



Fall 2014

Volume 15, Issue 1

# ITHACATION

## CCAMS Happenings

Gaige Kerr ('15) and  
Zachary Labe ('15)

Over the course of the fall semester, CCAMS has undergone several changes including the addition of new chair positions, a guest lecture series, and the creation of bimonthly forecasting nights. By incorporating these new features, we hope to further enhance CCAMS members' social and professional meteorological relations.



CCAMS members hike Robert H. Treman Park in September 2014

We are fortunate enough to welcome seventeen freshman and three junior transfers into the major. This has allowed for new enthusiasm and fresh perspectives into the CCAMS meetings and outreach thus far. We kicked off the year at our first general body meeting with a small mentor program between the new incoming students and upperclassmen. Shortly following this event, CCAMS held its first forecasting night of the semester. The concepts behind the forecasting nights are to share and disperse weather forecasting techniques between members through lecture and practice. Our first few forecasting nights included workshops to introduce numerical weather prediction and mesoscale / synoptic scale observations through nowcasting and medium range forecasting. These workshops included interactive sessions to explore the plethora of weather programs, modules, and websites available for amateur and professional meteorologists. The following session we focused on a case study to practice our new forecasting skills. CCAMS members analyzed the winter storm of 25-27 February 2010 by preparing their own forecasts for the event; they were given a directory containing pre-storm upper air and surface maps, dynamical model forecasts in the short term (72 hour or less), METAR observations from the actual event, and regional radar images. Using these parameters, teams constructed their own forecasts for the winter storm and post-storm

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## Interning with the Tigers

Aaron Match ('15)

This summer, I interned at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), in Princeton, NJ. The lab is run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and my internship was funded by the Hollings Scholarship, which I applied for during the winter of my sophomore year. GFDL is located on Princeton's Forrestal Campus, which is a four-mile bike ride from the Princeton central campus. Princeton University's Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences Department is situated across the street from GFDL, and many students and professors fill dual roles in the two institutions.

I studied how stratospheric aerosol dispersal depends on initial conditions of location and timing of the aerosol cloud. By modeling the injection of stratospheric aerosols at variations latitudes, longitudes, heights, and seasons, I studied the dynamical processes that transport and mix aerosols. Stratospheric aerosols are naturally injected by volcanoes, but numerous scientists have advocated that humans inject them as a geoengineering solution to global warming. This controversial proposition is lauded by some scientists as humanity's only hope, while it is lambasted by others as foolish and dooming. I enjoyed studying different facets of this issue, particularly since the volcanic modeling problem serves as a direct analog to geoengineering. How many proposed solutions to global warming are investigated by nature of their relative modeling ease, or because of their direct analogy to natural processes? Could there exist technologies to mitigate climate change that are less studied by nature of their modeling difficulty?

Princeton has a very small graduate program -- they accepted eight students last year, and seven matriculated, including a Cornell alum. Along with the other GFDL interns, I was matched with a Princeton graduate student mentor, who explained some of the processes of applying for graduate schools and fellowships. His and other graduate students' advice was helpful as I began reviewing applications and studying for the GREs.

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Atmospheric Science majors, Class of 2015 (photo credit: Pam Vitale)

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time period in addition to verifying their forecast against the actual Game Farm Road records.

The most recent forecasting night included a guest presentation by Jeff Stein, chief Editor of *The Ithaca Voice*. Stein discussed the importance of efficiently communicating science and meteorology to the general public through new methods due to the changes and trends in media.

communication. He has also allowed CCAMS members the opportunity to publish media forecast articles in *The Ithaca Voice*.

One of our new CCAMS chair positions is the Emergency Management Initiative and currently held by Carolina Bieri. She has met with several directors of campus emergency management to help allow CCAMS to assist in Cornell University becoming NOAA StormReady certified. Our members will be attending a NWS Skywarn Storm Spotter Certified training course in the beginning of November in addition to helping facilitate the creation of new severe weather preparedness programs at Cornell. The goal is to expand and reform the existing winter and severe weather plans at Cornell.

Furthermore, we have featured several guest lectures over the fall semester including graduate school admissions and research positions with Thomas Ehrmann and Michael Kelleher, operational forecasting opportunities at the National Weather Service with Mike Evans (NWS Binghamton Office), and environmental consulting and the private sector with Ben Chantz '10 (All4 Inc.). By offering perspectives from different sectors, CCAMS members are encouraged to see the myriad of possibilities within the atmospheric science field.

Despite several new changes, we continue all of the traditions of years' past such as the snowfall contest, social events including a hike at Robert H. Treman State Park, preparations for the Phoenix AMS conference, alumni weekend, and others. We look forward to continually serving as your co-presidents.



A thunderstorm viewed from the Stewart Avenue Bridge, September 30, 2014 (photo credit: Brett Wiley)

# Interview with Python Guru Rick Moore

Interview by Gaige Kerr ('15) and Zachary Labe ('15)

**We've heard stories about punch cards and other antiquated ways to program. What was your first experience was programming?**

"I wrote my first computer program in 1972. I was auditing a FORTRAN class. The first thing I did was take a picture of myself and I digitized the picture and made a print-out of the picture. Punch cards, paper tapes, magnetic tapes...everything. I worked on a ranch in South Texas as an exploration geologist. We drilled holes exploring for uranium, and after the hole was drilled they ran a logger down through there to measure how much uranium there was. They gave us the data on paper tape. Each hole meant something, and we had a paper tape reader. At work, we just ran the data through and put it into a computer."



