



eCOMMONS

Loyola University Chicago
Loyola eCommons

History: Faculty Publications and Other Works

Faculty Publications and Other Works by
Department

Summer 2017

Chicago's Education Innovators: Making History INterviews with Paul Adams III and Walter Massey

Timothy J. Gilfoyle

Loyola University Chicago, tgilfoy@luc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.luc.edu/history_facpubs



Part of the [Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Gilfoyle, Timothy J.. Chicago's Education Innovators: Making History INterviews with Paul Adams III and Walter Massey. *Chicago History*, 41, 2: 50-64, 2017. Retrieved from Loyola eCommons, History: Faculty Publications and Other Works,

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Publications and Other Works by Department at Loyola eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in History: Faculty Publications and Other Works by an authorized administrator of Loyola eCommons. For more information, please contact ecommons@luc.edu.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License](#).
© Chicago History Museum 2017

Chicago's Education Innovators: Making History Interviews with Paul Adams III and Walter Massey

TIMOTHY J. GILFOYLE

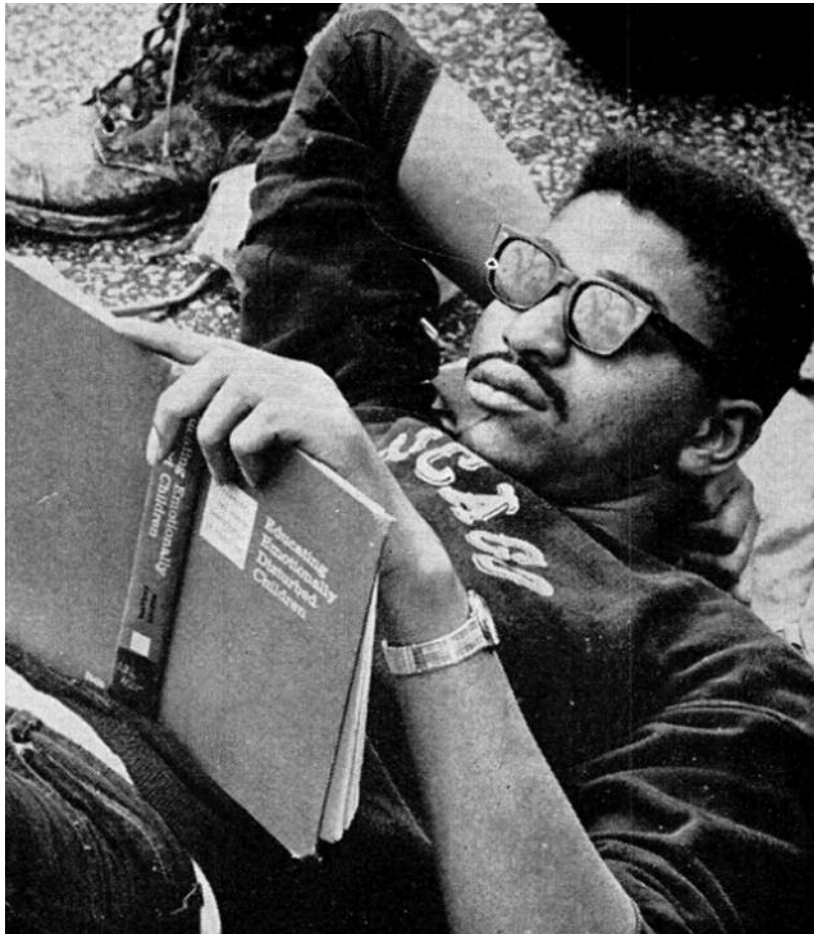
The influence of educators Paul Adams and Walter Massey extends far beyond Chicago. Both men share Southern roots: they grew up in racially-segregated urban communities and migrated to Chicago in search of employment opportunity. For more than forty-five years, Adams has served as the director of guidance, principal, and president of Providence St. Mel' School in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood. Adams's avid fund raising saved the school from closing in the 1970s and attracted the interest of and personal visits by President Ronald Reagan. In the ensuing decades, Adams was instrumental in transforming the school into what one study called the "model for urban education" in the United States.¹ For more than half a century, Massey has been a national leader in the promotion of science, technological innovation, and making technology accessible to wider segments of the American population. The physicist and self-taught business executive has served as president, chairman, or director of Morehouse College, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Science Foundation, Argonne National Laboratory, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Society of Black Physicists, and Bank of America.²

Paul Joseph Adams III was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on September 14, 1940, the eldest of four children of Patsy Lois and Paul Adams Jr.³ The Adams family resided in the vicinity of the historically black Alabama State University. "I lived nearby, two, three blocks from the college," remembers Adams. "Now the university's taken over the area that I lived in."



Paul J. Adams III (left) received the 2014 Robert Maynard Hutchins Making History Award for Distinction in Education. Walter E. Massey, PhD, (right) received the 2012 Enrico Fermi Making History Award for Distinction in Science, Medicine, and Technology.





Born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, Adams (left) returned to his home state in 1965 to participate in the Selma marches.

Massey (below) received a bachelor of science in physics and mathematics from Morehouse College in 1958. He later served as the ninth president of the college.

