

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sheila Grimes

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Grimes, Sheila, 1958-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sheila Grimes,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 16, 2005
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:40:56).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Veterinary pathologist Sheila Grimes (1958 - ) serves as the section head for the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Grimes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 16, 2005, in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2005_067
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Veterinary pathologist and section head for the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture Sheila Denise Grimes was born to Julia and George Grimes on February 24, 1958, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Grimes's father served in the U.S. Army, causing her family to move frequently, living on numerous military bases which included those in Germany and Kentucky, where she completed high school (Fort Campbell High School in 1976). Grimes finished her undergraduate training in veterinary medicine at Tuskegee University in 1982, earning B.S. and D.V.M. (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) degrees in 1980. She went on to earn her M.S. degree in 1984 and her Ph.D. in 1988 from Michigan State University (both degrees in veterinary medicine). Grimes also taught at Michigan State University for seven years, before joining the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Industry.

Grimes spearheaded the Ohio Department of Agriculture's deer-testing program; this program was designed to detect disease in the state's white-tailed deer herd, and to guard against threats to human health associated with disease among cattle and poultry.

Grimes, a published scholar and researcher, also served as a youth mentor. An avid reader, she is especially fond of the works of Zora Neale Hurston and J. California Cooper.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sheila Grimes was conducted by Regennia Williams on March 16, 2005, in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Veterinary pathologist Sheila Grimes (1958 - ) serves as the section head for the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

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# 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®.

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# 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.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

- Grimes, Sheila, 1958-
- Williams, Regennia (Interviewer)
- Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

- African Americans--Interviews
  - Grimes, Sheila, 1958---Interviews
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African American veterinarians--Interviews

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African American women scientists--Interviews

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# Organizations:

- HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)
  - The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection
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# Occupations:

Veterinary Pathologist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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## 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 Sheila Grimes, March 16, 2005. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Sheila Grimes, Section A2005\_067\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:52 ?

Sheila Denise Grimes was born on February 24, 1958 in Tuskegee, Alabama to Julia Mae (nee Moss) and George Washington Grimes, Jr. Grimes' mother was born in 1938, her father was born on June 6, 1936, and they both lived in Notasulga and attended the segregated Tuskegee University High School. Grimes' paternal grandparents are Yula Mae (nee Tinsley) and George Washington Grimes, her father was raised by his grandmother, Rosie Mae Tinsley. Grimes' maternal grandparents are Willie Mae and Charlie Moss. Grimes' father spent his career in the military and brought his family to wherever he was stationed, giving Grimes a wide-ranging scholastic experience. Based on Grimes' merit as well as an affirmative action program, she was able to attend Tuskegee University and Michigan State University to complete a

doctorate in veterinary medicine, a masters and a Ph.D. She currently works as a diagnostician, performing necropsies, at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Ohio.

African American veterinarians--Interviews.

African American women scientists--Interviews.

Michigan State University.

African American families--Alabama.

African American high school students--Alabama.

Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (Ohio)

Video Oral History Interview with Sheila Grimes, Section A2005\_067\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:05 ?

Sheila Grimes works for the Department of Agriculture, testing deceased animals for any evidence of disease that might extend to an entire group of that species. Her work with cattle and fowl has been highly publicized as result of mad cow disease and avian flu epidemics, the Department of Agriculture has many intelligent and reliable ways to combat and detect any contaminant to the food supply. In the interview, Grimes comments on the important work that pathologists do to detect viruses such as AIDS and TB when they become resistant to the existing antibodies. She works to discover the wide range of diseases that can be caused by a harmful chemical like Agent Orange in Vietnam veterans. Grimes also takes time out of her schedule to talk with K-12 students about career opportunities in the math and science, and letting them visit her lab.

African American pathologists.

Agent Orange--Carcinogenicity.

Avian influenza--United States--Prevention.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy--United States--Prevention.

Science--Study and teaching(Elementary)--United States.

United States Department of Agriculture.

Video Oral History Interview with Sheila Grimes, Section A2005\_067\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:17 ?

Sheila Grimes looks at the plight of black males being denied faculty positions in higher education settings and the perceived inferiority of historically black college and universities as evidence of the work left to be done in the pursuit of equal rights. As a former student at Tuskegee University and a native of Alabama, Grimes shares her thoughts on the legacy of Booker T. Washington and the tragedy of the Tuskegee Experiment. She was promoted at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, moving from a diagnostician to active station head. Grimes is active in the American Association (College) of Veterinarian Pathologists. She applauds developments in the science community, including the cloning of Dolly the sheep.

Michigan State University--Students.

American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Dolly (Sheep)

Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

Tuskegee University.

Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915

Video Oral History Interview with Sheila Grimes, Section A2005\_067\_001\_004, TRT: 0:13:42 ?

Sheila Grimes has worked at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for nine years, publishing scholarly articles, and utilizing the most advanced microscope technology. She states that but she is eager to demonstrate her knowledge in

other settings. Grimes has one younger brother named George Washington Grimes, III and she has close relationships with her father's sister, Rosie (Aunt Sis) and her mother's sister Juanita. She hopes that the black community will be more concerned with maintaining wealth for future generations. She also hopes that she will inspire more children to pursue their own dreams.

Hurston, Zora Neale.

African American families--Alabama--Tuskegee.

African Americans--Social conditions--United States.

Scholarly Publishing.