Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: White, Norma

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Norma White,

Dates: February 27, 2008

Bulk Dates: 2008

Physical Description: 3 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:07:51).

Abstract: Association chief executive Norma White (1934 - ) is the 25th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She also served as an educator in Jacksonville, Florida Public Schools for many years. White was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 27, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2008_033

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

25th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Norma Solomon White (1998 – 2002) was born on November 17, 1934 in Jacksonville, Florida. Under White’s leadership the Alpha Kappa Alpha administration focused its agenda on “Blazing New Trails.”

White was inducted into the Beta Alpha chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha at Florida A&M University (FAMU) in 1950. As a student at FAMU, White was the first female member of the famed FAMU Marching 100 Band to graduate. She graduated in 1955 with her B.S. degree and furthered her education by earning her M.A. degree in music at Columbia University. After graduating, White pursued a career in education in the public schools of Jacksonville, Florida.

White served as Regional Director for the South Atlantic Region from 1974 until 1978 and was successful in raising $100,000 for the United Negro College Fund. She later was elected to the office of First Supreme Anti-Basileus at the 56th Boule in Indianapolis, Indiana. In that capacity, she also served as the first vice-president of the sorority’s Educational Foundation Board. Then, in 1998, White became the 25th Supreme Basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha at the Boule held in Chicago, Illinois. The theme for her administration embraced six target areas: leadership development, education, health, the black family, economics and the arts. White also initiated the sorority’s “On Track” after school program which targeted at-risk students in grades three through six to prepare them for middle school.

White is Alpha Kappa Alpha’s first Supreme Basileus to be part of a mother-daughter legacy and is honored as the first female member of the famed FAMU Marching 100 Band through Jacksonville, Florida’s proclaimed day for her.

Dr. Norma Solomon White was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 27, 2008.
Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Norma White was conducted by Denise Gines on February 27, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 3 Betacam SP videocassettes. Association chief executive Norma White (1934 - ) is the 25th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She also served as an educator in Jacksonville, Florida Public Schools for many years.

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:

White, Norma Solomon
Gines, Denise (Interviewer)
Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
White, Norma Solomon--Interviews

African American women--Interviews

African American women civic leaders.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Norma White, February 27, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/29/2012 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, February 27, 2008

Video Oral History Interview with Norma White, Section A2008_033_001_001, TRT: 0:28:49
2008/02/27
Dr. Norma Solomon White discusses how she came to be an Alpha Kappa Alpha member and officer. White held various administrative positions within the sorority including Tamiochus, Regional Director, and International Program Chairman, before becoming the Supreme Basileus. White created various outreach programs such as “On Track” for schoolchildren and an AKA Coat Day. In 2002, she was able to dedicate ten schools in South Africa paid for with AKA fundraising. Judge Peggy Quince, Judge Vicky Miles-LaGrange, and Carol House Stewart helped White establish the anti-hazing program and continued to work on the issue of hazing. White says that for a sorority to be successful, it necessitates vision, participation, and action.

African American leadership.
African American women civic leaders.
African Americans--Florida--Jacksonville--Social life and customs.
African Americans--Education--Florida--History--20th century.

Video Oral History Interview with Norma White, Section A2008_033_001_002, TRT: 0:29:02 2008/02/27

Dr. Norma Solomon White discusses the accomplishments of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority during her role as Supreme Basileus [1998-2002]. White’s proudest AKA moments involved her mother and granddaughter and being able to leave AKA fiscally stable. She also published the book, A Legacy Supreme, just before leaving office. White credits vocational guidance, scholarships, and AKA’s continuous quality of service as key elements to AKA’s legacy. White’s vision of perfect sisterhood is teamwork in serving and protecting others. White discusses her family history beginning with her mother, Ruth Alma Cummings Solomon, who was the first of her family to go to college. Because White’s maternal grandfather was a pastor, the family of ten grew up in a parsonage in Jacksonville where White would often spend the days when her mother taught school.

African American leadership.
African American women civic leaders.
African American families--Florida--Jacksonville.
African Americans--Education--Florida.
African American women--Florida.

Video Oral History Interview with Norma White, Section A2008_033_001_003, TRT: 0:10:00 2008/02/27

Dr. Norma Solomon White discusses her mother’s education through graduate school from Florida Memorial University, Florida A&M University, and Columbia University before moving on to memories of her father, Gilbert Solomon. White describes how her father, his three sisters, and their father moved to Jacksonville when he was around sixteen years old because his mother had died. After sharing memories of her grandfather and West Union Baptist Church where her family attended, White turned her attention to her earliest memories of rocking on the front porch watching people walk to the City Market, walking to school and church with friends, and the story of how her parents met.

African Americans--Florida--Jacksonville--Social life and customs.
African Americans--Education--Florida.
African American families--Florida--Jacksonville.
African Americans--Education--Florida--History--20th century.