

NEWS RELEASE ON PAPER DESCRIBING THE WORLD'S TOP LIGHTNING

HOTSPOTS (email to: [rich.blakeslee@nasa.gov/256-961-7962](mailto:rich.blakeslee@nasa.gov)): Our Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS) paper, "Where are the lightning hotspots on Earth?" that has just been published on-line is getting a lot of public exposure. The Web link, <http://blog.ametsoc.org/paper-of-note/the-new-capital-of-lightning/>, is a news release from the American Meteorological Society. Scientific America is also doing a full "back page" spread on this article that will be released soon. The paper itself can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-14-00193.1>. The paper, by Rachel Albrecht, Steven Goodman, Dennis Buechler, Richard Blakeslee, and Hugh Christian, highlights the top 500 lightning hotspots around the world as derived from a new, fine 0.1 degree x 0.1 degree resolution lightning dataset of the Lightning Imaging Sensor. The peak hotspot occurs in Venezuela over Lake Maracaibo, with thunderstorm developing 297 days per year. The top United States hotspot, occurring over the Everglades near Orangetree, Florida, ranks only 122nd globally.

NASA ENERGY AND WATER CYCLE STUDY (NEWS) SCIENCE TEAM

ATTENDANCE (email to: [pete.robertson@nasa.gov/256-961-7836](mailto:pete.robertson@nasa.gov)): Drs. Pete Robertson (ZP11) and Brent Roberts (ZP11) attended the NASA NEWS Science Team Meeting held March 9, 10 in Columbia, MD. As one of the Earth Science Division's six focus areas, NEWS emphasizes the integration of space-based observations and modeling to understand the role of water and energy cycles on the weather to climate continuum and to improve prediction capabilities for societal applications. In addition to presenting a review of recent ROSES supported research, Drs. Robertson and Roberts articulated strategies for developing multi-investigator subgroups (integration teams) needed to address science questions beyond the scope of individual Principal Investigator efforts. Brent Roberts is leading a group to acquire, organize and assess error properties / uncertainties in an array of needed data sets. Pete Robertson is working to synthesize improved global moisture and energy transport data sets. One primary goal of the present NEWS Science Team is to move beyond a static climatology of atmospheric, terrestrial and global ocean water and energy fluxes to produce a record of their variability over the satellite era (~1980 to the present). Dr. Robertson also spent additional time working with GSFC scientists on joint manuscripts relevant to NEWS and discussing the potential role of MSFC scientists in collaborating with GSFC assessing seasonal prediction skill in NASA climate models.

PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION (AGU) COUNCIL

MEETING (email to: [timothy.j.lang@nasa.gov/256-961-7861](mailto:timothy.j.lang@nasa.gov)): Dr. Timothy Lang (ZP11) participated in the recent AGU Council Meeting. The meeting took place during March 8-9 at AGU Headquarters in Washington, DC. Dr. Lang's position as President-elect of the AGU Atmospheric and Space Electricity Focus Group puts him on the Council, which advises the organization on scientific matters. The next AGU Council Meeting will occur online in June 2016.