He recalls a stable middle- and working-class African American neighborhood. His nearby neighbors included Harper Councill Trenholm, the long-time president of Alabama State, and civil rights leader Reverend Ralph Abernathy. “The men went to work, and most of the ladies were housewives or they worked as domestics,” recounts Adams.⁴

Paul Adams Jr. worked on the “killing floor” of the nearby Armour Hormel slaughterhouse, and Patsy Adams was an elementary school teacher and principal.⁵ Both valued education and enrolled their children in private elementary and high schools in the Montgomery area.⁶ “When I grew up, getting an education was the most important thing,” explains Adams. “I always knew that I was going to go to college. Everybody in my family talked about it.”⁷

Walter Eugene Massey was born on April 5, 1938, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His father, Almar, was employed by the Hercules Powder Company and later moved to Chicago to work as a steelworker, while his mother, Essie Nelson Massey, was an elementary school teacher. Massey has mixed memories about his Mississippi childhood. “I had a good family and a lot of friends, but it was not fun growing up in a segregated society,” he explains. “Everyone had to drink out of ‘colored’ water fountains, and you couldn’t go in the front doors. But in spite of all that, I have fond memories.” By Massey’s account, “We were not poor. We were not wealthy.”⁸

In 1954, Massey enrolled at Morehouse College on a full scholarship after taking a Ford Foundation exam, which enabled him to skip his final two years of high school.⁹ “It was a three-year experiment, and I was with the third year, and there were fifteen students in each class,” recounts Massey. “The envi-





In 1970, Massey became the first African American professor of physics at Brown University and later, dean of the college (pictured at left). Among other notable activities at Brown, he turned his attention to bringing “people from historically under-represented groups into the sciences.”

ronment was challenging, Massey now admits. Some students had attended elite New England boarding schools and knew calculus and foreign languages. Massey, by contrast, had never taken advanced algebra, trigonometry, or chemistry. “My first week there, I called my mother and told her I wanted to come home. It was very, very scary.”¹⁰ His mother told him to stay put.

Morehouse’s entrance exam, however, boosted his confidence. “At that time, all of the freshmen had to take a placement exam, and the results were posted right on the front hall of the dorms,” Massey explains, adding that “they put your name and where you ranked from one to a 112.” He approached the public list with trepidation but then saw that he was ranked number five. “I was dumbfounded,” Massey declares. “I thought it was a mistake because I was so afraid I couldn’t succeed.” The experience was revelatory: “That was really one of the first times in my life that I thought, ‘Maybe I can do these things.’”¹¹

For Adams, 1955 was the instrumental year of his life. “In 1955, I met Dr. [Martin Luther] King. Emmett Till was pulled out of the Tallahatchie River near Money, Mississippi, and Rosa Parks sat down on the bus.” Till’s death was particularly disturbing because he was the same age as Adams. “I can remember just walking home and feeling the sweat running down my hand, thinking that could have been me fished out of that river.” Those events shaped his daily life and “set me on my road to whatever I was going to do,” admits Adams. “There’s not a day that I wake up that I don’t think about Dr. King, that I don’t think about Emmett and I don’t think about Rosa Parks.”¹²

Adams’s social activism began as a teenager in his childhood hometown. As a high-school student, he participated in the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955–56. After a brief enrollment in Los Angeles Community College, he returned to Montgomery to attend Alabama State and major in history. In 1961, he was arrested for participating in a peaceful protest against segregated lunch counters in downtown Montgomery. The protest was costly for Adams: Alabama State officials suspended him for a quarter term, and he was then blacklisted from any teaching position in Alabama upon graduation.¹³

Alabama’s loss was Chicago’s gain. The bleak employment prospects in Alabama convinced Adams to move to Chicago. “I had never been to

Chicago, never knew anybody in Chicago,” he remembers. Like many twentieth-century African American migrants to the city, he initially resided at the Wabash YMCA near Thirty-Seventh Street in the Bronzeville neighborhood. Adams discovered, however, that the Chicago Board of Education was not hiring new teachers, so he briefly worked at a carwash and then the Lunax Chemical Company at Thirty-Ninth Street and Wabash Avenue. In a short time, he landed a position at the Gatlin School at Chicago State Hospital, commonly known as the Dunning Asylum. Adams worked at Gatlin for several years, eventually becoming its principal, while simultaneously operating a Jack in the Box fast-food franchise at Eighty-Third Street and Cottage Grove Avenue and working on his master’s degree in psychology from Northeastern Illinois University.¹⁴

Massey followed a different path in college. He initially expected to major in music, but under the tutelage of Professor Sabinus H. Christensen, Massey fell in love with physics and became the only person in his class to major in the subject. Upon receiving his bachelor of science in mathematics and physics in 1958, Massey taught physics for a year at Morehouse and then briefly studied at Columbia University in New York and Howard University in Washington, DC, before transferring to Washington University in St. Louis. There he earned his PhD in theoretical physics in 1966.¹⁵

Massey then moved to Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood, while serving as a postdoctoral fellow for two years at the Argonne National Laboratory in suburban Lemont. “My thesis was looking at some of the properties of liquid helium, in particularly how it behaves at very low temperatures. It becomes something called a superfluid,” explains Massey. A group of physicists at Argonne was experimenting with strongly interacting fluids and materials at low temperature, remembers Massey. “They wanted to add a theoretician to the group to try to help come up with theories to explain the phenomenon that they were finding and find mathematical theorems to interpret and explain it.”¹⁶

In 1968, Massey accepted an assistant professorship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was anxious not only to get back into the classroom but to become more active in the civil rights movement. “I had begun to feel that I was not in the mainstream of the social issues of the time,” Massey admits in retrospect. “Just doing physics research itself removes you from mainstream social issues.”

