

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



**William “Bill” Alder’s** earlier years were spent growing up in Redlands, CA and that’s where I became interested in the weather. I had a rain gauge and was concerned with freezing temperatures during the winter because my folks had 20 acres of oranges. After attending the University of Redlands I transferred to the University of Utah. I earned a B.S. ’64 and M.S. ’66 in Meteorology and went one more year toward my Ph.D. My minor was Air Pollution

Science with my Master’s Thesis on “Radioactive Concentration in Relation to the Jet Stream” with guidance from my faculty advisor Dr. Shih-Kung Kao. Married Joanne Thomas of Salt Lake City in 1965 and have three wonderful children (a boy and 2 girls). I started my career with the National Weather Service as a summer intern in Long Beach, CA and in 1965 a permanent position at the Salt Lake Forecast Office. I was promoted on station through many forecast positions and in 1980 became the Meteorologist-in-Charge, retiring in 2000 after 40 years of government service. When I retired, the Mayor of Salt Lake named the NWS office in my name. I received the Silver Metal from the Department of Commerce for “distinguished service to the people of UT before and during the severe floods in 1983 and 1984.” While learning about all the potpourri of weather in UT, I noticed several times that the GSL influenced the weather downstream in the winter months. After more research on various weather patterns this proved to be a real phenomena, which I tagged as the Dreaded Lake Effect (DLE). In addition, I needed to inform the public about summer weather hazards in UT, so one week each summer was designated (by the Governor of Utah) Flash Flood Awareness and Lightning Awareness Weeks. During the 2002 Winter Olympics, I worked at Meteorology Solutions Inc. as one of their meteorologists who provided detailed weather forecasts at one of the venues. Also, I prepared weather forecasts for the Salt Lake Tribune each day for the Olympic venues. In 2002, I was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Awarded from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. In the summer my wife and I enjoy going to Vegas, Moab, and our condo in San Diego (Solana Beach). While in Moab, my son-in-law and I enjoy kayaking the Colorado River. My wife and I enjoy spending time with our special 6 grandchildren. My hobbies are gardening and keeping track of the weather in Holladay, which I have done since 1969.