

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Diola Bagayoko

PERSON

Bagayoko, Diola , 1948-

Alternative Names: Bagayoko, Diola , 1948-;

Life Dates: December 12, 1948-

Place of Birth: Bamako, Mali

Residence: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Occupations: Research Physicist

Biographical Note

Physics professor Diola Bagayoko was born on December 12, 1948, in Bamako of the Republic of Mali, West Africa, to Nagnouma Keita and Djigui Bagayoko. He earned his B.S. degree in chemistry and physics from the Ecole Normale Superieure de Bamko in 1973. Prior to that, he received formal training in the theory and practice of teaching and learning from ENSup. During his undergraduate education, Bagayoko also taught high school physics and chemistry courses at Sikasso High School in Sikasso, Mali.

In 1977, Bagayoko received his M.S. degree in solid state physics from Lehigh University and in 1983, he earned his Ph.D. degree in theoretical solid state physics from Louisiana State University. After earning his Ph.D. degree, Bagayoko served as a physics lecturer at the University of Benghazi in Libya, North Africa. In 1984, Bagayoko became an assistant professor of physics at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was promoted to associate professor in 1989. Bagayoko established the Timbuktu Academy in 1990 on the campus of Southern University to focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Funding for the Timbuktu Academy

comes from the U.S. Office of Naval Research, the U.S. Department of the Navy, and the National Science Foundation, among others. Bagayoko has also served as president of the academy since its inception.

In 1999, Bagayoko was promoted to Southern University Distinguished Professor of Physics. He teaches courses on introductory physics, mathematical physics, as well as classical, relativistic, and quantum mechanics. Throughout his career Bagayoko published over ninety scientific research articles on condensed matter physics and properties of metals, and more than sixty papers concerning science education, teaching, mentoring, and learning. In addition to his teaching and mentoring, Bagayoko is a fellow of the National Society of Black Physicists and has worked as a consultant for several organizations, including the Southern Regional Education Board and the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Bagayoko works in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with his wife who is also on the faculty at Southern University. They have three children: Namory Djigui, an orthopedic surgeon, Kelley Elizabeth, an attorney, and William Cherif, a computer scientist.

Diola Bagayoko was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on 08/18/2012.

Related Entries

Keita, Nagnouma [CHILD OF]
Mother

Bagayoko, Djigui [CHILD OF]
Father

Bagayoko, Fassiriman [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandmother

Tiba [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandfather

Bagayoko, Nayira [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Bagayoko, Sayon [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Bagayoko, Diegue [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Bobo [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Koubafing [SIBLING OF]

Tenin [SIBLINGOF]

Sibling

Bagayoko, Namory Djigui [PARENTOF]

Child

Bagayoko, William Cherif [PARENTOF]

Child

Bagayoko, Kelley Elizabeth [PARENTOF]

Child

Louisiana State University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1983-07]

Ph.D.

Lehigh University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1977-12]

M.S.

Ecole Normale Superieure de Bamako [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1973-06]

B.S.

Lycee Prosper Kamara [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1969-06]

Baccalaureate (High School Diploma)

Ecole Fondamentale de N'Tomikorobougou [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1966-06]

Diploma of Fundamental (Foundation) Studies

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1977-12]

M.S.

Lehigh University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to 1977-12]

Master's Degree

Louisiana State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1978-01 to 1983-07]

Graduate Assistant

Louisiana State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1978-01 to 1983-07]

Graduate Assistant

Southern University and A&M [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1984 to ?]

Professor

Southern University and A&M [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1984 to ?]

Professor

Timbuktu Academy [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to ?]

President

Timbuktu Academy [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to ?]

President

Lycee de Sikasso [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973-08 to 1975-07]

High School Teacher

Lycee de Sikasso [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973-08 to 1975-07]

High School Teacher

University of Grayounis* [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983-08 to 1984-05]

Lecturer

University of Grayounis* [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983-08 to 1984-05]

Lecturer

American Physical Society [MEMBEROF]
Member

American Physical Society [MEMBEROF]
Member

National Society of Black Physicists [MEMBEROF]
Member

National Society of Black Physicists [MEMBEROF]
Member

Phi Delta Kappa [MEMBEROF]
Member

Phi Delta Kappa [MEMBEROF]
Member

Louisiana Academy of Science [MEMBEROF]
Member

Louisiana Academy of Science [MEMBEROF]
Member

New York Academy of Sciences [MEMBEROF]
Member

New York Academy of Sciences [MEMBEROF]
Member