

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nancy Glenn

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Glenn, Nancy
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Glenn,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 16, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 MOV HD video files (2:28:50).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Statistician Nancy Glenn (1965 - ) is the first African American to earn a Ph.D. degree in statistics from Rice University, and the first African American statistics professor at the University of South Carolina. Glenn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 16, 2012, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_191
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Statistician Nancy L. Glenn was born on January 26, 1965 in Charleston, South Carolina. She is the youngest of eight children born to Henry Deas and Eugina Powell. After graduating from high school, Glenn attended the University of South Carolina where she earned her B.S. degree in mathematics in 1987 and a second B.S. degree in statistics in 1995. Glenn earned her Ph.D. degree in statistics from Rice University in Houston, Texas in 2002 becoming the first African American to do so. Her doctoral thesis focused on robust empirical likelihood, which is a statistical method of estimating a quantitative value. In 2002, Glenn worked as a postdoctoral research associate with the National Security Agency.

In 2006, Glenn was hired as an assistant professor in the department of statistics at the University of South Carolina, and has conducted research in the fields of nonparametric statistics and bioinformatics. The results of her experiments have appeared in academic research journals. One article examined the statistical patterns of cancer cell lines and another investigated the future implications of data analysis in evolutionary genomics, which is the study of how the DNA structure in organisms changes during evolution. Glenn remained at the University of South Carolina until 2007, when she was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

In 2008, Glenn served as the lead investigator on a research grant from the National Institutes of Health, which further developed her work on nonparametric spirometry reference values. In 2011, she served as the co-investigator of a research project funded by the National Aeronautics Space Administration for the bio-Nanotechnology and Environmental Research Center in the Biology Department of Texas Southern University. Glenn also developed a course at TSU that prepares science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students for graduate schools in the sciences.

Throughout her career, Glenn published many important scientific articles, and participated in several activities outside of her academic requirements. She once served as the Houston representative to the American Statistical

Association and served as a reviewer for several statistical publications, including the "Journal of the American Statistical Association" and the "Journal of Probability and Statistical Science".

Glenn lives and works in Houston, Texas, with her son Paul David Glenn, II.

Nancy L. Glenn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on 08/16/2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nancy Glenn was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 16, 2012, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 5 MOV HD video files. Statistician Nancy Glenn (1965 - ) is the first African American to earn a Ph.D. degree in statistics from Rice University, and the first African American statistics professor at the University of South Carolina.

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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:

Glenn, Nancy

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Glenn, Nancy--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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Rice University. Dept. of Mathematics

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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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 Nancy Glenn, 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 7/22/2013 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, August 16, 2012**

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Glenn, Section A2012\_191\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:59  
2012/08/16

Nancy Glenn describes her family background and childhood. Glenn was born

in Charleston, South Carolina in 1965. Her parents, Eugenia Powell and Henry Deas were also born in Charleston in 1924 and 1921, respectively. Eugenia Powell was raised by her paternal grandparents in an upper middle class family. After a brief period at University, she worked as a home economics teacher. Deas' ancestry can be traced back to slaves from Sierra Leone. He joined the U.S. Army after finishing high school and fought in Europe during World War II. Henry Deas met Eugenia Powell in the late 1940s, and they settled in McClellanville, South Carolina. Nancy Glenn is the youngest of nine children.

African American families--South Carolina.

Grandparent and child--South Carolina.

Sierra Leone--Genealogy.

Slaves--South Carolina--Charleston Region--History.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Glenn, Section A2012\_191\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:18  
2012/08/16

Nancy Glenn describes growing up in McClellanville, South Carolina, in the 1970s. Although segregation was legally abolished, Glenn's town remained heavily segregated throughout her childhood. She attended Lincoln School and McClellanville School. The school district in McClellanville was forced to integrate in 1974, when Glenn was eleven years old. She was a good student and enjoyed her math and English classes. She also participated in extra-curricular activities at her school. During high school, Glenn was influenced by her guidance counselor who encouraged her to apply for a scholarship to pursue a college education.

Childhood and youth--South Carolina--McClellanville.

Segregation--South Carolina--McClellanville--History.

School integration--South Carolina--McClellanville--History--20th century.

African American college students--Scholarships, fellowships, etc.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Glenn, Section A2012\_191\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:09  
2012/08/16

Nancy Glenn describes her experience in college and graduate school. In 1983, After graduating from Lincoln High School in McClellanville, South Carolina, Glenn enrolled at the University of South Carolina. During her time there, she experienced racial discrimination; nevertheless, she focused on her education and gained a strong foundation in mathematics. Encouraged by her math professor, Dr. Yang, Glenn applied to graduate school and briefly attended San Diego State University in 1987. In 1993, Glenn returned to the University of South Carolina to obtain a second B.S. degree in statistics, to prepare her for a Ph.D. degree in statistics. Glenn pursued her doctoral work in the area of empirical likelihood at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

African American college students--South Carolina.

University of South Carolina.

Discrimination in higher education--South Carolina.

Mentoring in education--South Carolina.

Mathematical statistics--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Glenn, Section A2012\_191\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:40  
2012/08/16

After earning her Ph.D. degree in statistics from Rice University in 2002, Nancy Glenn returned to the University of South Carolina as a faculty member

in the department of statistics. During her time at the university, Glenn continued to be treated differently from her white colleagues; however, she established several research collaborations and published her work. Glenn resigned from the University of South Carolina in 2007, and accepted a tenure-track faculty position at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Rice University. Department of Mathematics.

University of South Carolina. College of Arts and Sciences. Department of Statistics--Faculty.

Discrimination in higher education--South Carolina.

Teachers--Tenure--Texas.

Texas Southern University.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Glenn, Section A2012\_191\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:44  
2012/08/16

Nancy Glenn reflects upon her legacy and how she would like to be remembered. Glenn accepted a tenure-track position at Texas Southern University in 2007, and has continued to pursue collaborative research and to publish her work. Glenn considers her son to be her greatest legacy. She wants to be remembered as someone who focused on service to the community through the church and through education. Glenn hopes for the African American youth to better appreciate the opportunity for an education, and to become more involved in religion as a guide toward stronger cultural values and morals.

Teachers--Tenure--Texas.

Texas Southern University.

Mothers and sons--United States.

African American youth--Religious life.