

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Croft

Wow! Whenever it seems that we have seen it all, along comes the NWA Annual Meeting. I am simply amazed at, and refreshed by, our abilities, insight, creativity, and desire to work together in operational meteorology. The NWA's 29th Annual Meeting held at the DoubleTree Hotel – Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon from 16-21 October 2004 was indeed a success and enjoyed by nearly 300 attendees.

In view of Mount Hood, and in the shadow of a possible Mount Saint Helens eruption that only resulted in some venting, NWA members came together in Portland amidst 'sun-breaks' and a few windy, rainy periods – and even a dramatic series of Yankees/Red Sox playoff games – to share and learn more about our atmosphere and new techniques and technologies for operational meteorology.

I thank all members who made the meeting a great success, especially our program committee chairs Mike Vescio, Steve Todd, and Bryan Karrick and their committee members: Zaaron Allen, Gordon Hepburn, John Jacobson, Mark O'Malley, Clinton Rockey and John Saltenberger. Thanks also to session chairs, NWA Council members, NWA committee members and of course – our Executive Director, Kevin Lavin and Assistant Executive Director, Cynthia Nelson – who kept all of the day-to-day operations running smoothly.

Thanks to presenters and workshop leaders we learned of advancements being made in all aspects of operational meteorology from air quality, fire weather and severe weather forecasting to observing, broadcasting and training. Sessions were punctuated by keynote speakers of the operational meteorological community including the Director of the National Weather Service, private sector leaders, University faculty and well-known experts on significant topics. The annual "Tape Swap" run by Rich Apuzzo and Mike Goldberg provided an opportunity for attendees to view and critique TV weathercasts of professionals, new broadcasters and students. Corporate members such as AccuWeather, ADC, Baron Services, Midland Radio, NWS, Oregon Scientific, SAIC, Vaisala, WeatherBug Media Services, Weather Central, Weather Metrics, WSI, *Weatherwise* (Heldref Publications) and the EPA – Sonoma Tech team for AIRNOW exhibited great new products and services, and provided training.

Overall, **more than 125 oral and poster presentations were given by more than 110 lead authors.** Attendees were able to learn more about the National Mesonet, COOP Modernization, operational benefits of current and future environmental satellites, radar advances, aviation meteorology, graphical decision aids, air quality forecasting, and future plans for improvements in all areas. The incorporation of operational climatology with forecasting, planning, education, regional study, modeling, and long-term drought forecasts was also evident. Snowstorms and their convective signatures, satellite data utilization, snowpack trends, 40 years of NSSL, lightning casualties and the human element, tropical systems and flooding were also impressive topics that were well-received.

There were also a few extracurricular activities including a golf outing and a raffle with many donated prizes. These activities raised money for NWA student scholarships. Thanks to Councilor Betsy Kling who organized the fun fundraisers. The annual awards luncheon was organized by Mary Cairns, Awards Committee Chair and Councilor. She provided a great program brochure about the awardees and introduced each of them. The award winners are published herein.

Congratulations to all award winners!

The NWA Council also held session to hear NWA Committee reports and concerns, and to address organizational business matters. The legacy of how the NWA operates has gotten us far in our 29 years of existence, and we have accomplished great things. However, one thing is clear, while the NWA's success has been excellent thanks to our membership and a great number of volunteers – change is always necessary to keep the association relevant and accomplishing its objectives. Therefore, the NWA Council needs to continue to plan for the future. I am looking forward to our continued progress and improvements in our support to the communities we serve and to one another. I also look forward to the continued work of all of us in studies to increase our knowledge and understanding of the atmosphere and improve operational weather support – and to report on those studies and new services at NWA Annual Meetings in mid-October each year.

On behalf of the NWA Council and staff, I extend **Best Wishes to all for a Happy Holiday Season and a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!**

- Yours in Service – Paul Croft

BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

Here's My Long-Range Forecast...

