

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Evans

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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>	Evans, William J, 1965-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Evans,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 5, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:13:02).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Physicist William Evans (1965 - ) was the head research scientist of the high pressure physics group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California. Evans was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 5, 2012, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_238
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Research physicist and research manager William J. Evans was born on September 16, 1965 in Chicago, Illinois to Billy Joe and Allie Bell Evans. He received his B.S. degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology. Evans went on to attend Harvard University, where he earned his S.M. degree and Ph.D. degrees in physics.

In 1995, Evans was hired as a full-time staff researcher at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). At LLNL, Evans works with scientists from multiple academic disciplines such as biology, chemistry, and physics to

solve global problems. Although Evans received his education in physics, his work at LLNL encompasses aspects of physics, chemistry, and materials science. Such an interdisciplinary approach allowed him to understand the complex behavior of materials under high temperature and pressure conditions.

In 2008, Evans was promoted to research manager at LLNL, where he managed the research of all staff scientists in the high pressure physics group. The group's research focused on ultrahigh-pressure diamond anvils, Raman spectroscopy, and X-ray scattering among other things. Evans and his team of LLNL research scientists built an anvil, or pressure device, using flattened diamonds as the pressure surface. These diamond anvils allowed Evans to determine what happens to other materials as they get “squashed” by the diamonds. Evans has published numerous scientific research articles in journals such as, *Physical Review*, *Nature Materials*, and the *International Journal of High Pressure Research*. Evans is also a member of several academic and professional societies, including the American Physical Society (APS), the American Chemical Society (ACS), and the Optical Society of America. He serves the community by judging youth science fairs in Livermore, California where he works and lives.

William J. Evans was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 5, 2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Evans was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 5, 2012, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Physicist William Evans (1965 - ) was the head research scientist of the high pressure physics group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California.

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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:**

Evans, William J, 1965-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Evans, William J, 1965---Interviews

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African American physicists--Interviews.

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

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## **Occupations:**

Physicist

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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 William Evans, November 5, 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).

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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

Video Oral History Interview with William Evans, Section  
A2012\_238\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:39 2012/11/05

William Evans talks about his family background. His mother, Adye Bel Evans, was born in 1941 in San Antonio, Texas. Her parents were educators and she attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She later attended Rosary College, where she earned her Master's degree in information science. Evans' father, Billy Joe Evans, was born in 1942 in Macon, Georgia. He attended Morehouse College and earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago. He became a chemist and held positions at Howard University, the National Bureau of Standards, Phillips University in Marburg, Germany, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Evans has two younger siblings.

African American families.

African American mothers--Texas.

African American fathers--Georgia.

African American chemists.

University of Michigan.

Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

University of Chicago.

Howard University.

Video Oral History Interview with William Evans, Section  
A2012\_238\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:47 2012/11/05

William Evans grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He attended Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and Angell Elementary School. He went to school in Marburg, Germany during the seventh grade; although initially traumatized, Evans soon adjusted to the new environment.

From an early age, Evans was very studious and because of his father's career as a chemist, he had access to his father's chemistry lab and was able to experiment with the resources there. After graduating from high school, Evans decided to attend the California Institute of Technology to study physics.

Childhood--Michigan--Ann Arbor.

Education--Michigan--Ann Arbor.

Childhood--Germany.

Chemistry.

California Institute of Technology.

Video Oral History Interview with William Evans, Section  
A2012\_238\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:23 2012/11/05

William Evans attended Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After graduating from high school in 1983, Evans attended the California Institute of Technology. While he initially majored in chemistry, he switched to physics. Evans describes his college experience and discusses the impact that emerging information technologies had on the practice of physics during the 1980s. Evans graduated from the California Institute of Technology in 1987 and went on to attend Harvard University, where he earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in applied physics. His dissertation was about the behavior of hydrogen.

Education, Secondary--Michigan--Ann Arbor.

California Institute of Technology.

Physics.

Harvard University.

Hydrogen.

Video Oral History Interview with William Evans, Section  
A2012\_238\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:24 2012/11/05

William Evans attended Harvard University, where he earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in applied physics. Immediately after graduating from Harvard University in 1995, Evans was hired at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a staff scientist. Evans discusses his professional activities at LLNL and talks about the some

of the practical applications of his work. Evans is concerned about the lack of minority representation, particularly of the African American community, in STEM fields such as physics.

Harvard University.

Physics.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Minorities in science.

Video Oral History Interview with William Evans, Section  
A2012\_238\_001\_005, TRT: 5:14:49 2012/11/05

William Evans is married, and he and his wife have two young children. He reflects on his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he has worked for the last seventeen years. Evans considers his work with hydrogen and his contributions to U.S. national security to be the highlights of his career.

African American families.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Hydrogen.

Reminiscing.