

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joan Langdon

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Langdon, Joan Sterling, 1951-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon,
Dates:	June 22, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:38:43).
Abstract:	Math professor and education administrator Joan Langdon (1951 -) , the Founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bowie State University, also served as director of the Title III Program and Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Langdon was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 22, 2013, in Bowie, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_160
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Mathematician and education administrator Joan Sterling Langdon was born on August 1, 1951 in Marion, South Carolina. After graduating from Hampton University with her B.A. degree in 1973, she enrolled in the College of William & Mary where she received her M.A. degree in 1977. Langdon went on to graduate from Old Dominion University with her M.S. degree in 1985, and American University with her Ph.D. degree in 1989.

Langdon began her career in higher education as an instructor at Rappahannock

Community College in 1977. From 1979 to 1985, she was appointed instructor/lecturer at Hampton University where she also served as the first director of the Mathematics/Science Laboratory. After completing her doctorate at American University in 1989, Langdon joined the Bowie State University community as an Associate Professor in 1989. During her tenure at Bowie State University, she has served in several administrative positions, including as Director of the Summer Institute in Engineering and Computer Applications Program; Coordinator of the Computer Science program in the Department of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science; and, as the Faculty Administrative Intern. In 1994, she initiated the Senior Year Progression and Transition Program (SYPAT) and served as coordinator of the program. While there, Langdon served as Founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2006, she was appointed as Director of the Title III Program and Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Langdon has also served as chair and/or as a member of numerous committees at Bowie State University and in the University System of Maryland. She was appointed as a curriculum, proposal, and paper reviewer for the Maryland State Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), respectively. In 1996, she was appointed to the ACM National Program Committee for SIGCSE. In addition, she has made presentations at all levels of higher education, participated in numerous workshops and conferences, published in conference proceedings, and developed software programs. She has also served as the principal investigator or co-principal investigator for several grants and sub-contracts, and has authored technical reports.

In 1999, Langdon received the ROTC Army Achievement Medal. Bowie State University honored her with the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2003 and the Distinguished Services Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Leadership in 2012. In 2007, she was awarded the NASA Administration Diversity Enhancement Award.

Langdon is married to Larry L. Langdon. They have four daughters: Tomaysa Sterling, Yvonne Langdon, Yvette Langdon, and Heather Langdon.

Joan Sterling Langdon was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 22, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joan Langdon was conducted by Larry Crowe

on June 22, 2013, in Bowie, Maryland, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Math professor and education administrator Joan Langdon (1951 -) , the Founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bowie State University, also served as director of the Title III Program and Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

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:

Langdon, Joan Sterling, 1951-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Langdon, Joan Sterling, 1951---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Bowie State University

Bowie State University

Occupations:

Math Professor

Education Administrator

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 Joan Langdon, June 22, 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 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 Joan Langdon, Section
A2013_160_001_001, TRT: 1:28:39 2013/06/22

Joan Langdon describes her family's background. Langdon's mother, Julia Ann Smalls, was born in Horry County, South Carolina, in 1919. Her family belonged to the Geechee community in South Carolina, that traced their ancestry to the West Indies. Langdon's grandfather, Richard Smalls, owned land in South Carolina, where his family farmed cotton and tobacco. She describes her grandmother, Betty Ann Smalls' careful tax records for the land, which eventually saved it from being confiscated by the state. Langdon's mother was raised in Marion, South

Carolina where she lived with her father, after her parents separated. She attended elementary school in Marion, and received her high school education much later in her life. She married Langdon's father, Albert Moody, at the age of seventeen, and they had seven children. Langdon's father was born in Marion in 1915. He was raised by his oldest sister, and worked on a farm there.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon, Section
A2013_160_001_002, TRT: 2:28:45 2013/06/22

Joan Langdon and her six siblings were raised on a farm in Marion, South Carolina. She describes her memories of growing up there. Langdon's father, Albert Moody's, spent most of his early life as a sharecropper in Marion. He later bought his own land in the region. Langdon talks about her father's desire to become a brain surgeon, and his extraordinary aptitude for mathematics. She also talks about how her parents met and married, their personalities, and their ability to provide home remedies for a number of ailments. Langdon and her sisters were all college educated, and she talks about how her parents' stressed the importance of education. Langdon's family attended Singletary AME Church in Marion.

