

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mark Smith

PERSON

Smith, Mark , 1956-

Alternative Names: Smith, Mark , 1956-;

Life Dates: May 17, 1956-

Place of Birth: Bronx, New York

Residence:

Occupations: Electrical Engineer; Competitive Fencer

Biographical Note

Professor of electrical and computer engineering and competitive fencer Mark J. T. Smith was born on May 17, 1956 in Jamaica Queens, New York. After receiving his B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978, Smith enrolled at the Georgia Institute of Technology and graduated from there with his M.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1979 and his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering in 1984.

As a collegiate athlete, Smith was selected as the most valuable player and captain of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Varsity Fencing Team. He became the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Foil Team Champion in 1975, the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Foil Champion in 1977, and the New England Foil and Sabre Champion in 1976 and 1978, respectively. Smith was the U.S. National Champion in 1981 and 1983, and served as a two-time member of the U.S. Olympic Team in 1980 and 1984. He received a Silver Medal in the 1983 Pan-American Games; was a member U.S. World Championship Fencing Teams in 1981 and 1982; and, competed three times in World University Games. In 1996, Smith was one of the final runners carrying the Olympic Torch in the Summer Olympic Games Opening Ceremonies in Atlanta, Georgia.

Smith joined the electrical engineering faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1984. He worked at the Institute's European campus in Metz, France from 1991 to 1993. He was appointed as the Executive Assistant to the President of Georgia Institute of Technology from 1997 to 2000. In January of 2003, Smith joined the faculty at Purdue University and was appointed as the Head of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Smith was named Dean of the Purdue University Graduate School in 2009, and went on to become the Michael & Katherine Birck Endowed Chair in Engineering.

Smith is the owner of five patents and has authored or co-authored more than two-hundred and forty scientific publications, including six international standards publications. He co-authored two introductory books: "Introduction to Digital Signal Processing" and "Digital Filtering". In addition, he co-authored the graduate-level textbook, "A Study Guide for Digital Image Processing," and is co-editor of the book, "Wavelets and Subband Transforms".

Smith is a co-principal investigator of the American Indian Graduate Program funded by the Sloan Foundation and is a member of Purdue University's NSF-funded ADVANCE program leadership team. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a past recipient of the IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Award, and was awarded the IEEE Processing Society Senior Award in 1992. Smith is also a past president of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association. In addition, he served as a member of the National Academies Army Board of Science and Technology and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Board of Directors. Mark J. T. Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 8, 2013.

Related Entries

Smith, Joan [CHILD OF]

Mother

Smith, Windsor [CHILD OF]

Father

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [STUDENT OF]

[from ? to 1978]

B.S.

Georgia Institute of Technology [STUDENT OF]

[from ? to 1979]

M.S.

Georgia Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1984]

Ph.D.

General Electric Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to 1976]

Atlantic Richfield R&D [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1979]

George Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1990]

Assistant Professor

George Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 1995]

Associate Professor

Georgia Tech Loraine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1991 to 1993]

Associate Professor

George Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to 2003]

Professor

George Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 2001]

Executive Assistant to the President

Purdue University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2003 to 2009]

Michael J. and Katherine R. Birck Professor

Purdue University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2003 to 2009]

Head of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Purdue University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2009 to ?]

Michael J. and Katherine R. Birck Professor

Purdue University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2009 to ?]

Dean of Graduate School

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society [MEMBEROF]

Member

College of Engineering Leadership Team [MEMBEROF]

Member

University of Michigan [MEMBEROF]

Member, EECS National Advisory Board

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association

[MEMBEROF]

Vice President

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association

[MEMBEROF]

President

National Academies of Army Science and Technology [MEMBEROF]

Member

IEEE Committee on Engineering Accreditation Activities [MEMBEROF]

Member

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association

[MEMBEROF]

Board Member

Carnegie Mellon Electrical and Computer Engineering Advisory Board

[MEMBEROF]