

COAA e-Newsletter. Issue 11. May 31, 2004.

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Members please submit news to "coaa.news@cox.net". Some examples of news items are:
Meeting/conference report/announcement; Research work/activity; Honors/Award /research grant;
Promotion/graduation/change of position/employment/sabbatical; Latest publication/abstract; Job/research grant
opportunity; Visit/exchange/collaboration; New member; Community outreach; Social event

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(1) COAA Members Attended APA Federal Career Advancement Summit

A number of COAA members including Joseph Huang, Nancy Huang, Eddie Shih, James Su, Charles Sun, William Tseng, Chung-Sheng Wu, and Song Yang attended the 3rd Annual Asian Pacific American Federal Career Advancement Summit, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, on 10 May 2004. The Summit was hosted by the Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management. President Bush sent his greetings to the nearly 900 participants.

The Summit was organized to address the shortage of Asian Pacific Americans in senior executive and management positions in the federal government, with a focus on providing management insights, skills training, and other career opportunities to help Asian Pacific American government employees maximize their potential and acquire the skill sets that will increase their chances of advancement in the federal sector. It consisted of opening and closing plenary sessions, 34 exhibitions by various government agencies, and several workshop sessions. The workshop sessions are: The Unwritten Rules of Organizational Success; Managing Conflict in a Diverse Workplace; The Key to Cross-Cultural Communications; Marketing Yourself: Take Charge of How Others See You and Your Work; Competitive Federal Applications: Preparing for Your Next Federal Job; Executive Core Qualifications: What Are They and Why Are They Important? Distinguishing Yourself: Knowing the Federal Budget Process; and Pathways to Success: Developing Leadership Skills for Career Advancement.

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor, and a number of sub-cabinet members from different government agencies attended and/or addressed to the Summit. COAA member Nancy Huang, Chief Information Officer of NOAA Research, was a panelist of the Opening Plenary Session. She and other Asian Pacific American leaders shared their stories about achieving success in the federal government services. (Song.Yang@noaa.gov)

(2) Report of the COAA Board Meeting held on March 13, 2004

The fourth meeting of COAA Board 2004 was held at President Joe Huang's residence on March 13, 2004 from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Six board members (Joe Huang, Da-Lin Zhang, Colin Shen, Fung-Chi Ko, Dongliang Yuan and Jun Du) and two invitees (Williams Tseng and Eddie Shih) attended the meeting. Three board members (Chung-Lin Shie, Zhanqing Li and Xiaofeng Li) were absent from the meeting. The following two issues (By-Law modification and Financial Support Rule) were discussed:

1. Eddie first reviewed the history of the COAA By-Law. Some modifications have been suggested including (a) creating a "President-Elect" position as AMS does; (b) Changing "regional director" to "vice president" -- In a region where there are more than 30 members, a vice-president could be set --; (c) immediate past-president acting as advisor only but not as a board member (no voting right); (d) special meeting chairperson(s) (not necessary board members) could be appointed when needed. Da-Lin and Eddie were assigned to make those changes and then forward the draft to all board members later for a review.

2. A new rule about COAA's Financial Support and co-sponsorship of meetings (drafted by Chung-lin and Colin etc.) was discussed. More modifications are needed before the final approval. This rule as well as other similar rules/regulations will be used as COAA operation guideline but not as Bylaw to make it easier for any further changes by future COAA boards. (Reported by Jun Du)

(3) Community News

Our long-time COAA member Dr. Al Chang (Hydrological Sciences Branch of NASA/GSFC) passed away on May 24, 2004 from complications resulting from a massive stroke. Al was truly an inspiration to many of us - a motivated scientist and faithful friend. We will miss and remember him. Below is a brief bio of Al.

Dr. Al Chang joined NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in 1974, and have since made significant contributions in the retrievals of both rain rate and snow water equivalent (SWE) using microwave radiometry. He and Tom Wilheit (previously with GSFC) are the very first ones to use orbiting microwave radiometer (ESMR, Electrically Scanning Microwave Radiometer aboard the Nimbus-5 satellite) for the retrieval of rainfall rate over oceans (Wilheit et al., 1977). This was followed by many studies using SMMR (Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer) aboard SeaSat, SSMI (Special Sensor Microwave/Imager) aboard DMSP F-series satellites, TRMM (Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission) Microwave Imager, and more recently, the AMSR (Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer) aboard the EOS-PM. His algorithm was among the few used to derive the rain rate products from the AMSR measurements.

His pioneer work on snow parameter retrievals started from a number of truck-mounted radiometer measurements over the mountain areas in Vermont in the 1970's. Analyses of these ground data sets formed the basis for the subsequent development of the SWE retrieval algorithm which has been widely used for large-area snow mapping from satellite data (e.g., SSMI). He has published more than 110 refereed journal articles related to rain rate and SWE estimations.

Besides research, he was active in many national/international scientific and technical committees promoting microwave remote sensing of geophysical parameters. He also served as the Deputy Project Scientist of the NASA EOS-PM. He has received many awards, including the prestigious NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement. (written by James Wang of NASA)