



Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

Mail Box: P. O. Box 1293, Greenbelt, MD 20768, USA

Web Page: <http://www.coaaweb.org>

Editor: Chenxi Wang

About the COAA

COAA is a member-led, all-inclusive, non-profit, professional association supporting its members and promoting excellence in oceanic and atmospheric sciences and related activities. Members have many opportunities to share information, news, studies and concerns related to the fields of oceanic and atmospheric sciences through board work, submitting correspondence or articles to the COAA Newsletter, leading workshops and making presentations at the Annual Meetings, making contributions to the COAA website, and networking with people in a wide variety of careers (from well-known senior professionals to young environmental enthusiasts).

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Message from the New President

Happy Year of the Pig - 2019!

It is a great honor for me to serve as President of the Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (COAA) this year. As a networking organization, COAA facilitates professional contact among Chinese-American scholars in the field of oceanic and atmospheric sciences. COAA promotes the exchange of scientific ideas and research results among senior and young scientists. To fulfill this mission goal, each year COAA sponsors a series of activities including seminars and workshops, mid-autumn moon festival picnic, Ping Pong tournament, AMS and/or AGU receptions, and international conferences on oceanic and atmospheric sciences. As President of 2019, I will continue to promote COAA values and, together with the COAA Board members, organize traditional activities that will forge further growth among the COAA family.

A major event that COAA is sponsoring in 2019 is the 8th International Conference on Atmosphere, Ocean, and Climate Change (ICAOCC), to be held on July 10-12 in Nanjing, China. The ICAOCC conference, which convenes every three years, is a major gathering event of Chinese-American oceanic and atmospheric scientists and their international colleagues. The ICAOCC is a premier platform for meteorologists and climatologists from around the world to communicate their research, explore new technologies, inspire new strategies, and identify opportunities for future collaborations with their peers. The 8th ICAOCC Conference focuses on climate change sciences. With severe weather and extreme climate events having become more frequent under the global climate change scenario, ICAOCC will bring together the necessary expertise to understand the impact of climate change and seek scientific solutions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Although my COAA Presidency begins in 2019, I had the opportunity to work closely with the 2018 Board members when planning the 8th ICAOCC Conference last year. During this period, I witnessed the spirit and hard work of these young members of the COAA Board, and their enthusiasm for serving the COAA community. Thanks to the dedicated work and contributions of this young generation of oceanic and atmospheric scholars, I see a promising and bright future for COAA. I am excited that nearly the entire 2018 Board are staying on in 2019. It is my privilege to continue to work with them throughout the year to serve the COAA community.

Together we will make COAA a vibrant and rewarding community!

Cheng-Zhi Zou
President of COAA (2019)

Call for nomination/volunteer of COAA Spotlight

“COAA Spotlight” is a column featuring highly successful Chinese scholars and their groups working in the atmospheric, oceanographic or land sciences. This column is designed to share successful senior scientists’ insights and experiences with the COAA members and friends (especially for early-career scientists or students). We now call for the nomination/volunteer for the COAA newsletter to be released in June 2018. You are more than welcome to inform us if you want to be interviewed, or nominate your candidate. Although scientists working aboard with international recognitions will be considered with higher priority, scientists from mainland China, Taiwan, Hongkong, and Macau are also highly encouraged to participate. Please send your recommendations to news@coaaweb.org.

COAA 2018 AGU Banquet

December 10th 2018 Monday– To foster friendships and promote international collaborations among fellow Chinese professionals, COAA established the tradition in hosting annual **AGU** Reception. Following a successful COAA AMS reception banquet in Austin 2018, COAA hosted the COAA-AGU Dinner Reception on Monday, December 10th, 2018 starting at 6:30 pm in Tony Cheng’s Mongolian Restaurant in Washington DC. This year’s COAA banquet promises to mark many firsts. As the first COAA AGU-banquet held in Washington DC, more than **150** participants attended the reception, including many new COAA members, who joined COAA onsite of the banquet. This event was the first one to be hosted by COAA Head Quarter, COAA South California Chapter, COAA Colorado Chapter, and COAA Northwest Chapter together.



