

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dawn Wright

PERSON

Wright, Dawn Jeannine, 1961-

Alternative Names: Dawn Wright;

Life Dates: April 15, 1961-

Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Residence: Redlands, CA

Work: Redlands, CA

Occupations: Oceanographer

Biographical Note

Professor and oceanographer Dawn Jeannine Wright was born on April 15, 1961 to Jeanne and Robert Wright. Wright grew up on the island of Maui, Hawaii, fascinated by stories of adventure and discovery of the open seas. She graduated cum laude with her B.S. degree in geology from Wheaton College in 1983. She then earned her M.S. degree from Texas A&M University in oceanography in 1986. During her

graduate studies, Wright served as a graduate research assistant and a marine laboratory specialist with the Ocean Drilling Program at Texas A&M University. Following her work as a marine laboratory specialist, Wright received her Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1994 with her dissertation entitled “From Pattern to Process on the Deep Ocean Floor: a Geographic Information System Approach.”

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hired Wright as a postdoctoral research associate following graduation. She began her teaching career in 1995 as an assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences at Oregon State University. By 2002, she was promoted to full professor. Wright is an expert on geographic information systems, and her work has focused on mapping the ocean floor in locations around the globe including: Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, in American Samoa, the East Pacific Rise in the Pacific Ocean, the Tonga Trench in the South Pacific Ocean, and the Juan de Fuca Ridge in the North Pacific Ocean. Along with her work in mapping the sea floor, Wright has assisted with a number of outreach programs, hoping to encourage more minority and female students to consider a career in the sciences.

Wright has published a large number of papers detailing her investigations. She has received several awards in recognition of her work, both as a teacher and as a leading scientist in her field. She won the United States Professor of the Year for the State of Oregon in 2007, and has been listed as one of fifteen scientists featured in Portraits of Great American Scientists. She was also named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Wright has co-authored the reference book, *Arc Marine: GIS for a Blue Planet*.

Related Entries

Texas A&M University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Master of Science

Wheaton College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bachelor of Science, cum laude

Wide Lake High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Degree

Henry Perrine Baldwin High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Degree

Aptos Middle School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Lao School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Wailuku Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

University of California-Santa Barbara [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Texas A&M University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to ?]

**Graduate Research Assistant, Ocean Drilling
Program**

Texas A&M University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to ?]

Seagoing Marine Technician, Ocean Drilling

Program

University of California, Santa Barbara [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1948 to 1997]

Graduate Student Researcher

Oregon State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to 1999]

Assistant Professor

NOAA [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to 1995]

Post-Doc

Oregon State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to ?]

Associate Professor

Oregon State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Professor

Consortium for Ocean Leadership [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Esri delegate

World Ocean Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Esri delegate

**International Conference on Geographic Information
Science** [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Program Committee

CyberGIS '12 [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Program Committee

Integrated Earth Data Applications (IEDA), Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Policy Committee (Advisory Board)

RCN:OceanObsNetwork [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Session Proposal Reviewer

NETMAR - Open Service Network for Marine Environmental Data [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

National Ocean Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

External Reviewer

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

External Reviewer

West Coast Data Network Action Coordination Team, West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Encyclopedia of Earth [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Topic Editor

International Journal of Geographical Information

Science, Taylor & Francis [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Associate Editor

Annals of the Association of American Geographers,

Routledge [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Editorial Board

Transactions in GIS, Wiley-Blackwell Publishers

[MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Editorial Board

Journal of Coastal Conservation: Planning and

Management, Springer [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Editorial Board

Geography Compass [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Editorial Board

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Ocean Studies Board

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA) [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Science Advisory Board

Science Advisory Council [MEMBEROF]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Conservation International

