



Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Making Waves

News for Alumni and Friends of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences • Fall 2025



AOS Through the Decades

Explore the history of the department through a collection of photos highlighting distinguished faculty, influential research, and the conspicuous AOSS building



A Disturbance in the Force

Ankur Desai, Department Chair



On odd numbered days, I am an ecologist.

Don't worry, I haven't forsaken you. As a land-atmosphere scientist,

the biology of the Earth system is as important to my scholarship as its physics and chemistry. And I've learned a lot from the field of ecology about the workings of the world.

When ecosystems face stress that impact their productivity, ecologists characterize how ecosystems respond through two concepts: resilience, the capacity to withstand disturbance, and resistance, or how effectively ecosystems recover and prosper.

If there is one trait I can apply to describe our department and its people, especially our students, it is their resilience. Students work late into the night in our recently renovated AOS and Environmental Sciences study lounges tackling challenging problems in the dynamics and physics of our planet. In the computer lab, they dip their toes in machine learning to make sense of the chaotic data of the fluid atmosphere and ocean served through our recently upgraded THREDDS data servers. In the field, on Lake Mendota, they observe the complexity of lake and atmosphere temperature profiles with our new CTD instruments. In their internships offered by many of you, they learn communication and networking skills critical to success in careers.

Our students balance classes, work, family, health, friends, an evolving job market, and the whiplash of the world around them. One thing stays constant, which is the community of AOSS. A community who recently articulated its values in a building-wide AOSS community values document which can be read online at <https://www.aos.wisc.edu/resources/deptdocs/>. Our desire to be inclusive, welcoming, and an open place to learn is sacrosanct.

My charge to our faculty and staff is to cultivate that resilience in our students,

and onward as alumni. Our faculty are now 20 strong, nearly half hired in the past decade. They come from all corners, from Puerto Rico to the Philippines. They are diverse in gender and background, and all are accomplished researchers, dedicated instructors, and nurturing mentors. They interrogate every facet of the atmosphere, ocean, and land on this planet and others, with ships, towers, aircraft, satellites, and CPUs or GPUs from Greenland to Antarctica.

And foremost in that, we care about our students' journeys in ways that have become the envy of campus and peer departments. This year, we welcome two faculty to our tight knit crew, via the campus RISE-EARTH program. You can read profiles of Gabrielle "Bee" Leung and Fraser King in this issue. We also welcome atmospheric chemist Miguel Hilario, who joins SSEC and AOS as a new researcher.

This year also brought changes among our office staff. We celebrated the retirement of our Research Graduate Program Manager Dee Van Ruyven. Dee made sure every graduate student knew how to navigate the complex steps to go from "Bachelor" to "Master" to "Doctor." Our fantastic Professional Master's Program Manager Kaitlyn Heinlein is excited to step into this role. We continue to be fortunate to have our own undergraduate advisor, Sabrina Manero, who joined AOS two years ago, and who in numerous meetings and events with our majors, filled with snacks and care, keeps the pulse on each and every one of them. We also welcomed three finance and human resources staff, Osman Habib, Charlie Tokar, Jr., and Malcolm Davis that allowed AOS to evolve with campus' new HR and finance systems. All our staff work tirelessly and serve as some of our strongest resilience building engines.

We need all our faculty and staff as we are weathering one of the most challenging disturbances to our field and society. Terminations and decline of federal support of research that save lives and supports our economy, dismissal of vetted science in policymaking, limitations on our ability

to recruit the world's best scholars and students from all countries, and challenges to secure the safety of all to debate ideas freely, without fear from violence, without government censorship, and with hope about a future in which they have a place to belong, is stress testing our resilience like never before. I know many of you are facing these challenges too, especially our alumni in or formerly in the federal workforce. We see you and seek better days for all.

What we know in ecology is that ecosystems build resilience in multiple ways. Resilient ecosystems are diverse in composition, whose individuals collectively contribute unique skills to strengthen the whole. Resilient ecosystems are diverse in resource acquisition strategies, creatively seeking every opportunity to maintain productivity, build mutual defenses, and optimize available assets.

When those fail, resistance kicks in. Ecosystems that quickly pivot to new strategies, rapidly grow where openings are provided, and adapt creatively to limit the impact of future disturbances, can flourish. Those lessons loom mightily on our little corner of academia.

