ATMS Alumni Change the World

1988 - 2000

University of North Carolina ASHEVILLE

Rodney William Hinson   1990

Senior Forecaster National Weather Service WFO Greenville/Spartanburg, SC.

I am responsible for forecasts and weather warnings for 46 counties and 6 airports in the Western Carolinas and Northeast Georgia, including the Asheville area.   I am a shift leader, so it is up to me to decide how to allocate personnel and resources to attack the forecast problem of the day.   I am the radar program leader as well.   I have been with the NWS since graduation, 25 years strong, and at GSP for 21 years.

Jesse Ferrell   1995

Social Media Manager, AccuWeather, Inc.

Thanks to my computer classes at UNCA, I worked as a web designer and programmer at a startup ISP in Raleigh, NC for two years after I graduated. In 1997, I took a job doing the same at AccuWeather. Missing the daily weather discussion with my fellow met students, I had started WeatherMatrix, which was the largest online organization of weather enthusiasts between 1996 and 2005.   Over the years at AccuWeather I have done design, programming, writing, editing, graphics, research, and product management.   Today, I oversee over a fan base of more than 1 million AccuWeather fans on half a dozen Social Media channels who discuss and share weather information every day. I wrote an article ""Social Media and the Weather"" for WeatherWise Magazine, and participated on an AMS Panel discussing ""The Impact of Ubiquitous Data Availability and Social Media." I have written a weather blog on AccuWeather.com since 2005.
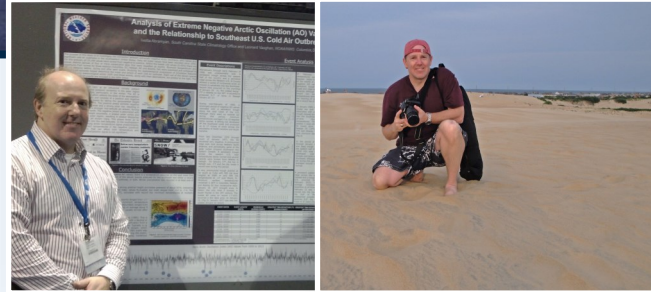
Leonard Vaughan   1988

Senior Service Hydrologist at WFO-Columbia SC.

I have spent nearly 25 years with the National Weather Service. My career began as an intern at WSO-Wilmington, DE beginning in late 1990. I was then promoted to Journeyman Forecaster and moved to WFO-Columbia, SC in the Spring of 1995. I am the Central South Carolina Regional CoCoRaHS Coordinator and the Climate Service Focal Point and heavily involved in the outreach of the office. I have presented at both the National AMS Conference and the local chapter of the AMS (Palmetto Chapter of the AMS). I am also an amateur photographer, winning awards and conducting shows.

Tim Owen   1992

Physical Science Administrator/Chief of Climate and Weather Information Services , NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Information/Center for Weather and Climate, Asheville, NC.

Over twenty five years at NOAA, I have worked on a variety of projects, including climate data validation, urban heat-island research, computation of climate normals, and drought web applications.   My graduate school experiences at Penn State (M.S., Meteorology, 1995) and UNC Chapel Hill (M.R.P., City and Regional Planning, 2000) have given me a cross-disciplinary perspective that is useful in promoting climate services in my current position.

Anthony Cavallucci   1996

Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service - Knoxville/Tri-Cities TN, DOC/NOAA/NWS

I work with emergency management partners at the local and state level across east Tennessee, southwest Virginia and southwest North Carolina. I also act as a liaison between local media markets in Chattanooga, Knoxville and Tri-Cities.   I am responsible for all office outreach to schools and businesses/healthcare. The most significant weather event I have worked so far was at the NWS office in Memphis during the April 2, 2006 tornado outbreak that killed 26 people.

Jeffrey David Barlow   1988

Lead Forecaster, National Weather Service Forecast Office, Hanford, California.

