



COAA e-News. Issue 23. April 19, 2006

(Back issues can be found in COAA web page: <http://www.coaaweb.org>)

Published by the Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, P. O. Box 4948, Silver Spring, Maryland 20914-4948, USA

Members please submit news to coaanews@coaaweb.org to be published in future COAA e-News. 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) Letters from the Board

(1.1) *A Letter to COAA Members and Colleagues*

Dear members and colleagues,

As you are well aware, COAA's growth and continue activities depends on participation of its members. The board has articulated a series of activities this year. Under the leadership of Zheng Quanan and with support from distinguished COAA members such as Bin Wang, COAA is planning its next international meeting for the Summer of 2007 to be

held in China. Taking advantage of the Spring AGU meeting in Baltimore, COAA will organize a banquet during the Spring AGU and will have invited speakers for the banquet. If you are coming to the Spring AGU, I urge you to join the banquet and meet and network with other COAA members. If you have suggestions for the Banquet speaker, please send them to the board (board@coaaweb.org)

The COAA Spring workshop will be held Saturday May 20, 2006 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Two awards for distinguished papers will be given to students and young scientists to support their travel to the next COAA International meeting. The program chairs have invited a panel of distinguished scientists as judges. I urge you to participate in the Spring workshop. (See announcement in next section).

Last year, COAA sponsored a summer internship to study the contribution to AMS and AGU publications by authors of Chinese origin. This resulted in a database of publications by authors of Chinese origin and included attributes such as name and affiliation, paper title, key words, etc, which will help our planning, outreach activities and networking. Currently, authors of Chinese origin contribute to ~15% to AMS and ~20% to AGU journals. A draft report is included in this newsletter. After completion, this database will be available to COAA members through our secure web-site.

Last but certainly not least is financial matters. Because of some miscommunication, COAA does not make it to the CFC list this year. Our Treasurer and Ed Shih have assured us that it will be back on the CFC list for FY2007. Our CFC number remains the same (CFC Agency designation 7854). In the mean time, please send your tax-deductible contributions by check to COAA, PO Box 4948, Silver Spring, MD 20914-4948. If you have not sent in your regular or corporate membership due for this term, I hope you can do so at your earliest convenience. You can rest assured that every penny will be well spent.

I wish to see you at our Spring workshop or Spring AGU banquet,

Long Chiu on behalf of COAA Board, 2006.

(1.2) A Get Well Wish E-mail to Prof. Jin Wu

Dear Prof. Jin Wu,

We are sadden to hear the news of you health problems, but are delighted to know that you are recovering steadily.

As a founding member of COAA, you have made significant contributions to COAA. We are honored to have you as an honorary member and look forward to you guidance and support.

On behalf of the Board and COAA members, I wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to the opportunity to meeting you in our activities in the near future.

Long Chiu, on behalf of COAA board

-----**Background**-----

Prof. Jin Wu, COAA founding member, has been sick over a few months and is currently under chemotherapy treatment at the National Cheng-Kung University hospital in Tainan, Taiwan. He is doing well. (Contributed by Eddie Shih).

(2) Announcement for COAA 2006 Spring Workshop

You are cordially invited to attend the COAA Spring Workshop on May 20, 2006. This workshop is to:

- Exchange ideas and results, and socialize with other COAA members in a friendly and stimulating environment;
- Promote the research achievements of young scientists for their future career development;

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: May 1, 2006 (email to contact persons listed below)

TIME: May 13 2006, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm Followed by a dinner at Seven-Sea Restaurant, College Park (~\$15/person on your own)

LOCATION: Room 2400 (Seminar room), CSS Building Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742 See <http://www.atmos.umd.edu/~seminar/directions.htm>* for direction. Parking is free on Saturday except in the first row in Q lot.

STYLE: Both oral and poster presentations are solicited. Poster presentations are especially encouraged and will be given a five-minute oral summary. Please specify your preference.

AWARD: Two excellent oral presentations will be selected. Each awardee will obtain \$250 travel allowance for COAA 2007 international conference to be held in China.

