



Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

E-News

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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 President

Dear COAA members, Friends and Colleagues:

2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (COAA). Thanks to the vision and wisdom of the founders, the leadership and selfless contributions of previous presidents, board members, and volunteers, COAA has grown to an ever-stronger community that connects with over a thousand members located in different geographical areas. Since its inception, COAA has been playing a leading role in serving the Chinese-American Earth science community, facilitating professional and social contacts among its members, and improving the qualifications of its members for occupational opportunities. It is an honor and privilege for me to serve as the President of COAA this year. We are off to a good start thanks to the great work from Xiaoguang Xu, Xiaowen Li, the COAA board members, and the leadership teams of our four regional chapters. As President, my commitment is to continue fulfilling the goal of COAA and fostering its growth. In 2023, as an event to celebrate 30 years of COAA, we will co-organize the 9th COAA International Conference on Atmosphere, Ocean, and Climate Change (ICA OCC23) together with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore (July 27-29) (<https://coaaweb.org/ICA OCC23>). We will continue the newly established bimonthly COAA Distinguished Lecture Series, which features world renowned scientists in our community on their career and the scientific discoveries along their career paths. We will also organize other social events to facilitate networking and collaboration within the COAA community and celebrate the achievements of our members. COAA is a community established and run by its members. On behalf of the COAA board, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all members and volunteers for your lasting support. In recent years, the Asian American community has been facing unique challenges and racial inequality. It is your participation and support that has made COAA an inclusive platform and a voice of the community. Let us keep working together to make COAA even better.

Thank you!
Sincerely Yours,
Yuekui Yang
President of COAA (2023)



Prof. Da-Lin Zhang received undergraduate education from the University of Science and Technology of China during 1973-1976. He came to the US in 1980, and earned his M.S. in 1981 and Ph.D. in 1985, both from the Penn State University. After spending two years as a postdoctoral fellow of the Advanced Study Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and one year as a research associate at the University of Toronto, he took a faculty position in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences of McGill University in 1989. He joined the University of Maryland in September 1996. Prof. Zhang works on the modeling and understanding of heavy-rain-producing mesoscale convective storms, tropical cyclones, and urban-induced circulations and their associated extreme rainfall. His research interests also include the development and improvement of the planetary boundary layer and cumulus parameterizations as well as cloud representations in mesoscale numerical models. In 1991, he received the prestigious Clarence Meisinger award of the AMS "for pioneering work in the understanding and numerical modeling of mesoscale convective weather systems", and in 2006, he was elected Fellow of the AMS. He has served as President of the COAA during 2002-2003.

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Interview of Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park: Dr. Da-Lin Zhang

Author: Dr. Wanshu Nie

Q: How did you decide to study atmospheric science?

I should mention first that as compared with my peers, I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to receive a university education during the final period of China's cultural revolution, studying high-speed aerodynamics in the Department of Modern Mechanics of the University of Science and Technology of China. During that era, we did not have a choice to decide what field to pursue. Because of research needs on hail suppression, I was assigned in 1976 to work in the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, where I gradually embarked on the road of atmospheric science. But my real introduction to atmospheric science can be attributed to the opportunities that in 1978 I was once again fortunate enough to be admitted as a graduate student by Profs. Meiyuan Huang and Xiaoping Zhou, who were the noble pioneers in the respective field of cloud microphysics and mesoscale modeling in China, and later to pursue my graduate study at the Penn State University. The subsequent 5-year graduate training motivated me with growing inspiration to study atmospheric science.

Q: Which accomplishments are you most proud of in your professional life, including your group achievements?

I am proud of the following three major accomplishments: i) downscale modeling studies resolving from meso-alpha-scale storm environments to meso-beta-scale storm internal structures; ii) cloud-resolving studies of tropical cyclones; and iii) downwind cascades of urban heat island (UHI) effects and their impact on the generation of extreme rainfall. They are described below.

- My first accomplishment was achieved through my Ph. D. and postdoctoral research demonstrating that many meso-beta-scale structures and evolution of convective storms could be simulated up to 18–24 hours using conventional network observations as the model initial conditions. This was accomplished by developing a two-way interactive nested-grid procedure, and then incorporating both parameterized and cloud-resolving moist downdrafts into a numerical model with a grid size of 10–25 km. In particular, my modeling work discovered the existence of meso-beta-scale warm-cored vortices in mesoscale convective complexes over the midlatitude continent that was later found from the Pre-STORM field experiment. Diagnostic analysis of the simulations allowed us to provide some new understanding of convectively generated meso-beta-scale circulations, such as mesohighs, mesolows, outflow boundaries, convectively generated vortices, rear inflow, convection-gravity wave interaction, and the generation of localized heavy rainfall. (cont.)

