

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Albert Crenshaw

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Crenshaw, Albert G., 1952-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Albert Crenshaw,
Dates:	April 21, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:39:58).
Abstract:	Physiologist Albert Crenshaw (1952 -) , associate professor at the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Gävle in Umeå, Sweden, was the first African American in Sweden to earn a doctoral degree the medical sciences. Crenshaw was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 21, 2013, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_002
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Physiologist Albert G. Crenshaw was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 20, 1952. His father was a construction worker and his mother a domestic worker. Crenshaw did not take to science right away; rather, he attended Chowan Junior College on a basketball scholarship and received his A.A. degree from there in 1973. He then enrolled at West Virginia University and earned his B.A. degree in biology in 1977. Crenshaw went on to earn his Ph.D. degree in physiology and anatomy in 1994 from the University of Umeå. He was the first African American in Sweden to earn a doctoral degree in the medical sciences. Crenshaw's Ph.D. thesis was entitled, *Intramuscular Pressure Techniques for Studying Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness*.

In 1978, Crenshaw moved to San Diego, California and accepted a position as a research technician at the University of California, San Diego in an orthopedic research lab. While there, Crenshaw had the opportunity to study abroad in Gothenburg, Sweden for eight months in a laboratory exchange program. In 1989, he relocated with the lab to the NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field outside of San Francisco. Following his tenure at NASA, Crenshaw was invited and accepted a position as a Ph.D. student at the University of Umea and graduated in 1994. From 1995 to 1996, Crenshaw served concurrently as a research assistant in the East Hospital department of orthopaedics at the University of Gothenburg and as a research assistant in the department of anatomy at the University of Umea. He was then appointed as an assistant professor of physiology at the Swedish National Institute for Working Life in the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research. In 2000, he became an associate professor at the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Gavle in Umea, Sweden.

Throughout his career, Crenshaw has contributed over fifty scientific articles to journals such as *European Journal of Applied Physiology*, *Acta Physiologica Scandinavica*, *Journal of Applied Physiology*, and *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*. NASA awarded him the Certificate of Recognition during tenure as laboratory manager. Crenshaw resides in Umea, Sweden with his wife and two children.

Albert G. Crenshaw was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 21, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Albert Crenshaw was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 21, 2013, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Physiologist Albert Crenshaw (1952 -), associate professor at the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Gävle in Umeå, Sweden, was the first African American in Sweden to earn a doctoral degree the medical sciences.

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:

Crenshaw, Albert G., 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Crenshaw, Albert G., 1952- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Physiologist

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 Albert Crenshaw, April 21, 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 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 Albert Crenshaw, Section A2013_002_001_001, TRT: 1:28:27 ?

Albert Crenshaw describes his family background. His mother, Reva Louise Sampson Crenshaw, was born in 1931 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Crenshaw describes his mother's growing up in Charlottesville, and talks about her mentor, Mrs. Blanton, who helped her attend night school to become a secretary. Reva Crenshaw spent her career on the secretarial staff of the University of Virginia

Hospital. Crenshaw's father, Albert Eugene Crenshaw, was born in Virginia in 1930, and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Overbrook High School in Philadelphia, he joined the U.S. Army. Crenshaw describes how his parents met, and talks about their short-lived marriage. His mother moved back to Virginia when he was three months old, and he and his three siblings were raised in Charlottesville. Crenshaw also talks about his father's alcoholism, his relationship with his father, and his fondness for his paternal grandmother.

African American families--Virginia.

African American single mothers--Virginia.

Alcoholics--Family relationships.

Fathers and sons--Family relationships.

African American grandmothers.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Crenshaw, Section A2013_002_001_002, TRT: 2:29:08 ?

Albert Crenshaw and his siblings were raised by their mother, Reva Louise Sampson Crenshaw, in Charlottesville, Virginia. After his parents' separation when he was three months old, his mother moved back to Virginia, and eventually established a career as a secretary at the University of Virginia Hospital. Crenshaw describes his childhood memories of Charlottesville, and recalls the death of his grandmother when he was three years old. He attended Jackson P. Burley High School and the integrated Albemarle High School, and describes his experience there. He recalls the lack of a distinct science education throughout high school, and talks about his interest in playing basketball. Crenshaw also talks about his fascination with insects, which was his first exposure to science, particularly biology. After graduating from high school, Crenshaw attended Chowan Junior College in Murfreesboro, North Carolina, where he took his first biology class.

