

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sharon Barnes

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Barnes, Sharon, 1955-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes,
Dates:	August 16, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:40:14).
Abstract:	Chemist Sharon Barnes (1955 -) created the process and apparatus for con-tactless measurements of sample temperature. Barnes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 16, 2012, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_192
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Biologist, chemist and inventor Sharon J. Barnes was born on November 28, 1955 to Selena and William Jefferson McDonald in Beaumont, Texas. She attended Sisblee High School where she received three scholarships to attend college. In 1978, Barnes received her B.S. degree in biology-chemistry and clinical laboratory science. During her time in college she interned at clinical laboratory science program for the Baptist Hospital of Southeast Texas.

After college, Barnes began working as a technologist in Clinical Laboratory Science at Veterans Administration Medical Center. During this same year, she received her certification as clinical laboratory scientist from the Veterans Administration at Baylor University. In 1981, Barnes obtained a new position at Brazosport Regional Health Center where she worked as an assistant lab director. Five years later, she pursued her interest as a chemist at the Dow Chemical Company serving as a special chemistry lab supervisor. In 1991, Barnes obtained a U.S. Patent for a new application in Infrared Thermography Technology. She was a member of a team of five, including one other African American, who invented the process and apparatus for con-tactless measurements of sample temperature. A year later, she received her certification as clinical laboratory director from the National Certification Agency at Baylor University and became laboratory director at Dow Chemical Company and clinical lab director in the Clinical Health Department. Barnes has also worked as a QA/QC chemist in Research & Development in the Texas Analytical and Environmental Lab. In 1996, Barnes became Dow Chemical Company's training specialist as well as manager for Site Training and Development. She eventually assumed the role as human resource partner and consultant. In 2005, she received her MBA in human resources management from the University of Phoenix and promptly became human resources associate director for the Performance Plastics Division for manufacturing and engineering, finance, assets and supply chain, licensing and catalysts.

In 1991, Barnes was named *Dow Texas Inventor*, she has also received the *Outstanding Scouter Award* twice from Dow Chemical Company and was selected as one of the *50 Most Influential Blacks in Research* by Engineer.com. Barnes was named *Most Distinguished Alumnae for 2003* by Baylor University, Waco Texas. That same year she was elected to serve as National Secretary for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of

Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCHE). She has also serves two terms as Gubernational Appointee – District One Review Committee for Harris, Galveston and Brazoria countries (appointed by Governor George W. Bush and re-appointed by Governor Rick Perry). Barnes currently resides in Freeport, Texas with her husband Ronald Barnes. They have two children together, Ronald Barnes, II and Ashley Crawford.

Sharon J. Barnes was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 14, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sharon Barnes was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 16, 2012, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Chemist Sharon Barnes (1955 -) created the process and apparatus for con-tactless measurements of sample temperature.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Barnes, Sharon, 1955-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Barnes, Sharon, 1955- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Chemist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, August 16, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, Section A2012_192_001_001, TRT: 1:29:15 ?
Sharon Barnes describes her family history. Her mother, Selma Mae McDonald,

was of French and Caddo Indian lineage. Her father, William Jefferson McDonald, was from Silsbee, Texas, and served in the Korean War. While she was born in Beaumont, Barnes was raised in Silsbee, Texas. She has early childhood memories of living near her grandparents, who owned a grocery store. Barnes also talks about her involvement in the First Baptist Church. One of four siblings, Barnes talks about her family life in Silsbee. She tells about her first exposure to science when she fell off the staircase railing and lost consciousness. Her mother took her to see Dr. Pastashki, who became her mentor.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, Section A2012_192_001_002, TRT: 2:32:07 ?

Sharon Barnes describes her education in Silsbee, Texas. She attended Frank Robinson Elementary School through third grade, and then attended Reed-Turrentine Elementary School. Barnes talks about her teachers, Mr. Hilliard Lewis, Ms. Hattie Blackmon, Ms. Annie Buard, and Ms. Jackie Reed and remembers her experience with integration at Reed-Turrentine. Barnes loved science from a young age. She attended Silsbee for high school, where her math teacher, Mr. Ronnie Nash, and her biology teacher, Ms. Sherry Woodard encouraged her interest in science.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, Section A2012_192_001_003, TRT: 3:29:17 ?

Sharon Barnes talks about her college life. While she had some initial interest in Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University, Barnes decided to attend Baylor University, where several of Baylor's professors influenced her. These professors include Dr. A.G. Pinkus, Dr. Eldridge, Dr. Wydner, and Dr. Packard. Barnes also describes meeting her husband, Ronald Barnes, at a recruiting party for the football team. While her experience at Baylor was positive, Barnes experienced discrimination. She suspects that this may have been a result of forced integration. Near the end of her college experience, Barnes became a clinical laboratory intern. Following her internship, Barnes worked in the laboratories of the Waco Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, Section A2012_192_001_004, TRT: 4:29:17 ?

Sharon Barnes married her husband, Ronald, in 1981. They had two children, Amber and Ronald II. Barnes then became a certified clinical laboratory scientist. While she was working for Dow Chemical Company, Barnes discovered a new use for the infrared thermometer. She developed way to use it to check the temperature of urine samples collected for drug testing. This test

helps to ensure that the sample had been from the individual submitting the sample. This technology also served as the basis for the infrared ear thermometer. Encouraged by a coworker, Barnes started to work with Human Resources, later becoming a Human Resources Manager. Barnes also served on the city council of Lake Jackson, Texas.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, Section A2012_192_001_005, TRT: 5:28:51 ?

Sharon Barnes talks about the loss of her parents. Her father, William Jefferson McDonald, passed away in 2000. Barnes' mother, Selma Mae McDonald, passed away in 2001. Her father was able to see her work and serve her city of Lake Jackson, Texas. Barnes also served as the National Secretary for NOBBICHE. In 2004, Barnes was named Baylor's Most Distinguished Alumnae and received the Black Alumnae Award. In 2000, Barnes was appointed by the governor to serve on the Texas Medical Board, which oversees physicians in Harris, Brazoria, and Galveston counties. In 2004, Barnes was named one of the 50 Most Influential Blacks in Research by Engineer.com. Barnes also talks about her mentors at Dow Chemical Company, Larry J. Washington and Effie Dorsey. Barnes would like to be remembered as loving Christian woman that helped people as much as she could.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Barnes, Section A2012_192_001_006, TRT: 6:11:27 ?

Sharon Barnes describes photos of herself and her family. Barnes also shares a newspaper ad from her campaign and images from several Dow Chemical Company publications.

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