I just celebrated 25 years in the NWS! I started out in DC at NCEP with Ocean Prediction Center (1990-1998), General Forecaster at WFO Columbia, SC (1998-2006), Lead Forecaster WFO Hanford, CA (2006-Present). I'm having a great time doing what I love.

Teresa Souther Murphy   1992

Physical Scientist, National Weather Service.

I work in the Observations group within NWS Headquarters, applying my UNCA Atmospheric Sciences education with my extensive NWS experience to fulfill the goals of the Weather Ready Nation initiative.   Prior to my current NWS position, I was a WFO forecaster, Service Hydrologist, Hydrologist (RFC), and an instructor at the NWS Training Center.   I also took two short-term assignments at the NWS Central Region Headquarters.

David Nanney   1996

Reimbursement & Patient Access - Otsuka Pharmaceuticals.

I spent 3 1/2 years on TV in Charlotte, NC (WBTV/CBS).   I now have over 15 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

William J (Bill) Capehart   1989

Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

I research and teach Numerical Weather Prediction, Regional Climate Modeling, Hydrometeorology, Remote Sensing, Boundary Layer Meteorology, Forecast Risk and Battlespace Meteorology.   I also direct our Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences Program (B.S., M.S. & Ph.D.) encompassing Earth Sciences topics ranging from Aquatic and Rangeland Ecology to Atmospheric Electricity.

Stewart A. Williams   1992

On-site event meteorologist, weather division of Schneider Electric.

Currently, we are contracted to provide a meteorologist to every PGA Tour, Champions Tour, Web.com Tour and LPGA tournaments.   I travel to 26 tournaments a year, providing consultation to primarily the PGA Tour, keeping the players and spectators safe from lightning and other inclement weather.

Jeremy Fisher   1998

Co-Owner (with wife) of PriMed Processing (a medical insurance billing for doctor's offices and diagnostic testing facilities.), Kernersville, NC.

We currently have 13 clients that we bill for, and we have 11 employees working with us.   I had previously worked in the field of meteorology for 6 years for Mobile Weather Team (1999—2004).   I was an on-site meteorologist for the PGA Tour providing daily forecasts twice per day, tracked storms, and advised when to evacuate the course and when it was clear to resume play. I traveled to about 26-30 golf tournaments around the US per year, along with a couple in Canada and Mexico.   I consider my time working with the PGA Tour to be very successful, and I attribute that to all of the knowledge gained during my time at UNCA.

Dan Cloninger   1993

Technical Support Manager at POS Nation Tech Manager for nationwide point of sale reseller.

I am also a retired C-130 Instructor Navigator with NC Air National Guard.   I flew over 150 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, was a key participant in high profile combat missions.

Chris Hunt   1999

Financial Advisor at BB&T Wealth.

I have been with BB&T Wealth for two years, and have a total of 14 years with BB&T. In all, I have 16 years of financial services experience after graduating from UNC Asheville. UNCA was a great school. I truly enjoyed my time with the MET crew and still believe they offer one of the best Synoptic Met programs in the country.   Also I met my wife of 14 years and counting at UNCA!

Mark John Keehn   1989

Information Technology Officer for the NWS Houston/ Galveston Weather Forecast Office (HGX) and the Spaceflight Meteorology Group (SMG) at the Johnson Space Center.

I managed the AWIPS II Operational Field Test and Evaluation at HGX and SMG.   Both offices have been operationally using AWIPS II since 2012. I implemented the Marine SWAN model and Meso-WRF model at HGX.   I also developed a program to graphically generate In Flight Advisories for Center Weather Service Units.   The CWA Product Monitor monitors the status of active products while the graphical Forecast Editor improves site to site product consistency.   I served on steering committee of Houston Hurricane Workshop – 2006-2012.

- Meteorologist Intern - Brownsville, Texas - 1990—1994
- Techniques Development Meteorologist, NWS Spaceflight Meteorology Group, Houston, TX - 1994 - 2002
- Information Technology Officer - Houston, TX - 2002 - Present

Daniel Brown   1993

Senior Hurricane Specialist and Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Hurricane Center, Miami, FL.

