Louis Reichardt at the UCSF Neuroscience Graduate Program retreat in Asilomar

Louis Reichardt (June 4, 1942) is a noted American mountaineer, the first American to summit both Everest and K2. He is also Director of the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative, the largest non-federal supporter of scientific research into autism spectrum disorders and an emeritus Professor of Physiology and Biochemistry/Biophysics at UCSF, where he studies neuroscience. The character of Harold Jameson, U.C.S.F. biophysicist and mountaineer in the film K2 is based on Reichardt, though the events of his actual 1978 K2 attempt with Jim Wickwire bear little resemblance to the plot of the film.

Notable ascents and expeditions

- 1968 Abruzzi Route (substantial variation), Mount Saint Elias, Yukon/Alaska. Fifth ascent of peak with Paul Gerhard.[1]
- 1976: Summit team with John Roskelley and Jim States on Nanda Devi. Despite extreme adversity, the three were successful in reaching the summit. Tragically Nanda Devi Unsoeld died at high camp due to complications of a stomach virus and acute mountain sickness.
- 1981: As climbing leader of the 1981 American expedition to Everest, led by Richard Blum, Lou Reichardt faced what must have seemed an almost insurmountable task, to chart a path up the unclimbed East face of Everest, the Kangshung Face. And for that year at least the Kangshung Face remained unclimbed. The expedition, though well financed, was torn by strife, bad weather, threat of avalanche, and illness - and the attempt at the summit abandoned.
- 1983: Lou Reichardt, Kim Momb, and Carlos Buhler become the first to summit the Kangshung Face of Mount Everest.[5]

American Alpine Club

Reichardt was a director of the American Alpine Club from 1977 to 1980, and served as president from 1995 to 1997.[6]

Honors and awards

Reichardt was awarded the Robert and Miriam Underhill Award by the American Alpine Club in 1993,[7] The David Brower Conservation Award in 1997,[8] and The Angelo Heilprin Citation in 2000.[9] On April 7, 2012, the American Alpine Club inducted Reichardt into its Hall of Mountaineering Excellence at an award ceremony in Golden, Colorado.[10]

Scientific career

Reichardt went to Harvard University for undergraduate work (1960–1964), was a Fulbright Scholar at St. John's College, Cambridge and received a PhD in Biochemistry from Stanford University in 1972. He was a research fellow at the University of Geneva and Harvard Medical School, before becoming a professor at The University of California, San Francisco. He has been Director of the UCSF Neuroscience program since 1994.[11]

Reichardt was an investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute (1985–2007). He is a fellow of American Academy of Arts and Sciences.[11]

Arthur Lander, the UC Irvine developmental biologist, is one of his eminent students.[12]

Reichardt currently serves as a Scientific Advisory Board member for the Myelin Repair Foundation, an innovative medical research nonprofit focused on developing a myelin repair therapeutic for multiple sclerosis.

Publications


References


External links

- Interview with Louis Reichardt: "Expeditions in Science and Mountaineering"
- From Summit to SFARI: The High-Altitude Life of Louis F. Reichardt

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