"Everybody discovers something. The rumor has it that I'm this great guru, but every day I learn something new and everyday somebody else teaches me something that I didn't know."  
(photo credit: Zachary Labe)

**Where have you all worked?**

"I was all over. I lived in Corpus Christi, Austin, Dallas, Denver, and L.A. I worked in Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico. I'm originally from Syracuse."

**Wysocki told us that you're the President of the New York Gem Society. Are diamonds really a girl's best friend?**

"I was the vice president, not the president. Diamonds are a girl's best friend? [laughs] I have no idea. I don't know any girls with diamonds. My wife's wedding ring is a ruby and my daughter's engagement ring is an Alexandrite. Mineral collecting is great, and you should do it. Even if you just go once. [...] Mineral collecting is what made me become a geologist; not the other way. You get to see that rocks aren't just rocks."

**What current projects are you working on for the NRCC?**

"I'm working on a frost forecast program. Right now we deal with apples and grapes; we make maps that tell what the probability of a 10%, 50%, or 90% kill on a given day. And there's always the NRCC ACIS high-res grid. I just now finished building everything back to 1979."

**What is your favorite part of life at Cornell?**

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## Interview with Python Guru Rick Moore, *continued from page 4*

“I’ve been here almost 10 years. The last four years have been great. This department is unique, and this floor of this department is unique. I enjoy that. Professors and students have really good relationships, and even the people who aren’t professors have a really good relationship with the professors and students. I don’t see that everywhere I work. The other thing I love is all the opportunities to do other things. This is the third department I’ve been in here. Each one has been totally different from the one before. It’s a long drive, but when I get here it’s great.”

### **Where do you live?**

“I live straight north of here. Depending of the day the commute is anywhere from 1 hour and 15 minutes to 2 hours. My car gets about thirty-three miles per gallon.”



The Arts Quad on an illustrious autumn day (photo credit: Zachary Labe)

responsibilities included cataloging climate-related articles, journals, and reports into a database. I also attended meetings to discuss public perception of climate terminology used in the Clearinghouse. I truly enjoyed working with the staff at Mann Library and felt that I really gained a lot of knowledge from this position. I would love to talk to anyone that may be interested in working on this project. You can also contact Dr. DeGaetano for further information and questions.

## Little House in the Big Woods

by Katelyn Tisch ('15)

This past summer I interned at Mann Library as a Metadata Entry Student for the New York State Climate Change Science Clearinghouse Project. I originally found out about the job from Dr. DeGaetano who highly recommended me for the position. My

## Interning with the Tigers *continued from page 2*

Perhaps like Ithaca, Princeton breathes easily in the summer with its comparably student-free atmosphere. I enjoyed exploring some of the empty buildings on main campus, and played Ultimate Frisbee with some townies and graduate students three times per week. I wouldn't have minded air conditioning in the dorms, but with some strategic cold showering, I survived my occasionally 95°F room unscathed. I would be happy to speak with any students interested in GFDL or the Hollings Scholarship about these opportunities.

# A Summer in a Gorge

by Zachary Labe ('15)

It was my time. My time for the supposedly ever-so popular summer in Ithaca. During the beginning of the spring of junior year, I approached Professor Toby Ault in doing a research project over the summer months through my senior year. After discussing several of his present project proposals, I latched onto the concept of Spring Indices (SI-x). SI-x are a set of phenological indicators used to determine the onset of spring utilizing the original spring index model of Mark D. Schwartz, professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Analyzing changes in the onset of spring over temporal and spatial scales is critical in understanding changes in the Earth's climate system.

During the spring semester, I spent most of the time evaluating my computer programming skills. And yes, it was soon to be determined that they were quite poor. Professor Ault gave me several small programming projects to reaffirm my proficiencies, particularly using Python and Matlab. Over the following months I began to dive into the SI-x model translating the existing Matlab code into Python. Despite significant trial and error, I actually began to like programming. I suppose there is something to be said for wanting to learn for the sake of learning and not a letter grade, but I digress...

Professor Ault's enthusiasm and encouragement allowed me to explore all aspects of the research process, which is daunting and ambiguous to say the least. The SI-x project continues as my senior thesis while I begin to analyze a 1000-year simulated control run of the Community Earth System Model (CESM) in relation to spring onset trends and anomalies.

However, being stuck in a windowless room of the architectural monstrosity that is Bradfield Hall required several weekend excursions to satisfy my craving for fresh air and green grass. Central New York State offers spectacular opportunities for day trips from places like Chimney Bluffs State Park to Harriet Tubman's home. A few of my favorites included the cozy small town of Skaneateles, NY (Doug's Fish Fry is a must stop), Letchworth State Park (if you can find the entrance to the railroad suspension bridge please call me), and William H. Seward's home in Auburn, NY. Also if you are looking for a beach, and yes they do exist in upstate New York, be sure to check out the free public beach right near the lighthouse at Sodus Point on Lake Ontario. My other trips included Niagara Falls, Corning Museum of Glass, Carpenter Falls, Women's Rights National Historic Park, Myers Park, and Fillmore Glen State Park. All of these locations are within a day's drive of Ithaca, but if you are without a car do not despair... Ithaca offers plenty of relaxing hiking and outdoor activities; I spent many an afternoons wading and sunbathing in Fall Creek close to the Flat Rock swimming hole or hiking through the trails of Six Mile Creek.

