

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ilesanmi Adesida

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Adesida, Ilesanmi
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ilesanmi Adesida,
Dates:	June 7, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	5 MOV HD video files (2:23:26).
Abstract:	Electrical engineer Ilesanmi Adesida (1949 -) was named the Donald Biggar Willet Professor of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was also appointed dean of the College of Engineering. Adesida was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 7, 2013, in Champaign, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_093
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Electrical Engineer Ilesanmi Adesida was born in 1949 in Ifon, Ondo, Nigeria. Adesida graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with his B.S. degree in 1974. He returned to U.C.-Berkeley for graduate school and received his M.S. degree in 1975 and his Ph.D. degree in 1979. Adesida was then awarded an IBM postdoctoral fellowship. In 1987, Adesida began teaching at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He served as the director of the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology. He also served as a professor in the Beckman Institute of Advanced Science and Technology. Adesida was named the Donald Biggar Willet Professor of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2003. In 2005, he was appointed dean of the university's College of Engineering. Adesida is an elected Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Vacuum Society, and the Optical Society of America (OSA).

Ilesanmi Adesida was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 7, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ilesanmi Adesida was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 7, 2013, in Champaign, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 MOV HD video files. Electrical engineer Ilesanmi Adesida (1949 -) was named the Donald Biggar Willet Professor of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was also appointed dean of the College of Engineering.

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:

Adesida, Ilesanmi

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

Adesida, Ilesanmi--Interviews

African Americans--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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 Ilesanmi Adesida, June 7, 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 8/19/2013 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, June 7, 2013

Video Oral History Interview with Ilesanmi Adesida, Section A2013_093_001_001, TRT: 1:28:41
2013/06/07

Ilesanmi Adesida describes his family background. He was born on May 15, 1949 in Ifon, Ondo, Nigeria, the same town his mother, Victoria Omotomiye Adesida, and father, Joshua Adesida Aladekoyi, were born. Joshua Aladekoyi was a farmer and Victoria Adesida was a market woman. His grandfathers were farmers, and great-great-grandfather was a blacksmith. Adesida comes from the Yoruba ethnic group in southwest Nigeria, and he discusses the history of the Yoruba and other Nigerian ethnic groups. His parents converted to Christianity, which is why they have English first names. Adesida talks about Christianity in Nigeria and the Yoruba religion. He also describes the pre-colonial government structure of the Yoruba, which was democratic in nature.

Families--Nigeria.

Yoruba (African people).

Christianity--Nigeria.

Yoruba (African people)--Religion.

Yoruba (African people)--Politics and government.

Video Oral History Interview with Ilesanmi Adesida, Section A2013_093_001_002, TRT: 2:28:28
2013/06/07

Ilesanmi Adesida describes his parents, Victoria Omotomiye Adesida and Joshua Adesida Aladekoyi, their personalities, and who he takes after. His father had two other wives in addition to Adesida's mother, and so Adesida had

half-siblings as well as his two younger sisters and younger brother. Adesida attended Anglican schools in Nigeria, living with his cousin who was a schoolteacher. Adesida's generation was the first in Nigeria to have widespread access to public schools and he enjoyed school because it meant he did not have to farm. On October 1, 1960 Nigeria received its independence from the United Kingdom and Adesida remembers the festivities. Adesida remembers Nigerian culture while he was young, remarking on the importance of highlife music and soccer. He also discusses the political parties that existed in Nigeria, Nigeria's first president, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Nigeria's first prime minister, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

Parents--Nigeria.

Families--Nigeria.

Christian education--Nigeria.

Nigeria--Politics and government--1960-

Politicians--Nigeria.

Video Oral History Interview with Ilesanmi Adesida, Section A2013_093_001_003, TRT: 3:28:32
2013/06/07

Ilesanmi Adesida discusses the talent of the Nigerian people and talks about the unification of Nigeria. In secondary school Adesida had a Peace Corp science teacher who was an electrical engineer and this sparked Adesida's interest in engineering. He graduated from Imade College, his secondary school in Owo, Ondo, Nigeria, in 1966. After his graduation Adesida worked as a laboratory technician at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, while taking night classes. There he worked in the lab of Dr. Grillo and met a Dutch scientist who helped him apply to universities in the United States and obtain scholarships. In 1971 Adesida attended the University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California and worked as an undergraduate at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He talks about his time at the University of California at Berkeley, the Nigerian community there, and his mentors.

Nigeria--History.

Electrical engineering--Vocational guidance--Nigeria.

University of Ibadan--Laboratory technicians.

University of California, Berkeley.

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory.

Video Oral History Interview with Ilesanmi Adesida, Section A2013_093_001_004, TRT: 4:28:49
2013/06/07

Ilesanmi Adesida discusses his doctoral dissertation, 'Electron Energy Dissipation in Layered Media,' which examined how electrons lost energy and how electrons can be used to write patterns, which is known as nanofabrication. Upon receiving his Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California in 1979 Adesida became a research associate at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York while his wife obtained a medical degree. In 1984 Adesida became a head of the electrical engineering department at the Abubakar Balewa University in Bauchi, Nigeria. He returned to the United States to become a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois, in 1987. Adesida describes his graduate students, the electrical engineering department, and his positions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also discusses his research on gallium nitrite.

University of California, Berkeley. Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences--Dissertations.

Cornell University.

Universities and colleges--Faculty.

Graduate students.

Gallium nitrite--Research.

Video Oral History Interview with Ilesanmi Adesida, Section A2013_093_001_005, TRT: 5:28:56
2013/06/07

Ilesanmi Adesida describes his position as vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois. He talks about the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's African Studies department and its diversity programs. Adesida also explains the importance of state institutions. He discusses the relationship between Africans and African Americans and talks about his wife and five children. Adesida reflects on his life and his legacy and share how he would like to be remembered.

University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus)--Administration.

University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus). Center for African Studies.

State universities and colleges.

African Americans--Relations with Africans.

African American families.