



CONNECTIONS

Linking EEO, Diversity and Science

STUDENT EDITION

EEO/Diversity Newsletter for NOAA Research

AUGUST 2019

OAR's 2019 Interns Share their Experiences

Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) - Seattle, WA

Isabelle Chan was born in Mission Viejo, CA and is currently a senior at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She is majoring in Environmental Science with an emphasis in conservation. She also has minors in Biology, Nonprofit Management and Leadership, and Geospatial Technologies. Isabelle is a Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO) intern working on an ocean acidification project with Dr. Sophie Chu at PMEL. The project focuses on analyzing and inputting a band broadening correction into LI-COR datasets to decrease the degree of uncertainty between water vapor and carbon dioxide measurements.

“This project is exciting to me, because I get to analyze data from multiple locations around the world! I found out about JISAO by searching on the web for summer Research Experiences of Undergraduates (REU). After completing this internship, I will be more capable to conduct other research projects, understand the processes of ocean acidification and carbon dioxide relations with the ocean. I will also have more knowledge on the LICOR-820 instrument used to provide CO₂ data. I would definitely recommend a NOAA internship to other students who need to expand their research skillset and share common goals with NOAA. To be a competitive candidate, I recommend reading some papers published by the NOAA researchers you want to work with. Also, it wouldn't hurt to familiarize yourself with NOAA's organizational chart!”



I hope to go to graduate school for international climate change and management. My future career plans consist of advocating for environmental justice and working with government, non-profit and for-profit sectors to promote public education, policy change, and research while also implementing global climate change solutions. I would like to eventually pursue a PhD and become a professor towards the end of my career. In my free time, I love to travel and hike!”



Madeline Talebi is from Orange County, CA and is going into her fourth year of college at the University of California, Irvine where she is studying chemical engineering.

“My project focuses on finding and interpreting archived meteorological data (i.e. wind speed and direction, air temperature and humidity, barometric pressure, rain accumulation, etc.) from the Station Papa Ocean Weather Ship (OWS), which started in December 1949 and ended in August 1981. I am most excited about completing an analytical analysis to see how the meteorological data has shifted over the specified time period. I hope to take away some quality data analysis skills. I am beginning to realize that it is okay to ask multiple sources for help, when help is needed, but only after all possible routes have been considered.

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I would recommend a NOAA internship to other students, because it has taught me so much about working in a big government research sector. I've met many different professionals who come from various educational backgrounds, and I've appreciated all of the advice that I have received. In order to be a good candidate, I would encourage others to diversify his or her educational "resume." It's okay if your path isn't clear and if you've decided to change directions multiple times. If anything, I would encourage others to use that as leverage because diversity is always needed and encouraged in school, the work place, or just life in general. My future career goals involve completing my master's and PhD in Chemical Engineering with a thesis project that emphasizes renewable energy and/or environmental application. With my doctorate, I hope to become a professor at a university and/or a research scientist. In my free time, I enjoy running, biking, working out, watching movies, going to coffee shops/restaurants, and reading."

Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)/Physical Sciences Division (PSD) - Boulder, CO

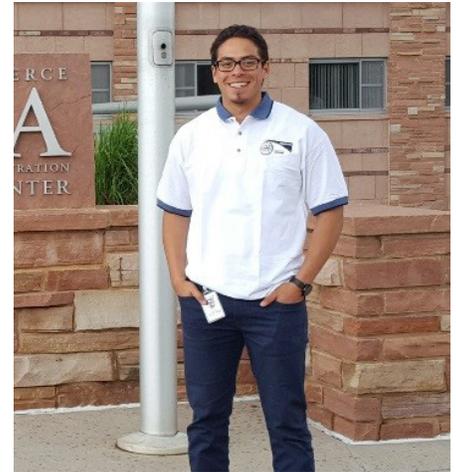
Adrian Peña was born in the Bronx in New York City and raised by Spanish-speaking immigrant parents. This fall he will enter his final year of the Masters of Engineering Program in Earth Systems Science and Environmental Engineering at The City College of New York (CCNY). Upon graduation, he hopes to earn a position in either urban storm management or building sustainability.

Adrian is a NOAA EPP Graduate Scholar at the NOAA Cooperative Science Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies led by CCNY and is currently participating in the NOAA Experiential Research and Training Opportunities (NERTO) program.

