

The Henry Stommel Research Award of the American Meteorological Society



Dudley Chelton

Distinguished Professor,
Physical Oceanography

Dudley Chelton has been honored by the American Meteorological Society with its 2011 Henry Stommel Research Award, given annually for advancing understanding of the dynamics and physics of the ocean.

Chelton, a professor in OSU's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences since 1983, was cited for his "fundamental contributions to advancing our understanding of ocean circulation and air-sea interaction."

The award is named in honor of the late scientist Henry Stommel, who spent much of his career at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and is regarded as one of the most influential oceanographers of the 20th century. Chelton is the second OSU recipient of the Stommel Research Award; Emeritus Professor John Allen received the award in 2005.

Chelton also carries the title of Distinguished Professor of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at OSU. He has helped revolutionize the study of oceans through the use of satellite data and was a principal architect of the microwave ocean observing satellite constellation in the United States.

With funding from NASA and NOAA, he has led numerous projects using satellites to study air-sea interaction and ocean circulation dynamics. He has developed analysis techniques that are widely used by scientists around the world.

Simultaneous with receiving the 2011 Stommel Research Award, Chelton was elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. He has previously received the NASA Public Service Medal in 1994; the Cody Award in Ocean Sciences from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 2010; and he was elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2008. Chelton has also been awarded for his teaching at OSU.



Yaquina Head lighthouse. (Photo by Dudley Chelton)

"I am deeply honored to receive this award and humbled by the list of prior recipients. Much of the success of my career is attributable to the contributions of the engineers and fellow oceanographers that have made satellite remote sensing a quantitative observational technique for oceanography. As recipient of the award, I am both fortunate to be the beneficiary of this team effort and happy to see this acknowledgment of the importance of satellites to advancing the understanding of physical oceanography and air-sea interaction."

– Dudley Chelton