

The February meeting of the Chicago AMS Chapter was a joint session with the newly-formed College of DuPage (COD) student chapter. The meeting was held at 7PM at Building M at COD and hosted by Professor Paul Sirvatka and the COD student chapter. Approximately 30 people attended. Everyone agrees that we should make this joint meeting an annual event.

President Paul Dailey gave a brief summary of Harry Volkman's review of the AMS Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Ken Labas then gave a presentation on Careers in the National Weather Service and the application process.

Paul Sirvatka introduced two speakers. Mr. Tyler Allison of Allison House gave a brief presentation on Severe Storm Spotter Networks that are being established that will allow National Weather Service Forecasters to actually see the position of spotters in the field. This is an exciting new development and each individual Forecast Office can decide if they want to participate. This is a program initiated by former Chicago Forecast Office forecaster Al Pietrycha, now working in Goodland, KS.

The main speaker was Ms. Allison Wreath, meteorologist from Scott AFB near St. Louis, Missouri. She gave a very introspective look at the current Air Weather Service (Air Force) structure detailing the many operational aspects of the organization. She works at the 15<sup>th</sup> Operational Weather Squadron under the 1<sup>st</sup> Weather Group. The Scott Air Force Base Squadron is responsible for all aviation forecast needs and missile launch weather for much of the central and eastern portion of the country. She indicated that Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina is responsible for forecasts for the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters. Very specific weather forecasts from local terminal air forecasts (TAFS) to in-route advisories, jet stream orientation and turbulence are routinely issued. In addition, spot warnings are transmitted for various weather hazards - with lead times from a half hour for tornadoes on up.