Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Horace G. Dawson

Dawson, Horace G. (Horace Greeley), 1926-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Horace G. Dawson;

Life Dates: January 30, 1926-

Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia, USA

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Academic Administrator; Foreign Ambassador

Biographical Note

Former ambassador Horace G. Dawson, Jr. was born in Augusta, Georgia, on January 30, 1926. After graduation from high school, Dawson attended Lincoln
University in Pennsylvania for two years before being drafted into the U.S. Army, serving a two-year tour of duty in Europe and the Philippines. Dawson then returned to Lincoln University to finish his studies, earning a B.A. in English in 1949. Dawson went on to study English and comparative literature at Columbia University and received his M.A. the following year.

Dawson began his career as an English teacher at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he remained three years after earning his M.A. He then went on to teach at North Carolina Central University, where he worked as an associate professor of English and director of public relations. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1961.

In 1962, Dawson entered the Foreign Service, working as a cultural affairs officer in Uganda and Nigeria, and then as the United States Information Agency Director in Liberia. From 1973 to 1977, Dawson held a prominent position as the director of all American information and cultural programs in Africa. Subsequently, Dawson became the counselor of embassy for public affairs and the director of American information and cultural programs in the Philippines, where he remained until 1979. That year, he was named ambassador to Botswana by President Jimmy Carter. As ambassador, he worked to end apartheid in South Africa. Returning to the United States in 1983, Dawson remained with the State Department until his retirement in 1989. He then joined the faculty at Howard University and was appointed director of the public affairs program. In 1993, Dawson established the International Affairs Center at Howard University, and in 1997 became the director of that program as well. Dawson is a member of the Peace Corps Advisory Board, chairman of the Selection Committee for the Franklin H. Williams Memorial Internship Program of the Council on Foreign Relations, and recently ended his term as chairman of the Association of Black American Ambassadors. Listed in Who's Who in America,
Dawson has written extensively on the topics of mass media and international affairs. He is married to Lula Cole Dawson, a sociologist and employment specialist. They have two children.

Related Entries

**Lincoln University** [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

**Columbia University** [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

**Southern University** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1983]

Teacher

**North Carolina Central University** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Associate Professor and Director of Public Relations

**United States Information Agency** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1998]

Liberia Director

**United States Department of State** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1962 to ?]

Cultural Affairs Officer

**United States Department of State** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to ?]

Ambassador to Botswana

**United States Department of State** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1989]

**Howard University** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to ?]

**Director of the Public Affairs Program**

**Howard University International Affairs Center**

[employee of]

[from 1993 to ?]

**Founder**

**Howard University International Affairs Center**

[employee of]

[from 1997 to ?]

**Director**