

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD 2005

In recognition of distinguished contributions to glaciology, paleoclimatology, and sea level studies, and for effective communication of their societal importance to the general public.

RICHARD B. ALLEY (BS 1980, MS 1983 Ohio State; PhD 1987 UW Madison)

grew up near Columbus, Ohio, attended Ohio State University with a major in geology, and received his BS summa cum laude in 1980. As a freshman he began work in glaciology with the late Ian Whillans, continuing on with him to his MS in 1983. He came then to the Department of Geology and Geophysics at UW-Madison, where he studied ice cores, leading in 1987 to his PhD dissertation, Transformations in Polar Firn, but was better known around the Department for his brilliant geological interpretations of soft-bedded West Antarctic ice streams.

After a year's postdoc here he went to Pennsylvania State University as Assistant Professor of Geosciences, rising quickly



Richard B. Alley Award in 2001.

through the faculty ranks and being named Evan Pugh Professor in 2000. There he teaches and conducts research on paleoclimatology, the dynamics and sedimentary deposits of large ice sheets, and future changes in climate and sea level.

His research has led to more than 150 refereed publications on a broad range of topics, and to wide recognition among scientists and public alike as one of the world's leading experts on glaciers, climate, and sea level. In testimony thereof: He is a Fellow of the AGU, and has been awarded a Packard Fellowship, a Presidential Young Investigator Award, the Horton Award of the AGU's Hydrology Section, the Easterbrook Award of the Quaternary section of the GSA, and two Penn State awards for teaching and scholarship. His book on the famous GISP2 ice-core-drilling project in Greenland and the dramatically rapid post-glacial climate changes he found recorded in the ice cores, *The Two-Mile Time Machine*, won the national Phi Beta Kappa Science

Richard is a particularly effective communicator with the public who is frequently interviewed or quoted on glaciological and climatic matters, usually showing his flair for the apt metaphor.

Richard is married with two children and resides in State College, PA.

—Charles R. Bentley, Citationist



On the left in the photo above, taken almost 50 years ago on an International Geophysical Year (IGY) Antarctic traverse, is another Distinguished Alumnus of the department, the late Ned A. Ostenson (BS 1952; MS 1953; PhD 1962), a faculty member in the early 1960's, who went on to an award-winning career with the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA). The man in the middle is department Emeritus Professor Charles Bentley and on the right is Jack Long, traverse mechanic and a department employee in the early 1960s. The Sentinel Mountains of central West Antarctica are in the background. The picture, taken about 10 January, 1958, was provided by yet another Distinguished Alumnus, Peter Vogt (MA 1965; PhD 1968), who received it from the Ostenson family.