

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Prince Jackson, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jackson, Prince, 1925-2010
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Prince Jackson, Jr.,
Dates:	January 24, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:15:10).
Abstract:	College president Prince Jackson, Jr. (1925 - 2010) was the seventh president of Savannah State College. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 24, 2007, in Savannah, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_028
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Prince Albert Jackson, Jr., was born on March 17, 1925, in Savannah, Georgia, to Julia and Prince Albert, Sr. Jackson graduated with honors from Beach-Cuyler High School in 1942 and joined the United States Naval Reserve. Jackson received his B.A. degree in mathematics from Savannah State University in 1949, and his M.A. degree from Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences from the New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1950. Jackson later received his Ph.D. in philosophy with distinction from Boston College. While studying at Boston College, Jackson was named one of the school's first six Distinguished Alumni.

In 1971, Jackson became the seventh President of Savannah State College. During his tenure as president, Jackson established the third Naval Reserve Officer Training Corp (NROTC) at a university; he also established the University's radio station, WHCJ-FM, which was the fifth station established on an African American college campus. The observation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was the result of Jackson's initiative along with the increase in faculty and teachers holding doctorates. In 1978, Jackson stepped down as President of Savannah State University, but continued to serve as a member of the faculty until 1999 when he retired.

Jackson was the recipient of thirty-five academic awards and honors, and a member of twenty-nine professional and scholastic organizations. Jackson was also a lifetime member of the NAACP, where he served as President of the Savannah branch in 2003. Jackson authored over fourteen research and scholarly articles. After retiring in 1999, Jackson continued his active involvement in various community projects including being an advocate for the mentally challenged and the NAACP Voter Empowerment Project.

Jackson was married to the former Marilyn Striggles of Sylvania, Georgia; the couple had five children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Prince Jackson, Jr. was conducted by Denise Gines on January 24, 2007, in Savannah, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. College president Prince Jackson, Jr. (1925 - 2010) was the seventh president of Savannah State College.

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:

Jackson, Prince, 1925-2010

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Jackson, Prince, 1925-2010 --Interviews

African American college administrators--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Savannah State College (Ga.)

Occupations:

College President

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Prince Jackson, Jr., January 24, 2007. 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 Prince Jackson, Jr., Section A2007_028_001_001, TRT: 0:28:50
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Prince Jackson, Jr. was born on March 17, 1925 in Savannah, Georgia to Julia Robinson Jackson and Prince Jackson, Sr. His maternal great-grandparents were enslaved on a plantation on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Jackson's

mother was born in Hilton Head in 1893, and attended school until the seventh grade. His paternal grandfather was born in Sheldon, South Carolina, and his paternal grandmother was born in Levy, South Carolina. They moved to Savannah, where Jackson's father was born in 1898. As a child, Jackson's father worked to support his parents and siblings instead of attending school. Jackson grew up in Savannah's close-knit Old Fort community. His father worked for the city before becoming a longshoreman, while his mother operated a confectionary from their home. Jackson's mother converted from Methodism to Catholicism, and sent Jackson and his five siblings to Savannah's St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School. Jackson also describes St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the largely Irish city.

African American college administrators--Interviews.

African American educators--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Prince Jackson, Jr., Section A2007_028_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00
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Prince Jackson, Jr. attended Beach-Cuyler High School in Savannah, Georgia before enlisting in the U.S. Navy during World War II. His earlier Catholic schooling prepared him well for the examinations at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Lake County, Illinois, and he was assigned to study diesel engineering at Virginia's Hampton Institute. He sent his paychecks to support his mother, but she saved his earnings until he was discharged. With funds from the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, Jackson majored in mathematics at Savannah's Georgia State College. There, he studied under John B. Clemmons, Sr.; pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and graduated first in his class in 1949. He earned a master's degree from New York City's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and returned to Georgia, where he taught at Statesboro's William James High School for four years. In 1955, at the invitation of his former dean, William K. Payne, Jackson joined the mathematics department at Savannah State College.

Video Oral History Interview with Prince Jackson, Jr., Section A2007_028_001_003, TRT: 0:28:50
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Prince Jackson, Jr. taught at William James High School in Statesboro, Georgia during the early 1950s, but was fired because of his work with the NAACP. He then became a mathematics professor at Savannah State College. In 1961 and 1962, Jackson received National Science Foundation scholarships to attend the University of Kansas and Harvard University. While in Boston, he met Boston College administrator Charles F. Donovan, who encouraged him to apply to the college's Ph.D. degree program. Jackson earned his degree there, and completed a two-year teaching fellowship. During this time, Jackson remained on the faculty of Savannah State College, and advised student civil rights protestors. He also served as the athletic director of Savannah's St. Pius X High School in 1965. In 1971, Jackson became the president of Savannah State College. In this role, he hired faculty members with doctoral degrees; created the college's WHCJ Radio station; and established the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

Video Oral History Interview with Prince Jackson, Jr., Section A2007_028_001_004, TRT: 0:28:30
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Prince Jackson, Jr. served as an expert for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., and demonstrated statistically that the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System failed to integrate. He then completed his doctoral studies at Boston College from 1964 to 1966, and taught mathematics at Savannah State College. While serving as vice president of the Board of Public Education for

the City of Savannah and County of Chatham in 1971, he developed an integration plan for the public schools. That year, Jackson also became president of Savannah State College. He was instrumental in the construction of Savannah State College's circular Asa H. Gordon Library. He describes how he allocated other funds, and recruited professors Hanes Walton, Jr. and Shirley James. He also reflects upon the loss of the college's school of education during the integration of Savannah's public higher education. After seven years as president, Jackson returned to his professorship in 1978. He became president of the Savannah NAACP in 2003.

Video Oral History Interview with Prince Jackson, Jr., Section A2007_028_001_005, TRT: 0:20:00
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Prince Jackson, Jr. was encouraged to integrate the Knights of Columbus in the 1960s by Frank Rossiter, the vice-mayor of Savannah, Georgia. In 1979, he became a deacon of the Roman Catholic church, and later served as president of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah. Jackson talks about the African American leaders of the Catholic church, including New Orleans' Bishop Harold R. Perry and Atlanta's Archbishop Wilton Daniel Gregory. Jackson hoped to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Mexico, and the Sanctuary of Fatima in Fatima, Portugal. Jackson had five children with his wife, Marilyn Striggles Jackson, as well as six grandchildren, one of whom was a student at Savannah State University at the time of the interview. Jackson concludes the interview by reflecting upon his life; his hopes for African American youth; and how he would like to be remembered.