

THUNDERSNOW RESEARCH FEATURED ON WEATHER UNDERGROUND

(email to: timothy.j.lang@nasa.gov / 256-961-7861): Research by Timothy Lang (ZP11) and Chris Schultz (ZP11) on lightning in winter storms ("thundersnow") was recently featured on Dr. Jeff Master's Blog on the popular Weather Underground site (<http://www.wunderground.com/blog/JeffMasters/comment.html?entrynum=2971>). The detailed article discusses the prevalence of upward lightning from tall objects like buildings and cell towers when thundersnow occurs. The article also mentions how Drs. Lang and Schultz have found that small-scale convection in the winter storms likely generates the electrical charging necessary for thundersnow. These researchers continue to study thundersnow and how its occurrence may help us map out regions of heavy snowfall.

ORGANIZERS, CHAIRS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS AT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL MEETING (email to:

[dale.quattrochi@nasa.gov/256-961-7887](mailto:dale.quattrochi@nasa.gov), [cory.morin@nasa.gov/256-961-7812](mailto:cory.morin@nasa.gov)): Dr. Dale Quattrochi (ZP11) and Dr. Cory Morin (ZP11) (NASA Postdoctoral Fellow) organized and chaired 3 sessions at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on April 21-24. These sessions were on "Remote Sensing, Spatial Analysis, and Modeling of Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases". They also presented joint papers in these sessions, one on "Simulating Transmission of the Dengue Virus Across the US-Mexico Border Using Remotely Sensed and Ground-Based Weather Data", and the other on "Municipality Level Simulations of Dengue Fever Incidence in Puerto Rico Using Ground Based and Remotely Sensed Climate Data". Dr. Quattrochi was also a panel member on a panel session focused on "Global Urban Observation: Developing Innovative Techniques for Urban Remote Sensing", that is related to his work on the international Group on Earth Observation's (GEO) subtask on developing a Global Urban Observation System.

SCIENCE INNOVATION FUND AWARDED (email to michael.goodman@nasa.gov /256-961-7890). The NASA Science Mission Directorate awarded five Science Innovation Fund (ScIF) proposals to MSFC scientists. These mini-awards were just for the remainder of FY15. The ScIF solicits original, innovative science research with the intent to provide the proposers with seed funding for early stage scientific research activities that are aligned with the Agency's strategic goals and objectives. The following Principal Investigators' proposals were funded:

- Andrew Molthan - Supporting Disaster Recovery and Assessment Using Google Earth Engine
- Barbara Cohen - Identifying Nectaris Impact-Melt Materials
- Dale Quattrochi - Predicting Trends in Dengue Fever Incidence Using Weather Forecasts in Puerto Rico
- Chris Schultz - Investigation Into the Development of Lightning within Heavy Snowfall and the Potential Impact on Winter Weather Public Safety
- Renee Weber - Passing the Torch: Increasing Access to the Apollo Lunar Seismic Data