I have worked at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) since graduating from UNCA in 1993. I have risen in the ranks to be part of the management team at NHC by serving as the center's Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM).   During the hurricane season, my job responsibilities include forecasting the future track and intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes, and issuing warnings for land areas adjacent to the Atlantic and eastern Pacific Ocean basins. Outside of the hurricane season, I coordinate NHC's extensive outreach and training activities to better prepare coastal residents for the next hurricane threat.   Recent story worth sharing was meeting President Obama at NHC in May 2015.

Jason Cooper   1999

Archivist, NOAA-National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) of NOAA.

I manage NCEI's weather and climate records on physical media: paper, books, charts, microfilm, negatives, etc.   I also contribute to records and data management decisions with respect to all records and data.   I started my career as a broadcast meteorologist, but worked my way back to NCEI in Asheville, my internship experience there during my time at UNC-Asheville was invaluable!

David Wayne Presnell   1990

Meteorologist at National Weather Service Headquarters.

After graduating from UNC-A, I had worked at NCDC and earned a M.S. degree in Atmospheric Sciences from Creighton University.   My NWS career began as a Meteorologist Intern and I have worked in the NWS as a General Forecaster, Lead Forecaster and Warning Coordination Meteorologist. I now work at NWS Headquarters where I have been the leader for the Service Assessment, Forensic Services, Surf Zone Services and Marine Training Programs.   I currently work in the Tropical Cyclone Services Program of Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch at NWSH .   This picture is me in front of the Meteorologisk Institutt in Tromso, Norway while working with a group on updating a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) manual on international marine forecast and service policies.

Chris Fenimore   2000

Climate Scientist , NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Center for Weather and Climate.

I worked in the Monitoring Branch of NOAA/NCEI in Asheville.   At NCEI I manage the Climate Division Dataset (nClimDiv) which is the main input to the monthly National State of the Climate (SOTC) reports.   I prepare and process the nClimDiv so that it can be ingested into our databases and analyzed by the SOTC report authors. I also create the monthly maps and other supplementary information for the reports.   A few times a year I serve as an author for the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Wesley Behrend   1993

Air Quality Meteorologist with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Columbia, SC.

I forecast for ground-level ozone for the six forecast zones in South Carolina from April through September of each year.   For the entire year, I do permit air dispersion modeling for all facilities in South Carolina, using 5-year meteorological data (2002-06) from various ASOS sites to use for refined modeling of various pollutants from these facilities.   Prior to delving into air pollution meteorology, I was involved in aviation weather with the FAA and served as the site supervisor for the Contract Weather Office in Charleston, SC. I just wanted to say that I was completely enriched with the education that I received from the Atmospheric Sciences Department at UNC Asheville and it is so heartening to see the leaps and bounds that the program has gone through since I graduated from the university.   Onwards and upwards!

Bryan Farr   2000

Founder/President of the non-profit of the Historic US Route 20 Association.

I promote travel and small town America on US Route 20, the longest highway in the country.

Ronla Henry   1990

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Program Manager, Department of Commerce/NOAA/ National Weather Service.

I manage the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) for the National Weather Service (NWS). AWIPS is the Information Technological system that allows the forecasters and hydrologists from across the country to ingest, display, and analysis hydro-meteorological data so that the watches, warning, advisories and forecasts can be produced for the American people.   I manage all aspects of this system from operations and management to product improvements to support advancements in the NWS.

Mark McGinnis   1995

Chief Meteorologist/ Owner - Fair Skies Consulting, LLC.

After nearly 20 years in Broadcast Meteorology, I have shifted to weather hazard planning, forensics and weather analytics. I help people, communities and business understand the real impact of weather and through research and planning create a comprehensive plan of action to decrease risk and increase benefits.