

## **John Hawkins**

[3, 16, 1968, 1969, 5, 5, 0]

Essay by Farrah Rahman

John B. Hawkins was born on December 4, 1931. He got his bachelor's and master's degrees in Applied Mathematics from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1965 and 1967 respectively, and received his PhD in Applied Mathematics from Northwestern in 1969. After graduating he joined the army, where he reached the rank of captain and served briefly in Vietnam.

Hawkins did not publish extensively throughout his career. However, the papers that he did publish, such as "On Generalized Matrix Functions," which he published in 1973, tended towards a focus in linear algebra and linear equations. In the past 20 years, Hawkins also gave several presentations at mathematics conferences with a general focus on geometry, particularly at conferences affiliated with the Mathematical Association of America, of which he was a member.

Hawkins' early career was not in mathematics but as a software/systems analyst, and in first position after achieving his PhD, he worked his way up from an entry level position to a lead analyst in only four years. He worked extensively in COBOL and M, as well as in operating systems UNIX and Windows 95, 98, XP, and NT4. In 2003, he joined Georgia Southern University as an Assistant Professor in Mathematics, and eventually became a Lecturer in 2011. He taught his last class in the fall of 2013 and died January 4 of the following year.