

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Johnny Houston

PERSON

Houston, Johnny L., 1941-

**Alternative Names:** Johnny Houston;

**Life Dates:** November 19, 1941-

**Place of Birth:** Sandersville, Georgia, USA

**Residence:** Elizabeth City, NC

**Occupations:** Mathematician;

## Biographical Note

Mathematician, education administrator, and research director Johnny L. Houston was born on November 19, 1941 in Sandersville, Georgia to parents Bobby Lee Harris and Catherine Houston Vinson. After graduating from Ballard Hudson High School in Macon, Georgia, Houston attended Morehouse College and graduated in 1964 with his B.A. degree in mathematics. Houston received his M.S. degree in mathematics from Atlanta University (Clark Atlanta University) in 1966 and then travelled to Paris, France to study at the Universite de Strasbourg. In 1974, Houston graduated with his Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Purdue University.

In 1975, Houston was appointed as the chair of the Atlanta University Math and Computer Science Department. During a leave period, he served as the Calloway Professor of Computer Science at Fort Valley State University. In 1984, Houston became the vice chancellor of academic affairs and professor of math and computer science at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU). He was named senior research professor in the ECSU Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in 1988. Throughout his career, Houston has held several positions as a specialist in mathematics and computer science, including serving as a member National Institute of Health's MARC Committee from 1980 to 1986, a member of the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America from 1992 to 1995, and as a member of the Human Resource Advisory Group for the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute from 1993 to 1998. In 1996, Houston established the Computational Science and Scientific Visualization (CSSV) Center at ECSU; and, in 2002, he established the African Studies (TLMP) at ECSU. Houston served as the director of both programs until 2008. Houston is a co-founder of the National Association of Mathematicians, Inc. (NAM), and served as NAM's executive secretary from 1975 until 2000. Houston published *The History of NAM, the First 30 Years; 1969-1999* in 2002 and is the author

of more than forty books and articles on the science, mathematics, and education

Houston has received several awards and honors, including the University Of North Carolina Board Of Governors Teaching Excellence Award in 1996, NAM's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999, and the Purdue University BCC Pioneer Award in 2009. Houston has been included American Men and Women of Science, Who's Who Among Black Americans, Who's Who in America, and the World Directory of Mathematicians. In 2010, Houston was named professor emeritus at Elizabeth City State University after twenty-six years of service.

Houston is married to Virginia Lawrence. They have two daughters: Mave Talibra and Kaiulani Michelle.

Mathematician, education administrator, and research director Johnny L. Houston was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 25, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Clark Atlanta University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.S.**

**Morehouse College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Ballard Hudson High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**Universite de Strasbourg** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**N/A**

**University of Georgia** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**N/A**

**Elizabeth City State University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 201005 to ?]

**Professor emeritus**

**E.E. Smith High School** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 196408 to 196505]

**High School Math Teacher**

**Stillman College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 196708 to 196905]

**College Math Instructor**

**Savannah State University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 197408 to 197505]

**University Professor**

**Atlanta University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 197508 to 198405]

**University Professor/Department Chair**

**Fort Valley State University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 198108 to 198406]

**University Professor/Chair**

**Elizabeth City State University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 198408 to 201005]

**Senior Research Professor/Vice Chair**

**American Mathematical Society** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Benjamin Banneker Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Mathematical Association of America (MAA)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Life Member**

**National Association of Mathematicians (NAM)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founder**

**National Council for the Teaching of Mathematics** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Life Member**

**Association of Computer/Information Sciences and Engineering Departments at  
Minority Institutions (ADMI)** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1990 to ?]

**2nd Vice President**

**Mathematical Sciences Research Institute** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Human Resources Advisory Committee**

**North Carolina Computer Center** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Advisory Committee**

**Purdue University Mathematics Department** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Advisory Committee**