

**AMS Board on Women and Minorities (BWM)  
Minutes of the 15 Jan 2007 Annual Meeting**

Time and Location: 5:00 p.m., Conference 1 & 2, Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, San Antonio, TX

Attendees:

Members: Shirley Murillo (Chair), Howie Friedman, Jeff Gaffney, Leslie Hartten, Rebecca Jennings, John Jones, Ada Monzón, Michael Morgan, Imani Morris (undergrad student rep), Ernesto Munoz (grad student rep), Vickie Nadolski, Sreela Nandi, Sepi Yalda

Alumnae and Liaisons: Julie Winkler (Education & Human Resources Commissioner), Elen Cutrim (Board on Higher Education, BHE), Laura Furgione (BHE), Kathy Hoxsie (Board on Outreach and Pre-college Education, B.O.P.E.), Paul Rusher (B.O.P.E.), Lis Cohen (BWM alumna), Kathy Strebe (BWM alumna)

Guests: Dagmar Buck'kova (Illinois State U), Ken Carey (Mitretek), Ashton Robinson Cook (U Oklahoma), Shari Dixon (Jackson State U), Beth Farley (AMS staff), Douglas Gavin (Jackson State U), Rebecca Haacker-Santos (SOARS), Terrence Hartwell (Jackson State U), Tami Maldonado (Howard U), Emily Miller (AMS staff), Krizia Negrón (U Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras), Ian Carlos Colón Pagan (U Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras), Christopher Samsury (Weather Channel), John Shoemake (Jackson State U), James Sims (Howard U), Carol Tirado (U Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras), Karretta Venable (Georgia Institute Technology), Cecille Villanuva (U Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras), Segayle Walford-Thompson (Howard U), Bob Weinbeck (AMS staff), Loren White (Jackson State U)

Items and Names in **bold** are Action Items and Responsible Parties

Welcome and Introductions: Shirley Murillo started the meeting off by having attendees go around the room introducing themselves. She announced that the terms of 3 BWM members were ending as of this meeting: Sarah Long, Molly Montgomery, and Tom Windham. Unfortunately, none of the 3 were able to attend. New members of the BWM introduced at the meeting are Rebecca Jennings (Weather Channel), John Jones (NOAA/NWS), and student members Imani Morris (Jackson State U) and Ernesto Munoz (U Maryland).

Invited Speakers:

Emily Miller, AMS Online Ocean & Weather Studies Diversity Project

These introductory college-level courses, designed by the AMS and licensed for use by more than 400 undergraduate universities, have been available since Fall 1999 (Weather) and 2005 (Ocean). There is a textbook, an investigator's manual, an online component, and a web site and CD for faculty. The program is funded through Summer 2007; more funds are being sought. Many of the universities using the course are Minority Serving Institutions.

Ken Carey, Board on Private Sector Meteorology Mentorship Program

Ken described the program and provided a 2-page handout that included a student application. Meeting attendees suggested tracking the mentors and providing a support network for them as

well, pointing to SOARS as an organization that does both. Initially, the program will be advertised at Penn State and Oklahoma State. Communication is expected to be primarily remote.

#### Ken Carey, Co-Chair of 2008 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Next year's meeting, co-chaired by Chris Velden, will be held in New Orleans. The theme will be "Enhancing the Connectivity between Research and Applications for the Benefit of Society". One STAC per day will coordinate special activities; there will be a broad educational session, a NOAA-GOES User's Conference, and WeatherFest. Ken would like the **BWM to help plan activities celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, which the Annual Meeting will again overlap.

#### BWM Activities During 2006:

##### African-American Representation in AMS

The AMS has begun offering student co-membership in AMS to students who join the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP).

##### MS PHDS Mentoring Program

The Minority Students Pursuing Higher Degree Success program, sponsored by NSF and headed by Ashante Pirtle of U South Florida, asked for our assistance in finding mentors for students attending conferences.

##### Spanish-Speaking Meteorologists

We are co-sponsoring, with American Institute of Physics (AIP), a database of Spanish-speaking meteorologists.

##### AMS Member Survey

The various groups working on papers describing results from the 2005 membership survey are in regular contact and making good progress towards submission of the articles to BAMS.

##### AMS-Industry Minority Scholarship Program

Applications have decreased from about 60 in the early years to 25 this year, while sponsorship (which is private) had decreased from an amount sufficient for 12 students to only 8 students this year. Currently, applications are distributed through local chapters. We discussed ways to supplement that. Ideas included having NWS offices, AMS student members, and AMS-certified broadcast meteorologists help with recruitment, and required recipients to give talks to high schools as a condition of the scholarship. The AMS Office recruits sponsors; we discussed whether or not the BWM should pick a target number of scholarships and help recruit sponsors. BWM members could assist by simple means, such as visiting booths in the Exhibit Hall and thanking identified scholarship sponsors, while asking others to consider sponsoring a Minority Scholarship. Lis Cohen, Howie Friedman, and Kathy Strebe are among those mentoring

scholarship recipients.

The call for applications should go out in the December/January timeframe, with a February due date. Applications are reviewed by Chairs under the Education & Human Resources Commission, after a basic screening at AMS Headquarters.

#### Anderson, Battan, and Teaching Excellence Awards

Howie Friedman received this year's Anderson Award earlier in the day. At the Banquet on Wednesday evening, Kerry Emanuel (*Divine Wind*) and Edward Brotak (*Wild about Weather*) will receive the Battan Awards and Ramesh Srivastava will receive the Teaching Excellence Award.

Nominations are always needed. The entire process is now online, with a 1 May deadline. A nomination packet is kept in the pool for 3 years. BWM takes the lead on the Anderson Award, BHE on the Battan Award, and B.O.P.E. on the Teaching Award.

#### New/Other Business:

##### Franco Einaudi (President, AMS) and Keith Seitter (Executive Director, AMS)

Franco and Keith visited the meeting briefly. They thanked the BWM for attending, and for all the work members do during the year. They also presented Shirley with a plaque and certificate of appreciation for her 2 years of service as Chair of the BWM.

##### 2008 Annual Meeting and Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The 2008 Program Committee would like ideas on how to observe MLK Day. One suggestion was to focus on impacts of weather on various groups, to start with the user, to consider mitigation. The best way to reach people may be through a special Session such as that organized by John Jones 2 years ago on Recruitment and Retention; the Women's Luncheon is another venue. Attempts to reach out to local people may involve local media, but we need to remember that poverty affects access to information. There may be opportunities for service activities within the community. The NWS office in Slidell can be involved in many of these, and has some experience in outreach to the community.

##### Incoming Chair

Leslie Hartten was introduced as incoming Chair of the BWM. She outlined a few things she'd like to see the BWM do over the next couple of years: better communicate to the AMS membership what we do & why we do it; make it easier for people who are interested in what we do to become part of what we do; explore ways to make it easier for employers to find a more diverse pool of applicants for open positions; and consider how our field can do a better job of keeping people, especially those from underrepresented groups that we work so hard to recruit, in the field. She also presented Shirley with a gift on behalf of all those working under the auspices of the Education & Human Resources Commission, in thanks for her service to the

BWM.

### AMS Council News

Julie Winkler reported several pieces of news from the previous day's Council meeting. The membership application process has been simplified. The AMS will be undergoing an external review by a committee composed of members of other professional societies. Past-President Walk Lyons has been leading a collaboration with The Research Channel to produce 5 weather-related programs in 2007; the contract will be extended for more programs in 2008.

The big news from Council is in regard to last year's Strategic Plan, which Council has decided is really a Strategic Goals document. Julie passed out copies. Council would like to develop an Implementation Plan, and has asked Commissioners to provide draft information by September 2007. Each Commissioner is to turn in a few pages addressing those Goals relevant to her Boards and/or Committees. Boards and Committees should consider what the AMS is doing well, what they would like the AMS to do, and how to measure success. Julie views this as an opportunity for us to have an affect on the future of the BWM, the E&HR Commission, and the AMS. Meeting attendees brainstormed for quite a while, focussing on answering the questions "What does AMS do that works?" and "What would be good to try?" with regard to women and minorities. In the coming months, **BWM members will be asked to provide specific input to Julie for this exercise.**

### BWM Alumni Contact Info

Someone raised the issue of being able to contact all BWM alumni. It's believed that the current BWM web site contains a complete listing; **Leslie Hartten will check with Keith Seitter to see if that is correct. Howie Friedman will then compile email addresses to match.**

### BWM email list

Since there is likely to be more traffic than usual on the BWM email list because of the Council's request for input to the Implementation Plan, Leslie asked if people would prefer that there be a single BWM email list for all members & friends, or two lists with one comprised only of members. A quick vote showed a preference for a single list, along with a suggestion that some issues might merit email to a small subgroup with results passed to the entire list.

Meeting Ended: about 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 2008, New Orleans