

COAA newsletter



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Issue Highlights:

»» Interviewing New President

We extend our deepest gratitude Dr. Yingxi's contribution during her presidency, and appreciate her dedication to continue serve in the headquarters.

After Dr. Pengwang Zhai assumed the presidency, we conducted a brief interview to provide the community with insights into his leadership philosophy.

Check out Page 01 to see how he responded to our interview questions!

»» Celebrating the New Year

Friends get together? Bubble Tea? Dumplings? Check out how COAA board members celebrate our Chinese New Year!

»» Introducing our board members

Spring is the time for revitalization and growing. Let's introduce our board members, some continue their service, some just joined the community.

Introducing Our New President

“Our goal is to build a strong platform to support the career development of young scientists.”

-- Dr. Pengwang Zhai, current president



Bio: Dr. Zhai is an Associate Professor in Atmospheric Physics at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). He earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Texas A&M University. His research focuses on light scattering by irregular particles, vector radiative transfer in coupled atmosphere-ocean systems, and remote sensing of aerosols and hydrosols. Dr. Zhai specializes in developing advanced remote sensing algorithms for aerosols and ocean color, utilizing satellite and airborne measurements from multi-directional, multi-wavelength, and multi-polarized sensors.

Dr. Zhai became a member of the COAA community in 2024, serving as president-elect, and assumed the role of president in 2025. During his tenure, he is committed to fostering greater awareness and cohesion within the COAA community and building a strong platform to support the career development of young scientists.

After Dr. Zhai assumed the presidency, we conducted a brief interview to provide the community with insight into his leadership philosophy.

»» Q1: What do you think COAA can/should bring to the members?

Dr. Zhai: COAA has long been an effective connector, bringing members together and fostering a strong sense of community. Through initiatives like community-building events, annual banquets, peer recognition, and the distinguished lecture series, we support both young scientists and seasoned professionals in building networks and advancing their careers. I am committed to building on these strengths and exploring new ways to support and empower our members.

»» Q2: What are your priorities during the next two-years' service as the president?

Dr. Zhai: As we navigate the uncertainties in atmospheric and oceanic science, my priority is to work closely with our community to overcome these challenges and demonstrate resilience. I will focus on creating support systems for the younger generation of scientists, helping them develop the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

»» Q3: What is your vision for the long-term development for COAA?

Dr. Zhai: My long-term vision is to transform COAA into a dynamic hub for scientific exchange, enhancing the visibility of our work and accelerating the career development of our members. The first step will be to encourage more involvement in public service roles within COAA so that everyone benefits from the collective contributions of the community.

We greatly appreciate President Zhai's thoughtful perspectives and eagerly anticipate COAA's continued growth under his guidance!

By Shangyong Shi, Mar. 14th, 2025

Letter from President Zhai

As the new president of COAA, I am honored to connect with all of you and excited to begin this new chapter together. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the previous leadership team for their exceptional service and dedication to our community. Special thanks to:

- **Dr. Yuekui Yang** for his invaluable guidance as President Advisor.
- **Dr. Yingxi Shi**, whose leadership as president has been outstanding, and who is now stepping into the role of President Advisor.
- **Dr. Jie Gong** for his meticulous stewardship as Treasurer.
- **Dr. Qiang Zhou** for expertly curating our newsletters.
- **Dr. Wanshu Nie** for her vital contributions to organizing the Distinguished Lecture Series.
- **Dr. Chuanyang Shen** and **Dr. Wenrui Jiang** for their excellent work as Web Masters.

Your efforts have been essential to COAA's growth and success, and I am deeply grateful. I also want to welcome our current board members, both new and returning:

- **Dr. Yingxi Shi** - President Advisor
- **Dr. Jing Wei** – Executive Secretary
- **Dr. Meng Zhou** and **Ms. Shujun Zhou** – Board Assistants
- **Dr. Meng Gao** – Ocean Program Director
- **Dr. Hui Xu** – Membership Coordinator
- **Dr. Yuli Liu** – Treasurer
- **Dr. Shangyong Shi** – Newsletter Editor
- **Dr. Jianyu (Kevin) Zheng** – Meeting/Seminar Coordinator
- **Ms. Xiaorong Shan** – Web Assistant

Together, we will continue COAA's mission to advance knowledge in atmospheric and oceanic sciences and strengthen our community. I look forward to collaborating with all of you and to the opportunities ahead. Please feel free to reach out with any ideas, suggestions, or questions.

