

William R. Brice, Ph.D. - Johnstown, PA USA

[wbrice@pitt.edu](mailto:wbrice@pitt.edu)

[www.williamrbrice.com](http://www.williamrbrice.com)

**University of Florida** (Gainesville, Florida) - Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in physics and mathematics (1958)

**University of Tasmania** (Hobart, Tasmania, Australia) - Diploma of Education (Dip. Ed.) in science education (1965)

**Cornell University** (Ithaca, New York) - Master of Science for Teachers (M.S.T.) in earth science education (1968); Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in geochemistry (1971).



Mike Henderson Photo

Dr. Brice is a Professor-Emeritus of Geology & Planetary Science at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) (Pennsylvania) where he joined the faculty in 1971. Prior to joining the faculty at UPJ, for seven years he taught physics and mathematics in secondary schools in Clermont, Florida (1960-62; 1965-67), and Taroona, Tasmania, Australia (1962-65). From 1976-2002 he was a member of the summer geology faculty at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. During a sabbatical in 1978 he served on the faculty of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education and was a Visiting Research Associate in the Geology Department at the University of Tasmania. In 1992 he was an invited visiting lecturer and researcher at the State University at Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, and was invited back again in 2001. Dr. Brice received the *Dr. Edward A. Vizzini Teacher of the Year Award* from the Division of Natural Sciences in 2003 and *President's Award for Excellence in Teaching* in 2004 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. During the Fall Term of 2005, his last term of teaching before retirement, Dr. Brice was a member of the faculty in the Semester-at-Sea program where he joined with 28 other faculty and 700 students on a 100-day voyage around the world. He retired from active teaching at the end of December 2005.

He has served as President of the History of Earth Sciences Society (2002-2004) and currently is an Associate Editor of the HESS journal, *Earth Sciences History*. He was Secretary-Treasurer-Editor of the History & Philosophy of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (1998-2007), and in 2008 he received the *Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman Distinguished Service Award* from the H&PofG/GSA. In 2018 the H&PofG/GSA awarded Dr. Brice the *Mary C. Rabbitt Award for the History of Geology* in recognition of his contribution to that field. He was the founding President of the Petroleum History Institute (2003-2005) and received the *PHI Distinguished Service Award* in 2005. Dr. Brice was the editor of the PHI journal, *Oil-Industry History*, from 2003-2013. In 2015 his work in petroleum history was recognized with the Petroleum History Institute's *Samuel T. Pees Keeper of the Flame Award*. In May 2014 Dr. Brice was elected a member of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO), and in September 2016 he was elected to a four-year term as Editor for INHIGEO.

He has published or presented almost 300 articles and papers on the subjects of mineral geochemistry, the history of geology, history of the oil and gas industry, and biographical studies. He has published, *Cornell Geology Through the years* (1989), an account of the first 125 years of the geology department at Cornell University, and *Gilbert Dennison Harris: A Life with Fossils* (1996), the biography of the Cornell Professor and founder of The Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, New York. His biography of Edwin Drake, *Myth, Legend, Reality; Edwin Laurentine Drake and the Early Oil Industry*, published in December 2009, has received two awards: *The John A. Mather Award* (2010) from the Friends of Drake Well, Titusville, Pennsylvania, and the first annual *Yellow Dog Award* (2011)<sup>1</sup> for excellence in oil history from the Parkersburg Oil & Gas Museum, Parkersburg, West Virginia. In September 2013, Dr. Brice was one of only four invited speakers from the United States at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nobel Brothers' International Research-Innovative Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Brice had his paper about the early oil history in Pennsylvania read at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology, which is part of the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the History of Science and Technology held July 23-29, 2017, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He served as a historical consultant for the Baku Media Center in Azerbaijan in June 2018 for a film about the Nobel Brothers and their early oil empire.

His main areas of research are biographical studies of nineteenth century geologists and the early history of the United States oil and gas industry. For a more detailed professional biography, please see: [www.williamrbrice.com](http://www.williamrbrice.com).

---

<sup>1</sup> Yellow dog is the name given to the cast iron, twin-spout cast-iron pot that was used as a crude oil-burning lamp on the drilling rigs in the late 1800s. Today these "yellow dog" lanterns are prized items for collectors.