After returning from a great NWA Annual Meeting in Portland, I received an e-mail question from a member of the NWA – a broadcast meteorologist in a market that I will not mention here. He was upset because another member of the weather team at his TV station was using the National Weather Service forecast straight from the NWS without any analysis or modification, and he wasn't sure how to approach this person with his concerns. I see broadcasters use the NWS forecast every day on TV stations so let me share a few thoughts on forecasting, broadcasting, and the NWA Seal.

First, here is a little background on me so you can better understand from whence I speak. My passion for weather began when I was a child. I saw my first funnel cloud at 7 years old and it scared the heck out of me, but ever since then I have enjoyed looking at the skies and studying the weather. I started making forecasts in high school and even imitated some of the TV weather personalities in Chicago at the time. It was the combination of my love for weather and the attention I enjoyed by giving my friends the forecast that led me to pursue a career in meteorology. However, neither of my parents attended college, and back in 1980 when I was choosing a school, there was no public Internet or anyone in meteorology to guide me, so I chose a university that was close to home and had some basic weather courses – Valparaiso University. I graduated with a B.A. in Geography. No one told me that a B.S. would better serve me, and that a degree in meteorology might aid my acceptance into some organizations, so I took my B.A. and after two years of searching, got my first job in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1986. Valparaiso has since created a well-respected meteorology department. They have a storm chase team, a weather graphics system, a TV studio, and they soon will have a radar unit of their own. There are some people who would say that I am not a “real” meteorologist, and to that I would challenge them to beat my 93% accuracy (on forecasts that I create every day), point out my 18 years on the air as a chief meteorologist, and proudly display my NWA Seal.

We all have different backgrounds, different skills, and varying levels of interest in meteorology, but what we do on the air comes down to one simple truth – we must get ratings. It stinks, I know, but you can be the most accurate forecaster in the world, yet if no one watches, you will be out of a job. At the same time, you may see some young, good-looking weather anchor across town with a great smile, tons of energy, no forecast skills whatsoever and is wrong half the time, yet that station gets viewers and that person gets the big money. It makes you wonder if anyone cares about meteorology at all.

Obviously, the case I just described is an extreme, but many of us can relate to it on some level.

The way to understand it all is through balance, patience and maturity. Not every TV station wants a scientist, especially in areas that don't have significant weather changes for most of the year. Other locations do favor substance over style, and I have seen many weather departments where all of the members have a Seal of Approval and degrees in meteorology. The ideal is to balance science and entertainment. I have a lot of fun on the air and fortunately have a great anchor team with whom I work. At the same time, I was the first on the air in Cincinnati with a 7-day outlook, and now I generate my own 14-day forecast, monthly outlooks, and seasonal weather outlooks for subscribers to my Web site: www.apuzzoweather.com. Not bad for a guy with a B.A. in Geography, but I do it because of my personal love for weather and science, not because I do or don't have a degree. I create a balance of on-air entertainment and science, and that makes for good broadcasting. If some weather anchors choose not to make their own forecast, that's up to them. There will be times when the weather turns ugly and that person will not be able to provide the same kind of reliable, accurate, time-sensitive information to the viewers that you can, and that's when you will be recognized for the skills you have. However, using the NWS forecast is perfectly acceptable since after all, they are there to serve the public and we should strive for better partnerships with the very people who provide our current weather, upper-air observations and computer models. Better yet – tailoring the NWS forecasts for the viewers would get the weathercaster more involved in the process and with time begin to add his/her expertise into the product. Between the NWS, broadcast meteorologists, private weather companies, weather consultants, etc., there are thousands of meteorologists competing to make the best forecast, so it's only logical that some on-air weather broadcasters will use someone else's forecast, some will tailor their own from others, and some will start from basic observations in building their own forecast.

Finally, you must have the maturity to realize your own limitations and strengths, and focus on the latter while trying to improve the former. You can only control yourself and you must set your own high standards to be a better person, forecaster, and mentor. Continue your personal education while teaching others, and remember that you need ratings to win, so smile and share your passion with your viewers, and don't worry about what the other weather anchors are doing.

Send your thoughts to me at rapuzzo@fuse.net

Best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season and a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year of quality weather broadcasting for the public good!

