

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sylvia Bozeman

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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>	Bozeman, Sylvia Trimble, 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 18, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:10:51).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Mathematician Sylvia Bozeman (1947 - ) was the founder and director of The Center for the Scientific Applications of Mathematics at Spelman College. Bozeman was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 18, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_209
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Mathematician Sylvia Bozeman was born in Camp Hill, Alabama in 1947. She was the third of five children to Horace T., Sr. and Robbie Jones. Although her father worked with numbers daily in his profession as an insurance agent, it was her mother, a housewife, who first cultivated Bozeman's love for mathematics. In 1964, Bozeman graduated valedictorian of Edward Bell High School in Camp Hill, and in the fall enrolled at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, AL. Bozeman graduated from Alabama A&M University 1968 with her B.S. degree in mathematics. She went on to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in mathematics, from Vanderbilt University in 1971 and Emory University (Atlanta) in 1980,

respectively. The areas of her research and publications have included operator theory in functional analysis, projects in image processing, and efforts to enhance the success of groups currently underrepresented in mathematics.

Upon graduation, Bozeman worked for one year as an instructor of mathematics at Tennessee State University, and then joined the faculty in the Mathematics Department at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She began as an instructor in 1972, became assistant professor in 1980, an associate in 1984, and full professor in 1991. Moreover, Bozeman served as chair of the Mathematics Department from 1982 to 1993, as adjunct faculty in the Math Department at Atlanta University from 1983 to 1985. In 1993, Bozeman established the Center for the Scientific Applications of Mathematics at Spelman College, and served as director. In a special partnership between the mathematics departments of Spelman College and Bryn-Mawr College, Bozeman co-directs Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE), a national program that assists women in mathematics in making the transition from college to graduate school. In 2007 the EDGE Program was given special recognition by the American Mathematics Society for its effectiveness.

Her noted scholarly activities include several publications, funded research (by NASA, the US Office of Army Research and the Kellogg Foundation); and her recognitions, contributions, and services as a gifted teacher and presenter. Bozeman is a member of the Mathematical Association of American, and, in 1997, she became the first African-American elected as an MAA Section Governor in the association's eighty-two year history.

Bozeman and her husband, Dr. Robert Bozeman, live in Alabama with their two children, Robert, Jr. and Kizzie.

Sylvia Trimble Bozeman was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 18, 2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sylvia Bozeman was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 18, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Mathematician Sylvia Bozeman (1947 - ) was the founder and director of The Center for the Scientific Applications of Mathematics at Spelman College.

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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:

Bozeman, Sylvia Trimble, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Mathematician

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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 Sylvia Bozeman, December 18, 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 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

## 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

Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section  
A2012\_209\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:32 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman describes her family history. Her mother, Robbie Trimble, was born in September of 1918 in Chambers County, Alabama. She was a good student throughout her schooling and cultivated a passion for math, which she would eventually pass on to Bozeman. She worked as a substitute teacher and a seamstress for a number of years. Bozeman's father, Horace Trimble, was born in November of 1913, in Camp Hill, Alabama. He attended Alabama A&M University for two years before he left and married his wife, Robbie, and worked as a farm agent. He later became an insurance salesman. Bozeman also describes her parents' personalities and who she takes after.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section  
A2012\_209\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:59 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman's father, Horace Trimble, worked as an insurance salesman for the Atlanta Life Insurance

Company in Atlanta, Georgia. He was eventually promoted to manager of the Opelika District in Alabama. Her family was actively involved in the church during her growing up and she took advantage of leadership opportunities within her church. She grew up on a farm in the Agreeable Hill community in Alabama and attended a schoolhouse, Agreeable Hill Elementary School, for elementary school. She enjoyed her experience at school and her favorite subject was math, which her mother encouraged. She attended Edward Bell Hook High School in Camp Hill, Alabama and graduated in 1964 as class valedictorian. She shares her memories and experiences during the Civil Rights Movement.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section  
A2012\_209\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:29 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman began high school at Edward Bell High School in 1958. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the school choir, student government, and held a part-time job in the principal's office. She was very dedicated to her studies and took math courses in the evenings in order to prepare for college. After graduating as class valedictorian in 1964, Bozeman attended Alabama A&M University on a full scholarship, where she studied mathematics. Her interest in mathematical research was encouraged by the chair of the math and physics department, Dr. Howard Foster. Bozeman met her husband during her first year at Alabama A&M and married shortly after their graduation, in 1968. While her mother assumed that she would become a schoolteacher, Bozeman had higher aspirations and pursued her graduate studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section  
A2012\_209\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:24 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman began her studies in mathematics at Vanderbilt University in 1968. After earning her M.S. degree in mathematics in 1970, her husband received his Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt. During that time, she taught math part-time at Tennessee State University's Upward Bound Program. After the birth of her second child, she and her husband moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she taught at Spelman College. Bozeman then resumed her graduate studies at Emory University and earned her Ph.D. degree in mathematics in 1980. Her dissertation focused on operator theory in the area of functional analysis. Bozeman returned to Spelman as an assistant professor. Later, she was promoted to chair of the math department in 1982. She talks about her career and the evolution of the math and science programs at Spelman.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section  
A2012\_209\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:35 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman was appointed to chair of the math department at Spelman College in 1982. As chair, her work centered on the expansion and improvement of Spelman's math and science programs. In 1992, Spelman received a \$3 million dollar grant from the Kellogg Foundation towards the establishment of the Center for the Scientific Application of Mathematics. The mission of the Center was to support STEM faculty and student research, mentoring, and interdisciplinary curricular development. Bozeman served as program director of the five-year project. In 1998, she served as co-founder and director of the Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Program in 1998. Bozeman received a Mentor Award

from the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2008 for her efforts. Bozeman talks about her other professional activities and awards.

Affirmative action programs.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section A2012\_209\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:50 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman presented at the Congressional Diversity and Innovation Caucus on the importance of improving diversity in STEM fields. The EDGE program at Spelman College was designed to address the lack of female and minority representation in STEM by mentoring female graduate students. Bozeman talks about the future of the EDGE program and discusses the government's insufficient support of STEM initiatives for minorities. Bozeman reflects upon her career and legacy, shares her hopes and concerns for the African American community, and talks about her family.

Affirmative action programs.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sylvia Bozeman, Section A2012\_209\_001\_007, TRT: 7:11:02 2012/12/18

Sylvia Bozeman describes her photographs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.