

University of Oklahoma Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society
October Minutes

Officers Meeting 10/6 6:30-7:45:

We began our October 6 officers meeting with planning our October 13 meeting. We had a last minute glitch with a graduate student speaker that we had asked to talk about our new GIS program, but we have approached Melissa Brown and Matt Collier who have agreed to speak. We discussed basic organizational tasks: food, agenda, and sign up sheets for committees. We discussed the need for more promotional 'Weatherologist' T-Shirts due to popular demand. We also need these in time for the Weather Fest. In addition, we discussed the possibility of a group for chalking for Weather Fest.

Officers meeting 10/13 6:30-7:40:

At the October 13th meeting, we invited speakers Melissa Brown and Matt Collier from the newest major in our department, GIS. They explained the importance of GIS to meteorology and other areas. GIS is a geographic information systems integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. 80 -90% of government information has a spatial component, and meteorological data is inherently spatial. GIS allows for the overlay of many layers including topographical, land use, and vegetation layers. It can combine arial image with agricultural image and maps of locations of earthquake hazards to see what buildings may lie inside an explosion buffer zone. GIS has applications in areas of agricultural, hydrological, ecosystem modeling and analyses, atmospheric and climate modeling at a variety of scales, and prediction risk decision-making and site selection analysis. The current program is small and newly accredited with the academic unit closely aligned with the research unit. There is flexibility in the program, hands on work, and interaction with other students, faculty and professionals in the area.