Spending the summer at Cornell allowed me to focus and determine my interests in climate research while also showcasing Ithaca in a new light full of fewer crowds and spectacular weather. In fact, the temperature did not reach 90°F all year! If you are interested in doing research in the department, do not hesitate to send an email to the professors, as they will be happy to assist you in your efforts!

# Un stage a l'Université de Sherbrooke

by Gaige Kerr ('15)

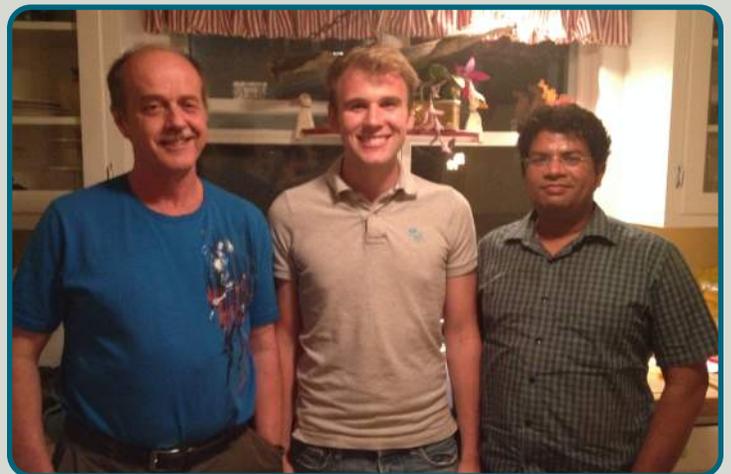
As the recipient of a fellowship from NSERC CREATE Training Program in Arctic Atmospheric Science, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to study with Prof. Norm O'Neill at Le Centre d'applications et de recherches en télédétection at the Université de Sherbrooke (UdeS). UdeS is a large French-speaking university in southern Québec with nearly 35,000 students spread across their main campus, a health-oriented campus, and the Longueuil/Montréal campus. The department I worked in primarily researched environmental parameters through remote sensing. Field expeditions to northern Québec and the Arctic were commonplace as the department has stakes in several collaborative efforts in these regions. I was able to become great friends with several of the students working towards their M.Sc and Ph.D degrees with research on earth's cyrosphere (naturally, they included me on their jaunters to Québécois music festivals and explorations of local microbreweries and pubs).

My research can best be described as a spectral analysis of AEROCAN / AERONET data to find a spectral signature of organic (brown carbon) aerosols. By deriving parameters related to the size and absorptivity of the aerosols, we were able to see evidence of biomass burning events through various temporal plots. Regular research group meetings taught me to convey and articulate my findings in a meaningful way. All coding was done in MATLAB, so I was exposed to a new, useful language. In addition to learning the ropes of conducting research, my research group's project will be presented at the fall meeting of the AGU. The research group I worked with was incredibly diverse: two Indians, a Francophone Canadian, an Anglophone Canadian, a

Russian, an Iranian, and me: the American! (I was politely reminded during my time there that referring to myself as an American is imperialism since the Americas span many countries)

In addition to the academic-orientated aspect of my summer, living in Canada for nearly four months provided me with endless outlets for learning more about our neighbors to the north. I learned a lot about Québécois politics, cuisine (poutine, anyone?) and culture. I was fortunate to travel to Ste-Rose-du-Nord, Riviere Rogue, Québec City, Montréal, Ottawa, and Disraeli. Most importantly, long held beliefs that Candians said "eh" were shattered, but the "aboos" abounded.

Unfortunately, the political situation in Canada is not conducive for environmental-related research (unless, say, you have a project in mind to demonstrate that the oil sands don't contribute significantly to climate change), and funding for the NSERC CREATE Training Program is slated to run out next summer and is unlikely to be renewed. However, students interested in this program should keep their fingers crossed for future funding!



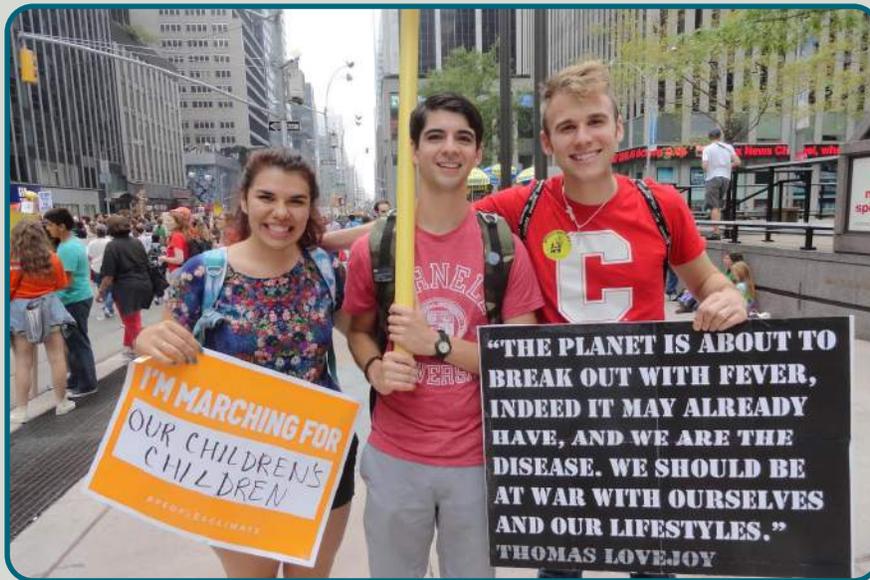
Dr. Norm O'Neill, Gaige Kerr ('15), and Dr. Jai Prakash Chaubey at a send-off BBQ

