

DEAN JOHN SNOW AWARDED REGENTS' PROFESSORSHIP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORMAN – In recognition of his outstanding record of scholarly work, commitment to science education and distinguished service to the University of Oklahoma, the university is bestowing a Regents' Professorship upon John Snow, dean of OU's College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences.

First presented in 1946, Regents' Professorships are awarded to faculty who have achieved unusual distinction in research, service or their ability to teach and guide students. To qualify for a Regents' Professorship, a faculty member must display extraordinary achievement in academic administration or professional service resulting in outstanding service to the university, academic community or an academic or professional discipline. In recognition of the high level of achievement, Regents' Professorships are accompanied by a one-time award of \$7,000 and a permanent annual 7 percent salary increase.

Snow joined the OU faculty in 1993, when he was recruited to serve as dean of OU's College of Geosciences, which was later reorganized as the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences. He has announced plans to resign as dean effective June 30, 2010, to return to teaching, weather technology development and transfer, and promoting university/private sector/government relations.

During his tenure at OU, Snow helped develop a master plan for the construction of the National Weather Center, a state-of-the-art facility anchoring OU's growing Research Campus. The center houses a unique confederation of academic, state and federal organizations that investigate weather phenomenon and use the resulting knowledge to improve forecasts to the public and industry. The university's meteorology programs have earned international recognition as leaders in weather-related education and training, research and development, and weather forecasting and other meteorological services. Snow also has been active in promoting the growth of the private sector in meteorology and in the establishment of an economic cluster in central Oklahoma focused on weather research and services. One of his most recent accomplishments was the creation of a new bachelor's degree in geoinformatics in the college.

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Snow’s current professional interests include Earth System Science, which involves the integration of the best available knowledge from the Earth and Life Sciences in an attempt to provide a holistic picture of how the world works. His primary research area for many years has been in the dynamics of columnar vortices, which range in scale from small dust devils to tornadoes. Snow also has been involved in the design and testing of meteorological measurement systems, including weather radars.

Snow has published widely in these and related areas and made numerous presentations at professional and scientific meetings. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and a member of the Royal Meteorological Society of the United Kingdom. He also is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist.

Snow served for 28 years as one of three senior editors of the *Journal of Atmospheric Research* and has served on numerous state and national advisory boards addressing issues in education, science and weather services.

He also is widely recognized for his commitment to improving secondary-level earth science education opportunities. During his tenure as dean, the American Meteorological Society awarded him its Charles Anderson Award in recognition of his efforts to advance education and diversity in the atmospheric sciences. The American Meteorological Society later also presented him with its Cleveland Abbey Award for service to the society and the profession. And in November of this year, Snow was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

Snow earned his bachelor’s and master of science degrees in electrical engineering from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and his doctoral degree in atmospheric science from Purdue University. He served on the faculty of Purdue University from 1977 to 1993.

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