



*weather*  
**EXTREMIST**

*“When I was watching Hurricane Katrina coverage I heard several newscasters say, ‘This is the worst natural disaster to hit the U.S.’ Well, it wasn’t. I wanted to have an official record that says, ‘This is the worst hurricane we’ve ever had. This is the worst tornado. This is the coldest temperature.’”*



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**MY BOLD IDEA**

I am fascinated by weird, extreme, and mysterious weather. I always wanted to create an archive of the world’s most extreme weather events and make it accessible to the public. In my role as Rapporteur on Climate Extremes for the World Meteorological Organization, I’ve been able to create this ever-growing database. A group of graduate students developed a Google-style map of all the data, which you can find at: <http://wmo.asu.edu/maps/map.html>

**MY INSPIRATION**

I have said that in the heart of every meteorologist and climatologist beats the soul of a detective. We all appreciate a good mystery. My latest book, *Weather’s Greatest Mysteries Solved!* is a collection of some of the most intriguing weather questions of all time, and the ways in which climate scientists found answers to them.

**MY PLANS**

This summer, a group of my students and I are building a replica of a wind-powered wagon that was made in 1860. Given no unforeseen difficulties, we plan to “sail” it along its original route—from Kansas City to Denver—in 2010. We will carry instruments on board to measure weather, which we will compare with weather records from the time of the original trip.