

Name: Chris Karstens

Current City: Ankeny, Iowa

Hometown: Atlantic Iowa



Occupation/Career:

Chris is currently a PhD student at Iowa State University majoring in Meteorology. He works as a research assistant and is currently involved in several projects at ISU. Currently, he is investigating the relationship between tornadic and mesocyclonic vortex structure/intensity and complex terrain, both experimentally and using Numerical Weather Prediction. He has also taught a Severe and Hazardous Weather course for three semesters, and hopes to teach a new GIS programming class next fall.

During the severe storms season in the U.S., Chris serves as a team leader for the Tactical Weather Instrumented Sampling in/near Tornadoes Experiment (TWISTEX). Chris has made several software-related contributions to the project. Most notably he wrote an all-in-one custom software package that displays, records, and backs-up mobile-mesonet measurements, submit severe weather reports to the NWS, and view each team member's position for coordination - all in real time.

Education:

Chris graduated from Atlantic High School in 2003 and then attended Iowa State University. In May of 2007 Chris graduated from Iowa State with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Meteorology. He continued his education at Iowa State, and in August of 2009 Chris received his Master's of Science Degree in Meteorology. His work focused on improving the understanding of near-ground winds in hurricanes and tornadoes.

Professional/Personal Goals in Participating in DrakeSmart 2011:

Chris is a guest traveler accompanying his wife Cydney, but looks forward to gaining a broader perspective of world culture.

Personal:

This will be Chris's first trip to Europe. He has previously traveled to Mexico on a honeymoon vacation. Chris is a friendly and easy-going guy.