Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Hall

Hall, John , 1946-

Alternative Names: Hall, John , 1946-

Life Dates: September 24, 1946-

Place of Birth: Birmingham, Alabama

Residence: Atlanta, Georgia

Occupations: Chemist; Academic Administrator

Biographical Note

Chemist and academic administrator John H. Hall, Jr. was born on September 24, 1946 to Mary Emma Hall and John H. Hall, Sr. He attended Morehouse College to receive his B.S. degree in chemistry with honors in 1969. With a scholarship for continued studies in chemistry, Hall then began his graduate studies at Harvard University. Hall worked with his research advisor, William N. Lipscomb, to better understand the nature of chemical bonds in boranes through electron orbital calculations. Lipscomb’s work in borane structure earned him the 1976 Nobel Prize in chemistry. Hall graduated from Harvard University with his Ph.D. degree in theoretical computational chemistry in 1974.

Pursuing post-doctoral research work, Hall worked with Dr. William Guillory to develop models of mechanisms of the photolytic reactions occurring to deplete the ozone in the atmosphere during the 1970s. In 1979, Hall became an associate professor of chemistry at Morehouse College and senior research scientist at the School of Geophysical Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he continued his research in atmospheric chemistry. Hall continued to study the chemical compounds and reactions of the stratosphere, including the chlorine and fluorine nitrate series, and the vibrational spectra of nitrate geometric isomers. His later work also focused
on the effect that high concentrations of these highly-reactive compounds on human health, particularly low-income populations.

Hall served as a consultant for Innovations International, Inc., a company started by William Guillory that specialized in organizational development. He also served as the associate vice president for research at The Ohio State University for seven years before returning to Morehouse College in 2001 as chair of the department of chemistry. Hall was later named the Bruce Raneur Professor of Natural Sciences at Morehouse College, where he has published numerous academic papers on physical and atmospheric chemistry. Hall and his wife, Susan Hall, also started Transformational Consultants International, Inc., where they specialize in improving workplace productivity and diversity.

John Hall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 14, 2011.

Related Entries

Hall, Cynthia [Ex-Spouse Of]  
Ex-Wife

Hall, Shanda [Step-Parent Of]  
Step-Daughter

Hall, Susan [Widower Of]  
Late Wife

Rashad, Bobbie [Sibling Of]  
Brother

Hall, Larry [Sibling Of]  
Brother

Hall, John Henry [Child Of]  
Father

Hall, Mo [Parent Of]  
Son

Hall, Mary Emma [Child Of]  
Mother

Hall, John [Parent Of]  
Son

Hall, Sam [Sibling Of]  
Brother

Valencia [Sibling Of]  
Sister
Anderson Park Elementary School [STUDENT Of]

Henry McNeal Turner High School [STUDENT Of]

Morehouse College [STUDENT Of]
   B.S. Chemistry

Harvard University [STUDENT OF]
   Ph.D. Chemistry

Transformational Consultants International, Inc. [EMPLOYEE Of]
   President and Founder

Morehouse College [EMPLOYEE Of]
   [from 1979 to 1989]
   Professor of Chemistry

Georgia Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEE Of]
   [from 1979 to 1989]
   Researcher

Jet Propulsion Laboratory [EMPLOYEE Of]
   [from 1979 to 1979]
   Fellow

Innovations International [EMPLOYEE Of]
   [from 1990 to 1994]
   Consultant

The Ohio State University [EMPLOYEE Of]
   [from 1994 to 2001]
   Associate Vice President for Research

Morehouse College [EMPLOYEE Of]
   [from 2001 to ?]
   Professor and Chair

Phi Beta Kappa [MEMBER Of]
   Member

American Chemical Society [MEMBER Of]
   Member

National Organization for Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers [MEMBER Of]
   Member