Dr. Mian Chin welcomed COAA members and friends to Washington DC.

The Reception was well attended by scholars from the U.S. and delegates from China. On behalf of the COAA Board 2018, COAA President **Dr. Mian Chin** first greeted the audience with Happy New Year greetings. She highlighted the major activities of COAA Headquarter in 2018 and introduced the new COAA board members. **Dr. Chin** also introduced COAA's next president, **Dr. Cheng-Zhi Zou** from NOAA, which marked the successful presidency transfer of COAA Board 2018 to COAA Board 2019. The president of COAA Northwest Chapter, **Dr. Muyin Wang** from University of Washington, the president of COAA Colorado Chapter, **Dr. Hanli Liu** from NCAR, the president of COAA South California Chapter, **Dr. Baijun Tian** from JPL, gave brief reports on recent activities and achievements of COAA Chapters. On behalf of the COAA Northwest Chapter Board, **Dr. Muyin Wang** also expressed gratitude to great support for COAA Head Quarter and other COAA Chapters.



Dr. Muyin Wang (left), Dr. Hanli Liu (middle), and Dr. Baijun Tian (right) summarized recent activities of COAA Chapters.

Following their speeches, **Dr. William Lau**, former President of COAA Head Quarter, gave stimulating and enlightening speeches about the history of COAA. **Dr. Lau** emphasized that the achievements of COAA are all thanks to the hard work of everyone in COAA. Specifically, he mentioned several leading lights including COAA’s founding father, **Prof. Wu Jin**, COAA’s early year presidents, including **Dr. Paul Hwang**, **Dr. Norden Huang**, **Dr. William Lau**, **Dr. Frank Pao**, **Dr. Tsann Wang Yu**, **Dr. Hsing-Hua (Eddie) Shin**, etc. They are the most admirable people in COAA’s new era, and everyone in COAA should remember their great contribution.

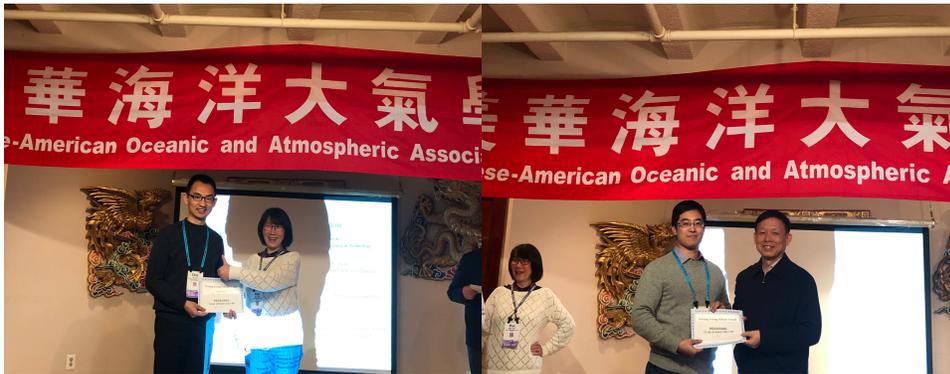


Dr. William Lau introduced COAA's History



Dr. Cheng-Zhi Zou introduced the 8th COAA International Conference.

COAA will host the 8th COAA International Conference on Atmosphere, Ocean, and Climate Change (ICAOCC) this year in Nanjing, China. **Dr. Cheng-Zhi Zou** also gave a comprehensive introduction of the motivation, scope, and logistics of this conference.



Two winners of 2018 COAA Yuxiang Young Scholar Award: **Dr. Chao Liu** (left) and **Dr. Lu Xu** (right)

former deputy director of the China Meteorological Administration, **Dr. Mian Chin**, and **Dr. Baijun Tian** congratulated the prize winner, highlighted their special contributions, and anticipated further achievements in their own fields. Winners of 2018 COAA Yuxiang Young Scholar Award include: **Dr. Zhan Su** (JPL/Caltech), **Dr. Chao Liu** (Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology), **Dr. Lu Xu** (Caltech), **Dr. Jiachuan Yang** (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), and **Dr. Ran Zhao** (University of Alberta).