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

NWA - SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED

At the 29th NWA Annual Meeting, the Education Committee Chairperson, Sol Hirsch, announced the recipients of the 2004 Education Fund Grants named in his honor. The NWA Education Committee received 75 grant applications this year from K-12 teachers across the country. The NWA Council approved the recommendations of the Education Committee that \$500 Grants be awarded to seven teachers. Letters of Congratulations and \$500 checks were sent to:

David W. Chapman, Okemos High School, Okemos, Michigan. Mr. Chapman intends to purchase HOBO data loggers for temperature, humidity and light levels. Students in earth science, physical science and biology/horticulture classes will increase their knowledge of temperature and humidity relationships through experimental investigation. Impact will extend beyond the school through summer classes and workshops for teachers that Mr. Chapman is involved in.

Melanie DuBose, Valley Community Charter School, North Hills, California. Ms. DuBose will purchase a weather station. Students from various classes will collect data, keep a weather diary and combine it with photographs of a nearby wildlife reserve to show that weather changes are reflected in changes of flora and fauna. A weather book will result.

Garland Jay Hart, Campbell Academy Challenge Cluster, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Hart and colleagues will purchase a weather station to aid science enrichment programs for K-5 gifted students from 52 elementary schools in the Atlanta area served by the Campbell Academy Cluster. Weather data will be collected, recorded and compared with reports from around the world

Peter Leinau, Jack L. Boyd Outdoor School, Fish Camp, California. Mr. Leinau and colleagues will purchase weather equipment and with additional funds from the Merced County Office of Education, individual donations and in-house labor will develop a hands-on Weather Wise program at the Outdoor School. Each week a group of elementary school students, their high school leaders and their teachers come for a week-long residential experience at the Outdoor School at the edge of Yosemite National Park and now weather will be a leading part of the curriculum.

Windy Linden, Reed Elementary School, Tiburon, California. Ms. Linden will purchase weather equipment, books and other materials for kindergartners to learn more about weather, measurements and weather effects. The students will also prepare weather information, be videotaped and presented on the school Web site. After

reading the book, *The Gingerbread Man*, and making gingerbread man cookies, the teacher's gingerbread man will "run away", but send postcards to the class from a variety of locations and include a weather report. Students will find the location on the classroom map and compare the local weather with what the traveling gingerbread man observed.

Wendy McNeil, Dorothy B. Johnson Elementary School, Wilmington, North Carolina. Ms. McNeil will purchase books, weather equipment and visual aids to improve learning in all K-5 grades. Students are from low socio-economic environments and need to make real-world connections in content areas in order to understand more easily, learn and develop critical thinking. Project-based learning experiences, Web Quest projects, collaborative work with other students across the country and other lessons are being developed for each class with a common theme of "Dude, How's the Weather?"

Jennifer C. Williams, Isidore Newman School, New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms. Williams will use the funds to purchase a weather station to be installed in the school's garden, which is a great butterfly habitat. The "Butterfly Weather Station Project" will allow students in grades first through third to observe, record, interpret and develop an understanding of how weather affects their world and the lives of other living creatures such as butterflies.

It was interesting, glancing through the applications, to note the amazing creativity of teachers across the country in wanting to use weather in the instruction of (national and state) standards of learning. A few teachers mentioned that weather broadcasters and other local forecasters were assisting them. All NWA members should consider offering help, as their time and talents permit, to local teachers and to let the NWA Council know how the association may be able to assist more. Applications for this annual grant opportunity are to be submitted by 1 August each year. Guidelines are posted on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html - Ex. Dir.

Thanks to Lynn Elsey, the managing editor of *Weatherwise* (NWA Corporate Member). She is providing a complimentary one-year subscription of *Weatherwise* to the seven teachers winning the NWA – Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants.

THE 2004 NWA METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD

Kristopher B. Karnauskas, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was selected as the winner of the NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award for 2004. His superb work was well described in an excellent undergraduate paper, "*Interannual Variability of Surface Longwave Radiation over the African Continent as Derived from the Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer.*" Kris presented his paper in a poster session at the Annual Meeting and received a plaque and a check for \$500 from President Paul Croft. Kris is now a graduate student at the University of Maryland at College Park.

