

# Eugene Rasmusson Lectures

The Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Science has launched these annual lectures to honor Emeritus Research Professor Eugene M. Rasmusson who joined the department in May 1986. Gene is known for his seminal analysis of the atmospheric hydrologic cycle, an effort begun during his doctoral studies at MIT under Victor Starr. Gene is, however, most well known for his observational description of ENSO. His characterization of the ocean-atmosphere state in the nascent, mature, and decaying ENSO phases fostered theoretical and numerical modeling of ENSO.

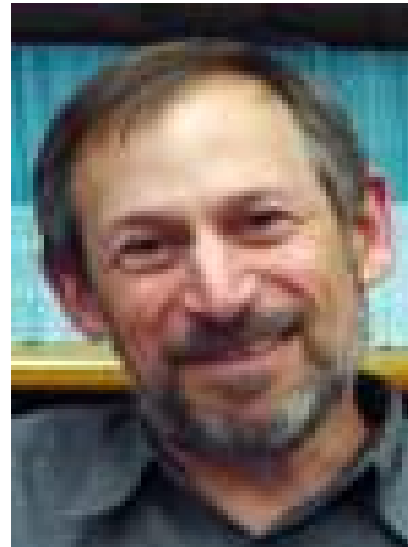
Gene has been honored with the Victor Starr lectureship at MIT, the George Benton lectureship at Johns Hopkins, and the Robert Horton lectureship at the American Meteorological Society. Gene received the Jule Charney award from the AMS in 1989. Gene is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and an associate of the National Academy of Sciences.

Gene's community leadership (as AMS President) and scientific leadership at the National Research Council (including as CRC Chair) and NOAA has advanced climate monitoring, analysis, and prediction activities. The American Meteorological Society honored Gene with a named symposium in 2007.

## 2014 RASMUSSON LECTURER

Mark A. Cane

### *Climate and Conflict*



G. Unger Vetlesen Professor  
of Earth and Climate Sciences  
Columbia University, New York  
*Member, National Academy of Sciences*

3 April (Thursday), 2014  
Lecture: 6:00pm; Reception: 5:00pm  
Auditorium (Rm 2400), CSS Bldg.



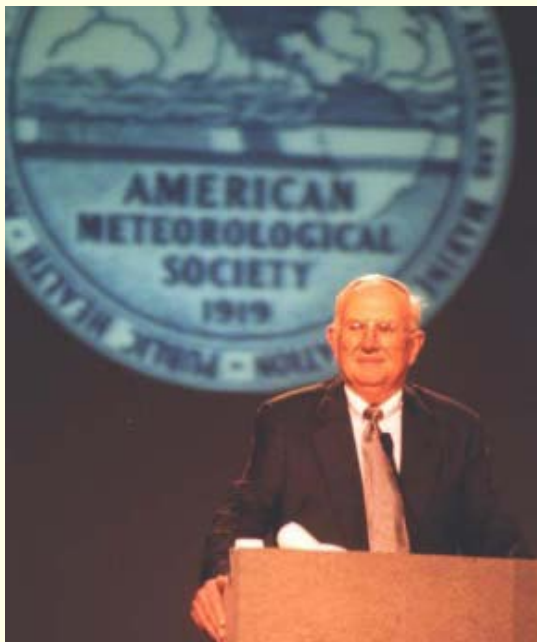
#### **Abstract:**

Why do men fight? Have changes in climate been an important influence in the past? Will they be in the future? Anthropologists and historians have a rich store of anecdotal evidence, but since this evidence relies heavily on simple co-occurrence it invites skepticism. A recent, contrasting approach applies quantitative methods to investigate the connection between climate and conflict. This discourse in this subfield is fittingly cantankerous. Whereas historians often have plausible stories explaining the causal links from climate to conflict, the quants rarely offer more than a statistical relation. I will discuss my own work on two topics: El Niño and global incidence of civil conflict, and the impact of anthropogenic climate change on the civil war in Syria.

## The Eugene Rasmusson Lectures Fund

*University of Maryland has established The Eugene Rasmusson Lectures Fund to support this annual lecture series. Your charitable contribution at this website is gratefully acknowledged.*

*Alternatively, checks can be mailed to Rasmusson Lectures Fund (Attn: June Sherer) Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Science 3407 Computer & Space Science Bldg. University of Maryland College Park, MD 20742-2425*



*Gene addressing the 1998 annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society as President*

## 2014 RASMUSSON LECTURER

Mark A. Cane

Columbia University, NY  
Member, NAS



2014  
Eugene Rasmusson  
Graduate Student Fellow

Argyro Kavvada  
Ph.D. Candidate

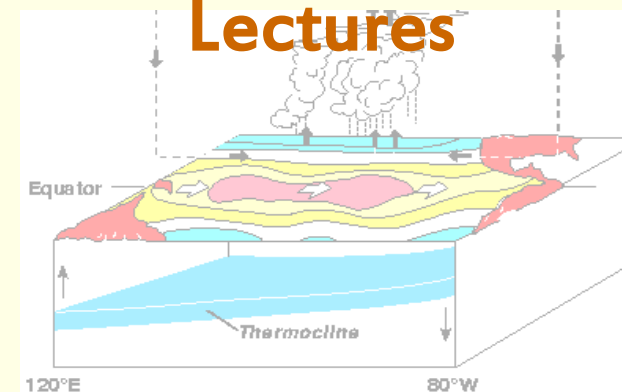


Room 2400, Computer & Space Science Bldg.  
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