

**Jinny Nathans:** My name is Jinny Nathans, and I'm the archivist at AMS. It's Tuesday, April 17th, and I'm here with Lakemariam Worku –

**Lakemariam Worku:** Yes.

**JN:** – who is going to give us a story for the next few minutes. Thank you.

**LW:** OK, thank you. My name is Lakemariam Worku. I'm from Ethiopia. I'm 33. And I went to school in Greensboro, North Carolina, A&T State University. I'm doing my PhD in atmospheric science.

Originally, when I decided – it's kind of fortune when I decided to join the meteorology department. When I was a kid, like when I was grade five or six, my friend – his dad is a meteorology observer. We usually go to the station to see how he's doing, and it fascinated me a lot.

So when I went to university – Arba Minch University in Ethiopia – so when I find out that they have meteorology department, I immediately joined the department. After I graduated from the meteorology department, I joined the national meteorology agency of Ethiopia. I worked there for seven years, and then I came to United States after then.

**JN:** Have you finished your PhD or –

**LW:** Not yet. Now I'm doing my research. I'm already done with my coursework, and I'm going to publish a paper soon.

**JN:** What is the topic?

**LW:** The topic of my research is the relationship between the Madden-Julian Oscillation and the equatorial waves in the diurnal cycle over the maritime continent.

**JN:** That sounds very complicated.

**LW:** It's a little bit, but it's good. (laughter)

**JN:** That's good. What kind of research have you done? Have you traveled at all?

**LW:** Yeah, I have traveled in a different place. I went to China for different conferences four times. I went to Russia for training one time. I went to Kenya. I went to Uganda. I went to Sudan. I went to Qatar.

**JN:** Oh, wow. Did you think meteorology would take you all over the world?

**LW:** Yes. (laughter) Probably that is one of the only subjects that you can travel around the world and you can communicate with people, because it's in everybody's life.

**JN:** That's very true.

**LW:** Yeah.

**JN:** Which country did you like the most?

**LW:** I really liked China and Russia. Russia, they have – the country is green. It's a huge country, like the United States, but when you are looking down from the airplane, you can see it's green. Back home in Africa, we have different stations – due to climate change, you have different kinds of distribution of trees and plants. So it will make you a little bit jealous when you see that. But back in China, they have these huge structures and different technology and development. It's good. But United States is the best.

**JN:** (laughter) I didn't make you say that.

**LW:** I know that. (laughter) I choose to say that.

**JN:** Are you planning to teach after you finish?

**LW:** I'm planning to engage in research work, probably in the university or maybe at one of the laboratories. I will see what happens next. But I'm hopeful to go to some research work or something like that.

**JN:** In the United States, we have had so many hurricanes. Have you been in hurricanes?

**LW:** No, I haven't. Last time we were expecting to have it in North Carolina, but it diverted to northeast and we couldn't get the impact. So we were lucky.

**JN:** (laughter) Yes, I think we're lucky when we don't get the hurricane.

**LW:** Yeah.

**JN:** Have you been home?

**LW:** To Ethiopia? No, not yet. So far I am staying here. But I'm planning to go back soon, yeah.

**JN:** Is there anything else that you'd like to talk about – any other stories on meteorology?

**LW:** Joining the AMS is one of the best decisions for me, because now I can have different Bulletins and different – the perks are really good. So I can learn a lot of things, and I can engage myself with AMS research work. So that's a good thing, and I will continue after I graduate. Now I am a student member. After I graduate, I will be a regular member, and I will encourage people to join the AMS. Because when I was in Ethiopia, I usually want to join the AMS, but in Ethiopia, we have (inaudible) payment and credit card and stuff. I couldn't do

that. But once I get here, I immediately joined the AMS. And since I came here two years and four months, I am a member. So that's a good thing.

**JN:** Do you subscribe to all the journals?

**LW:** Not yet, since I am a student. I'm doing with what I have. But in the future, I'm going to do it, because we are planning to publish our research in an AMS journal, most likely in Journal of Climate or Monthly Weather Review. So we will see what happens after that.

**JN:** Oh, I think that's wonderful.

**LW:** Yeah, we are planning to do that.

**JN:** And the publication of the journals, of the AMS journals, is of such a very major part of what AMS does and how people can learn about AMS, particularly from the Bulletin.

**LW:** Yeah. The Bulletin is good. At the same time, the websites – it provides you a lot of resources. So almost 95% or 97% of the literature that I am reviewing right now – that I reviewed so far and I am going to review in the future – are from the AMS website. I don't go to look for research on Google or somewhere else, because I can find it from the AMS. That's a good thing.

**JN:** That is very, very nice to hear.

**LW:** Yeah, the database is good. Really, I am enjoying it.

**JN:** Excellent. That's excellent. Anything else?

**LW:** That's all. If you have any other questions –

**JN:** No, I don't. But thank you very, very much for coming to talk to me.

**LW:** OK, thank you so much. Ahmesugenalew means thank you. (laughter)

**JN:** That's wonderful. Thank you so much. I'm glad I saw you yesterday.

**LW:** Thanks so much. OK, thanks.