After all, this isn't our students' first rodeo. They came of age after the 2008 financial crisis, managed the isolation of the pandemic in their crucial development years of middle or high school, and learned to navigate the fraught and easy to manipulate-by-AI worlds of social media as their primary source of information. Now, they face our current predicament, with an uncertain future for their livelihoods and for their sense of security and freedom. Yet, they're still here, still studying, still chasing storms and dreams, still proud of their Badger education, and most days, smiling.

Our students are nothing but resilient. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. What can you do to help us build the resistance?

-Ankur



Dean's Message

Eric Wilcots, L&S Dean

As the leaves change colors and students return to classes, I'm reminded of what a vibrant community this College is. Every day, I have the opportunity to see the tremendous talent of our students, faculty, alumni and staff. They challenge themselves to do their best, tackle tough questions and do work that will have an impact on this state and the world.

It was inspiring to welcome the Class of 2029 on a stunning day in early September at Memorial Union. They have a bright future ahead of them. What makes a degree from the College of Letters & Science so special, is that we teach our students skills that will propel them in every part of their life. L&S students will enter the workforce knowing how to think critically, problem solve and communicate effectively. They learn what it takes to be in a room with people who think differently than themselves and they are equipped to

lead. It is a complex world, but they're learning to adapt, grow and embrace its challenges.

L&S is the heart of this great University. We remain committed to educational excellence and to ensuring that each student has the resources they need to thrive, even as our community continues to grow. That's why we're investing in top talent, state-of-the-art facilities, one-of-a-kind undergraduate research opportunities and programs dedicated to making sure everyone can succeed. It is a privilege to watch our students pay it forward after graduation, as they go on to become world-class researchers, entrepreneurs, thought leaders and humanitarians.

While we enjoy this changing of the seasons and the burst of new energy from our newest students, I'm filled with remarkable pride for this College and the many hearts and minds that are a part of it.



So, thank you for continuing to stay connected and being a part of our community.

On, Wisconsin!

Eric M. Wilcots, Dean
Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy
UW-Madison College of Letters & Science

Help AOS Students Thrive

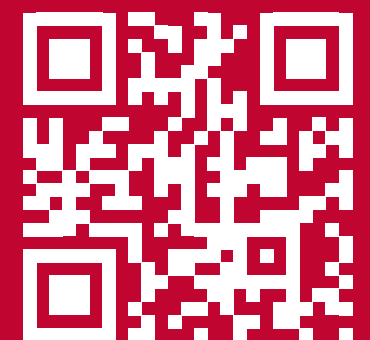
We can maintain our reputation and the work we do because of generous gifts from alumni and friends. Your gift opens doors for our students, faculty, and staff as they continue to transform the field and produce innovative weather and climate science of local and global significance.

With an uncertain federal funding landscape, our department faces an urgent need to supplement traditional sources of support for student research and education. Gifts to our discretionary fund are used in many impactful ways, such as enabling students to gain hands-on research experience and attend academic conferences.

We're calling on our AOS community to rally around our students and help them thrive.

Scan the QR code to support the next generation of leaders in weather, climate, and ocean research.

Thanks for your commitment and generosity to AOS. We're truly grateful for the support!





