

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jannette L. Dates

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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>	Dates, Jannette Lake, 1937-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 14, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:10:08).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator and communications professor Jannette L. Dates (1937 - ) taught at Howard University, where her research and teaching focused on African Americans in the media. Dates was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 14, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_044
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Jannette Dates is an educator and critical commentator on the images of African Americans in the media. Born on March 17, 1937 in Baltimore, Maryland, she was educated at the city's Coleridge Taylor Elementary School and Booker T. Washington Junior High School before attending Frederick Douglass High School. She remained in Baltimore for her collegiate education, graduating with a B.S. from Coppin State University.

After college, she became a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System in 1958. In 1964, she became a television demonstration teacher for the school system, working in conjunction with three local television stations, WBAL, WJZ and WMAR.

Continuing her educational career in her hometown, she became an assistant professor at Morgan State University in 1971. During her time at Morgan State, Dates became the producer, writer and anchor for *North Star*, a weekly hour-long show featuring local and national African American entertainment and sports personalities. It aired on WBAL from 1972 to 1973, and she also worked with the station as a co-producer on the twenty-two-part series, *The Negro in U.S. History*, which aired during the 1973-1974 season.

In 1978, she published her first article, "Thoughts on Black Stereotypes in Television," which appeared in *Ethnic Images in American Film and Television*. In 1981, she became an assistant professor at nearby Howard University in Washington, D.C., working in the school's Department of Radio, Film, and Television.

In the years since she joined Howard, Dates has been a frequent speaker on radio talk shows in various cities the country, and she has also been featured as a panelist on National Public Radio, CNN, and C-SPAN, addressing issues of the media treatment of African Americans and other racial and ethnic groups. She has contributed chapters for thirteen books, and has written three scholarly articles and been published several other times. In 1996, she became dean of the School of Communication at Howard.

Dates also has a Ph. D. from the University of Maryland at College Park, an M.Ed. from Johns Hopkins University, a certificate in the Management Development Program from Harvard University, and has served as a fellow at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jannette L. Dates was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 14, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and communications professor Jannette L. Dates (1937 - ) taught at Howard University, where her research and teaching focused on African Americans in the media.

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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:

Dates, Jannette Lake, 1937-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Dates, Jannette Lake, 1937- --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Howard University. School of Communications

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Howard University

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## Occupations:

Academic Administrator

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Dean

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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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 Jannette L. Dates, March 14, 2003. 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).

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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 Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:26 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates discusses her family background and her childhood growing up in Baltimore, Maryland. Dates describes both her mother's and her father's personalities, and shares the influence they had on her life. Dates recalls her childhood neighborhood and household in Baltimore, at the McCulloh Homes housing project. Dates then describes her school days, remembering her favorite teachers and courses.
- Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:20 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates continues to discuss her childhood and youth, recalling an influential childhood teacher, lifelong friends she met in school, and her involvement in the church. Dates then transitions to discussion about her undergraduate collegiate experience at Coppin State University, where she trained to become a teacher. Dates taught in the Baltimore City Public School system after graduation, and she details her successes the teaching strategies she used in this first job.
- Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:10 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates discusses her involvement in the television industry as the host of the 'North Star' program and how it led to her future appointments in the communications departments of Morgan State University, Howard University, and Coppin State University. Dates describes her successes as a professor, explaining how she emphasized using cable television as a tool for education, as well as her navigation of the politics of academia.
- Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:05 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates talks about her role at Howard University and about the background of the school's communications department. She shares her reasoning for starting the 'Split Image' book project. Dates documents how the book came together as she discusses issues that arose in attempting to find a publisher and tells of other colleagues who assisted in the process. Jannette Dates discusses the success and growth of Howard University's School of Communications.
- Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:08 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates talks about the future of blacks in the communications field. She then moves to discuss how blacks have been portrayed in feature films and television programs and mentions specific positive and negative examples. Dates also talks in general about different television and cable networks and what they've done to either help or hinder African Americans portrayal in mass media. She then gives ideas on combating the under classing of African Americans.
- Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_006, TRT: 0:30:04 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates talks about how black culture is portrayed through entertainment outlets. She analyzes the film 'Barbershop'. Dates describes her work ethic and future plans before discussing her hopes for the black community. Jannette Dates narrates photographs from her life with family members and friends.
- Video Oral History Interview with Jannette L. Dates, Section A2003\_044\_001\_007, TRT: 0:10:55 ?  
Educator Jannette Dates narrates photographs documenting her personal and professional life. Pictures include family members and colleagues.

