

ARTICLE FEATURED AS AGU RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT (email:

timothy.j.lang@nasa.gov / 256-961-7861): Timothy Lang (ZP11) is second author on a science article, published in *Journal of Geophysical Research*, that was recently featured as an American Geophysical Union (AGU) Research Spotlight. As part of this, the article received a synopsis written for the general public (titled "Do Cities Cause Thundersnow?"), which was published in the AGU's flagship magazine, *Eos*, as well as featured online (<https://eos.org/research-spotlights/do-cities-cause-thundersnow-2>) and in social media. Titled "Synoptic scale outbreak of self-initiated upward lightning (SIUL) from tall structures during the central U.S. blizzard of 1-2 February 2011," the paper in question describes the lightning that occurred during that historic Chicago-area snowstorm. The vast majority of the snow-related lightning bolts were upward discharges initiated from various towers, buildings, and other tall human-made objects that are spread across the region. Thus, the human-built environment may play an important role in "thundersnow" events.

SPoRT PRESENTATION TO NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DIRECTOR

(email/call: andrew.molthan@nasa.gov/256-961-7474, jason.e.burks@nasa.gov/256-961-7661, brad.zavodsky@nasa.gov/256-961-7914, or gary.jedlovec@nasa.gov/256-961-7966). Dr.

Andrew Molthan (ZP11) visited National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD to brief the Director of the National Weather Service (NWS) and Associate Administrator for NOAA, Dr. Louis Uccellini, on the Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center. He provided a brief presentation of SPoRT capabilities and successes in transitioning NASA data to operational forecasters through our research-to-operations/operations-to-research paradigm. The presentation was well-received and a great discussion regarding the direction of the NWS and what role SPoRT might play as that organization evolves.

LIGHTNING IMAGING SENSOR (LIS) DATA FEATURED AS NASA EARTH

OBSERVATORY IMAGE OF THE DAY (email to: daniel.j.cecil@nasa.gov/256-961-7549): A

global map of annual mean lightning flash rate, taken from the Optical Transient Detector (OTD) and Lightning Imaging Sensor (LIS) instruments built at NASA MSFC, was featured on the NASA Earth Observatory web site as Image Of The Day for March 31. The image is a map of mean flash rate observed by those instruments during the period 4 May 1995 - 31 Dec 2013. The accompanying article quotes Dan Cecil (ZP11), pointing out details of the lightning climatology that can be more confidently identified due to the increased length of the satellite-based data record.

INVITED LECTURE AT THE SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, LOUISIANA

STATE UNIVERSITY (email to: jluvall@nasa.gov/256 961-7886): Dr. Luvall (ZP11) presented an invited lecture titled "The Power of the Pixel- A Thermodynamic Paradigm for Studying Disease Vector's Habitats & Life Cycles Using NASA's Remote Sensing Data" at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University seminar series. The seminar is part of the combined seminar series of the Pathobiological Sciences and Comparative Biomedical Sciences departments attended by faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students. This lecture was given is part of Dr. Luvall's NASA HQ role as HypSIRI Mission Deputy Program Application Lead to educate and inform the public health & veterinary community in the uses of NASA satellite data and models for studying disease vectors and their habitats.