NWA ANNUAL AWARDS for 2004

NWA President Paul Croft presented the annual awards for 2004 at the 29th Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on 20 October 2004 at the DoubleTree Hotel – Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon. Special thanks are due to the NWA Awards Committee, chaired by Mary Cairns. She announced each winner and their accomplishments.

THE NWA OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT INDIVIDUAL AWARD is presented to a NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology for an accurate/timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for sustained superior performance.

The NWA Operational Achievement Individual Award for 2004 was presented to Dr. Joel N. Myers, Founder and President, AccuWeather, Inc., State College, PA.

For over 42 years of pioneering operational weather support services, products, and techniques contributing to the applications of meteorology and the advancement of the science.

THE NWA OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT GROUP AWARD is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology. At a minimum, a majority of the group must be NWA members.

The NWA Operational Achievement Group Award for 2004 was presented to: Barry Baxter, Kim Brabander, Eric Christensen, Wayne Colin, Robert Handel, Guy Rader and Pablo Santos of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Miami, Florida. Robert Handel accepted the award for the group.

For their outstanding weather forecasts and timely warnings in advance of and during the rare, South Florida, multiple tornado outbreak on March 27, 2003.

THE NWA MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.

The NWA Member of the Year Award for 2004 was presented to Betsy Kling of WKYC-TV, Cleveland, Ohio and a NWA Councilor.

For outstanding contributions in public relations, initiating an annual Golf Tournament and other fundraising events for college student scholarships, and for her exemplary enthusiastic support of NWA activities and objectives.

Award criteria, nomination procedures, submission deadlines and lists of past winners are posted on the NWA Web site at:
www.nwas.org/award.html

THE NWA AVIATION METEOROLOGY AWARD is presented to an individual or group to recognize significant contributions to aviation meteorology, such as impact of operational forecasts on aviation operations, and advances in aviation meteorology including research in detection and forecasting of aviation hazards.

The NWA Aviation Meteorology Award for 2004 was presented to the combined team of the NOAA/NWS Center Weather Service Unit, Fort Worth, Texas (Tom Amis, James Ott, Charles Hays and Doug Reno) and the NOAA/Forecast Systems Laboratory, Aviation Division, Boulder, Colorado (Lynn Sherretz, Greg Pratt, Dennis Rodgers, Jim Frimel, Young Chun, Lisa Gifford, Chris Masters and Doug Ohlhorst). Tom Amis accepted for the CWSU and Dennis Rodgers accepted for FSL.

For sustained superior performance in enhancing and developing new methodologies for displaying aviation weather information resulting in improved flight safety and efficiency in the National Airspace System.

THE T. THEODORE FUJITA RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is presented to a NWA member whose research has made significant contributions to operational meteorology.

The T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award for 2004 was awarded to Stephen F. Corfidi of the NOAA/NWS/NCEP Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Oklahoma.

For outstanding research and development of conceptual models and predictive techniques for mesoscale convective systems improving operational weather analysis and forecasting.

THE WALTER J. BENNETT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD is presented to an individual or organization directly assisting the meteorological community in providing weather-related information to the public. Walter J. Bennett served the public in extraordinary ways for over 50 years; he was also the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the US Weather Bureau Office in Jacksonville, Florida in the 1940s and 50s.

The Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award for 2004 was presented to John Fleck, a science writer for the Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For over ten years of exceptional reporting of science issues in the Albuquerque Journal providing factual information enhancing the public's understanding of weather and climate.

It is never too early to begin writing a nomination letter for the NWA Annual Awards. Nominations are due to the NWA office by 1 July every year.

NWA ANNUAL AWARDS for 2004 continued

THE LARRY R. JOHNSON SPECIAL AWARD

recognizes unique events or extraordinary accomplishments by an individual or group contributing to operational meteorology.

