

TIPS FOR STARTING YOUR JOURNEY AS A METEOROLOGIST

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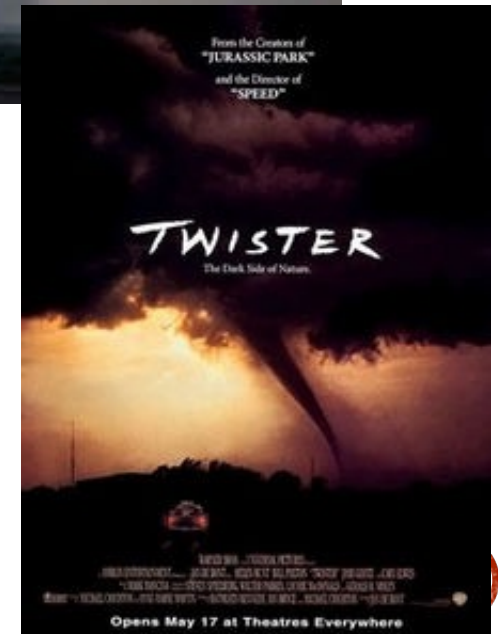
OVERVIEW

- What may your *journey* to becoming a meteorologist involve?
 - Efforts in high school (and before)
 - Activities while attending a university
 - Preparing for graduation and beyond
- Summary and Lessons Learned



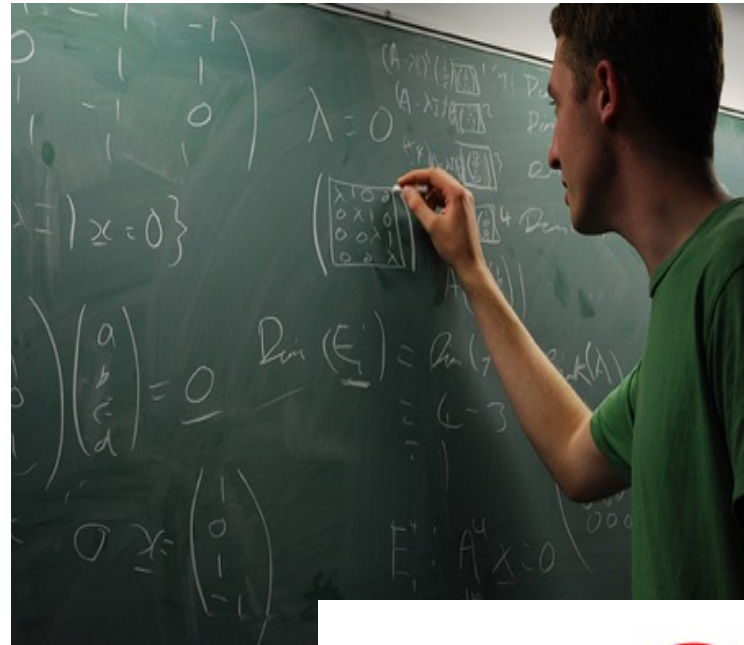
WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN METEOROLOGY?

- Experiencing firsthand a spectacular weather event!
- Exposure to the subject in school or some extra-curricular activity
- Visual images (e.g., television, movies, internet, etc.)



PHASE 1: WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL COURSES SHOULD I TAKE IF I WANT TO BECOME A METEOROLOGIST?

- Pack in as much math as you can!
- Science courses such as those in chemistry and physics would be useful.
- Continue to work on writing and speaking skills
- Computer science skills are increasingly in demand



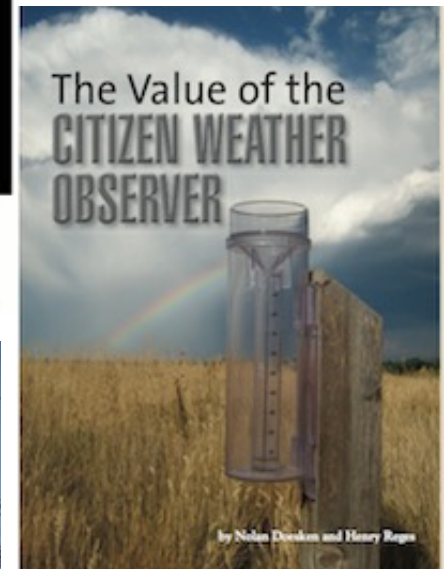
MATH, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH/SPEECH COURSES PROVIDE:

- Basic concepts and knowledge needed in an undergraduate meteorology program.
- An introduction to important skills used through life:
 - Critical thinking
 - Problem solving
 - Communication



WHEN POSSIBLE, GET INVOLVED IN METEOROLOGY ACTIVITIES!

