Dr. Logan Dawson (he/him)



Logan Dawson is the Science and Operations Officer (SOO) at NOAA's Ocean Prediction Center (OPC). As one of the nine National Centers within the National Weather Service, OPC provides critical, lifesaving maritime safety information in the form of marine weather forecasts and warnings over the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans. In his role as OPC's SOO, Logan is responsible for staff training, contributing to the Center's research and development efforts, and integrating scientific and technological advancements into the Center's forecast operations.

Prior to joining OPC, Logan worked for six years at the NOAA/NWS/NCEP Environmental Modeling Center (EMC). As a member of EMC's Model Evaluation Group, Logan played a critical role in multiple official evaluations for proposed upgrades to operational numerical weather prediction models, and he actively contributed to verification of high-resolution, convection-allowing models developed at EMC.

Logan earned B.S. degrees in Meteorology and Marine Science from North Carolina State University in 2012 and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from Purdue University in 2017. His graduate research focused on convection-allowing numerical weather prediction and verification of severe convective storms. During his undergraduate and graduate education, Logan participated in research internships with the National Weather Service, the National Severe Storms Laboratory, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Jennifer D’Iorio (she/her)



I am a meteorologist at WeatherWorks, a private weather consulting company based out of Hackettstown, New Jersey. Our mission at WeatherWorks is “to be the best at communicating client-specific weather information so you can focus on the efficient management of the risk, safety, and economy of your operations.” In addition to forecasting & monitoring the weather for our clients in the Northeast and Midwest, I am also the Training Coordinator, organizing and conducting the training / onboarding of our new hires within the company. Some of my other roles include account management, customer service, sales, marketing, and emergency management. My fascination with weather and its impacts began with watching thunderstorms in the 2nd grade. Earth science classes and experiencing Hurricane Sandy as a Long Island native only furthered this desire to learn more. This translated into a B.S. in Meteorology and Atmospheric Science from Penn State University in 2020, and a M.S. in Emergency Management from Millersville University in 2022. As a professional, my passion now lies at the intersection of meteorology, communication, emergency management and teaching - with the ultimate goal of informing, protecting, and helping people during all weather events.

Dr. Jana Houser (she/her)



Dr. Houser is an associate professor in the Atmospheric Sciences Program in the Department of Geography at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. She grew up in north of Philadelphia, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from Penn State University in 2004. She went on to pursue her Master of Science degree in 2008 and Ph.D in 2013 both in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma where she studied under the mentorship of renowned severe weather expert Dr. Howard Bluestein. From 2013 until 2022, she was a professor of meteorology at Ohio University in Athens, OH.

Dr. Houser specializes in radar analysis of tornadoes and the supercell thunderstorms that commonly produce them by using state of the art mobile radar observations. She is currently working on projects that investigate the interaction between tornadoes and terrain features, as well as the role that variations in land cover play in tornado structure, intensity and behavior. Additionally, she studies the tornado formation process in an effort to identify how the rotation that feeds the developing tornado forms in the first place, and where it comes from.

Outside of work, she is a mother to three girls, is a fitness junkie, loves the outdoors, and is active in her church.

Kevin Kotun (he/him/his)



After graduating from the University of Florida with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1990, Kevin started his professional career with the US Geological Survey (USGS) in Miami where he gained valuable experience in field hydrology, stream gaging, modeling and data management. This proved to be a solid foundation to build upon when, after 5 years, Kevin joined a private environmental engineering firm conducting environmental assessments, groundwater modeling, and remediating sites contaminated with gasoline and chlorinated solvents. After a year, Kevin moved back to the public sector to be the lead groundwater modeler for Miami-Dade County's wellfield protection program. During his tenure with the county, Kevin was involved with Everglades restoration projects as an advocate for the county's groundwater supply. In 1999, following congressional authorization of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project, Kevin joined the restoration effort as a staff member at Everglades National Park for 20 years, first as the hydrologic-monitoring-program manager, then later as the chief hydrologist where he advocated for restoration of Park resources on inter-agency projects with state, federal and tribal partners. By 2018, Kevin was ready for a change and jumped at the opportunity to return to the USGS to manage the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility located in coastal Mississippi. Here, Kevin was able to leverage his experience in field hydrology and data management to lead the calibration laboratory that provides equipment and instrumentation to USGS field technicians across the county. After 5 years, in 2024, Kevin then decided for one last career change when he joined the National Weather Service as the hydrologist-in-charge at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center generating river forecasts for rivers in the 220,000 square-mile Lower Mississippi River drainage basin.

