



December 2004

The IAUC is happy to announce that Professor Tim Oke of the University of British Columbia has been selected by its Awards Committee for the inaugural (2004) Luke Howard award. Tim was selected for his pioneering and seminal work in the field of urban climatology. The Committee could not think of another person more deserving of this honour.

His WMO reviews on urban climates, with their focus on the physical processes behind modification of the urban radiation, energy, and water budgets provided periodic landmark reviews of the evolution of our understanding of urban climate. His always “cutting edge” research and publications over four decades have made him heir, in both stature and research, to Luke Howard and Helmut Landsberg as one of the founding fathers of the science of urban climate.

His book *Boundary Layer Climates* is a cornerstone for the teaching of climates in the lowest layer of the atmosphere. Tim’s versatility and range of research interests are reflected in this book, as it goes beyond urban climates and covers climates associated with natural surfaces (including animals). It is equivalent in quality and value to Geiger’s *Climate Near the Ground*.

When his 1988 review of urban energy budgets was published in *Progress in Physical Geography*, Tim was already established as the leading international expert on urban climates. His over 200 published papers cover a wide range of important urban topics, including energy fluxes, urban heat islands, turbulent fluxes, heat storage, dew deposition, evapotranspiration, aerodynamics, remote sensing, and modeling. Most recently, Tim has produced WMO guidelines for siting meteorological equipment in urban landscapes, an important and difficult task.

Tim has received numerous awards for his efforts. For example, in 1991 he was elected Fellow of both the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and Royal Society of Canada. He received the WMO Outstanding Service Award in 2001, American Meteorological Society Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology in 2002, and Patterson Medal from the Meteorological Service of Canada in 2002. He became Fellow of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society in 2003.

Tim’s numerous Ph.D. and Masters students have also impacted urban climate research around the globe, both in continued collaboration with Tim and through their own efforts and students. Examples include Dr Helen Cleugh, CSIRO in Canberra, Australia; Prof. Sue Grimmond, Indiana University, USA; Dr. Rachel Spronken-Smith, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand; and James Voogt, University of Western Ontario. Tim’s contributions to the understanding of urban climate will thus continue, long after he formally retires, through the achievements of his students and their students.

The award of the Inaugural (2004) Luke Howard Award to Tim Oke thus acknowledges his unequalled contributions to the science of urban climate over four-decades. Through this award, the IAUC membership thanks him for his past and current contributions, and looks forward to his continued insights into the causes and nature of urban climate.

The IAUC Awards Committee