

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with DeAnna Beane

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Beane, DeAnna Banks
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane,
Dates:	February 12, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:08:30).
Abstract:	Informal science educator DeAnna Beane (1940 -) was director of Youth ALIVE! (Youth Achievement through Learning, Involvement, Volunteering and Employment) at the Association of Science and Technology Centers, Inc. Beane was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 12, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_020
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Informal science educator and administrator DeAnna Banks Beane was born on January 25, 1940 in Washington, D.C. She became interested in science and nature as a child. Beane attended Howard University and received her B.S. degree in zoology in 1962. Initially she was interested in medical school, but during temporary science teaching assignment, she discovered the joy of introducing science to young people who lacked access to science-rich opportunities. Committed to a career in education, she went on to earn her M.Ed. degree from Rutgers University in 1973.

Between 1966 and 1971, Beane taught science at schools for pregnant teenage girls in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Illinois, and New Brunswick, New Jersey. From 1971 to 1981, she taught earth science, general science, physical science and gifted/talented classes to middle school students in Plainfield, New Jersey. Returning to Washington, D.C. in 1982, Beane worked extensively on issues of racial equity in education. Beane was employed by the Mid-Atlantic Center for Race Equity (a federally-funded school desegregation assistance center at The American University) from 1983 to 1985 where she became interested in the issues of equity in science education. An extensive review of the literature sparked her particular interest in the role that informal science education could play in helping to level the science playing field for African American, Latino, and American Indian children. In 1985, Beane was appointed education director for the National Urban Coalition where she developed a national program to increase minority community involvement in science and mathematics. She joined the Association of Science and Technology Centers, Inc. (ASTC) in 1991 where she directed the Youth Achievement through Learning, Involvement, Volunteering, and Employment initiative (YouthALIVE!), which brought diversity and youth development programs to more than seventy science and children's museums around the country. As director of Partnerships for Learning at ASTC from 2001 until retirement in 2006, Beane continued her efforts to increase the diversity of staff and visitors in science museums.

Beane is the author of *Mathematics and Science: Critical Filters for the Future of Minority Students*, a manual that

explores the research on factors influencing non-Asian minority student participation in mathematics and science, and identifies intervention strategies and programs. Her articles on school-community-museum partnerships and museum based pre-employment youth programs and their impact on teenagers have appeared in academic and professional journals such as *Journal of Negro Education*, *Journal of Museum Education*, and *Dimensions: The Bi-monthly News Journal of the Association of Science and Technology Centers*.

DeAnna Banks Beane was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 12, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with DeAnna Beane was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 12, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Informal science educator DeAnna Beane (1940 -) was director of Youth ALIVE! (Youth Achievement through Learning, Involvement, Volunteering and Employment) at the Association of Science and Technology Centers, Inc.

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:

Beane, DeAnna Banks

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Beane, DeAnna Banks--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Association of Science and Technology Centers, Inc.

Occupations:

Informal Science Educator

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 DeAnna Beane, February 12, 2013. 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 DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_001, TRT: 1:28:32 ?

DeAnna Beane describes her family's background. Beane's mother, Buena Vista Marie Williams Banks was born in Newport News, Virginia around 1912. Her family moved to Washington, D.C. when she was young, and she attended Sumner School and Dunbar High School, before enrolling at Howard University in the 1920s. She established a career in adult education, focusing on parenting, nutrition and child-care, and eventually co-founded one of the first black nursery schools in Washington, D.C., the Toddlers Socialized Nursery School. Beane describes her maternal grandmother's pursuit of education, and how she attended Cardozo Business High School to study shorthand and typing in order to elevate her chances for employment by the federal government. Beane also describes her family's focus on education, their involvement with Howard University, and her childhood encounter with Howard's first black president, Mordecai Johnson.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_002, TRT: 2:30:56 ?

DeAnna Beane's father, Howard Percell Banks, was born in the early 1900s in Gloucester County, Virginia. He was raised by his grandparents, while his mother worked to support the family. He attended high school and received vocational training at St. Paul's School in Lawrenceville, Virginia. He then attended Howard University, where he majored in history, while also working as an elevator operator to pay for his education. Beane's parents met in Professor Harold Lewis' history class at Howard University, and she talks about their long and happy marriage. Her father worked as an educator in Washington, D.C., first at Cheltenham Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and later at Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering School. Beane describes her parents' personalities, talks about her siblings, and her family's life in D.C. during World War II. She also discusses the African American perceptions of beauty which she observed at Howard University.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_003, TRT: 3:28:34 ?

