

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Fillmore Freeman

PERSON

Freeman, Fillmore, 1936-

**Alternative Names:** Fillmore Freeman;

**Life Dates:** April 10, 1936-

**Place of Birth:** Lexington, Mississippi, USA

**Residence:** Laguna Beach, California

**Work:** Irvine, California

**Occupations:** Organic Chemist

## Biographical Note

Organic chemist and chemistry professor Fillmore Freeman was born in April 10, 1936 in Lexington, Mississippi. Freeman earned his high school diploma from John Marshall High School in Chicago, Illinois in 1953. In 1957, he graduated summa cum laude from Central State College in Wilberforce, Ohio, with his B.S. degree, and then went on to pursue his graduate studies at Michigan State University, where he received his Ph.D. degree in physical organic chemistry in 1962.

After a brief stint working with a private firm, Freeman served as a National Institutes of Health Fellow at Yale University in 1964. The following year, he became an assistant professor at California State University at Long Beach. During this time, the school expanded its chemistry and biochemistry programs to accommodate the growing interest in these fields. In 1973, Freeman became a professor of chemistry at the University of California at Irvine, where he continued to work for the duration of his professional career. With his background in physical organic chemistry, Freeman has conducted research on a number of topics, including organic synthesis pathways and reactions, particularly those of cyclic compounds. His research has also relied heavily on the use of computational chemistry. In 1991, Freeman was the recipient of a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the biochemical properties of allicin, a component of garlic chemistry. Freeman's work has had a strong emphasis in isolating, researching and synthesizing compounds with anti-tumor and anti-viral properties.

Freeman has received much recognition for his work in the field of physical organic chemistry. He was named an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellow and a Fulbright-Hayes Senior Research Fellow. He also had the opportunity to serve as a

visiting professor at the Max Planck Institute of Biophysical Chemistry and the University of Paris. Author of numerous academic papers, Freeman was identified as the third most highly cited African American chemist in a 2002 report by Oklahoma State University.

Fillmore Freeman was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 27, 2012.

## Related Entries

**John Marshall Metropolitan High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**Central State University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Michigan State University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Yale University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**NIH Postdoctoral**

**California Research Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1962 to 1964]

**Research Scientist**

**California State University, Long Beach** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 1986]

**Professor**

**Université de Paris VII** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to ?]

**Visiting Professor**

**University of California, Irvine** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1989]

**Professor**

**Max-Planck-Institut** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1948 to ?]

**Visiting Professor**

**Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 1985]

**Visiting Professor**

**National Science Foundation (NSF)** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1989 to 1990]

**Program Director**

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

**Golden Key International Honour Society** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]