Greetings SJSU–Meteorology alum!

I am following up on the letter we sent out this summer to re-establish contact with you, our alums, and to make good on my promise to fund raise! I expect that you have received similar letters from both SJSU and from the College of Science in the past, but for the first time we are conducting our own “in-house” fund-raising event!

Let me first fill you in on department news this year. The fall semester is underway, as you can see from the “Welcome Back!” photos on our homepage. We have welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Craig Clements. He studies fire weather, and also has expertise in mountain meteorology and in boundary layer meteorology (you can read more about him on the home page). Craig already has a graduate student working on the analysis of data gathered during the Fireflux field experiment; this field study is featured on the cover of the September issue of BAMS. Craig is also working on acquiring instrumentation to help get our students out “in the field” observing weather events, and he is looking forward to developing courses on both Fire Weather and Mountain Meteorology in the near future.

Dr. Eugene Cordero was granted tenure this past year and is celebrating by being on sabbatical all year! Dr. Tom Rickenbach has relocated to the east coast where he is now on the faculty at East Carolina University. Over the past three years, our student forecasting team has finished in 2nd, 1st, and 3rd place in the national forecasting contest, now called the Weather Challenge. In fact, the Weather Challenge was developed by our very own Mike Voss along with three other meteorologists from around the country. The competition now has over 1500 participants with over 50 teams. We are looking forward to another year of strong forecasting.

As I mentioned in my letter earlier this year, one of my goals as chair is to work to position the department to become a “program of choice” for students west of the Mississippi. We have been planning for how to accomplish this, and have developed a prioritized list of needs we believe will help us accomplish our growth goals. In addition, we have increased our outreach efforts to the states bordering California, and will continue to expand outward to contact high school students. We are also designing a new field course to give our students more “hands-on” meteorological experience. The course would be run during summer, and would give our students exposure to a broader range of weather phenomena than we see in San Jose. We believe this will be attractive to potential students.

As I mentioned in my first letter, our growth efforts will require resources beyond what is typically available to small departments. Thus, we are seeking your assistance to fund these priority items:

1) **Undergraduate student scholarships**: we would like to offer 2-3 per year at $1000 each. These would be offered to students on a competitive basis. As you must remember, the cost of living in the south bay is frightening, making it difficult for new and transfer students to come here.
2) **A graduate student scholarship**: we would like to offer one scholarship per year at $2000 to assist new students who do not yet have research funding.

3) **Capitol equipment development**. We have a number of equipment needs in the department that cannot be taken care of with state funding. You may be surprised to learn that our department (a science department!) has received zero equipment dollars for at least the last five years. As a result, our computing lab is aging. The lab (which is located in the old “map room”) is used in many of our classes, from forecasting and synoptics, to statistics, technical writing, numerical modeling etc. *Also*, many of you no doubt remember hours of “fun” poring over fax maps looking for clues to tomorrow’s weather. We would like to re-establish that atmosphere via the purchase of an electronic “map wall”, essentially 2-4 monitors (and 1-2 processors) dedicated to the display of weather products – and hung on the wall! *Finally*, we would like to purchase our own portable weather station to be used for teaching, for senior thesis projects, and during field trips.

At this time, we would like to ask for your help in growing the department by making a donation. As you will see below, we offer you an opportunity to contribute to the program of your choice, and in moderate amounts. We are especially interested in encouraging you to make a commitment to donate for three consecutive years (at the same amount) to assist us in our long-term planning.

We hope your memories of SJSU-Meteorology are good ones, and that you will join with us in helping the next generation of meteorologists/graduates have a wonderful experience here!

With best wishes, sincerely,

Alison F.C. Bridger
Chair & Professor

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Tear off below here

☐ Yes! I would like to donate to SJSU-Meteorology’s growth fund as indicated below.

Donation amount…suggested $50 for individuals…$500 for businesses/corporate (make checks payable to San Jose State University).

☐ $50  ☐ $500  ☐ other ____________________ (specify)

☐ please direct my donation towards the undergraduate student scholarship fund

☐ please direct my donation towards the graduate student scholarship fund

☐ please direct my donation towards the department’s capitol equipment fund

☐ Yes! I am willing to commit to donate the same amount for three years (2007-09)

☐ Sorry – not at this time.

Use the enclosed, stamped addressed return envelope to mail in your check!