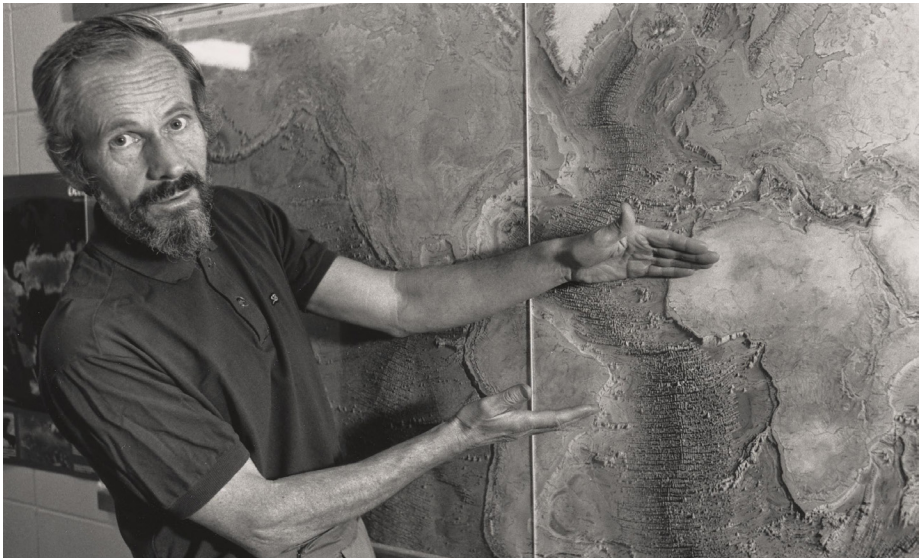
In Memoriam: Stefan Hastenrath

Scott Dyke, Communications Specialist

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (AOS) is deeply saddened to share the passing of Stefan Hastenrath, AOS professor emeritus and an internationally renowned climate scientist, last spring. Hastenrath, who served on the AOS faculty from 1967 until his retirement in 1999, made groundbreaking contributions to the understanding of large-scale ocean-atmosphere interactions and tropical glaciers. His work provided key insights into global climate processes, earning him the prestigious Sverdrup Gold Medal from the American Meteorological Society in 2001.

Hastenrath was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1934, and in 1959 completed his doctorate at the University of Bonn titled “On the vertical distribution of frost cycle and snow cover conditions in the Alps” under the guidance of the famous physical geographer, Carl Troll. After serving as an assistant professor at the University of Cologne for one year, he became Chief of the Climatology Division in the National Meteorological Service of El Salvador from 1960–1963. In 1963 he moved to Wisconsin where he held various positions at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and UW–Milwaukee until he joined the faculty at UW–Madison as an associate professor in 1967.

Fluent in several languages, Hastenrath brought his expertise beyond UW–Madison to institutions across the globe in Brazil, Colombia, France, Kenya, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela. His work laid a foundation for understanding both global oceanography and interannual climate variation. He pioneered the use of ship observations to study annual energy fluctuations between the ocean and atmosphere, linked the shrinking of tropical glaciers—such as those on Mount Kenya—to ocean warming, and developed methods for predicting rainfall and drought in the tropics based on sea surface temperatures. Throughout his research he valued and respected the contributions of dozens of international



Professor Emeritus Stefan Hastenrath was a faculty member in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from 1967 to 1999 (Photo by Jeff Miller/UW–Madison).

collaborators, and all who have contributed to our science. In his words, his work was only possible due to “the seven decades of observations taken through the humble and heroic effort of thousands of sailors and observers.”

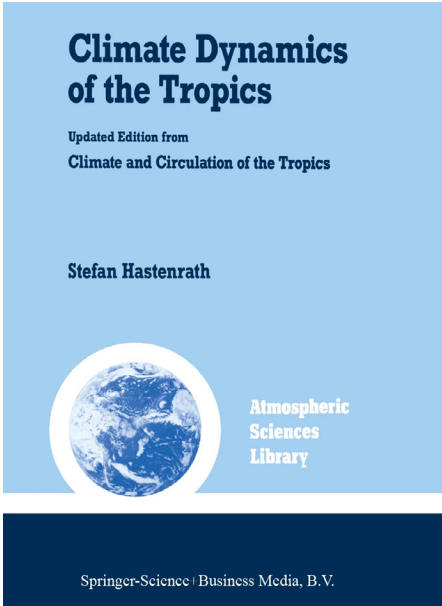
In addition to his prolific research portfolio, Hastenrath authored fifteen influential books and book chapters, including but not limited to Climate and Circulation of the Tropics, The Glaciers of Equatorial East Africa, The Glaciation of Ecuadorian Andes, Climatic Atlas of the Indian Ocean, and Climatic Atlas of

the Tropical Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Ocean. He supervised 21 MS and 10 PhD students, and his undergraduate and graduate courses, particularly Tropical Meteorology and Dynamic Climatology, were among the most popular in the department.

One of Hastenrath’s latest projects included documenting changes in the extent of tropical glaciers since the 1800’s in Recession of Equatorial Glaciers: A Photo Documentation. In this book, Hastenrath draws on his own personal travels and his collaborations with numerous scientists around the world to provide an archival record of the retreat of tropical glaciers. It is fitting that, in observing and compiling the images for this work, Hastenrath is both revisiting the subject of his doctoral work and continuing the “humble and heroic efforts” upon which our future scientific understanding will be founded.

