

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vera F. Wells

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Wells, Vera F., 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells,
Dates:	June 28, 2018 and June 30, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:19:36).
Abstract:	Television executive Vera F. Wells (1944-) was a member of the first coeducational graduating class of at Yale University in 1971, a long-time executive at NBC, and the founding director of the Sylvia Ardyn Boone Memorial Project at Yale University. Wells was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 28, 2018 and June 30, 2018, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_135
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Television executive Vera F. Wells was born on December 31, 1944 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated second in her class from Pittsburgh's Peabody High School in 1963. Wells went on to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. to study psychology, but left before graduating to move with her husband to New Haven, Connecticut, where she worked for Community Progress, Inc. In 1969, Wells graduated from Yale University with her B.A. degree in psychology in 1971, the first coeducational graduating class. While at Yale University, Wells helped to create a new seminar called The Black Women and the Chubb Conference on the Black Woman, which brought Professor Sylvia Ardyn Boone to the university. Boone would become the first tenured African American woman on the Yale faculty upon her promotion in 1988.

After graduating, Wells became the director for School Volunteers for New Haven, Inc. She spent the summer of 1972 assisting Elga R. Wasserman on the Carnegie Council on Children alongside Sylvia Ardyn Boone, whom she had befriended at Yale University. In the 1970s, Wells spent two years at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts to study organizational management. She then became the associate director of the international division at the National Council of Negro Women where she conducted field research in East and West Africa. After returning to the U.S., Wells accepted a position in promotional research at NBC's headquarters in New York City. She was eventually promoted to director of audience services. In this role, Wells oversaw the creation and standardization of closed captioning at NBC, following the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. After the death of Sylvia Ardyn Boone in 1993, Wells became the founder and director of the Sylvia Ardyn Boone Memorial Project at Yale University's Timothy Dwight College. The memorial project houses the collection of Boone's literary and personal papers and awards both undergraduate and graduate scholarships to students working in the fields of African and African American art.

Wells served as a member of the University Council at Yale University for ten years. Within the council, she was a

founding committee member of YaleWomen, Inc. and the Theater Review Committee. Wells also served on the boards of the National Advisory Council of the Yale Black Alumni Association, the Yale Development Board and the Yale Tomorrow Campaign. In 2007, Wells was honored with the Yale Medal for her volunteer service to the university.

Vera F. Wells was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 28, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Vera F. Wells was conducted by Harriette Cole on June 28, 2018 and June 30, 2018, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Television executive Vera F. Wells (1944-) was a member of the first coeducational graduating class of at Yale University in 1971, a long-time executive at NBC, and the founding director of the Sylvia Ardyn Boone Memorial Project at Yale University.

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:

Wells, Vera F., 1944-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Wells, Vera F., 1944- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Television Executive

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 Vera F. Wells, June 28, 2018 and June 30, 2018. 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 Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_001_001, TRT: 1:28:24 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_001_002, TRT: 2:28:01 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_001_003, TRT: 3:27:56 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_001_004, TRT: 4:31:06 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_001_005, TRT: 5:28:22 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_001_006, TRT: 6:30:40 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_002_007, TRT: 7:28:57 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_002_008, TRT: 8:26:17 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_002_009, TRT: 9:19:05 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Vera F. Wells, Section A2018_135_002_010, TRT: 10:10:48 ?