

# Introducing the SCIENCE PLAYERS!

by Roberto Sepulveda, SAIC - NASA Langley Research Center

Teamwork! "The cooperative effort by the members of a group to achieve a common goal." How does that sound for a dictionary definition of teamwork? Well, we here at NASA believe that the word **teamwork** symbolizes so much more.

Throughout the course of time great individuals have commented about their ideas on teamwork. Take for instance this anonymous statement, "Teamwork: simply stated, it is less me and more we." This statement goes right along with the fact that "there is no I in TEAMWORK." Other great clichés which describe teamwork include: a successful team beats with one heart, the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results, the ability to work toward a common vision, and people working together effectively and efficiently.

Thomas Edison, when asked why he had a team of twenty-one assistants stated, "If I could solve all the problems myself, I would." Simply stated, working together works! The great NBA coach, Phil Jackson, once stated, "The strength of the team is each individual member...the strength of each member is the team." It is amazing how much can be accomplished when it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

The NASA Langley's Science Directorate Team is proud to exemplify these team concepts as they strive together to understand the complexity of Earth's climate and how to use this knowledge to benefit mankind worldwide. It is our hope that students will gain a true appreciation for the value teamwork plays in the world around them.

## Spotlight on Atmospheric Careers



**Dr. Bruce A. Wielicki**  
Principal Investigator

Responsible for leading the science efforts for the CERES project.

Born 1952 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

**Education:**  
B.S. Applied Math and Engineering Physics at University of Wisconsin - Madison  
PhD Physical Oceanography at Scripps Institute of Oceanography

**Favorite School subject(s):**  
I liked Science and Creative Writing

**Favorite Hobbies:**  
Reading, Golf, Radio Control Airplanes and Woodworking

**What made you enter your profession?**  
Putting clouds into a toy climate model and watching it run off to an ice covered Earth.

**What do you like most about your job?**  
Working on something important to society, something unknown and working with a great team of researchers. Every day is different!

**What advice do you have for someone interested in an Atmospheric Science Career?**  
Get a solid background in applied math, engineering and basic physics at the undergrad level. Choose a grad school excellent for both teaching and research then get training in Earth science particulars.

## Spotlight on Atmospheric Careers



**Dr. Lin Hartung Chambers**  
Physical Scientist

Responsible for leading education and outreach efforts for CERES and doing analysis of data products.

Born 1963 in Madison, Wisconsin, USA

**Education:**  
B.S. & M.E. Aeronautical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
PhD Aerospace Engineering at North Carolina State

**Favorite School subject(s):**  
I liked most subjects and in particular finding the connections between them.

**Favorite Hobbies:**  
Knitting, Volleyball and reading

**What made you enter your profession?**  
As a child I spent a lot of time on airplanes. Dad was a physicist and private pilot.

**What do you like most about your job?**  
Having the chance to share knowledge and ideas with educators.

**What advice do you have for someone interested in an Atmospheric Science Career?**  
It's a very broad and inter-connected field, so learn as much as you can and find the part that most interests you.

## Spotlight on Atmospheric Careers



**Dr. Patrick Minnis**  
Senior Research Scientist

Lead on a research team responsible for converting MODIS images into cloud properties

Born 1950 in Shawnee, Oklahoma, USA

**Education:**  
B.S. Engineering, Vanderbilt University  
M.S. Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University  
PhD Meteorology, University of Utah

**Favorite School subject(s):**  
Science

**Favorite Hobbies:**  
Swimming, reading and landscaping.

**What made you enter your profession?**  
As I grew up I became an avid sky watcher, with a special interest in clouds. During April 1974, an enormous tornado crossed my path on the highway and I narrowly missed being one of its victims. From that point I was convinced weather was my calling.

**What do you like most about your job?**  
I like solving problems and interpreting satellite data.

**What advice do you have for someone interested in an Atmospheric Science Career?**  
Don't be afraid of mathematics and science. And very importantly, learn how to write well.

## Spotlight on Atmospheric Careers



**Carrie S. Phelps**  
Software Application Engineer

Science data support and Web development for NASA outreach projects.

Born 1972 in Martin, Tennessee, USA

**Education:**  
B.S. Meteorology, Penn State University  
M.S. Meteorology, University of Maryland

**Favorite School subject(s):**  
I liked math and chemistry the best.

**Favorite Hobbies:**  
Tennis, shopping and travel!

**What made you enter your profession?**  
I was glued to the Weather Channel when it debuted. Initially, I sought training to become a broadcast meteorologist.

**What do you like most about your job?**  
I enjoy being able to help people understand earth science.

**What advice do you have for someone interested in an Atmospheric Science Career?**  
Choose a reputable university with a strong program in your field. Find a good mentor early in your profession to help with career choices.

NASA encourages all students to explore the many fascinating subjects available in Earth Science. Spark your students by challenging them to explore a career in Earth Science that will help them make a difference!

For more career information, visit the following web sites.

**Careers in Earth Science:** <http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/archive/career/>

**American Geophysical Union:** <http://www.earthinspace.org/careers/index.html>