Lauren Nash (she/her)



Lauren Nash is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge since September 2020. Her main job is to interface and interact with our local partners, making sure their needs are met and our products are well understood. She also oversees community outreach, quality control, improvements of our products and overall ensuring we are a great partner in our community. Previously, she worked in Tallahassee, FL, Huntsville, AL, and New York City. She has a Bachelor's degree in Meteorology and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. In her free time, she enjoys relaxing with her three cats, scuba diving, traveling and enjoying all the city of New Orleans has to offer.

Nicondra Norwood



It's a great honor to be home in Louisiana practicing in a career I love. The opportunity to do a job that impacts so many surrounded by my family is a dream come true. It was really a sacrifice to live elsewhere. Whether you are born and bred like myself or a transplant, Southeast Louisiana is in your blood. I've always worked hard to give the best forecasts that I can and that personal connection brings out that drive for excellence in an even greater way.

I began my broadcasting career in 1999 with WAKA, the CBS affiliate, in Montgomery, AL. I spent almost six years in Alabama as weekend, then later, morning meteorologist. Central Alabama was an excellent weather market for a young meteorologist. From days long severe weather outbreaks, to hurricane coverage and even the occasional ice and snow event I dealt with nearly every forecast scenario in the south. Hurricane Ivan kept us on the air for 48 hours with a non-stop 16 hour stretch.

In the summer of 2005 I moved to Memphis as weekend meteorologist with WPTY/WLMT. This was another city with a large coverage area where we dealt with everything from tornadoes and hailstorms to occasional snow and ice. Hurricane Katrina kept us going up there as well, not only providing information for evacuees, but the storm still had a lot of punch as it moved through North Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas.

The timing of my return in 2007 made my homecoming even more significant. Diving into the community during the midst of rebuilding presented me with unforeseen opportunities and I'm grateful to have been here during that pivotal period.

Since then it's been a pleasure to have worked to tell our stories from the highest of highs in 2010 with our Saints Super Bowl victory and lowest of lows with the Deep Water Horizon disaster and subsequent oil spill. We've dealt with storms big and small. Gustav was the first big one I covered here when tensions were still so raw. Ike flooded thousands while passing hundreds of miles to our south. Tropical Storm Lee may not even be remembered by many, but devastated others along Lake Pontchartrain and Hurricane Isaac that was like the blip on the radar for some, but another storm that wiped out entire communities flooding my home as well. I've dealt with historic flooding, record snowfall and record heat all in my tenure here with Fox 8. Each and every one of those events is instrumental in shaping future forecasts as well as understanding how those forecast affect us.

Louisiana is why I'm a meteorologist. I brought my hurricane tracking charts to school and remember giving presentations to the class on Hurricane Gilbert when I was in the sixth grade at Gramercy Elementary in St. James Parish. My first science project was on evaporation and while I enjoyed all my studies at Lutcher High School where I graduated Valedictorian I've always had a special place for science. My Mom taught physics, chemistry and pretty much every other discipline. All my aunts are retired teachers and my grandmother was a math whiz even with the limited educational opportunities afforded her in the early 20th century. She instilled in me my love of education and I strive to live up to that standard. I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Geosciences emphasis meteorology and a minor in

communications from Mississippi State University. One my greatest professional joys is passing on that legacy with school talks, station tours and mentoring future meteorologists.

My husband LeVar Lewis is also native Louisianian from St. Charles Parish. We are proud residents of Kenner where we look forward to raising our son Gage with the same value of traditions and family that were instilled in us.

Mariel Ruiz (she/her)



Mariel Ruiz is a proud Texas Aggie, dog mom, adventure-seeker, and dedicated meteorologist at WFAA in Dallas, Texas. As the daughter of Mexican immigrants from Chihuahua with roots in Arlington and a deep love for the Lone Star State's wild weather, Mariel's fascination with meteorology was sparked early. She's had a front-row seat to Texas' diverse and extreme weather, fueling a passion that led her to Texas A&M University, where she earned a B.S. in Meteorology.