The Larry R. Johnson Special Award for 2004 was presented to members of the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Midland, Texas: Ray Fagen, Doug Cain, Jack Ciccone, Brian Curran, Jeffrey Cupo, James DeBerry, Eric Platt, Patrick Vesper, Thomas Lindley, Cody Lindsey, Alexander Lyster, Greg Murcoch, Seth Nagle and Gregory Jackson. Alex Lyster accepted the award for the group.

For exceptional skill, teamwork and coordination with other agencies in providing life-saving forecasts and warnings to the citizens of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico during the devastating floods of April 2004.

THE NWA PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

is presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

The NWA Public Education Award for 2004 is presented to the Warning Preparedness Meteorologists, Prairie Storm Prediction Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Jay Anderson, Bob Cormier, Dan Kulak, John Parker, Dennis Dudley and Brian Paruk. Jay Anderson accepted the award for the group.

For establishing an outstanding Warning Preparedness Program, in collaboration with the media, emergency response agencies, school boards and the public, to continually educate the public and specialized end-users on severe weather awareness, preparation and response.

THE NWA BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

is presented to a NWA member Radio or Television weathercaster, or other member of the media, whose activities have significantly contributed to the development and presentation of weather information to the public service.

The NWA Broadcaster of the Year Award for 2004 was presented to Rob Guarino, WTXF FOX 29, Philadelphia, PA.

For outstanding contributions to the development and presentation of accurate, dependable and easily understood weather information to the public through WTXF FOX 29 - Philadelphia, community outreach presentations and the authoring of publications.

NWA SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS are presented at opportune times and for significant achievements related to operational meteorology.

A NWA Special Lifetime Achievement Award for 2004 was presented to Dr. Gandikota V. Rao (Posthumously). The Award was accepted by his wife, Mrs. Vidya Rao; daughter, Dr. Anita Rao and son, Mr. Madhu Rao.

For outstanding research in tropical meteorology furthering the understanding of monsoons and how tornadoes and severe convective winds are produced within hurricanes. For sharing his great knowledge and research results over 35 years with operational forecasters and students. For his exemplary enthusiasm in his research and teaching. His constant smile was contagious.

A donation from the NWA funds of \$200 was also sent to Saint Louis University for the Dr. G. V. Rao Memorial Fund for scholarships on behalf of all NWA members.

CPC CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The NOAA/NWS/National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary at its Annual Climate Diagnostic and Prediction Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin in mid October.

Established in 1979, the CPC serves the public by assessing and forecasting the impacts of short-term climate variability, and emphasizing enhanced risks of weather-related extreme events for use in mitigating losses and maximizing economic gains.

CPC leads the way as the U.S. government's official organization charged with the responsibility of monitoring and forecasting El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events and other climate and weather driving forces and their influence on weather patterns and extremes. Some of CPC's cornerstone products include monthly ENSO Diagnostics Discussions, 6-10 Day and 8-14 Day Outlooks for the U.S., U.S. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks, the U.S. Drought Monitor, the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, the U.S. Hazards Assessment, and Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook.

CPC continues to be a pioneer in climate prediction. In August 2004, a new Climate Forecast System (CFS), which models the coupled global ocean/atmosphere system, was implemented into the NCEP operational model suite. The development of the CFS was led by NCEP's Environmental Modeling Center and represents a major breakthrough in dynamic modeling of climate variability in the seasonal forecasts.