INVITED SESSION CHAIRS:

Atmosphere: Dalin Zhang, Song Yang, FuZhong Weng, Zhanqing Li

Ocean: Norden Huang, Frank Pao, Ed Shih, Joseph Huang, Ming Li, Jin Wu, and Xiaofeng Li

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Menglin Jin, COAA Program Chair for Atmos., mjin@atmos.umd.edu, 301-405-5337

Dr. Quanan Zheng, COAA Program Chair for Oceans, quanan@atmos.umd.edu, 301-405-8253

(3) COAA Financial Report for 2004-2005 (Prepared by Cheng-Hsuan Lu)

	2004	2005
Net assets at beginning of year	\$18,885.87	\$15,136.38
Revenue		
Memberships	\$535.	\$895.0
Contributions	\$2,752.91	\$3,082.02
Dividends	\$50.56	\$63.88
Total revenue	\$3,338.47	\$4,040.90
Expense		
Meeting & workshop	\$5,073.55	\$133.41
Website service	\$347.40	\$549.60
Newsletters	\$325.36	NA
Member service	\$1,341.65	\$443.69
Survey (summer internship)	NA	\$4,000.
Total Expense	\$7,087.96	\$5,126.70
Deficit for the year	-\$3,749.49	-\$1,085.80
Net assets at end of year	\$15,136.38	\$14,050.58

Tax return documents (F990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, and attachments) are available upon request.

(4) Publications by authors of Chinese origin in leading US atmospheric and oceanic science journals

In a special edition of the Science magazine (28 May 2004 issue) on “Brains and Borders” that deals with contributions of foreign-born scientists in the US, it is noted that “there are so many anecdotes that the (statistical) data must be there”. However, “When it comes to foreign scientists studying and working in the United States, the belief of the existence of such data is misplaced”. This appears to be the case in the fields of atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

In the last few decades, there has been a noticeable increase in Chinese-American professionals in the fields of oceanic, atmospheric and related earth sciences, thanks to an

influx of graduate students and scholars from Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Flipping through pages of major journals in geophysics and earth sciences, it is easily noted that a significant proportion of articles are authored or coauthored by scientists of Chinese origin.

Motivated by the articles in *Science*, a survey of publications in the leading journals of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU) was conducted by the Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (COAA). COAA is a non-profit organization formed to network atmospheric, oceanic and related Earth sciences professionals to establish a forum based on common interests, promote professional opportunity and quality and to utilize science results to benefit society. It represents over 300 professionals, mostly Chinese-Americans.

The journals surveyed include *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* (JAS), *Monthly Weather Review* (MWR), *Journal of Climate* (JCL), *Journal of Applied Meteorology* (JAM), *Journal of Physical Oceanography* (JPO), *Bulletin of American Meteorological Society* (BAMS), *Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmospheres* (JGR-A), *Journal of Geophysical Research – Ocean* (JGR-O), and *Geophysical Research Letter* (GRL).

As a first step, article from these journals were selected if the author list contains authors of Chinese ethnic origin (CAs). Attributes such as author names, article title, institution, and key words were then collected. For authors to be considered to a CA, he/she must either have lineage or be from the Mainland China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan. Care has been exercised to distinguish CAs from some other ethnic groups, such as Korean, Vietnamese, etc. It is possible that we have missed or misplaced a handful of CAs whose last name spellings deviate from the conventional usage by the vast majority of Chinese originated from these three regions. For each journal, the number of CAs and the number of all authors were counted every year. The order of authorship is not considered. The selected authors come from different countries or regions of the world, but a majority of them are from the US. The trends were analyzed in terms of the number of CAs and percentages relative to the total number of all authors in individual journals.

