

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lawrence Carter

PERSON

Carter, Lawrence Edward, 1941-

Alternative Names: Lawrence Carter;

Life Dates: September 23, 1941-

Place of Birth: Dawson, Georgia, USA

Residence: Lithonia, Georgia

Work: Atlanta, Georgia

Occupations: Chapel Dean

Biographical Note

Chapel Dean and religion professor Lawrence Carter was born in Georgia to John and Bernice Carter and grew up in Ohio. He received his B.A. degree from Virginia University of Lynchburg and his M. Div., S.T.M., and Ph.D. degrees from Boston University. After his graduation he served as Baptist Counselor, Residential Counselor, and Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Afro American Cultural Center, and as Associate Dean of Daniel L. Marsh Chapel at Boston University. He went on to teach at Harvard University Divinity School and serve as coordinator of African American studies at Simmons College.

Carter eventually became a tenured professor at Morehouse College, a college that Martin Luther King Jr. had tried to recruit him for years earlier. In 1979, Carter became the first Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel and college curator. In the same year, Carter also founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel Assistants Pre-seminarians Program at Morehouse. In 1982, he began lecturing at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Carter was responsible for choosing and researching the site for the new edifice for Ebenezer Baptist Church, a church that both Martin Luther King Jr. and his father preached at. Carter has published several books, including *Walking Integrity: Benjamin Elijah Mays, Mentor to Martin Luther King Jr.* and *Global Ethical Options, in the Tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Daisaku Ikeda*. He also commissioned the Gandhi Ikeda King Hassan Institute for Ethics and Reconciliation in 1999, and created the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Community Builder's Prize of the Morehouse Chapel in 2001. Carter is an advocate of the work of Doctor Daisaku Ikeda, president of

the lay Buddhist organization Soka Gakki International, and has done much to publicize Ikeda's work in the U.S., including helping to create a traveling museum exhibit on the life and work of Gandhi, King, and Ikeda.

Carter has received four honorary degrees from Lincoln University, Al al-Bayt University, and Soka University of Japan. He has been elected delegate to numerous international religious conventions, among them the Second and Third Synthesis Dialogues in Italy. He has also been given many awards, such as the Seikyo Award for Highest Honor and the Trumpet Award for Spirituality. Carter has been a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow twice, a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar, and has been voted a member of the Class of Leadership Atlanta. Lawrence Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 15, 2010.

Related Entries

West High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Virginia University of Lynchburg [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Boston University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M. Div.

Morehouse College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to ?]

Professor, Chapel Dean

Boston University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Residential Counselor, Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Afro American Cultural Center, Associate Dean of Daniel L. Marsh Chapel

Simmons College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Coordinator of African American Studies

Bates College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to 2002]

Visiting Professor

Interdenominational Theological Center [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Lecturer

Gandhi King Ikeda Hassan Institute for Ethics and Reconciliation [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Co-Founder