

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

PERSON

Thompson, Albert , 1946-

Alternative Names: Thompson, Albert , 1946-;

Life Dates: October 31, 1946-

Place of Birth: Columbia (Richland County), South Carolina

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Chemistry Professor; 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

(Eloise) Thompson, Eloise [STEPCHILD OF]
Stepmother

Thomson, Albert H. [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandfather

(Thompson) Guillory, Zenobia [SIBLING OF]
Sister

Nelson, Sr. , Albert [CHILD OF]
Father

(Lewis)Thompson, Ella [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandmother

Thompson, Robert [SIBLING OF]
Brother

(Furgess)Thompson, Martha [CHILD^OF]
Mother

Thompson, Tayloir [PARENT^OF]
Son

Furgess, Curtis [GRANDCHILD^OF]
Maternal Grandfather

(Neal) Furgess, Josephine [GRANDCHILD^OF]
Maternal Grandmother

Thompson, Torndine [SIBLING^OF]
Sibling

Thompson, Elbert [SIBLING^OF]
Sibling

Thompson, Amber [PARENT^OF]
Daughter

Howard University [STUDENT^OF]
Ph.D.

Texas Southern University [STUDENT^OF]
M.S.

Texas Southern University [STUDENT^OF]

Blackshear Elementary School [STUDENT^OF]

Kay Granger El [STUDENT^OF]

Phillis Wheatley High School [STUDENT^OF]

United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine [EMPLOYEE^OF]
[from 1981-05 to 1981-08]

Research Fellow

Houston Community College [EMPLOYEE^OF]
[from 1975-06 to 1975-07]

Instructor

Texas Southern University [EMPLOYEE^OF]
[from 1974-08 to 1975-08]

Instructor

Fisk University [EMPLOYEE^OF]
[from 1978-08 to 1980-08]

Assistant Professor

Fayetteville State College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980-08 to 1981-05]

Assistant Professor

University of Wisconsin-Madison [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990-08 to 1990-12]

Visiting Professor

Spelman College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981-09 to ?]

Professor and Chair, Chemistry

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

**American Chemical Society - General Chemistry Examination
Committee** [MEMBEROF]
Member

American Chemical Society - Project SEED [MEMBEROF]
Research Preceptor