- from NOAA Public Affairs

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- **The American Meteorological Society will hold its 85th Annual Meeting from 9 - 13 January 2005 at the San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California.** All details are available at Web site: www.ametsoc.org
- **The TESSA 2005 Texas Storm Conference will take place on Saturday, 26 February 2005 at the Bob Duncan Center in Arlington, Texas.** The all-day event will begin with the first-ever Super Storm Spotter (SSS) session, a uniquely advanced storm spotter training session designed for spotters who have attended NWS basic and advanced training. The SSS session will feature the most advanced training available in the country. Spotters from across the region are expected to attend. **Gary Woodall**, WCM, National Weather Service - Ft. Worth, Texas, a primary developer of the storm spotter training system utilized nationwide, will present. Afternoon presentations will be delivered by **Alan Moller**, National Weather Service - Ft. Worth, Texas; **Roger Edwards**, Storm Prediction Center; and **Martin Lisius**, Chairman, Texas Severe Storms Association. The event will conclude with the feature presentation by **Louis Wicker**, National Severe Storms Laboratory. The TESSA 2005 Texas Storm Conference is free and open to the public. Registration is not required but attendees should arrive early as seating is limited to 500. See Web site: www.tessa.org
- **National Severe Weather Workshop 2005 will be held at the Reed Center in Midwest City, OK, 3 - 5 March 2005.** It is sponsored by many local NOAA offices, the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association and the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS/NWA. It will feature the nation's premier severe weather experts discussing their latest research and forecasting techniques. Designed for emergency managers, storm spotters and other weather enthusiasts, the workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn about the National Weather Service's outlook, watch and warning process, severe weather preparedness and safety, StormReady, EMWIN, severe storm risks, lightning effects, wind damage effects and new ways to get radar data. Spotter training will be offered in conjunction with the workshop. More information is at Web site: www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2005/
- **The Fourth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 4 - 6 March 2005 at Mississippi State University.** The East Mississippi NWA & AMS Chapter sponsors it. This year they will highlight a Broadcasters Workshop. For more about the symposium, hotel and registration go to the Web site: www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm.
- **The 30th Northeastern Storm Conference will be held on 18 - 20 March 2005 in Burlington, Vermont.** The Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel. For more information, please go to the chapter's Web site: apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html. The deadline for registration is 11 February 2005.
- **The 2005 Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 31 March - 2 April 2005 in West Des Moines, Iowa.** The Central Iowa NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the West Des Moines Marriott. Abstracts are due by 15 February 2005. For more information, see the Web site: www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/index.html.

- **AIR-MASS 2005 Mid-America Storm Symposium will be held 14 - 15 April 2005 in Wichita, Kansas.** The Wichita AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the historic Radisson Broadview Hotel. In addition to the science-sharing presentations, a couple of special events are planned including a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Udall, Kansas, tornado. See Web site: wichita-amsnwa.org/index.php for more details.

- **The NWA's 30th Annual Meeting will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri, 15 - 20 October 2005.** Watch the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for details. Notify the NWA office at 434-296-9966 or natweasoc@aol.com if you would like to help in organizing this special anniversary event.

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

The Three Rivers Chapter of the NWA at California University of Pennsylvania (CUP) is starting the fall semester with many educational, fundraising, and social events. Our annual snowfall competition is underway. A \$1 donation purchases a chance to forecast the nearest date and time that the first one inch of snow will be measured at the Pittsburgh International Airport. Members are also selling candles for the holiday season. Both fundraisers benefit members by funding conference trips (NWA Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO [2005]), and will also support the newly created **Meteorology Club Scholarship** for undergraduate students.

The chapter hosted booths at California University's Academic Excellence Day and Organizational Fair in September, providing the entire campus an opportunity to learn about our outreach activities and opportunities for students. Meanwhile, students have begun forecasting for the National Collegiate Forecasting Competition, as well as for Red Bull's "Project Swell." Students who had internships at professional organizations/institutions during the summer of 2004 will be presenting a summary of their experiences at each meeting this fall, including information for underclassmen on how to secure such an experience for themselves. Janice Bytheway is the first presenter and will speak about experiences with CASA (Norman, OK) in an REU Internship.

To acquaint all the new student members with everyone early this academic year, the Earth Sciences Department held its annual picnic on 12 September, and the chapter also attended a Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball game on 25 September. Plans are underway to attend the IMAX show entitled "Forces of Nature" at the Carnegie Science Center also located in Pittsburgh, PA. Members are encouraged to attend and invite K-12 students so as to promote Science education.

The Three Rivers Chapter meets bi-weekly on Thursdays at 11 AM on campus in the Eberly Science & Technology Center.

