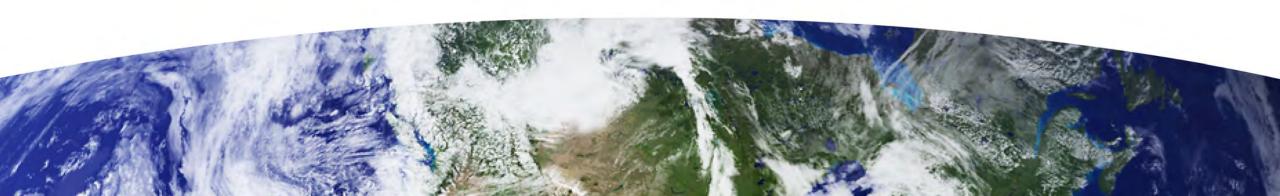
Covering the AGU Fall Meeting



AGU Public Information Office

November 14, 2018



Who we are



Nanci Bompey



Lauren Lipuma



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Outline



- About Fall Meeting
- Press at Fall Meeting
- Navigating the venue
- Media tips for covering the Fall Meeting (Katherine)
- More information
- Q&A



About Fall Meeting





- Largest gathering of Earth and space scientists
- 20,000+ attendees
- 1,800+ sessions
- 26,000+ abstracts
- 5 full days (Monday – Friday)
- This year: December 10-14 in Washington, DC

The scientific program

• 20+ scientific disciplines

Atmospheric science, ocean science, natural hazards, planetary science, etc.

- Keynote lectures
- Union and town hall sessions
- Education and public affairs sessions
- Two-thirds of presentations are poster, one-third are oral presentations





Schedule at a glance

Time	Oral sessions	Poster sessions	
8 am	Morning oral session 1	Morning poster session (8 am – 12:20 pm)	
9 am	(8 am – 10 am)		
10 am	Break		
10:20 am	Morning oral session 2		
11 am	(10:20 am – 12:20 pm)		
12:20 pm	Lunch break / Keynotes / Town halls (12:30 pm – 1:30 pm)		
1:40 pm	Afternoon oral session 1	Afternoon poster session (1:40 pm – 6 pm)	
2 pm	(1:40 – 3:40 pm)		
3:40 pm	Break		
4 pm	Afternoon oral session 2		
5 pm	(4 pm – 6 pm)		
	Town hall lectures (6:15 pm – 7:15 pm)		

Note: Recording is not allowed in scientific sessions or the poster hall



Press at Fall Meeting





- 300+ members of the media
- Reporters, bloggers, public information officers, authors, filmmakers, photo and video journalists, journalism students and educators

The press room

Space to eat, work and mingle

- Internet, computers, printers, phones
- Meals provided by AGU

Two separate press work rooms

• Quiet work space

Quiet rooms for interviews

Hours

- 7:30 am to 6:30 pm Monday through Thursday
- 7:30 am to 2:00 pm Friday





Press events at Fall Meeting

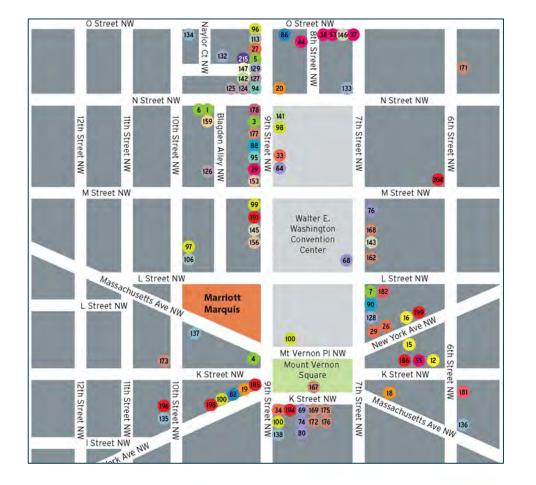




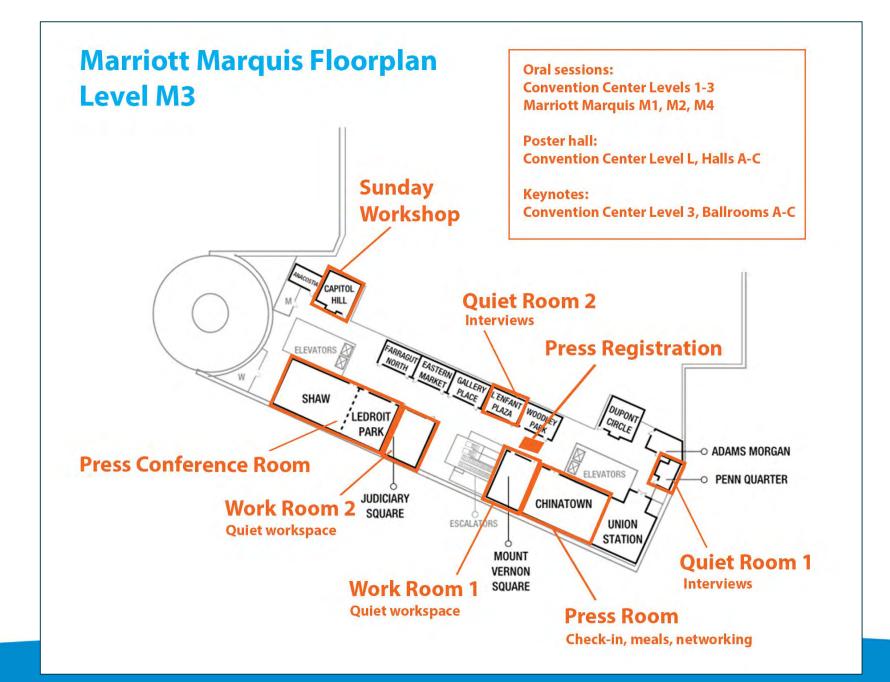
- Press conferences
 - Breaking research news
- Workshops
 - Provide background
- Media availabilities
 - Prominent scientists do Q&A
- Schedule
 - Monday Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm
 - Topics announced Dec. 3
 - All events streamed live and recorded
- Other resources: AGU tip sheets

Washington Convention Center/Marriott Info









AGU 100 ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Hi. I'm Katherine Kornei.