DeAnna Beane attended Toddlers Socialized Nursery School, which was run by her mother, Buena Vista Marie Williams, in Washington, D.C. She then attended Monroe Elementary School and describes her early exposure to science, her mother's timely intervention in her education, and her interests as a child. Deane describes her memories of growing up in D.C., and the Asbury United Methodist Church. She also recalls the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Brown versus Board of Education in 1954, ushering in the desegregation of schools, and her own desire to transfer from Dunbar High School to Roosevelt High School which was close to her home. Beane describes segregation in Washington, D.C. She also talks about learning dance at the Jones-Haywood School of Dance, run

by Claire Haywood and HistoryMaker, Doris Jones.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_004, TRT: 4:28:43 ?

DeAnna Beane attended Banneker Junior High School in Washington, D.C. Her homeroom teacher in the eighth and ninth grade was A.J. Houston, the wife of civil rights lawyer, Charles Hamilton Houston. Beane talks about the teacher who introduced her to science in middle school and her experience at science fairs in D.C. In 1955, Beane transferred from Dunbar High School to Roosevelt High School, which was much closer to her home. She describes her experience there as one of the first black students. In spite of the discriminatory attitude of most of the school's white faculty, she was positively mentored by her biology teacher. Beane reflects on school desegregation in the United States in the late 1950s, and the consequences of the faculty's reluctance to racially unite the students at Roosevelt High School.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_005, TRT: 5:30:09 ?

In 1957, DeAnna Beane began her undergraduate studies at Howard University, where she began to major in chemistry, before switching to zoology. Beane describes her experience at Howard University, her liberal arts education there, and her experience studying zoology. She also talks about getting married while in college and starting a family as a student, which led her to decide against applying to medical school. After graduating from Howard University in 1962, her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where her husband pursued his Ph.D. degree at the University of Chicago. Beane talks about her introduction to teaching science in Washington, D.C., and her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement in Arlington, Virginia in the 1960s, while her husband served as a minister there.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_006, TRT: 6:30:05 ?

While living in Chicago in the 1960s, DeaAnna Beane remained as involved in social activism and the Civil Rights Movement as she had been in Arlington, Virginia. She enrolled in education courses at both Chicago Teachers College and Loop College. In 1969, her family moved to New Jersey, where Beane became involved in community organizing. In 1973, Beane earned her master's degree in urban education from Rutgers University. Beane talks about teaching in a middle school in Plainfield, New Jersey for ten years in a commuter marriage until the early 1980s. In 1983, Beane started working as a science

researcher and writer for InterAmerica Research Association. She also worked for the Mid-Atlantic Center for Race Equity, where she published 'Mathematics and Science: Critical Filters for the Future of Minority Students'.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_007, TRT: 7:29:06 ?

DeAnna Beane became the director of the 'Say YES to a Youngster's Future' program at the National Urban Coalition in 1985, where she developed and directed a national program to increase minority involvement in science, technology, and math. From 1989 to 1991, she worked as a consultant for mathematics and science programs in the Washington, D.C. area school district. In 1991, Beane began serving as the director of the 'YouthALIVE!' program developed by the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). Beane describes the details of these informal science education programs. From 2001 to 2006, she served as the director of Partnerships for Learning at ASTC, and the Promoting Dialogues on Diversity Conference Fellowship Program and the Equity and Diversity Initiative. Beane also talks about the various applications of her publication, entitled 'Mathematics and science: Critical Filters for the Future of Minority Students', and the concept of object-based learning.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_008, TRT: 8:29:22 ?

In 2006, DeAnna Beane retired from the Association of Science-Technology Centers. She talks about the youth programs that have been implemented at science centers and museums across the United States. Beane describes her life after retirement, and her goals for the future. In this section of the interview, she reflects upon her career and her legacy, talks about her grandchildren, and describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community. Beane also reflects upon generating community-wide awareness about the importance of STEM education.

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Video Oral History Interview with DeAnna Beane, Section A2013_020_001_009, TRT: 9:13:03 ?

In this final section of the interview, DeAnna Beane shares how she would like to be remembered and describes her photographs.

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