

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with David Garrison

PERSON

Garrison, David , 1975-

Alternative Names: Garrison, David , 1975-;

Life Dates: October 27, 1975-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois

Residence: Houston, TX

Occupations: Physicist; Physics Professor

Biographical Note

Physicist and physics professor David Garrison was born on October 27, 1975 in Chicago, Illinois to parents Christine and Millard Garrison, Jr. He has two older siblings, Cassandra Guichard and Michael Garrison. He attended grade school at Mount Hope Elementary School, Fort Zumwalt North Middle School, and Fort Zumwalt North High School in O'Fallon, Missouri. While in high school, he was a jazz soloist in the jazz band and played football. Garrison finished secondary school in 1993, after which he began studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and played on the varsity football team for three years. He received his B.S. degree in physics from there in 1997. That same year he began a doctoral program in physics at Pennsylvania State University. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Pennsylvania State University in 2002.

During graduate school in 1999, he started Fast Financial Analysis with his future wife Rispba McCray-Garrison. In 2002, he began working for the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) as a visiting assistant professor. A year later, he became a tenure-track assistant professor and began reorganizing the physical sciences program into an actual physics department.

The department now has a B.S. degree in physics, a M.S. degree in physics, a collaborative Ph.D. degree in physics with the University of Houston, and a P.S.M. sub-plan in technical management. With these degree granting programs, Garrison has been able to attract students better qualified to help with his research in numerical relativity, cosmology, computational physics, and plasma physics. In addition to research at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, he also worked in collaboration on many projects with NASA's Johnson Space Center, including a project for the development of a plasma rocket engine (VASIMR). In 2002, Garrison became the faculty chair of the physical sciences program and began the UHCL Physics and Space Science Guest Lecture Series. He has also served on the university's Planning and Budget Committee, the Faculty Senate, University Council, and the Academic Council.

In 2002, Garrison married Rispha McCray-Garrison on December 28. In 2012, he became an advisory board member for the Space Center Houston and published "What Every Successful Physics Graduate Student Should Know".

David Garrison was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 15, 2012.

Related Entries

Garrison, Christine [CHILD OF]
Mother

Garrison, Jr., Millard [CHILD OF]
Father

Draine, Charlie [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandfather

Draine, Annie L. [GRANDCHILD OF]
Maternal Grandmother

Garrison, Mary J. [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandmother

Garrison, Sr., Millard [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandfather

Guichard, Cassandra [SIBLING OF]
Sister

Garrison, Michael [SIBLING OF]
Brother

Pennsylvania State University [STUDENT OF]

[from ? to 2002-08-02]

Ph.D. Physics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1997-06-06]

B.S. Physics

Fort Zumwalt North High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1993-06-01]

High School

Fort Zumwalt North Middle School [STUDENTOF]

Mount Vernon Elementary [STUDENTOF]

Mount Hope Elementary [STUDENTOF]

[STUDENTOF]

Fast Financial Analysis [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1999-12 to ?]

Co-Founder and COO

Pennsylvania State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1997-08 to 2002-08]

Teaching and Research Assistant

University of Houston-Clear Lake [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2002-08 to ?]

Associate Professor, Chairs of Physics Department

American Physical Society [MEMBEROF]

Member

National Society of Black Physicists [MEMBEROF]

Member

American Association of Physics Teachers [MEMBEROF]

Member

University of Houston-Clear Lake Faculty Senate [MEMBEROF]

President/Research Chair

Space Center Houston [MEMBEROF]

Advisory Board Member

