

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Gladney

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Gladney, Larry, 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gladney,
Dates:	September 23, 2006
Bulk Dates:	2006
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:43:43).
Abstract:	Physicist Larry Gladney (1957 -) is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania studying theoretical and particle physics. He works with the Collider Detector at Fermilab. Gladney was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 23, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2006_104
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Research physicist and professor Larry Donnie Gladney was born on August 9, 1957, in Cleveland, Mississippi, to Annie Lee Gladney and Lucius Green Walker. Raised by his mother in East St. Louis, Illinois, Gladney attended Alta Sita Elementary School, Clarke Junior High School, and graduated third in his class from East St. Louis High School in 1975. Keenly interested in the nature of matter, Gladney earned his B.A. degree in physics from Northwestern University in 1979, and went on to Stanford University to earn his M.S. degree, then his Ph.D. in physics in 1985. Gladney pursued post-doctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania from 1985 to 1988.

Gladney, teaching and conducting research at the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Physics in 1988, developed the third-level tau lepton triggers for the Collider Detector at Fermilab. From 1989 to 1994, Gladney served as a Presidential Young Investigator for the National Science Foundation. He was awarded a Lilly Teaching Fellowship in 1990, and by 1992 Gladney made the first observation of an exclusive B meson decay in the hadron collider environment. In 1997, Gladney received the coveted Edward A. Bouchet Award from the American Physical Society, and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Lecturer Award from Wayne State University. By 2000, Gladney had been selected as the American representative to the Computing Coordinating Group for BaBar; he was then selected to head the Level 3 Trigger effort for the BaBar experiment at the SLAC PEP-II Collider. Gladney, from 2003 to 2004, was a visiting scholar at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Gladney served as a member of the U.S. Army Science Advisory Board from 1997 to 2002. Gladney also served as a member of the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel for the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2001, and other NSF and Department of Energy committees over the years, including Quarknet. Gladney later served as a member of the Advisory and Review Committee for the Origin and Structure of Matter project of the NSF.

Interested in the success of young people, Gladney was the recipient of the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Black Graduate Professional Students' Association at the University of Pennsylvania. Gladney

was also an occasional lecturer on the subject of seeing and researching dark energy, and in 2006 appeared on a program entitled The Three Cosmic Tenors: Exploring the Frontiers of Matter, Energy, Space and Time with other black physicists, James Gates and Herman B. White, Jr.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Larry Gladney was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 23, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Physicist Larry Gladney (1957 -) is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania studying theoretical and particle physics. He works with the Collider Detector at Fermilab.

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:

Gladney, Larry, 1957-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Gladney, Larry, 1957- --Interviews

African American physicists--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Physicist

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 Larry Gladney, September 23, 2006. 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 Larry Gladney, Section A2006_104_001_001, TRT: 0:29:17 ?

Larry Gladney slates the interview and shares his favorites. He describes his occupation as experimental particle physicist. He recalls that his mother, Annie Gladney, was raised by sharecroppers and at the time, many families mixed and everyone was raised by everyone else. His mother was interested in science but more for the people aspect than the science aspect. He didn't have much contact with his father, Lucius Green Walker, except for certain holidays. His earliest memory is of his mother cooking donuts while he watched her from a high chair. When he grew up in St. Louis it was a mostly black community with factories.

African American families--Missouri--Saint Louis.

Children of sharecroppers.

African American physicists.

Missouri—Saint Louis--Social conditions--20th century.

African American fathers--Conduct of life.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gladney, Section A2006_104_001_002, TRT: 0:29:31 ?

Larry Gladney recalls the Buckminster Fuller Plan in St. Louis, Missouri, and the construction of the Gateway Arch in 1964. Gladney then talks about his elementary school years at Alta Sita Elementary School, particularly the hostile attitude of teachers towards their children. Gladney then attended Clark Junior High School and East St. Louis Senior High School, where he took college-level classes by the time he was in eleventh grade. Even as an eighth grade student, Gladney knew he wanted to study physics. Gladney discusses receiving a scholarship and financial aid to attend Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and closes this section of the interview reflecting on his mother's religious faith, as well as her methodology for raising her children.

Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983

Gateway Arch (Saint Louis, Mo.).

Teachers--Attitudes.

Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.). Department of Physics.

African American mothers--Religious life.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gladney, Section A2006_104_001_003, TRT: 0:29:11 ?

Larry Gladney shares his views on religion and talks about graduating from Northwestern University, third in his class. Gladney chose to attend the school because they had invited him to apply, but he recalls that he had to adjust to the school's atmosphere. Due to a shortage of rooms, Gladney first lived in the fraternity house for Theta Xi. He later pledged for and become president of the fraternity. While at Northwestern Gladney learned about working collaboratively and the roles that everyone plays in the laboratory. He shares stories of learning to work with people while serving in both his leadership and research capacities during his college years. Gladney closes the section of the interview discussing his graduation from college, his choice to attend Stanford University for graduate school and some of the racial attitudes he confronted there.

Religious perspectives.

College graduates.

Theta Xi Fraternity.

Research teams.

Stanford University.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gladney, Section A2006_104_001_004, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Larry Gladney describes some of his mentors at Stanford University. He then

discusses his belief that science is color-blind, saying that admissions committees and fellow scientists are more interested in qualifications and accomplishments. Gladney's doctoral dissertation was on charm quarks, a topic which earned Burton Richter the Nobel Prize. Condoleezza Rice also was at Stanford University while he was there. Gladney then discusses the culture of the field of physics, noting that physicists have been trained to question and justify their scientific processes.

Mentoring in science.

Quarks.

Richter, Burton, 1931-

Rice, Condoleezza, 1954-

Physicists--Training of.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gladney, Section A2006_104_001_005, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Larry Gladney shares his thoughts on science as a "great equalizer" and the need to restructure the approach towards encouraging minorities and women to pursue advanced degrees. Gladney then discusses his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania where his research was centered on particle physics and cosmology and dark energy and its properties. Throughout this section of the interview, Gladney discusses some of the major theories of modern physics that are directed at comprehending the origins of the universe, including antimatter, string theory, and the extent to which the universe can actually be understood. Gladney is a member of the "The Three Cosmic Tenors." Along with fellow African American physicists, Herman White and S. James Gates, the group speaks to lay audiences about their work in physics.

Minorities in science.

University of Pennsylvania.

Physics--Study and teaching--United States.

Science and the arts.

African American physicists.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Gladney, Section A2006_104_001_006, TRT: 0:17:29 ?

Larry Gladney discusses his participation in the National Society of Black Physicists and his concerns for the African American youth of today. As a teacher, Gladney speaks of mentoring as part of his legacy. He hopes that he will not be remembered as "unusual" in the sense that he was one of a few African Americans in the field of theoretical physics.

National Society of Black Physicists.

African American youth.

Mentoring.

Theoretical physics.