This year, COAA and Piesat Information Technology Co. Ltd. (PIEST) honored five young researchers with 2018 COAA Yuxiang Young

Scholar Award. **Dr. Xiaofeng Xu**,



Major attendees of the COAA 2018 AGU banquet.

The Reception lasted for 3 hours and finished at 9:30pm. All the participants enjoyed the delicious Chinese food and wines. They met new and old friends, and sent the Happy New Year greetings to each other. All the participants expressed great interest on the COAA's activities.

COAA 2019 New Year Luncheon

February 9th, 2019 Saturday – COAA hosted the annual Chinese New Year Luncheon at Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia, MD. This is a long-term tradition of COAA headquarter on celebrating the Chinese New Year and on recognizing of COAA’s achievements during the past year. A total of 21 COAA past, current, and future board members attended this event. During the luncheon, COAA 2018 president, **Dr. Mian Chin**, summarized the major achievements COAA had made during 2018, including the first COAA Young Scientist Workshop. **Dr. Chin** also acknowledged the contributions from COAA board members and continuous support from COAA members and sponsors. She also formally presented COAA’s 2019 boards, which will be led by president **Dr. Cheng-Zhi Zou** from NOAA and president-elect, **Dr. Zhibo Zhang** from UMBC.



COAA 2019 New Year Luncheon

Dr. Mian Chin welcomed the new board members and presented the outstanding contribution awards to the retired COAA board members. **Dr. Huisheng Bian** reported the revenue and spending of COAA’s budget during the past year afterwards. The luncheon attendees enjoyed joyful reunion as well as delicious gourmets.

COAA Spotlight: Dr. Zhibo Zhang



Dr. Zhibo Zhang (张智博) is an associate professor in the Physics Department of the University of Maryland – Baltimore County (UMBC). **Dr. Zhang** received his B.S. degree from the School of Atmospheric Sciences of Nanjing University, China in 2001. He received both his Master’s. and Ph.D. degrees from the Texas A&M University. In 2009, **Dr. Zhang** joined the Goddard Earth Sciences & Technology Center of UMBC while working onsite at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). He became a faculty in the Physics Department of UMBC in 2011. **Dr. Zhang** has a broad spectrum of research interests, from fundamental light scattering and radiative transfer to satellite remote sensing and atmospheric radiation, and from climate modeling and evaluation to big data and machine learning. **Dr.**

Zhang has received several awards, including the Young Scientist award by the International Radiation Commission (IRC) and NASA New (Early Career) Investigator Program Award. **Dr. Zhang** was also a former secretary of COAA from 2009 to 2011.

Q: How did you decide to study atmospheric/ocean science?

Zhang: My parents chose the major for me when I applied for college. At that time, my hometown in Jilin province along with many other parts of China was in deep economic recession. My parents hoped to choose a major for me that would lead to a well-paid job and easy life. For some mystical reasons, they thought “Atmospheric Sciences” could do that. During my undergraduate years, I didn’t like Atmospheric Sciences at all but was too lazy and dawdling to change my major. I started to like Atmospheric Sciences, in particular, atmospheric radiation and remote sensing, only until when I became a graduate student of **Dr. Ping Yang** in Texas A&M and was introduced to the Maxwell’s equation and radiative transfer question. I found myself deeply attracted to the physics behind these beautiful equations. I thought to myself, ok, if I have to make a career out of Atmospheric Sciences, I better focus on atmospheric radiation and remote sensing.

Q: Who influenced you the most in your professional life and why?

Zhang: There are too many to name. My Ph.D. advisor **Dr. Ping Yang** introduced me to the fields of atmospheric radiation, light scattering and radiative transfer. He also gave me the most rigorous training in fundamental physics, so rigorous that I can find a position in a Physics department. My postdoc advisor **Dr. Steven Platnick** gave me the opportunity to work in the “holy land” of satellite remote sensing, the Goddard Space Flight Center where I made so many good friends that I know will last a lifetime. At UMBC, I have a small and very united academic family that consists of my colleagues, students and postdocs. I’m so dependent on my students now that I won’t be able to do any research without them. Last but certainly not least, my wife, who is very good at reminding me to be humble all the time.

