

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lloyd Douglas

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com   |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Douglas, Lloyd  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas,   |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | June 19, 2013   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2013  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 6 MOV HD video files (2:35:09).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Mathematician and education administrator Lloyd Douglas (1951 - ) served as a mathematician for the U.S. Army Communication and Electronics Command and the U.S. Naval Command Center, and as a research director at the National Science Foundation where he was instrumental in expanding the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in the mathematical sciences. Douglas was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 19, 2013, in Greensboro, North Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2013_143   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Mathematician and education administrator Lloyd Evans Douglas was born on October 5, 1951 near the Polo Grounds in New York City. Douglas' family moved to Brooklyn where he attended Lafayette Public School (now the Eubie Blake School) and Berriman Junior High School (J.H.S. 64) before graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1968. He was awarded a New York State Regents Scholarship and enrolled in the City College of New York's Brooklyn College, where he graduated with his B.S. degree in mathematics in 1972. While there, Douglas earned three varsity letters as a lacrosse player. He then attended graduate school at Miami University and worked as a graduate assistant in the math department and as an assistant coach of the lacrosse team. Douglas received his M.S. degree in mathematics in 1974. Douglas went on to enroll in Boston University's doctoral program where he studied algebraic coding theory under the late Dr. Edwin Weiss. He was awarded a senior teaching fellowship in the mathematics department and worked as a mathematics tutor in the resident tutor program.

From 1971 to 1976, Douglas worked at the law offices of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby and MacRae in New York City as a paralegal assistant specializing in litigation. In 1976, he was hired as a mathematician in the U.S. Naval Underwater Systems Center (now called the Naval Undersea Warfare Center) in Newport, Rhode Island. Douglas joined the Trident Command and Control System Maintenance Activity in Newport in 1979 as a computer specialist where he was the on-site representative for the data processing subsystem on the first Trident submarines. From 1980 to 1983, Douglas served as an operations research analyst at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command in Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey.

In 1983, Douglas moved to Washington, D.C. where he was appointed as a computer specialist in the U. S. General Services Administration and in the U.S. Office of Advanced Planning. In those positions, Douglas

assisted in conducting technology assessments for automatic data processing and telecommunications throughout all federal departments. In 1984, Douglas joined the National Science Foundation (NSF). While there, he oversaw a large increase in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in the Division of Mathematical Sciences. Douglas was then appointed as the assistant to the Vice President for Research at the University of Nevada, Reno. In 2010, he became the associate director of the Office of Sponsored Programs at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and in 2012, he became the associate director of the Office of Contracts and Grants at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Douglas served on numerous committees in the Mathematical Association of America. In addition, he was elected president of the Federal Executive Institute Alumni Association and the NSF Employees Association. He received NSF's Meritorious Service Award in 2007.

Lloyd E. Douglas was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 19, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lloyd Douglas was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 19, 2013, in Greensboro, North Carolina, and was recorded on 6 MOV HD video files. Mathematician and education administrator Lloyd Douglas (1951 - ) served as a mathematician for the U.S. Army Communication and Electronics Command and the U.S. Naval Command Center, and as a research director at the National Science Foundation where he was instrumental in expanding the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in the mathematical sciences.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Douglas, Lloyd

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Douglas, Lloyd--Interviews

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Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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National Science Foundation

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HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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EducationMakers

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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 Lloyd Douglas, June 19, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/21/2013 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage, June 19, 2013

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas, Section A2013\_143\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:18  
2013/06/19

Lloyd Douglas describes his family background. Douglas' mother, Lurline Isylda Brown, was born in Rosewell, Jamaica in 1919. As an adult, she immigrated to the United States and settled in New York City, where she worked at several odd jobs before finding employment as a school aide in the New York City public school system. Douglas' father, Calvin Sylvester Douglas, was also born in Rosewell in 1922. His family migrated to New York City, under the sponsorship of Douglas' grandfather, Nathan Douglas. Calvin Douglas worked as a television repairman and at odd jobs for several years. He was later employed as a "tower man" in the New York City Port Authority. Douglas talks about his parents getting married in 1948, their personalities, and the Jamaican community in Brooklyn, New York. He also talks about his siblings, his childhood memories, and his interests as a child.