Interview of Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park: Dr. Da-Lin Zhang

The above accomplishment was summarized by Molinari and Dudek (1994, MWR, 2232-2233) in their reply to Zhang et al. (1994). They stated that "*It was logical in such a review to examine the most successful of the modeling efforts at the time - those of Zhang, Fritsch, and their colleagues. Over the last 14 years they have carried out seminal work in mesoscale cumulus parameterization and in the simulation of mesoscale convective disturbances (e.g., Fritsch and Chappell 1980; Zhang and Fritsch 1987, 1988; Zhang 1989; Zhang et al. 1988, 1989).*"

- To conduct the first successful real-case cloud-resolving simulation of a tropical cyclone (i.e., Hurricane Andrew of 1992), I was very fortunate to collaborate with Prof. M. K. Yau of McGill University who made profound achievements in cloud microphysics, through co-supervising an innovative postdoctoral scientist, Dr. Yubao Liu. We have coauthored a series of papers on the detailed analysis of the model-simulated Andrew's inner-core structures, the dynamics of absolute angular momentum, potential vorticity, balanced versus unbalanced flows, vortex-Rossby waves, and vertical forcing in the eye and eyewall, and the development of supergradient flows as well as thermodynamic processes in hurricanes. This series of papers provided some detailed knowledge of mature hurricanes that were not previously obtained, and they have been influential on cloud-resolving tropical cyclone modeling and analysis. According to the Essential Science Indicators, I was ranked globally the 6th most-cited author in the number of SCI-listed journal articles related to tropical cyclones during the 1996-2006 period.

- The studies of the downwind cascades of UHI effects and their impact on the generation of extreme rainfall were carried out in collaborating mainly with two of my outstanding colleagues, Prof. R. R. Dickerson of the University of Maryland, and Dr. Yali Luo of the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, respectively. Previous studies have attributed the UHI effects to localized, surface processes. But we found that upstream urbanization exacerbates UHI effects and that meteorological consequences of extra-urban development can cascade well downwind. These findings suggest that judicious land-use and urban planning, especially in rapidly developing countries, could help alleviate UHI consequences including heat stress and smog. This work was highlighted by Nature News (<https://www.nature.com/articles/news.2009.1164>). Our recent work shows that the downwind cascades of the UHI effects also facilitate the initiation of deep convection and the generation of heavy rainfall even over an area of 50-100 km downstream. I believe that this work helps not only advance our understanding of the relationship between more extreme rainfall events and rapid urbanization, but also improve the prediction of heavy rainfall in an urban environment, especially under today's warming climate.

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

I have been both fortunate and grateful for being most influenced professionally by and personally long associated with two highly accomplished scientific leaders and great mentors, Profs. Rick Anthes and Mike Fritsch, who were my M.S. and Ph. D. thesis advisors, respectively.

I was particularly grateful to Rick Anthes for his taking a risk of accepting me as one of his graduate students in late 1979, because my graduate application contained no university transcripts, no English test score and little educational background in atmospheric science. Then, I had the exceptional fortune to work on the improvements and later incorporation of the Blackadar planetary boundary layer (PBL) parameterization into the Penn State mesoscale (MM3) model as part of my M.S. thesis. Rick's invaluable insight into the importance of the PBL in numerical models was not well accepted then by some scientists, who did not believe in mesoscale models that "include everything but the proverbial kitchen sink." We have now seen that all of today's regional and global models have included not only the "kitchen sink," but all the "laundry and bathroom sinks" as well. Of course, I could not realize the significance of this research until later I attempted to model the development of heavy-rain-producing storms as part of my Ph. D. dissertation. This research has also prepared me to pursue my later career as a university professor who can teach a course on the PBL. (cont.)