Hastenrath’s legacy as a scholar and mentor will endure in AOS and the broader climate science community for years to come. Condolences may be sent to communications@aos.wisc.edu.

Thank you to all the friends, colleagues, and former students of Stefan who attended his graveside service and came to honor him on April 7, 2025, at Forest Hill Cemetery.



Earth Signals: El Niño

Last spring, Hamel Music Center hosted the inaugural Earth Signals concert, a science-inspired musical experience. The concert series is part a transdisciplinary project led by Elizabeth Maroon, AOS professor, whose NSF CAREER Award, “Signals from the Deep” supports cross-campus education and public outreach. In collaboration with Johannes Wallmann, professor of music, and students from the Mead Witter School of Music and AOS, Earth Signals brings ocean and climate science to life through sound.

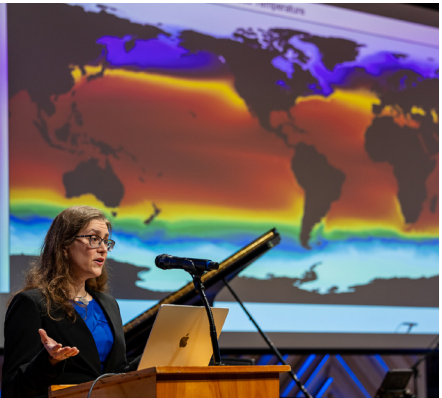
To kick off the series, the UW Bridge Ensemble, an eight-person group blending jazz and classical music, performed a new composition by Ben Ferris, PhD candidate in the Mead Witter School of Music, inspired by El Niño forecasts. El Niño data was also converted directly from numbers into sound, a process known as sonification, and presented by Hunter Glassford, a recent AOS graduate. Alongside the

performances, attendees learned about the science behind El Niño and gained perspective on how this climate pattern can affect weather worldwide.

Each spring for the duration of the CAREER Award, compositions will be debuted at a public concert alongside presentations about the science that inspired them. The next concert, with a Wisconsin weather theme, is scheduled for April 20, 2026, at Hamel Music Center. It will again be an event in the Nelson Institute’s Earth Fest celebration.

For Maroon, it’s a chance to showcase a part of her background that not many people know about.

“Most people in the department don’t know I am a musician,” she says. “I am a classically trained pianist, and at MIT I minored in music. That’s what’s particularly exciting about this project for me: I’ll get to merge these two parts of my background, the music, and the science.”



Top: Prof. Elizabeth Maroon. Bottom: The UW Bridge Ensemble (Photos by Hedi LaMarr Rudd).

Notes from the field: S2noCLiME

From December 1, 2024, to April 15, 2025, the S2noCLiME–Snow Sensitivity to Clouds in a Mountain Environment–team gathered in Steamboat Springs, CO, for a full-season field campaign. This multi-instrument effort aimed to improve understanding of cloud and snowfall processes and forecasting in mountainous regions.

Led by Prof. Claire Pettersen (University of Michigan, AOS alumna), with support from profs. Angela Rowe (AOS/UW–Madison), Lynn McMurdie (University of Washington), and Jay Mace (University of Utah), over 60 people were onsite during the campaign, rotating in and out in small teams throughout its duration. Rowe was joined in the field by AOS researcher Marian Mateling and graduate students Sarah Phillips and Sam Kimball, and AOS alumnus Patrick Beaty contributed virtual forecasting support. Students from AOS’ Meteorological Measurements course also participated during spring break, gaining valuable field experience despite

unusually warm and dry conditions.

The campaign featured continuous radar operations (CSU SEAPOL and StonyBrook KASPR) and 118 radiosonde launches—conducted at a school site with captivated students—throughout 22 intensive observation periods. Participants captured a wide range of snow events, each with implications for snow accumulation, distribution, and water content. In total, there were an unprecedented 43 days (>250 hours) of Cloud and Precipitation Imaging Probe data from atop Mt. Werner at Storm Peak Lab to compare with radar inferences of cloud and falling snow characteristics.

