

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers ® Video Oral History with Sharon Haynie

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Haynie, Sharon, 1955-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie,
Dates:	March 24, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:43:24).
Abstract:	Chemist Sharon Haynie (1955 -) was known for her innovative research working with E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. Her research topics included developing peptides with antimicrobial properties and developing environmentally friendly pathways to create certain organic materials. Haynie was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 24, 2013, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_080
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Biochemist Sharon Haynie was born on November 6, 1955 in Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from Baltimore City Public Schools in 1973 and enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania. During her undergraduate years, she became fascinated with biochemistry and advanced inorganic chemistry. In her freshman year she was a work/study research assistant to a graduate student in organic chemistry. After receiving her B.A. degree in biochemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 1976, Haynie enrolled at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and graduated from there in 1981 with her Ph.D. degree in chemistry.

Haynie was appointed as a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories from 1981 to 1984. She then moved to the DuPont Company Experimental Station Laboratory. In her first assignment in the Central Research Department Haynie worked in the Medical Biomaterials Group. She conducted research in developing the synthetic materials used in vein replacements and she isolated peptides with inherent antimicrobial properties. She also worked with the award-winning bio-3G team. Haynie authored and co-authored numerous patents, many of which detail processes of using environmentally friendly, bio-inspired pathways in a laboratory setting to create certain organic materials. Haynie served as an adjunct professor of chemistry at Delaware State University and the University of Delaware. She has been a mentor to students through several outreach projects, such as Project SEED (Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged), a project sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS).

Haynie has been recognized for her scientific research and serving as a mentor to African Americans pursuing STEM careers. In 2003, not only did Haynie work on the research team that received the 2003 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Presidential Green Chemistry Award for New Innovation; but, she was also elected to serve as chair of the Philadelphia Section of the ACS. She is a member of the Chemical Heritage Foundation Board of Directors. The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical

Engineers bestowed upon her their Henry A. Hill Award in 2006 and their Percy L. Julian Award in 2008.

Sharon Haynie was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 24, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sharon Haynie was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 24, 2013, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Chemist Sharon Haynie (1955 -) was known for her innovative research working with E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. Her research topics included developing peptides with antimicrobial properties and developing environmentally friendly pathways to create certain organic materials.

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:

Haynie, Sharon, 1955-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Haynie, Sharon, 1955- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. Bell Laboratories

Occupations:

Chemist

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 Sharon Haynie, March 24, 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 Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_001, TRT: 1:28:23 ?

Sharon Haynie talks about her maternal grandfather, William Penn. He was born in Lorimers, Turks and Caicos in 1888. He was a British Merchant Marine and was stationed in Baltimore, Maryland, where he married Haynie's grandmother, Mary Unella Banner, and became a chef. Her grandmother died shortly after Haynie's mother, Inez Penn Haynie Dodson, was born in 1938, and her grandfather raised Haynie's mother and her siblings. In 1955 Haynie's mother both graduated high school and gave birth to Haynie. Haynie describes the influence of her grandfather in forming her ambition. She also talks her mother growing up in Baltimore and becoming a policewoman in the Baltimore Police Department.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_002, TRT: 2:28:31 ?

Sharon Haynie describes her father's family background. Her father, William Henry Haynie Jr., was born May 24, 1937. His family moved to Baltimore, Maryland from the Whitestone area in northern Virginia when he was young. Haynie's father joined the Army after Haynie was born and the family moved to Munich, Germany when he was stationed there. After two years, her parents divorced and she and her siblings moved back to Baltimore with her mother, Inez Penn Haynie. Her mother became a police officer, but eventually decided leave the Baltimore Police Department to become a claims officer for the City of Baltimore in 1974. Haynie also talks about her siblings, the neighborhoods she grew up in, and the first house her family owned.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_003, TRT: 3:28:18 ?

Sharon Haynie describes her elementary schools. In 1963, her family moved to Munich, Germany, where she was in German schools for two grades. When she returned to Baltimore, Maryland, Haynie took independent reading and math courses, because she had advanced past the traditional classes the elementary school offered. This allowed Haynie to transition to enriched classes at Rock Glen Junior High School, where she was introduced to science. While at Rock Glen, Haynie decided to become a research scientist because of her experimental chemistry course. Haynie remembers the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President John F. Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy as well as the moon landing in 1969.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_004, TRT: 4:29:48 ?

Sharon Haynie attended Western High School, an all-woman's high school in Baltimore, Maryland. She talks about her high school mentors and her extracurricular activities. Haynie graduated from high school in 1973 and decided to attend the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania despite her family's concerns. She begins doing research as an undergraduate laboratory assistant in the laboratories of Dr. Arthur Humphrey and Dr. Brittan Chance. She worked with graduate students on biochemistry research projects such as the theory behind electron transport in cell membranes and single-cell protein production through fermentation.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_005, TRT: 5:28:26 ?

Sharon Haynie describes the influence that Dr. Phoebe Leboy had on her undergraduate career at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1977, Haynie began graduate studies in chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She shares how she chose Dr. George Whitesides as her research adviser. While at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Haynie researched the potential of phosphene ligands to alter the environment of chemical reactions and the production of carbohydrates using enzymes and organic synthesis. She received her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981 and began working at Bell laboratories. Haynie also talks about environmental stewardship in the field of chemistry.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_006, TRT: 6:29:43 ?

Sharon Haynie was recruited by Bell Laboratories in 1981 to conduct research on the degradation of polymers. Although the research was not in her area of interests, she learned how to ask important questions. She describes the work environment at Bell Laboratories and collaboration among the scientists. Haynie talks about the gender discrimination at Bell Laboratories. Haynie left Bell Laboratories in 1984 to work at DuPont, where the research was aligned more closely with her interests. At DuPont, Haynie researched biocompatible and antimicrobial materials. Haynie describes specifically her research on vein replacement materials and amphiphilic helices, an antimicrobial molecule. Between 1991 and 2008, Haynie received ten patents based on her research at DuPont.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_007, TRT: 7:28:21 ?

Sharon Haynie describes her involvement in Project SEED (Summer

Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged), a program where economically disadvantaged students work at a laboratory and receive mentoring. Haynie is also involved in the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE). She discusses the 3G Process, a green manufacturing process that Haynie helped develop, as well as other projects in Green Chemistry. Haynie describes her accomplishments, including the 2003 Presidential Green Challenge Award and the NOBCCChE 2006 Henry Hill Award, and reflects on her legacy. Haynie also offers advice for young people who want to enter the field of chemistry research.

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Video Oral History Interview with Sharon Haynie, Section A2013_080_001_008, TRT: 8:21:54 ?

Sharon Haynie discusses why she made the decision to enter industry rather than take an academic route to her career. She describes her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She talks about her siblings, Michael and Michele, and the death of her grandfather, William Penn, in 1974. Haynie reflects on her life and how she would like to be remembered as someone who helped others to reach their full potential. To conclude the interview Haynie describes her photographs.

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