Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator: Tyrone Taborn
Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn,
Dates: July 28, 2007
Bulk Dates: 2007
Physical Description: 7 Betacam SP videocassettes (3:13:59).
Abstract: Publishing chief executive and civic leader Tyrone Taborn (1959 - ) is the founder, chairman and CEO of Career Communications Group, Inc., which publishes "U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology," "Women of Color Technology" and other magazines. He is also a contributing author of the best-selling "The Covenant with Black America." Taborn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 28, 2007, in Reisterstown, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification: A2007_218
Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Publishing chief executive and civic leader Tyrone Taborn was born in Chicago, Illinois, on February 8, 1959, to Edith Taborn. Taborn was raised in an African American and Latino home in Los Angeles, California. Taborn attended Cornell University, where he held membership in the Quill and Dagger, the secret honor society, and was one of thirty-two academic scholars with membership to the Telluride Association. In 1978, Taborn was selected to be the first Lyndon B. Johnson intern in the office of late Congressman Julian C. Dixon. In 1986, Taborn founded and became the Chairman and CEO of Career Communications Group, Inc., a multimillion-dollar talent management and career development company that publishes "U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology," the nation’s only general-interest technology magazine for the African American community. He also produced the award–winning syndicated television show "Success Through Education." In 2006, Taborn was a contributing author for "The Covenant With Black America," "The New York Times" bestseller compiled by Tavis Smiley. Taborn was also a frequent contributor for the "Baltimore Sun." Taborn is the founder of Black Family Technology Week, La Familia Technology Awareness Week and the Native American Technology Awareness Project. The goal of these public awareness campaigns is to promote the value of technology and its importance in educating and preparing minority children for future careers. Taborn is the editor-in-chief of "Hispanic Engineer and Information."

Tyrone Taborn is a community leader, undertaking initiatives and serving on the boards of organizations to improve the education and career opportunities of African Americans and minorities in inner-cities. Taborn’s past and present board memberships include the Baltimore Engineering Society, the Afro-American Newspaper...
Company, the Baltimore Urban League, Granville Academy, Centro de La Comunidad, Morgan State University Foundation, The Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust, Women Legislators of Maryland, Baltimore Partners for Enhanced Learning and The Presidents' RoundTable. Taborn was named one of the 50 Most Important African-Americans in Technology by Blackmoney.com, one of only nine internet and technology leaders honored by Sprint and MOBE IT. He was presented with a Congressional Black Caucus Honor as a Pioneer in Publishing by Congressman Major Owens. In 2005, he received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Morgan State University.

Taborn is married to Jean Hamilton and is the father of two children.

Tyrone Taborn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers July 28, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Tyrone Taborn was conducted by Cheryl Butler on July 28, 2007, in Reisterstown, Maryland, and was recorded on 7 Betacam SP videocassettes. Publishing chief executive and civic leader Tyrone Taborn (1959 - ) is the founder, chairman and CEO of Career Communications Group, Inc., which publishes "U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology," "Women of Color Technology" and other magazines. He is also a contributing author of the bestselling "The Covenant with Black America."

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:

Taborn, Tyrone

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer)
Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.
Taborn, Tyrone--Interviews.

African American publishers--Interviews.

African American businesspeople--Maryland--Baltimore--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Career Communications Group, Inc.

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

CivicMakers

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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/9/2011 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, July 28, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_001, TRT: 0:28:36

2007/07/28

Tyrone Taborn shares his maternal family history. Taborn's maternal grandmother, Vivian Strickland Wallace, was originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Vivian and her sister Novella Strickland Nicholson moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1940. Novella had a teacher's degree while Vivian cleaned houses in the Chicago suburbs. Vivian married Victor Wallace, a light-skinned man who was part Indian. Victor worked on the railroad. Victor and Vivian had a tumultuous relationship. Edith Lucille Wallace, their daughter and Taborn's mother, was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1941. Victor eventually died of complications from alcoholism. As a widowed mother, Vivian depended upon public assistance to support herself and her children. Taborn's father was not present during his early childhood.

Public welfare.
Single parents.

