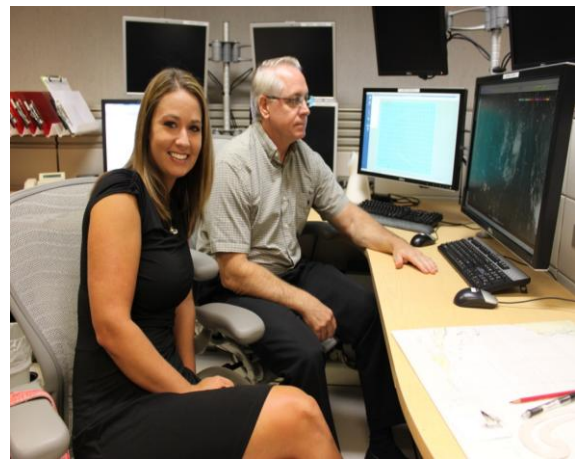


Senior AccuWeather Forecaster Dan Kottlowksi during his NHC visit during the 2011 hurricane season



Ms. Jennifer Gray, On-air Meteorologist, KTBS-New Orleans with Senior Hurricane Specialist Stacy Stewart during her NHC visit during the 2011 hurricane season

Visiting Scientists at the National Hurricane Center

During the peak of the 2012 hurricane season, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will again be hosting its annual Visiting Scientist Program.

This year participating scientists will include three university professors, a graduate student, a government laboratory researcher, two National Weather Service Forecast Office forecasters, three National Weather Service national center meteorologists/oceanographers, a private sector forecaster, and a television broadcast meteorologist.

Each will have the opportunity to be at NHC during actual tropical storm and hurricane events, spending up to three days with the hurricane specialists and one day with marine forecasters in NHC's Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch. By shadowing these forecasters, each visitor will learn the analysis and prediction methodologies, technologies employed, observations and models utilized, time constraints, and communications issued at NHC.

The program is designed to facilitate better understanding by researchers and outside forecasters of the NHC hurricane forecasting process, including the tools and techniques utilized by the hurricane specialists. It also opens additional dialog between NHC and the research and outside forecast community that could lead to improvements in our analysis and prediction methodologies. This program is restricted to scientists that have interest and expertise in day-to-day hurricane forecasting operations.

"I believe the Visiting Scientist Program helps others in the meteorological community to better understand the NHC operations," said 2011 participant AccuWeather meteorologist Dan Kottlowksi. "I believe this is helpful in strengthening partnerships that are important to help improve future research, education and communication."

Dr. Gina Eosco, a social scientist with the American Meteorological Society who also participated in 2011, added "I am truly in awe of what you [NHC] accomplish, especially now that I have a better understanding of the uncertainty involved in all of your forecasts."

NHC's Visiting Scientist Program has been running for six hurricane seasons and has been financially supported during the last four years under the auspices of NOAA's Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program.