African American single mothers--Virginia.

Childhood and youth--Virginia.

Grandmothers--Death.

African American high school students--Virginia.

Biology--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Crenshaw, Section A2013_002_001_003, TRT: 3:28:18 ?

Albert Crenshaw attended Albemarle High School in Charlottesville. He describes the influence of his mother and his English teacher in high school, who motivated him to work harder. Crenshaw attended Chowan Junior College in Murfreesboro, North Carolina on a basketball scholarship. He describes his experience at Chowan, his interest in biology, and becoming a husband and father. In 1973, Crenshaw enrolled in West Virginia University where he stopped playing basketball to focus on his studies. In 1978, he was appointed as a Staff Research Associate at the University of California, San Diego, where he worked on developing a method for measuring the fluid pressure between muscle fibers, under the guidance of Dr. Alan Hargens. In 1983, Crenshaw spent a year as a laboratory assistant at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, where he worked on nerve regeneration with Dr. Göran Lundborg.

African American high school students--Virginia.

Sports--Scholarships, fellowships, etc.--North Carolina.

Biologists--Intellectual life--20th century.

Biologists--Employment.

Hargens, Alan R.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Crenshaw, Section A2013_002_001_004, TRT: 4:28:15 ?

Upon his return from Sweden to the University of California, San Diego in 1984, Albert Crenshaw focused his research on the orthopedic condition known as compartment syndrome. In 1990, he returned to Umeå University in Sweden, where he began to work on a research project on delayed onset muscle soreness (DOMS). He describes his Ph.D. dissertation research, titled 'Intramuscular Pressure Techniques for Studying Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness'. Crenshaw met his wife in 1990 in Umeå, and decided to stay in Sweden after defending his doctoral dissertation in 1994. Crenshaw also talks about his experience at NASA's Ames Research Center in 1989, where he worked on designing exercises for astronauts, to prevent muscle degeneration in space. He describes his life in Sweden, talks about his family, and his mother's visit in 1994.

Compartment syndrome.

Umeå University medical dissertations.

African Americans--Sweden.

Ames Research Center.

African American families--Sweden.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Crenshaw, Section A2013_002_001_005, TRT: 5:28:58 ?

In 1994, Albert Crenshaw earned his Ph.D. degree in Muscle Physiology and Anatomy from Umeå University in Sweden. He then pursued his postdoctoral research on muscle morphology at Umeå University and the University of Gothenburg. In 1996, Crenshaw became an assistant professor at the National Institute of Occupational Health in Umeå. In 2000, he was appointed as an associate professor of Experimental Sports Medicine at Umeå University, and at the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Gävle. Crenshaw describes his career-long research and findings on occupational musculoskeletal disorders, a typical day in his life as an academic scientist, the experimental design and methodology for his current research interests, and the application of near infrared spectroscopy and electromyography in measuring muscle oxygenation and brain oxygenation. He also discusses the demographics of Umeå University and the importance of scientists being able to communicate their work to a general audience.

African American scientists--Intellectual life--Sweden--20th century.

Umeå University--Faculty.

Musculoskeletal Physiology.

Oxygen--Physiological transport.

Umeå University--Demographic aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Crenshaw, Section A2013_002_001_006, TRT: 6:16:52 ?

Albert Crenshaw reflects upon his legacy and his career, and talks about how he would like to be remembered. He also describes his mentoring responsibilities at Umeå University in Sweden, his interest in writing poetry, and his hopes and concerns for the African American community. Crenshaw has lived in Sweden for twenty-three years, and he and his wife have raised two daughters in Umeå.

Mentoring--Education--Sweden.

Mentoring in science--Sweden.

Poetry--Therapeutic use.

African American families--Sweden.