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_002, TRT: 0:28:59

2007/07/28

Tyrone Taborn shares his paternal family history and early childhood. The Taborns were Haitian but moved to Carbondale, Illinois after the Mexican-American War. His grandfather, Norval Taborn, was a baritone in The Four Vagabonds. His grandmother had a profound effect on his life, encouraging him to speak out about his beliefs. Taborn grew up on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois. He describes walking from the elevated train to his grandmother’s house. He passed many liquor stores, which were a combination of community hangout, candy store and grocery store. As a child, Taborn read several Nation of Islam publications and recalls being amused by their portrayal of white people as devils. When he was in the sixth grade, his family moved to Los Angeles, California. He was initially excited because of the weather but quickly became aware of the influence of gangs, such as the Bloods and the Crips.

Social conditions--African Americans--Illinois--Chicago.
Social conditions--African Americans--California--Los Angeles.

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_003, TRT: 0:28:40

2007/07/28

Tyrone Taborn talks about his high school and college years. In Los Angeles, California, he was involved in a student news organization called Channel 58, which featured students and was run by the school district. His experiences with Channel 58 provided him with many exciting opportunities, such as attending the Academy Awards and visiting Camp Pendleton. Taborn attend
three different high schools. He initially attended an inner-city high school and was then bussed two and a half hours on city buses to a suburban school. He eventually graduated from University High School. While in high school, Taborn participated in the Telluride Association summer program at Cornell University. He cites affirmative action as an important aspect of his life that allowed him to take advantage of opportunities and to develop his talent. Taborn matriculated to Cornell University where he was a member of the Quill and Dagger, a secret honors society.

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--California--Los Angeles.
Telluride Association.
Journalism, High school.
Affirmative action programs--New York (State)--Ithaca.
Cornell University--Admission.
Quill and Dagger Society (Cornell University).

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_004, TRT: 0:29:03
2007/07/28

Tyrone Taborn discusses his high school and college years. In 1978, Taborn was selected to be the first Lyndon B. Johnson intern in the office of United States Congressman Julian C. Dixon of California. At Cornell University, Taborn was involved with many activist campaigns. He campaigned for the university to divest from South African because of its apartheid policies. Taborn remembers that his aunt, Doris Nicholson, was a mother figure to him during his college years since she lived nearby in White Plains, New York. Taborn took a leave of absence from Cornell during his senior year to start Mojo Sasa, a black nationalist section of Cornell's school paper, but lost funding for the magazine. Instead of returning to Cornell, he launched his own company, Career Communications Group, which publishes several magazines focused on science and technology, and the role of minorities in these fields.

African Americans--Education (Higher).
African American businesspeople.
Internship programs.
African Americans--Science--Periodicals.
African American publishers and publishing.

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_005, TRT: 0:28:33
2007/07/28

Tyrone Taborn describes the vision, mission, and accomplishments of his company, Career Communications Group. He hopes that his company's products can change the way the world sees women and people of color. The company seeks to highlight the achievements of minorities and women in technology. He discusses the development of his company and the lives that it has touched. Taborn was very involved in the early development of many of the engineering programs at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Taborn recounts many stories of different women and minorities and their successes in the technology field.

Career Communications Group.
Minorities in technology.
Women in technology.
African American publishers and publishing.
Tyrone Taborn talks about his leadership roles within the black community, particularly within Baltimore, Maryland, and the Washington, D.C. area. He has undertaken many initiatives to further the education of African Americans and minorities in inner-cities, especially in the fields of engineering, science and technology. Taborn's business ventures usually overlap with his dedication to social causes. In 2006, Taborn was a contributing author for "The Covenant With Black America," "The New York Times" bestseller compiled by Tavis Smiley. He comments on the joys of working with many prominent African American intellectuals during the book project. Taborn reflects on conversations that he had with Cornell West and others.

African American intellectuals.
Community leadership.
Minorities--Education.
Science—Study and teaching—United States.
Technology—Study and teaching—United States.
Engineering—Study and teaching—United States.
Smiley, Tavis, 1964-.
West, Cornel.
African Americans--Social conditions--1975-.

Tyrone Taborn discusses his answers to philosophical questions and reflects on his legacy. His advice to the next generation is that anyone can make a breakthrough in technology that could change the world. He hopes to be remembered for his success in instituting Black Engineer of the Year and Black Family Technology Awareness Week. Taborn contemplates his potential legacy, hoping that he has brought more excited young people to the technology field. Taborn shows photographs of his family. He discusses his family, including his wife, Jean Hamilton, and two children, Ty and Courtney.

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore.