

**President of the West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (WCFLAMS): Dr. Jennifer Collins**

Dr. Jennifer Collins (Department of Geography) was elected President of the West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (WCFLAMS) at the annual meeting on April 7, 2010.



Dr. Collins on the left and former student (and instructor) of the Department of Geography, Neva Duncan Tabb, on the right.

Since her arrival to USF, Dr. Collins has worked diligently for the WCFLAMS Chapter. Being elected corresponding secretary in 2007 and again in 2008, she worked her way up the ladder of this organization quickly, being elected Vice President in 2009, and this year she was elected into the very prominent position of President. The WCFLAMS Chapter is a very active organization meeting monthly to discuss current research (particularly research related to the local area). As chapter secretary, she wrote minutes (short articles) of the meetings which all appeared on the National AMS website. In addition four of these review articles were published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. She wrote the application for the AMS Chapter of the Year Award two years running and the WCFLAMS Chapter was awarded on the National Chapter Honor Roll both years. Recently (March, 2010) she hosted the “Teach the Teacher” workshop at USF (co sponsored by the College and Arts and Sciences). This workshop

integrated teaching and research. Survey feedback was extremely favorable. One of Dr. Collins' goals this year as president is to make the meetings widely available to all members of the national AMS (as well as to some of the local members who may not be able to physically attend the meetings) by offering webinars. In addition she will continue to invite prominent speakers and raise funds for the student awards which reward student achievement in the atmospheric sciences. For more information on the WCFLAMS Chapter visit [www.wcflams.org](http://www.wcflams.org).

**Recipient of the Dewey M. Stowers Award for Excellence in Meteorology: Kortnie Pugh (student in the Department of Geography, USF)**

Every year at the AMS banquet a special monetary award is presented to an outstanding local college meteorology student. The Dr. Dewey M. Stowers Award for Excellence in Meteorology, known as the Dr. Dewey Stowers Merit Award, was established in 2002 to recognize and honor exceptional students in meteorology. It also commemorates Dr. Stowers himself, who affected the lives of so many students over his extensive teaching career.

Dr. Stowers joined the faculty of the Department of Geography at the University of South Florida in 1963, where he established its weather station. By the time of his retirement as a full professor in 1992, the USF Weather Station was considered the finest university weather station in the southeastern United States.

Dr. Stowers was a fixture in the Tampa Bay area weather community and became one of the founding members of the West Central Florida AMS chapter. Many local broadcast meteorologists passed (and struggled) through his courses and he was frequently approached for comment by local media sources whenever an extreme weather event occurred. Indeed, Dr. Stowers was often referred in the local weather community as "The Grand Old Man of Tampa Bay Weather".

Dr. Stowers, however, is best remembered for the powerful impact he had on his students during his tenure at USF. In addition to authoring over 40 scientific papers on weather phenomena, many with graduate students, he taught the senior-level meteorology and climatology courses for the Department of Geography for 30 years. Known as a tough and demanding professor, he also developed the reputation for challenging his students to achieve their very best.

It was with deep appreciation for the positive influence he had on their lives that several former students established the Dr. Dewey M Stowers Foundation in 2002 for the purpose of funding the annual award in perpetuity. Dr. Stowers lost a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer in 2007, but his ability to inspire students will continue through his award.

Kortnie Pugh (student of Dr. Collins in the Department of Geography) received the Dewey M. Stowers Award for Excellence in Meteorology at the annual meeting of the WCFLAMS Chapter. Kortnie was recognized for her dedication and achievements in the field of Meteorology while being an undergraduate student. After taking Dr. Collins' Meteorology course, Kortnie worked

on a directed research project with Dr. Collins in 2008 where she gained experience with GRADS software used to conduct Meteorological analysis. She then went to the American Geophysical Joint Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale to present the findings of their research on climate change in South America. More recently (2009) she worked alongside Dr. Collins on a collaborative project with Charlie Paxton from the National Weather Service. The project was funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and focused on the history of Tampa Bay's weather. Kortnie presented this work at the national American Meteorological Society conference in Georgia (2010) and co-wrote the conference paper. She is also working on a rip current project and presented their preliminary results at the 1st International Rip Current Symposium (2010). In addition to her research, she conducted an internship at Channel 8 with their weather team. Here she helped forecast the weather in surrounding counties for Tampa Bay Online providing the meteorological outlook, she used Linux to make graphics for air time shows, she ran crawls alerting viewers about severe weather and she blogged for Tampa Bay Online communicating weather information to the public.



Kortnie Pugh (Middle), student of Dr. Collins in the Department of Geography, receives award from Dewey M. Stowers Award for Excellence in Meteorology Committee Chair, Neva Duncan Tabb.