EVSC 3300 WEATHER FORECASTING CONTEST
FALL, 2020

The purpose of the forecasting contest is to encourage you to become actively interested in weather events and weather changes in central Virginia. The top two finishers (exclusive of me and the TAs) will get a significant grade "bonus" at the end of the semester. You can also earn bonus points toward your course grade by both participating and performing well in your forecasts.

Dates: You will make forecasts on each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the following two days (on Monday, you make a forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday, midnight to midnight, etc.). The contest begins on Monday, October 26 and continues through Monday, November 16. So there will be a total of 10 forecasts. To remain active in the competition, you need to complete all 10 forecasts.

Deadlines: Forecasts are due by 11:59 p.m. EST each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Your forecasts are automatically time-stamped upon submission. If you submit your forecast late, it will not be counted.

Location: Your forecasts are for the Charlottesville/Albemarle County Airport station (KCHO). Forecasts will be verified based on the data archived on the National Weather Service website (nws.noaa.gov). Past daily climate summaries can be found at: http://www.weather.gov/lwx/ by following the "climate and past weather" tab.

Procedure: You will input your forecasts by going to the class website (https://climate.evsc.virginia.edu/miscellany/) and clicking on the "Forecast Submission Form" link. A unique login ID code has been assigned to you—you can find it in your Collab gradebook.

<u>Variables</u>: For each forecast, you need to predict the following:

      1) Next day's Maximum Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)
      2) Next day's Minimum Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)
      3) Next day's Precipitation Category.

            Category 0: no precipitation–trace
            Category 1: trace–0.05 inch
            Category 2: 0.06 inch–0.24 inch
            Category 3: 0.25 inch–0.49 inch
            Category 4: 0.50 inch–0.99 inch
            Category 5: ≥ 1.00 inch

      4) Same as 1–3 for the following day

(Less than 0.005 inch water equivalent of precipitation is considered a "trace.")

<u>Scoring</u>: For temperature, you are assessed penalty points based on the difference between your forecast and the observation. For precipitation, your are penalized 4 points for each error in category. Here's an example:

Forecast T_{max}=72	Observed T_{max}=68	Points=4
Forecast T_{min}=40	Observed T_{min}=34	Points=6
Forecast Precipitation=Cat 1	Observed Precip.=Cat 3	Points=8

Total points for this forecast=18

So your goal will be to accrue as few points as possible in each forecast. We will keep a running tab of your average points per forecast for the semester. The standings will be posted on the web page and updated on a weekly basis.

<u>Rules/Honor System</u>: You may use any available sources for your forecasts. You may talk with each other about what you think is going to happen. You can check various forecasts on the internet or on television. But you ultimately must make your own forecast, i.e., decide what guidance you choose to use.

The top two finishers (exclusive of me and the TAs) will get a bonus. There will be no penalty for very bad forecasting.

Incentive: You will receive 0.333 point (toward your course grade, post-curve) for each forecast submitted. You will receive an additional 0.333 point if your forecast is better than that of the National Weather Service. Finally, you can receive an additional 0.333 point if your forecast is better than that of Professor Davis (who, incidentally, usually finishes around the top 10 but rarely wins). Thus, you can earn up to 10 bonus points toward your semester course grade.

If you have any trouble submitting your forecast, you can email your forecast to Megan Mcauliffe, the T.A. who is in charge of the contest. Her email address is: mim5nc@virginia.edu.

Reminders: An email distribution list has been created to provide you with reminders to forecast on forecast days. If you wish to subscribe to this service, please go to the following link and enter your email address:
    https://lists.virginia.edu/sympa/subscribe/evsc3300reminders
or send an email to:
    evsc3300reminders-subscribe@virginia.edu
and a confirmation will be sent to you to notify you of your membership on the list. You may unsubscribe by sending an email to:
    evsc3300reminders-unsubscribe@virginia.edu.