

The Hollings Scholars of Millersville Meteorology



The class of 2016/2017 recipients of the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship. Left to right: Alyssa Cannistraci, Mary Gilbert, Erin Jones, and Amber Liggett.

Millersville University Department of Earth Sciences is proud to announce the accomplishment of four meteorology students who are recipients of the NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship. Amber Liggett and Alyssa Cannistraci are members of the Hollings Class of 2016, while Mary Gilbert and Erin Jones belong to the Class of 2017. The Hollings Scholarship offers students many unique opportunities including an orientation program, professional development and networking with Hollings peers and NOAA scientists, financial assistance, and an internship experience at one of NOAA's laboratories or centers nationwide.

Alyssa Cannistraci, a senior meteorology student at Millersville, completed her internship at the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma. Her project was to investigate the biases and heuristics in tornado warning response. She writes, "Millersville University Department of Earth Sciences first introduced me to this scholarship program during my freshman year. ESCI 386 *Scientific Programming, Analysis, and Visualization with Python* really prepared me for my internship. I was able to perform in-depth data analyses and help peers resolve issues in their own Python codes. Professors here at Millersville really care about their students, and will go out-of-their-way to ensure that everyone reaches their potential. I cannot thank the Department enough for everything they've done for me over the past three years."

Amber Liggett is also a recipient of Class of 2016. She completed her internship over summer 2017 at the National Weather Service Office of Communications in Norman, OK where she developed the Weather-Ready Nation initiative through communication, education, and outreach. Both Alyssa and Amber presented their research at the AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA in January 2017.

Mary Gilbert and Erin Jones are a junior meteorology majors and members of the Hollings Scholars Class of 2017. "I am very much looking forward to next summer! I hope to intern at a NOAA site doing research in severe weather, weather risk, or aviation weather. I'm so thankful for my MU meteorology professors who constantly encourage me to accomplish big things," says Mary.

Erin Jones will also be completing her Hollings internship at a NOAA facility next summer. Erin is looking for a project where she could work with atmospheric numerical modeling or a project that combines her interest in meteorology with her interest in emergency management. In either case, says Erin, "I believe that the classes I have taken at Millersville University in my major and minors will have prepared me for these opportunities."

