

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paula Hammond

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hammond, Paula T, 1963-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Paula Hammond,
Dates:	October 9, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:21:15).
Abstract:	Chemical engineer and engineering professor Paula Hammond (1963 -) Hammond was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 9, 2012, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_218
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Chemical engineer and engineering professor Paula Therese Hammond was born in 1963 in Detroit, Michigan. Although she grew up wanting to become a writer, Hammond changed her mind after taking a junior high school chemistry class. She was hooked by the idea of using two materials to create a something completely different. After graduating from high school, Hammond attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she obtained her B.S. degree in chemical engineering in 1984. She was then hired by Motorola in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she worked for two years. In 1988, Hammond earned her M.S. degree from Georgia Institute of Technology and then returned to MIT to earn her Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering in 1993.

Following a postdoctoral research fellowship in chemistry at Harvard University, where she became interested in surface chemistry, Hammond went on to become a faculty member of MIT. In 2003, she worked as a Radcliffe Institute Fellow, focusing on a project that allowed for the creation of polymers that form micelles in water. These isolated packages could be used to assist in drug delivery. Hammond is the Bayer Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering, and serves as its Executive Officer. Additionally, she has participated in the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She also helped found the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (ISN), whose mission is to help design more functional technology for the nation's soldiers. Hammond's research interests include the nanoscale design of biomaterials, macromolecular design and synthesis, and directed assembly using surface templates. In 2010, Hammond made a research agreement with Ferrosan A/S, a pharmaceutical company, to develop a bandage that would use Hammond's technological innovations in Ferrosan's collagen bandages. Throughout her career, Hammond has served as a mentor to many graduate and undergraduate students and has published nearly 150 scholarly articles pertaining to her research in chemical engineering. She has also encouraged an increase in the presence of minority scientists and engineers at MIT by chairing the Initiative on Faculty, Race and Diversity.

Hammond has won numerous awards for her work as a scientist and as a professor. She was named the Bayer Distinguished Lecturer in 2004 and the Mark Hyman, Jr. Career Development Chair in 2003. In 2010, the Harvard Foundation awarded her the Scientist of the Year Award at the annual Albert Einstein Science Conference. Hammond has also been named one of the "Top 100 Science Stories of 2008," by Discover Magazine. Hammond is married to Carmon Cunningham, and they have one son, James.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Paula Hammond was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 9, 2012, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Chemical engineer and engineering professor Paula Hammond (1963 -)

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:

Hammond, Paula T, 1963-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hammond, Paula T, 1963---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Chemical Engineer

Engineering Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers|EducationMakers

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 Paula Hammond, October 9, 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 (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 Paula Hammond, Section
A2012_218_001_001, TRT: 1:31:00 2012/10/09

Paula Hammond talks about her family background. Hammond was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1963. Hammond's mother, Della Mae McGraw, was born in 1931, Claremore, Oklahoma. Hammond's mother earned her B.S. degree in nursing from Howard University, and her M.S. degree from Wayne State University. Hammond's father, Jesse Francis Goodwin, was born in 1929, in Greenville, South Carolina. He studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and then went on to attend Wayne State University, where he earned his Ph.D. degree. Hammond's parents met at Wayne State University and married in 1959. Hammond's mother went on to establish a nursing program at the Wayne County Community College and her father eventually became the Director of Health Laboratories for the City of Detroit.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Paula Hammond, Section
A2012_218_001_002, TRT: 2:29:28 2012/10/09

Paula Hammond talks about her family. Her father, Jesse Francis Goodwin, was the Director of Health Laboratories for the City of Detroit. He was president of the Detroit chapter of the National Association for the Advancement

of Colored People and was also active with the Democratic Party in Detroit. Hammond has two brothers, Gordon Francis Goodwin, born in 1962, and Jesse Stephen Goodwin-Asborn, born in 1965. Jesse Goodwin-Asborn is a well known poet who is also known as Tyehimba Jess. During her childhood, Detroit was a thriving metropolis, and Hammond has memories going to museums, the Henry Ford Museum. Hammond also recalls that music was a large part of her upbringing. Hammond listened to artists like Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, and the Jackson Five.

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Video Oral History Interview with Paula Hammond, Section A2012_218_001_003, TRT: 3:29:19 2012/10/09

Paula Hammond attended Presentation Our Lady of Victory Elementary School and Academy of the Sacred Heart for high school. Hammond recalls several influential teachers. Mrs. McCray, her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. King, her sixth grade teacher, and Sister Cornelius were all very influential. Hammond recalls that it was her chemistry teacher that suggested that she pursue a career in chemical engineering. In 1980, Hammond enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There, Hammond was active with the Black Student Union and the National Society of Black Engineers. During her sophomore year, Hammond pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Hammond states that she was inspired by Professor Jim Gates, Professor Jim Hubbard, and Professor Jim Williams. Clarence Williams, from the Office of Minority Education, also influenced Hammond during her undergraduate studies. While at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she met John Hammond. They married in 1985.

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Video Oral History Interview with Paula Hammond, Section
A2012_218_001_004, TRT: 4:34:34 2012/10/09

Paula Hammond graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1984 with her B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. Upon graduation, Hammond and her fiancé, John Hammond, worked as process engineers at Motorola in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. After two years, Hammond accepted a position at Georgia Institute of Technology Research Institute. While at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Hammond was mentored by John Gooch, a polymer scientist. Hammond also completed her M.S. degree in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1988. Hammond then pursued her PhD degree in polymer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Bob Cohen and Ed Merrill served as mentors for her during her doctoral studies, which she completed in 1993. Hammond completed post-doctoral work at Harvard University before accepting a position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Hammond currently studies the directed assembly of nanomaterials for various applications.

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Video Oral History Interview with Paula Hammond, Section
A2012_218_001_005, TRT: 5:16:54 2012/10/09

Paula Hammond has received numerous awards for her pioneering research in the development and use of nanomaterials. She was named a Mark Hyman, Jr. Career Development Chair and was also named the Harvard University Scientist of the Year in 2010. When reflecting on her career, Hammond considers the ability to control material properties on a nano layer-by-layer basis and the guidance she has given to post-doctoral students to be her

legacy. As a successful scientist, Hammond urges young minorities to continue their studies, even in the face of challenges and discouragement. Hammond is concerned that not enough African Americans are pursuing careers in science and technology, and encourages students to study science. Hammond is married to Carmon Cunningham, and has one son, James Hammond, and one step-son, Dante. Hammond would like to be remembered as a caring person that helped others to become successful.

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