Freelance science journalist focusing on earth/space science Ph.D. in astronomy

Bylines in Science, Scientific American, Eos, Discover

AGU Fall Meeting media attendee since 2014



Before







Tips and Tricks – Before the Meeting

- Get to know the scientific program (26,000+ abstracts...) + press conferences Start by focusing on sessions in your beat (ocean science, climate change, etc.) Search keywords ("surprising")
- Develop a preliminary plan
 Leave time for walking
 Be realistic (I attend 7-10 talks per day)

Electrification processes and lightning generation in volcanic plumes— observations from recent eruptions	Monday 09:00 - 09:15 208-209
Monitoring the development of volcanic eruptions through volcanic lightning – Using a lightning mapping array, seismic and infrasound array, and visual plume analysis	09:15 - 09:30 - 208-209
NH12A-01: Field Survey of the 17 June 2017 Landslide and Tsunami in Karrat Fjord, Greenland	10:20 - 10:35 - 243-244
EOS: NH12A-07: Effect of Nearshore Islands on Tsunami Inundation in Shadow Zones	11:50 - 12:05 243-244



Tips and Tricks – Before the Meeting

- Query researchers in advance (I do so ~50% of the time) What motivated your work? Why are these results important? Have your findings been published?
- Get researchers' cell phone numbers
- Begin to draft pitch emails Send out pre-meeting pitches
- Pack your business cards, voice recorder, and comfortable shoes Reach out to other members of the media—coffee/lunch during the meeting?



Covering the Fall Meeting Remotely

- Get to know the scientific program (26,000+ abstracts...) + press conferences Start by focusing on sessions in your beat (ocean science, climate change, etc.) Search keywords ("surprising")
- <u>Query researchers in advance</u> (meeting results are not embargoed) Anticipate difficulty reaching researchers during the Fall Meeting
- Begin to draft pitch emails Send out pre-meeting pitches
- Tune in to web-streamed press conferences



Tips and Tricks – At the Meeting

- Stick with your plan (mostly)
 Press conferences great for background
- Scientific presentation not newsworthy?
 Don't feel bad about leaving (do so quietly)
- Need an outside expert? Ask session chairs, other presenters
- Posters vs. talks (how do you learn best?)
- Check out the exhibitors

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Tips and Tricks – At the Meeting

- Be open to ditching your plan
- Treat the press room as home base Store stuff; talk with people Have scientists meet you there
- Pitch/write stories or just "collect string"
- Write, record, network with other members of the media



As Mexico City sinks, its structures twist and deform. JOSH HANER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sinking of Mexico City linked to metro accident, with more to come

By Katherine Kornei | Dec. 20, 2017 , 8:00 AM

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—Darío Solano-Rojas remembers living in Mexico City and riding metro trains that sometimes slowed to a crawl. A geophysicist at the University of Miami in Florida, he now understands one of the causes of those delays: Mexico City, built on an ancient lakebed, is sinking by up to 30 centimeters per year, as groundwater is extracted to support its more than 20 million inhabitants. All of that ground movement has wreaked havoc on the city's metro system,



Tips and Tricks – After the Meeting

- Pitch/write news stories; file away ideas for longer feature stories
- Follow up networking with new editors/colleagues (local meet-up, cross paths at a future conference?)
- Make a list of researchers doing interesting/in-progress work. Write yourself a note to follow up with them



I wish I'd known _____at my first Fall Meeting

1) It's an enormous event – prioritize the sessions you really want to attend

2) Leave plenty of time for walking/de-stressing. Get out of the building at some point during the day for fresh air/sunlight/snow

3) Talk with people in the press room (don't always hide behind your laptop)

4) Don't overcommit yourself with deadlines during the meeting. You'll miss lots of neat science



More information



Fall Meeting Media Center

fallmeeting.agu.org/2018/media-center/

- Registration
- Housing
- Field trips + workshop
- Expert tools
- Media advisories
- Press releases
- Press conference materials
- Webstreaming





More information



Badge pickup: Press Registration, Marriott Marquis, level M3 *If you registered before November 1, you will receive your badge in the mail*

Events for press:

Journalism awards reception

Tuesday, December 11, 5:00 pm, in the press room

DC Science Writers Association Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 12, 7:00 pm, Abigail



Other resources





Ask TON: Which Meetings?

June 18, 2013 TON Editors

Reported Features

Getting the Most out of Scientific Conferences

June 13, 2017 Rodrigo Pérez Ortega



Ask TON

Ask TON: Meeting Coverage

October 25, 2011 TON Editors

The AGU Public Information Team





Press Room: Chinatown news@agu.org

Questions?



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