At PSD, Adrian will be validating forecast model precipitation products using weather station data collected across urban New

York City. What excites him most about his internship is absorbing the knowledge, scientific intuition, and research habits of scientists in a federal research laboratory. He is also interested in expanding scientific conversations about how forecast models such as the High Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) and data integration tools such as the Multi-Radar/Multi-Sensor (MRMS) system can be better applied and improved in urban areas. He expects that his work with NOAA will provide him with more efficient programming skills, knowledge of the Linux operating system, and enhanced weather forecasting abilities.

Adrian definitely recommends a NOAA internship to other students. He advises that in addition to being a good student, the resume of a NOAA intern candidate should reflect scientific curiosity, a strong work ethic, and a desire for public service



through previous jobs/internships/or extra-curricular activities. Adrian enjoys baseball and being immersed in nature, and hopes to take advantage of the many outdoor adventure opportunities available in Colorado.

Nathan Hadland is a Hollings Scholar. He is originally from Phoenix, AZ. He currently attends Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL, where he is pursuing a B.S. in Astrobiology. "At Florida Tech, my research spans modeling of gas giant atmospheres (such as Neptune or Jupiter) to investigating the geology of the Martian surface."

At PSD, his project uses innovative observing technologies to understand drivers of short-term temperature variability in the Arctic. "I use multi-sensor observational data from a 2018 field campaign at Oliktok Point in northern Alaska, which was integrated to create a single high-resolution time series of near-surface atmospheric variability, to study short-term drivers."



Photo: Nathan Hadland at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. Credit: Universities Space Research Association – Lunar Planetary Institute (URSA-LPI)

He said the most exciting thing about the internship is helping contribute to

the science behind climate change and polar amplification and helping to work to understand the complex and dynamic system of the Arctic. "I am significantly improving my programming skills and learning new mathematical and statistical techniques. Additionally, it is really easy to make connections at ESRL and PSD, and I am really excited to continue to foster those relationships as my career develops." He said the internship gives him a glimpse behind the thousands of people working to study the Earth's environmental system.

Nathan highly recommends a NOAA internship to any student interested in pursuing environmental sciences in any field - from education to physics. He said a good candidate is an individual who is passionate about their field and is a hard worker. Nathan's future plans include

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pursuing his Ph.D. in Planetary Science with the ultimate goal of working at NOAA or NASA. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking. He is also a voracious reader.

SOARS Protege Kylee Lewis - Characterizing Low-Level Temperature Inversions

Kylee Lewis is a member of the Chickasaw Nation from Moore, OK. “My heritage and upbringing fostered a love of nature in me from a very young age. Looking up at the stars has always filled me with awe, and scuba diving opened my eyes to how beautiful the oceans are. This love inspired me to dedicate my life to assist efforts to clean up the environment.” Kylee’s college education began at Oklahoma City Community College, where she obtained an Associate’s Degree in Biology. She is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma majoring in Environmental Sustainability with a minor in Geographic Information System (GIS).



Photo: PSD/CIRES Mentor Leslie Hartten and SOARS protégé Kylee Lewis releasing an ozonesonde.

“After participating in a legislative internship through my university, I decided to pursue scientific experiences that would expand my skills and career path options. This summer, I am participating in the [Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science \(SOARS\)](#) program. My research at NOAA/PSD involves analyzing data from Utqiagvik, AK to characterize low-level temperature inversions. Since these inversions can affect sea ice, arctic haze, and other atmospheric factors, increasing understanding of them will foster further knowledge about other environmental factors. The results from my research will be shared with the Year of Polar Prediction Supersite Model Inter-comparison Project team to assist in improving weather prediction models.”

Kylee is excited to learn more about the reality of scientific research through her work at NOAA. She hopes the experience will help her accomplish her future goals, which includes attending graduate school and pursuing a career researching global sustainability issues.

ESRL/Global Monitoring Division (GMD) - Boulder, CO

Sofia Jenkins-Nieto is going into her sophomore year at the University of New Mexico, studying Environmental Science. She is currently working as an intern with CIRES Scientist, Audra McClure, at ESRL/GMD Ozone and Water Vapor group. She is working through the Hollings Prep program, designed for the students to apply for the Hollings Program and Scholarship. This program gives students a glimpse into what working for NOAA and being in the science field is like. She has been involved with research of surface ozone in Colorado, including fieldwork, data analysis, and running a mini experiment, all in a short 4-week period.

Sofia said, “I have always been interested in science and ecosystems, but working in air quality has been informative and I have really gotten to see what the research process looks like and how the science that NOAA relates to the public matters, as well.”