With Steamboat Springs receiving near-average snowfall and experiencing significant temperature variability, the campaign’s findings are representative of the region and capture the variability anticipated during planning. Data quality control is underway, and the full dataset will be publicly available by April 15, 2026. Learn more at <https://catalog.eol.ucar.edu/s2noclime>.



Top: Researcher Marian Mateling (left) and Prof. Angela Rowe (right). Bottom: weather balloon/radiosonde launch looking toward the Park Range.



A Digital Archive of AOS



Early construction of the Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences (AOSS) building, June 1966.

AOS has a rich variety of historical photographs dating as far back as the 1950s (the department, originally named Meteorology, was founded in 1948). To modernize and showcase this collection, we partnered with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) to digitize the photos and establish an online repository of AOS history. Doing so ensures their long-term preservation and accessibility, and allows students, alumni, and the public to explore the evolution of the department.

The photos capture historical moments, such as the construction of the AOSS building in the 1960s and field research dating back to the 1950s, like Professor Heinz Lettau's micrometeorological bushel basket experiment on Lake Mendota. They also showcase prominent faculty who impacted the department and the wider field of atmospheric and oceanic sciences, and whose foundational work still informs current and future research. A few even showcase weather

phenomena as observed from or near the AOSS building.

Thank you to AOS communications specialist Scott Dyke, the UWDCC team, and the student hourly employees who helped make this project possible. We plan to add new photos to the archive over time. We also welcome contributions of historical photos, whether print or digital, if you have them and are willing to share.

If you notice any errors—such as incorrect names or dates—or have additional information about a photo beyond what is listed in the metadata, please contact us at communications@aos.wisc.edu.

Scan the QR code to explore the "Historic Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Photographs" collection:



View of construction of the AOSS building from Monroe St.

Photo captions on next page, clockwise from top left:

- Prof. Reid Bryson in the field, Manitoulin Island, Canada, June 1952
- Flooding near the AOSS building, June 1981 (Photo by Kelly Redmond)
- Prof. Verner Suomi speaks at the AOSS building dedication, October 1969
- Map room (now the alumni lounge) on the 14th floor of the AOSS building, May 1981
- Micrometeorological experiments on Lake Mendota, February 1963





Adames Corraliza Named MacArthur Fellow

Ángel F. Adames Corraliza, AOS professor and Ned P. Smith Distinguished Chair of Climatology, has been named a 2025 MacArthur Fellow. Often referred to as “genius grants,” the fellowships are presented by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to individuals based on their exceptional creativity, dedication to their pursuits, and the potential for their work to benefit society. Adames Corraliza’s research has led to advances in quantifying the role and impact of moisture in tropical weather and climate phenomena, bringing us closer to a comprehensive dynamical theory of the tropical atmosphere.

Growing up in the rural town of San Sebastián, Puerto Rico, he was exposed to a variety of tropical weather, including intense afternoon thunderstorms, easterly waves, holiday troughs, and tropical cyclones.

“When you’re a kid, you like observing weather because it’s interesting. But one day, my mom and dad said that if I

liked it so much, then I should study it. They wanted me to pursue a career that I would enjoy,” he says.

That turned out to be a wise decision. Adames Corraliza is the first UW–Madison AOS professor to receive a MacArthur Fellowship.

“Ángel’s genius in foundational advances in our science for tropical climate and meteorology is no surprise to any of us in atmospheric and oceanic sciences and among his collaborators,” says AOS professor and chair Ankur Desai. “It’s absolutely fitting and thrilling for him to be recognized by the MacArthur Foundation.”

Scan the QR code to read the MacArthur Foundation’s fellow page for Adames Corraliza, including a video overview.



Prof. Ángel F. Adames Corraliza (Photo by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation).

