

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. George Jenkins

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jenkins, George, 1973-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. George Jenkins,
Dates:	June 16, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:34:38).
Abstract:	Health advocate and dentist Dr. George Jenkins (1973 -) fulfilled his dream of becoming a dentist, although he grew up in a rough neighborhood in Newark New, Jersey. Along with Sampson Davis and Rameck Hunt, Jenkins wrote a book about his struggles titled, "The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise and Fulfill A Dream," and co-founded the Three Doctors Foundation, to provide scholarships to inner-city youth. Jenkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 16, 2003, in Newark, New Jersey. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_135
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Growing up in a rough neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey, Dr. George Jenkins beat the odds and followed a dream. Born on February 6, 1973, he attended University High, where his life changed. At age thirteen, while at a dentist's office, Jenkins became curious about the process, and the dentist proceeded to tell Jenkins about his different tools and teach him about teeth. From that moment, he wanted to be a dentist.

In high school, Jenkins befriended Sampson Davis and Rameck Hunt, two equally bright individuals living in the same rough area. Jenkins had learned about a program at Seton Hall University that paid for minority students to attend if they enrolled in a pre-medicine or pre-dental program. Jenkins set about convincing his friends to apply. All three were accepted, with Davis and Hunt pursuing medicine. The three spent the next four years studying together to keep their grades and spirits up. After graduation, the three were split, with Davis and Hunt heading to medical school, and Jenkins remaining in Newark to attend the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey. They remained in close contact, visiting one another each week to study and boost one another's morale. In 1999, the three young men became doctors, and the following day, a local newspaper ran a front-page story about them with the headline, "Start of Something Big." Today, Jenkins is a faculty member of community health at the University of Medicine and Dentistry.

The Three Doctors, as they have become known, have written a book about their experiences, *The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise and Fulfill A Dream*, which was a New York Times bestseller. They have also established a nonprofit organization, the Three Doctors Foundation, to provide scholarships to inner-city youth and they tour the country speaking and inspiring students to follow in their footsteps. In 2000, the three were honored with an Essence Award for their community service. They have plans to begin appearing in music videos and on billboards with the hopes of giving disadvantaged youth alternate role models.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. George Jenkins was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 16, 2003, in Newark, New Jersey, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Health advocate and dentist Dr. George Jenkins (1973 -) fulfilled his dream of becoming a dentist, although he grew up in a rough neighborhood in Newark New, Jersey. Along with Sampson Davis and Rameck Hunt, Jenkins wrote a book about his struggles titled, "The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise and Fulfill A Dream," and co-founded the Three Doctors Foundation, to provide scholarships to inner-city youth.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

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

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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:

Jenkins, George, 1973-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jenkins, George, 1973- --Interviews

African American dentists--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

Community activists--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Dentist

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. George Jenkins, June 16, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. George Jenkins, Section A2003_135_001_001, TRT: 0:29:42 ?

Dr. George Jenkins was born on February 6, 1973 in Sumter, South Carolina. His father, George Jenkins, Sr., the younger of two brothers, was born in Dalzell, South Carolina and worked on a military base in Sumter. Jenkins' mother, Ella Williams Jenkins Mack, was born on April 15, 1948, in Warrenton, North Carolina and worked as a bookkeeper at the Chubb Corporation in Newark, New Jersey. Jenkins' parents divorced after two years and his mother moved to Newark to raise him. Jenkins and his older brother were raised by their single mother in and around the Stella Wright Housing Projects, where they witnessed constant sirens, gunshots, gangs, drug activity, and despair. He attended Louise A. Spencer Elementary School, where his teacher, Ms. Viola Johnson, encouraged him to pursue a college education. At age thirteen, an orthodontist inspired Jenkins to become a dentist. His favorite subject was biology. Jenkins attended University High School, where he met HistoryMakers Dr. Sampson Davis and Dr. Rameck Hunt.

African American dentists--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

African American educators--Interviews.

Community activists--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. George Jenkins, Section A2003_135_001_002, TRT: 0:30:08 ?

Dr. George Jenkins was raised by his single mother in Newark, New Jersey and attended University High School. He describes not even knowing how to tie a tie. While many of his friends were involved in gangs and criminal activity, Jenkins focused on his dream of a career in dentistry. In 1985, Jenkins met HistoryMaker Dr. Sampson Davis and in 1987 they met HistoryMaker Dr. Rameck Hunt. The three of them made a pact to support each other and to attend Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Jenkins was mentored by Dr. Kenneth Chance. Jenkins attended the New Jersey Dental School in Newark, New Jersey where he found a multicultural cohort in dental school. He reflects on the obstacles he had to overcome while becoming a dentist, including his own self-doubts, gang activity in Newark, New Jersey, and being racially profiled by the police while going to the hospital to play an intramural game.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. George Jenkins, Section A2003_135_001_003, TRT: 0:30:17 ?

Dr. George Jenkins graduated from the New Jersey Dental School in Newark (part of the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey) in 1999, during the same ceremony as his friends and HistoryMakers Dr. Sampson Davis and Dr. Rameck Hunt. He completed a one-year general practice residency, a two-year oral medicine fellowship, and started a third year of oral medicine before taking a faculty position at the New Jersey Dental School in Newark, New Jersey. Jenkins reflects on the challenges of his residency, his doubts about being a dentist and the importance to him of remaining in Newark to be a role model and how it helps him effectively treat patients. With Dr. Davis and Dr. Hunt, Jenkins founded the Three Doctors Foundation and wrote the book "The

Pact” to provide positive images of success and to promote education. Jenkins shares his plans for the future and his hopes that he can encourage students to follow his example for success.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. George Jenkins, Section A2003_135_001_004, TRT: 0:04:31 ?

Dr. George Jenkins reflects upon his legacy as someone who spread a positive message to the African American community and helped students change their mentality about education. He ends the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered as someone who bridged a gap between African American youth and the professional world.