That changed very quickly: “If I was concerned about being left out of the mainstream with social issues, that did not last long.” Within days of his arrival, the president of the Black Students Association called, asked for his help on behalf of the 264 African American students who had just been arrested for a peaceful demonstration in the student union. By the end of the year, Massey was not only the faculty advisor to the student association, but founder and first president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association.¹⁷

Shirley Anne and Walter Massey attend an Argonne holiday party in the early 1980s. The couple married in 1969, and they have two sons, Keith and Eric. Born and raised in Chicago, Mrs. Massey has “committed much of her life to causes for youth and culture.”





Providence St. Mel (left) holds a prominent place in Chicago's East Garfield Park. The original building dates to the late 1920s, when it was an all-girls Catholic high school.



In 1978, following the announcement that his school would close, Adams initiated a campaign that garnered national attention and transformed Providence St. Mel into an independent college preparatory school.

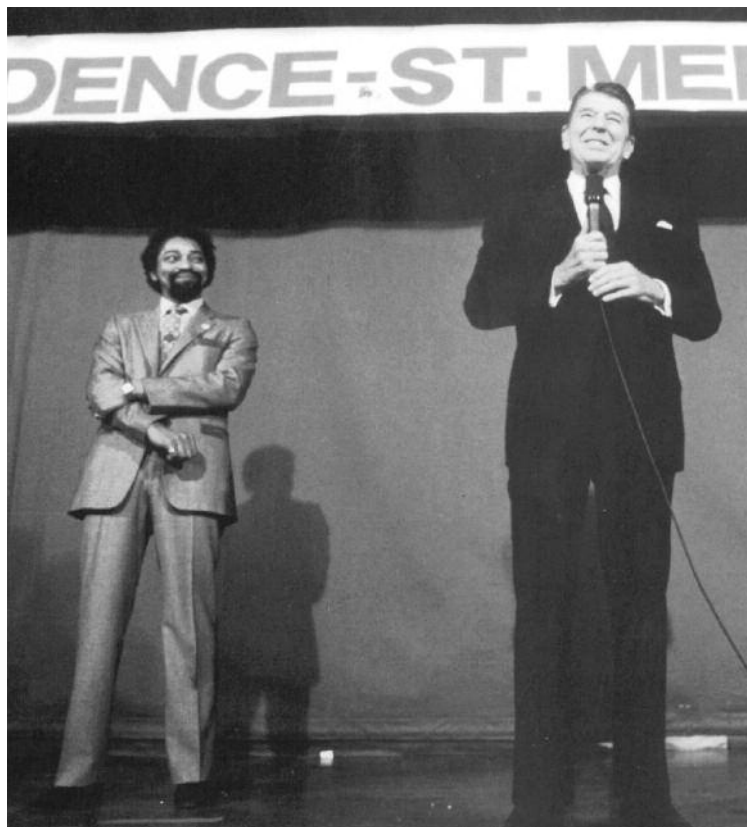
In 1971, Adams was hired as a one-year replacement to serve as the director of guidance at the Providence St. Mel School, a private Roman Catholic high school on the city's West Side.¹⁸ The school was going through a difficult transition, and at the end of the year, Adams was asked to become principal. In 1969, the all-male St. Mel High School had merged with the all-female Providence High School.¹⁹ The former was operated by the LaSalle Christian Brothers and the latter by the Sisters of Providence. The Sisters of Providence retained ownership of the property and continued to briefly run the school with the support of the Archdiocese of Chicago.²⁰

Student enrollment was dropping, however, and school's finances were hemorrhaging. In 1974, only the intervention of Mayor Richard J. Daley prevented Cardinal John Patrick Cody from closing the school. Adams was then thrust into another new position: "Now I've become a fundraiser, so I start bingo games and all kinds of little fundraisers."²¹ But Archdiocesan officials remained unconvinced about the long-term viability of Providence St. Mel's. In 1978, they paid Adams a visit. "They just walked in and said, 'We're going to close the school,'" he remembers vividly. "I'll never forget that as long as I live. I can almost repeat verbatim what was said in the meeting, and the rest is history."²²

That well-known history is that Adams immediately initiated a national fundraising campaign that attracted both local and national media attention.

The campaign proved so successful that Adams restructured and terminated Providence St. Mel's relationship with the Archdiocese, turning it into a not-for-profit independent school.²³ A key ingredient to the success of the campaign, Adams affirms, was Sister Loretta Schafer of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She encouraged Adams to fundraise and predicted that the religious order would sell the property to the school if they raised enough money. "It was a big risk for the order. They could have sold it to the public schools," Adams recalls. "It would have been a source of income for them. . . . But their statement was that Catholic education on the West Side should remain here."²⁴

While Adams was saving Providence St. Mel's, Massey had moved Brown University in Rhode Island. There he completed his most significant research: studying the changes in sound waves in superfluid helium.²⁵ His leadership talents, previously honed at the University of Illinois, did not go unnoticed. From 1975 to 1979, he served as Dean of the College at Brown.²⁶ While there, however, Massey witnessed discouraging social and racial conditions similar to those he had encountered at Illinois. Concerned about how ill-prepared minority students were for the college classroom, Massey founded and directed the Inner City Teachers of Science, an innovative program to prepare science teachers for work in urban schools.²⁷ "We constructed certain kinds of science courses," explains Massey. "As part of



Providence St. Mel's success story attracted the attention of President Ronald Reagan, prompting him to visit twice in the early 1980s and proclaim the school "a model for the nation to follow."