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ESRL/Global Systems Division (GSD) - Boulder, CO

Peter Brechner is a recent graduate from the University of Washington, with a B.S. in Meteorology and Climatology. Peter is originally from rainy Seattle, WA and will pursue a Masters in Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma this fall. With around 152 days of sunshine, his spare time consists of seeing friends, hiking, playing outside, and performing comedy. If there is one thing he likes the most, it's taking his knowledge of weather and applying it to historical natural disasters. Peter is known for his hard work and capability to take on any project that has appeared in his path.

Peter learned about the NOAA Boulder internship in 2016 from the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) in Seattle, and this is his third year as an intern. Currently, Peter is working on the Weather Archive and Visualization Environment, a system NWS forecasters use to create quick graphics about the weather for social media and the Web. Every year, Peter looks forward to being a NOAA intern because he has the opportunity to share his work with his coworkers while also getting hands-on experience.



Peter thinks a NOAA internship is an amazing experience for someone who is trying to pursue the science field. To be a good candidate, he recommends to show enthusiasm for their work and be good at both working independently and working in groups. Thanks to the employees and the experiences at NOAA Boulder, in the future he would like to work for NOAA or a similar agency and continue his meteorology research and make people worldwide more resilient to natural disasters.

Pana Reiva, a Denver Public School Intern through the Career Launch Program, will be a senior this fall at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver, CO. Thomas Jefferson hosts gifted programs in various areas of study such as Computer Magnet Program, JROTC, concurrent enrollment, and X-Track courses to prepare students for everything from the Navy to designing computers or designing robots. Pana is exploring her options with volleyball and school, but she is not quite sure what she wants to do in the future and is thinking about something in business. Pana is president of her school's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and participates in the Interact Club and competitive sports. She likes to travel home to Greece every summer, hang out with friends and relax.

Pana made a template for seminar announcements, created a scientific poster about the best practices for making scientific posters, and helped think of ways to display performance metrics. Not only has this been an amazing experience for her in four weeks, but it has also deepened her knowledge about NOAA and the federal environment.

When asked the question if she would recommend this internship, she stated, "I would recommend that if anyone is offered this position, take it in a heartbeat. Even if you are not interested in science, NOAA provides a safe, open environment and a hands-on experience, opening many of my options I never knew I had."



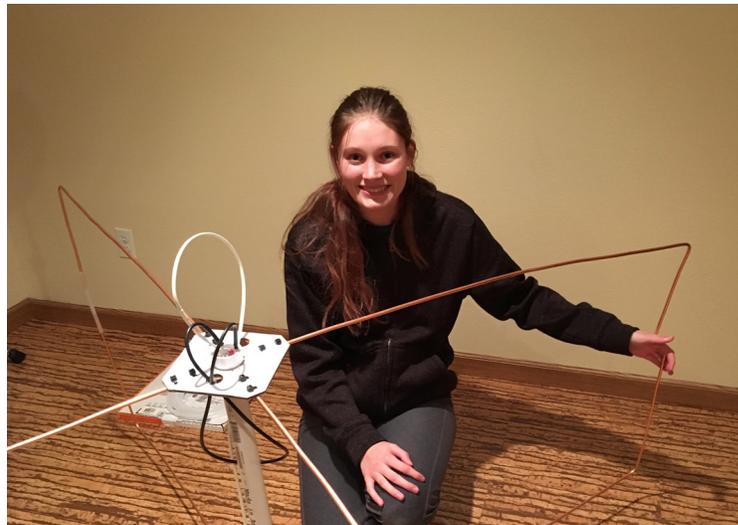
One of the best parts of her internship is learning about all the different jobs and tasks it takes to run a business. Even though she didn't get to work much on the business side, she was very thankful that an internship so amazing like this could open up so many doors.

ESRL/Chemical Sciences Division (CSD) - Boulder, CO

Kyra Slovacsek is an intern working in CSD, Cloud and Aerosol Processes Group, on the PALMS Next Gen instrument, a laser ionization mass spectrometer. She is the primary drafts person and an assistant designer for the new instrument, working with SolidWorks, to both create new components and develop machining solutions for existing ideas. Having refined her skills as a 3D design engineer, she now seeks 'expert-level' licensure for both overall mechanical and vacuum design.

