

I am Robin Elizabeth Bell, and I am the PGI Lamont Research Professor at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and a member of the Earth Institute faculty. At Lamont, I direct programs in ice sheet dynamics, lead efforts to develop innovative technology and work to improve the scientific culture especially for women. I have led ten major expeditions to the polar regions, to both Greenland and Antarctica resulting in discoveries ranging from active volcanism beneath the West Antarctic Ice sheet, to large deep lakes encased by two miles of ice to hidden mountain ranges buried by ice where water under the pressure of thick ice is forced uphill. I was the first woman to chair the National Academy of Science's Polar Research Board (2002-2008) where I was instrumental in launching the International Polar Year 2007-9 that brought together over 50,000 scientists from around the globe. I also co-chaired the recent National Academy report A Strategic Vision for NSF Investments in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research (2015) that set the priorities for Antarctic science. Recently, I chaired the National Academy of Science Review of the Draft Fourth National Climate Assessment – a comprehensive undertaking by U.S. scientists and citizens documenting the impacts of climate change around the country(USGCRP 2018). Currently, I have the great honor of serving as the President of the American Geophysical Union, or AGU as we all refer to it.