WEST SIDE SUCCESS STORY.

Three and a half years ago, when we gathered this group of students inside our front door, Providence-St. Mel was in serious trouble. The Archdiocese of Chicago had told us it couldn't continue to support the school. In the face of factors that we'd be forced to face, enrollment was declining. We weren't eligible for operating funds from federal, state or local government. We didn't have prosperous alumni to support us. What we did have were 340 kids who desperately wanted to achieve.

EATING THE ODDS.

We were used to doing the improbable. In the West Side neighborhood where most of our students live, unemployment is around 40%. Over half the families have incomes below the poverty level. Gangs, drugs, and crime are painful facts of daily life. It's for years, Providence-St. Mel has been sending over 90% of its students on to college—a higher percentage than you'll find at the best suburban schools on the North Shore. This time things looked impossible. Our students' families were barely making enormous sacrifices to pay for tuition. Our faculty is donating much of its time. But no matter how we added up the odds, we just didn't have enough to keep going. So we asked you for help.

A BIG BOOST FROM THE CITY OF THE BIG SHOULDERS.

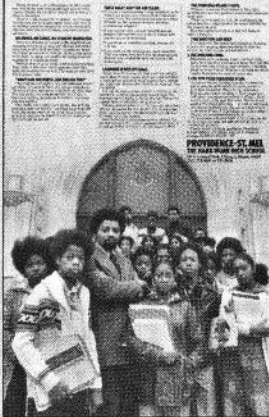
When we ran this ad we were betting precious dollars on the people of Chicago. The response was remarkable. It came from all over the city and all over the country.

You saved Providence-St. Mel. You can see the results of your generosity written on the photograph below. Out of the same streets that produce pushers and pimps come these hopeful, intelligent, successful kids. They're studying hard and making it. Where else can you get this kind of return on your investment?

THE WOLF'S AWAY FROM THE DOOR, BUT HE STILL LIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

It's an exciting time at Providence-St. Mel. Enrollment continues to grow, both in our high school and junior high. Thanks to a donation from Kerley Ink Company and a grant from Consolidated Foods, we've been able to begin a computer training program. In a

340 KIDS ARE ABOUT TO LEARN HARD WORK ISN'T WORTH A DAMN.



This ad appeared in the Wall Street Journal on June 27, 1978

special pre-med course for high school students sponsored by University of Illinois, we have the

highest percentage of enrollment of any city or suburban school. Last June, 95% of our senior class went on to college.

Scholastically things are great. Economically they're still shaky. Inflation has racked our "bare-bones" budget. Our expenses continue to outdistance our income. We still receive no operating funds from government sources.

The community we serve was hit first and hardest by the recession. Thirty talented upperclassmen couldn't return to Providence-St. Mel this year. They wanted to come back. They just didn't have the money. With partial scholarships, many could have returned. We wanted to provide them. We just didn't have the money.

If we raise tuition to meet rising costs, we'll have to turn more students away.

HELP US KEEP THE DOORS OPEN.

On the West Side, Providence-St. Mel is more than a school. It's a kind of oasis. A place where learning is truly respected. A place where people and property are respected.

Three and a half years ago, you

taught our kids a lesson they'll never forget: People do give a damn. Now we're asking you for help again. We need buses to take our kids safely to and from school. We need funding for scholarship programs. We've hired one reading specialist; we need help to hire another. Our 53-year-old building is in constant need of repair.

- \$30,000 would pay for a new bus.
 - \$ 1,000 would fund a scholarship student.
 - \$ 3,500 would fix up a classroom.
 - \$10,000 would renovate a corridor.
 - \$50,000 would pay our winter heating bills.
 - \$10,000 would buy new books we need for the library.
- Any amount that you can give will help to meet these needs. It doesn't matter if you can only afford a small contribution; every penny means that we can do more for our students.

Checks should be made payable to: Providence-St. Mel High School, Inc., 119 S. Central Park, Chicago, Illinois 60624. (312) 722-4600 or 826-4668. State of Illinois Tax Exempt No. 26633. Federal Tax Exempt No. 36-2977187

PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL THE HARD WORK HIGH SCHOOL

Adrienne Townsend
Univ. of Illinois (Chicago Circle)
Fr.—Business Admin.

Cynthia Waller
Transferred Before Graduation
Employed Full Time

Ronald Brown
2 Years at Knox College
Employed Full Time

Doreene Curtis
Univ. of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana)
Jr.—Pre-Med

Rochelle Redmond
Knox College
Jr.—Pre-Law

Michael McTeer
Southern Illinois Univ.
Fr.—Engineering

Ronald Price
2 1/2 years at Princeton
Employed Full Time

Glenda Fleming
Univ. of Illinois (Chicago Circle)
Fr.—Business Admin.

Aquinetta Sanders
Mundelein College
Jr.—Special Education

Derrick Powell
Knox College
Soph.—Engineering

Monica Abrams
Univ. of Chicago
Jr.—Psychology

Billy Bledsoe
Univ. of Arkansas
Fr.—Architecture

Oscar Perry
Loyola Univ.
Soph.—Pre-Med

Wanda Baskin
Univ. of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana)
Fr.—Business Admin.

