

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Bruce Ballard

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ballard, Bruce, 1939-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard,
Dates:	September 19, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:42:31).
Abstract:	Psychiatrist Dr. Bruce Ballard (1939 -) was the associate dean of student services and equal opportunity at Cornell University. Ballard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 19, 2003, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_218
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Psychiatrist Dr. Bruce Ballard was born in Waverly Hills, Kentucky, on December 19, 1939. The youngest of four children, Ballard was the son of a physician and a secretary. Ballard attended Yale University, where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1960, and went on to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, earning an M.D. in 1964.

Ballard began his career in Chicago, Illinois, performing his internship at Michael Reese Hospital from 1964 to 1965. From there, he began his residency at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, where he remained for three years. Joining the Air Force in 1968, Ballard was sent to Hawaii's Hickam Air Force Base as the chief of mental health services, and after completing his service, he returned to New York in 1970. Taking a position at the Harlem Hospital Center, he was involved in the training of students performing their residencies. Ballard took a position with New York Hospital-Westchester in 1976 as the associate director of the Adult Outpatient Department and later as the coordinator of the residency program. In 1981, Ballard was hired by Cornell University as the associate dean for equal opportunity programs, and today he still works in that capacity as well as serving as the associate dean for student affairs. He has also maintained a private practice since 1972.

Ballard has been the director of the Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program since 1981. The program aims to increase the numbers of underrepresented minorities enrolled in medical school programs through hands-on experience at partner universities. Ballard has also been active on a number of committees, and has chaired the Committee of Black Psychiatrists of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the Selection and Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Mental Health Minority Fellowship Program of the APA. He has published numerous scholarly articles, served on the editorial boards of several textbooks, and given presentations to various groups on ethnicity and psychiatry. The Air Force presented him with a Commendation Medal in 1970, and the APA presented him with the Nancy C.A. Roeske, M.D. Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education in 2001. Ballard and his wife, Eleanor, live in New York. They have two children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on September 19, 2003, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Psychiatrist Dr. Bruce Ballard (1939 -) was the associate dean of student services and equal opportunity at Cornell University.

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:

Ballard, Bruce, 1939-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ballard, Bruce, 1939---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Psychiatrist

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. Bruce Ballard, September 19, 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. Bruce Ballard, Section A2003_218_001_001, TRT: 0:30:34
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Dr. Bruce Ballard was born on December 19, 1939. His mother, Kathryn Wise Ballard, was from Louisville, Kentucky. A gifted musician, she was accepted to the Juilliard School in New York City but could not afford the tuition and instead studied with conductor Frank Damrosch. She also studied to be a teacher, however worked as a secretary most of her life. Ballard's father, Orville Lee Ballard, was from Lexington, Kentucky. He studied medicine at Howard University and became a physician at Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Kentucky. Ballard's paternal grandfather, William Henry Ballard, owned Ballard's

Pharmacy and was the first African American to graduate from Northwestern University's School of Pharmacy. The Ballard family is descended from Bland Ballard, a man of English descent, and Flora, an enslaved woman. Ballard was raised in rural Waverley Hills outside of Louisville. His house was behind the sanatorium where his father worked and he remembers waving at patients. Ballard narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard, Section A2003_218_001_002, TRT: 0:30:41
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Dr. Bruce Ballard loved to read as a child. He attended a small segregated rural school. Though he grew up in an isolated rural area, his parents were active in Louisville, Kentucky's professional African American community. His father founded the Louisville chapter of the Boulé and fought for more facilities to treat tuberculosis patients in Louisville. Ballard attended segregated Louisville Central High School where he was active in the student newspaper, chorus and student government, and started a club, Youth Speaks. Ballard remembers the reaction of the city, students in his school and his family to the 1954 Brown v. The Board of Education decision. He also remembers Autherine Lucy speaking at his high school. A student from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut visited Ballard's school to recruit African American students, and his high school principal recommended that Ballard attend Yale. Ballard graduated high school in 1954. He was one of only four African American students in his class at Yale.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard, Section A2003_218_001_003, TRT: 0:30:36
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Dr. Bruce Ballard entered Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut in 1954 and graduated in 1960. He describes how he adjusted to the school's East Coast culture and rigorous academic standards. In college, Ballard majored in human culture and behavior and enjoyed taking trips into New York City to visit cultural institutions. He spent his summers back home in Louisville, Kentucky, but his preference for cosmopolitan city life led him to apply to medical schools in the New York area. He entered Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1960 where he decided to specialize in psychiatry after observing his tendency to take an interest in his patients' lives. Ballard had been interested in psychiatry since he was in junior high school and remembers being intrigued by the phenomenon of smart students losing academic motivation in high school. He concludes by explaining the origins and evolution of psychiatry.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard, Section A2003_218_001_004, TRT: 0:29:55
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Dr. Bruce Ballard completed his residency at New York State Psychiatric Institute in New York, New York which had a dynamic and analytic focus. There, one of his supervisors was Dr. Elizabeth Davis, the chief of psychiatry at Harlem Hospital Center, who was dedicated to working with underserved populations. In 1968, Ballard entered the U.S. Air Force and was deployed to Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii for two years where he served as the chief of mental health services and treated military personnel. Ballard returned to New York City to complete his analytic training through a joint fellowship with the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Harlem Hospital. After completing his fellowship, he became the director of Harlem Hospital's psychiatric residency training program. Consistent underfunding of Harlem Hospital in the 1970s led him to take a position at Cornell University's medical facility in Westchester, New York as associate director of the Adult Outpatient Department in 1976.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard, Section A2003_218_001_005, TRT: 0:30:11

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Dr. Bruce Ballard taught and supervised residents at Cornell University's New York-Presbyterian Hospital's Westchester Division in White Plains, New York from 1976 to 1981. During the same period he was also very involved in recruiting minority residents to join the American Psychiatric Association. In 1981, he became Associate Dean for Minority Affairs at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City where he has worked to strengthen Cornell's minority summer program and support minority students. Ballard explains his cross-cultural approach to psychiatry and comments on the proliferation of "cultural competence" as a buzzword in medicine and the need for African American psychiatric educators. He describes his concerns for the African American community; explains his views on the benefits of integration; and, speculates about his future pursuits.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Bruce Ballard, Section A2003_218_001_006, TRT: 0:10:34
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Dr. Bruce Ballard talks about advances in the field of psychiatry. He also reflects upon his legacy and his parents' pride in his profession.