

**Jinny Nathans:** This is Jinny Nathans. I'm the archivist at AMS, and I'm here at the Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology conference. It is April 17, 2018, and I'm here with Jordan Rabinowitz who is going to talk on a topic, I'm not sure what. Can you tell it's late in the afternoon? So here you go Jordan.

**Jordan Rabinowitz:** Sure. First off, thank you for having me on this AMS Centennial project, it's a good initiative getting a full range of perspectives on science and all the different paths that people take. I myself am a Ph.D. student now, first year, at the University of Missouri. I also dual operate as actually the CEO and operations director of the Global Weather and Climate Center website, which is a global weather and climate and environmental educational, communication, and awareness initiative organization. So yeah, I'd say my plate's pretty full.

But what I really wanted to come here to talk about today was how basically I've come from being born to where I am now briefly. So as I grew up in Long Island, my actual interest as a scientist really developed through snowstorms. The average story where you have the fascination that grows into obsession, obsession grows into a passion, and a passion grows into a career. Went on to pursue my undergrad at Oswego. For anyone listening, I hope all the alums are cheering out there right now. And then I went on to Mizzou for my master's, which I completed, and now I'm into my Ph.D.

I think what's most rewarding about being meteorologist, and many people can attest to this, is the fact that even in the young stage that my career is at, you honestly have an appreciation for everything it takes to get to the point at which you're at when you get through one, let alone two, let alone three, soon, advanced degrees, a lot of perspective on the accomplishments of all the people who have gotten many accolades and many accomplishments out there, many of which many people know, and some of which are more quiet and more soft-spoken. So it's really a neat field to be in, and it's a field that impacts everyone every day. So that's one of the neat things about it.

As far as the second thing I want to hit about is significant milestones. I think one of the most special moments in my life at this point was actually not when I got my bachelor's, it was when I got my master's degree. I walked across the podium and accepted what was actually a fake diploma at the time, later got the real one. But when I did that, it really sunk into me what the potential was and where my sights were set at that point in time. It was actually interesting because when I walked, the website itself on the other side of my life, in the private sector, had not even really gotten going yet because that was born on January 23rd of 2016, so that was in its infancy. We just started with a few people at that time, so at that point, I was just really a master's student and didn't know where my other interests were going.

Then later, growing from a couple of people to now over 25 people in the organization, having writers from both hemispheres in our or – eastern and western hemisphere, it's very humbling. It can also be very challenging. For any students listening that are uncertain or unsure about their career, one of the reasons I wanted to do this in the first place was to convey, as a young scientist, myself, in many of the people's shoes who may be listening to this at some point, that even if you want to go in the private or academic sector, being in both myself now, it's all about time management and about recognizing you can't get everything done in a day, and that there

are going to be moments where you either have to sacrifice something you enjoy doing to get something else done, whether it's going to that bar or going to that concert on a Saturday afternoon, and just staying in and learning IDV or learning BUFKIT better or going over another paper or another publication or manuscript. That's really what separates, I think, taking it to a different level than just enjoying life, which both are important. It's important to take time off as well. I'm no exception. For me it's Yankees baseball or the gym. For you it might be listening, going to a Luke Bryan concert, or I don't know, whatever you're interested in out there. So there's just a lot of different perspectives that you have to take and things that you have to be willing to accept along the way.

**JN:** When did you join AMS?

**JR:** I joined AMS in fall 2009 as I became an undergrad at SUNY Oswego, and I've been a member ever since. I have a huge pile of BAMS.

**JN:** Did you get anything else from AMS apart from BAMS?

**JR:** I did. Well, I've gotten Weatherwise, other things. I've gotten to have opportunities to apply for grants for conferences which I've support from actually two or three conferences in my young career, already.

**JN:** Can you talk about that, expand on that a little?

**JR:** Sure, yeah. For sure. AMS New Orleans and AMS Seattle, I was lucky enough to get back-to-back opportunities for student travel fund support. Put forth a good request and a good argument for why I felt it was reasonable to try to apply for it, and luck of the draw in getting it. It really helped to support myself as a student as we are, we're usually not rolling in the cash and not driving around in Maseratis, so it does help to have the support of the AMS in traveling and having support even in the city if it can go that far, which usually airfare takes care of most of it. But nonetheless, it's always helpful to have the support, which AMS consistently provides. I've never actually applied for the scholarships for the actual undergrad, but I know they're there, so they're always good for those listening. It's challenging, but it's a good one if you're able to land it.

**JN:** That's great. Anything else you'd like to touch on?

**JR:** Yeah. I wanted also to say about membership in AMS, just in general, a lot of students – and this is something I thought of. I've been to five annual AMSs, this was actually my first AMS Tropical, in Ponte Vedra, but I've been to seven AMS conferences, overall, including one broadcast conference in Kansas City last time it was held there just recently.

One thing I want to say to students, both undergrads and grads listening, conferences can often be very intimidating in the context that you're around professionals like the Ed Zipsers, Lance Bosarts, Kerry Emanuels, these people who have hundreds of publications and have a huge reputation in the field. Just because you don't – I make the analogy as a baseball fan like Derek Jeter. He didn't start off as an all-star, he started off as someone who learned to do what he did,

and everyone that's a student is basically doing the same thing. So if you're listening, when you do listen, don't feel intimidated to go to conferences. It's a great time to resource, it's a great time to meet students and professionals, a great time how to learn how to be a better professional yourself, and conduct yourself and represent both yourself and your university, and you make a name for yourself. I can just speak for myself.

The first time I met many professionals at these conferences, they remember you. You have a conversation and you make a name for yourself, and they'll commend you on talks. I had people I didn't even remember meeting, but then they came back to me saying great job, I saw your talk Monday morning at 8:30, and I go, I'm glad you're awake at that time to see it. So it really is a neat and rewarding experience if you make it done – if you do it right. And being organized during the conference is important, as well, so you have a plan, so you're not wandering around. I always make sure I do that.

**JN:** That sounds good. You mentioned Ed Zipser, he's actually coming in tomorrow to do a longer-form interview.

**JR:** That's great.

**JN:** And that will be up on our website at some point fairly soon, and just take a look at it and see the other meteorological greats that have also sat for their interviews.

**JR:** Yeah, I think it's great to have a huge diversity for such a program, because it gives a full range of experiences and perspectives because these people that are effectively not on their way out per se, but at the latter part of their careers, in the best description possible, have a very robust professional experience on how to go about it. Because they've had a fusion of generational experiences from the newer students with Twitter and Facebook and all the communication networks to their generation. So it's a neat mix of people, I'm sure.

**JN:** Exactly and that's why for the AMS Centennial, we're spending part of our time looking back, but also a great deal of our time looking forward.

**JR:** Exactly. So thank you for having me, though.

**JN:** Thank you. Thank you. This has been very good and very informative.