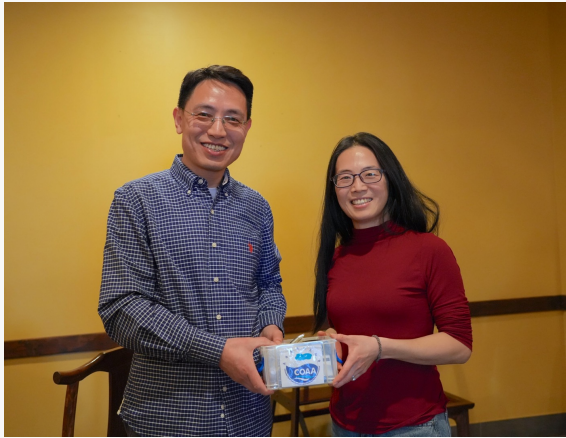
Pengwang Zhai
Mar. 7, 2025

New Year Luncheon

Headquarters

On Feb. 9th, 2025, COAA headquarter organized a New Year Luncheon to bring together local members and celebrate the Chinese New Year.

At the luncheon, President Dr. Yingxi Shi handed over her responsibilities to Dr. Pengwang Zhai, setting the stage for a new era of leadership.



Pengwang Zhai (left) and Yingxi Shi (right)

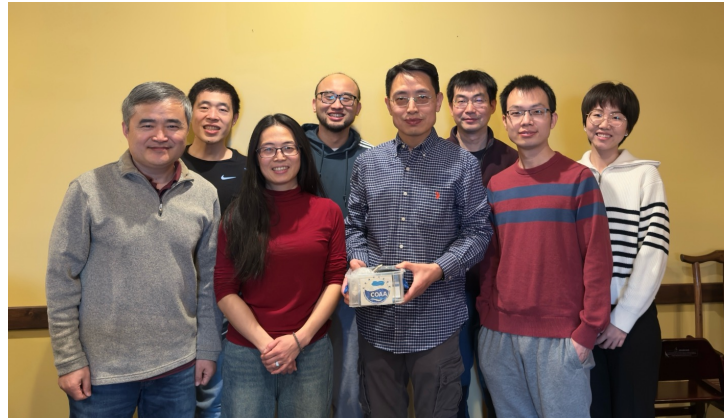
Dr. Yingxi Shi joined COAA in 2016, serving as newsletter editor before taking on various roles, including board assistant, secretary, and international conference committee member. She became COAA president in 2024. After that, she continues to serve as the president-advisor. Currently, she leads COAA's new website project in collaboration with Chinese American Parents Association CAPA's IT club. Her long-standing commitment has brought board members together, energized the organization, and laid a strong foundation for COAA's future growth. We extend our deepest gratitude Yingxi's dedication.



Dr. Zhai greets board members as the new President

We also welcome the participation of our new board member, Xiaorong Shan, as the next webmaster, and Shangyong Shi, as the newsletter editor, and Meng Zhou as board assistant.

At the luncheon, we also reviewed the history of COAA with our long-term members, and received valuable insights on the future development of COAA. We value all suggestions and comments from you!



Group photo of the board members. From left to right: Yuekui Yang, Yuli Liu, Yingxi Shi, Meng Zhou, Pengwang Zhai, Meng Gao, Jing Wei, Shangyong Shi



By Shangyong Shi

COAA-CC Dumpling Party to Celebrate Chinese New Year

The COAA-CC members along with family, kids, and friends gathered to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Snake at the Boulder Chinese Evangelical Free Church on February 1, 2025, making it a meaningful occasion for the COAA-CC community. Participants got involved in the fun of making dumplings, from rolling the wrappers to wrapping the dumplings and cooking them. It was a delicious and memorable experience, and some people even claimed that the dumplings they made were the best they've ever had! The night was filled with laughter, great food, and warm memories.



