



The AMS Student Conference “Tools of the Trade” Session:

An Open-Access Resource for Developing Computing Skills in the Atmospheric Sciences

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The AMS Student Conference

- Takes place annually during the weekend prior to the AMS Annual Meeting
- Aimed at upper-level undergraduate students and graduate students
- Exposes students to an array of career options across weather, water, and climate
- Dozens of invited speakers and ~200 student poster presentations

Motivation for “Tools of the Trade”

- **PROBLEM:** Many students enter graduate school or the workforce without the computing skills they need in order to succeed. Moreover, they don't know what skills are needed or how to go about building expertise.
- **GOAL:** Empower students to take their learning into their own hands by:
 1. exposing students to the software platforms and computing languages that are used in AMS-related disciplines
 2. providing resources to help students get started using these “tools” of the atmospheric science “trade”

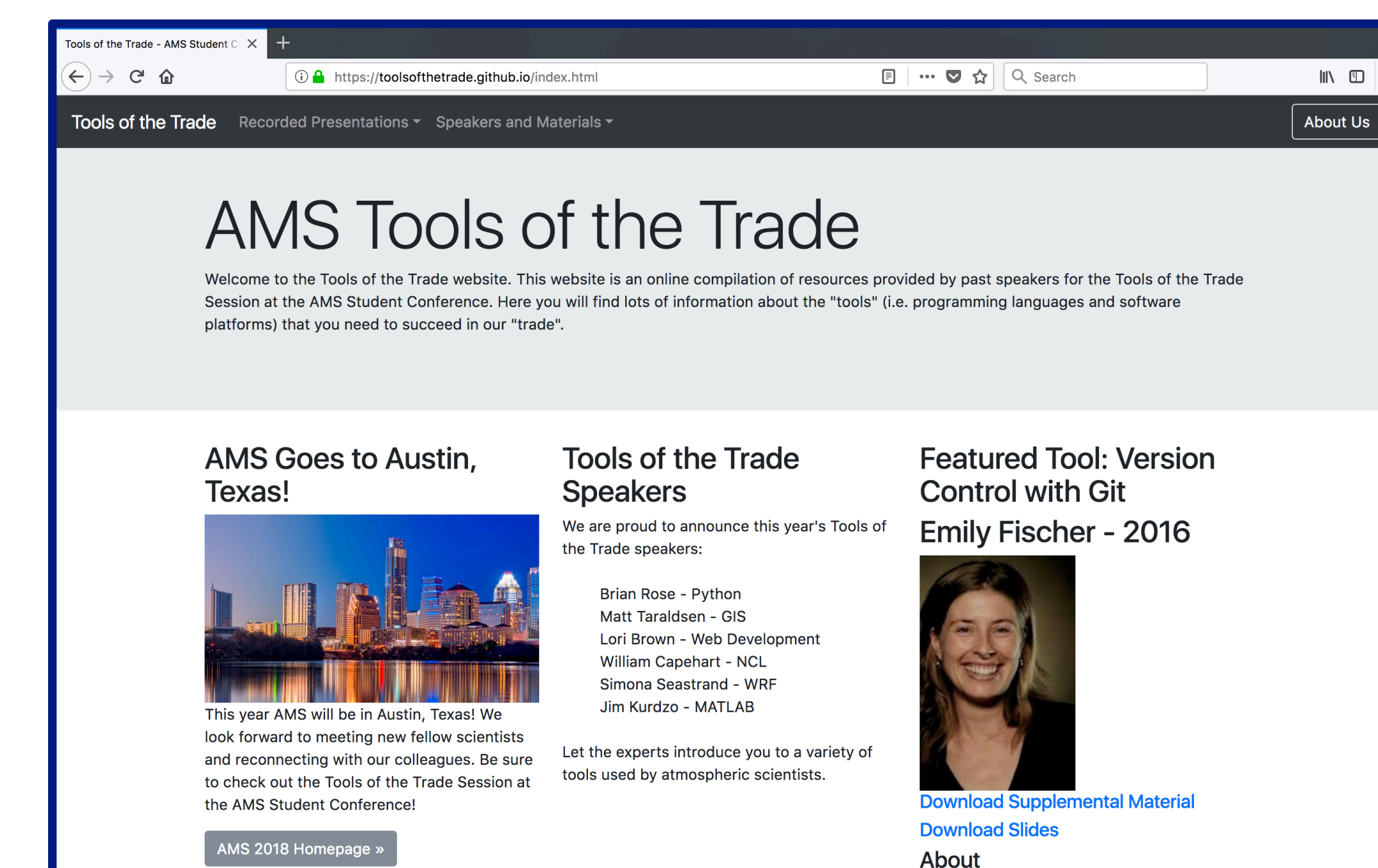
After three years of offering this session (2016, 2017, 2018), a new problem has emerged:

- **PROBLEM:** Now that we have created this resource, we suspect that it has been underutilized. (Students just don't have the time and/or motivation to commit to learning new tools on their own!)