2025 Award Winners

Departmental Student Awards

Evanna Chevalier & Chelone Laws
Sunkel Scholarship Award

Ian Cornejo
Wahl Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant

Ben Dorava & Marissa Tripus
Department Leadership Award

Adji Lubianashari & Prem Rao
First-Year Graduate Student Award

Molly McKellar & Nikhil Trivedi
Lyle Horn Scholarship Award

Nicolas Sartore
Ettenheim Scholarship Award

Caden Schmear
Lettau-Wahl Scholarship Award

Karissa Shannon
Lettau Award for Excellent MS Thesis

Clark Zimmerman
Bretherton Scholarship Award

Faculty Awards

Ángel F. Adames Corraliza
MacArthur Foundation Fellow

Ankur Desai
American Geophysical Union Sulzman Award

Tracey Holloway
American Geophysical Union Fellow

Mayra Oyola-Merced
Provost Award for Mentoring Undergraduates

Till Wagner
Graduate Student Association Teaching Award



Prof. Mayra Oyola-Merced and AOS students (Photo by Althea dotzour/UW–Madison).

Departmental Alumni Awards

Tom Vonder Haar
2024 AOS Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement

Claire Pettersen
2024 AOS Early Career Alumni Award

Ned P. Smith
2024 Champion of AOS Award

Stay tuned! The 2025 alumni awards will be announced soon on our website and presented at the 2026 AOS Robock Alumni Reception at the AMS Annual Meeting in Houston.



Early Career Alumni Award recipient Claire Pettersen (left) and Prof./Chair Ankur Desai (right).



New Faculty Welcome

Gabrielle “Bee” Leung *Land, Aerosol, and Cloud Interactions Group*

What is your hometown? Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Baguio City, which is a mountain city in the northern part of the Philippines. It’s one of the rainiest places in the Philippines (which is a very rainy country)!

What is your educational/professional background?

I got my undergraduate degree in physics and a minor in creative writing from Ateneo de Manila University. After that, I worked at the Manila Observatory doing applied atmospheric science research on projects like estimating how much public transit drivers are exposed to air pollution and predicting future changes in farmers’ heat stress exposure. I moved to the US in 2020 to start graduate school at Colorado State

University (CSU), where I began working on cloud dynamics and microphysics. My MS focused on novel aspects of aerosol-cloud interactions, including how the spatial pattern of aerosol emissions impacts cloud formation. During my PhD, I studied how convective clouds and rain respond to simultaneous changes to aerosols and the land surface following deforestation.

What is your field of research, and how did you get into it?

I’m a cloud physicist and mesoscale meteorologist by training. My research looks at the physical processes driving land-aerosol-cloud interactions using numerical models, satellite observations, field campaign data, and object tracking.

I got into atmospheric science because I wanted to put my physics degree towards something that felt tangible to me. It turns out the atmosphere is full of problems that have both interesting physics and real-world implications! The more I learned about the atmosphere,

the more I became interested in how coupled the Earth system is—a change to one component, like cutting down a forest in one area, can have far-reaching impacts on things like downstream rainfall and weather patterns.

What are some hobbies or interests outside of your work?

Outside of work, you’re most likely to find me either riding my bike or at the pottery studio. I’ve been making ceramics for the past three years, and though I’m definitely not an expert, I have an ever-growing collection of cloud sculptures, mugs, and pots.



Fraser King *Machine Learning & Atmospheric Processes Group*

What is your hometown? Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Clinton, Ontario (a small, rural village about three hours north of the US border). A fun fact: Clinton is known as the “home of radar” in Canada due to the nearby radar training base established during WW2, and we even have a large radar dish in our central square as a monument to this period! Radar is now at the core of a lot of my current research, and I wonder if growing up with that story in the background nudged my research direction without my noticing.

What is your educational/professional background?

My undergraduate was in Computer

Science with a focus in statistical modeling, and I started off working for a few years as a software engineer in the financial sector. After graduation, however, I realized this wasn’t for me and wanted to do something that I felt could more directly help people. So, I pivoted to problems in applied machine learning looking primarily at snow, which led to a Masters of Science, and then a PhD in remote sensing and machine learning from the University of Waterloo.

What is your field of research, and how did you get into it?

I usually describe my field as existing at the intersection of precipitation, remote sensing, and machine learning (with a special focus on snowfall). I was originally funded on a Canadian Space Agency grant to look at CloudSat snowfall estimates across Arctic regions, and as someone who loves winter and the beauty/complexity of snow particles, I immediately fell in love with it! Snow is also a critical component of the Earth’s

water and energy budget that often gets overlooked, and so I am continually thinking about new ways to improve our understanding of how snowfall patterns are changing under a warming global climate.

What are some hobbies or interests outside of your work?

