

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with M. Brian Blake

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Blake, M. Brian, 1971-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake,
Dates:	June 3, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:42:25).
Abstract:	Computer scientist and academic administrator M. Brian Blake (1971 -) joined the faculty of Georgetown University in 1998, and went on to become the youngest African American tenured computer science professor and the first African American to become chair of the computer science department. He was also the first African American tenured professor in the College of Engineering at the University Notre Dame. Blake was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 3, 2013, in Miami, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_139
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Computer scientist and academic administrator M. Brian Blake was born in Savannah, Georgia. He graduated from Benedictine Military Academy in 1989 and then enrolled in the Georgia Institute of Technology where he graduated with his B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1994. In 1997, Blake earned his M.S. degree in electrical engineering with a minor in software engineering and a graduate certificate in object-oriented analysis and design from Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. He went on to earn his Ph.D. degree in information technology and computer science from George Mason University in 2000.

Upon graduation, Blake spent six years in industry working as a software architect, technical lead, and expert developer with companies such as General Electric (GE), Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, and The MITRE Corporation. Blake joined the department of computer science at Georgetown University in 1999 as an adjunct professor. After being promoted to associate professor in 2005, he became the youngest African American tenured computer science professor. In 2007, Blake was selected to chair Georgetown University's computer science department, making him the first African American appointed to the position. Blake was then brought on at Notre Dame University in 2009 where he served the Associate Dean of Engineering for Research and Graduate Studies, and as professor of computer science and engineering. Blake was also the first African American tenured professor in Notre Dame's College of Engineering. In May of 2012, Blake was named Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Miami. His research interests include

Blake has published more than 150 refereed articles and publications in the area of software engineering and the integration of Web-based systems. He served as the Associate Editor-in-Chief of *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Internet Computing*, and Associate Editor of *IEEE Transactions on Service Computing*. In 2006, he was selected to serve on the National Science Foundation Advisory Board for Computer,

Information Science, and Engineering. Blake is also a senior member of the IEEE Computer Society.

In 2007, was honored by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* as “One of 10 Emerging Scholars.” He was the creator and founder of the Web Services Challenge, an initiative that evaluates software engineering techniques in the area of web service composition. As an undergraduate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Blake was initiated in the ANAK Society and received the J. Erskine Love, Jr. Award. In 2003, *US Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine and Lockheed Martin recognized him as the “Most Promising Engineer/Scientist in Industry.”

Blake is married to Bridget Blake, a mechanical engineer who earned her M.B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University and now serves as a consultant for The MITRE Corporation. They have two sons: Brendan Blake and Bryce Blake. Brian M. Blake was interviewed by *he HistoryMakers* on June 3, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with M. Brian Blake was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 3, 2013, in Miami, Florida, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Computer scientist and academic administrator M. Brian Blake (1971 -) joined the faculty of Georgetown University in 1998, and went on to become the youngest African American tenured computer science professor and the first African American to become chair of the computer science department. He was also the first African American tenured professor in the College of Engineering at the University Notre Dame.

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:

Blake, M. Brian, 1971-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Blake, M. Brian, 1971- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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 M. Brian Blake, June 3, 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 M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_001, TRT: 1:29:22 ?

M. Brian Blake describes his family's background. Blake's mother, Jeneva Frazier Blake, was born in Estill, South Carolina in 1950. After completing high school, she moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, where she worked as a telephone operator. Blake talks about his mother's starting her own business with a clothing store, and her influence in his life. His father, Malworsth Blake, was also born in Estill, in 1948. He received an associate degree from Savannah State University, and joined the U.S. Army after the death of his first wife and unborn child in an automobile accident. Blake's parents married when his father was enlisted in the Army, and spent the next few early years stationed in Germany. After his return from the Army, Blake's father started a gas station service business in Savannah, Georgia, and later expanded into the liquor, real estate concrete distribution businesses.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_002, TRT: 2:28:32 ?

