

**Chris Terrill**

**Doctor of Science**

**Durham Cathedral, 12 January 2018**

Chris Terrill is one of those people who lives life to the fullest. He embodies that over used and clichéd phrase, *carpe diem*. If he has a personal motto, then it must be seize the day. Or perhaps, seize the adventure out of every moment of every day. He attended Brighton College in secondary school-- a place of privilege and prestige, though perhaps not necessarily comfort or luxury. He then came to Durham where he read for a joint honours degree in Geography and Anthropology. Between 1976 and 1977 he lived in southern Sudan with the Acholi tribe, a Luo Nilotic group of nomads who live in Uganda and South Sudan. His research focused on the impact of the refugee diaspora and experience on the tribal economy after repatriation. He had astutely identified different waves of refugee migration and different "flight" motives and responses during the refugee "career" that affected reactions to perceived opportunities before and after repatriation. The research was taken up by the United Nations and Norwegian Church Relief who were operating in the region. This kind of ethnographic analysis of the variation of refugee experiences and the subsequent impacts on society is, sadly, as relevant today as it was in the mid 1970s. He then took up the post of Head of Geography in another prestigious Independent School Rendcomb College in GG0 1 330.1adgrouGG0 3(5(1)36)3na58 Tm[Chris600]b



has turned his attention to the terrifying tornados, hurricanes and wild fires of the United States.

I began by suggesting that if Chris has a motto it must include something about seizing opportunities for adventure, but I should finish by saying that Chris is a man who cannot be reduced to the label of adventurer he has shown compassion and empathy for others throughout his career and his films are a testament to the dignity and strength of his subjects.

*Vice Chancellor I present Chris Terrill to receive the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa.*