



## **Don Thomas**

Don Thomas was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where he received his undergraduate degree in physics from Case Western Reserve University. He holds a master of science degree and a doctorate in materials science from Cornell University.

From 1982-87 Dr. Thomas was a senior member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey. From there he went on to work for NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In 1990 he was selected in NASA's 13th group of astronauts. During his career at NASA he flew as a mission specialist on 4 different Space Shuttle missions, completing nearly 700 orbits of the Earth and traveling some 17 million miles. From 2003-2006, Dr. Thomas was the International Space Station (ISS) Program Scientist and was responsible for the planning and scheduling of science activities aboard the ISS.

In August 2007 Dr. Thomas joined Towson University where he is the director of the newly formed Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science, an outreach program targeting middle and high school students in the Baltimore area to get them more interested in careers in math and science.