

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Carol Morales

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Morales, Carol, 1945-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Carol Morales,
Dates:	September 20, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:23:36).
Abstract:	Dentist Dr. Carol Morales (1945 -) grew up in Harlem, New York, and moved back to her neighborhood to open a practice after graduating from dental school at Howard University. She worked on providing technical and business consulting to small businesses in Harlem with the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, Morales was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 20, 2003, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_220
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

A lifelong resident of Harlem, New York, Dr. Carol S. Morales was born, reared and educated in the community where she continues to work as a dentist and give back through volunteering.

After graduating from Washington Irving High School, Morales attended the City College of New York, receiving a degree in biological sciences. While completing her undergraduate coursework, Morales worked as a dental assistant in the office she now owns with her husband, Dr. Enrique Riggs. She received professional training from Howard University's College of Dentistry in Washington, D.C., where she earned the American Academy of Oral Medicine Award. After completing her residency in the Bronx, she has operated her own dental practice in Harlem since 1980.

Morales has been active in the community she calls home. She was selected to participate in a pilot project under the aegis of the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation aimed at providing technical and business consulting to small businesses in Harlem. Additionally, she has worked with the Ice Hockey Program in Harlem, the Links Scholarship and Benefit Committee, and the Links Reading Project. Morales has also worked with the Links' Day Of The African Child Project, part of the International Trends Committee. She continues to participate in a number of professional associations, including the National Dental Society. Morales and her husband have been married since 1983.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Carol Morales was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on September 20, 2003, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Dentist Dr. Carol Morales

(1945 -) grew up in Harlem, New York, and moved back to her neighborhood to open a practice after graduating from dental school at Howard University. She worked on providing technical and business consulting to small businesses in Harlem with the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation,

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:

Morales, Carol, 1945-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Morales, Carol, 1945---Interviews

African American dentists--Interviews

Community activists--New York (State)--New York--Harlem--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. Carol Morales, September 20, 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. Carol Morales, Section A2003_220_001_001, TRT: 0:31:12 ?

Dr. Carol Morales was born on December 11, 1945 to Gloria Altacracia Morales and Wilbur Archer Morales. Her mother was born and raised in New York City by Caribbean immigrant parents. Her maternal grandmother was born in the Virgin Islands of St. Croix. Her maternal grandfather was born on St. Kitts in the British West Indies. Morales' father was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and

migrated to Harlem, New York where he met Morales' mother in a neighborhood junior high school. Morales recalls her earliest childhood memories in Harlem, including rent parties, the influence of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and attending St. Phillips Episcopal Church of New York. She attended P.S. 184 Elementary School, James Fenimore Cooper Junior High School, and Washington Irving High School in New York City. Morales had an early interest in math and science. She graduated from Washington Irving High School in 1968 and attended City College of New York. She graduated in 1972 with a B.S. degree in chemistry and economics.

African American dentists--Interviews.

Community activists--New York (State)--New York--Harlem--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Carol Morales, Section A2003_220_001_002, TRT: 0:29:59
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Dr. Carol Morales graduated from the City College of New York in New York City in 1972 as one of only two African American women in her graduating class. Morales chose to pursue dentistry and was introduced to dentist Dr. Marcus Moore. She joined his practice as a dental assistant while preparing for the dental admissions test. Morales was admitted into the Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington D.C. in 1975. She remembers HistoryMaker James E. Cheek, president of Howard University, and Dean Jeanne Sinkford, the first female dean of any medical school. After graduating in 1975, she returned to New York to complete her residency at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. She returned to Harlem after completing her residency, and was offered a position in Dr. Moore's private practice. Morales accepted, and later purchased the practice in 1984. In 1986, Morales was joined by her husband, HistoryMaker Enrique Riggs. She talks about trends in cosmetic dentistry and the New York County Dental Society.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Carol Morales, Section A2003_220_001_003, TRT: 0:22:25
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Dr. Carol Morales talks about her personal and professional relationship with her husband, HistoryMaker and dentist Dr. Enrique Riggs. Dr. Morales and Dr. Riggs were married in 1983. Morales purchased Dr. Marcus Moore's private practice in 1984, and Dr. Riggs joined her at the practice in 1986. Morales talks about social factors that affected the dental industry, like the emergence of the HIV/AIDS virus, and burgeoning technology in modern dentistry. She also speaks about her involvement in New York's Harlem and Westchester County communities. Morales is a member of the Links, Incorporated and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. She describes the importance of establishing healthy relationships with her patients and the factors make her dental practice successful. She reflects upon changes in Harlem, valuable lessons she learned from her mentor Dr. Marcus Moore, her relationship with her mother, and her legacy.