3 Interview of Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park: Dr. Da-Lin Zhang

I was extremely thankful to Mike Fritsch for his inspiring advice and continuous encouragement during my Ph. D. research, without which I would not accomplish as much as mentioned above. Specifically, I could still recall my going through a two-year long, “dark tunnel,” in which I kept performing numerical experiments one after another but with little hope of success. Until I started writing my thesis, I could appreciate, in hindsight, how important training and experience I had received through those numerical experiments, because I learned deeply how various physical processes are involved in the development of heavy-rain-producing storms. In addition, through his revisions of my dissertation, I learned so much from Mike’s ability to exclusively tease out key physical processes from complicated model-simulated data, and his rigor in ensuring validity of the modeling results and legitimacy of arguments as well as giving due credits to previous researchers. In particular, because of his crucial insight, the model-simulated mesovortex turned out to be an important discovery a few months later from the Pre-STORM field experiment. All these plus his outstanding mentorship had prepared me for a professional career as a researcher and educator with life-long fascination on heavy-rain-producing storms. Personally, I have also benefitted so much from close association with Mike during my post-Penn State career. He influenced me to pursue new research areas beyond the subject of my Ph. D. work. He also influenced me on how to perform better scientific communication.

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

During the past few decades, we have seen a growing number of articles authored or co-authored by domestic and overseas Chinese scientists in earth-science journals, as previously documented by Li et al. (2007, BAMS, 846-848). We have also seen many world-class Chinese-speaking scientists receiving prestigious awards. Thus, it is highly desirable to interact and promote scientific exchange among all of us. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, I have participated in several national 973 projects in China on heavy-rain-producing convective storms, landfalling typhoons, severe weather-related disasters, and dynamical and physical processes leading to lightning in thunderstorms, which have naturally led to a number of joint publications. Most of them were achieved through co-supervising graduate students. Being an adjunct member, I have visited many atmospheric science institutions in China, during which we shared our research findings and discussed possible collaborations. I have also invited a number of domestic Chinese scientists with my research funds and hosted Chinese visitors and Ph. D. students to conduct collaborative research of mutual interests in the University of Maryland. I felt that I have benefitted so much professionally through these collaborations.

On the overseas side, COAA provides a great platform for networking Chinese-speaking professionals with common interests in earth science. I was very glad to see many young faces during recent COAA’s activities. Besides, I have enjoyed participating in regular gatherings held by a small circle of Chinese-speaking scientists working in NOAA, NASA, UMD and the other federal agencies over the DC area, during which scientific achievements are celebrated and personal interests are shared. I have also helped promote the elevation of some Chinese-speaking scientists by nominating them for AMS’s and AGU’s awards and fellows, and by writing supporting letters for professional promotions. Indeed, I have been very proud of their achievements as a Chinese-speaking researcher and educator, and very happy to see their receiving due recognition by the society.

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

The atmospheric science has grown enormously during the past few decades due to the rapid development in computing power, satellite remote sensing and internet. This trend will likely continue for many years to come. Due to my limited expertise, here I could only provide my narrow perspectives for future direction in numerical weather prediction (NWP). (cont.)

Interview of Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park: Dr. Da-Lin Zhang

- As the computing power keeps growing, the grid resolution of (nested) NWP models will continue to increase to subkilometer in order to resolve better deep convection and smaller-scale circulations, at least over limited areas of interest. This would require the development of model scale-aware physics schemes that could transition from mesoscale overturning in hydrostatic balance to nonhydrostatic deep convection and even to large-eddy simulations. These schemes with scale awareness should be suitable for the model grid size varying from > 10 km to 1~2 km, and 10~100 m.
- With the rapid growth of satellite remote sensing data, more effective data-assimilation techniques are needed to integrate these and other observations into numerical models in order to improve model initial conditions for our daily weather forecasts and climate prediction. Moreover, any new data assimilation technique developed should be compatible with the model resolution used. In this regard, it is highly desirable to develop a suitable convective-scale assimilation method as some of today's NWP models have begun to resolve individual convective clouds.
- Machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) have recently achieved breakthroughs in many scientific and engineering fields. We should expect to see in the near future the wide application of these techniques to our daily weather analysis and forecasting as well as climate monitoring. This will in turn enrich our field. In particular, with the further growth in virtual reality, information compression, and Internet, weather interpretation and forecasting on TV, radio, mobile phone and Internet could be programmed using these techniques, and most forecasters may be replaced by experienced programmers in the future. This will then represent another revolutionary advance of atmospheric science, in addition to NWP, because it will have a huge impact on the general public.

Q: What is your major advice to young scientists in our field?