# One Day, One Voice, One Purpose

by Carolina Bieri ('16)

Though I've never considered myself to be much of an activist, as a student in Bruce Monger's Introductory Oceanography course this semester (Bruce is known for his enthusiasm in encouraging student involvement in social and environmental issues), I have been exposed to many opportunities to become one, if only for a day. One such opportunity was the People's Climate March, which took place in New York City on

September 21 the UN Climate Summit, and supported UN Secretary General Ban KiMoon and world leaders his request that commitments to make real greenhouse gas reducing emissions. I decided that this was something I strongly supported, especially since being an atmospheric science major has the extreme importance of anthropogenic limiting impacts on our climate.



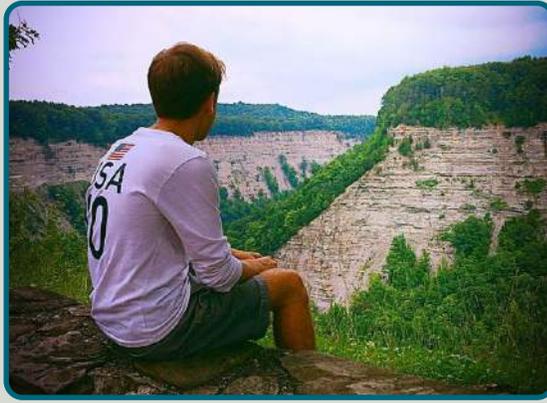
Atmospheric Science students Carolina Bieri ('16), Shaun Howe ('16), and Gaige Kerr ('15) (photo credit: Josh Miller)

September 21 the UN Climate Summit, and Secretary General his request that make real reducing emissions. I was something supported, being an science major has the extreme limiting impacts on our

After dragging myself out of bed (having slept just 2 hours, oops) and to Anabel Taylor Hall at 5:45 am that Sunday, I boarded the NYC bound bus along with 50 other Cornell students and staff. We arrived in New York City by 11:00 am, and made our way to the designated student section at the beginning of the march route. We waited about an hour or so to finally begin our trek; participants were divided into groups that were released one by one in order to avoid chaos (releasing 400,000 people on the New York City streets at once is never a good idea, as you can probably imagine). In this time I encountered people from all walks of life: college students, environmentally conscious families, longtime activists, people from various countries, you name it. The elaborate signs they held and the clothes they wore reflected what they were marching for; everything from the oceans to agriculture to conservation interests were represented. It was remarkable how so many different types of people came together for one cause.

At the end of the day, it was clear that the marchers had made their voice heard—we had pretty much taken over New York City for several hours, which is no easy feat. World leaders at the summit recognized the power of the marchers and their demands and acknowledged that climate change is not something that can be ignored any longer. Attending the march opened my eyes to the impact we can have if we simply speak out about the issues that concern us. I am so incredibly glad I had the chance to march, and will look back on my experience for many years to come.

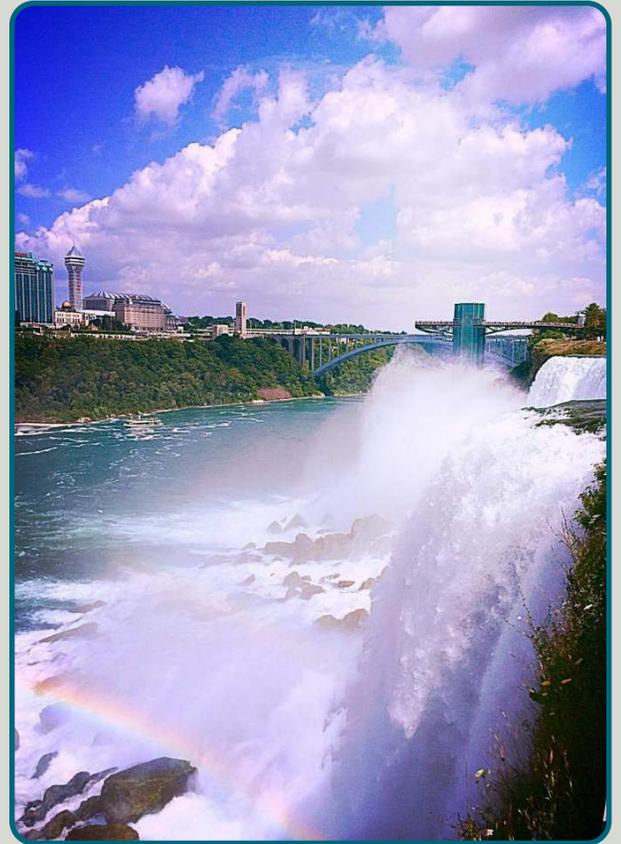
Top left: Zachary Labe ('15) perched atop a bluff at Letchworth State Park on a weekend trip during summer 2014.