Darryl White
Univ. of Illinois (Chicago Circle)
Soph.—Engineering

Angeleada Crowell
MacMurray College
Jr.—Linguistics

Audrey Anderson
Loyola Univ.
Jr.—Pre-Med

Robert Davis
Loyola Univ.
Soph.—Pre-Med

those courses, you had to spend time in the schools, tutoring students who were working with prospective teachers from their freshman year at Brown.”²⁸

In 1979, Massey was invited to return to the Midwest as professor of physics at the University of Chicago and director of the Argonne National Laboratory, overseeing a workforce of more than four thousand and a budget exceeding \$250 million.²⁹ In 1984, the university expanded his role, naming Massey vice president for research, while continuing to oversee Argonne.³⁰ Massey’s supervision of Argonne was particularly focused on developing relationships between private enterprise and university scientists. He tackled the absence of university-business connections in the Chicago region by launching the Argonne National Laboratory-University of Chicago Development Corporation (ARCH), an organization designed to encourage and facilitate the transfer of technologies created in the laboratory to private industry.³¹

Massey was among the first to recognize the need to promote and develop the Chicago economy as a high-tech center. “There were the universities who were not doing things together, and the labs were not working with universities,” Massey remembers. In general, he summarizes, “We didn’t have an infrastructure in place to support scientists and engineers who wanted to go out [on their own]. And then we didn’t have the venture capital. We didn’t



In 1982, during his tenure as director of Argonne, Massey (left) saw the installation of the inaugural piece of art on the laboratory’s grounds: the first outdoor site-specific pavilion/sculpture by Dan Graham (center).

have space for start-ups.” Today, those issues “are being addressed,” Massey believes. Although the technological demands have changed and the state of Illinois is no longer competing for a supercollider as it was in the 1980s and 1990s, he adds that “there’s a lot of venture capital now in the area. We have spaces for start-ups and a lot of companies are booming.”³²

Massey’s position at the intersection of science and business made him a pivotal figure in Chicago and the nation at large. In 1982, he chaired the Chicago Mayoral Task Force on High-Technology Development and the Chicago High-Tech Association. At the invitation of Governor James Thompson, he served on the Illinois Governor’s Commission on Science and Technology. Massey was also deeply engaged in organizing the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, a public, tuition-free, residential high school in Aurora, Illinois, for talented students. He simultaneously served as a trustee for the Academy for Mathematics and Science Teachers.³³ Nationally, Massey was a member of the National Science Board, the policy-making body of the National Science Foundation, from 1978 to 1984. In 1989, he became president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an organization including more than 140,000 members and 285 scientific societies.³⁴ A year later, President George H. W. Bush named Massey to the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.³⁵ All of these positions

enabled Massey to advertise and promote science education. In his presidential address to the AAAS, he warned the membership: “If we look at the comparative performance of American students relative to that of their peers in other countries, we see that a great deal needs to be done.”³⁶

Adams was equally versatile in his responsibilities, albeit in a much different way. He was totally devoted to Providence St. Mel’s. “I was the principal, head janitor, director of guidance. You name it, I was doing it,” he remembers, adding “I even cut the grass.” Adams’s dedication was inspirational to students and parents alike. Equally important, Adams’s ability to build and maintain a model academic program in a low-income, inner-city neighborhood attracted the interest and ultimately financial support of leading Chicago business figures, including W. Clement Stone of Consolidated Insurance, John E. Swearingen of Standard Oil, Patrick G. Ryan of Aon, and Robert W. Galvin of Motorola.³⁷



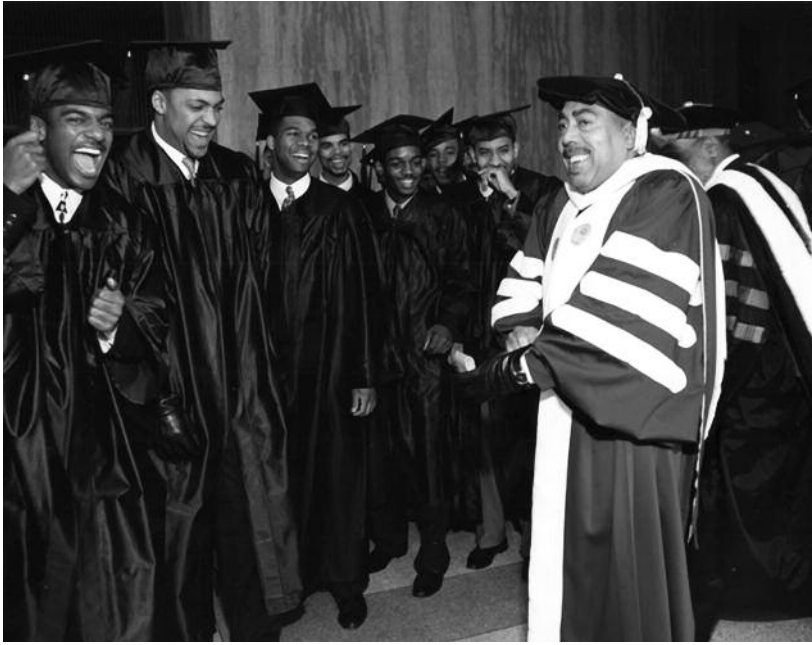
Above: Massey (center) aboard a ship in Lake Michigan with employees of Argonne and the US Department of Energy, early 1980s. Below: As director of the National Science Foundation, Massey (right) visited Antarctica in 1992.



