

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alexandria Holloway

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Holloway, Alexandria, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alexandria Holloway,
Dates:	March 10, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:06:52).
Abstract:	Academic administrator Alexandria Holloway (1947 -) served at Miami Dade College for forty-one years, and founded the Honors College in 2001, which was named in honor in 2011. Holloway was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 10, 2017, in Miami, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_034
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator Alexandria Holloway was born on April 15, 1947 in Jackson, Mississippi to Alfanette Holloway and Clifford Holloway. After she graduated from high school, Holloway attended Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi and earned her B.A. degree in music education in 1968. Holloway earned her M.A. degree in music education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1970 and her Ph.D. degree in music education from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida in 1984.

Holloway began her career at Garden Hills Elementary School in Champaign, Illinois. In 1973, she began teaching music education and piano classes at Jackson State University. The following year, Holloway began teaching middle school classes at Franklin Junior High School in Champaign. She then moved to Miami, Florida in 1976 to teach at Miami Dade College. During the same year, Holloway was appointed as chairman of the music department. In 1986, Holloway was appointed as the associate dean of arts and letters at the Kendall campus of Miami Dade College. After remaining in that position for ten years, Holloway was appointed as the academic dean at the Wolfson campus of Miami Dade. In 2001, she helped found the Honors College at Miami Dade. Holloway was active in the Honors College until her retirement in 2011. After leaving Miami Dade College, Holloway served as the president and chief executive officer of AH Academic Consulting Group.

In addition to her career at Miami Dade College, Holloway served as a board member of various organizations including the New World School of the Arts, the YMCA South Dade Family Center, the Concert Association of Florida, and the Jubilate Chorale. Holloway also served as president of the National Black Music Caucus and as the chapter president of the Links, Inc. in 1996.

Holloway was recognized for her nearly forty years of service to Miami Dade College at her retirement in 2011, when the Honors College was named in her honor. She was also named on *Success Magazine's* list of "25 Most Influential and Prominent Black Women" in 2009.

Alexandria Holloway was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 10, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alexandria Holloway was conducted by Harriette Cole on March 10, 2017, in Miami, Florida, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Academic administrator Alexandria Holloway (1947 -) served at Miami Dade College for forty-one years, and founded the Honors College in 2001, which was named in honor in 2011.

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:

Holloway, Alexandria, 1947-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Holloway, Alexandria, 1947- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Alexandria Holloway, March 10, 2017. 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 Alexandria Holloway, Section A2017_034_001_001, TRT: 1:28:45 ?

Alexandria Holloway was born on April 15, 1947 in Jackson, Mississippi to Alfamette Kelley Holloway and Clifford Holloway. Holloway's maternal great-great-grandmother was born into slavery. Her maternal great-grandmother, Aretta McCowan, lived in Terry, Mississippi, where she raised three children,

including Holloway's maternal grandmother, Mary McCowan Kelley. Her grandmother married railroad worker John Kelley, Sr., to whom Holloway's mother was born in Jackson in 1922. Her mother studied piano and trombone at Jackson State College, and became an elementary school music teacher in Jackson. During the summers, she continued her education at Indiana University in Bloomington. Holloway's father was born around 1904 in Columbia, Mississippi. His parents, Jodie Holloway and Lucy Holloway, died when he was a teenager, leaving him to care for his six younger siblings. He later moved to Jackson to work on the Illinois Central Railroad, and met Holloway's mother at the Christ Temple Church of Christ Holiness.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexandria Holloway, Section A2017_034_001_002, TRT: 2:28:28 ?

Alexandria Holloway grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, where her family attended the Christ Temple Church of Christ Holiness. From an early age, Holloway was drawn to music, and took extra piano lessons in place of her sister, Yvette Holloway Lynch. She attended Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Elementary School until the fifth grade, when she enrolled at Sally Reynolds Elementary School. However, she experienced bullying there, and returned to Catholic school the following year. Holloway attended Jim Hill High School from the seventh grade, and graduated in 1964. During this time, she became active in the Civil Rights Movement. With her family, she attended mass meetings at the Masonic Temple in Jackson, where she heard speakers like Harry Belafonte, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sammy Davis, Jr. and Lena Horne. After NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963, Holloway was among the hundreds of protestors who were arrested and detained at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexandria Holloway, Section A2017_034_001_003, TRT: 3:29:18 ?

Alexandria Holloway pursued her interest in music while attending Jim Hall High School in Jackson, Mississippi. She directed a choir, played piano at her church and continued to take private piano lessons. Following her graduation in 1964, Holloway attended a summer music program at the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia. In the fall, she enrolled at Jackson State College. Finding herself ahead of her classmates in repertoire and music theory skills, Holloway dedicated her time to practicing piano. She intended to become a concert pianist; but, due to a conflict with Professor Gladys Norris, she shifted her focus to music education. In 1968, Holloway enrolled in a master's degree program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. From 1970 to 1976, she taught at Garden Hills Elementary School and Franklin Junior High School in Champaign, Illinois under superintendent Cleveland Hammonds. During that time, she spent one year as a music professor at Jackson State University.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexandria Holloway, Section A2017_034_001_004, TRT: 4:28:34 ?

Alexandria Holloway accepted a teaching position at Miami-Dade Community College in Miami, Florida in 1976. Her colleagues at the school were predominantly white, and she initially struggled to find her place within the black community, which was composed of northern migrants, native Miamians and Caribbean immigrants who rarely interacted. Eventually, Holloway became widely involved on the South Campus of Miami-Dade Community College, where she taught music and directed the choir. She also taught part time at Florida International University, worked for the National Endowment for the Arts, taught private lessons and served as a church pianist. In 1981, Holloway

began a doctorate in music education at Florida State University in Tallahassee. While there, she was influenced by piano professor Leonidas Lipovetsky, piano student Marcus Roberts and music education professor Clifford Madsen. In 1984, Holloway returned to the Miami-Dade Community College, where she became the chairwoman of the music department.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexandria Holloway, Section A2017_034_001_005, TRT: 5:11:47 ?

Alexandria Holloway belonged to the Holiness church, and had little background in the gospel music tradition. However, for a Black History Month program in the late 1970s, she taught two gospel songs to the choir at the Miami-Dade Community College South Campus. Afterwards, Holloway agreed to help the students form a gospel choir. She attended the Gospel Music Workshop of America to learn the music, and recruited an accompanist from the student body. The group became known as the JUBA Gospel Ensemble, and recorded the album 'JUBA Live' in 1985. After serving as chairwoman of the music department, Holloway was appointed associate dean of the Miami-Dade Community College South Campus. She went on to serve as academic dean of the Wolfson Campus, and founded the Honors College before retiring in 2010. At this point, Holloway talks about her struggles with illnesses like endometriosis, breast cancer and a thymic cyst that was wrapped around her heart and lungs.