

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Winston Anderson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Anderson, Winston A.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson,
Dates:	February 17, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:11:00).
Abstract:	Biomedical scientist Winston Anderson (1940 -) , a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Professor, was awarded the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering Mentoring. Anderson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 17, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_053
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Biomedical scientist and research director Winston A. Anderson was born on July 26, 1940 in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1959, Anderson graduated from Calabar High School in Kingston and received his Higher Schools Certificate. At the age of seventeen, he immigrated to the United States and enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Anderson went on to earn his B.S. degree in zoology and his M.S. degree in zoology from Howard University in 1962 and 1963, respectively. In 1966, he graduated from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island with his Ph.D. degree in biomedical sciences.

Anderson was appointed as chair of the Howard University Department of Zoology in 1975. He served in that position until 1983 and remained on the faculty as a professor of biomedical science. In 2006, with a \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Anderson started the Howard Hughes Medical Research Scholars program. This program has been supported by the National Science Foundation's Research Careers for Minority Scholars program and the National Institute of Health Biomedical Research Support program for minority students at Howard University. In addition to research and mentoring, Anderson co-founded the Sandy Spring Museum and African Art Gallery in 1988 and serves as the curator.

Anderson is a founding member of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) and was the first African American scientist elected to serve on the ASCB Council. While at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Anderson received the Anne Langer Award for Cancer Research and the Distinguished Teacher Award at the Pritzker School of Medicine. In 1992, Brown University bestowed on Anderson its Outstanding Graduate Alumnus Award, and Howard University's Division of Academic Affairs honored him for establishing the distinguished lecture series, "Brilliant Encounters in Science." In 2011, Anderson received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

Winston A. Anderson lives in Silver Springs, Maryland with his wife, Carol Anderson. They have three children:

Laura, Lea, and Michael.

Winston A. Anderson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* February 17, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Winston Anderson was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 17, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Biomedical scientist Winston Anderson (1940 -) , a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Professor, was awarded the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering Mentoring.

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:

Anderson, Winston A.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Anderson, Winston A.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Occupations:

Biomedical Scientist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Winston Anderson, February 17, 2013. 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 Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_001, TRT: 1:29:35
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Winston Anderson slates his interview and lists his favorites. Winston Anderson was born on February 17th, 1940 in Ewart, Jamaica, and was named after Winston Churchill. His mother, Ruth Elizabeth Gray, was descended from Jamaican slaves and an English minister. She attended Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and became a schoolteacher in Kingston. She met Anderson's father, Laurel Charles Anderson, at a church in Moneague, Jamaica, and they married. Anderson discusses their difference in skin color and what that means in terms of class in Jamaica. Anderson describes his parents' personalities and how he takes after his mother. He talks about his siblings and growing up in his family's household. His father left for England, United Kingdom when Anderson was sixteen years old, leaving Anderson's mother to care for the family. Anderson shares the sights, sounds, and smells of his childhood in Jamaica.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_002, TRT: 2:30:16
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Winston Anderson talks about the radio shows and music he listened to growing up in Jamaica, noting that many of the musicians popular in Jamaica were from the United States. He describes his elementary schools and the brief period that his family moved to Alabama when he was ten. After his family returned to Jamaica Anderson attended Calabar High School in Kingston, where he was on the track team and played other sports. Anderson was the first person in his family to pass the Cambridge and London exams. He attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. after graduating from Calabar High School in 1958. Anderson was placed in remedial English and mathematics classes due to his accent. He talks about his classes with Chancellor James Howard, Lorraine Howard, and Toni Morrison.

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Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_003, TRT: 3:29:18
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Winston Anderson describes how he came from Jamaica to Howard University in Washington, D.C. His Mother, Ruth Elizabeth Gray, gave him fifty dollars and a bible before he left Jamaica in 1958, and the fifty dollars was spent immediately on arrival for groceries and a coat as it was winter. Anderson worked long hours as a switchboard operator while taking classes at Howard University. He talks about the professors and presidents of Howard University he knew, such as Mordecai Johnson and Herman Branson. Anderson remembers going with Stokely Carmichael to boycott restaurants in North Carolina. He recalls his mentors Howard Finley, Charles Brown, and David Lincicome, and his undergraduate and graduate research on mitochondrial DNA in a parasite. Anderson attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and talks about his time there. He mentions the difficulty of finding housing due to racial

discrimination and other issues of segregation in Providence, Rhode Island.
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Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_004, TRT: 4:29:30
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Winston Anderson explains his doctoral dissertation, 'Compensatory Hypertrophy after Renal Ablation,' on the growth in size of the remaining cells after one kidney has been removed. After graduating with a Ph.D. from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, Anderson did research on spermatology as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Paris, Paris, France. There he founded the International Society for Spermatology. Anderson later became a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and taught in the Department of Anatomy. In 1970 he began teaching at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Anderson describes his research there on endochondral ossification and estrogen-induced peroxidases. In 1975 Anderson decided to leave the University of Chicago to become the Chair of the Biology Department at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Anderson faced opposition in coming to Howard University, with someone even setting part of the Ernest Everett Just Hall on fire.

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Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_005, TRT: 5:29:18
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Winston Anderson describes the opposition he faced when he first became the Chair of the Biology Department of Howard University in Washington, D.C., and the changes he had to make to the department. Anderson has brought in a multitude of grants for Howard University, focusing on those that educate and empower minority students in STEM fields. For his work on STEM education Anderson received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in 2011. Anderson talks about Ernest Everett Just, a past professor of biology at Howard University. Anderson also discusses the growth of the Biology Department at Howard University and the current research of its students and faculty. Anderson states that his major accomplishment at Howard University is the preparation of its undergraduate students for research careers.

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Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_006, TRT: 6:28:54
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Winston Anderson reflects on his life and his scientific findings. He talks about

the interdepartmental projects at Howard University, Washington, D.C., which have to do with biomedical and nanotechnology research. Anderson founded the Sandy Springs Slave Museum and African Art Gallery in 1988 in Sandy Springs, Maryland, a museum which showcases African American history and art. Anderson talks about his son, two daughters, and his wife, who has multiple sclerosis. Anderson also describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community and how he would like to be remembered.

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Video Oral History Interview with Winston Anderson, Section A2013_053_001_007, TRT: 7:14:09 ?

Winston Anderson describes his photographs.

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