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Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon, Section
A2013_160_001_003, TRT: 3:29:10 2013/06/22

Joan Langdon attended Springville Elementary School in Marion, South Carolina, where she received a firm educational foundation. Langdon describes the influence of her first grade teacher, Ms. Duboze, and her experience

in elementary school. Langdon enjoyed reading, mathematics and watching television as a child, and began to read voraciously from her siblings' textbooks from a very young age. Langdon then went on to Marion Grammar School and Johnakin High School, where she was mentored by her math teacher, James Blake. She describes the influence of her school teachers, and the confidence that they instilled within their students. In 1969, Langdon graduated from high school and went on to attend Hampton University on a Ford scholarship. She reflects upon growing up in the segregated South, and how it affected resources in African American schools in South Carolina.

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Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon, Section A2013_160_001_004, TRT: 4:30:04 2013/06/22

In 1969, Joan Langdon began her undergraduate studies in mathematics at Hampton University with funding from a Ford Foundation scholarship. Langdon describes her academic and social experience at Hampton, where she was mentored by two African American female professors, Geraldine Darden and Genevieve Knight. She received her B.A. degree in mathematics in 1973, and went on to The College of William and Mary, where she earned her M.A. degree in mathematics education.

Langdon also worked for one year in the York County public schools, and taught mathematics at Rappahannock Community College for two years. From 1979, she served as an instructor of mathematics at Hampton University, and was involved with running the Mathematics/Science Laboratory there. During this time, she also earned a master's degree in computer science at Old Dominion University. Langdon describes her first computer science class as an undergraduate student, and the changes in computer science in the early 1980s.

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Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon, Section
A2013_160_001_005, TRT: 5:29:57 2013/06/22

Around 1985, Joan Langdon and HistoryMaker, Linda Hayden received a Patricia Harris Roberts Fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. degree in computer science at American University, due to the efforts of Drs. Mary Gray and Nina Roscher. Langdon discusses her experience at American University, reflects upon the number of African American female Ph.D.s in the United States, and discusses the strengths of her program at American University. She talks about the influence of her mentor, Mary Gray, and discusses her dissertation, entitled 'The Effects and the Use of Software on Students' Understanding of Selected Statistical Concepts'. Langdon also talks about balancing her family life with her studies. In 1989, Langdon was appointed as an associate professor at Bowie State University. She talks about STEM education at Bowie State, and her involvement with the SIECA (Summer Institute in Engineering and Computer Applications) program there.

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Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon, Section
A2013_160_001_006, TRT: 6:30:10 2013/06/22

From 1989, Langdon was involved with the Summer Institute in Engineering and Computer Applications (SIECA) Program at Bowie State University, and received a NASA Diversity Award for her work. In 1990, she was selected as the university's representative to the University of Maryland System Chancellor's Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching, and also served on the Maryland Collaborative for Teacher Preparation. Langdon

was promoted to a full professorship in 1993. In 1996, Langdon served as interim dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and became its founding dean in 1997. She describes her involvement with the 'Writing Across the Curriculum' initiative, the NASA Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program, and the military science department. Since 2006, Langdon worked as the acting director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and as the director of the Title III Entitlement Programs at Bowie State.

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Video Oral History Interview with Joan Langdon, Section
A2013_160_001_007, TRT: 7:41:58 2013/06/22

Since 1939, Joan Langdon has served as an educator and an administrator at Bowie State University. She describes the major sources of funding for the Department of Computer Science at Bowie State. She talks about the African American doctoral graduates in the department, her combined teaching and administrative responsibilities, and her plans for the future at Bowie State. Langdon also describes attending the Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration (HERS program) at Bryn Mawr College. In this final section of the interview, Langdon reflects upon her career, life choices and her legacy. She talks about her family, and describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community. Langdon closes the interview by sharing how she would like to be remembered.

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