The investment paid off. For forty years, Providence St. Mel School has been a national beacon for inner-city and minority education in the United States. Since 1978, 100 percent of Providence St. Mel's seniors have been accepted to college. The curriculum remains rooted in the traditional liberal arts. In 2015, the entire senior class was accepted by Ivy League colleges and other top tier universities.³⁸ Adams makes no apologies for the academic rigor found in the Providence St. Mel curriculum. "Our school has to be globally competitive, wherever you come from, you know where you're going," he emphasizes. "I've always adhered to very strict regimentation, and the teachers are the highest quality," he insists. "The reason Providence St. Mel is successful is because we have great teachers, bar none. That's the secret."³⁹

Adams's commitment to education at Providence St. Mel is absolute. The school has expanded five times—adding grades 7 and 8 (1980), grades 5 and 6 (1987), grades 1 to 4 (1993), kindergarten (2000), and a pre-K program (2008).

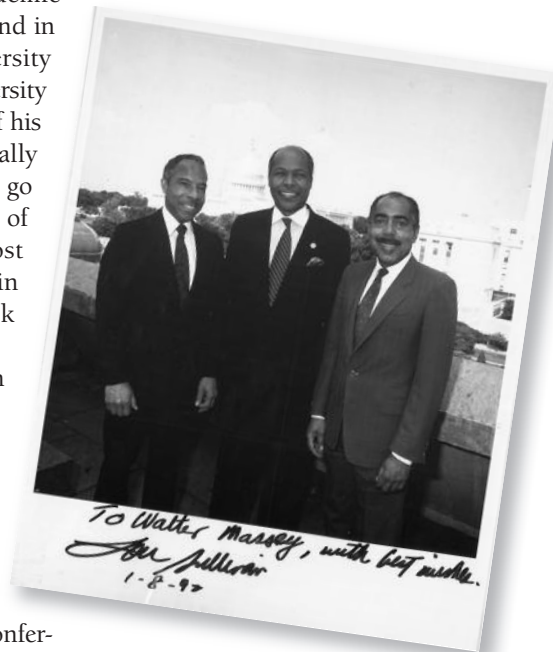




President Massey celebrates with Morehouse graduates shortly before his retirement from the college, c. 2006.

In 1993, Massey’s career entered a new phase. He was named provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of California system, second in command of the nation’s largest public university system. Massey was the heir apparent of the University of California when he was asked to be president of his alma mater Morehouse College.⁴⁰ Massey initially resisted the invitation. “First of all, I didn’t want to go back South. I spent my whole life trying to get out of the South, and I’m finally in California at the most admired and greatest public research university in the world,” he recalls. “What more can you ask for?”⁴¹

But duty called, and Massey became the ninth president of Morehouse. From 1995 to 2007, Massey transformed the institution, first by choosing to live on campus with his wife, Shirley, and then spearheading a successful \$120 million fundraising campaign.⁴² Massey also created an academic village within Morehouse, organized around a series of new structures: the 70,000-square-foot Leadership Center with an executive conference center (renamed the Walter E. Massey Leadership Center and the Shirley A. Massey Conference Center in 2012, respectively), the John H. Hopps Jr. Technology Tower, the 375-bed Otis Moss Jr. Residential Suites, and the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center.⁴³ Massey, working with other Atlanta institutions, including Spelman College, the Morehouse School of Medicine, and the Atlanta Public Housing Authority, also addressed the physical and economic decline of the schools’ neighborhood.⁴⁴ “We started working together to redevelop that area around the schools physically through building, but also through community outreach programs involving our students and faculty,” Massey remembers. “That worked. If you go back now, it’s just a beautiful area. It’s really changed.”⁴⁵



At a Morehouse alumni event in 1992, Massey (right) met up with Louis Wade Sullivan (center), then secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services, and George W. B. Haley (left), who later served as the US ambassador to the Republic of Gambia (1998–2001).

