

## **ONE-PAGE INTEREST STATEMENT**

**CARLIE LAWSON**

### **This interest statement details:**

#### **(a) why you are interested in participating in this workshop and why you feel you should be chosen.**

I believe the Weather and Society \* Integrated Studies Workshop will provide an important growth stage for me as a young researcher. From the time of my graduation with my Master's degree in 2001 until mid-2005, I have been working in operations and technical project management. Though challenging work, I have greatly missed research and have, in the last year, devised ways to reintegrate it into my work. I am actively searching for the appropriate Ph. D. program in natural hazards and am developing dissertation ideas. At this important turning point in my career, WAS\*IS will provide me an opportunity to learn from its distinguished organizers and presenters, to build professional and personal relationships with others in my field, and to engage in brainstorming and project development.

#### **(b) what your career goals are and how you feel this workshop would contribute to meeting those goals.**

My dream job is a full-time permanent research position at a major university that would allow me to pursue projects in natural hazards, especially droughts and wildfires, risk communication, and renewable energy. Until I find such an opportunity, I am content to write numerous high-quality grant proposals to provide sufficient soft money to pursue my research interests. The workshop will provide an opportunity to meet and build relationships with potential collaborators. The week long intensive experience we will share will allow us to determine mutual interests and to develop ideas and projects we may pursue together as an outgrowth of WAS\*IS.

#### **(c) what aspect(s) of the weather/society interface you particularly would like to learn about during the workshop.**

The two aspects of the weather/society interface I would like to learn more about during WAS\*IS both pertain to risk communication. My highest priority interest is end-user understanding of, and reaction to, forecasts/outlooks, especially as it pertains to drought and hurricanes. My specific applications of this include agricultural producers' decision making during drought events, and coastal residents' hurricane evacuation decision making, including how to design forecast and educational products to help overcome the issue of social capital as a liability in evacuation decision making. My secondary interest is in the re-development of existing drought indices, and heat wave indices (i.e. Dr. Laurence S. Kalkstein's recent work with the NWS) on a regional climatic scale to improve their applicability in determining onset, intensity, and end point, and the development of explanatory/educational products provided to the public in order to mitigate economic and health impacts.

#### **(d) what else you think we should know about you.**

I'm a friendly, outgoing person who enjoys new experiences, meeting people, and surprises. I have a diverse set of interests beyond the scope of natural hazards and environmental planning. I enjoy mountain biking, trail riding, guitar, reading about ancient religions, baking, Web site design and development, and computer programming. I think my diverse background and genial nature will be an asset to the WAS\*IS program, and that knowledge gained from the expert organizers and presenters of WAS\*IS will be beneficial to me in my growth as a researcher.