

Lonnie G. Thompson is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences and a Research Scientist in the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University. His research has propelled the field of ice core paleoclimatology out of the Polar Regions to the highest tropical and subtropical ice fields. He and the OSU team have developed light-weight solar-powered drilling equipment for acquisition of histories from ice fields in the tropical South American Andes, the Himalayas, and on Kilimanjaro. These paleoclimate histories have advanced our understanding of the coupled nature of the Earth's climate system. Special emphasis has been placed on the El Niño and monsoon systems that dominate the climate of the tropical Pacific and affect global-scale oceanic and atmospheric circulation patterns. His observations of glacier retreat over the last three decades confirm that glaciers around the world are melting and provide clear evidence that the warming of the last 50 years is now outside the range of climate variability for several millennia, if not longer.

B.S. in Geology, Marshall University, Huntington WV
M.S. in Geological Sciences, The Ohio State University
Ph.D. in Geological Sciences, The Ohio State University

Complete Vita (with publication list) available at:
http://bprc.osu.edu/Icecore/vitae/lgt_cv.pdf

Short Vita
LONNIE G. THOMPSON

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DEGREES

B.S., Geology, Marshall University, 1970
M.S., Geology, The Ohio State University, 1973
Ph.D., Geology, The Ohio State University, 1976

POSITIONS

2002-Present Distinguished University Professor
2001-2006 Distinguished University Scholar
1994-2006 Professor, Department of Geological Sciences, The Ohio State University
Research Scientist, Byrd Polar Research Center, OSU
1990-1994 Associate Professor, Dept. of Geological Sciences, OSU
Research Scientist, Byrd Polar Research Center, OSU
1986-2006 Research Scientist, Byrd Polar Research Center, OSU
1981-1990 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Geology and Mineralogy, OSU
1980-1986 Senior Research Associate, Institute of Polar Studies, OSU
1976-1980 Research Associate, Institute of Polar Studies, OSU

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2008 Dan David Prize, May, 2008
- 2007 International Glaciological Society, Seligman Crystal
- 2007 National Medal of Science, July 2007
- 2007 Alumni Medalist Award, The Ohio State University
- 2007 Chinese Academy of Sciences, *Einstein Lecturer 2007*
- 2007 Elected, OSU Sphinx Chapter Senior Member
- 2007 Roy Chapman Andrews Society, *2007 Distinguished Explorer Award*
- 2006 Elected member of *American Philosophical Society*
- 2006 Epsilon of Ohio, Elected Alumni member of *Phi Beta Kappa*
- 2005 Elected Member of *The National Academy of Sciences*
- 2005 *Tyler Prize*, The World Prize for Environmental Achievement
- 2005 Elected *Fellow* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 2005 Co-director of Academics, Tibetan Plateau Research Institute, Beijing, China
- 2004 Commencement Speaker: Winter Quarter, 2004, The Ohio State University, “Lessons from the Mountains”
- 2002 Dr. A.H. Heineken Prize for Environmental Science, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 2002 The Common Wealth Award for Science and Invention
- 2002 *University Distinguished Professor Award*
- 2002 *Vega Medal*, Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography
- 2002 John Marshall Medal for Civic Responsibility, Marshall University
- 2002 Highlighted in *Science*: “Ice Man: Lonnie Thompson Scales the Peaks for Science” by Kevin Krajick, October 18, 2002 issue
- 2001 Elected *Fellow* of the American Geophysical Union
- 2001 *University Distinguished Scholar Award*
- 2001 *America’s Best in Science and Medicine*: Time Magazine and CNN

CURRENT NATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- 2007 Chair, NSF “Post-ESH Research,” March 29-30th. Washington, D.C. To create a new NSF paleoclimate program and funding plan.
- 2007 Chair for Academic Program Review, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, March 20-21st, University of Arizona.
- 2007-11 Member-at-Large: *American Association for the Advancement of Science* Section Committee on Geology and Geography (E).
- 2006-09 Member: National Research Council’s (NRC) Climate Research Committee of the *National Academy of Sciences*
- 2006-07 Member: Advisory Board, for Climate, Water and Carbon Initiative, OSU
- 2005-10 Executive Review Committee for the Canadian Polar Climate Stability Network

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Peer-reviewed Publications: 185 total

Research Grants: 63 total

Field Programs: 54 total

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

I have been funded by OSU to develop an undergraduate and graduate Honors Course entitled “Global Change and Sustainability in the Earth System” to be taught in OSU’s new School of Earth Sciences. The class includes exercises such one based on the retreat of the Kilimanjaro and Quelccaya ice caps through time that stems from our NSF-funded research in those regions. In 2006 the OSU ice core group conducted 32 high school science class tours through laboratory and ice core storage facility. Our group is working with Dr. Carol Landis, the education and outreach coordinator for Byrd Polar Research Center. We are implementing podcasts, one of which is currently displayed on our web site: <http://www-bprc.ohio-state.edu> (under Educational Outreach: Related Links). I have developed an Outreach Lecture entitled “Ice Adventures: Tracking Evidence of Abrupt Climate Change Across the Tropics” that is part of a CD-ROM called *Hot Science-Cool Talks* distributed by the Jackson School of Geosciences (Univ. Texas, Austin). The CD-ROM includes important teaching points, thought questions, and sources of further information for K-12 science classes. I routinely provide various forms of service to the scientific community such as the serving on the NRC-NAS Climate Research Committee, on the NSF Advisory Committee for the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility at Purdue, on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Polar Climate Stability Network. I was recently elected as a Member-at-Large for the AAAS Section on Geology and Geography. I currently serve on the Editorial Boards for *Geology*, *The Holocene*, and *Quaternary Science Reviews*. Since January 2006 I have given 31 public lectures. The OSU ice core results were included in the Proceedings of Congressional Record of the 107th Congress second session in 2002 under global warming as part of the energy legislation and as part of an American Association for the Advancement of Science briefing to the U.S. Congress in May 2005 and in 2006 as part of the Royal Norwegian Embassy’s symposium, entitled “Meeting the Climate Challenge in the Arctic Region,” hosted in part by Senator John McCain. In 2005 the results from our NSF-funded ice core research projects were highlighted in more than 50 newspaper articles. Media exposure has extended to TV (CNN, 60 Minutes, BBC Horizon), magazines (Rolling Stone Magazine, New Scientist, National Geographic Society, Time, Smithsonian), radio (BBC World Service, NPR’s Science Friday, Japan’s J-Wave) as well as in the American Natural History Museum in New York. Our research is the subject of a book (2005) by Mark Bowen entitled: *Thin Ice: Unlocking the Secrets of Climate in the World’s Highest Mountains*. In 2006, I served on the Science Advisory Board’s for both IMAX Film “*The Ice Age*” and on Al Gore’s Film “An Inconvenient Truth,” in which our NSF-funded research is highlighted.