



Johnny L. Houston, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Elizabeth City State University-ECSU (UNC-SYSTEM)

Johnny L. Houston is Professor Emeritus at Elizabeth City State University-ECSU (1984-2010) where he served as Vice Chancellor-Academic Affairs and Senior Research Professor. He is Executive Secretary Emeritus of the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) (1975-2000) and served on NAM's Board of Directors for 50 years during NAM's 55 years (1969-2024). Houston earned three degrees in mathematics: BA, Morehouse Coll (1964); MS, Clark Atlanta U./Atlanta U. (1966); and a PhD, Purdue U. (1974); {dissertation title: "*On the Theory of Fitting Classes in Certain Locally Finite Groups*," Eugene Schenkman, Advisor}. Houston did additional study: U. of GA (Sum-1969) and L'Universite de Strasbourg (France), 1966-67. Houston received at least \$12 million dollars in grants for support of scholarly activities; and has produced over 25 publications (10+ mathscinet), 6 STEM textbooks (in English and French) for Senegal (Africa). Houston has given scores of scholarly presentations, as Invited Speaker, while traveling globally: 6 continents, over 70 different countries (25 in Africa), and in all 50 states in the USA. He taught/guided/ mentored and encouraged over one thousand students. At the BS level he supervised over 40 undergraduates REUs and at the MS level he was the advisor of over 20 MS theses while at ECSU (1984-2010), CAU/Atlanta U-Math Chair (1975-81), Ft. Valley St. U-Callaway Prof. CS (1981-84), Savannah St. U (1974-75), and Stillman Coll (1967-69). Many of these students did future graduate studies; some earned a PhD degree. He administered national/international programs for NAM and ECSU (established/directed) the CSSV Ctr-the Computational Science and Visualization Ctr, the Global Leadership Academy, (GLA), and ECSU/SENEGAL/USAID TLM-Program,

which produced/ delivered 5 million textbooks for schools in the African country of Senegal.

He served as a Visiting Scientist at NASA Langley Research Ctr., Argonne and Lawrence Livermore Nat'l Labs, and the Nat'l Ctr. for Atmospheric Research. His research interest varies, including: topology, Computational Sc., Algebraic Structures, and the History of African American Mathematicians; regarding the latter, he has served as Chair of NAM's Historical and Archival Committee (HAC) since 2018. Houston is a Life member of NAM, AMS, SIAM, and MAA (Bd of Gov, 1992-95), and a life member of the National Alumni Associations: Purdue U, Clark Atlanta U, Morehouse and ECSU. He has been an active member of NAM, AMS, MAA, SIAM, ACM, AWM, IEEE, ADMI (2nd VP, 1990-94), MSRI (HR Adv. Com, 1993-98), NC Supercomputer Ctr. (Adv. Com, 1994-2003), Purdue U Mathematical Sciences (Adv. Com. 1999-2002), NSF, NIH, and others. Houston civic and ecumenical activities include EC-RCCDC, Bd Ch; EC-Airport Auth. Bd Ch; Soc Ser-Bd Ch; EC-PC Found Bd-V Ch. Houston's honors-awards-recognitions include a White House State Dinner Guest (Sept 2008), selected a Math-Science History-Maker archived in USA Lib. Of Congress (2013), and a Mathematically Gifted and Black Honoree (2018). Two annual Math Lectures are established in his Name: the ECSU Johnny L. Houston Math'l Sciences Lecture (2016) and Purdue U. Johnny L. Houston Mathematics Lecture (2023), Houston was 1st speaker for each. In 2024 ECSU named a STEM Lecture-Classroom in Houston's Honor. Houston received NAM's Lifetime Achievement Award (1999), NAM's Co-Founder Award (2019), and NAM's 2nd Legacy Award (2024); UNC Bd of Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence (1996), NC Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service (1998), ECSU Chancellor Award (2004), presented the Prof. C. B. Dansby Lecture/unveiled the Dansby Exhibit (2010). Received the Purdue Black Cultural Center (BCC) Pioneer Award, 2009 (he was 1st Dir. of the BCC, 1972-73). Houston was lead adviser and a lead participant in the documentary: **Journeys of Black Mathematicians JBM** (2024), that was produced by **George Csicsery (Zalafilms) and SLMATH(MSRI)-CA**. In 1969, Houston married Virginia Lawrence, a Distinguished Educator from Macon, GA. They have two daughters: Mave T. Houston, PhD (Comp Sc) and Kaiulani Houston, PhD (Bio-Chem)/MD. Houston was born 19 November 1941 in Sandersville, GA,-USA. He is still active.