She began her career as a broadcast intern in Dallas and a volunteer at the National Weather Service while attending Texas A&M. Since then, Mariel has crafted a dynamic career path. From the winds of West Texas in Midland/Odessa to tornado alley in Little Rock, Arkansas, and floods in Austin, she's tackled it all on-air and online. Her experience and expertise in weather forecasting makes her a trusted meteorologist for North Texas viewers today. At WFAA, she loves to explain not only the forecast but also the science behind it to viewers in both English and Spanish across all platforms. Her favorite part? Sharing her passion for meteorology with a new generation of aspiring weather enthusiasts!

Beyond the green screen, Mariel is an avid traveler, having checked off bucket-list items like glacier hiking in New Zealand and cenote diving in the Yucatán. At home, you can find her exploring trails with her two energetic Labradors, whipping up recipes, or immersing herself in a good TV binge.

Dr. Elise Schultz



Dr. Elise Schultz is an atmospheric scientist and owner of Schultz Weather, LLC where she provides expert analysis and intelligence on weather-related impacts to aid businesses, organizations, and individuals in informed planning, preparation, and response. Her expertise is in atmospheric electricity, radar remote sensing, social impacts of weather, and computational meteorology. Before starting her consulting business, Dr. Schultz spent 7 years as a research scientist at an aerospace and defense government contracting small business leading a team developing innovative meteorological algorithms and software applications for civil and defense applications. Dr. Schultz has a Ph.D. and B.S. in Meteorology at Iowa State University and M.S. in Atmospheric Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). She is active in AMS and NWA where she has served on numerous committees including the Student Conference Planning Committee, Board of Early Career Professionals, and Early Career Conference Committee, and currently serves on the NWA Board of Directors. Dr. Schultz lives in the Madison/Huntsville, AL area with her husband Dr. Chris Schultz, and their three active children. In her community, she volunteers with a women's health peer-to-peer support network, coaches youth soccer and basketball, and recently became a high school cross-country coach. Dr. Schultz lives by her mission to empower others with knowledge to make the best decision for their situation. She believes in lifelong learning and finding the lesson in every twist and turn we encounter.

Dr. Alan Srock



One of my colleagues is well known for saying, “That’s chaos! Who could have predicted that?” My career has certainly been unpredictable, but that’s also what has made it so rewarding.

I always liked science and weather, but I’d never considered a career in meteorology. I started college as a math major, but I soon realized that wouldn’t be a good fit for me in the long term because I had a personality. Chaos struck again because, of the dozen colleges I looked at attending, I happened to go to the only one that had a meteorology major. Even having meteorology courses available wasn’t enough to get me to bite (especially since the intro class was at 8am); it took a couple friends who were meteorology majors to convince me to give it a try, and they were right – I was hooked.

A formal bio about me would say something like: undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University, masters and doctorate from the University at Albany, post-doc with Michigan State University and the U.S. Forest Service, and now a professor at St. Cloud State University. That leaves out the chaos, and those stories are way more enlightening and fun. Here are some career highlights (and lowlights) that you can ask me about:

- Interning at WGN-TV in Chicago for a year when I never had any intention of going into broadcasting
- Presenting my master’s research at an AMS Tropical meeting in front of a bunch of professionals (including NHC forecasters) and referring to the ocean east of the U.S. as “the Pacific”. I had no idea I did that until one of my friends told me later. Still makes me cringe…
- Working with students to develop virtual-reality experiences to visualize weather phenomena in 3D
- Teaching Conservation Corps students how to interpret the fire-weather information they need to stay safe when out fighting wildfires
- Launching weather balloons into the path of a solar eclipse
- Getting burgers at the Krystal on Bourbon Street at 2:30am with current and former students the last time the AMS Annual Meeting was in New Orleans. (There’s a decent chance that will happen again…)

Matt Tuftedal



Matt Tuftedal is an Atmospheric Instrumentation Science Specialist at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory. Under that job title, Matt is the facility manager for the Argonne Testbed for Multi-scale Observational Science (ATMOS) field site. He is also involved with the DOE's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) program as an associate mentor for the microwave radiometers and surface meteorology instrumentation. Lastly, Matt is a member of the Measurement Strategy Team for the Community Research on Climate and Urban Science (CROCUS) campaign. You can say that Matt works pretty much exclusively in observations. Outside of work life, Matt grew up in the rural southwest Michigan small town of Delton. Which is located between Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Battle Creek Michigan. He's an avid hiker, guitar player, video gamer, and general fan of anything exploring. For his education background, Matt did his bachelor's degree in meteorology from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in atmospheric science from University of North Dakota.