In 2018, Kyra won the prestigious Department of Commerce Excellence in Science and Engineering Award at the Colorado State Science Fair. The prize for the award was an internship at NOAA. Her project, Diurnal Variation and Duration of Meteors Usable for Radio Communications, is a detailed analysis of meteor activity in the upper atmosphere and the usability of this activity for a unique form of longwave radio communication, Meteor Burst Communication. She built a one-of-a-kind radio antenna and designed her own software system to characterize signals reflected off meteor trails.

Kyra says the most important attribute that has made her successful at NOAA is an innate curiosity about the world around her and an openness for learning. She is a Civil Engineering student at the University of Colorado, Boulder and wants to continue working at CSD during her undergraduate years. In the long term,

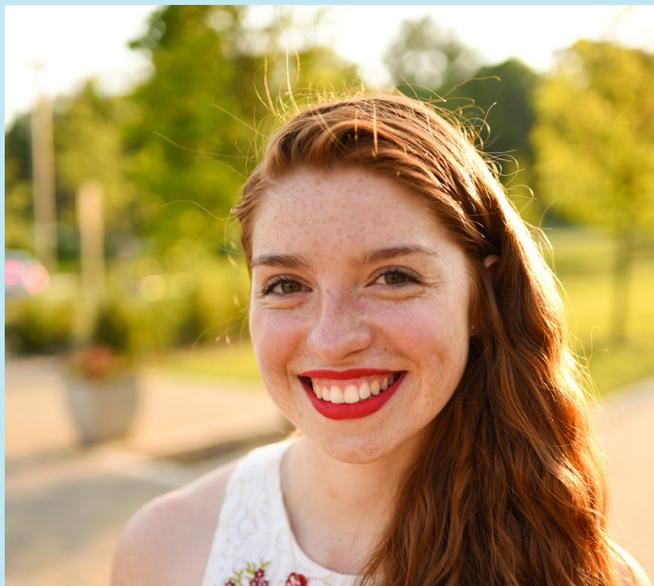


she would like to remain in government work as a structural engineer.

Kyra describes herself as an engineering hobbyist. She is currently designing a multi-stage high power rocket for launch at CU's Octoberfest in September. She is the Captain of the CU Boulder American Institute of Steel Construction Bridge Team, an avid competitive gamer and digital artist and enjoys building custom computers.

Christiana Sasser is from Westminster, MD, currently attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She will be entering her second year in graduate school pursuing a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Christiana is a NOAA/EPP Earth Systems Sciences and Remote Sensing Scholar, so she is required to spend some time completing research in a NOAA lab. At CSD, she is analyzing boundary layer height with respect to varying stability regimes using Doppler lidar. She is excited to work closely with NOAA scientists to learn more about atmospheric conditions and how certain instrumentation can help analyze such conditions. "My main take-aways from this internship will be a better understanding of how Doppler lidar works, more insight into what happens in the atmosphere, and how to better my research work ethic."



She highly recommends a NOAA internship to other students. "The scientific and research community here is phenomenal and pioneering. It's a great learning environment. She said to be a good candidate for a NOAA internship, one should be passionate about asking the questions we don't know the answers to yet."

In the future, she would like to help advance the research in renewable energy. "We need it now more than ever. For the past couple years, I've been analyzing how certain atmospheric conditions affect wind energy and how we could better assess an area for a wind farm. There are so many factors that play a role in the efficiency of such energy."

When she is not in school or researching, Christiana said, "I try to dip my feet in a little bit of everything, from going on random road trips to traveling for scuba diving, from painting and drawing to singing and playing instruments. Mixing in everything makes for quite an adventure."

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National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) - Norman, OK

Arianna Jordan – Evaluating a prototype Warn-on-Forecast system

Arianna is a first-year graduate student at Howard University pursuing a M.S. in Atmospheric Science. NSSL is hosting Arianna for a 12-week internship through the NERTO program. During her first two weeks, she participated in NOAA’s Spring Forecasting Experiment where she worked alongside forecasters, researchers, and modelers from around the world to test new experimental models in real-time, which she says was amazing to witness firsthand. For the remainder of her internship, Arianna is examining the impact of using different observational datasets to verify NSSL’s prototype Warn-on-Forecast system.

Arianna is excited about her project, because there are many variations of observed and forecast hazards to compare, which should yield multiple interesting findings. Though she is at NSSL for the summer, the project will become her Master’s Thesis, so there will be opportunities to dig deeper later.

