

	<p>A.F. Spilhaus</p>	<p>USA</p>
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A. F. (Fred) Spilhaus, Jr.
 American Geophysical Union
 Executive Director Emeritus

Dr. Spilhaus received his doctorate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in oceanography in 1965. He was part of the then informal joint Woods Hole/MIT program. His research focused on the optical properties of sea water and more specifically on the potential uses of light scattering in identifying water masses. His two previous degrees, BS in chemical engineering in 1959 and MS in geology and geophysics in 1960, were also earned at MIT.

After approximately two years in defense work, he accepted an employment offer and traded classified work for advancing the free exchange of ideas and information. In 1967 he became Assistant Executive Director of the American Geophysical Union and in 1970 succeeded the first AGU Executive Director. Dr. Spilhaus held that position until February 2009. During his tenure at AGU the membership grew from 7,000 researchers, educators, and students to over 56,000, the staff grew from about 20 to 180, and the net worth, on the books, went from a negative number in the early 1970s to in excess of \$65 million at the end of 2007. During the 42 years that Dr. Spilhaus was deputy then chief staff officer of AGU, the Union moved from being a “committee” of the National Academy of Sciences to an independent global society with almost 40% of its membership outside the United States.

Dr. Spilhaus collaborated with other scientific societies worldwide to build a strong foundation for those in the Earth and space sciences. He was active in two international scientific unions: the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). From 1972 to 2003, he was the secretary of the U.S. National Committee of IUGG. He was a member the IUGG Finance Committee from 1987 through 2003, serving as secretary 1991-1999 and as chair 1999-2003. From 1999 through 2012 he served on the Publications Committee of the IUGS, chairing the committee during 2009-2012. Over the years Dr. Spilhaus assisted in the start-up of new scientific organizations and in some mergers. He has held leadership positions in associations that support scientific societies, particularly those related to publications, meetings, and society management. His diverse contributions include leading the establishment of the highly respected credentialing program for professionals in the meetings industry (Certified Meetings Professional), participating in the conception of the Copyright Clearance Center, and founding both the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation and the Society for Scholarly Publishing,

His achievements across the community of scientific societies were recognized in 2009 when the Board of the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives renamed the Council’s prestigious leadership award the A. Fred Spilhaus Leadership Award. Other honors accorded Dr Spilhaus include: Medal of the Russian Geophysical Committee, USSR Academy of Science for Contributions to International Cooperation in Geophysics (1983); Honorary Fellow of the AGU (1996; only three individuals had received this distinction at the time); Honorary Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (2009); European Geosciences Union Special Certificate of Appreciation (2009); American Institute of Professional Geologists Outstanding Service Award (2009); Waldo E. Smith Medal of AGU (2010; created to honor AGU's first executive officer and subsequently renamed).