

FORT WAYNE HISTORYMAKERS™ INTERVIEWED FOR NATIONAL VIDEO ARCHIVE

As part of a national journey to interview African-American heroes and unsung leaders, The HistoryMakers™ camera crews are conducting interviews with eight Fort Wayne residents. The Fort Wayne HistoryMakers™ interviews are being underwritten by a grant provided by the Knight Foundation to conduct interviews in several cities in 2002 including /Boulder, CO; Macon/Milledgeville, GA; and Miami, FL.

The HistoryMakers™ is a non-profit institution headquartered in Chicago that was incorporated in 1999 to create an extensive digital African-American video oral history archive. The project's goal is to create a unique, national video oral history archive of 5,000 interviews of African-American HistoryMakers™. The HistoryMakers™ organization is committed to preserving, developing and providing easy access to an internationally recognized, archival collection of thousands of African-American video oral histories. The purpose of this archive is to educate and to show the breadth and depth of this important American history as told by the first person; highlight the accomplishments of individual African Americans across a variety of disciplines; showcase those who have played a role in African American led movements and/or organizations; and preserve this material for years and generations to come.

The Fort Wayne HistoryMakers™ are: **Tom Brown**, the city's first Equal Employment Opportunity officer; **Hana Stith**, co-founder of Fort Wayne's African/African-American Historical Museum; **Delories Wallace**, the first African-American woman to have a business in downtown Fort Wayne; **Dr. Alfred Stovall, MD**, who has committed resources for many years to invest in the communities where his patients work and live; **Alfred Brothers**, a major catalyst in founding Science Central Museum for children and Fort Wayne's African/African-American Historical Museum; **Genoise Wilson**, Fort Wayne's first African-American female fire fighter; **Al Stiles**, founder of Al Stiles Talent Factory and producer of local talent; and **Edward Smith** publisher of Fort Wayne's weekly newspaper Frost Illustrated.

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Indiana University and Purdue University, Fort Wayne (IPFW) Multicultural Department will host a reception in honor of the Fort Wayne HistoryMakers™. The HistoryMakers™ founder and executive director, Julieanna Richardson will give a video and website presentation for the audience. Ms. Richardson says, "The general theme of each interview is what really has made each person successful." She continues, "Success is defined broadly because it doesn't mean people have led perfect lives, but they have made contributions in many ways."

Each interview is structured to present a conversation between The HistoryMakers™ and the viewers. The HistoryMakers™ represents the single largest archival project of its kind since the recording of former slaves during the WPA Movement in the 1930s. Initially the public can sample the archives' holdings online and in time, a digital archive will be created permitting access to the entire archive at several locations around the United States, (i.e. Historically Black Colleges and Universities, African-American museums and major institutions). The goal is to show the world that African-American history is American history and that African-American HistoryMakers™ number not in the hundreds, but in the thousands.

Since its inception, The HistoryMakers™ has hosted an annual celebrity interview fundraising event in Chicago. The celebrity interviews are conducted in front of a live audience and later aired on public broadcasting stations across the country. In 2000, Danny Glover interviewed Harry Belafonte and last year Diahann Carroll interviewed Dionne Warwick. On October 18, 2002, Angela Davis is scheduled to interview Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. In conjunction with this year's event, The HistoryMakers™ is proud to present its first Education Day that will be held on October 17, 2002. Well-known African-American HistoryMakers™ will present a day of informative seminars and workshops for students.

For more information about The HistoryMakers™ visit the website at www.thehistorymakers.com, which has a user-friendly interface that allows visitors to find each HistoryMakers' relevance in history through an easy-to-use timeline and glossary. The HistoryMakers website visitors may search for a HistoryMaker™ by name nominate a HistoryMaker™ or engage in a discussion group.

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