

Michael L. Wasserstein

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences
University of Utah

Expected Summer 2026

M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences
University of Utah

August 2023

B.A. in Physics with honors (Minors in math and Spanish)
Middlebury College

May 2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Orographic precipitation
- Mountain weather and climate
- Mesoscale and synoptic-scale meteorology

APPOINTMENTS

2021 – Present **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Utah

2020 - 2021 **Undergraduate Student Researcher**, Middlebury College

2019 **Meteorologist Intern**, NBC Universal Channel 4, West Hartford, CT

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Utah

- Secrets of the Greatest Snow on Earth, ATMOS 1000; Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant, Middlebury College

- Newtonian Physics, PHYS 109; Fall 2020
- Electricity and Magnetism (lab), PHYS 110; Spring 2019

Workshop Instructor, Middlebury College

- Introduction to Meteorology; Winter 2020, Winter 2021

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Outstanding Student Presentation Award, AMS 21st Conference on Mountain Meteorology, Summer 2024
- NCAR Advanced Study Program (ASP) Graduate Visitor Program (GVP) Fellowship, Summer 2024
- NCAR Student Visit, August 2023
- College Scholar, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring 2021
- NESCAC All-Academic Team, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- Dean's List, Fall 2017

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Fine-scale prediction of orographic precipitation in multi-ridge orography. Seminar, University of Utah, September 2024.

Fine-scale prediction of orographic precipitation in multi-ridge orography. Research Applications Lab HAPpy Hour Seminar, NCAR, June 2024.

Cool-season orographic snowfall extremes in the central Wasatch Mountains, Utah, USA. National Weather Service Salt Lake City Fall Seminar, NWS SLC, November 2023.

Cool-season orographic snowfall extremes in the central Wasatch Mountains, Utah, USA. Research Applications Lab Seminar, NCAR, August 2023.

Avalanches, Cool-Season Orographic Precipitation Extremes, and Deep-Powder Skiing in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah. Seminar, University of Innsbruck, June 2023.

Characteristics of Cool Season Orographic Precipitation Extremes in the Central Wasatch. ECSC 0350; The Mountain Critical Zone, Middlebury College (virtual), February 2023.

Characteristics of Precipitation Extremes in the Central Wasatch. Seminar, University of Utah, November 2022.

Weather. OEL-352: Avalanche Ecology, Westminster College, February 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

Wasserstein, M. L. and W. J. Steenburgh, 2024: Diverse Characteristics of Extreme Orographic Snowfall Events in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah. *Monthly Weather Review*, **152**, 945–966, <https://doi.org/10.1175/MWR-D-23-0206.1>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kingsmill, D.E., **Wasserstein, M.L.**, Geerts, B.N., and Steenburgh, W.J., 2024: “Multiscale Mountain Waves associated with Orographic Precipitation over Basin and Range Topography”, 21st Mountain Meteorology, AMS, Boise, ID.

Wasserstein, M.L. and Steenburgh, W.J., 2024: “Diverse Characteristics of Extreme Orographic Snowfall Events in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah”. 21st Mountain Meteorology, AMS, Boise, ID.

Wasserstein, M.L. and Steenburgh, W.J., 2023: “Characteristics of Cool-Season Orographic Precipitation Extremes in the central Wasatch Range, Utah, USA”. 36th International Conference on Alpine Meteorology, St. Gallen, CH.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Evans, A.N., Veals, P.G., **Wasserstein, M.L.**, and Steenburgh, W.J., 2024: “Census of Valley and Mountain Profiling Radar Characteristics during Winter Storms along Utah's Wasatch Front”, 21st Mountain Meteorology, AMS, Boise, ID.

Wasserstein, M.L., and Steenburgh, W.J., 2024: “Fine-scale Prediction of Orographic Precipitation in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah”, 21st Mountain Meteorology, AMS, Boise, ID.

Evans, A.N., Veals, P., **Wasserstein, M.L.**, and Steenburgh, W.J., 2023: “Census of Valley and Mountain Profiling Radar Characteristics during Winter Storms along Utah's Wasatch Front”, 32nd Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, AMS, Madison, WI.

Wasserstein, M.L., Steenburgh, W.J., Veals, P., Kingsmill, D., Evans, A. 2023: “Observations of the Characteristics of Cool-Season Precipitation in the Salt Lake Valley and Adjacent Central Wasatch Range of Utah, USA”. 36th International Conference on Alpine Meteorology, St. Gallen, CH.

Lombardo, S.J., **Wasserstein, M.L.**, Veals, P., and Steenburgh, W.J., 2022: “Verification and Bias Correction of Global Forecast System (GFS) Precipitation Forecasts in Little Cottonwood Canyon. REALM Student Poster Session, University of

Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

Wasserstein, M.L. and Steenburgh, W.J., 2022: “Impacts of Dry Sub-Cloud Layers on Orographic Precipitation”, 20th Conference on Mountain Meteorology, AMS, Park City, UT.

DATASETS

Wasserstein, M.L. and Steenburgh, W.J., 2023: Alta-Collins Snow and Liquid Precipitation Equivalent Observations 2000–2023.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Computer:** Python (primary), R, Mathematica
- **Models:** WRF, CM1
- **Languages:** English (primary), Spanish

AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Meteorological Society, 2018 to present

Service

- First-year Graduate Student Mentor, University of Utah, 2024 to present
- Student Member, American Meteorological Society Committee on Mountain Meteorology, 2024 to present

PRESS

- KUER (02/21/2024) “It’s been a warm, wet winter in Utah but don’t blame El Niño”:
<https://www.kuer.org/health-science-environment/2024-02-21/its-been-a-warm-wet-winter-in-utah-but-dont-blame-el-nino>
- @THEU (02/05/2024) “Where does the central Wasatch’s extreme snowfall come from?”:
<https://attheu.utah.edu/research/where-does-the-central-wasatchs-extreme-snowfall-come-from/>