

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lucius Walker

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Walker, Lucius, 1936-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lucius Walker,
Dates:	July 15, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:50:57).
Abstract:	Mechanical engineer, engineering professor, and education administrator Lucius Walker (1936 - 2013) served as dean of the College of Engineering for thirty years and was a major advocate for minority science education. Walker, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 15, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_054
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Mechanical engineer, engineering professor and education administrator Lucius Walker was born on December 16, 1936 in Washington, D.C. to Inez, a housewife and M. Lucius Walker, Sr., a public school teacher. After attending Armstrong High School for one year, he received a Ford Foundation scholarship to attend Morehouse College at the age of fifteen. In 1954, he transferred to Howard University to study engineering. Walker graduated with his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1957. He continued his studies at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), earning advanced degrees in mechanical engineering, his M.S. degree in 1958 and his Ph.D. degree in 1966. During his studies, he served as an instructor at Howard University and Carnegie Institute of Technology.

In 1963, Walker joined the faculty of Howard University as an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering; in 1967, he was promoted to an associate professor and in 1970, he became a full professor. A year later, he became chair of the department of engineering. In 1972, Walker co-founded and directed the Engineering Coalition of Schools for Excellence in Education and Leadership and co-founded the organization, Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering. In 1976, Walker became acting dean of the School of Engineering and a graduate professor of mechanical engineering. He was appointed dean in 1978. Throughout his career, Walker also worked for General Electric, Exxon, Ford Motor Company, and Harry Diamond Laboratories. He published many scientific research articles covering topics such as transportation systems analysis, fluid mechanics, and bioengineering. Walker also conducted aerodynamics research using airplane models and holds a patent on a Fluidic NOR device. Lucius Walker retired as dean in 2002 and became a professor emeritus at Howard University.

Walker has been recognized many times throughout his career including receiving the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award from Howard University. He served on the board of directors of Carnegie Mellon University; Junior Engineering Technical Society and the Center for Naval Analysis, as well as MIT's Visiting Committee of the

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences. Lucius Walker has two children and six grandchildren.

Lucius Walker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 14, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lucius Walker was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 15, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Mechanical engineer, engineering professor, and education administrator Lucius Walker (1936 - 2013) served as dean of the College of Engineering for thirty years and was a major advocate for minority science education.

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:

Walker, Lucius, 1936-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Walker, Lucius, 1936- --Interviews

African American engineers--Interviews.

African American professors--Interviews.

African American college administrators--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard University.

Occupations:

Mechanical Engineer

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 Lucius Walker, July 15, 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 Lucius Walker, Section A2012_054_001_001, TRT: 1:29:04 ?

Lucius Walker describes his family background. Walker's mother, Inez Landers, was born in Washington, D.C. in 1915. Her mother, Cora Henrietta Landers, was a Caucasian immigrant, and her father, a native of the D.C. metropolitan area, spent his career as a barber on Capitol Hill. Inez Landers received her high school education in Washington, D.C., and briefly attended Miner's Teachers College before becoming a mother. Walker's father, Lucius Walker, Sr., was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and was the son of an AME minister. Walker, Sr. was interested in pursuing a career in science. After briefly attending Tuskegee University, he enrolled at Howard University, where he received his bachelor's degree in physics. He went on to become one of the first students to receive a master's degree in physics from Howard University. Walker, Sr. spent his career as a teacher in the D.C. public school system.

African American families--Washington (D.C.).

African American mothers--Washington (D.C.).

African American fathers--Washington (D.C.).

Howard University.

Education--Washington (D.C.).

Video Oral History Interview with Lucius Walker, Section A2012_054_001_002, TRT: 2:27:38 ?

Lucius Walker's father, Lucius Walker, Sr., was born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1908. Steered by his interest in science, Walker, Sr. attended Howard University where he obtained his B.S. degree in physics. He also became one of the first students to earn a master's degree in physics from Howard University. Walker describes his parents' personalities and talks about his childhood memories. Like his mother, Inez Landers, Walker was raised in Washington, D.C., and attended Lovejoy Elementary School from kindergarten to the sixth grade.

African American fathers--Florida.

Howard University. Department of Physics.

African American mothers--Washington (D.C.).

African American families--Washington (D.C.).

Education, Primary--Washington (D.C.).

Video Oral History Interview with Lucius Walker, Section A2012_054_001_003, TRT: 3:29:29 ?

Lucius Walker attended Lovejoy Elementary School in Washington, D.C., from kindergarten to the sixth grade, where his favorite subjects were math and science. In 1951, at the age of fourteen, Walker attended Armstrong High School, where he received technical training. Walker was accepted into the Ford Foundation Early Admission Program in 1952, and completed the remainder of his high school training at Morehouse College in Atlanta. While at Morehouse College, Walker followed a college-level curriculum, and received a solid foundation for his subsequent studies in engineering. During his time at Morehouse College, Walker was introduced to role models like the university president, Benjamin Mays, and his chemistry teacher, Henry McBay. Driven by his interest in pursuing a degree in engineering, Walker transferred to Howard University in 1954, to begin his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Education, Primary--Washington (D.C.).

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

Mentoring in education.

Mays, Benjamin E. (Benjamin Elijah), 1894-1984.

McBay, Henry C.

Howard University.

Video Oral History Interview with Lucius Walker, Section A2012_054_001_004, TRT: 4:29:45 ?

Lucius Walker earned his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Howard University in 1957, becoming the first student to graduate summa cum laude from its engineering school. He then attended Carnegie Institute of Technology (CIT), where he performed research on viscous dispersion in waterhammer, and received his M.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1958. Walker taught for a year at Howard University, and then began his Ph.D. degree in mechanical engineering at CIT. Under the tutelage of Bob Hornbeck and Fletcher Osterle, Walker completed his dissertation on centrifugally powered thrust bearings, in 1966. Walker joined the mechanical engineering faculty at Howard University in 1963 as an assistant professor, and gained tenureship in 1967. Over the course of his thirty-four years at Howard University, Walker spent significant efforts on increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in the field of engineering.

Mechanical engineering.

Howard University--Faculty.

Carnegie Institute of Technology.

Mentoring in science.

Hornbeck, Robert W.

Video Oral History Interview with Lucius Walker, Section A2012_054_001_005, TRT: 5:30:00 ?

Lucius Walker spent thirty-four years on Howard University's mechanical engineering faculty, where he focused on increasing the numbers of underrepresented minorities in engineering. In 1972, with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Walker established the ECSEL (Engineering Coalition of Schools for Excellence in Education and Leadership) coalition, which brought together seven major universities in an effort to strengthen minority representation in engineering. Walker then talks about being the recipient of Howard University's 2008 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. He reflects upon his career, his legacy, and his hopes for the African American community.

Mechanical engineering.

Howard University--Faculty.

Minorities in engineering.

National Science Foundation (U.S.).

Engineering--Study and teaching (Higher).

Reminiscing.

Video Oral History Interview with Lucius Walker, Section A2012_054_001_006, TRT: 6:25:01 ?

Lucius Walker has two children and six grandchildren, and enjoys living in Highland Beach, Maryland. He reflects upon his career and how he wants to be remembered. Walker also describes his photographs.

African American families--Maryland.

Reminiscing.

Photographs.

