Summer 2017
Undergraduate Research Opportunities
Mesoscale & Climatological Studies

Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Summer Research Program
June 5 – July 28, 2017

Deadline for Applications: February 6, 2017
Multiple Student Positions Available

For questions, application, or more information contact:

Professor Neil Laird
Department of Geoscience
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
(laird@hws.edu; (315) 781-3603)

Student positions sponsored by NSF and Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Announcement: HWS Summer Research Program

Summer 2017 Undergraduate Research Opportunities
June 5 – July 28, 2017

Mesoscale & Climatological Studies
Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY
Funds provided by the National Science Foundation

Program Description

Summer research positions are available for undergraduate students to investigate several aspects of mesoscale weather systems using a variety of meteorological data sets. Accepted students will conduct research investigations in close collaboration with Dr. Neil Laird and Dr. Nicholas Metz during an 8-week summer program at Hobart & William Smith Colleges (HWS) from June 5 through July 28. Students will receive a summer salary of $4,200 ($525 per week), free housing on the HWS campus (with kitchen facilities, full utilities, and internet), and reimbursement of travel costs to and from Geneva, NY.

A variety of projects are being planned for student researchers to work independently and in small groups during the summer research program. Projects will use a combination of operational data sets (radar, satellite, surface), field project and mesonet data sets, historical reanalysis data sets, and computer model simulations. Students will develop or enhance skills related to working with meteorological software and large databases, statistical analysis techniques, and scientific writing and presentation. In most cases, students will have opportunities for funded travel to present their research results at upcoming regional or national scientific meetings, such as the AMS Annual Student Conference.

This research is funded by the National Science Foundation and HWS. Students will have the opportunity to interact closely with Dr. Neil Laird, Dr. Nicholas Metz, and several visiting researchers during the program, as well as forecasters at National Weather Service forecast offices in Buffalo and Binghamton, NY. There will be opportunity to collect atmospheric measurements of local/regional weather conditions and participate in a group trip to the Mt. Washington Observatory. Additionally, several visits are planned to graduate programs in the northeastern United States.

Eligibility

Undergraduate students (first-year through graduating senior) working toward a degree in meteorology, atmospheric sciences, geoscience, physical geography or other related degree program are encouraged to apply. Background coursework in meteorology is essential. Prior experience with meteorological data, radar analysis, weather models, statistical methods, GIS, and established computer skills would be beneficial, but is not necessary. Applicants should have excellent oral and written communication skills and be willing to work both within a group setting and independently.

Application Procedure

Submit the completed application form (including a carefully composed statement of interest) and a copy of your college transcript which includes Fall 2016 semester grades to: Dr. Neil Laird, Department of Geoscience, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, 300 Pulteney Street, Geneva, NY 14456. The 2017 application form is available at http://people.hws.edu/laird/ along with information on past summer research students. For additional information please contact Dr. Neil Laird (laird@hws.edu).

Deadline

Completed application materials for these positions must be received by February 6, 2017. Applicants will be notified of decisions by March 10, 2017.
Application Form: HWS Summer Research Program

Name: _______________________________________

School Address:          Home Address:      
______________________________________      ______________________________________
______________________________________      ______________________________________
______________________________________      ______________________________________

Telephone: (_____) ______________________

Email: _________________________________

College/University currently attending: ______________________________________________

Major: ________________________________   Minor: ________________________________

Expected graduation date: ______________________________ (example, May 2019)

Current undergraduate status (circle one):   First-Year / Sophomore / Junior / Senior

Provide a statement of interest that includes the following items.

1. Describe your interests in atmospheric science and any experiences that have helped shape those interests.

2. How would this research experience benefit your undergraduate education and connect with your career goals?

3. Describe any background you have relevant to this program (science courses, research or work experiences, conference or meeting presentations, etc.)

Provide information for two faculty / research mentors that may be contacted to discuss their interaction with you. Please ask their permission before listing them as a reference. No letters of recommendation from mentors are necessary for submission of application.

1. Name: ___________________________________ Phone: (_____) ___________________
   Affiliation: _________________________________________________________________
   Job Title: ________________________________________
   Email: __________________________________________

2. Name: ___________________________________ Phone: (_____) ___________________
   Affiliation: _________________________________________________________________
   Job Title: ________________________________________
   Email: __________________________________________

Send this application form (with statement of interest) and a copy of your college transcript to:
Dr. Neil Laird, Department of Geoscience, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, 300 Pulteney St.,
Geneva, NY 14456

For more information email laird@hws.edu or call (315) 781-3603

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