- Become a severe storm spotter (NWS)
- Set up a weather station at home
- Become a CoCoRaHS observer in your community
- Tour a NWS office or television station
- Join a local AMS/NWA chapter if possible



MAKING THAT COLLEGE DECISION

- Identify those colleges with undergraduate meteorology programs
- Contact departments for information about their programs
- Visit institutions that you are interested in attending
- Focus on faculty and program, not logo or location



WHAT QUESTIONS TO ASK A UNIVERSITY ADVISOR IN THE METEOROLOGY PROGRAM

- Does program meet the standards established by the federal government (NWS) and AMS?
- Does the program teach elective courses, and if so what areas do they emphasize?



WHY ARE THESE UNIVERSITY VISITS IMPORTANT?

- Understand the program and resources available:
 - Engaged learning
 - Faculty-mentored research opportunities
 - Internships
 - Study Abroad
- Is this the right fit for the student?



OTHER ISSUES THAT COME UP DURING YOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE METEOROLOGY ADVISOR

- Ask questions about the job market and what are recent graduates doing?
 - Federal gov't (NWS)
 - State agency
 - Graduate school
 - Private sector
 - Broadcast meteorology
 - Air Force



FINAL ISSUES BEFORE UNIVERSITY SELECTION

- Costs related to higher education continue to increase...Is there ways to minimize costs?
 - Are there scholarships?
 - Community college (2+2 plans)
 - Student loans?
 - Decisions made by those paying for college



SCHOLARSHIPS



PHASE 2: WHAT TO DO WHILE WORKING ON THAT METEOROLOGY DEGREE

- You have made that college decision...now what?
- Each year, we graduate about 750 students with a B.S. degree in meteorology.
- What do you need in your portfolio to earn a job after graduation?



FIRST STEPS IN TRANSITION TO COLLEGE LIFE...

- Meet early and frequently with your undergraduate meteorology advisor:
 - Be organized about your future (e.g., careers)
 - Develop a 4-year academic roadmap of courses
 - Discuss activities outside the classroom



TENTATIVE FOUR-YEAR PLAN – Beginning Summer 2012
ROANOKE IDS/Elementary Education PROGRAM

TENTATIVE PLAN		TENTATIVE PLAN		TENTATIVE PLAN			
FRESHMAN YEAR		SOPHOMORE YEAR		JUNIOR YEAR 2012-2013		SENIOR YEAR 2013-2014	
Fall Semester (VWCC)		Fall Semester (VWCC)		Fall Semester 2012		Fall Semester 2013	
ENG 111	3 Hrs	ENG 241	3 Hrs	VWCC Additional hours based on concentration**		EARLY FIELD EXPERIENCE	
HIS 121	3 Hrs	GEO 210	3 Hrs				
MTH 151	3 Hrs	MUS 121	3 Hrs			EDUC 410	3 Hrs
PSY 200	3 Hrs	ITE 115	3 Hrs	RU EDSP 451	3 Hrs	EDRD 414	3 Hrs
BIO 101 w/lab	4 Hrs	See Sci Elec/ recommend: ECO 201 or 202	3 Hrs	RU EDEF 320	3 Hrs	EDUC 425	3 Hrs
*SDV 100	1 Hr					EDUC 430	6 Hrs
Total	17 Hrs	Total	15 Hrs	Total	6 Hrs	Total	15 Hrs
Spring Semester (VWCC)		Spring Semester (VWCC)		Spring Semester 2013		Spring Semester 2014	
ENG 112	3 Hrs	HLT	2.5 Hrs	RU EDSP 462	3 Hrs	EDUC 450	12 Hrs
HIS 122 or 112	3 Hrs	ART 101	3 Hrs	RU EDSP 472	3 Hrs		
MTH 152	3 Hrs	PLS 211	3 Hrs	RU EDRD 314	3 Hrs		
BIO 102 w/lab	4 Hrs	CST 100	3 Hrs	RU EDUC 310	3 Hrs		
PHI 101	3 Hrs	See Sci Elec/ recommend: HIS 111, 112, 101, or 102	3 Hrs				
*EDU 100	1 Hr						
Total	17 Hrs	Total	14.5 Hrs	Total	12 Hrs	Total	12 Hrs
Summer Semester		Summer Semester 2012		Summer Semester 2013		Summer Semester 2014	
		RU HUMD 300	3 Hrs	RU EDSP Elec	3 Hrs		
				RU ENGL 463	3 Hrs		
		RU EDSP 361	3 Hrs	RU EDUC 304	3 Hrs		

*Required for Associates Degree; EDU 100 will substitute for the 50 clock hours of experience, curriculum subject to change based on local, state, and national accreditation standards. **Advisor works w/ each student on the concentration requirements.