Caribbean Area--Emigration and immigration.

Parents--New York (State)--New York.

Caribbean Americans--Marriage.

Caribbean Americans--Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.).

Caribbean Americans--Families--New York (State)--New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas, Section A2013\_143\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:45  
2013/06/19

Lloyd Douglas attended Lafayette Elementary School, Berriman Junior High School from 1962, and Brooklyn Technical High School from 1964. He describes his interest in the sciences as early as elementary school, and his father's influence on his studies. Douglas shares his childhood interests, particularly in the space age, and his fond memories of the 1964 New York City World's Fair and the Mobile Economy Run. He describes his family's trip to Jamaica in the early 1960s and his impressions of Jamaica. Douglas also talks about his desire to attend Brooklyn Technical High School, passing the entrance exam, and his experience there. He taught himself to program in Fortran while he was in high school. In this section of the interview, Douglas also reflects upon the political climate and events of the 1960s, and discusses his involvement in the Christ English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Schools--New York (State)--New York.

Childhood and youth--New York (State)--New York--1952-1969.

New York World's Fair (1964-1965 : New York, N.Y.).

Jamaica--Description and travel.

Brooklyn Technical High School (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.).

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas, Section A2013\_143\_001\_003, TRT: 3:32:16  
2013/06/19

In 1964, Lloyd Douglas enrolled at Brooklyn Technical High School, where he discovered an interest in physics. In 1968, he received a New York State

Regents Scholarship to attend the City College of New York's Brooklyn College where he earned his B.S. degree in mathematics. In 1972, he went on to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, to pursue a non-thesis track to a master's degree in mathematics, focusing on real analysis, abstract algebra and mathematical statistics. In 1974, he began his Ph.D. in mathematics at Boston University, but left the program in 1976 to work as a mathematician at the U.S. Naval Water Systems Center. In 1980, Douglas served as an operations research analyst in the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command, and in 1983, he joined the U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) in Washington, D.C. as a computer specialist. Douglas also talks about the reaction to Dr. King's assassination.

Brooklyn Technical High School (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.).

Scholarships--New York (State).

Brooklyn College.

Mathematics--Study and teaching (Higher).

United States--Officials and employees.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas, Section A2013\_143\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:39  
2013/06/19

In 1983, Lloyd Douglas joined the U. S. General Services Administration (GSA) in Washington, D.C. as a computer specialist, where he taught himself to program in the Basic computer language. From 1984 to 1989, he worked as a supervisory computer systems programmer at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Douglas describes the mission and funding mechanisms of the NSF, reflects upon the cultural environment there, talks about the first African American director of the NSF, HistoryMaker, Walter Massey, and discusses NSF-based funding for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). He also talks about his fourteen-year service as a program officer in the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the NSF, being the president of the NSF Employee Association, his appointment as the assistant to the vice president for research at the University of Nevada at Reno in 2007, and leaving the NSF in 2008.

United States--Officials and employees.

Computer programming--United States.

National Science Foundation (U.S.).

Massey, Walter E.

University of Nevada, Reno--Administration.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas, Section A2013\_143\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:03  
2013/06/19

After leaving the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2008, Lloyd Douglas was appointed as the assistant director of the Office of Sponsored Programs at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He describes his experience in this role, and talks about the history of the university. In 2010, Douglas was promoted to become the associate director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, and in 2012, he was appointed as the associate director of the university's Office of Contracts and Grants. He shares his philosophy on how to approach grant writing. He also talks about his service at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) and his professional memberships. In this section of the interview, Douglas reflects upon his career legacy, his hopes for the African American community, and his concerns about public attitudes towards the mathematical sciences. He also talks about his interest in hockey.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Proposal writing for grants--United States.

Mathematicians--professional associations--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Lloyd Douglas, Section A2013\_143\_001\_006, TRT: 6:07:08  
2013/06/19

In this final section of the interview, Lloyd Douglas talks about his family, and shares how he would like to be remembered. He also describes his photographs.

Caribbean Americans--Families.

Photograph collections.