The statistics obtained from the AMS journals are given in Figure 1, which shows that the number of publications by CAs in all the journals was almost negligible prior to 1970s: less than 10 each year for all the AMS journals. Gentle and steady increases occurred from 1970s to 1980s. By the mid 1980s, the total number of CAs in all the surveyed AMS journals reached about 50, or around 4%. During this period, the majority of CAs came originally from Taiwan or Hong Kong. After the mid 1980s, rapid increase is observed in all the journals, both in terms of the number of authors and relative percentage. This is obviously attributed to the rapid increase in the influx of graduates and visiting scientists from Mainland China to the United States, thanks to China's open-door policy beginning in 1979. The steepest increases took place in 1990s when many of the mainland Chinese students graduated and/or started publishing. By late 1990s, the publication seems to have leveled with a total number of authors reaching approximately 300-350, or 12-14% in all surveyed AMS journals. No apparent "favorite" journals were picked by the Chinese-American authors, implying that the Chinese-American scientists are equally active in all

sub-disciplines of meteorological and oceanic sciences. The average number of Chinese-American authors in each of the top four AMS journals (i.e., JAS, MWR, JCL and JAM) is around 70 in the last few years, although the number dropped significantly for JAS (to 45 in 2004). This decrease was compensated by increases in other journals such as JAM, possibly hinting a slight shift in the publication venue. It is interesting to note that the curves of the relative percentage match very closely the number of authors, indicating that Chinese-American authors contributed substantially to the overall increase authorship.

Figure 2 shows similar statistics for the AGU journals since 1994 when on-line journals were available. Due to the shorter period surveyed, annual variation is not addressed here. Overall, the number of Chinese-American authors publishing papers in the AGU atmospheric and oceanic journals is about the same over the same period (~350), but the relative percentage is significantly higher (20-25%) than the AMS journals. Again, the two curves have similar increasing trends.

In this short note, we present preliminary findings of the overall statistics of the contributions of Chinese-Americans in major atmospheric and oceanic science journal publications. A database containing entries of author's name, institution, title of article and key words is under development. This database will be made available through COAA's web site: www.coaaweb.org augmented with simple search capabilities to facilitate strategic planning, networking and resource management for the oceanic and atmospheric research communities. It is hope that this small contribution will shed some light on the overall contribution of foreign-born scientists to science in America.

Acknowledgments:

This work was sponsored by the Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (COAA) through a COAA Summer Fellowship to Mr. Steve Weng, a student at the Virginia Tech. We thank previous and current board members who conceived the idea and encouraged us along the way.

Contributed by

Zhanqing Li, Long Chiu, Steve Weng, Jun Du, Joseph Huang, Menglin Jin, Henry Jung, Fung-chi Ko, Sarah Lu, Dongliang Yuan, Dalin Zhang

Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

P. O. Box 4948, Silver Spring, Maryland 20914-4948

URL: <http://coaaweb.org/>

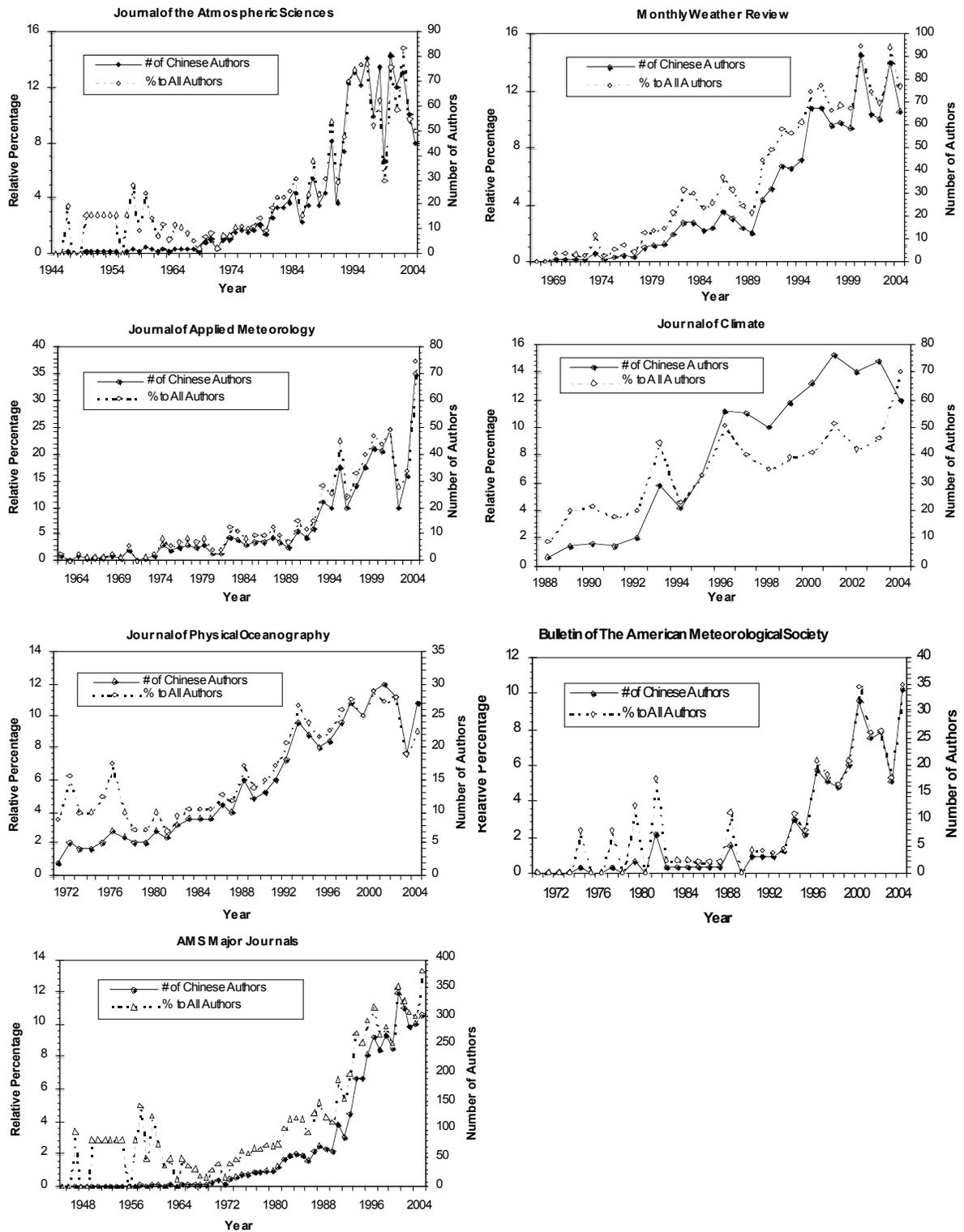
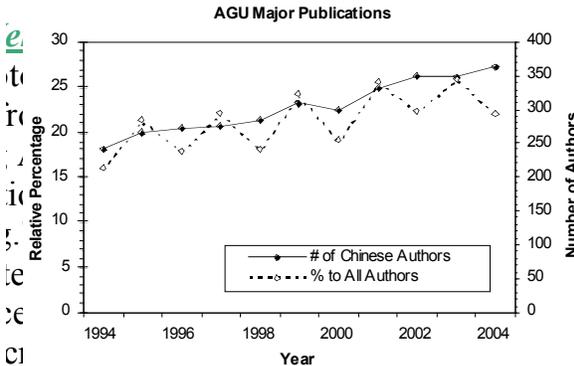
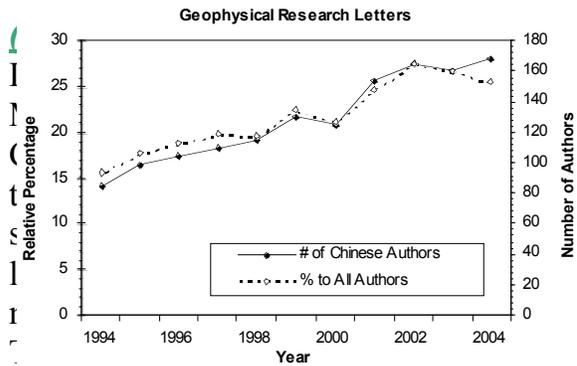
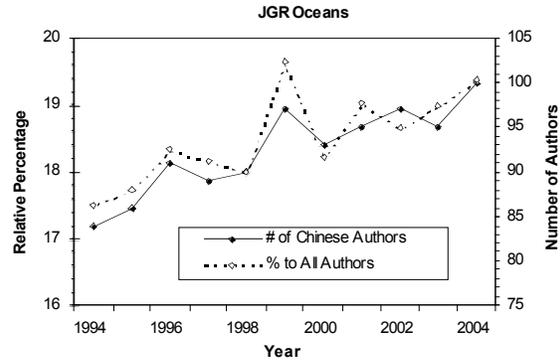
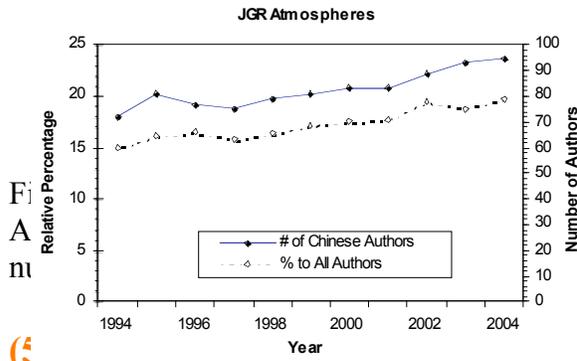


