New Year, New Start
by NOAA CREST Staff

The calendar transitioned to 2017 and CREST Scholars are back on campus in full force. Since research takes no holidays, many Cohort members remained busy in their labs supporting ongoing projects; others took a well-deserved break and formulated plans for Spring Semester 2017. WELCOME BACK!

CREST Students, Faculty and Management Attend AMS in Seattle

The semester got off to a running start as students and faculty traveled to the Pacific Northwest to attend the 97th AMS Annual Meeting took place in Seattle from January 22–26. This year’s theme, “Observations Lead the Way”, attracted some 4,400 scientists, educators, students, and other professionals from across the weather, water, and climate community. Attendees from NOAA’s Cooperative Science Centers visited NOAA PMEL Lab in Seattle and discussed new collaborations - new opportunities - to help advance NOAA sciences.

Seminar Series Enriches Academics Across CREST Campuses

Seminar Series continues to give CREST students and our college communities by hosting guest speakers who bring their expertise, insight and application of scientific research into the classroom, or conference room, for the day.

On January 20, Arun Ravindranath visited Grove School of Engineering on the City College of New York /CUNY campus for a talk entitled: A Dynamic Risk Management Framework for Water Resources Science. His discussion centered on water systems management and water resources allocation in light of climate variability and societal conditions.

Senior Scientist and Director of the Institute of Urban Meteorology, Shiguang Miao, explained how cities modify atmospheric energy and moisture balances, forming local climates such as urban heat islands (UHIs) and enhanced precipitation. The February 8 presentation, SURF Project - Understanding Urban Convection and Haze, highlighted findings from Miao’s urban field campaign in Beijing that focused on urban-thermodynamic and aerosol impacts on summer convective precipitation and interactions between urban and regional climate changes.

San Diego State University students gathered in the Gold Auditorium on February 15 to hear Dr. Tom Smith, an expert in global surface temperature and precipitation data reconstruction. Smith is a NOAA advisor to CREST. He presented examples of how to use satellite data to develop climate analysis.

Dr. Thomas Smith

Out With the Old, In With the...

Our Look is changing. In January, NOAA CREST put out a call for submissions in search of a brand new logo. Several entries competed for the top prize of $500! In our next newsletter issue, we reveal the winning design!
NOAA CREST Fellow Wins 2017 AMS Poster Award

by NOAA CREST Staff

New York, NY—Chris Lunger, a mechanical engineering candidate in The City College of New York / CUNY Department of Mechanical Engineering, was among the top nine students to receive an Outstanding Student Conference Poster Award at the recent American Meteorological Society (AMS) conference in Seattle, Washington. Lunger’s poster about the impact of Saharan dust on the mid-summer drought in Puerto Rico was recognized among the top ten percent out of the 106+ posters participating in the competition.

Held at Washington State Convention Center in January, this year’s AMS Annual Meeting theme was “Observations Lead the Way.”

“I got to see that climate science and meteorology are not stereotypical professions,” said Lunger.

Lunger works with Dr. Nathan Hosannah, a postdoc researcher and Dr. Jorge Gonzales, the principal investigator for the Coastal Urban Environmental Research Group that studies the human and environmental impacts of weather events on coastal cities. It is a project with far-reaching impact for island nations throughout the Caribbean.

“Few things are more important than water on this planet. Understanding hydrology is key,” said Hosannah.

Dr. Gonzales explains the goal of the multi-year research project:

“To come to a greater understanding of the processes that lead to rainfall and the effect of aerosols on precipitation.”

Ph.D. Candidate Wins Oral Presentation at AMS

by NOAA CREST Staff

New York, NY—Luis E. Ortiz, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Coastal Urban Environment Research Group at The City College of New York / CUNY, earned the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award at the American Meteorological Society (AMS) conference in Seattle, Washington, for his research addressing Urban Impacts on New York City Weather During a Heat Wave.

“It affects people’s pockets. Reducing consumption and mitigating the impact in advance of a heat wave are valuable strategies,” said Ortiz.

Ortiz authored the study with Robert Bornstein, Wei Wu, Jeffrey Tongue and Dr. Jorge González, the principal investigator for the Coastal Urban Environmental Research Group, which studies the human and environmental impacts of weather events on coastal cities. What makes the study significant? Dr. González explains:

“Heat waves are the single extreme weather event of most human casualties, and place the physical infrastructure at risk, particularly the electrical grid. Better understanding and predictability of heat waves has major scientific and social value.”

Ortiz’s research study looked energy consumption using weather models and impact studies with particular focus on heat wave conditions and how New York’s built environment, wind flow, and urban canopy impact how much heat the city holds (urban heat island), making it warmer than its surrounding suburbs – an important consideration as extreme heat events are projected to increase in magnitude and frequency throughout the century. Ortiz will complete his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in May 2017.

“My studies have exposed me to a wide breath of environmental sciences,” said Ortiz.

ABOUT US

“NOAA-CREST aims to educate and train a diverse group of students, early career scientists, and engineers to become competent professionals in NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) related STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) sciences.”

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