ADDING VALUE TO YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE

- Things to do that could enhance your education and help you land a job!
 - Volunteer to be a weather observer
 - Forecast for the local college paper
 - Identify a potential internship opportunity
 - Work with a faculty mentor on a research project

Whatever you get involved with (paid or not), make sure you show up and give 120% effort!



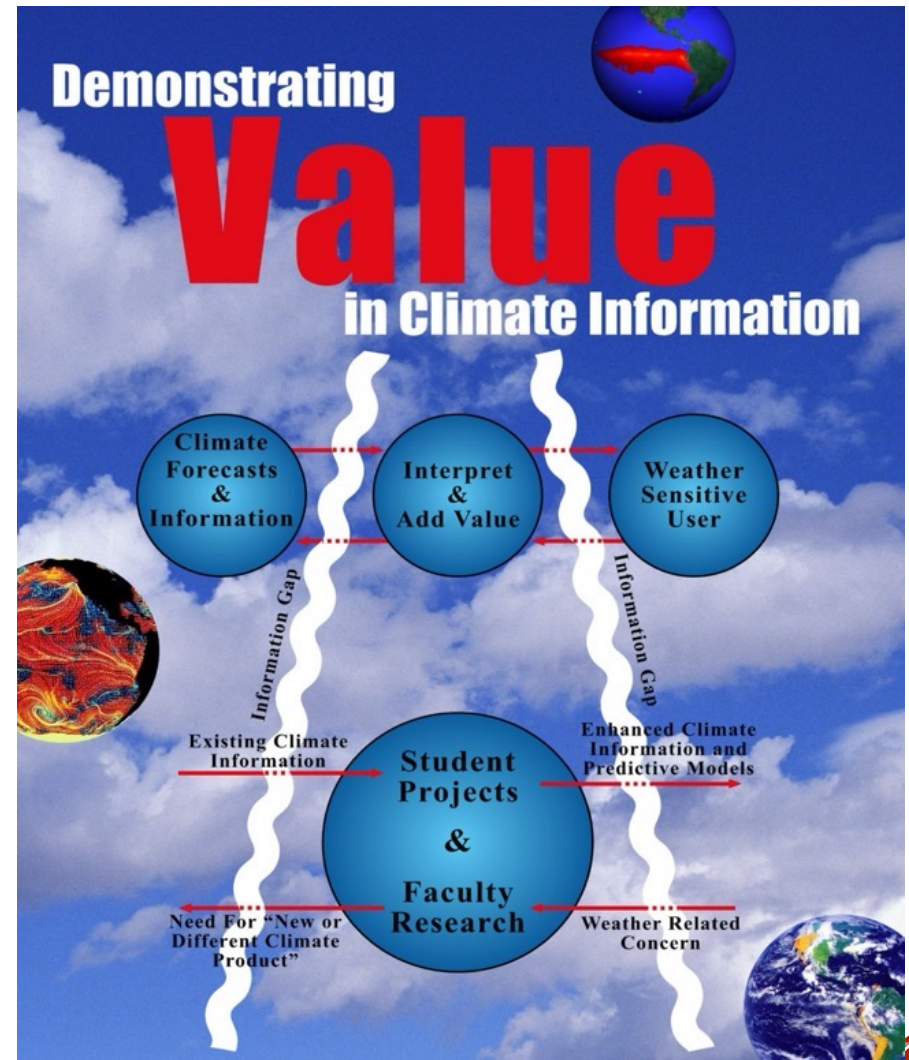
HOW WILL YOU SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM OTHER METEOROLOGISTS WHEN YOU GRADUATE?

- Identify career interests early!
- With the help of your advisor, identify potential internships in your area of interest
- Make contact with these individuals
- Send them needed information (e.g., resume, cover letter)



WHY ARE INTERNSHIPS SO IMPORTANT?