Bottom left: Gaige Kerr ('15) on a whitewater canoeing trip with coworkers from Université de Sherbrooke.



Right: The United States' side of Niagara Falls captured during an excursion by Zachary Labe ('15) and Molly Smith ('14)



# One Step Closer to GMA

by Elisa Raffa ('15)

A hectic application process became worthwhile when I got that phone call from Atlanta's World Headquarters. I was the weather intern for CNN's domestic and international teams, one of over 200 applicants! Working at CNN was extraordinary. Not only did I get the rare opportunity to study domestic and international weather, but I also got to work with incredible meteorologists from all parts of the world.

A typical day at the CNN World Headquarters is... well.... anything but typical! Not only is the weather constantly changing, but breaking news is unpredictable. "Another Malaysian Airlines plane is missing?!" is all I needed to hear to have an instant rush of emotions and worry. The normal newsroom humming quickly turned into louder mumbles and more mobile producing, even in our weather center. I immediately worked with the team to check local weather, flight paths, NOTAM restricted flight areas, and buk missile statistics; my meteorologist was on-air in the U.S. and worldwide within minutes. It was incredible to get to see the newsroom and my team in breaking news mode, and I never expected that to happen.

On a more "typical" day, I would start my morning with our CNN international weather team. First tasks were always to take on my role as social media producer, tweeting from our @CNNweather page while helping our meteorologists build their show by finding pictures, video, and storm reports for our weather stories. World cup forecasts were routine during game time, as well as updates on our very active Pacific

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## One Step Closer to GMA, *continued from page 9*

typhoon season. Throughout my internship I got to follow typhoons that brought over 3 feet of rain to areas of Taiwan and Japan!

However, by far the biggest weather event I got to cover during my internship was Hurricane Arthur. Hurricane Arthur was the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season making landfall as a category 2 hurricane on the Carolina coast during the 4th of July holiday weekend. Even as an intern, I worked 12 hours, slept for 3 hours, and then was back in the studio before sunrise for another 10-hour shift. Throughout the storm, I managed our social media and digital pages, tweeting updates as we received them. Because of my work with our Twitter account, we gained over 1,000 followers for @CNNweather page in just 24 hours! It was very exciting not only to be there for a major weather event, but also to be such a huge part of it, seeing the results of my work.

Working at CNN has opened many doors for me already. It took only three weeks for my producers to notice my work ethic and enthusiasm for the field, prompting them to recommend me to other networks. Ginger Zee, meteorologist of *Good Morning America*, wanted to set up a shadow day upon my return to New York. Working at GMA has been my dream since I was 12 years old and it finally came true. I got to sit in the studio during the show, observe her producers make weather graphics, and run outside into the crowd with Ginger for her weather hits. Ginger was eager to hear about my experiences and share her insight, especially about being an intelligent female in the field and not a “ditzy weather girl.” It was so inspirational to listen to her talk about her experiences, share advice with me, and simply observe her inner weather geek and passion for meteorology. What an incredible morning!

This summer was like no other. I got to live out my dream every single day, more so than I ever originally imagined. As I plow my senior year at Cornell, I am excited for my future. I am excited to enjoy my last year at school, graduate an Ivy League institution, but most importantly – finally get to live out my dream as a broadcast meteorologist.



Elisa Raffa ('15) on the newsdesk at CNN World Headquarters.

## Weather Musings in Carl Becker House

by Ethan Burwell ('16)

The annual transition from summer to winter is well underway here in Ithaca. With this transition comes the genuine question of “what is the weather doing?!” It seems as though one day it’s a sunny 69 degrees, and the next there’s a steady rain as we struggle to top 50; give it a week or so and I’m sure we’ll have seen our first snowflakes. With such a wide array of weather at this time of the year, it prompts the question as to what people consider “good” weather to be. To answer this question, I asked 151 students

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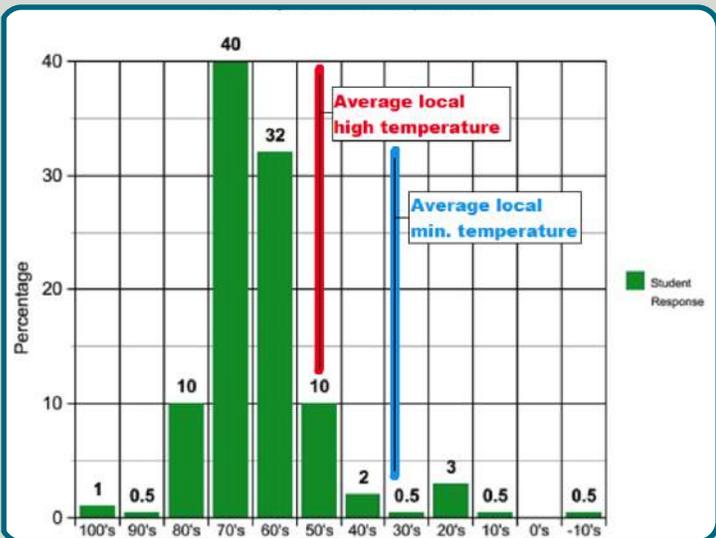
## Weather Musings in Carl Becker House, continued from page 10

throughout West Campus dining halls, or approximately 1% of the Cornell undergraduate population, their favorite type of weather and temperature.