When I have the time, I love to play volleyball and chess (not at the same time), and I also like to collect and restore historic maps as a side hobby. Additionally, if anyone has good hiking or biking suggestions for around Madison, please let me know!





Graduate Student Association

Emily Mather, GSA Facilitator

As the new school year is getting underway, the AOS Graduate Student Association (GSA) is back in full swing with our typical fall activities. The GSA's goals are to foster community among grad students and the department as a whole, as well as to serve as the voice and ears of the graduate students in department decision-making processes.

The GSA organizes social events to promote grad student well being. Events from the past year included a fall pumpkin picking and corn maze trip and crafting gathering. This fall, GSA members have been decompressing on Fridays with a weekly board game event.

Another role of the GSA is to support new AOS grad students, from application through arrival. For the first time last fall, applicants to AOS graduate programs were invited to sign up and be partnered with a current grad student mentor to guide them through the application process. The program supported 11 applicants last year and is now open to applicants for the coming admissions cycle. GSA members also shared their experiences with admitted students during visit days in February and March. This fall, new students were introduced to the AOS grad student community

through our annual Devil's Lake visit and welcome picnic.

In addition to the support we provide for AOS graduate applicants, the AOS Mentorship Program (AMP), an offshoot of the GSA, provides mentorship to AOS undergrads and first-year grad students.

Over the past year, GSA members also participated in a number of outreach activities, including the Wisconsin Science Festival, sharing their love of science with the local community.

During the 2024-2025 school year, the GSA-organized department seminar featured 11 student presentations, including 8 master's presentations. Other seminar topics included internship opportunities, trivia, and faculty candidate talks.

Speaking of faculty candidates, two GSA members served on the search committee for AOS's two RISE-EARTH faculty hires, providing the student perspective throughout the selection process.

Each year, the GSA recognizes one AOS faculty member with

a teaching award. The 2024-2025 winner was Professor Till Wagner. Congratulations, Till!

As always, the GSA is selling calendars this year to raise funds for our social and outreach activities. The 2026 calendars, featuring pictures from last year's AOSS photo contest, are available for pre-order at this QR code:



To learn more about the GSA's activities, please visit our website at <https://aos.wisc.edu/~gsa/index.html>.



GSA annual welcome picnic at Devil's Lake State Park.

AMS Student Chapter

Kathryn Marek, Club President

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) student chapter at UW-Madison has had a memorable and eventful past year! In January, we sent twelve students to the 2025 AMS Student Conference, hosted in New Orleans. Students attended various seminars, professional development workshops, school and career panels, presented and viewed posters, and more. Attendees also enjoyed exploring the city and getting closer to the AOS community. We plan to send more students to participate in the upcoming 2026 AMS Student Conference, which will be held in Houston in late January 2026.

AMS started the new year off strong with a series of exciting and eagerly awaited events. In February, we held

one of our biggest and most anticipated events, the annual Solstice Party. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni came together for a night of skits, food, and a live music performance by The Sundogs at Memorial Union. The Solstice Party is a wonderful time to bring the AOS community together, and we are hard at work to make this year just as special!

Another highlight was our Pie the Meteorologist fundraiser held in April. Everyone had a blast "pie"-ing faculty, students, and staff all while supporting the chapter. We organized various social events throughout the year, including a trip to Schuster's Farm, a bowling night, and scenic (albeit occasionally rainy) rooftop parties, which were an excellent way for members to bond and unwind.

Stay tuned for our upcoming events, such as accomplished guest speakers, panel talks, study days, a trip to the NWS-Milwaukee/Sullivan Office, and more!

AMS is dedicated to fostering the AOS community here at UW-Madison and connecting students with professionals in the field. To stay updated about AMS's upcoming events or to get involved, follow our Instagram, @ams_uwmadison, or email AMS club president Kathryn Marek at kjmarek@wisc.edu.

We are looking forward to watching the club grow and can't wait to see what the new year will bring!



Graduate Program

Kaitlyn Heinlein, Graduate Program Manager

First and foremost, we would like to acknowledge the recent and well-deserved retirement of our Research Graduate Program Manager, Dee Van Ruyven. Over her incredible 35 plus years on campus—the last eight spent with us in AOS—Dee was both an invaluable resource and the kindest, most approachable person to interact with. We are certainly going to miss her!

