

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jeanette Jones

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jones, Jeanette, 1950-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones,
Dates:	April 10, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:14:26).
Abstract:	Biologist Jeanette Jones (1950 -) , the first female vice president for research and development for approximately seven years at Alabama A & M University, is the director of the Center for Biomedical, Behavioral and Environmental Research at Alabama A & M University. Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 10, 2013, in Huntsville, Alabama. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_101
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Biologist Jeanette Jones was born in Peach County, Fort Valley, Georgia. After graduating from Fort Valley State University in 1972 with her B.S. degree in biology education, Jones enrolled at Ohio State University and went on to receive her M.S. degree in botany and mycology in 1973 and her Ph.D. degree in botany and mycology in 1976. Jones pursued further study at the University of Nevada, the University of California Medical School (San Francisco), the National Centers for Disease Control-Atlanta, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge).

In 1976, Jones was hired as an assistant professor of biology at Alabama A&M University and became a member of the graduate faculty. Jones was named full professor of biology in 1986 while serving concurrently as an adjunct professor in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University where she worked on a special project with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1991, Jones became the first female appointed as the vice president of research and development Alabama A&M University. Jones then was appointed as the director of the Center for Biomedical, Behavioral and Environmental Research at Alabama A & M University. In 1992, she was appointed to U.S. Army Science Board by the U.S. Secretary of the Army, Togo West, served until 1998, and was reappointed in 2004 as a member of the U.S. Army Science Board under U.S. Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey. Jones moved to Jackson State University in Mississippi where she served on the Research Centers in Minority Institutions' External Advisory Committee. She has also acted as consultant for federal agencies on training programs to attract women and minorities to STEM disciplines.

Jones was listed in the *World's Women Who's Who* (1975) and she was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1978. Jones received the distinguished service award from the Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society and the Significant Service Award from the NASA Space Life Sciences Training Program. In 2003,

the National Institutes of Health (NIH) gave her its Extramural Associate Research Development Award. At Alabama A&M University, she was bestowed the Outstanding Leadership Award, a Resolution for Distinguished Service from the Board of Trustees, and was named Woman of the Year in 1990 and 2006.

Jeanette Jones was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on 4/10/2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jeanette Jones was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 10, 2013, in Huntsville, Alabama, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Biologist Jeanette Jones (1950 -), the first female vice president for research and development for approximately seven years at Alabama A & M University, is the director of the Center for Biomedical, Behavioral and Environmental Research at Alabama A & M University.

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:

Jones, Jeanette, 1950-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jones, Jeanette, 1950- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Biologist

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 Jeanette Jones, April 10, 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 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 Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_001, TRT: 1:29:09 ?

Jeanette Jones talks about her family background. Her mother, Alice Jacobs, was

born in April of 1931 in Fort Valley, Georgia. After graduating from Hunt High School, she worked at the Blue Bird Body Company and Fort Valley State University. Jones's father, Willie Lee Jones, was born in October of 1928 in Fort Valley, Georgia. He was raised by his grandmother on their family farm in Roberta, Georgia. He also graduated from Hunt High School and worked at the Blue Bird Body Company and the Pearson Mills factory. He was unable to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces due to a recurring leg injury. Jones talks about her parents, their love for dancing, her siblings, and her earliest childhood memories.

African American families--Georgia.

Husband and wife--Georgia.

Childhood--Georgia--1950-1960.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_002, TRT: 2:29:46 ?

Jeanette Jones talks about her upbringing in Fort Valley, Georgia. Her family attended St. Peter AME Church, where she sang in the choir and regularly attended Sunday school. She talks about her childhood neighborhood and shares more of her childhood memories, such as the sounds of the trains, playing on the railroad tracks, and climbing trees with her cousins. Jones attended Hunt Elementary School and Hunt High School, both of which were founded by Henry Alexander Hunt. She enjoyed reading and cites John Keats' "Endymion" and Phyllis Wheatley as being among her favorites. She talks about her father's influence on her math skills, her early interest in science, her fascination with the natural world, and her favorite teachers. She also talks about some of her favorite musicians growing up, such as Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, and James Brown.

Children--Religious life--Georgia.

African American educators--Georgia.

Children--Books and reading.

Mathematics--Parent participation.

African American singers.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_003, TRT: 3:28:26 ?

Jeanette Jones was among the top of her graduating class from Hunt High School in Fort Valley, Georgia. She was encouraged to seek higher education and decided to attend Fort Valley State University, due to her impressions of the school throughout her upbringing and its proximity to her home in Fort Valley. She talks about her experience there, her favorite teachers, and her decision to major in biology education. After receiving her B.S. degree in 1972, Jones attended The Ohio State University on a fellowship. She studied mycology, experimental psychology, physiology, and axenic cultures. Jones talks about her experience at The Ohio State University and describes a racist encounter from one of her professors, who had not met a black person until he met her.

African American high school students--Academic achievement.

Fort Valley State University--Students.

Biology--Study and teaching (Higher)--United States.

African American college students--Scholarships, fellowships, etc.

Discrimination in higher education--Ohio.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_004, TRT: 4:30:54 ?

Jeanette Jones reflects on her experience at The Ohio State University and talks about the initiatives of Dr. Frank W. Hale, who served as associate dean and

chairman of the fellowship committee of the graduate school during her time there. Jones's affinity toward nature advanced into an interest in mycology, the study of fungi; she is particularly interested in medical mycology, which concerns fungi's influence on human disease. Her doctoral dissertation research focused on the morphology and the growth of *pieidia hortae*, which causes Black piedra, a superficial fungal infection of the hair shaft. Jones talks about fungi, the difficulty with treating fungal diseases, her concerns about spore dispersal, and the response to her research on *Candida Albicans*.

African American graduate students--Ohio.

Hale, Frank W.

Mycology--Study and teaching.

Medical mycology.

Mycoses--Treatment.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_005, TRT: 5:28:20 ?

Jeanette Jones received her Ph.D. degree in botany with concentrations in microbiology and medical mycology from The Ohio State University in 1976. She was then recruited to join the graduate faculty at Alabama A&M University. In 1982, Jones studied fungal immunology at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The following year, she took her first trip overseas to the Third International Mycological Congress in Tokyo, Japan; she also visited China. Jones talks about her other professional activities and her explanations of fungi, and mushrooms.

African Americans--Doctoral students--Ohio.

Alabama A & M University--Faculty.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.).

Mycology--Congresses.

Mushrooms--Nutrition.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_006, TRT: 6:28:01 ?

Jeanette Jones talks about influential mycologists, such as Norman Francis Conant and Libero Ajello, and incorporating technology into studying fungi. She continues talking about her professional activities and career, of over thirty years, at Alabama A&M University. Jones has also served in substantial roles with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), intermittently. In the summers of 1986 and 1987, she served as an adjunct professor in the pharmacy department at Florida A&M University. In 1989, while serving as assistant vice president at the NIH, Jones was involved in establishing the NASA funded Space Grant Fellowship Program at Alabama A&M. Jones talks about her other professional activities, as well as her goals for Alabama A&M, fundraising, and The Links, Inc.

Mycologists--United States.

National Institutes of Health (U.S.)

Alabama A & M University--Administration.

Alabama A & M University--Finance.

Alabama A & M University--Scholarships, fellowships, etc.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanette Jones, Section A2013_101_001_007, TRT: 7:19:50 ?

Jeanette Jones reflects on her life choices and legacy. She also talks about the presidents of Alabama A&M University, her hopes and concerns for the African American community, her family, and how she would like to be remembered. Finally, Jones describes her photos.

African American universities and colleges.

Single women--Family relationships--United States.

African American families.

Photographs.