

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Albert N. Thompson, Jr.

PERSON

Thompson, Albert, 1946-

**Alternative Names:** Albert N. Thompson, Jr.;

**Life Dates:** October 31, 1946-

**Place of Birth:** Columbia, South Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Work:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Occupations:** Chemist;

## Biographical Note

Chemist and chemistry professor Albert N. Thompson, Jr. was born October 31, 1946 to Martha Furgess Thompson and Albert Thompson, Sr. in Columbia, South Carolina, (Richland County). His mother was an elementary school teacher and his father was a college professor. After attending Savannah Kay Elementary and William Miller Jr. High Schools, Thompson attended and graduated from Phillis Wheatley, Sr. High School in Houston, Texas in 1964. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry and his M.S. degree in inorganic chemistry from Texas Southern University in 1973 and 1975, respectively. Thompson served as an instructor of physical science and chemistry at Houston Community College and Texas Southern University between 1974 and 1975. He earned his Ph.D. degree in inorganic chemistry from Howard University in 1979. He then became an assistant professor of chemistry at Fisk University.

Thompson served as an assistant professor of chemistry at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina. In 1981, he did a faculty research fellowship at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas before being hired as a professor at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Thompson served as a visiting professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990. In 2011, Thompson earned a promotion to chair Spelman College's Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Thompson has received funding and co-funding from several research and educational grants from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), United States Air Force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Energy and the United States Army. Thompson has also served as a research and program proposal consultant to the NSF,

NASA, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NIH, Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) and Project Kaleidoscope organizations. A member of the University of Chicago James Franck Institute NSF Materials Research Center Visiting Advisory Committee, Thompson is an advocate for minority student training in science and research careers. He organized and is involved with the American Chemical Society's sponsored summer research program for Atlanta area high school students, Project SEED.

Thompson is a member of the American Chemical Society Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society and the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society. He was also featured in an Ebony magazine article on Spelman College. In 2011, he received a distinguished alumni award from the School of Science and Technology at Texas Southern University. Thompson has two children, Amber and Tayloir. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Albert N. Thompson, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 20, 2012.

## Related Entries

**Howard University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Texas Southern University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.S.**

**Texas Southern University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Blackshear Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Kay Granger Elelemtary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Phillis Wheatley High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 198105 to 198108]

**Research Fellow**

**Houston Community College** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197506 to 197507]

**Instructor**

**Texas Southern University** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197408 to 197508]

**Instructor**

**Fisk University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 197808 to 198008]

**Assistant Professor**

**Fayetteville State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 198008 to 198105]

**Assistant Professor**

**University of Wisconsin, Madison** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199008 to 199012]

**Visiting Professor**

**Spelman College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to ?]

**Professor and Chair, Chemistry**

**University of Chicago James Franck Institute NSF Materials Research Center  
Visiting Advisory Committee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**American Chemical Society (ACS)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2001 to ?]

**Member**

**American Chemical Society (ACS)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2003 to ?]

**Research Preceptor**