

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Steven Richardson

PERSON

Richardson, Steven Leslie, 1953-

Alternative Names: Steven Richardson;

Life Dates: July 22, 1953-

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Silver Spring, MD

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Physicist;

Biographical Note

Physicist and engineering professor Steven L. Richardson was born on July 22, 1953 in Brooklyn, New York. His father, Edward Alfred Richardson, was a subway conductor and his mother, Juanita Pearl Richardson, was a nurse. Richardson excelled in academics and pursued his interests in literature, science and mathematics at Brooklyn Preparatory High School. He attended Columbia University where he studied chemistry on a National Achievement Scholarship. He received advanced degrees from The Ohio State University: his M.S. degree in physics in 1981 and his Ph.D. degree in theoretical condensed matter physics in 1983. During his graduate studies, he was an International Business Machines (IBM) Minority Graduate Fellow and a Xerox Graduate Fellow. At Xerox, he discovered a new semiconductor surface for Gallium arsenide (GaAs), which he included in his Ph.D. dissertation.

Following graduation, Richardson was a Chancellor's Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley and in 1985, he was a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. In 1986, Richardson was hired to work at Eastman Kodak Company as a senior research scientist in the Solid State Science Laboratories. From 1987 to 1988, he took a temporary leave from Kodak to serve as program director for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Condensed Matter Theory Program. In 1989, he joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Howard University as an associate professor and associate director of the Materials Science Research Center of Excellence. In 1995, Richardson was promoted to full professor. From 1997 to 2011, he served as a summer faculty fellow with the United States Navy-American Society for Engineering Education's Summer Faculty Program at the Naval Research Laboratory. Richardson's research

utilized supercomputers to calculate the structural, electronic and vibrational properties of molecules. His research has been supported by many public institutions including, the Office of Naval Research, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation.

Richardson is a member of the American Physical Society, American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has received the National Science Foundation Career Advancement Award and served as a Distinguished Sigma Xi National Lecturer. Richardson works in Washington, D.C.

Steven Richardson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 14, 2012.

Related Entries

The Ohio State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

The Ohio State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Brooklyn Preparatory High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Columbia University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

National Science Foundation (NSF) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to ?]

Program Director, Condensed Matter Theory Program, Division of Materials Research

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to 1995]

Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to ?]

Associate Director, Materials Science Research Center of Excellence

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1995 to ?]

Professor of Electrical Engineering

Eastman Kodak Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Senior Research Scientist, Solid State Science Laboratories, Corporate Research Laboratory

American Physical Society (APS) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

American Chemical Society (ACS) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member