A Look to the Future

Indeed, 2006 has been a year of remarkable achievements and milestones in the Department, as highlighted in Steve Rutledge’s annual summary. It has been a year of important new discoveries by faculty, students, and staff across the breadth of the field – in climate processes, cloud physics and dynamics, atmospheric chemistry, the earth’s water cycle, weather systems, the carbon cycle, hurricane dynamics, mesoscale processes, and large-scale dynamics – all directed toward improving understanding and prediction of the earth’s weather and climate system for the benefit of society. These achievements and those of our alumni from years past have made the Department an exciting place for new people to come and participate in the advance of our science.

The close of 2006 marks the completion of the term of Steve Rutledge as Department Head. As the incoming Head, I extend, on behalf of the Department, sincere thanks to Steve for his dedicated, energetic, and productive leadership over the past 7+ years. This lengthy service has been demanding, but no doubt rewarding considering the many significant achievements during Steve’s tenure, and we wish him well as he returns to a more “normal life” on the faculty in the months and years ahead. As the next Department Head, I am fully committed to maintain the Department’s position as a world leader in the profession and society, to further strengthen its graduate education program, and to provide an environment that will continue to foster creative scholarly research. I wish our alumni and friends the best in 2007 and invite them to attend our annual reception at the AMS Annual Meeting in San Antonio in January.

Best wishes, Richard Johnson