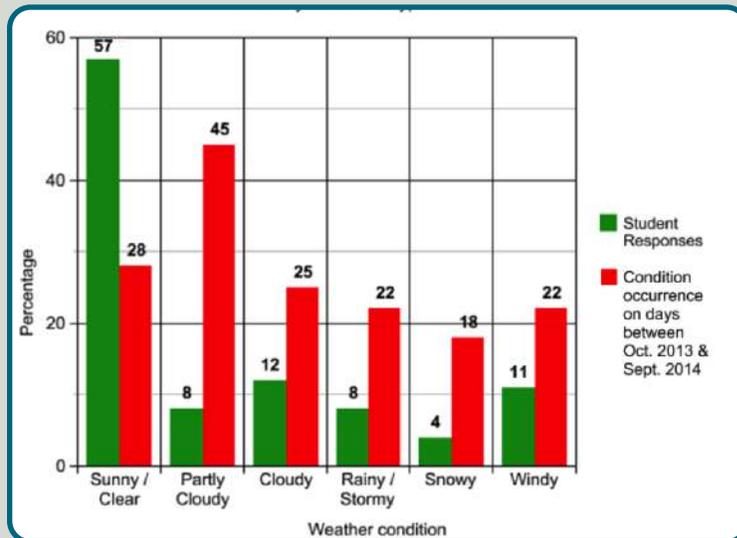
In tallying up the survey results, an overwhelming majority of students preferred sunny days (57%). A distant second most popular preference was cloudy days (12%), followed closely by windy (11%), partly cloudy (8%), and rainy days (8%). A mere 4% of students favored the snowy, wintry days for which Ithaca is so infamous. When it came to temperature, most students preferred 70's (40%), followed by 60's (32%). The 80's and the 50's both were preferred by 10% of students. The remaining 8% were scattered in the far ends of a range from the low hundreds to a few degrees below zero.

So how likely are students to experience their favorite weather here in Ithaca? Apparently, not very. While over 50% of students prefer sunny days, records from the National Weather Service in Binghamton show that fewer than 30% of days in the past year were "sunny" (less than 30% cloud cover). A combined total of only 20% of students favored partly cloudy or cloudy above all other weather conditions, yet since last October 70% of our days have been at least partly cloudy. During the same timeframe, 22% of days recorded at least 0.1 inches of rain, 18% over a trace of snow, and 22% an average wind speed of at least 10 mph. These all represent values greater than what students seem to prefer. Similarly, while over 70% of students prefer the 60's or 70's, the average high temperature just down the road in Binghamton is just under 55 °F. The only months of the school year in which the average high temperature makes it above 60 are May and September.

Ithaca, this place that we call "home" for ten months of the year, produces a wide variety of weather. Being the humans that we are, we can and do tolerate that wide array. However, while Ithaca may have been the best place to find your education, chances are that the days in which you can enjoy your "favorite weather" are not as frequent as you'd like them to be. Alas, when that special weather day does finally roll along, make sure you physically get outside and enjoy it; a day that makes you happy is not one to be squandered!



Ethan's first question: what is your favorite temperature?



Ethan's second question, what is your favorite type of weather?

# The Cornell Transfer Experience

by Shaun Howe ('16)

When many people open a new chapter of their lives, that change tends to come with many preconceived notions. This particularly happens before a move to a new city. For months before the move, one may find themselves envisioning what is to come and cannot seem to keep from slipping into that daydream scenario. These feelings of excitement and nervousness came before my move to Ithaca.

All of my life, I went to school within two towns. The high school I attended was just a town over and the community college, which I attended, was even closer. I became close friends with my classmates as we bonded over endless physics labs and what seemed like impossible calculus derivations. It was easy to do the work and be motivated to learn because I had close connections with my professor and loved the small class environment. But as soon as it started, I found that my days in my town were numbered.

I knew from day one of my start of college that I wanted to study Atmospheric Science but was unsure where I wanted to go after that. After talking it over with my fellow classmates, one of my friends encouraged me to apply to Cornell and to look into whether or not they offer atmospheric science as a major. I had already made a list of schools I wanted to apply to and really did not think I was going to get into Cornell but with much nagging from my friends, I decided to go for it. Without too much extrapolation you can guess how that part of the story ends. What was to come though were the countless thoughts mentioned earlier that would precede my journey to Cornell.

There was no denying that I was nervous to

come here. Being that I have not spent much time away from home and that I was coming to such a big school, I could not help but feel anxious for my arrival. For weeks on end I would think about my journey to come and just could not wait for the day



Transfer Ethan Burwell ('16) and Jessica Hubbard ('16) forecast for Ithaca during a forecasting night (photo credit: Shaun Howe)

to come to see if what I had envisioned was anywhere close to reality. When the day came, I found myself more nervous than excited. The feeling I had when my parents first left me in my apartment still sticks in my mind. I couldn't get over the fact that I was going to school to study something that I truly loved but at the same time was leaving my loved ones behind. Despite this mix of emotions, I found that I would feel at home here especially amongst the fellow atmospheric science majors. One comfort that helped me feel less alone in this process has to do with the fact that I am one of three transfers into the major from a community college. From the start, I had people that I could relate to and that helped a lot with getting started.

