

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reuben R. McDaniel

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McDaniel, Reuben R., Jr.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reuben R. McDaniel,
Dates:	February 6, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:18:13).
Abstract:	Academic administrator and business professor Reuben R. McDaniel (1936 - 2016) held high-level academic and administrative positions at Baldwin-Wallace College Learning Center, the University of Texas-Austin, Texas Department of Human Resources, and the University of Texas Health Center in San Antonio. In addition to his work in the field of education, McDaniel also received many awards and recognition for his expertise in complexity science. McDaniel was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 6, 2007, in Austin, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_050
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

University professor and administrator Reuben Roosevelt McDaniel, Jr., was born on January 6, 1936, to Nannie and Reuben Roosevelt McDaniel, Sr. in Petersburg, Virginia. McDaniel received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University in 1964; his M.A. degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Akron in 1968; and his Ed.D. in higher education from Indiana University in 1971.

McDaniel was first employed as a mechanical designer at the Government and Industrial Division of Philco Corporation from 1956 to 1960. In 1965, McDaniel began his work in education at Baldwin-Wallace College Learning Center where, as the only African American in the administration, he held the positions of Director for Division of Educational Services, Assistant to the Dean, and Assistant Professor of Education. After leaving Baldwin-Wallace College, McDaniel held several positions over the years at the University of Texas-Austin, including Dean of Students (1972-73), Assistant Professor of Management (1972-75), and Associate Professor of Management (1975-1981). For six months in 1979, McDaniel served as Acting Deputy Commissioner for Medical Programs for the Texas Department of Human Resources. McDaniel served as Professor of Management Science and Information Systems for the University of Texas-Austin, in addition to being Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine and the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas Health Center in San Antonio. Over all, McDaniel accumulated over thirty-eight years experience in university education and administration.

As an expert in complexity science, McDaniel received numerous awards and recognitions, including Fellow at the IC2 Institute, and Outstanding Professor of the McCombs School of Business. McDaniel served on and chaired multiple university committees and councils, and held various leadership positions on community committees.

McDaniel authored two books, *The Uncertainty and Surprise in Complex Systems* and *Organizations: An Information Systems Perspective*, completed chapters in thirteen books and wrote more than sixty articles.

McDaniel passed away in February 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reuben R. McDaniel was conducted by Denise Gines on February 6, 2007, in Austin, Texas, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and business professor Reuben R. McDaniel (1936 - 2016) held high-level academic and administrative positions at Baldwin-Wallace College Learning Center, the University of Texas-Austin, Texas Department of Human Resources, and the University of Texas Health Center in San Antonio. In addition to his work in the field of education, McDaniel also received many awards and recognition for his expertise in complexity science.

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:

McDaniel, Reuben R., Jr.

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McDaniel, Reuben R., Jr.--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

African American college administrators--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Reuben R. McDaniel, February 6, 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 Reuben R. McDaniel, Section A2007_050_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Reuben R. McDaniel was born on January 6, 1936 in Petersburg, Virginia to Nannie Finney McDaniel and Reuben R. McDaniel, Sr. His maternal grandparents, Robert Finney and Nannie Finney, were college educated teachers and farmers; and his grandfather was also a deacon at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Cumberland, Virginia. McDaniel's paternal grandmother, Annie McDaniel, worked as a domestic; while his grandfather, Beryl McDaniel, was a farmer and shoemaker. Although McDaniel's paternal grandparents had little education, his father excelled in his early schooling. McDaniel's father left home after the sixth grade to work as a mail boy in the U.S. Department of the Navy. While there, he met President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who encouraged him to return to school. He went on to graduate from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.; and, in 1938, earned a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. McDaniel was strongly influenced by his father's academic success.

African American educators--Interviews.

African American college administrators--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Reuben R. McDaniel, Section A2007_050_001_002, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Reuben R. McDaniel was raised on the campus of the Virginia State College for Negroes in Petersburg, Virginia, where his father, Reuben R. McDaniel, Sr., was the chairman of the mathematics department. McDaniel began his education at Matoaca Laboratory Elementary School and D. Webster Davis Laboratory High School, the college's teacher training institutions. He received poor instruction at these schools; and, at eleven years old, transferred to the Mount Hermon School for Boys in Gill, Massachusetts. McDaniel scored well on his college entrance examinations; and, in 1953, was offered a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There, he played basketball under Coach Howie Dallmar. McDaniel left school to work as an engineer at the Philco International Company and Sperry Rand Corporation, where he designed AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles. While working, he attended night classes at Philadelphia's Drexel Institute of Technology, and earned a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering.

Video Oral History Interview with Reuben R. McDaniel, Section A2007_050_001_003, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Reuben R. McDaniel attended the Mount Hermon School for Boys in Gill, Massachusetts, where he studied the liberal arts and became an avid reader. He briefly attended the University of Pennsylvania from 1953, and then left to work as an engineer and designer until 1965. Then, McDaniel became the director of educational services at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where he was the only African American on the faculty. Originally hired as a dean in the adult education program, he took on the directorship after the death of his predecessor. While at Baldwin-Wallace College, McDaniel advocated for increased minority enrollment. During the summers and on the weekends, he worked to obtain a M.S. degree in guidance and counseling at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. He then entered the Ed.D. degree program at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. McDaniel also remembers meeting National Urban

League Director Whitney Young.

Video Oral History Interview with Reuben R. McDaniel, Section A2007_050_001_004, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Reuben R. McDaniel earned an Ed.D. degree in higher education at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. While there, he also studied business under Professor H. Joseph Reitz, and began researching the organizational practices of higher education and healthcare institutions. McDaniel briefly served as an assistant professor at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida; and then, in 1972, became the associate dean of students at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, McDaniel became a business professor and an associate dean in the College of Business Administration, and also worked as a Medicaid commissioner for the Texas State Department of Public Welfare. He continued to research healthcare organizations, and published papers on chaos and complexity theory, including 'Practice Jazz,' which compared family medical practices to jazz groups. He also taught as a visiting professor at institutions such as the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration in Finland.

Video Oral History Interview with Reuben R. McDaniel, Section A2007_050_001_005, TRT: 0:21:53 ?

Reuben R. McDaniel taught students in the M.B.A. program and Ph.D. programs at the University of Texas at Austin in Austin, Texas. He published two books in collaboration with his doctoral students, as well as numerous journal articles. McDaniel reflects upon his life, and how he would like to be remembered. He also shares a message to future generations. McDaniel concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.