Fig. 1. Statistics of publications by authors of Chinese origin in the journals of the American Meteorological Society in absolute numbers and percentage relative to the total number of authors in each year.



forecast models has nearly doubled in the polar regions and the weather forecast can be extended several hours into the future in the 6-7 day range. This is a significant achievement when one realizes that over the last few decades forecast range has increased at a rate only about an hour for each year of forecast system development work. Congratulations! (Reported by Prof. Zhanqin Li).



(Dr. Fuzhong Weng)

(5.2) Hunting the Sunken Whirlpool

(By Laura Blackburn, ScienceNOW Daily News, 6 April 2006)

The deep ocean just got a little less mysterious. Satellite technology has allowed scientists to peer into the depths to study "meddies"--elusive underwater whirlpools that are important drivers of Earth's climate.

Meddies form when water from the Mediterranean Sea is squeezed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic Ocean. Although the Mediterranean water is warmer than its Atlantic counterpart, it's still denser because of its saltiness. As a result, the water sinks into the Atlantic, sliding down the continental shelf. At 1000 meters or so, the water can't sink any further, and it heads out into the ocean, rotating clockwise to form huge underwater "Mediterranean eddies," or meddies, which are shaped like giant saucers 100 kilometers across and 600 meters deep.

Meddies contribute to the complex web of ocean currents that drive Earth's climate. Yet, as satellite oceanographer Xiao-Hai Yan (see following photo) of the University of Delaware in Newark explains, current methods for tracking meddies using floats and temperature sensors can be time-consuming and expensive.

So Yan and colleagues decided to give satellites a try. Using 10 years of data collected from a range of satellite sensors, the researchers found they could detect a

meddy 400 meters beneath the waves, by incorporating data from satellite-based altimeters and infrared sensors, which provide detailed information on water depth and temperature. The team verified their results by comparing their data with measurements taken from meddy floats and bathymeters--ocean temperature sensors.

This is the first time satellites have been used to track ocean features at this depth, says Yan. Soon, he says, the technology should allow researchers to study how meddies influence climate. The research is published in this month's edition of the Journal of Physical Oceanography.

The study is a perfect example of how to integrate satellite data to obtain "new and exciting" results, says physical oceanographer Larry Breaker of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in California.