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## Cornell Transfer Experience, *continued from page 12*

Another great aspect of this major has to do with the small classes and amount of students in the major as a whole. It feels just like it did before I came here and what is even better is know I can take classes that are actually related to my major. I find now that I have more of an interest in my classes because they are all classes that I really enjoy taking. It is nice to finally be able to get a taste of what the future has to offer so now I can start daydreaming about what's to come next, or I can push that aside for now and continue to worry about the ever-looming prelims that will engulf the rest of my week.

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assisting the various channels on SiriusXM with upcoming projects. I got to see the behind-the-scenes side of radio and the all the work that has to be done just so you can hear your favorite song! In addition, I also compiled research on various important anniversaries in music history, so that this information could later be used in special on-air events. Furthermore, just by working at SiriusXM I got a chance to learn about artist relations, especially because on any given day there are at least five guests visiting SiriusXM. On one of my first days I turned the corner to find Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill doing a live interview! Given the constant flux of stars, I saw the ways in which artists work with radio stations and how they handle broadcast interviews in general. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to meet several of SiriusXM's top DJs and sat in on live broadcasts, such as an interview with R&B artist Ne-Yo, as well as an airing of Entertainment Weekly Radio and SiriusXM's morning show, The Morning Mash-Up. It was these sit-ins that have made me realize that I would love to pursue a career in broadcasting as an on-air meteorologist. Overall, even though my internship did not deal with weather directly, I know that I have gained invaluable knowledge about the broadcasting field, which can be applied to my dream of being a broadcast meteorologist on national television.

## Why So Sirius?

by Victoria Cavaliere ('17)

This past summer I interned at SiriusXM Satellite Radio Company in New York City. Although not directly related to weather, my internship experience showed me what it is like to work in radio broadcasting and related fields.

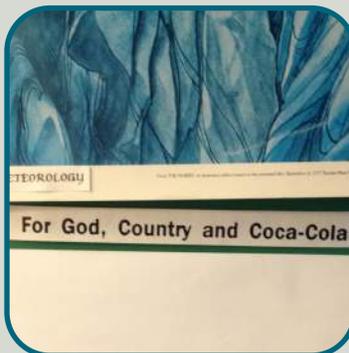
As a member of WVBR Ithaca's Real Rock Radio Station as well as CornellRadio.com, I chose to explore my passion for radio and broadcasting this summer. From June to August I worked at SiriusXM as a general music programming intern and was responsible for helping my mentors as well as whatever channels needed assistance. As a music-programming intern, I spent my weeks loading playlists, cutting music, editing VoiceTracs, and



Victoria Cavaliere ('17) with rap sensation Ne-Yo during her internship at SiriusXM

# CCAMS Scavenger Hunt

**Alumni and friends of the department:** below are pictures collected throughout our humble home on the eleventh floor of Bradfield. Take a moment to think back to your time in Bradfield (perhaps over a glass of Jack & Coke) and where these pictures may have been taken. Be the first to correctly identify where these pictures were captured and let Gaige (ghk35@cornell.edu) and Zachary (zml5@cornell.edu) know. First and second place winners will receive a free 2015 CCAMS Weather Models calendar and Cornell Meteorology “Funnel it down” shot glass!





# CCAMS Welcomes Its Newest Members!



**Marc Alessi:** Being from Syracuse, NY, I grew up in an area prone to dynamic weather patterns, which is what brought me here to the Cornell meteorology department. I started watching the show Storm Stories in first grade and become almost obsessed with severe storms, lake-effect snow, and hurricanes. In high school, I studied extra-tropical storm systems and how their tracks are changing in a warming world. I also studied the microclimates on the island of St. John, US Virgin Islands while on a research trip with some of my classmates. In the future, I hope to be a specialist in either tropical meteorology or lake-effect snow.

**Christopher Dickson:** Hello! My name is Christopher Dickson, and I'm from West Hartford, Connecticut. I chose this major because it was the only option that I was absolutely certain I wouldn't immediately second-guess. I am still weighing my other options (I'm mainly looking at non-medical Biology), but from what I've seen so far, I love this major as much as I could have hoped. I started loving weather in first grade and have been a weather weenie ever since. If I stick with Atmospheric Science, I plan to look into the research of computer modeling, data collection, and possibly broadcasting, but I am open to anything during the upcoming four years!

**Tommy Favata:** My name is Tommy Favata, and I am from the town of Niskayuna near Albany, NY. Weather has always interested me. As a kid I would read books on severe weather and would even watch documentaries on the weather channel. This fascination grew into a yearning for knowledge and it eventually led me to choose the Atmospheric Sciences major. I am looking forward to many great years with the professors and the rest of my classmates.

**Michael Follensbee:** My name is Michael Follensbee. I live in Vermont, where I get to experience many fascinating weather events. That fascination has led me here, where I am studying what I love. When I am not doing that, I like to golf, as I find it relaxing. In the future, I plan to focus on severe weather research.