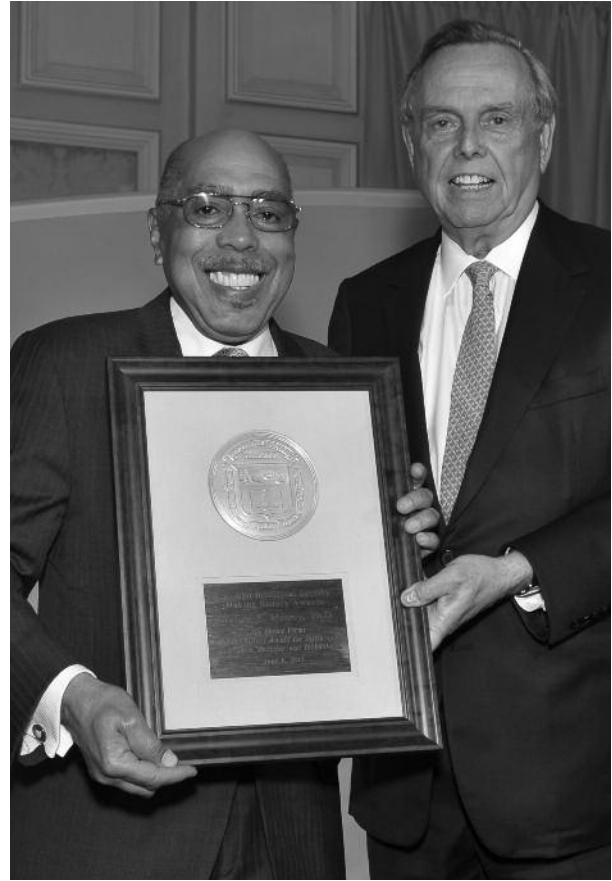


Just as Massey recognized that his responsibilities at Morehouse extended beyond the classroom, Adams acknowledged early on that his leadership of Providence St. Mel was not just about academics. “We try to teach our children that they have a responsibility for others, that today you need to, number one, get a great education, and that’s what we’re going to push always,” Adams states.⁴⁶ But, at the same time, he encourages his students to be a “community of one.” “I think everybody looks for somebody else to do something, when you should be doing it yourself. And as a result, nobody does it. People say that’s a community problem.” He retorts: “You are the community. What are you talking about it’s a community problem? You live in the community. What have you done?” He challenges his students: “There’s too much garbage? Well, pick up the garbage. You’re not going to vote? Politicians know that you’re not going to vote, so they don’t pay attention to you.”⁴⁷

Massey retired from Morehouse in 2007. So he thought. After returning to Chicago to live in Hyde Park, Massey was approached to serve a brief term as interim president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010. Massey recounts how he was asked to simply “organize and assist the new provost and the new dean, do administrative things, work with the board, get them involved.”⁴⁸ Six years later, Massey was still president. Only in 2016 did he step down, agreeing to serve as president emeritus and chancellor.⁴⁹

The accomplishments of Massey and Adams have not gone unnoticed. Both have been honored with multiple national awards. Adams is the recipient of the McDonald’s Education Achievement Award and the African-American Male Image Award. He has been named an American Hero in Education by *Reader’s Digest*, Man of the Year by the Chicago Urban League, and one of Chicago’s Heroes by the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago.⁵⁰ Massey is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Citation of the American Association of Physics Teachers, a special commendation from the Georgia

Attendees of the 2014 Making History Awards were treated to a performance by the Providence St. Mel Choir. Above: Adams and choir members on stage at the event, Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. Photograph by Dan Rest



State Senate, and the Illinois Humanities' Public Humanities Award.⁵¹ Between the two of them, Massey and Adams have received more than forty honorary degrees.⁵²

In their own distinctive ways, both men have left indelible imprints on Chicago's educational landscape. After personally visiting the school in 1982 and 1983, Ronald Reagan labeled Providence St. Mel's a "shining light."⁵³ The same can be said of Paul Adams and Walter Massey.

Left: Michael D. O'Halleran (left) presented Adams with his Making History Award on June 4, 2014. Right: John H. Bryan (right) presented Massey with his Making History Award on June 6, 2012. Photographs by Dan Rest

Timothy J. Gilfoyle is professor of history at Loyola University Chicago and former president of the Urban History Association.

ILLUSTRATIONS | 46–56, courtesy of the awardees. 57–58, Chicago History Museum event photography.

FURTHER READING | Paul Adams and Walter Massey await their biographers. Good overviews of Walter Massey's career before 2010 are Tom and Sara Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E. 1938-," *Encyclopedia.com*, 2005, available at <http://www.encyclopedia.com/people/social-sciences-and-law/education-biographies/walter-e-massey>; Tim Beardsley, "Scientist, Administrator, Role Model," *Scientific American*, June 1992, 40–41; Norman Bradburn and David Rosen, "Walter E. Massey: President-elect of AAAS," *Science*, December 18, 1987, 238, no. 4834, 1667–68. For Massey's views on science education, see Walter E. Massey, "Science education in the United States: what the scientific community can do," *Science*, September 1, 1989, 245, no. 4921 915–921. On Massey's impact in Atlanta's redevelopment, see David Perry, Scott Levitan, Andre Bertrand, Carl Patton, Dwan Packnett, and Lawrence Kelley, "360 Degrees of

