

Tyler C. McCandless, enrolled in the integrated B.S./M.S. program in Meteorology at Penn State has been selected to receive a 2009-2010 Astronaut Scholarship award. At a special September 18th symposium—*The Earth—Within and Beyond*—featuring faculty experts in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, former astronaut/aquonaut Scott Carpenter will present Tyler with his scholarship check.

Winner of the NASA Sylvia Stein Space Grant Scholarship and the AMS Bob Glahn Scholarship for Statistical Meteorology, Tyler has also served for two years as Captain of Penn State's Men's Varsity Cross Country Team. A 7th place finisher at the Big Ten Outdoor Track Championship in the 10K race, Tyler was selected for the All-Big Ten Academic Team and has received the Big Ten Conference Sportsmanship Award. Tyler has also served as president of the Meteorological Honor Society, Chi Epsilon Pi. An avid outdoorsman, Tyler enjoys fishing and kayaking; he also gives his time to community service projects, such as the Planet Aid Foundation, for which he organized a team shoe drive that donated over 100 pairs of shoes to benefit children from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Tyler's faculty mentor and nominator for the Astronaut Scholarship, Dr. Sue Ellen Haupt declares Tyler to be "an exceptional student, displaying many academic and leadership qualities." She also notes that, as the only undergraduate student in a Ph.D.-level seminar, "He not only kept up with the Ph.D. students, but he was also able to lead discussions on specific papers and glean information that was difficult for the rest of the group." An example of Tyler's work as an honors student researcher includes assisting in the design and testing of new methods of calibrating ensemble forecasts using techniques from statistics and artificial intelligence. He has presented his research in university settings and at several American Meteorological Society conferences.

Tyler plans to pursue his Ph.D. in Meteorology, continuing his research for improving weather forecasting and using his leadership abilities to engage and educate others. He also hopes to train for and compete in the Olympic Trials in the Marathon.