Arianna highly recommends interning at NOAA, because they accommodate all types of meteorological interests at multiple U.S. locations. She said, “Anyone interested in interning at these locations should definitely look into networking with professionals of similar interests. I was lucky to first experience NSSL from a site visit set up by my school, but those who cannot meet directly with its professionals can still contact them online or attend



conferences. I found potential mentors and employers gravitate toward students who can show they are passionate about the field and eager to learn more.”

Arianna’s future goal is to work at NOAA, where her interests in severe weather field work, risk management, and research would align. She is open to other government agencies and the private sector. She is looking into attending the University of Oklahoma for a PhD. She enjoys hiking, photography, playing video games, spending time with family and friends and storm chasing.

Michael J. Smith - Researching Tornadoic Activity – A Dream Come True



Michael is in the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK. His advisers are Makenzie Krocak and Harold Brooks, NSSL.

From Tuskegee, AL, Michael is a Meteorology major and Mathematics minor at Jackson State University in Mississippi. Michael’s project focuses on classifying tornadic outbreaks by their rarity compared to the climatological distribution at the time of year and location. It’s important background information to test how the “unexpectedness” of an outbreak affects response. What excites him the most about the internship is the opportunity of being in the Great Plains and to work on his dream of researching tornadic activity. Michael learned about the REU opportunity while attending the Student Conference at the 99th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting.

Michael has appreciated the guidance and coding experience he’s gotten during the summer. He recommends internships at NOAA to students so they can get real-world research experience. He believes students must be themselves and that, even though there may be challenges, they can

overcome and accomplish more than they expected! “Failure is a branch of success.”

At Jackson State, Michael has been on the University Cheerleading and Tumbling Squad. During his senior year, he will serve on Jackson State University’s Royal Court as Mister Senior, representing his senior class and University with dignity. Currently, he’s undecided on being a forecaster or a broadcast meteorologist.

Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) - Ann Arbor, MI

Andrea Pugh, Taking the Pulse of the Planet Awardee Interns at GLERL



Andrea is a NOAA Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystem First-Year Ph.D. scholar at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) from Saginaw, MI. She received her B.S. degree in Environmental Science at FAMU as a NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center student. Andrea attended the University of Michigan School of Public Health and earned a Masters of Public Health with a focus in Environmental Quality and Health in 2018.

Since the 5th grade, Andrea has conducted research in environmental science with a focus on lead in soil and drinking water. She was first introduced to NOAA in 2008 as an eighth grader, when she was awarded the NOAA 'Taking the Pulse of the Planet.' In 2010, she was awarded second place at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her biochar research to improve soil quality. She is the first

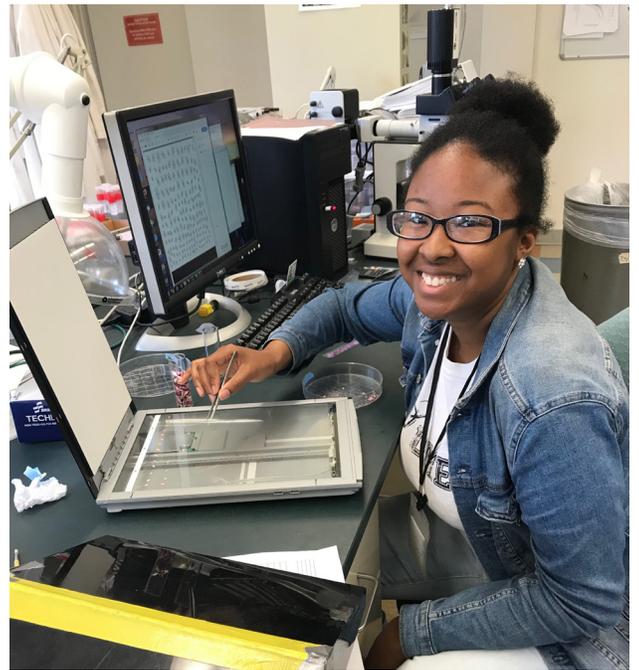
and only student representative from the Saginaw County Science and Engineering Fair to be awarded the namesake of a minor planet at the International Fair. The planet is registered by The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is named 'Andrepugh.'

She is working with Mark Rowe, Ph.D. to complete her NERTO assignment. She is working to model Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Great Lakes using the Finite Volume Coastal Ocean Modeling System to estimate transport and distribution of PFAS in Lake Michigan and Huron from river plumes. She said her time at GLERL will challenge her and expand her skills as a scientist as this is her first experience in modeling. She hopes to work in a position that will allow her to advocate and do research to protect the Great Lakes and its inhabitants.

