

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paul Delaney

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Delaney, Paul, 1933-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Paul Delaney,
Dates:	August 5, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:06:06).
Abstract:	Journalism professor and newspaper correspondent Paul Delaney (1933 -) has had a long and prestigious career as a print journalist that spanned the Civil Rights Movement, and continued well into the 21st century. Delaney was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 5, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_186
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Distinguished veteran print journalist and activist Paul Delaney was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on January 13, 1933. Delaney attended Ohio State University where he received his B.A. degree in journalism. Paul Delaney's writing and leadership as a proponent of civil and humanitarian rights has led to his distinction and recognition as a journalist, humanitarian, scholar and activist.

Delaney's career began at the *Atlanta Daily World* amidst the Civil Rights Movement. While at the *Atlanta Daily World*, Delaney covered some of the most important figures and events of the Civil Rights Movement. From Atlanta, Delaney went to work for the *Dayton Daily News* in Dayton, Ohio, and the *Washington Star* in Washington, D.C. Delaney next joined the *New York Times* Washington, D.C. bureau, where he covered urban affairs, politics, and civil rights. Delaney served in the Chicago Bureau of the *New York Times* as bureau chief in Madrid, Spain, an editor on the national news desk, and senior editor for newsroom administration. Paul Delaney spent twenty-three years with the *New York Times* as an editor and correspondent where he rose to national prominence as an African American journalist. Delaney became recognized for being one of the most prominent journalists of African American heritage in the world. Delaney served from 1992 to 1996 as the first African American chair of the University of Alabama's journalism department, editor of the editorial page of *Our World News* from 1996 to 1998, and wrote editorials for the *Baltimore Sun* from 1999 to 2000.

Delaney was one of the founders of the National Association of Black Journalists and a member of the Overseas Press Club; the Society of Silurians; the Society of Professional Journalists; and the board for National Public Radio. Delaney was also on the selection committee for the Media Fellows in Health Program at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Delaney went on to direct the Initiative on Racial Mythology of the Gene Media Forum sponsored by Syracuse University.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Paul Delaney was conducted by Jodi Merriday on August 5, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Journalism professor and newspaper correspondent Paul Delaney (1933 -) has had a long and prestigious career as a print journalist that spanned the Civil Rights Movement, and continued well into the 21st century.

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:

Delaney, Paul, 1933-

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Delaney, Paul, 1933- --Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews

Journalism teachers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

New York Times Company

Occupations:

Newspaper Correspondent

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Paul Delaney, August 5, 2005. 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 Paul Delaney, Section A2005_186_001_001, TRT: 0:28:22 ?

Paul Delaney was born on January 13, 1933 in Montgomery, Alabama. His

mother, Mamie Fuse Delaney, was born in Montgomery and married Delaney's father, John Paul Delaney, Sr., right out of high school. Delaney's paternal grandfather was the lead contractor and a founding members of Holt Street Baptist Church in Montgomery; Delaney's father was a carpenter and a contractor. As a child, Delaney remembers gathering plants with his paternal grandfather, who was also an herbalist. Delaney was raised with his five siblings in a tight-knit family who ate meals together every day. He attended Loveless Elementary School and from an early age aspired to be a writer. He led many activities and clubs in high school and after graduating, attended Alabama State University. After his freshman year, his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and he was drafted by the U.S. Army and spent two years stationed in Bordeaux, France. Upon his return in the mid-1950s, he attended The Ohio State University where he majored in journalism.

African American journalists--Interviews.

Journalism teachers--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Delaney, Section A2005_186_001_002, TRT: 0:28:39 ?

Paul Delaney attended The Ohio State University where he majored in journalism and was sports editor of the school paper. He covered Ohio State's football team's appearance in the 1958 Rose Bowl and intentionally goaded coach Woody Hayes. Delaney recalls underlying tension between the white and black communities on campus. Upon graduating in 1958, Delaney was the only journalism major in his class who struggled to find a job. He worked briefly for the Baltimore Afro-American, but was disappointed by the paper's lack of integrity. He was hired by the Atlanta Daily World in 1959. In Atlanta, he met civil rights activists HistoryMakers Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Joyce and Dorie Ladner, James Foreman, Samuel DuBois Cook and others. He was fired by the World's editor C.A. Scott who, like many local leaders, resisted the presence of the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta. In 1963, Delaney was hired by the Dayton Daily News. In 1967, he was hired by the Washington Star to cover D.C.'s newly reorganized city government.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Delaney, Section A2005_186_001_003, TRT: 0:28:38 ?

Paul Delaney disagreed with the Atlanta Daily World's conservative stance on civil rights. In 1960, while a reporter for the World, he helped students start the Atlanta Inquirer. HistoryMaker The Honorable Julian Bond was one of the paper's editors and Delaney and HistoryMaker Charlayne Hunter-Gault were reporters. In 1969, Delaney was hired by the New York Times as an urban affairs correspondent, covering trends like white flight, the expansion of interstate highways and the migration to the Sunbelt. From 1974 to 1977, he was a reporter for Time's Chicago Bureau. In 1977, he became the first African American national desk editor of the New York Times. In 1986, he became the Time's bureau chief in Madrid, Spain where he covered the rise of North Africa's discontent with U.S. foreign policy and observed the changes in Spain since the end of Francisco Franco's regime. Delaney describes the pressure of living overseas with his family and the media coverage of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Delaney, Section A2005_186_001_004, TRT: 0:28:27 ?

Paul Delaney was one of the founders of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in 1975. He lived in Madrid, Spain for three years when he was the New York Times bureau chief covering Spain, Portugal and North Africa. When he returned to the U.S. in 1989, he became the Times's senior editor for newsroom administration where he strove to increase the diversity of the newsroom. From 1992 to 1996 he was the first black chair of the journalism

department at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. During the mid-1990s, he wrote for Our World News, tried to start A Center for the Study of Race and Media at Howard University in Washington, D.C., wrote editorials for the Baltimore Sun, was involved with the Gene Media Forum and served on the boards of National Public Radio and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. He remembers his mentors and reflects upon representations of hip hop in the media, the role of media in society, the progress of black journalists and the next generation of journalists.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul Delaney, Section A2005_186_001_005, TRT: 0:12:00 ?

Paul Delaney shares advice for people interested in a career in journalism, explains why he believes history is important, and reflects upon important lessons learned about surviving adversity and managing relationships. He describes how he would like to be remembered and his concerns for the African American community, and talks about the employment crisis among young African American men. Delaney concludes by reflecting upon his life and legacy.