

1996 RAY K. LINSLEY AWARD

Citation

The Ray K. Linsley Award was established in 1986 and is named in honor of Ray K. Linsley, a great leader in the hydrological sciences. The 1996 Award is presented to **Dr. Harold A. Thomas, Jr.**, Emeritus Professor, Civil and Sanitary Engineering Department, Harvard University.

Dr. Thomas was one of the principals of the Harvard Water Resources Program and spurred hydrology beyond its traditional interests in physics, chemistry meteorology, and geology and to embrace the economic, social, and political sciences. His many contributions to hydrology lie in four main areas: 1) development of statistical models for describing hydrologic processes in their stochastic richness; 2) translation of our understanding of complex meteorologic and hydrologic phenomena into incisive models which capture the essence of those processes while illuminating the weaknesses in our understanding of those processes and of our data; 3) integration of economic and demographic concepts into responsive, prescriptive water resource decision models; and 4) training of a generation of professors, civil servants, and consultants who appreciate the subtleties of their discipline and who attempt to impose his set of uncompromising standards on their own work.

In a long and distinguished career at Harvard University, Thomas has reflected on the diverse areas of water science, providing us with a rich menu of research in hydrology, a menu whose elements continue to comprise the central issues and important questions. He has increased our basic understanding of hydrology through his papers that have motivated mathematical and statistical developments.

Dr. Thomas received the Robert E. Horton Medal from the American Geophysical Union in 1978. The information regarding Dr. Thomas' credentials was taken from Transactions, American Geophysical Union, EOS, Vol. 59, 1978.