While Dee transitioned into retirement, we welcomed in another talented cohort of students this fall, with 9 new Professional MS students and 7 new Research MS/PhD students. We find the

new research students settling nicely into their labs and immersing themselves in first-year courses like dynamics, thermodynamics, and oceanography. Soon, if not already, they will also start diving into their research, which extends across a range of topics broadly including icebergs, clouds, tropopause phenomena, aerosols, and climate. Be sure to check out upcoming department seminars this year to hear more about the fantastic work all of our students are doing.

As for our professional students, we thankfully find them open to exploring a

variety of career paths. Several of them have expressed interests in everything from research and AI applications, to satellite and radar operations, forecasting, modeling, instrumentation, and even commodity trading. These students are very proactive and eager to gain hands-on experience, so if you are aware of any summer 2026 internship and/or job opportunities, please let us know.

Finally, be sure to come find us at this year's AGU and AMS annual meetings—we always look forward to reconnecting with our wonderful alumni!

Alumni Portal

We always appreciate staying connected with our alumni and keeping you informed about what's happening in our department. Our goal is to build a strong network among graduates—and between graduates and current students.

Once you register, staff will confirm your affiliation and add you to our alumni directory and email list based on your preferences.

Scan the QR code to create an account and add your information. If you have any questions, reach out to alumnidb@aos.wisc.edu.

P.S. When you visit campus/AOSS again, be sure to get a rooftop selfie with Pete!



Left to right: Pete Pokrandt, Skylar Williams, and Lindsey Nytes.

Making Waves is the alumni & friends newsletter of the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences Building
1225 West Dayton St
Madison, WI 53706

Design: Scott Dyke
On the cover: Construction of the Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences (AOSS) building



Website:
aos.wisc.edu

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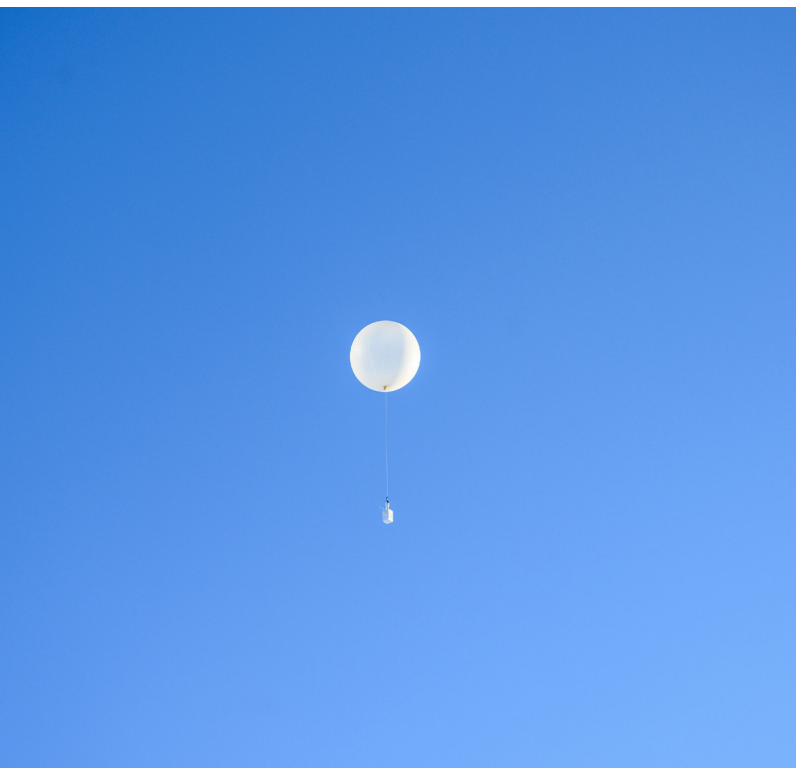




Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Making Waves

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Photos by Jeff Miller & Althea dotzour/UW-Madison

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
1225 W Dayton St
Room 849
Madison, WI 53706

2026 AOS Robock Alumni Reception at AMS

Join us to catch up and connect with our
AOS community!

Tuesday, January 27, 7–9 p.m.
Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel
Lanier Grand Ballroom L

Scan the QR code to RSVP:

