone, but for about 700 attendees at the 16th Annual AMS Student Conference, that weekend marked an opportunity to “Observe the Leaders of Today [in order to] become the Leaders of Tomorrow.” The conference, which took place in Seattle prior to the 97th AMS Annual Meeting, featured roughly 80 invited speakers from across the meteorological and related disciplines. These speakers participated in at least one of the 16 sessions planned and led by a team of senior undergraduate and graduate students who make up the AMS Student Conference Planning Committee (SCPC).

SCPC members come from a variety of backgrounds, but many, like Matt Flournoy, a master’s student at the University of Oklahoma, find being part of the Planning Committee to be a rewarding experience. Matt says he is “honored to be part of the [students’] AMS experience and enjoy[s] having direct involvement on the experiences of the students at the conference, as the students are the ones who will lead the field one day.”

Participation on the SCPC has other benefits as well.

“Being a part of the committee has allowed me to make lasting friendships with other atmospheric scientists I probably wouldn’t have crossed paths with,” says Gaige Kerr, a Ph.D. student at Johns Hop-

kins University. “I know that when our time is done on the committee we’ll still keep in touch and look forward to seeing each other at various conferences and meetings.”

The 16th Annual AMS Student Conference featured five new sessions, including a media breakout panel, a graduate student panel, a session on getting a job, and a session geared toward social science and communication. There was also a new interactive session for aspiring broadcasters that gave students the opportunity to show a tape of their own making and receive feedback from a panel of professionals. These new sessions augmented a number of returning favorites, such as “Conversations with Professionals,” “Extreme Weather Events,” and the joint session between the Student Conference and the Early Career Professionals Conference. Additional interactive activities Sunday afternoon included a résumé workshop and an “Integrated Warning Team” session focused on the complementary roles of forecasters, broadcasters, and emergency managers.

Students were exposed to a wide variety of possible career paths and heard from a number of seasoned professionals in our field, including Warren Washington, Bill Murtagh, and the Edward Lorenz Teaching Excellence awardee, Mark Wysocki. In addition to the great sessions and incredible speak-

ers, “learning something new about job searching or networking or simply being an effective leader” keeps Makenzie Krocak coming back year after year. Krocak, a master’s student at the University of Oklahoma, “really enjoy[s] sharing [her] own experiences, both good and bad, and helping students find their passion in the field.” As a panelist for the graduate student panel this year, Krocak found that the Student Conference gave her an avenue to do both of those things.

The Student Conference Poster Session had approximately 200 students present their own research, and 12 were selected to receive Outstanding Student Conference Poster Awards based on judges’ scores. The Student Conference is a great way for students to explore the possibilities within our expanding field and network with other students, professionals, private companies, and universities.

“I think the AMS Student Conference is something that every undergraduate or graduate student should experience,” says Elizabeth Lennartson, a master’s student at the University of Iowa. “When I attended as a junior undergraduate, I made up my decision

then and there that graduate school was the path for me. I went back to my hotel room, signed up for the GRE, and started researching programs in my area of interest. I hope to graduate in December 2017 with my master’s degree, and I owe it all to my time at the AMS Student Conference.”

None of these opportunities would have been possible without the support of AMS, the dedication of the students who make up the SCPC, the volunteered time of the invited speakers, and the sponsors of the AMS Student Conference: the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Incorporated, the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, the University of Oklahoma School of Meteorology, Colorado State University’s Department of Atmospheric Science, Pennsylvania State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, The University of Georgia, and Iowa State University. Thank you to everyone who made the 16th Annual AMS Student Conference such a success.

The 17th Annual AMS Student Conference will take place January 6–7, 2018 in Austin, Texas.

MEET THE AMS

REX HORNER Senior Production Assistant

Before working at AMS, Rex Horner was a paid intern at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, working for a quarterly journal that published articles related to international security, a post–World War II subfield in the study of international relations. He found AMS by further exploring the largely academic publishing community in Boston.

“I was attracted to the history of the AMS and its particular scientific focus,” Rex explains. “While I could take part in publishing any type of content, I can connect with weather phenomena and the natural world more personally than with mathematics or cell biology, for instance.”

Rex is a graduate of Emerson College, where he received a BFA in writing, literature, and publishing. Along with creative writing, he learned the business and mechanics of the publishing industry, from book design to profit and loss statements and production timelines.

“While the self-expression inherent in creative writing is important, so is the end product of any sort of writing—the book,” Rex notes. “The bound volume is how writing becomes part of the cultural record. The AMS journals add to this record and I’m proud contributing to their production.”

As a senior production assistant, Rex works closely with the AMS production team.

“One way to describe production is everything apart from peer review and the actual editing of papers, though those two jobs are incredibly significant themselves,” he says. “I support authors when they

