

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Warren Buck

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Buck, Warren Wesley, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Warren Buck,
Dates:	March 29, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:51:01).
Abstract:	Physicist Warren Buck (1946 -) , founding director of the Nuclear/High Energy Physics Research Center of Excellence at Hampton University, is chancellor emeritus and professor at the University of Washington, Bothell. Buck was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 29, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_084
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Physicist Warren Wesley Buck, III was born on February 16, 1946 to Warren W. Buck, Jr. and Mildred G. Buck in Washington, D.C. He was raised in Washington, D.C. and graduated from Spingarn High School in 1963. After graduating from Morgan State University in 1968 with his B.S. degree in mathematics, Buck enrolled at the College of William and Mary where he received his M.S. degree in experimental and theoretical plasma physics in 1970 and his Ph.D. degree in theoretical relativistic nuclear physics in 1976.

Throughout his career, Buck has continued to do research in physics and has published numerous papers in academic journals. Most of his research interests focused on nuclear and subatomic particles, including studies of the interactions between particles and anti-particles and the nature of mesons and the quark model. Buck joined the faculty of Hampton University in 1984 after sailing on his motorless boat for three consecutive years from Massachusetts to the Bahamas. He became a full professor at Hampton University in 1989. He also helped create the Ph.D. program in physics, which was the first Ph.D. degree program at Hampton University. Buck was a member of the team that established the science program at the Department of Energy's Jefferson Lab in Newport News, Virginia. He was also the founding director of the Nuclear/High Energy Physics Research Center of Excellence at Hampton University. In 1999, Buck was appointed chancellor and dean of the University of Washington, Bothell. He served in the position for six years. During his term, the University of Washington, Bothell became a four-year institution, and its new permanent campus was opened in the fall of 2000. Buck is also a painter, blending humanistic and physical elements in his art.

Buck has been recognized for his work as an educator and a researcher, being elected to membership in the American Physical Society (APS) and creating the popular Hampton University Graduate Studies (HUGS) summer school for nuclear physics graduate students worldwide. Buck was given the Hulon Willis Association Impact Award for his work within the African American community at the College of William and Mary. In 2001, Buck was named a "Giant in Science," by the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network. Buck has served on many advisory boards and committees, including the Committee on Education of the American Physical Society. He has also served on the board of directors of the Pacific Science Center. Buck married Cate Buck in 2006.

Warren Buck was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 29, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Warren Buck was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 29, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Physicist Warren Buck (1946 -) , founding director of the Nuclear/High Energy Physics Research Center of Excellence at Hampton University, is chancellor emeritus and professor at the University of Washington, Bothell.

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:

Buck, Warren Wesley, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Physicist

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 Warren Buck, March 29, 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 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

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 Warren Buck, Section
A2013_084_001_001, TRT: 1:28:48 2013/03/29

Warren Wesley Buck describes his family background. His mother, Mildred George Buck Talford, was born in 1919, in Chicago, Illinois, and his father, Warren Wesley Buck, Junior, was born in 1915, in St. Louis, Missouri. Buck's parents met at Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, while they were taking a mathematics class together. Buck describes his parents' growing up, and their experience at Lincoln University. He also talks about his father's education, his talent for drawing maps, and his employment as a draftsman. Buck recalls his parents' personalities, and his likeness to them. He shares a story of his father winning a lawsuit against the federal government, on charges of discrimination.

Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Warren Buck, Section
A2013_084_001_002, TRT: 2:28:28 2013/03/29

Warren Wesley Buck's parents met at Lincoln University, Missouri, and moved to Washington, D.C. after they were married. Buck describes his parents' personalities and who

he takes after. He and his brother, Lawrence, were raised in Washington, D.C., where he attended River Terrace Elementary School and Benning Elementary School. Buck describes his childhood memories, and his experience with segregation at school and in his neighborhood. He became interested in science at a young age, and talks about his interest in scientific gadgets and television, and his experiments with drugged insects and mice.

Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Warren Buck, Section
A2013_084_001_003, TRT: 3:28:39 2013/03/29

Warren Wesley Buck attended Woodson Junior High School and Spingarn High School in Washington, D.C., and describes his experience there. He reflects upon the significance of his elementary school teacher, Mr. Downing, who was also his first male African American teacher. Buck contrasts his elementary school mentor to the poor mentoring that he received in junior high school and high school. Buck and his brother, Lawrence, grew up with two dogs. He describes his academic performance in school, his experience with the Boy Scouts, his trip to Philmont, New Mexico, and his participation in the 440 yard dash at the Penn Relays while he was in high school.

Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Warren Buck, Section
A2013_084_001_004, TRT: 4:28:30 2013/03/29

After graduating from Spingarn High School in Washington, D.C. in 1963, Warren Wesley Buck attended Lincoln University in Missouri. Buck describes his experience at Lincoln, and his decision to drop out after

two years. He talks about his jobs in Washington, D.C. after returning from Lincoln University, and his experience with the Director of Selective Service who signed his deferment from the Vietnam War in 1965, allowing him to attend college. Buck completed his B.S. degree in mathematics at Morgan State College/University, in 1968, soon after he married his first wife in 1967. Buck describes his positive academic experience at Morgan State.

Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Warren Buck, Section A2013_084_001_005, TRT: 5:28:42 2013/03/29

Warren Wesley Buck graduated with his B.S. degree in mathematics from Morgan State College/University in 1968. He then attended the College of William and Mary for his graduate studies in plasma physics. Buck describes his experience with segregation in Williamsburg, Virginia, but his warm reception at the physics department at William and Mary. Buck became politically active while in graduate school, and founded the Black Student Organization at the College of William and Mary. He received his M.S. degree in experimental and theoretical plasma physics in 1970, and then spent a year teaching mathematics at Bowie State University. Buck also describes the rioting in Washington, D.C. on the night that Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, his mother's involvement in early childhood education and the Head Start Program, the break-up of his first marriage, and his introduction to sailing.

Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Warren Buck, Section

Warren Wesley Buck returned to the College of William and Mary in the 1970s, and earned his Ph.D. degree in theoretical relativistic nuclear physics in 1976. Under the tutelage of his doctoral advisor, Franz Gross, Buck completed his doctoral dissertation, titled 'Deuteron Wave Functions with Relativistic Interactions'. Buck pursued his post-doctoral research on matter and anti-matter interactions at Stony Brook University, and describes the scientific community's response to his findings. He talks about his relationship with his master's degree advisor, Frederick Crownfield, and his father's support of his scientific work. Buck also describes his experience with integrating the Tampa Yacht Club in 1971.

Affirmative action programs.

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