

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Eleanor Jones

PERSON

Jones, Eleanor, 1929-

Alternative Names: Eleanor Jones;

Life Dates: August 10, 1929-March 1, 2021

Place of Birth: Norfolk, Virginia, USA

Residence: Virginia Beach, VA

Occupations: Mathematician

Biographical Note

Mathematician and professor of mathematics, Eleanor Jones was born on August 10, 1929 in Norfolk, Virginia. Her mother, Lillian Vaughn Green, was a domestic worker, and her father, George Herbert Green, was a letter carrier. She attended Booker T. Washington High School where her favorite subject was mathematics. Jones graduated as valedictorian of her class at the age of fifteen and received a scholarship to attend Howard University. Jones received her B.S. degree in mathematics in 1949. She studied under Elbert Cox, the first African American to receive his Ph.D. degree in mathematics. Jones remained at Howard University where she received her M.S. degree in mathematics in 1950. Then, she returned to Booker T. Washington High School as a mathematics and science teacher for two years.

Jones was hired in 1955 as an associate professor of mathematics at Hampton University. When schools in Norfolk, Virginia were closed in 1958 due to forced integration, Jones helped tutor students in a local church. That same year, she also became vice chair of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Virginia. By 1962, Jones left Hampton to study mathematics at Syracuse University under the tutelage of Dr. James Reid. In 1965, she was elected to the Sigma Xi science honor society and went on to graduate from Syracuse University in 1966 as the eleventh African American woman to earn her Ph.D. degree in mathematics. Her thesis, entitled, "Abelian Groups and Their Endomorphism Rings and the Quasi-Endomorphism of Torsion Free Abelian Groups," examined advanced abstract algebraic concepts. In 1967, Jones rejoined the faculty at Hampton University. One year later, she became professor of mathematics and chair of the department at Norfolk State University.

Jones retired as professor emeritus from Norfolk University in 2003. She served on the Committee for Opportunities for Underrepresented Minorities of the American

Mathematical Society, the Executive board of the Association for Women in Mathematics and the Board of Governors for the Mathematical Association of America. Jones also held the position of vice president of the National Association of Mathematicians. She raised three sons, Everett B. Jones, Edward A. Dawley and the late Herbert G. Dawley.

Eleanor Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 7, 2012.

Jones passed away on March 1, 2021.

Related Entries

Booker T. Washington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

diploma

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Syracuse University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Douglass Park Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Booker T. Washington High School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Mathematics and Science Teacher

Hampton University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Professor and Chair

Norfolk State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1982]

Adjunct Professor

Hampton Institute [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1977]

Syracuse University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to ?]

Graduate Teacher's Assistant

Norfolk State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2001 to 2005]

Professor and Chair

ECPI College of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2005 to 2006]

Mathematics Teacher

Congress for Racial Equality [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Vice Chairman

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

American Mathematical Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Committee - Opportunities for Undergraduate Opportunities

Association for Women in Mathematics [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Executive Board (1989 -1994)

Mathematical Association of America (MAA) [MEMBEROF]
[from 1982 to ?]

Board of Governors (1983 - 1986)

National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) [MEMBEROF]
[from 2007 to ?]

Vice President (1975 - 1979)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to ?]

Local chapter (1958 - 1960)

The Links, Inc. [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

E. Area Treasure (1989 - 1993)