

# Meet the scientist

**Name:** Joseph D. Ortiz  
**Birth place:** Brooklyn, New York  
**High school:** Longwood High,  
Middle Island, NY  
**College:** B.S. with Honors, Brown  
University Ph.D. College of  
Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Sciences, Oregon State  
**University:** Post-Doc, Lamont Doherty Earth  
Observatory of Columbia  
University



**Title:** Associate Professor

**What I study:** Paleoclimate, sedimentology, water quality

**Residence (State):** Ohio

**Married to/ name of spouse:** Donna Witter

**Children:** Elliot and Claire

**Pets/ what kind/ name:** My cats, Millie and Mollie

**Hobbies:** Woodworking, Digital Photography, Biking and Hiking

**Favorite Food:** Donna's homemade bread

**Favorite music:** Paul Simon's Graceland

**Least favorite class in high school / why:** Art I guess – I have a great appreciation for Art – but, was frustrated that I could never get past stick figures myself...

**Most favorite class in high school:** Chemistry – my teacher was always extremely positive and helped us to figure things out by doing. She also encouraged me to go to College and major in a science.

**Who or what inspired you to go into teaching:** John Imbrie and Warren Prell, my mentors at Brown who interested me in paleoceanography.

**Something my friends would be surprised if they knew this about me:** That I have sailed on every ocean except the Indian Ocean and walked on five of seven continents.