

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Oliver Mack

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0316

**IDENTIFICATION:** Party to the lawsuit which led to the admission of African American undergraduates to LSU in the 1960s.

**INTERVIEWER:** Mary Hebert

**SERIES:** University History - Integration and the African American Experience

**INTERVIEW DATE:** July 29, 1993

**FOCUS DATES:** Mid to late 1960s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 445**

Family background; mother attends LSU graduate school; childhood in South Baton Rouge; attends McKinley High School; public schools integrated during Mack's senior year; transfer application to Baton Rouge High rejected; harassment of African American students who attended predominantly white schools; interest in math and science; remembrances of influential high school teachers; desire to attend LSU; parents stress importance of college; becomes member of NAACP class action suit that demands that African Americans be allowed to attend LSU as undergraduates; expediency of court proceedings; did not actively participate in civil rights movement; does not encounter significant harassment at LSU; receives scholarships to help pay for college; begins working during sophomore year to help cover expenses; works part time for Louisiana Department of Highways; lives with parents during college; active in air force ROTC at LSU; recalls favorite professors at LSU; recollections of David Duke at LSU; concentrates on academic pursuits in lieu of socializing and many extra-curricular activities; gets married during college years; takes permanent position at Exxon after graduation; called to active duty in air force; does not encounter significant discrimination at Exxon; current community involvement; son's decision to attend Southern instead of LSU.

**TAPES:** 1 (T445)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 3 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 59 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** None