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## SNAPSHOT

# Her Head's in the Clouds

## Sagay Galindo, Meteorologist for NBC12

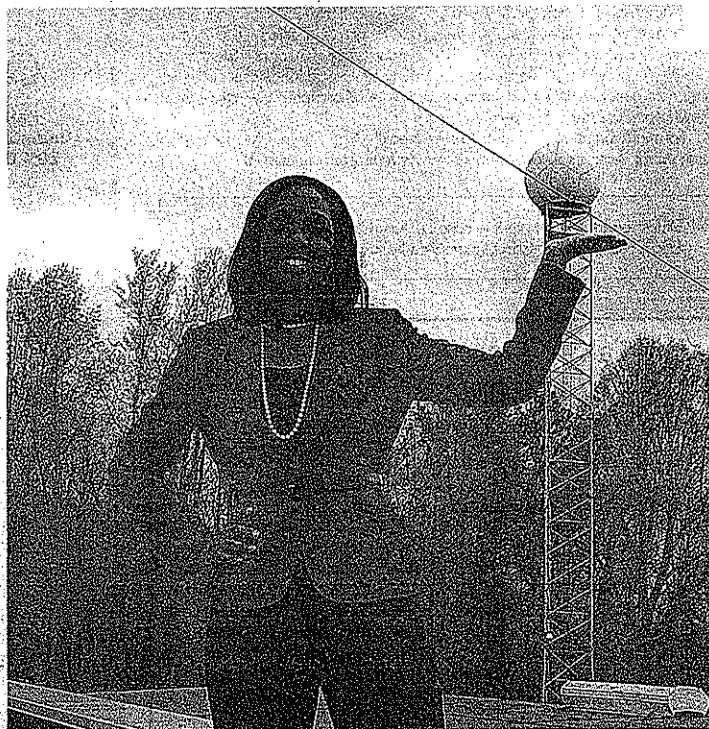
by Libby Cary McNamee

Sagay Galindo has been fascinated with the weather since the lights went out during a thunderstorm when she was seven. Her mother jokes that her interest goes all the way back to when she was three and stuck a safety pin into a socket, calling it "Sagay's way to create lightning." Throughout her childhood years in Chesapeake, her curiosity remained, and she often predicted that one day she would become a meteorologist.

It is no great surprise that her first "forecast" was right on the mark. With a bachelor's degree in science from Norfolk State University and a master's degree in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University, she has fulfilled her lifelong ambition. In addition, she has made her family proud by being the first member of the family to graduate from college, not to mention graduate school. Currently she is working in her fourth year as a weekend meteorologist for the NBC12 Weather Team in Richmond, with prior experience at WIS in Columbia, SC. Her other full-time job is raising her two-year-old daughter, Milan, with her husband, who serves on a Navy submarine out of Norfolk. One day she hopes to pursue her Ph.D. in broadcast meteorology.

She has braved the elements and participated in "storm chases" during college, reminiscent of the big screen movie *Twister*. However, as a professional weathercaster her primary responsibility is being in the newsroom and interpreting weather data as it becomes available. This data comes from a variety of sources, ultimately providing the basis of the weather forecast after careful analysis. Some information comes in the form of pictures taken by weather satellites and radar. Some data consists of numbers generated by sophisticated weather computer models on the Internet that also assist in processing and analyzing the data. "High-speed computers have really changed how we do weather forecasting," Sagay comments.

"I wish it was an exact science, but the atmosphere has a mind of its own. There are so many variables in nature," she says. She highlights the inherent challenges of the ongoing data collection process in our changing atmosphere. Once they detect a clear weather pattern, the adjustment of just one element, however slight, can dramatically skew the overall result. This is why weathercasters are often found to be "wrong" and traditionally receive the most flack in the entire newsroom. "I believe the weather is controlled by God," Sagay says, "and it humbles me. Once I think I've got it all figured out, something changes and throws it all off." With a laugh she recites her self-made mantra, "It's the weather. You can't create it or destroy it, so just enjoy it." And so she does.



So what if Sagay Galindo's head is in the clouds? It's a good thing because she can tell the rest of us on what is going on up there. So tune into NBC12 this weekend and watch Sagay live doing what she does best—reporting on the weather! ▼

Libby Cary McNamee is a local freelance writer and mother, looking forward to watching Sagay on NBC12 Weather Team this weekend. Check out her website and parenting blog at [www.libbymcnee.com](http://www.libbymcnee.com).