**Jeffrey Fralick:** I have always been obsessed with the weather. As a young boy growing up in Kansas, I have taken a particular interest in severe weather. To this day, I still remember my first tornado. When I moved out to Pennsylvania, I experienced my

first major snowstorm. I knew that I wanted to grow up and study how the weather worked, and what caused these type of events. When I landed my first weather-internship over the past summer, working alongside Dan Skeldon, a Cornell grad himself, examining computer models and making forecasts, I was completely hooked and knew that this was what I wanted to do. And here I am now!

**James Gebhardt:** My name is JT Gebhardt, and I am from Guilderland, New York (a suburb right outside of Albany). I am a freshmen in the Atmospheric Science major at Cornell. I was first interested in meteorology after I learned of my love for winter weather, especially snow. I then ventured into the severe side of weather and I became fascinated with both severe weather and winter weather. In my time at Cornell I hope to expand my knowledge in meteorology.

**Tyler Leicht:** Hello, my name is Tyler Leicht. I'm a freshman in Atmospheric Science and I am from Ballston Spa, New York. My interests within Atmospheric Science include climatology and long-term weather forecasting. My hope is to go onto grad school and find a research position.

**Li-Sha Lim:** Hi! I'm Li-Sha and I have always been intrigued by natural phenomena, in particular natural disasters and how they can be better predicted. Having grown up in sunny Singapore, where temperature ranges, even on an annual scale, are far less than most of the daily ranges here in Ithaca, the weather in these past two months has been an entirely new experience for me and I definitely look forward to learning more about it and experiencing my first long winter! In my time here as a major in the Atmospheric Sciences, I hope to be able to explore the various concentrations within the field, possibly with a focus on tropical meteorology so as to better prepare myself for work with the Meteorological Service of Singapore.

**Luke Marcinkiewicz:** My name is Luke Marcinkiewicz and I grew up only 3 hours down the road near Buffalo. I have been interested in severe weather since I was a little boy, and I have plenty of experience witnessing intense lake effect snowstorms in Buffalo. Over the last several years, I have increasingly realized the importance of climate change to the future of the human race and am currently planning to do research involving climate change in my career.

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**Griffin Mooers:** My name is Griffin Mooers. I lived for my whole life in Greenland, New Hampshire. I chose to be an Atmospheric Science major because weather is something that has fascinated me since I was a kid. Very few things in the world excite me like an imminent storm. In addition, learning about climate change, through books, news articles and documentaries has always been a passion of mine.

**Ibrahym Sabha:** My name is Ibrahym Ahmed Sabha. I was born and raised in New York City, but have origins from the Middle Eastern country of Yemen. Originally, I entered this major because the weather that we experience is very dynamic, constantly changing each minute in our lives. However, as time elapsed, I became fascinated with sustainable energy, a field that has always made me wonder: "What will be the next energy source to replace fossil fuels?" Ultimately, my goal is to hopefully pursue this major along with a sustainable energy systems and climate change double minor as a means to enter one of the top graduate schools for sustainable energy.

**Kristina Thoren:** Hi, my name is Kristina Thoren and I am a freshman in Atmospheric Sciences. I am from Hollywood, Florida. I am fascinated by aerosols and the role they play in climate change and hope to become involved in research after I graduate. In my spare time I like to read and play golf.

**John Toohey:** A Miami native and son of the chief meteorologist of a local station, I have grown up immersed in tropical meteorology. My goals are to become a broadcast meteorologist and end up in a tropical market, preferably back home. My passion is for hurricanes but I'm open to other weather topics. I am excited to learn about all parts of weather and expand my horizons beyond tropical meteorology.

**Grace Winant:** Hi, my name is Grace Winant. I am from

Bronxville, NY and am currently a freshman in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences majoring in Atmospheric Science. I became interested in the major after working in NBC studios with their meteorologists. My other interests include volunteer work and running.

**Jessica Hubbard:** Hello there! My name is Jessica and I am a Junior transfer into the Atmospheric Science major here at Cornell. I'm from a small town dubbed Bassett in Virginia. My interest in weather peaked when I was little, because I was fascinated with the colors of the radar maps on The Weather Channel (Jim Cantore is my idol by the way), and now, I want to spread that passion for weather on to others. Oh, and I really enjoy cloud watching and all the beauty of the sky, and this place is the perfect atmosphere for it.

**Shaun Howe:** Hi, my name is Shaun Howe. I'm from Neshanic Station, New Jersey. What peaked my interest in weather were the hurricanes that have passed near, or through, New Jersey since I was little. Recently, Superstorm Sandy had a big impact on my community so I really would love to study how weather is going to change and impact us in the future. I also enjoy fencing épée, playing guitar, and exhausting walks to and from my apartment in Downtown Ithaca.

**Ethan Burwell:** Hi, friends! I'm a junior transfer from SUNY Ulster in Kingston, New York where I attained Associate degrees in Mathematics and Registered Nursing. So, why Atmospheric Science?! Following weather systems has been my hobby for the past decade, and it's what I enjoy doing. While I got hooked on weather through hurricanes, I'm particularly fond of microclimates, mid-latitude cyclones, and SNOW! I've been increasingly interested in the methods through which weather forecasts and hazards may be more effectively communicated.

## CCAMS eBoard, 2014 - 2015



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