

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Lupton

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lupton, William, 1941-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton,
Dates:	July 13, 2010
Bulk Dates:	2010
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:57:35).
Abstract:	Computer science professor and computer scientist William Lupton (1941 -) was chairman of the computer science department at Morgan State University beginning in 1991. Lupton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 13, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2010_058
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Computer scientist William Lupton was born on May 26, 1941, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Central High School, graduating in 1959. That same year, Lupton joined the United States Navy and became a sailor, eventually becoming a U.S. Naval Flight Officer and attained the rank of Commander. He logged over 5,000 flight hours in his career and earned five Strike/Flight air medals for his combat cruises to Vietnam. In 1972, Lupton attended the Naval Postgraduate School in California where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in computer science. In 1980, Lupton served as chairperson of the computer science department at the United States Naval Academy. While there, he designed one of the most innovative and complete computer science majors in the country.

In 1981, Lupton took a position as a Professor of Naval Science at Louisiana State University and while there, he earned his Ph.D. degree in expert database systems. Following his tenure at LSU in 1987, he joined the faculty at Jackson State University and chaired the computer science department from 1987 to 1991. In 1991, Morgan State University invited Lupton to chair its computer science department, where he presently serves. Since 2007, Lupton has been the principal investigator of Morgan State University's Network Resources and Training Site in the Minority University-Space Interdisciplinary Network project which aims to inspire young minority scientists and engineers.

Lupton has been president of the Baltimore and National chapters of the National Technical Association and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was also the inaugural national president of the Association of the Departments of Computer Science and Engineering at Minority Institutions (ADMI). He has generated over \$5 million in funding to improve science and science education.

Lupton is married to Monica McKinney and has three sons, Michael, Steven, and Scott Lupton.

William Lupton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 13, 2010.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Lupton was conducted by James Stith on July 13, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Computer science professor and computer scientist William Lupton (1941 -) was chairman of the computer science department at Morgan State University beginning in 1991.

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:

Lupton, William, 1941-

Stith, James (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lupton, William, 1941- --Interviews

African American scientists--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Morgan State University

Occupations:

Computer Scientist

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 William Lupton, July 13, 2010. 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 William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_001, TRT: 0:30:13 ?
William Lupton talks about his maternal grandparents, Annie Golden Thomas

and William James Thomas, and mentions briefly his paternal grandmother, Carrie Mann. He recalls how his maternal grandfather worked in the Philadelphia Gas Company and his maternal grandmother worked for a doctor's family in New Jersey. He shares memories of his grandfather's youth, and then describes the family background of his mother, Mary Katherine Thomas Lupton, who grew up in a big family in Virginia. Lupton recalls that his father, Clement Merrill Lupton, Sr., worked as an auto mechanic in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Lupton relates memories of his childhood, including mischief with his cousin, Arthur Thomas, fixing the family's broken stereo, and arguing with his father about horse-racing. Lupton closes the first tape by discussing his family's history with the United States Navy.

Philadelphia Gas Works.

United States. Navy--African Americans.

African American families--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

African American families--Virginia.

Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_002, TRT: 0:28:55 ?

William Lupton describes his earliest memories of growing up and attending General George G. Meade Elementary School, Robert Vaux Jr. High School, and Central High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lists some of his classmates, including Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Bill Cosby. After briefly touching upon how his parents met, Lupton then remembers some of his elementary school experiences, particularly buying mustard pretzels from a vendor he called Mustard Pretzel Joe. Lupton then details the sights, sounds and smells of his neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and recalls an emergency visit to the doctor. Lupton describes himself as a critical thinker, and the emphasis placed on education in his household.

Education, Elementary--Pennsylvania.

Education, Secondary--Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Social life and customs.

African Americans--Childhood and youth.

Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_003, TRT: 0:29:08 ?

William Lupton first discusses his college aspirations during his high school years, when he would wear a sweatshirt that read "Lupton University." Before discussing his entrance to the United States Navy, Lupton describes his extracurricular interests and the role of religion in his life. Lupton then describes how he sought out an education through his service in the United States Navy aboard the USS Forrestal after realizing that he would prefer to fly planes rather than work five levels below sea-level amongst the ship's artillery. He remembers first earning two years worth of credits through a correspondence college program, then attending school at the Naval Station Great Lakes in North Chicago, Illinois. He outlines his career path, touching upon his service during the Vietnam War as a pilot, and subsequently receiving his graduate education in computer science at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, California.

United States. Navy--African Americans.

Student activities.

Naval Station Great Lakes (Ill.).

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Aerial operations, American.

Computer science--Study and teaching (Higher)--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_004, TRT: 0:28:59 ?

William Lupton discusses his involvement in the Vietnam War as a pilot in the United States Navy. He shares a lengthy story about an incident landing at Da Nang, Vietnam. Continuing in the progression of his life story, Lupton then recounts his education at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, California. He talks about his experiences at the United States Naval Academy, where he constructed and later became chairman of the academy's computer science department. Lupton describes another landing mishap aboard the USS Nimitz, following his departure from the United States Naval Academy in 1984. Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Aerial operations, American.

Đà Nẵng (Vietnam).

United States Naval Academy. Computer Science Dept.

Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_005, TRT: 0:31:59 ?

William Lupton starts this interview describing what happened to his aircraft aboard the USS Nimitz. He then details his role as Professor of Naval Sciences and commanding officer of the Navy ROTC at Louisiana State University and Southern University and A&M College in Louisiana. He subsequently describes his tenure at Jackson State University, where he recreated the school's computer science department, and he touches upon how he was able to earn his Ph.D. degree during this time period. Lupton then discusses his role at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, beginning in 1991. Lupton recalls how he developed the computer science department in the school, and the difficulty in balancing his roles as researcher and department chair. He describes the National Technical Association, an organization of which he served as president from 2004 to 2006, and closes the interview by discussing his interest in computer science as a growing field.

Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.). Dept. of Computer Science.

Morgan State University--Faculty.

Computer science--Forecasting.

Computer science--Study and teaching (Higher)--United States.

Southern University and A & M College.

National Technical Association (U.S.).

Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_006, TRT: 0:28:16 ?

Lupton first discusses some topics relevant to modern computer science, including parallel computing, Moore's Law and quantum computing. He then discusses the struggles of acquiring government funding, and how the amount of funding for government agencies has diminished in the early part of the twenty-first century. After describing the faculty in the Department of Computer Science at Morgan State University, Lupton then stresses the importance of service in academia and reflects on the changing academic atmosphere and objectives of the university. Lupton then reflects on the aspects of his career that he has enjoyed. He shares the successes of his three sons, offers some advice for a student interested in pursuing a career in science and considers his legacy.

Computer science--Vocational guidance.

Government aid to education.

Education, Higher--Social aspects--United States.

Morgan State University--Faculty.

Video Oral History Interview with William Lupton, Section A2010_058_001_007, TRT: 0:00:05 ?

William Lupton narrates his photographs.