India Oliver – Investigating the shells of Invasive Dreissenid Mussels

India is a rising senior at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore majoring in Biology. She is an Educational Partnership Program with Minority-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Scholar. At GLERL, she is working with Dr. Ashley Elgin and Dr. Hank Vanderploeg to investigate what the shells of invasive dreissenid mussels can tell us about their population dynamics. She first learned about these mussels and their negative effects on water treatment plants during an environmental program in New Mexico. Interested to learn more, she reached out to her mentor to create a project to further her knowledge on this topic and study mussels in the Great Lakes region, the epicenter of the dreissenid mussel invasion in the United States.

India hopes the internship will help develop good research skills, communicate effectively about invasive species, give her experience with freshwater aquatic organisms, as well as make a contribution to ongoing research at GLERL's Benthos Lab. Her future career plans are to complete her Master's Degree in Marine Biology and obtain a position as a Biologist at NOAA. She is interested in studying how parasites, diseases, and climate change affect aquatic organisms and ultimately wants her research to improve conservation efforts. India highly recommends interning at NOAA, "It allows you to gain experience in your field of interest and introduces you to the workforce and what it is like to be a federal employee." She believes to obtain an internship, students should maintain a 3.0 or above GPA, have interests that align with NOAA's mission and be themselves when writing their essay.



Air Resources Laboratory - Atmospheric Turbulence & Diffusion Division (ARL/ATDD) - Oak Ridge, TN

Brittany Jenio – Atmospheric Profiles using sUAS

Brittany is originally from Raleigh, NC. She received her B.S. in Material Science Engineering in 2016 from North Carolina State University. She worked several years for Collins Aerospace Systems as a Materials Engineer where she specialized in failure investigations and electro-explosive devices used in commercial aircraft fire safety systems. She is currently a M.S. candidate in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

For her summer internship at ARL's ATDD in Oak Ridge, TN, she is working with Drs. Bruce Baker, Temple Lee, and Michael Buban, as well as Mr. Ed Dumas. She said, "My main project is to assist with data collection and processing from ATDD's small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS). I am comparing sUAS data collected during the Land Atmosphere Feedback Experiment (LAFE) near Lamont, OK, with atmospheric temperature and moisture profiles obtained from other platforms deployed during LAFE." Her interests include space flight mechanics, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) mechanics, and boundary layer atmospheric properties.



Corbin Brooks - Analyzing In-Situ Meteorological Variables of sUAS Flights using AlphaSense Sensors

Corbin is studying for a Master's Degree in Atmospheric Sciences at Howard University. He said he is academically driven towards using drone technologies to further understanding of meteorological parameters. As a NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M) Research Fellow, he is completing his NERTO at ARL/ATDD. His mentors are Drs. Bruce Baker and LaToya Myles, and he also works with Mr. Ed Dumas to analyze meteorological variables derived from sUAS flights in Tennessee. Corbin said, "As increasing meteorological applications are found for drone technologies, it is important to increase the body of knowledge to optimize the collection and analysis of meteorological data. We will be mounting an AlphaSense atmospheric sensor to a sUAS to acquire data on the atmospheric temperature, relative humidity, and particulate matter in the environment and to better understand the capabilities of sUAS meteorological data acquisition. The best part of my NERTO internship is working with many bright people at the top of their fields in an engaging environment on a research subject I am passionate about."



NOAA Office of Weather and Air Quality (OWAQ) - Silver Spring, MD

Ayesha Wilkinson – Combining Social Science and Meteorology

Ayesha is currently a second year graduate student in atmospheric science at Howard University in Washington, DC. For her undergrad, she attended Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. “I was born in New York but mostly raised in Atlanta, GA, and I’ve traveled all around! Tropical weather, social science, and flooding are my research interests, so last summer I interned at the National Hurricane Center in Miami working on integrating social science and meteorology.”

She heard about her current internship through social media. “NOAA tweeted about the Pathways Internship Program opportunity, and I took a chance and applied. I’m so glad I did. The internship with OWAQ allows me to work on multiple

projects throughout my internship, learn about various programs within NOAA and gain experience from the most knowledgeable leaders in the field. This summer, my projects are focused on social science and the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative.”

