

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marc Hannah

PERSON

Hannah, Marc Regis

Alternative Names: Marc Hannah;

Life Dates: October 13, 1956-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Los Altos, CA

Occupations: Electrical Engineer; Computer Graphics Designer

Biographical Note

Electrical engineer and computer graphics designer Marc Regis Hannah was born on October 13, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois to Huber and Edith Hannah. He attended the Illinois Institute of Technology, with funding from a scholarship awarded by AT&T's Bell Laboratories. Hannah received his B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1977 before going on to Stanford University where he obtained his M.S. degree in 1978 and his Ph.D. degree in 1985.

In 1982, Hannah co-founded Silicon Graphics, Inc. (SGI) with Jim Clark and five others, a company that went on to be well-known for its computer graphics technology. In 1986, he was named the company's principal scientist for the creation of computer programs like Personal IRIS, Indigo, Indigo2, and Indy graphics that were used to create effects for movies like Jurassic Park, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, The Hunt for Red October, and Field of Dreams. George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic used Silicon Graphics' technology to create Terminator 2. Hannah's programs have also been used to create television commercials and the opening introduction for Monday Night Football. In addition, the company's technology was used in engineering, research, and for military applications. Hannah is a partial owner of Rondeau Bay, a construction company in Oakland, California.

Since 1994, Hannah has sat on the Board of Directors for Magic Edge. He has also been profiled in Ebony magazine, Electronics magazine, Forbes, and PC Magazine. In addition, Hannah has received the Professional Achievement Award from the Illinois Institute of Technology and the National Technical Association.

Marc Hannah was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 10, 2011.

Related Entries

Kipling Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

K-3

Fort Dearborn Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

4-8

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Freshman Year

Kenwood Academy [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

High School

Illinois Institute of Technology [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

BSEE

Stanford University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

MSEE

Stanford University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

PhDEE

Bell Laboratories [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197306 to 198008]

Conducted various engineering tasks, mostly programming.

Silicon Graphics [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1982 to 1997]

Mts. Principal Scientist Chief Scientist Vice President and Chief Scientist

Pulsent [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1998 to 1999]

Vice President of Product Architecture

SongPro [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2001 to 2002]

Chief Technology Officer

Illinois Institute of Technology [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Illinois Institute of Technology [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Overseer

Silicon Magic [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Director

Magic Edge [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Director