- *Chad Kauffman, Faculty Advisor*

The North Texas Chapter of the AMS and NWA held a very interesting meeting on 26 October. The speaker was Dr. Kevin M. Simmons, an Associate Professor of Economics at Austin College in Sherman, TX. Dr. Simmons spoke about research he and colleagues have performed to determine the value of WSR-88D data. The study was funded by NOAA's NSSL. The paper associated with the research is currently under review for the AMS' *Weather and Forecasting*. Here is Dr.

Simmons' abstract for the study. We examine the impact of the installation of WSR-88D (Doppler) radars, in the 1990s, on the quality of tornado warnings, and occurrence of tornado casualties. Our analysis employs a data set of tornadoes in the contiguous United States between 1986 and 1999. We use the date of WSR-88D radar installation in each National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office to divide our sample. Tornado warnings improved after installation of Doppler radar. The percentage of tornadoes warned for increased from 35% before WSR-88D installation to 60% after installation, while the mean lead time on warnings increased from 5.3 minutes to 9.5 minutes. A regression analysis of tornado casualties, which controls for the characteristics of a tornado and its path, reveals that expected fatalities and expected injuries were 45% and 40% lower for tornadoes occurring after WSR-88D radar was installed in the NWS Weather Forecast Offices. Our analysis also finds that expected casualties are significantly lower for tornadoes occurring during the day or evening than late at night throughout the sample, which provides indirect evidence of the life saving effects of tornado warnings.

- Greg Story, Chapter President

PAM DAALE SCHOLARSHIP

The Central Iowa Chapter of the National Weather Association and WOI-TV in Des Moines, Iowa are sponsoring a **\$1,000 scholarship in memory of broadcast meteorologist Pam Daale**. Pam Daale was best known as a television meteorologist at KMGH in Denver, but had numerous ties to Iowa. She was born and raised in Iowa, graduated from Iowa State University, and first worked at WOI-TV. Pam was an extremely popular meteorologist who courageously overcame adversity to not only succeed in her career but to help others. A horseback-riding accident at age 16 left her a paraplegic, but this did not stop her from becoming a popular television meteorologist. Later, as she fought cancer for nearly two years before her death in April 2004, she used her experiences to educate her viewers about the disease. In every aspect of her life, she had a tremendously positive impact on those around her. Her courage, strength, and concern for others, springing from a deep faith in God, should inspire us all.

The \$1,000 scholarship is available to all full-time meteorology students having sophomore or junior status at the time of the chapter's annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference (March 31-April 2, 2005) and a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater (on a 4.0-point scale). The award will be presented at the conference, and **the winner must attend the conference to receive the scholarship.**

Application forms and procedures, along with information on how applicants will be evaluated and selected, can be found online at www.iowa-nwa.com. **All application materials must be received by 15 February 2005.** The winner will be notified on or before 10 March 2005. Questions can be directed to iowanwa@everythingweather.com. - Ashley Altieri

MEMBER NEWS

Brian LaMarre has been selected as the new Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) at the NWS Forecast Office (NWSFO) in Lubbock, Texas. Brian worked as a student volunteer at the NWS office in Hartford, CT before formally launching his NWS career as a Meteorologist Intern at NWSFO Corpus Christi in 1994. There he was promoted to a Senior forecaster before moving to NWS Headquarters to become the Marine Program Manager/Deputy Branch Chief. Brian has received several awards including DOC Bronze and Silver medals and a National Isaac Cline Award. Brian received a bachelor's degree in Meteorology from Western Connecticut State University in 1994. Brian was a member of the NWA Education Committee and now serves on the Professional Development Committee.

Brig. Gen. D. L. Johnson, USAF (Ret.), NWS Director announced that Jack Hayes, Colonel USAF (Ret.) the NWS Director of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) has been selected to become the Deputy Director of NOAA's Ocean Service (NOS). Jack has served NOAA's National Weather Service well for several years. He holds the place of first director of OST. His team-building efforts and steady guidance have helped the NWS stay near the leading edge of Science and Technology to sustain excellent service to the Nation. Under his leadership, the NWS is now the only NOAA line office to have a Science and Technology Infusion Plan. We honor his service and leadership, and look forward to working with him in his new capacity. Greg Mandt, current Director of the Office of Weather, Water, and Climate Services (OCWWS), will move to lead the Office of Science and Technology.