She highly recommends to freshman or graduate students to apply for the Pathways Internship. “NOAA is teaching me skills beyond the classroom that are tremendously helpful in my transition from a student to an early career professional. In a few years I would like to be working for NOAA’s National Weather Service as a forecaster and eventually a warning coordination meteorologist while continuing to conduct research combining social science and meteorology.” Ayesha’s

hobbies are sewing, analyzing tropical cyclones, and grabbing some ramen!



Leah Dubots – Supporting the Earth Prediction Innovation Center

Leah is a graduate student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) where she is working towards her Master’s in Public Policy concentrating in Urban Policy. Her research interests include land use, urban ecology, human interactions with the built environment, and environmental impacts of the built environment. At UMBC, she is a full-time Research Assistant at the School of Public Policy and an Orientation Advisor in the Office of Academic and Pre-Professional Advising.

Prior to UMBC, she attended Harford Community College where she received her Associate’s Degree in Environmental Science then transferred to Towson University, where she earned her Bachelor’s of Science in environmental science and studies concentrating in Policy and Management with a minor in Economics.

Leah is excited to be a Pathways Intern at OWAQ where she is working to support the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC), Hurricane Supplemental and Weather Act. Some of her responsibilities include creating a Participants and Facilitator’s Guide for the EPIC Community Workshop in Boulder, CO, outlining program achievements and providing general program support. Leah’s studies have mostly focused on the legislative process and program evaluation, so she is excited to get experience assisting in program management and implementation. She said working with the OWAQ Team has been nothing short of amazing. “Members of the team have provided support and guidance every step of the way.”

In the future, Leah hopes to have a career in policy analysis or program evaluation, but she is always open to new opportunities. She enjoys reading, hiking,

and kayaking the beautiful Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



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Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) - Princeton, NJ

Maurizia “Maura” De Palma is a rising senior at Kean University in Union, NJ. She is studying Geosciences with a minor in both Sustainability Sciences and Mathematics. In her free time she enjoys reading fantasy and science fiction novels, hiking, and practicing photography.



“One of my professors at school heard about the Cooperative Institute for Modeling the Earth Systems (CIMES) internship and encouraged me to apply, and I’m so glad that I did! Working with GFDL has not only challenged me, but also opened my eyes about the delicate and intertwined nature of the various Earth systems. It is rewarding to creatively represent data that can be used to inform environmental awareness and policies to help make the world a better place.”

“I work with Dr. John Krasting on Assessing Ocean Acidification in Earth System Models. He has been welcoming and motivating the entire time I have been here. I came into this internship not knowing how to code and he spent time teaching me the basics, so I could conduct research on my own. Throughout my time at GFDL, my mentor and I have been running analyses to understand how pH and calcium carbonate are affected through ocean acidification caused by carbon emissions. We have found several interesting results and plan to continue and expand what we have been working on.”

Working at GFDL has inspired Maura to continue her education in hopes of one day conducting research at a similarly prestigious laboratory that can positively impact the world around us. She would recommend other students to intern at NOAA because not only will students be directly involved in a rich learning experience and receive hands on experience in a diverse scientific community, but because they will make connections with their mentors and peers, and create memories to last a lifetime.

Mariela Arceo Madriz is a CIMES Scholar. She is a 5th year DACA student enrolled at the University of California, Merced and is currently majoring in Environmental Engineering. She is originally from East Palo Alto, CA, a small town that is quickly growing. She enjoys karaoke nights with her sisters, climbing trees, exploring new places, and playing soccer.

“I am passionate about understanding natural systems, and I want to be part of a team where I can help implement change towards sustainability. This is one of the reasons that I applied for this internship. I plan to pursue a Master’s Degree in either Environmental Engineering or Earth System Sciences and become an engineer.”

“This internship has allowed me to explore Marine Organic Aerosols (MOA). I am continuously learning about MOA: their emissions, spatial and seasonal distribution, and how uncertainties in their representation can affect climate projections. I am very grateful to have this experience and I would encourage all students interested in STEM to apply. The biggest aspect of this internship has been learning and adapting.”

Mariela said that at GFDL, everyone is friendly and open to ideas. “I have been challenged and encouraged. My mentor, Fabien Paulot, has been patient, insightful, and friendly. He has taught me how to program, understand peer-reviewed papers, and has explained concepts. Moreover, GFDL scientists have opened their doors to me for questions and discussions.”



