

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charlestine Fairley

PERSON

Fairley, Charlestine, 1938-

**Alternative Names:** Charlestine Fairley;

**Life Dates:** July 24, 1938-

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

**Residence:** Edgewater, MD

**Occupations:** Academic Administrator

## Biographical Note

Academic administrator and social activist Charlestine Romelle Dawson Hickson Fairley was born on July 24, 1938 in Greenville, Mississippi to Ida Harris Dawson and Kemp Dawson. She was educated in Gulfport, Mississippi, where she graduated from 33rd Avenue High School in 1956. She briefly attended Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi before transferring to Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During a summer break she met William F. Hickson, Jr. a dental student at Meharry Medical College. After a year of courtship, Fairley dropped out of college to move to Nashville, Tennessee to marry Hickson. After the birth of the couple's three children-- Nina, Franklin, and Oneal-- Fairley returned to college, completing her B.A. degree in sociology at Delaware State College in 1963. Following her graduation, Fairley worked for the Burlington County, New Jersey Welfare Department as a case worker. Fairley returned to school, earning her M.Ed. degree in counseling from South Carolina State College in 1969 and her Ph.D. degree in education from the University of South Carolina in 1990.

Fairley taught and worked as a special services counselor at Claflin College from 1968 to 1973, when she became coordinator of its Upward Bound and Special Services program. Fairley then directed Claflin's Special Programs for Disadvantaged Students until leaving in 1986 to direct the Upward Bound program at the University of South Carolina. Because Fairley shared the same disadvantaged background as her students, she was especially effective in connecting with them. Her programmatic innovations with Upward Bound's TRIO Achievers were incorporated into the program at the national level. Fairley married Richard L. Fairley in 1989, the same year that she was appointed as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE). Fairley then shifted her career focus to the administration of government substance abuse prevention services, joining

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1990 as a program officer in the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention. Two years later, Fairley and her husband moved to Annapolis, Maryland, where she directed Prevention Services for the Anne Arundel County Department of Health until 1997. She coordinated the Anne Arundel County Executive's Criminal Justice Drug Intervention Program from 1998 to 1999. She worked concurrently as a trainer for Maryland's Office of Education and Training for Addiction Services. During this time, she was also an adjunct professor at Nova University and Bowie State University's College of Business, and part-time coordinator of the Annapolis campus of Sojourner-Douglass College. Fairley has served as the full-time director of the Sojourner-Douglass College, Annapolis Campus since 1993.

Fairley is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the National Council of Negro Women, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Association of University Women. She is also a member of The Links, Inc., Annapolis Chapter and the 21st Century Club of Annapolis. Fairley belongs to the First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis.

Charlestine Fairley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 25, 2007.

## Related Entries

**Gaston Point Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**33rd Avenue High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Tougaloo College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Delaware State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**South Carolina State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.Ed.**

**University of South Carolina** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Bowie State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Adjunct Faculty**

**Burlington County Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to 1966]

**Caseworker**

**Clafin College (Orangeburg, S.C.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 1969]

**Instructor**

**Clafin College (Orangeburg, S.C.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to 1977]

**Special Services Counselor**

**Upward Bound Program (U.S.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1973 to 1977]

**Coordinator**

**Upward Bound Program (U.S.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1986]

**Director**

**Upward Bound Program (U.S.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1986 to 1989]

**Director**

**United States Department of Education** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1990]

**Consultant**

**United States Department of Health and Human Services** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 1992]

**Program Officer**

**Nova University** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 1994]

**Senior Faculty**

**Maryland. Addiction Services Administration** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to ?]

**Trainer**

**Anne Arundel County (Md.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 1997]

**Director**

**Sojourner Douglass College** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to ?]

**Director**

**Anne Arundel County (Md.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to 1999]

**Coordinator**

**Anne Arundel County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1993 to ?]

**Maryland. Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1989 to ?]

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1990 to ?]

**Member**

**Links, Inc. Annapolis Chapter** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (U.S.)**  
[MEMBEROF]  
[from 1987 to 1989]

**President**