

Thomas Harold Achtor
Space Science and Engineering Center
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Professional Positions:

1999 to present: Executive Director-Science, Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC), University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison)

Oversee the scientific activities at a university research center. Primary duties include scientific proposal development, providing technical advise, conducting program reviews, supervision of scientific support staff (80 persons), and actively participating on selected scientific research projects. Responsible for supervision of SSEC Data Center and support team for McIDAS scientific computing system. Conduct final review of all science proposals to assure SSEC commitments.

1984 to 1999: Senior Research Program Manager, Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) / (SSEC-UW-Madison)

Responsible for management and supervision of daily activities at research institute of 50 associates with 25 science programs. Duties include supervising CIMSS support staff, overseeing program grant and contract finances, participating in proposal development, determining and allocating science team resource requirements, maintaining and assigning computing and office facilities, coordinating activities with SSEC management, and acting as assistant to the CIMSS Director. Also, actively participate in research studies.

1981 to 1984: Research Specialist, CIMSS/SSEC/UW-Madison

Research Meteorologist creating and evaluating weather satellite data products using software on the McIDAS computer system. Conducted evaluation investigations to determine quality and utility of the products.

1978-1981: Research and Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Meteorology, UW-Madison

Conducted research on Colorado cyclones and their relationship to upper and lower tropospheric jet streams. Teaching Assistant 4 semesters in Introductory Meteorology, Physical and Dynamical Meteorology, and Synoptic Laboratory.

Education:

M. S., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1981; Major: Atmospheric Science,
Thesis Title, "The Role of the Upper Tropospheric Jet Streak, 850 mb Winds and Static Stability in Springtime Colorado Cyclogenesis"

B.A., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1971 Major: History, Minor: Anthropology

Professional Experience:

2002-present: Co-chair of the International (A)TOVS Working Group, within the International Radiation Commission.

1996-present: Associate Director, Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium (WSGC): Initiate and oversee programs in the Research component of NASA funded state of Wisconsin outreach program. WSGC membership is comprised of 25 universities, colleges, public and private institutions, and private sector organizations. Serve on the Executive Council with 3 other Associate Directors.

Awards and Organizations:

NASA Group Achievement Award, The Agro-Climatic Environmental Monitoring Project, 1985

Professional Organizations:

American Meteorological Society
American Geophysical Union,

Lecturing/Teaching Activities:

Beijing, China, 1991: Two week course sponsored by United Nations in remote sensing and satellite meteorology to Pacific rim operational forecasters.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1988: Follow up course instructing South Asia meteorologists in remote sensing and satellite meteorology.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1985: USAID program instructing Bangladeshi meteorologists in remote sensing and satellite meteorology.

Education and Outreach Activities:

Summer Workshop in Atmospheric, Earth and Space Sciences, 1991-present: Designed, coordinated and conducted a week long workshop in the physical sciences for high school students and teachers. Workshop has been held the past 8 years on the UW-Madison campus.

STEP Program, 1992-1997: Created a program with high school teachers to bring the McIDAS computer system into high schools. Developed program materials with teachers, visited schools and worked with students in learning to use the system to display and understand meteorological data.

Field Experiment Participation:

1. IHOP, Oklahoma and Texas, May 2002
2. ACARS Water Vapor Validation: September 1999
2. Pre-STORM, Seneca, KS, February 1993
3. TOGA COARE: March 1992
4. AERI Marine Experiment: Monterey, CA: November 1990
5. FIRE/SPECTRE, Coffeyville, KS, October 1985