

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with King V. Cheek, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cheek, King Vergil
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with King V. Cheek, Jr.,
Dates:	June 14, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:37:55).
Abstract:	University president King V. Cheek, Jr. (1937 -) was the president of both Shaw University and Morgan State University. He is the author of numerous books, chapters and articles including, "The Quadrasoul," four novels that explore four dimensions of the human spirit. Cheek was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 14, 2004, in Silver Spring, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_075
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author and lifelong educator King Virgil Cheek was born on May 26, 1937, in Weldon, North Carolina. His father was a Baptist minister and his mother was the first black female insurance broker in North Carolina. He attended Washington Street Elementary School and became a child evangelist at twelve years old while attending Lincoln Junior High. Cheek received his high school diploma from Dudley High School in Greensboro in 1955, where he was a member of the debate team.

Recruited by his mentor, Dr. Benjamin Mayes, he attended Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and earned his bachelor of arts degree in economics in 1959. He went on to earn his master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1967. Cheek earned his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1969. He was active in the civil rights movement, participating in the March on Washington and passed up a number of lucrative offers to practice law and chose instead to teach at a Black college in the South.

At the age of twenty-seven, Cheek became a college dean and vice president at Shaw University, a post he held until 1969, when he was appointed president. Cheek served as president at Shaw University until 1971. That year, Cheek was named president of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, where he remained until 1974. From 1974 through 1976, he was the vice president of the Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities; Cheek served as president of the organization from 1976-1978. His focus then shifted to leadership development; along with a colleague they developed the Center for Leadership and Career Development in Washington, D.C., in 1978. From 1985 until 1996, Cheek served in a number of posts at the New York Institute of Technology including social sciences professor, dean of graduate studies and vice president of academic affairs.

From 2001 until 2003, Cheek served as the chancellor of the New York College of Health Professionals. He is the author of numerous books, chapters and articles including *The Quadrasoul* four novels that explore four

dimensions of the human spirit. He is also the recipient of innumerable awards and honors. Cheek is currently in the process of launching a new non-traditional medical school in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, China and South Africa. The “College of Integrated Medicine” will combine traditional western medicine with a holistic approach. The schools are scheduled to open in September 2005.

Cheek was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 14, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with King V. Cheek, Jr. was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on June 14, 2004, in Silver Spring, Maryland, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. University president King V. Cheek, Jr. (1937 -) was the president of both Shaw University and Morgan State University. He is the author of numerous books, chapters and articles including, "The Quadrasoul," four novels that explore four dimensions of the human spirit.

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:

Cheek, King Vergil

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cheek, King Vergil--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard University

Occupations:

University President

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 King V. Cheek, Jr., June 14, 2004. 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 King V. Cheek, Jr., Section A2004_075_001_001, TRT: 0:29:20
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Educator King Virgil Cheek describes his family background, describing both his mother's and father's personalities. Cheek recalls growing up in Greensboro, North Carolina. He didn't talk until age six or seven, which led some to believe he had a disability. Cheek explains that he was a loner as a child, which helped him cultivate an active imagination. Cheek also describes his elementary school experience. His second grade teacher recognized his intelligence, and administered a test proving that he was gifted rather than disabled.

Video Oral History Interview with King V. Cheek, Jr., Section A2004_075_001_002, TRT: 0:31:11
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Educator King Virgil Cheek discusses his childhood aspirations, and gives examples of his self reliance and work ethic, including his decision to get a job and pay rent to his father at the age of nine. Cheek describes his high school experience, remembering his interest in debate and his friendship with Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, two factors that led to his enrollment at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Cheek describes his time there and at the University of Chicago, where he attained a master's degree and a law degree. Cheek tells how his involvement in interracial and interfaith relationships at Chicago helped him grow personally and spiritually.

Video Oral History Interview with King V. Cheek, Jr., Section A2004_075_001_003, TRT: 0:29:50
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Educator King Virgil Cheek describes his professional career as an educator and administrator, including stints at Shaw University, Morgan State University, and the New York Institute for Technology. Cheek shares his thoughts on the Civil Rights Movement, and talks about his efforts to support non-traditional, progressive models of learning while in charge of the Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities.

Video Oral History Interview with King V. Cheek, Jr., Section A2004_075_001_004, TRT: 0:07:34
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Educator King Virgil Cheek discusses his plans to start an institution focused on non-traditional medicinal practice. Cheek also describes his relationship with his brother, fellow educator James Cheek.