Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616
info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Deconge-Watson, Lovenia

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson,

Dates: June 9, 2010

Bulk Dates: 2010

Physical Description: 7 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:46:19).

Abstract: Math professor Lovenia Deconge-Watson (1933 - ) served as Chair and Professor of Mathematics at Southern University from 1986 to 1995, and was a member of the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Family from 1957 to 1976. Deconge-Watson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 9, 2010, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2010_049

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Mary Lovenia DeConge was born on October 3, 1933, in Wickliffe, Louisiana, to Adina Rodney and Alphonse Frank DeConge. Her family was Creole, and she was bilingual speaking both English and French. In 1943, The DeConge family settled in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and six years later, at the age of 16, DeConge was called to the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Family. She took her permanent vows as Sister Mary Sylvester DeConge in 1957. Two years later, DeConge earned her B.A. degree in mathematics and French from Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pennysylvania and began to teach high school Mathematics and French at Holy Ghost High School in Opelousas, Louisiana. In 1961, DeConge applied for and received a National Science Foundation Academic Year award to study for a master’s degree in Mathematics and French, which she earned from Louisiana State University in 1962. That year, she began teaching math at Delille Junior College, and from 1964 to 1968, she attended St. Louis University and earned her Ph.D. in mathematics with a minor in French. After receiving her degree, DeConge served as assistant professor of Mathematics at Loyola University of New Orleans, and she transferred to Southern University as Associate Professor of Mathematics in 1971. In 1976, DeConge chose to leave her Order of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and in 1982, she was promoted to Professor of Mathematics at Southern University. One year later, DeConge married Roy Watson, Sr., and became Dr. Lovenia DeConge-Watson. From 1986 to 1995, DeConge-Watson served as Chair and Professor of Mathematics at Southern University, and from 1993 to 2003, DeConge-Watson served as Director of “Modeling Integrated Mathematical Experiences” (MIME), a National Science Foundation Project at Southern University aimed at improving mathematics and science education at all levels. MIME was funded by a $10,000,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. From 1995 to 1998, DeConge-Watson directed the Center for Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology at Southern University and the A&M College System. A recipient of Southern University’s Outstanding Chair and Department of the Year Award in 1990 and St. Louis University’s Outstanding Graduate of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Award in 1996, DeConge-Watson has served as an interim Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs in 1998, and as interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in 2003. She retired in 2004. Lovenia DeConge-Watson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers...
on June 9th, 2010.

**Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson was conducted by Gines, Denise on June 9, 2010, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was recorded on 7 Betacam SP videocassettes. Math professor Lovenia Deconge-Watson (1933 - ) served as Chair and Professor of Mathematics at Southern University from 1986 to 1995, and was a member of the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Family from 1957 to 1976.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

**Restrictions on Use**

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**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:**

Deconge-Watson, Lovenia

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews
Lovenia Deconge-Watson--Interviews

** Organizations:**
HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/12/2011 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, June 9, 2010

Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_001, TRT: 0:28:59

Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_002, TRT: 0:26:28

Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_003, TRT: 0:29:37
Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_004, TRT: 0:29:18

Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_005, TRT: 0:30:46

Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_006, TRT: 0:12:35

Video Oral History Interview with Lovenia Deconge-Watson, Section A2010_049_001_007, TRT: 0:08:36