

restructuring. As a first step, the Council approved a change at its September 2012 meeting in the commissioner succession process. The STAC leadership will now consist of three positions: the commissioner, the future commissioner, and the past commissioner.

“One opportunity to be considered is the relationship between STAC Boards and Committees, the former of which are designed to be cross-cutting,” says Ward. “With the tremendous increase in interest in theme joint sessions at the Annual Meeting, STAC Boards can potentially play a greater role in organizing these theme joint sessions.”

There is also potential for greater interaction with other AMS commissions. During her tenure as STAC commissioner, Mary Cairns organized the first-ever

commissioners meeting prior to the AMS Council meeting in September 2012.

“It was clear from this meeting that there are opportunities for the commissions to work closely together,” Ward comments.

Finally, with the recent establishment of the AMS chief editor of the *Glossary of Meteorology*, and with the STAC commissioner serving as the assistant chief editor, the STAC will now take on a responsibility for reviewing proposed changes and new terms for the *Glossary*.

Ward looks forward to this exciting time for STAC, with lots of opportunities to strengthen its important role in the Society.

—RACHEL S. THOMAS-MEDWID

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Roger Wakimoto**, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), has been named by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to serve as assistant director for the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO).

Wakimoto will lead a directorate with an annual budget of approximately \$1 billion in support of core research in the atmospheric, polar, Earth, and ocean sciences. He assumes his new position in Washington, D.C., this month.



**Roger Wakimoto**

A geophysicist with expertise in tornadoes, thunderstorms, and other types of severe weather, Wakimoto has served as NCAR director since 2010. Previously, he headed up NCAR’s Earth Observing Laboratory, which oversees instrument development and national and interna-

tional field projects. Before that, he was a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles, and also chaired the Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

As the principal source of federal funding for university-based fundamental research in the geosciences, GEO addresses the nation’s need to understand, predict, and respond to environmental events and changes to use Earth’s resources wisely.

Basic research in the geosciences advances scientific knowledge of Earth’s environment, including resources such as water, energy, minerals, and biological diversity. GEO-supported research also advances the ability to predict natural phenomena of economic and human significance, such as climate change, weather, earthquakes, fish-stock fluctuations, and disruptive events in the solar–terrestrial environment.

GEO manages facilities and an academic research fleet, including the newly launched *R/V Sikuliaq* and the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center, which was dedicated last month.

Wakimoto has written or coauthored more than 100 peer-reviewed papers in meteorology and has taken part in a dozen major field projects in the United States and overseas. He has served on numerous committees, panels, and boards for NSF, The National Academies, AMS, and other organizations. His numerous awards and honors include a scientific and technical achievement award from the Environmental Protection Agency for observations of air pollution and the AMS Meisinger Award in recognition of his contributions to understanding mesoscale weather events.

**Paul Williams**, from the Department of Meteorology and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science at the University of Reading, has been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize for his research in Earth, ocean, and atmospheric sciences.

Philip Leverhulme prize recipients are judged to be truly outstanding in their fields, with records of proven achievement as well as telling promise for the

future. The prize, awarded by the Leverhulme Trust, is worth £70,000 and is used to advance the recipient's research.

Williams's research concerns small-scale features in the atmosphere and ocean, which play a crucial role in weather and climate and can have significant societal



**Paul Williams**

and economic impacts. An example is clear-air turbulence, which causes flights to be bumpy and frequently injures airline passengers. Williams has also developed a new mathematical technique for stepping weather and climate models forward in time, with the potential for improved forecasts.

In his career to date, Williams has published more than 30 papers. He is currently an editor of *Geophysical Research Letters*. He is a Royal Society University Research Fellow and has been described by the *Sunday Times* as one of the best young scientists working in Britain today. When not undertaking research, Williams teaches Reading students "Numerical Methods for Environmental Science" as part of the B.Sc. meteorology and climate degree course, and supervises Ph.D. students.

**AccuWeather, Inc.** marked 50 years of operation in November by launching a year-long recognition of the company's anniversary through a series of

events, as well as retrospective stories and videos on [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com). Founded in 1962 by Joel N. Myers, AccuWeather has grown from a weather company providing forecasts for businesses into an international weather media company.

AccuWeather serves a worldwide audience from its headquarters in State College, Pennsylvania, and its Severe Weather Center in Wichita, Kansas. AccuWeather provides hourly forecasts for more than 2.7 million locations worldwide, reaching consumers via smart phones, tablets, free wired and mobile internet sites, and smart appliances, as well as via radio, television, and newspapers. Customized solutions to media, business, government, and institutions are also a key part of AccuWeather's services.

Under Myers' leadership, AccuWeather was the first to introduce the 7-day, 10-day, 15-day hourly, and, most recently, the 25-day hourly forecast. AccuWeather is noted for patented weather measures such as the RealFeel Temperature, as well as dozens of lifestyle forecasts that show how the weather will affect travel, health, hobbies, sports, and more.

AccuWeather has built a comprehensive portfolio of partnerships with major digital equipment manufacturers worldwide and leading manufacturers of tablets and next-generation PCs. The company supplies weather content to hundreds of newspapers, including *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. AccuWeather's forecasts and content appear on more than 72,000 third-party websites, and its radio broadcasts are heard on nearly 750 stations.

## LIVING ON THE REAL WORLD

[Editor's Note: The following post is excerpted from William Hooke's blog, *Living on the Real World* ([www.livingontherealworld.org/](http://www.livingontherealworld.org/)). Hooke is director of the AMS Policy Program.]

### **GOP and Dems Analyze the Election . . . (Compare with the NTSB)**

(Originally posted 12 November 2012)

"Any landing you walk away from is a good one."—pilots' adage

In the aftermath of the November 6th elections, Republicans are asking themselves what went wrong. Democrats don't seem to be going through such an evaluation . . . at least not to the same degree. (Perhaps they shouldn't be so complacent.) It's instructive to

observe how both political parties are going about any soul-searching, and to compare their self-examination with (1) current public critiques of the Hurricane Sandy emergency response and recovery process, and (2) the way the National Transportation Safety Board investigates aviation accidents.

Let's dig a little deeper.

Republican leaders are offering views right and left on the reasons for losing the White House for another four years despite the country's economic woes, which have led them to be optimistic for