- Give you a preview into a potential career
- Work in a mentored “real-world” situation
- Earn academic credit
- Provide greater insights into job market
- Potential job opportunities may exist after internship



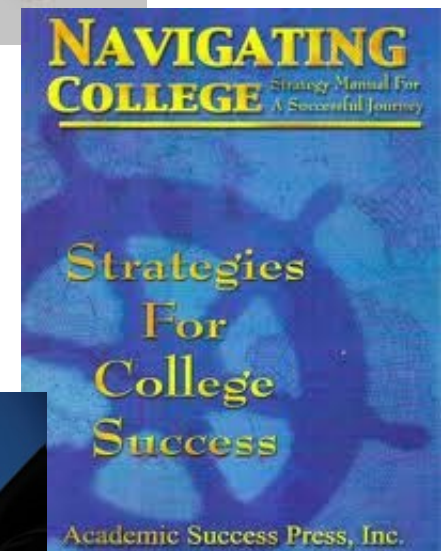
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GRADUATE SCHOOL?

- Complete a research-related course
- Discuss graduate school with advisors and MET faculty members 1 to 2 years prior to graduation
- Take GRE, line up reference letters, visit potential programs and fill out application(s).

A close-up photograph of an application form. The form is titled "Application Form" and is divided into sections. The visible section is "Part 1. General Information" with the instruction "Please review all questions carefully before preparing your application." Below this, there are fields for "Position (Job Title)", "Name (Last, First, and Middle Initial)", "E-Mail Address", "Mailing Address (Include apartment number, if any)", "City", "County", and "State". There is also a section for "Application Type" with checkboxes for "Are you currently a permanent State of Washington employee?", "Are you currently a permanent employee, check application type (See definition)", "Open Competitive (A)", "HEP Employee (H)", and "Transfer".

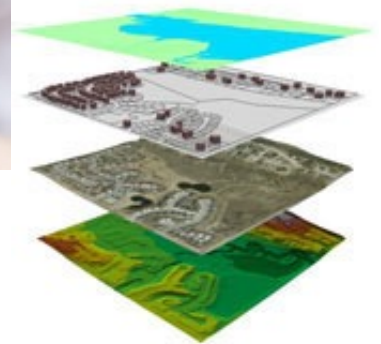
YOUR COLLEGE YEARS ARE JUST PART OF THE JOURNEY!

- Four years goes by fast!
- Keep setting and adjusting life/career goals!
- The more that you know about what is out there, the more likely you will be successful upon graduation.



PHASE 3: PREPARING FOR COLLEGE GRADUATION AND BEYOND!

- Start preparing for graduation as you enter your junior year.
- What elective courses fit your interests?
- Is there a “minor” or certificate program that could give you a leg up?
 - Computer science
 - Communication
 - Business
 - GIS



THE VALUE OF CLOSE TIES WITH YOUR FACULTY ADVISORS AND OTHER METEOROLOGY FACULTY

- Help identify internship opportunities
- They have links to folks in the weather/climate community...potential jobs!
- Unlike other fields, meteorology majors must search for jobs



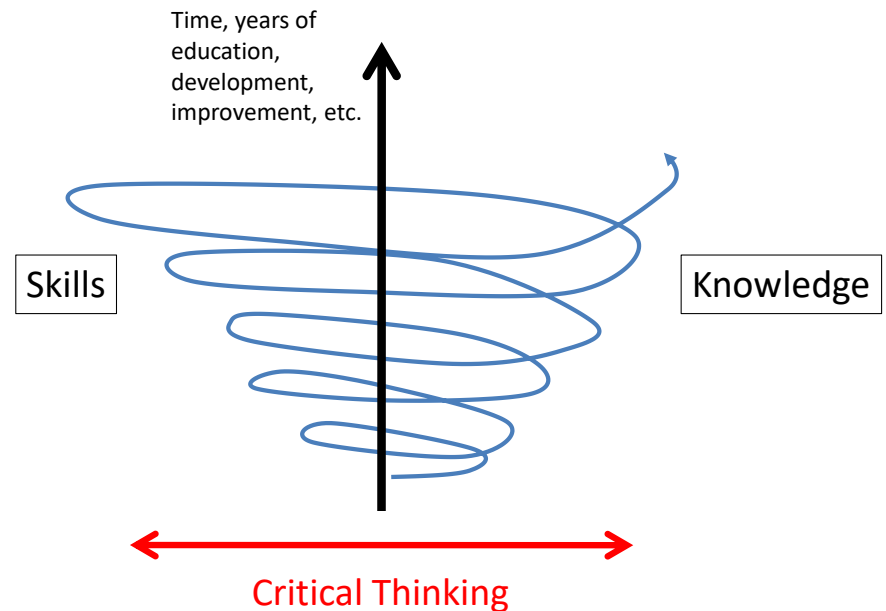
DEVELOPING THAT PROFESSIONAL SIDE

- Join the American Meteorological Society and/or the National Weather Association
 - Work in the local chapter
 - Attend/participate in regional/national meetings
 - Become an active participant in committees—demonstrate *leadership!*
 - Be a life-long learner!