To graduate students, my simple advice is that working closely with your thesis advisor is an important way to succeed because your advisor also hopes to see you succeed. Thus, you should go to see your advisor regularly, reporting research progress and problems, asking questions and getting advice or suggestions. You should keep your promise for any planned tasks, and get them done on time, because your advisor may need to report them to funding agencies. You should also interact with your committee members and the other faculty members because i) they may contribute to your thesis work with ideas that are beyond your advisor's expertise; and ii) they may write good letters for you when you apply for a job. You should try to attend department or group seminars, not just in your field, and ask questions. In addition, you should try to give talks in a group or conference. In doing so, your scientific thinking could be motivated by questions from audience, and your organization and presentation skills will be improved. These skills will be a valuable asset when you are interviewed for a research or faculty position in the future.

The above suggestions should also be helpful to postdoctoral scientists. Furthermore, you should not work exclusively with your supervisor, but interact and collaborate, if possible, with a wide range of scientists, especially those scientific leaders in your field. Their influences and guidance as well as support when applying for a position could be crucial at this stage of your career. While young scientists need to work hard and get more publications, you should not miss any opportunity, sometime a right one when facing multiple options. We all know that success requires opportunities, but to seize an opportunity, one must be prepared.

COAA 2022 AGU Banquet

Author: Youtong Zheng



Thursday, December 15, 2022 - COAA continued the tradition in hosting annual AGU Reception to foster friendships and promote international collaborations among fellow Chinese professionals. COAA hosted the COAA-AGU Dinner Reception on Thursday, December 15th, 2022 starting at 6:30 PM at Phoenix Restaurant in Chinatown, Chicago. The dinner is buffet-style, with a cash bar onsite for alcohol. As the first on-site AGU-banquet since the pandemic, more than 70 participants attended the reception, including many new COAA members. The event was jointly hosted by COAA Head Quarter, COAA South California Chapter, COAA Colorado Chapter, and COAA Northwest Chapter.

On behalf of the COAA Board 2022, COAA President **Dr. Xiaoguang Xu** first welcome the attendees. He briefly introduced the history of COAA and the current COAA regional chapters. The president of COAA Colorado Chapter, **Dr. Lunlin Xue**, introduced the Colorado Chapter by giving brief reports on recent activities and achievements. (cont.)

COAA 2022 AGU Banquet (cont.)



Then, **Dr. Xu** introduced COAA's next president, **Dr. Yuekui Yang**, from NASA, which marked the successful presidency transfer of COAA Board 2022 to COAA Board 2023. **Dr. Yang** highlighted the major activities of COAA Headquarter and introduced the new COAA distinguished lecture series.

Dr. Yang congratulated newly elected AGU/AMS Fellows and other award recipients. Dr. Ming Xue (2022 newly elected AGU Fellow) gave an award speech, thanking people who contributed to the success of his career. Dr. Jing Wei (2022 AGU James Holton Awardee) shared his memory of excitement when hearing the award news in his way to grocery. He also showed gratitude to his PhD advisor, Dr. Zhanqing Li, and Dr. Renyi Zhang who supported him in the award application. Dr. Jiwen Fan (2022 newly selected AMS Fellow) gave an inspiring award speech, with special thanks to her collaborators, Postdocs, and students. Dr. Zhanqing Li (former COAA president) shared his opinions about the current situation of Chinese-American Scholars and highlighted that we deserve more recognitions given our significant contributions to the field of atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

COAA-SCC Chinese New Year Online Party

Author: Xiquan Dong and Yike Xu

Feb 11, 2023, Saturday - About 60 COAA-SCC members meet online and celebrate the year of the rabbit.



Dr. Xiquan Dong opened the ceremony by extending his warmest congratulations to the winners of the SCC awards. COAA President Dr. Yuekui Yang, COAA-SCC Advisory Board Chair Professor Yongkang Xue, Professor Yuk Yung, and Professor Rong Fu all spoke, wishing all COAA-SCC members well in the year of the rabbit.



帝王蝶

北疆飛赤道，
歲月幾更迭。
五世終昌盛，
唯看帝王蝶。



Dr. Johnathan Jiang recited two beautiful poems written by Prof. Yuk Yung one about young scientists learning research like eagles learning to fly, and the other on the analogies of butterfly migration and science.