- By Weiwei Li and Guoqing Ge

COAA-CC

COAA-NWC Bubble Tea Social Event



The Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Northwest Chapter (COAA-NWC) hosted a welcome event on Oct 24th, 2024 at the University of Washington. The mission of the COAA-NWC is to enhance communications and collaborations among Chinese scholars and students in atmospheric and ocean sciences and to build connections with other chapters of COAA. We encourage you to join the COAA Northwest Chapter to connect with peers, senior scientists, and professors at our website:

<https://www.coaaweb.org/coaanwc.php>.



The annual bubble tea social event is designed to foster casual conversations between grad students, postdocs, and senior scientists/professors and to build a network for Chinese and Chinese-Americans who study/work in the Pacific NW of the US, especially in the Great Seattle area. This time, our invited guests included senior scientists and professors: Prof. Shuyi Chen, Dr. Wei Cheng, and Dr. Hailong Wang (online).

- By Hongwei Sun, Litai Kang, and Muyin Wang.



COAA-NWC

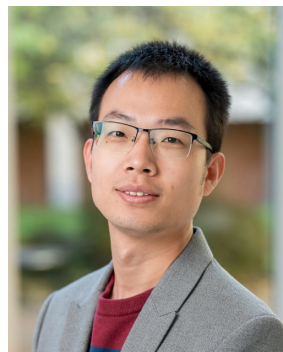
Introducing Current Board Members at Headquarters



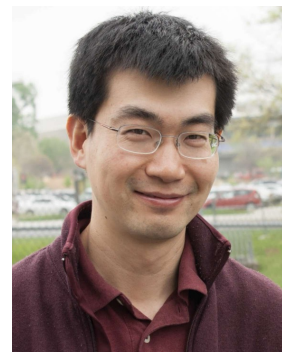
Pengwang Zhai
President



Yingxi Shi
President-advisor



Jing Wei
Executive Secretary



Meng Gao
Ocean Program
Coordinator



Hui Xu
Membership Coordinator



Jianyu (Kevin) Zheng
Meeting/Seminar Coordinator



Yuli Liu
Treasurer



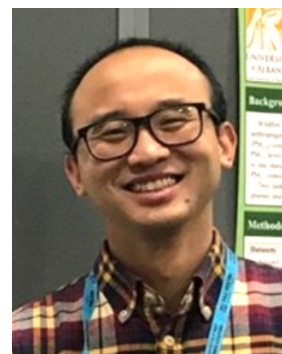
Shangyong Shi
Newsletter Editor



Xiaorong Shan
Web Assistant



Shujun Zhou
Treasure Assistant



Meng Zhou
Board Assistant

Introducing Our Executive Committee at COAA-SCC



Qing Yue,
President



Yike X
Vice president



Yun Lin
Treasurer



Jiani Yang
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster



Yue Bai
Membership
Manager RD

Regional Directors:



Tao Wang



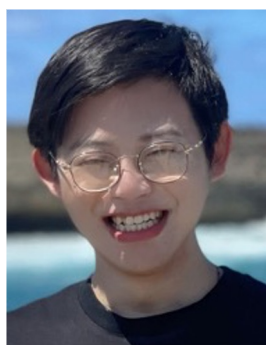
Xiang Zhong



Kai Wu



Xiaoyu Ma



Ye Mu



Xun Zou



Kunpeng Chen

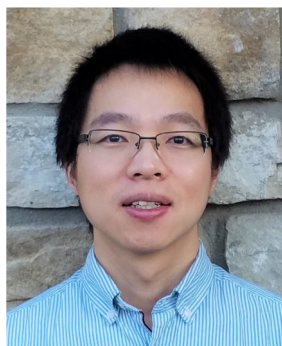


Jiachen Zhang

Introducing Current Board Members at COAA-CC



Weiwei Li,
President



Haonan Chen
Vice President



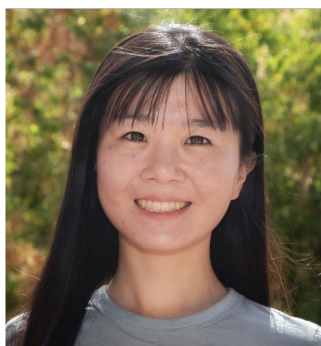
Yanjun Gan
Treasurer



Rui Li
membership manager



Sisi Chen



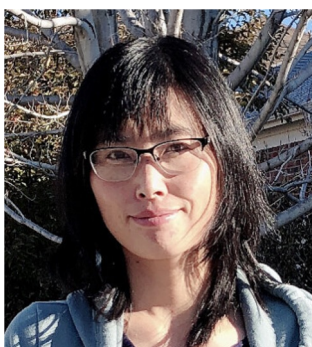
Hui Li



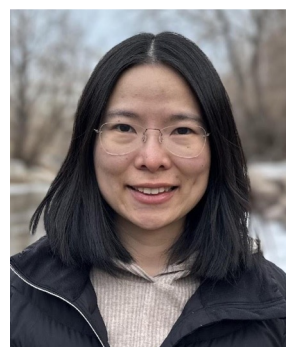
Hongli Wang



Lei Hu



Hailing Zhang



Tongtong Xu

Introducing Our Interim Board Members at COAA-NWC

We hope you had a great New Year! As you may have known, there have been some changes to our NWC board over the past months. **Xiaodong Chen (President)** has moved to Oklahoma for a new job, **Litai Kang (Secretary)** has graduated from UW, while **Lingcheng Li (Treasurer)** has also been working remotely in Texas for some time. Given the need to better serve our local community of PNW, we have successfully located a few helping hands and had a meeting with them to establish an interim board (to serve the remaining term till Oct/Dec 2025).

President

2021-
2024



Xiaodong Chen

Secretary



Litai Kang

Treasurer



Lingcheng Li

2025
(Interim)



Hailong Wang



Hongwei Sun



Ziming Chen

We are excited to introduce our interim board members to the community:

Dr. Hailong Wang has agreed to serve as the interim president;

Dr. Hongwei Sun has agreed to serve as the interim secretary;

Dr. Ziming Chen has agreed to serve as the interim treasurer. In addition, he plans to stay on the new regular board and continue this role for a few more years. A special thanks to Ziming!

We would like to thank them for their kind willingness to take over the roles, and we look forward to the new activities/new ideas they will bring to the NWC chapter in 2025!

- By Xiaodong Chen, Litai Kang, and Lingcheng Li

About 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 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 presenting at the Annual Meetings, contributing to the COAA website, and networking with people at a variety of career stages, from young environmental enthusiasts to well-known senior professionals.

Headquarters (Greater Washington DC)

President	Dr. Pengwang Zhai	president@coaaweb.org
President-advisor	Dr. Yingxi Shi	president-advisor@coaaweb.org
Executive Secretary	Dr. Jing Wei	secretary@coaaweb.org
Ocean Program Coordinator	Dr. Meng Gao	ocean@coaaweb.org
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Shangyong Shi	newsletter@coaaweb.org
Meeting/Seminar Coordinator	Dr. Jianyu (Kevin) Zheng	science@coaaweb.org
Treasurer	Dr. Yuli Liu	treasurer@coaaweb.org
Treasure Assistant	Ms. Shujun Zhou	treasurer-assistant@coaaweb.org
Board Assistant	Dr. Meng Zhou	board-assistant@coaaweb.org
Membership Coordinator	Dr. Hui Xu	membership@coaaweb.org
Web Assistant	Ms. Xiaorong Shan	webmaster-associate@coaaweb.org

Southern California Chapter (COAA-SCC)

Email: coaascc@coaaweb.org

President Dr. Qing Yue
Vice President Dr. Yike Xu

Colorado Chapter (COAA-CC)

Email: colorado@coaaweb.org

President-Elect Dr. Weiwei Li
Secretary Dr. Haonan Chen

Northwest Chapter (COAA-NWC)

Email: coaanwc@coaaweb.org

President Dr. Hailong Wang
Secretary Dr. Hongwei Sun
Treasure Dr. Ziming Chen

Our official website is closed for maintenance at this time. We will still notify you about any COAA events through our email list. If you are not in the email list, please contact our membership coordinator.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to email our president or secretary. We appreciate your support and will work hard to serve our community!