REMEMBER IT'S KNOWLEDGE + SKILLS!

- What you learn through your 4-year degree is important, but skills also need to be developed!
 - Critical Thinking
 - Creativity
 - Communication
 - Problem Solving
 - Technical



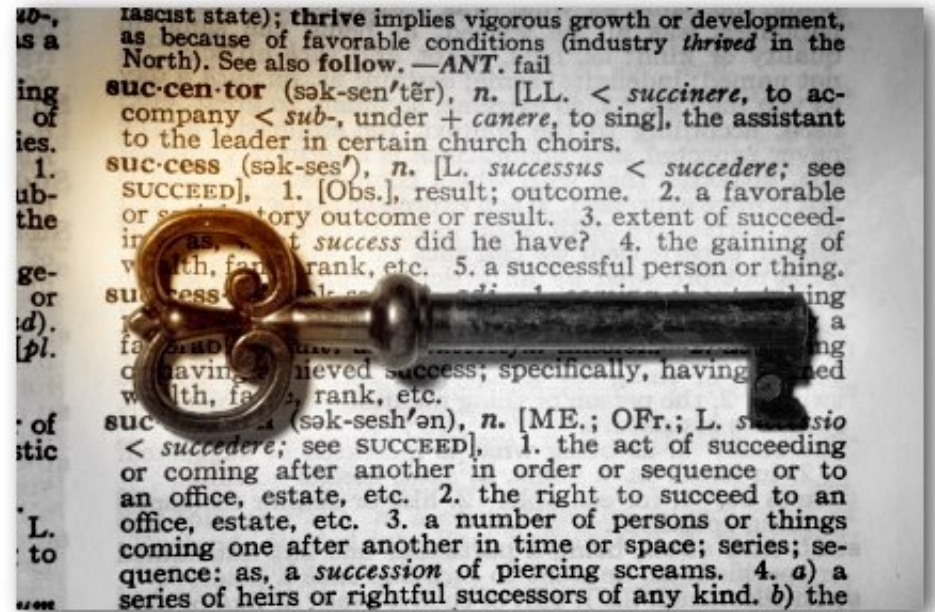
JOB SEARCH

- Throw out a wide net!
 - Hydrologists
 - Environmental scientist
 - Transportation systems
 - Markets (energy & agriculture)
 - Insurance
- Your title may not say “meteorologist” and that is okay!
- Sometimes it is just getting in the door!



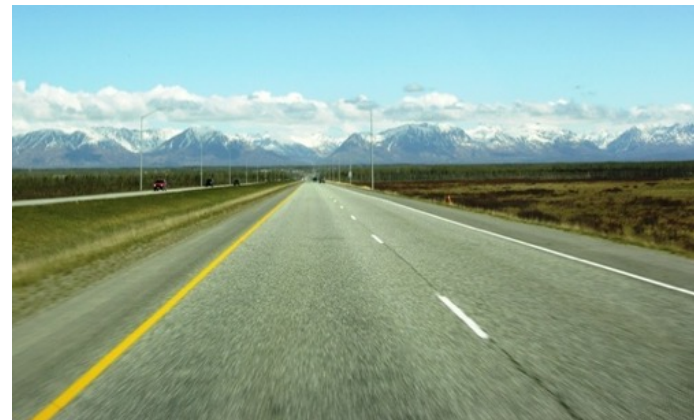
KEEP ENHANCING YOUR PORTFOLIO!

- Take additional courses
- Continue with professional development—skills
- Stay abreast of the field—where are contributions being made?
- Work and have access to today's/tomorrow's technology



LESSONS LEARNED

- Your *passion* for meteorology will sustain you through difficult coursework!
- Set *goals* for yourself and work toward them!
- Keep *active and involved* (participate in activities outside the classroom— “citizen scientist”)
- *Reflect* on your experiences
- Be *patient* when looking for employment
- Continue to sharpen *skills*
- Remember, it’s a *journey!*



THANK YOU!..QUESTIONS??