M. Brian Blake was raised in Savannah, Georgia, where he attended a small kindergarten school in his neighborhood. He then went on to the integrated Windsor Forest Elementary School, and recalls being bused to school. When his family moved neighborhoods, Blake transferred to Eli Whitney Elementary School, where he was exposed to racial prejudice for the first time. Blake describes his childhood memories of Savannah, the neighborhoods where his family lived, and his experience in grade school. He also talks about his parents' personalities, his sister, Kimberly Theresa Blake, and his family's involvement in Townsley Chapel AME Church.

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Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_003, TRT: 3:29:41 ?

M. Brian Blake attended Eli Whitney Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia, where his favorite subject was mathematics. He describes his father's influence on his math education, and his ability to apply math to practical use. When Blake was in the fifth grade, his father bought an Apple IIe computer, which soon became Blake's. Blake describes his early interest in computers, learning how to program, and attending a summer camp to learn BASIC programming. During high school, he also attended a computer simulation campy at Savannah State College. Blake describes his experience in middle school, and his academic performance there. He attended Benedictine Military Academy, a Catholic military school, where he received a foundational education.

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Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_004, TRT: 4:28:17 ?

In 1989, M. Brian Blake graduated from Benedictine Military High School in Savannah, Georgia, and enrolled in the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), where he decided to major in electrical engineering. Blake talks about his experience in high school, his preparation for computer science, and his extracurricular activities there. Blake began to run track as a freshman in high school, and talks about his parents attending his track events. During the summer between his junior and senior year in school, Blake attended a two-week summer minority introduction to engineering program at Purdue University, which influenced his decision to pursue engineering in college. He describes his experience at Georgia Tech, and talks about his mentors and his research projects in computer science. In 1994, Blake graduated with his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, as a member of the ANAK honor society at Georgia Tech.

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Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_005, TRT: 5:28:12 ?

In 1994, M. Brian Blake was hired as a software engineer at Lockheed Martin Information Systems, and worked in Orlando, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. He describes his decision to pursue the Edison Engineering Program at General Electric, and his experience working as a software engineering consultant while pursuing his master's degree. In 1997, Blake received his M.S. degree in electrical engineering with a minor in software engineering and a graduate certificate in object-oriented analysis and design from Mercer University in Georgia. In 1998, Blake enrolled at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, to pursue his Ph.D. degree in information and software engineering. He describes his dissertation research on workflow models, his relationship with his mentor, Skip Ellis, and his decision to pursue a professorship at Georgetown University. He also explains his reasons for leaving Lockheed Martin to work as a lead software systems consultant at the MITRE Corporation in 1999.

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Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_006, TRT: 6:30:52 ?

In 2000, Blake was appointed as an assistant professor at Georgetown University, while continuing to pursue his career at the MITRE Corporation. He talks about his mentors, his work on Workflow Automation through Agent-based Reflective Processes (WARP), serving as an expert witness, and as a consultant federal government projects. Blake was appointed as the lead

software process consultant for the Imaging Science and Information Systems Research Center (ISIS) in 2003, received tenure in 2005, and became the chair of the computer science department at Georgetown in 2007. He describes his involvement in mentoring, and in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). In 2009, Blake became the associate dean of engineering, research and graduate studies and a professor of computer science and engineering at University of Notre Dame. He also talks about Beverly Magda, the associate dean of the master of professional studies in technology management at Georgetown.

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Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_007, TRT: 7:29:05 ?

In 2009, M. Brian Blake was appointed as the associate dean of engineering, research and graduate studies, and a professor of computer science and engineering at University of Notre Dame. In 2012, Blake was named vice provost for academic affairs and dean of the graduate school at the University of Miami. In this section of the interview, Blake describes his experience at Notre Dame and the University of Miami. He discusses his research focus in the area of service-oriented computing and cloud computing, the cutting edge in computer science research, and his collaboration with HistoryMakers Ayanna Howard and Andrew Williams. Blake also reflects upon his administrative goals for the future, and his career's legacy.

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Video Oral History Interview with M. Brian Blake, Section A2013_139_001_008, TRT: 8:18:24 ?

In this closing section of the interview, M. Brian Blake talks about his family, reflects upon his career, and talks about how he would like to be remembered. Blake describes his goals for the University of Miami, and his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He also shares his views on the University of Miami's football team, and discusses the importance of financial management.

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