Q: How are you interacting with Chinese-speaking scientists in Asia?

Zhang: I always want to promote the interactions between Chinese Americans and *Chinese-speaking scientists in Asia*. It is why I joined the COAA once I heard about it. I served as the secretary of COAA from about 2009 to 2011 to help the COAA president then—**Dr. Fuzhong Weng** and **Dr. Charles Sun**. I helped organized many COAA events involving both local COAA members and friends from China.

Q: What are your perspectives for future direction in our field?

Zhang: One thing for sure is that the competition for funding will be even harder. But seriously, I'm a little worried about the future of the Chinese students in U.S. who study remote sensing or other "sensitive" fields. It is obvious that the large environment is becoming more and more challenging for these students and also for us. I'm so glad we have COAA. It's never more important than now to unite in this family and work together for a better future for ourselves and the next generation.

Q: What are your major advices to young scientists in our field?

Zhang: Here are some random thoughts 1) Communication skill is extremely important. 2) Grants will come and go like a wind; your reputation will stay with you the whole life. 3) It is more important to find an interesting and promising research direct during the PhD study than to publish several papers on different topics.

COAA-SCC Lunar New Year Luncheon

The annual COAA-SCC Chinese New Year Luncheon was held on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at Chang'an Restaurant to celebrate the Year of the Pig. About 50 scholars, family members and friends attended this event including several distinguished guests such as Chinese consular official **Mr. Lv**, **Prof. Yuk Yung**, **Prof. Yongkang Xue**, **Dr. Lee-Leung Fu**, **Dr. Jonathan Jiang**, **Dr. Hui Su**, and **Dr. Rong Yue**. The current president of COAA-SCC, **Dr. Baijun Tian**, delivered a new year address, followed by warm wishes from Chinese consular official **Mr. Lv**. It was always exciting to hear **Dr. Jiang's** recital of **Prof. Yung's** poems. In addition to delicious Chinese buffet dishes, the event was also filled with fun activities, such as raffle prizes for red envelopes, COAA-SCC mugs and Amazon echo, riddles about traditional lunar new year customs. Happy Chinese New Year of the Pig!

(Credit: Hongchen Qin)



COAA-SCC 2019 Lunar New Year Luncheon

COAA Colorado Chapter Activity Report

August 31, 2018 Friday –**Dr. Xiaolin Zhang**, a postdoc scholar at University of Colorado, Boulder, gave the COAA-CC noon seminar titled “The Role of Equatorial Pacific Currents in El Niño and El Niño Prediction”. By using satellite, *in situ* data, and theoretical model, her work provides an explanation about (i) why in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, the zonal current leads the sea surface height; (ii) why the Warm Water Volume is a predictor of ENSO; and (iii) how the ocean responds to the fresh water flux in the Western Equatorial Pacific Ocean as well as the related dynamics.

September 21, 2018, COAA-CC held its annual Moon Festival Celebration at the University Memorial Center, University of Colorado, Boulder. Members and friends gathered for fun activities including bowling and billiards. We also enjoyed both traditional Chinese food (moon cakes) and pizza.



COAA-CC Moon Festival Celebration

October 18th, 2018. COAA-CC welcomed the delegates from the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). **Dr. Xueliang Shen** gave a short presentation on '中国气象局数值天气预报的进步和发展计划'. **Dr. Baode Chen** from Shanghai and **Dr. Yerong Feng** from Guangzhou spoke about the research and operational activities at their respective organizations.



(Left) Dr. Xueliang Shen gave a short presentation on '中国气象局数值天气预报的进步和发展计划'); (Right) **Dr. Baode Chen** from Shanghai spoke about the research and operational activities at their organizations.

November 30th, 2018. COAA-CC hosted a lunch meeting with the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics Weather Forecasting Team. Fifteen forecasters from Beijing Weather Service and Hebei Province Weather Service came to Boulder to participate in COMET Winter Olympics Forecaster training from November 26th through December 7th. **Mr. Hao Jing** (荆浩) from Beijing Meteorological Bureau gave a presentation on “北京冬奥会和冬残奥会延庆赛区气象服务需求”. **Mr. Hong Guo** (郭宏) from Hebei Meteorological Bureau spoke about “北京冬奥会和冬残奥会张家口赛区气象服务需求”. Also, **Ms. Yujue Liu** (刘郁珏) talked about “北京冬奥会和冬残奥会天气服务的技术支撑研究计划介绍”.