Development: Universities as Real Estate Developers in Atlanta,” working paper (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2008), available at: https://www.lincolnst.edu/sites/default/files/pubfiles/1564_789_perry_final.pdf. An insightful introduction to Paul Adams and Providence St. Mel is Dawn Turner Rice, “Chicago School Recognizes Martin Luther King Holiday by Keeping Students in Class,” *Chicago Sun-Times*, 17 January 17, 2011, at http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-01-17/news/ct-met-trice-providence-0117-20110117_1_students-private-school-grade. Information on the school can be found at the Providence St. Mel website, <http://www.psmnow.com/>. “Chicago St. Mel ‘Knights,’” *Illinois History Glory Days* (undated), <http://www.illinoisglorydays.com/id710.html>, provides a detailed history of the school’s athletic accomplishments.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Michael Pressley, Lisa Raphael, J. David Gallagher, and Jeanette DiBella, “Providence-St. Mel School: How a School That Works for African American Students Works,” *Journal of Educational Psychology* 96, no. 2 (2004), 216–35.
- 2 “Walter Eugene Massey,” *Prabook*, 2017, accessed February 20, 2017, <http://prabook.com/web/person-view.html?profileId=468448>; “Walter E. Massey,” *Wikipedia*, last updated January 19, 2017, accessed February 20, 2017, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_E._Massey.
- 3 “Paul Adams, III,” *The History Makers*, updated 2017, accessed 17 Feb. 2017, <http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/paul-adams-iii>.
- 4 Paul J. Adams, oral history interview by Timothy J. Gilfoyle, April 29, 2014, deposited in the collection of the Chicago History Museum (hereafter Adams, interview).
- 5 Adams, interview.
- 6 “Paul Adams, III,” *The History Makers*.
- 7 Adams, interview.
- 8 Walter E. Massey, oral history interview by Timothy J. Gilfoyle, May 16, 2011, deposited in the collection of the Chicago History Museum (hereafter Massey, interview); “Walter Eugene Massey,” *Prabook*.
- 9 Norman Bradburn and David Rosen, “Walter E. Massey: President-elect of AAAS,” *Science*, vol. 238, no. 4834 (December 18, 1987), 1677–78; “Walter E. Massey,” *The History Makers*, updated 2017, accessed February 20, 2017, <http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/walter-e-massey-39>.
- 10 Massey, interview; Tom and Sara Pendergast, “Massey, Walter E. 1938–,” *Encyclopedia.com*, 2005, accessed February 20, 2017, <http://wwwthe.encyclopedia.com/people/social-sciences-and-law/education-biographies/walter-e-massey> (no algebra, trigonometry, chemistry).
- 11 Massey, interview.
- 12 Adams, interview.
- 13 Adams, interview; Dawn Turner Rice, “Chicago School Recognizes Martin Luther King Holiday by Keeping Students in Class,” *Chicago Sun-Times*, January 17, 2011, http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-01-17/news/ct-met-trice-providence-0117-20110117_1_students-private-school-grade; “President & Founder Paul J. Adams III,” *The Providence Effect*, 2009, accessed February 17, 2017, http://www.theprovidenceeffect.com/ccmembers/ccmember_adams.html.
- 14 Adams, interview. The history of Chicago State Hospital is summarized at “Chicago State Hospital,” *Asylum Projects*, updated May 10, 2015, accessed February 18, 2017, http://www.asylumprojects.org/index.php?title=Chicago_State_Hospital.
- 15 Massey, interview; “Walter E. Massey,”

- The History Makers*, updated 2017, accessed February 20, 2017, <http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/walter-e-massey-39>; "Walter E. Massey," *Wikipedia* (math and physics).
- 16 Massey, interview.
- 17 Massey, interview; Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."
- 18 Adams, interview; "Paul Adams III," *The History Makers*; Rice, "Chicago School."
- 19 "History: Providence-St. Mel School," accessed May 8, 2017, <http://www.psmnow.com/why-psm/history/>.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 Adams, interview.
- 23 "Paul Adams, III," *The History Makers*.
- 24 Adams, interview.
- 25 Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."
- 26 *Science*, 238, no. 4834.
- 27 Bradburn and Rosen, "Walter E. Massey: President-elect of AAAS."
- 28 Massey, interview.
- 29 "Office of the President," *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*, 2012, accessed April 2, 2012, <http://www.saic.edu/about/mission/index.html#president>; Bradburn and Rosen, "Walter E. Massey: President-elect of AAAS" (budget and staff).
- 30 Massey, interview.
- 31 Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."
- 32 Massey, interview.
- 33 Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."; Bradburn and Rosen, "Walter E. Massey: President-elect of AAAS."
- 34 Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."
- 35 Massey, interview; "Walter Eugene Massey," *Prabook*.
- 36 Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."
- 37 Adams, interview.
- 38 "History: Providence-St. Mel School" (website).
- 39 Adams, interview.
- 40 Pendergast and Pendergast, "Massey, Walter E."
- 41 Massey, interview.
- 42 "Walter E. Massey," *Wikipedia*.
- 43 Vickie G. Hampton, "The Massey Legacy: A Living Legacy - Period," *Morehouse College*, undated, accessed April 7, 2012, http://www.morehouse.edu/about/massey_legacy.html; "Morehouse Legacy," *Morehouse College*, undated, accessed February 21, 2017, <http://www.morehouse.edu/about/legacy.html>.
- 44 On Morehouse College and Massey's impact in Atlanta's redevelopment, see David Perry, Scott Levitan, Andre Bertrand, Carl Patton, Dwan Packnett, and Lawrence Kelley, "360 Degrees of Development: Universities as Real Estate Developers in Atlanta," working paper (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2008), 18–26, accessed February 21, 2017, https://www.lincolninst.edu/sites/default/files/pubfiles/1564_789_perry_final.pdf.
- 45 Massey, interview.
- 46 Adams, interview.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 Massey, interview.
- 49 Shia Kapos, "That really big thing Massey did before the School of the Art Institute of Chicago," *Crain's Chicago Business*, February 26, 2016, <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20160226/ISSUE09/160229927/that-really-big-thing-massey-did-before-the-school-of-the-art-institute-of-chicago>.
- 50 "Paul Adams," *Providence St. Mel's*, 2014, accessed March 23, 2014, <http://www.psmnow.com/about-psm/leadership/paul-j-adams-iii/>.
- 51 "Walter E. Massey," *Wikipedia*.
- 52 Adams has received at least five honorary degrees and Massey, thirty-nine. See "Paul Adams," *Providence St. Mel's*; "Office of the President," *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*; "Dr. Walter E. Massey to Receive 2016 Public Humanities Award," press release, January 12, 2016, *Illinois Humanities*, accessed February 21, 2017, <https://www.ilhumanities.org/news/2016/01/dr-walter-e-massey-to-receive-2016-public-humanities-award/>.
- 53 Eileen Ogintz, "Providence-St. Mel: A happy family," *Chicago Tribune*, May 16, 1982, <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1982/05/16/page/5/article/providence-st-mel-a-happy-family/index.html>