Current Central Region Director Dennis McCarthy will be the acting Director of OCWWS, replacing Greg. Dennis has succeeded as both a Meteorologist-In-Charge and as a Region Director and is a well-respected member of the NWS Corporate Board and weather community. He will bring an important field perspective to NWS Headquarters in his acting role as OCWWS Director. These changes will be effective December 13, 2004.

Larry E. Burch has been selected as the NOAA/NWS/NCEP Aviation Weather Center's Deputy Director. Over his nearly 28 year career in government weather service, Larry served 5 years as weather officer in the USAF, then with NOAA's NESDIS in Suitland, MD. Larry joined NWS in 1981 as an aviation meteorologist at the Los Angeles (Palmdale) CWSU. According to Larry, his greatest forecasting accomplishment was planning the flight route and then forecasting the weather for the Voyager World flight in 1986 under Len Snellman. After Voyager, Larry became MIC of NWS Office Santa Maria, Western Region's Regional Aviation Meteorologist (RAM), Lead Western Region's Modernization Transition as the Transition, Lead Forecaster at NWSFO Salt Lake City, and the MIC of the CWSU in Salt Lake City. Larry has been active in the NWA for over 20 years. He's served as Councilor, co-chair of the Aviation Weather Committee, and an annual meeting coordinator and program chairman. He has authored or co-authored and presented several papers at AMS and NWA conferences. Larry also pioneered the use of video cameras in the early 90s as a supplement to traditional observing systems. Larry is also an accomplished pilot with over 2300 flight hours. He has an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) license as

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see their Web pages at:
www.nwas.org/chapters.html

well as 3 Flight Instructor ratings. He is a Search and Rescue pilot for the Civil Air Patrol, and is one of a handful of select pilots who flew reconnaissance over the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Larry has flown over 1500 hours as a flight instructor and has taught numerous pilots how to fly, but more important to Larry, he's shared his love and knowledge of weather to ensure that new aviators understand and can apply weather to complete a safe flight. AWC's Director Jack May welcomes Larry to Kansas City and his new assignment as Deputy Director, and Chief of the International Operations Branch.

CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to a new NWA corporate member!

Sonoma Technology, Inc.

1360 Redwood Way, Suite C

Petaluma, CA 94954-1104

Tel: 707-665-9900; Fax: 707-665-9800

Internet: www.sonomatech.com

POC: Tim Dye e-mail: tim@sonomatech.com

NOAA PARTNERSHIP POLICY

On 1 December 2004, a new "Policy on the Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information" was signed by V. ADM (Ret.) Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. The policy is available at Web site: www.nws.noaa.gov/partnershippolicy/ The policy responds to recommendations contained in both the National Research Council's (NRC) study, "Fair Weather: Effective Partnerships in Weather and Climate Services," (National Academy Press, 2003) and extensive public comments on a proposed policy published in January 2004 with comment period ending on 30 June.

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1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA (USA) 22911-3534

Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966; e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

Web site: www.nwas.org

Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, at nwanewsletter@nwas.org or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month's issue. If submissions are not received, the Newsletter may be delayed.

Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50.

Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with **address changes** by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

21 December 2004 – Winter Solstice at 07:42 AM EST

31 December 2004 – Ballots for election of officers/councilors are due back to the NWA office. Members who do not receive 2005 dues invoices and ballots by 5 December should contact the NWA office at (434) 296-9966 or NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.

9-13 January 2005 – 85th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, California

26 February 2005 – TESSA meeting, Arlington Texas

3-5 March 2005 – National Severe Weather Workshop
Midwest City, Oklahoma

4-6 March 2005 – Fourth Southeast Severe Storm Symposium
Mississippi State University

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 6 for additional dates

Also check www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

1697 CAPRI WAY

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534