February 8th, 2019. The delegation of BoYu Technology from Shijiazhuang visited Boulder. They met with COAA-CC members and discussed meteorological services. BoYu came to Boulder as part of its North America trip to recruit outstanding overseas scientists. They also talked about potential collaborations. The event was well attended, especially by younger generation of scientists.



Dr. Ming Hu gave a speech at COAA-CC annual New Year's Celebration

chapter. The renewal of the COAA-CC board leadership also happens during this annual event. **Dr. Ming Hu** is now serving as the COAA-CC president. He is a research scientist at CU/CIRES and NOAA/Global System Division. His research area is in data assimilation (DA) and numerical weather prediction (NWP), especially for operational application such as applying the Gridpoint Statistical Interpolation (GSI) for Rapid Refresh system (RAP) and High Resolution Rapid Refresh system (HRRR). **Dr. Yuewei Liu** from NCAR assumed the position of president-elect. We also added new board members, **Dr. Rui Li** and **Dr. Xiaolin Zhang**.

(Reports and Photos from Xiaolin Zhang)

February 22, COAA-CC held its annual New Year's Celebration. The event drew more than 60 participants. Following the COAA-CC tradition, the event was held at a local Chinese restaurant where traditional Chinese food was served. As it happens every year, Dr. Hanli Liu, the outgoing COAA-CC president, summarized the past year's COAA-CC work for the members. Board member Dr. Aixue Hu reported the results of a member survey on their opinions of COAA-CC. The celebration event included as well as a prize drawing and an auction to raise funds for the



Part of the current COAA-CC board. From left to right: Dr. Aixue Hu (NCAR), Dr. Rui Li (Markes), Dr. Guoqing Ge (NOAA), Dr. Ming Hu (NOAA), Dr. Lulin Xue (NCAR), Dr. Hanli Liu (NCAR), and Dr. Shan Sun (NOAA).

COAA Northwest Chapter Update

Since the establishment September 2018, lifetime members in the COAA-NWC have increased to six. They are **Dr. Qiang Fu** (University of Washington), **Dr. Shuyi Chen** (University of Washington), **Dr. Chidong Zhang** (NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory), **Dr. Hailong Wang** (PNNL), **Dr. Jian Lu** (PNNL), and **Dr. Jiwen Fan** (PNNL). COAA-NWC also received donation from its member, **Ms. Willa Zhu**. We thank all of them for their support.

(Report from Fengfei Song)

Invitation to renew your COAA membership

Dear COAA members,

As you may already know from many COAA activities, COAA is a non-profit organization comprised of more than 600 Chinese-American scholars working in the United States on Earth sciences. COAA dedicates its activities to promote science through communications and mentoring young scholars. As part of your COAA membership, you will receive the following benefits:

- Networking with your peers and other professionals
- Receiving regular COAA newsletters and notifications of COAA events
- Participating COAA organized seminars, conferences, and social events
- Travel grant opportunities for COAA Conferences
- Enjoying special member price for attending COAA conferences, COAA reception banquets, and other activities

Your participation and dues make these and other valuable COAA services possible. To improve the COAA experience for its members, we invite you to renew membership for 2018 as:

- Regular: \$10/year
- Student: \$5/year
- Life: \$200
- Corporate: \$500/year

You can renew your membership online through the link below:

<http://www.coaaweb.org/membersonly.php> (although you may not get an automated confirmation email, your payment will go through. If you want to make sure you may contact the treasurer or membership coordination to confirm the payment. Their contact information can be found at: <http://www.coaaweb.org/team.php>). You may also pay your membership dues during any COAA activities throughout the year.

If you do not plan to renew, please send us a quick email and we'll take you off the list. In either case, we would appreciate any feedback you are willing to share regarding your decisions on renewing COAA membership.

Thank you for your support for COAA and we are looking forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

Best regards,
COAA Board 2019