

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vernon R. Morris

PERSON

Morris, Vernon , 1963-

Alternative Names: Morris, Vernon , 1963-

Life Dates: January 23, 1963-

Place of Birth: San Antonio, Texas

Residence:

Occupations: Atmospheric Scientist

Biographical Note

Atmospheric scientist Vernon R. Morris was born on January 23, 1963 in San Antonio, Texas. Morris graduated from Morehouse College in 1985 with his B.A. degree in chemistry and mathematics. Following graduation, he enrolled at Georgia Institute of Technology. Morris received the Regent's Scholarship and the NASA Graduate Student Research Fellowship to pursue his theoretical and experimental studies of inorganic peroxides in the Earth's stratosphere. After graduating with his Ph.D. degree in earth and atmospheric sciences from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1991, Morris was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship where he worked on the chemical dynamics of free radical systems important in comets and the interstellar medium.

Morris served as a part-time instructor at Spelman College while striding for his Ph.D. degree. Later, he joined Howard University's Chemistry Department as an assistant professor. In 1996, he became the deputy director of the Howard University Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres (CSTEA). From 2001 to 2004, Morris served

as the director of the Howard University Graduate Program in Atmospheric Sciences (HUPAS) and was instrumental in developing atmospheric sciences as a major focus of the university's research portfolio. Morris was then named director of the Howard University Component of the NASA Goddard Earth Sciences and Technology Center. Morris also served as director of the NOAA Center in Atmospheric Sciences (NCAS) as well as the co-director of the Laboratory for Molecular Computations and Bioinformatics at the National Institutes of Health Research Center for Minority Institutions. He was a visiting scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Atmospheric Chemistry and Dynamics Branch and served briefly as chair of the chemistry department at Howard University.

Morris is a member of several scientific boards and professional organizations. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (BASC) and the Advisory Board of the Benjamin Banneker Institute for Science and Technology. Morris is also a member of the American Meteorological Society, the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, the American Geophysical Union, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Advanced Study Institute.

His combined concentration on academic research and focus on atmospheric sciences has garnered for him recognition from professional and academic associations. Morris is a recipient of the University Merit Award, the Howard University Faculty Merit Award and Howard University's Most Productive Faculty Researcher in Natural Sciences award. Morris received the prestigious NSF Career Award from the Geosciences Directorate for his research on the photochemistry of carbonaceous aerosols.

Vernon R. Morris was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 29, 2013.

Related Entries

Morris, Gloria Robinson [CHILD OF]

Mother

Morris, Billy Verlette [CHILD OF]

Father

Morehouse College [STUDENT OF]

[from ? to 1985]

B.S.

Georgia Institute of Technology [STUDENT OF]

[from ? to 1990]

Ph.D.

NATO Advanced Study Institute [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1991]

National Institutes of Health Research Center for Minority Institutions

[EMPLOYEEOF]

**Co-Director, Laboratory for Molecular Computations and
Bioinformatics**

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 1992]

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of California [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 1994]

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1994 to 1997]

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry

Center for the Study Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Deputy Director

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to ?]

**Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry & Graduate Program
in Atmospheric Sciences**

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1999 to 2001]

Visiting Scientist, Atmospheric Chemistry and Dynamics Branch

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2000 to ?]

Director, Howard University Component

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2001 to 2004]

Director, Graduate Program in Atmospheric Sciences

NOAA Center in Atmospheric Sciences [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2001 to ?]

Director

National Academies of Sciences [MEMBEROF]

Member, Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate

Howard University [MEMBEROF]

Chair, Department of Chemistry

NASA Earth Systems Sciences and Applications Advisory Council

[MEMBEROF]

Member