COAA-SCC Chinese New Year Online Party

Prof. Yu Gu discusses the value of service and rising to the challenge in her talk. Dr. Hui Su greeted the SCC members with new year's greetings and exciting science opportunities in Hong Kong.



天天有数据出新意

科研顺利

年年发文章中基金

祝大家新年快乐，兔年大吉，生活如意，
科研顺利，发表文章如履平地！

再接再厉，互帮互助，
在北美之天地，进取学术之事业，
发扬中华之精神！

We appreciate the hard work and excellent leadership of Dr. Yuan Wang (Purdue University) and the other outgoing EC members. Members were presented by regional directors from eight different COAA-SCC institutions. Beautiful renditions of "Ave Maria" by Dr. Yin Yi, "52 赫兹的你" by Zhaoxin Ban, and "车站" by Kunpeng Chen were just a few of the highlights of the evening's performances by the SCC. The party's wonderful performances, intriguing quizzes, and surprise prize drawings were a hit among all guests.

COAA Colorado Chapter celebrates the Dragon Boat Festival

Author: Shan Sun, Guoqing Ge, Weiwei Li



On the late afternoon of June 16, 2023, the COAA Colorado Chapter (COAA-CC) members gathered near Viele Lake in Boulder, Colorado, to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival. Despite the heavy rain that persisted throughout the day, the event drew a high attendance of approximately 40 individuals, primarily from NCAR and NOAA Labs. Alongside regular COAA members, participants included summer visitors from various universities across China and the U.S., newcomers to Boulder, and family members.

Undeterred by the rain, attendees gathered under the pavilion, where picnic tables were set up. The organizing committee had meticulously prepared a delightful assortment of dinner boxes and Zongzi. Attendees enjoyed particularly the exquisite flavors of the Zongzi and exchanged fond childhood memories associated with this delightful sweet or savory Chinese delicacy.

Moreover, the event featured an exciting lineup of games and activities designed to cater to everyone's enjoyment. From cornholes to spike ball and UNO cards, a lively atmosphere of friendly competition and amusement prevailed. The gathering resonated with laughter and joy, forging new connections and strengthening existing friendships.

Despite the challenging weather conditions, the turnout remained enthusiastic, prompting the festivities to extend an hour beyond the scheduled time. The combination of delicious food, entertaining games, and the unwavering spirit of community made the event truly unforgettable.

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**
- **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 the calendar year 2022 (through 12/31/2022) as

- Regular: \$20/year
- Student: \$10/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).

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,

Best regard,

COAA Board 2022



We want to hear from you

Dear COAA community,

COAA is seeking your contribution to the COAA Newsletter (<http://www.coaaweb.org/newsletters.php>) to share with the COAA community. We invite members from our COAA community to submit a short article or announcement that fits into the following categories:

- News items, conference announcements, etc
- Award recognitions, promotions, important publications, significant achievements, etc.
- Brief articles that are short, topical, and news-oriented
- COAA member 'Spotlight' (see sample issue below, and nomination self-nomination is highly encouraged)
- Advertisements from current or future corporate sponsors
- Useful member resources and opportunities

A sample issue can be found at: http://www.coaaweb.org/documents/COAA_eNews_Sep2019.pdf. Submissions are encouraged year-around for future issues.

Guidelines for contributions:

- Article submissions should be in MS Word format including a title and author(s)
- Images and photographs are highly recommended, with high resolution
- Include useful links (URLs) to additional information
- Please use our recently published issues as a sample
- Submissions should be sent to newsletter@coaaweb.org

Please note:

By submitting a contribution to the COAA Newsletter, you are agreeing that the content submitted will be publicly available. COAA reserves the right not to publish all submitted content in the Newsletter. COAA may also use submitted content in a future newsletter issue. Minor editorial changes and spelling corrections will be made. To establish the identity of contributors, your name and/or your group's name may be published with your article or contribution. By submitting images to be used with your articles, you authorize COAA to use these images in our publications.

For questions, please email COAA Newsletter editor, Dr. Youtong Zheng, at newsletter@coaaweb.org.

COAA headquarter board :

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- President-Elect: Dr. Xiquan Dong (董希泉, U. Arizona)
- Vice President: Dr. Wensha Wang (汪文珊, UCI)

COAA Colorado Chapter:

- President: Dr. Shan Sun (孙珊, NOAA)
- Pesident-Elect: Dr. Guoqing Ge (葛国庆, CIRES/NOAA)
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