NOAA Technology Partnerships Office (TPO) - Silver Spring, MD

Pamela Williams is originally from Jackson, MS. She attends the Potomac Job Corps Center in Washington, D.C. for their advanced training program in transportation.

“My internship at the TPO is unique; I work with different team members once a week. The goal is to provide quality exposure to TPO’s programs and general office operations and to ensure I am getting value from each experience. I love everything about my internship. Although the work place is quiet, the staff at TPO get along so well that it reminds me of a home away from home. The most exciting thing about my internship is coming in every week knowing that I will always learn something new and everything that goes into the different programs. I heard about the internship through the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program. I have had experience in the office administration field but never an actual “job.” This internship has given me the job experience I need to support my trade certifications.”

Pamela said she would highly recommend a NOAA internship to other students. “I think the only thing anyone can do is come in willing to work and learn, be honest about your experience and be ready to grow. It’s the only way you can improve.”

She said that she is looking into working for Amtrak as an En Route Coach Cleaner. She also plans to go back to school and open her own not-for-profit organization. Outside of work, she loves anything that involves music.



Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) - Miami, FL



Kelly Nunez Ocasio is spending her summer interning with AOML’s Hurricane Research Division in Miami, FL. Kelly is a NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M) Fellow and, as part of this fellowship, must complete a NOAA Experiential Research and Training Opportunity (NERTO) experience. The project she is working on is a continuation of her PhD research at Pennsylvania State University on African easterly waves and the role of convection on tropical cyclogenesis. “I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work at a NOAA lab and receive incredible input and mentoring from research scientists,” she says. Kelly is no stranger to AOML and to hurricane scientists. She interned there in 2014 when she was an undergraduate through NOAA’s Educational Partnership Program.

Born in Chicago, IL but raised on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico, Kelly’s passion in weather started at a young age. The island was hit by major Hurricane Georges in 1998. As a young child, Kelly can still remember hearing the walls wooing from the strong winds. What was a fear of hurricanes and extreme weather as a child became a passion as a young adult.

Her future plans after completing her PhD are to continue doing research at a research agency. She says that NOAA laboratories are indeed a viable option.

“I would definitely recommend these types of opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students of all cultural and all academic ‘STEM’ backgrounds, as it is in these types of experiences one gains professional skills such as leadership, team work, and communicating science, for example, skills that aren’t necessarily learned in a classroom or sitting behind a computer.”

NOAA Research EEO/Diversity Program Office



Nicole Mason
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ABOUT US

VISION OF EEO OFFICE: To assist the Agency in creating a diverse workforce that is inclusive and free of discriminatory and retaliatory actions.

EEO MISSION: To bring awareness to employees, applicants for employment and management about EEO through the following:

Empowerment: Consultation services to employees, managers and applicants for employment.

Exposure: Recruitment and outreach activities for short and long-term recruitment.

Education: Federal EEO Mandated training, Special Emphasis programs and *Connections* newsletter.

Evaluation: Monitor employment statistics to prepare reports for NOAA, DOC, EEOC and OPM.

CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Connections is published quarterly by the OAR EEO/Diversity Program Office. The purpose is to share accomplishments and to link Diversity, EEO and Science within all of the OAR laboratories and program offices. If you have any newsletter ideas, suggestions and stories to contribute, please email Georgia Madrid - georgia.madrid@noaa.gov.



Website: eoo.oar.noaa.gov

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

EEO COUNSELING:

Federal law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy discrimination), age (40 years and over), physical or mental disability, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for qualified applicants and employees with disabilities or genetic information (GINA), gender identity, and retaliation for participating in activities protected by the civil rights statutes. In addition, NOAA prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Employees, NOAA Corps Officers, or applicants for employment with NOAA who believe that they have been discriminated or retaliated against may contact an EEO Counselor. The Counselor will attempt to resolve the matter and furnish information about filing a complaint of discrimination. To preserve your rights under the law, you must contact an EEO Counselor within 45 CALENDAR DAYS of the date of alleged discrimination.

To initiate EEO Counseling or for more information, contact:

NOAA Office of Inclusion and Civil Rights
Phone: (301) 713-0500 or 1-800-452-6728

Fax: 301-713-0983

Website: www.eeo.noaa.gov

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

NOAA's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program provides mediation and other services and seeks early resolution.

Website: www.wfm.noaa.gov/adr/

NOAA CAREERS

www.careers.noaa.gov/

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:

www.noaa.gov/opportunities/student-opportunities#page=page-1