



Mark Binkley

Professor

Director, Academic Outreach and Continuing Education

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[email](#)

My background was in geography, climatology and meteorology. While finishing my undergraduate degree at the University of Utah, I worked for WeatherBank, Inc. While there, I discovered that I had a strong interest in broadcast meteorology and also had an interest in educating others. During my days as a graduate student, I dealt with many weathercasters. I discovered that most weathercasters had little formal meteorological education. I was fortunate to be offered a position at MSU in 1986 to help develop a program in meteorology. We started by developing our Broadcast Meteorology Program by distance learning, then our on-campus BMP, followed by the Operational Meteorology Program (distance learning and on-campus) and finally our distance learning Teachers In Geoscience program.

From 1986 through 1996, I developed and taught all of the meteorology and broadcast meteorology courses on-campus. This included the Practicum in Broadcast Meteorology I-IV courses, as well as Synoptic Meteorology I and II, Thermodynamic Meteorology, Severe Weather, Satellite & Radar Meteorology and others. Also during this time I developed and taught the first ten distance learning courses in the Broadcast Meteorology Program and the Operational Meteorology Program. My research interests have changed over the years. In the 1980s, my interests were in biometeorology (how weather affects human health) and synoptic climatology. In the 1990s, my interests switched to meteorological education and distance learning.

At present, I serve as the Head of the Continuing Education at Mississippi State. Having been in Starkville for over 15 years, this is now home for my family. My wife and two kids are very active in all sports, school and church activities. We live on 17 acres in Starkville where I enjoy doing work outside, training my German Shepards, and bass fishing.

Education

Ph.D. (Geography), Indiana State University, 1989

M.S. (Geography), Indiana State University, 1985

B.S. (Geography), University of Utah, 1983

A.S. (Meteorology), Western Kentucky University, 1981

Experience

Department Head, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University, July 2001-June 2004.

Director and Founder, Teachers In Geosciences Program, Mississippi State University, August 1998-present.

Director and Founder, Operational Meteorology Program, Mississippi State University, August 1997-present.

Graduate Coordinator, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University, July 1993-August 1999.

Assistant Department Head, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University, May 1990-June 2001.

Director and Founder, Broadcast Meteorology Program, Mississippi State University, August 1986-present.

Director and Founder, Mississippi State University Climatology Laboratory, August 1986-August 1995.

Selected Publications/Presentations

- "Television Weathercasters," in The Encyclopedia of Television News, ed. Mike Murray, The Oryx Press, 1998, pp. 276-277.
- "Television Weathercasting," in The Encyclopedia of Television News, ed. Mike Murray, The Oryx Press, 1998, pp. 278-279.
- "Geoscience to Teachers by Distance Learning," in The Mississippi Professional Educators Journal, Winter 1998, pp 8-9.
- "Meteorology's Educational Dilemma," Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, June 1997, (with Paul Croft)
- "Tropical Cyclone Formation in the North Atlantic Basin 1960-89," Climate Research, December 1993, 3:3:221-232 (with Tony Vega).
- "Surviving the Distance Challenges: The Broadcast Meteorology Program," Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the National Issues in Higher Education: Quality in Off-Campus Credit Programs: Extending the Learning, November 1993, pp. 33-38 (with Carol Short).
- "Computer Network Resources for Physical Geography Instruction," Journal of Geography, May/June 1993, 92:3:102-109 (with Michael P. Bishop, Roger M. Hubbard, James L. Ward and Thomas K. Moore).
- "Temporal Variation of Tropical Cyclones in the North Atlantic Basin," Geojournal, April 1991, 23:4:311-322 (with Tony Vega).
- "Human Mortality as Related to Biometeorological Factors," Preprint of the American Meteorological Society 11th Conference on Biometeorology and Aerobiology, March 1994, pp. 374-377.
- "Differentiating Mortality Rates of Aged Individuals in Various Retirement Areas," Preprint of the Third International Symposium on Medical Geography, August 1988, pp. 49-62.

Honors/Awards/Offices Held

- Recipient of the first Division of Continuing Education, Outstanding Faculty Award, 1996.
- Recipient of the first MSU Golden Key Teaching Award, October 1994.
- Awarded the Certificate of Excellence from the Division of Certificate and Nontraditional Degree Programs, National University Continuing Education Association, for the Broadcast Meteorology Program, Miami, FL, April 1991.
- Elected Councilor, National Weather Association, 1998
- Received Member of the Year Award from the National Weather Association, 1997.
- Nominated for President of the National Weather Association, 1996.
- Nominated for Vice President of the National Weather Association, 1995.
- Nominated for the MSU Advisor of the Year Award, 1994.
- Nominated for National Weather Association Member of the Year, 1994.

Professional Affiliations

- International Society of Biometeorology (1987 - present)
- National Weather Association (1984 - present)
- Member: National Weather Association Education Committee, October 1992 - present.
- Chair: National Weather Association Radio and Television Committee, Testing Sub-Committee 1991-1998.
- Chair: National Weather Association Local Chapter Constitution and By-Laws Committee, 1990-1998.
- Member: National Weather Association Radio and Television Committee, 1989 - 1996.
- Member: National Weather Association Radio and Television Committee Advisory Board, 1987-1994.
- American Meteorological Society (1983-present)
- Member: Program Committee for the 12th Conference on Biometeorology and Aerobiology, Dallas, TX, January 1996.
- Chair: 11th Conference on Biometeorology and Aerobiology, San Diego, CA, March 1994.

Comments

Giving

Information

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