Students at an AMS Student Conference session on emergency management. Source: twitter

Webpage: toolsofthetrade.github.io



For each “tool”:

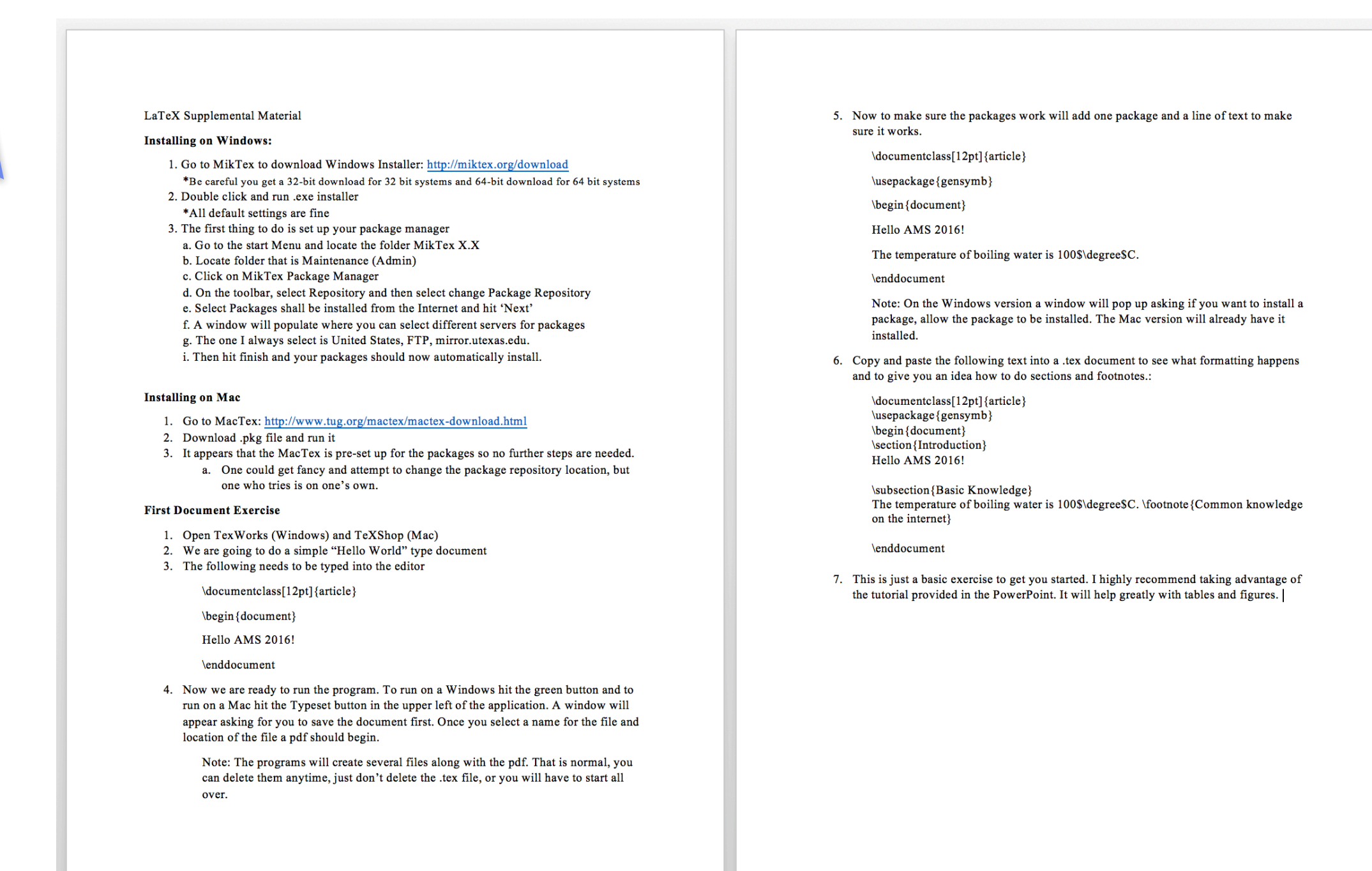
- At least one 5 – 7 minute **recorded presentation** introducing the tool
- **Supplemental material** explaining how students can get started with the tool

By the numbers:

- 14 “tools” covered
- 21 invited speakers
- 300+: number of times supplemental materials accessed
- 700 students: annual attendance at AMS Student Conference

LaTeX

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