Related sites

FYI, attached pdf file is the on line version of the Science Magazine Report of my recent Meddy research at UD. The direct link is (published today) :

<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2006/406/4>

also a few other links are the press release:

JPL <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2006-040>

NASA <http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/lookingatearth/meddes-20060320.html>

AMS <http://www.ametsoc.org/amsnews/2006detectdeeoceanwhirlpool.pdf>

Udaily archive

<http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2006/mar/whirlpools032006.html>

<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/newscenter/meddies.html>

(Supplied by Dr. Xiao-Hai Yan)



(Prof. & Dr. Xiao-Hai Yan)

(5.3) Concert Celebration on Ancient Chinese Poetry

Some COAA members in the DC area enjoyed an evening of Concert on Celebration of Ancient Chinese Poetry on April 15, 2006 at the Church of Later Day Saints sponsored by the Tung-Hsin Choral group. It is interesting to see the other talents of COAA members, among them Ed Shih and Ronald Lai, who are members of the choral group. (Contributed by L. Chiu)

(5.4) Chinese New Year Reception with Labor Secretary Elaine Chao

COAA board members were invited to the Department of Labor Chinese Lunar New Year Reception held February 2, 2006 hosted by the Secretary Elaine Chao. Secretary Chao is the first Asian American woman appointed to a President's cabinet in U.S. history.



*To Long Chiu
With best wishes,*

Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Labor

(Present were (from left) Long Chiu, Eddie Shih, Henry Juang, Nancy Huang, Kwosen Kuo, Secretary Elaine Chao, Menglin Jin and Joseph Huang.)

(5.5) Seminar on How to Apply for a Federal Job

To help Asian Pacific Americans interested in working for the Federal Government, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao and the U.S. Department of Labor will host a free seminar on "How to Apply for a Federal Job" at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill on May 3, 2006 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please feel free to share this information with others who are interested in a career in the federal government.

REGISTRATION:

To register for this event, please fill out the chart below and email it back to wong.alexandra@dol.gov <<mailto:wong.alexandra@dol.gov>> or by calling (202) 693-6046 to leave your registration information. Registration closes on Friday, April 28, and seating is limited to the first 200 registrants for this free seminar.

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Current Occupation/Field/Level

JOE

SAMPLE

123 Street

Washington

DC 20210

Joe.Sample@xyz.com

IT / programmer / Entry Level

We have an exciting presentation planned for attendees, including real-life experiences and practical tips to help make your quest for a federal position successful. The panelists will provide insight into what federal human resources professionals look for when reviewing applications and evaluate job candidates. In addition, we have over 30 federal agencies participating in the Exhibition Area with human resources staff to answer your questions and highlight opportunities available at their agencies.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA:

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill – May 3, 2006

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Registration / Visit Exhibitors
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	“How to Apply for a Federal Job” Seminar

TRANSPORTATION:

The Hyatt Regency Washington is located two blocks from the Red Line/Union Station stop at 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.

For questions, please call (202) 693-6000 and ask for Anna Hui or Alexandra Wong. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, May 3rd!

Sincerely,

Anna S. Hui
Special Assistant
Office of Public Liaison
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

(6) Job Opportunities

Academic positions at the Ocean Center in Zhejiang University:

Prof. Jin Wu (COAA's founding member, now Prof. at Chung-Kung University in Taiwan) is helping recruiting scientists and engineers at all levels and all ocean disciplines (including marine policy and affairs) who are interested in working at the to be established "National Ocean Center at Zhejiang University." This includes an Executive (Deputy) Director who will run the center. For more information please contact Prof. Wu at: jinwu@mail.ncku.edu.tw.

(7) Professional Meeting Announcement

(7.1) There is planning "International Symposium on Ensemble Prediction" in Chengdu, China of October 2006 by CMA/Sichun Meteorological Administration, and Institute of Plateau Meteorology. Jun Du and Yuejian Zhu are invited to organize this Symposium. The first circular announcement will come soon, which will be forwarded to COAA when it is available. COAA would be one of the cosponsors. (Reported by Yuejian Zhu Yuejian.Zhu@noaa.gov).

(7.2) OAA is a cosponsor of the AGU/West Pacific Geophysics Meeting to be held in Beijing, China July 24-27, 2006 (URL: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/wp06/>).