Robert Coleman Richardson

Floyd R. Newman Professor of Physics, Cornell University, Department of Physics. Vice Provost for Research, Emeritus and Senior Science Advisor to the President and Provost

Born in Washington DC in 1937, Professor Robert Richardson earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1958 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The following year, he joined the US Army as Second Lieutenant, until 1960.
His scientific career continued with the conferment of his Master of Science degree in Physics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and with his PhD degree in Physics, from Duke University, in 1966. In the same year he was elected Research Associate from the Cornell University, becoming Faculty Member in 1968; from 1968 to 1971 he was Assistant Professor of Physics and, from 1972 to 1974, Associate Professor.
Former Professor of Physics of the Cornell University, Robert Richardson served as Floyd R. Newman Professor of Physics from 1987 to present. During the last years, the relevance of his research was underlined from many appointments: he was the Director of Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics of the Cornell University from 1998 to 2007, also working as Senior Science Advisor to the President and Provost from 2007 to 2009.
In 2008, Professor Richardson became Senior Vice Provost for Research Emeritus.
During his long career, he received many honors. In 1976, the Eighth Simon Memorial Prize from the British Physical Society, with Douglas D. Osheroff and David Morris Lee; in 1996, together with these two colleagues, he won the Nobel Prize in Physics "for their discovery of superfluidity in helium-3". In 2000, he received the Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the Ohio State University while, in May 2003, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University paid homage to his career with the Distinguished Graduate School Alumnus Award.
Professor Richardson, in the end, was proclaimed Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1981 and Fellow of the American Physical Society, in 1983; he became Member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1986 and Foreign Member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, in 1993.
His scientific fields of interest concern experimental low temperature physics and experimental condensed-matter physics, mostly focused on the properties of liquids and solids at sub-millikelvin temperatures.