

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Walter Young

PERSON

Young, Walter, 1934-

**Alternative Names:** Dr. Walter Young; Dr. Walter F. Young

**Life Dates:** August 18, 1934-

**Place of Birth:** New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

**Residence:** Atlanta, GA

**Occupations:** Civil Rights Activist; Dentist

## Biographical Note

Dentist and civil rights activist Dr. Walter Fuller Young was born on August 18, 1934, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Daisy Valentine Fuller Young and Andrew Jackson Young, a dentist. Young attended Valeda C. Jones School with his brother Andrew Young. He later attended Gilbert Academy and then went on to attend and graduate from Princeton High School in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1951. Young earned his B.A. degree from Baldwin Wallace College

in Ohio in 1955. Following in his father's footsteps, Young studied dentistry at Howard University Dental School.

After a stint as a dentist in the United States Navy, Young returned to New Orleans, where his father had practiced, established his dental practice and taught at Dillard University. At the same time, Young became an active supporter of the All African Students Association's lunch counter sit-ins at New Orleans' downtown Woolworth's and at other New Orleans businesses from 1961 to 1964. During that same period, Young was introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by his brother, SCLC's Rev. Andrew Young. Moving to Atlanta in 1978, Young joined his brother and worked to address the issues of dental health maintenance and the establishment of dental programs in schools, churches and organizations in the Atlanta area. Young's dental practice has been active in the same location for twenty-eight years. He is a member of the North Georgia Dental Society and the American Dental Association. Young is owner and president of Young International Development Corporation and serves as a director of Jamaica Communications, Datacom International, Inc., and Health Management Decisions.

As a member of the City of Atlanta Blue Ribbon Committee on Equal Business Opportunity, Young is involved in a number of civic and community programs. He is a consultant to the Osaka American Club of Japan, American Computer Technology in Atlanta, Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah, and Grady Healthcare in Atlanta. Possessing a keen interest in African American history, Young is honorary consul general for Liberia and has traveled extensively on the African continent. In 2004, Atlanta's Southwest YMCA was named for Young and his brother, Andrew.

Young is married to event planner, Sonjia Young, and is father to five children.

## Related Entries

**Princeton High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Valena C. Jones Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Baldwin Wallace University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

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

**Young International Development Corporation**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founder**

**Southern Christian Leadership Conference**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1964 to 1968]

**Organizer**

**Walter F. Young, DDS** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to ?]

**Owner & Principal**

**100 Black Men of America** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Cascade Business and Merchants Association**  
[MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**President**

**The First Tee** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**