

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Tyrone Taborn

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Taborn, Tyrone, 1959-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn,
Dates:	July 28, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:13:59).
Abstract:	Publishing chief executive Tyrone Taborn (1959 -) was the founder, chairman and CEO of Career Communications Group, Inc., which published "U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology," "Women of Color Technology," and other magazines. He was also a contributing author of the bestseller, "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 Betacame SP videocassettes. Publishing chief executive Tyrone Taborn (1959 -) was the founder, chairman and CEO of Career Communications Group, Inc., which published "U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology," "Women of Color Technology," and other magazines. He was also a contributing author of the bestseller, "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, 1959-

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Taborn, Tyrone, 1959- --Interviews

Publishers and publishing--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.

Occupations:

Publishing Chief 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 Tyrone Taborn, July 28, 2007. 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 Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_001, TRT: 0:28:36 ?

Tyrone Taborn was born on February 8, 1959 in Chicago, Illinois to Edith Wallace Taborn and Carmen Taborn. His father's ancestry was both Spanish and Native American. They were believed to be the first African Americans to legally own land in Illinois, founding the Pond Settlement in the town of Carrier Mills. His paternal grandfather, Norval Taborn, sang with the Four Vagabonds, and later worked as a janitor at Chicago Vocational High School. Taborn's maternal grandmother, housekeeper Vivian Wallace, was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and migrated with her sister, teacher Novella Nicholson, to Chicago. There, she married his maternal grandfather, railroad worker Victor Wallace, Sr., who had Native American ancestry, and passed for white. Together, they raised seven children. Taborn's parents met and married in Chicago, and settled on the South Side in the Altgeld Gardens public housing projects. Taborn remembers his half-brother, Milton Baker, who died in infancy due to discriminatory hospital care in Tulsa.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

Public welfare.

Single parents.

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

Tyrone Taborn grew up in the Altgeld Gardens Homes on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois. Early on, he was influenced by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whom he heard speak on television. As a young student at the all-black McCosh Elementary School, Taborn refused to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to protest racial discrimination. He also strongly opposed the Vietnam War, following his teacher's involuntary deployment to Vietnam. At this point in the interview, Taborn describes a class trip to the Chicago Sun-Times building. At six years old, Taborn moved with his family to Baldwin Village in Los Angeles, California, a neighborhood often called The Jungle, where gangs like the Crips and Bloods were active. Later, while a student at University High School, he began reading the Black Panther Party's publications and the Muhammad Speaks newspaper. Once on his way to school, Taborn witnessed a Ku Klux Klan march on Wilshire Boulevard, and was also called a racial slur by teenagers in a passing car.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

African Americans--Illinois--Chicago--Social conditions.

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

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

Tyrone Taborn was encouraged by his seventh grade teacher to enter 'The Lawrence Welk Show' Thanksgiving essay contest, where he won first place for his criticism of the treatment of Native Americans. Taborn first attended a majority white high school in the San Fernando Valley of California, where he was turned away from the student newspaper. Nevertheless, he was selected as a student reporter for KLCS-TV's 'Student News,' where he covered the

Academy Awards and the Vietnamese refugees interned at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Taborn then transferred to University High School in Los Angeles, California. During the summer, he took part in a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program, and was mentored by journalist Warren Olney IV and Daniel Hirsch, who was the coordinator for the Los Angeles chapter of Committee to Bridge the Gap. In 1977, Taborn enrolled at Cornell University, where he joined the Quill and Dagger society, and became a resident assistant at Cornell's Ujamaa Residential College.

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 ?

Tyrone Taborn entered Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1977. During his first year, he worked at the Africana Studies and Research Center library under the tutelage of Professor James Turner. That summer, he also worked at Willie D. Davis' radio station. Taborn protested the school's support of South African apartheid, and was active in the labor movement on campus. He was hired to intern for California lieutenant governor Mervyn M. Dymally; but, after the program lost funding, was referred to Congressman Julian C. Dixon, who selected him as his congressional intern in Washington, D.C. As a senior, Taborn became the chief editor of Cornell University's black student newspaper, Umoja Sasa. In 1981, he left Cornell University in his last year to found Career Communications Group, Inc., where he redeveloped Umoja Sasa into the U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology magazine. He went on to create other publications, including Science Spectrum and Hispanic Engineer and Information Technology.

African Americans--Education (Higher).

African American businesspeople.

Internship programs.

Dixon, Julian C., 1934-2000.

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 ?

Tyrone Taborn founded the Career Communications Group, Inc., a digital and print publication distributor, in 1981. He established the company headquarters in a building owned by attorney William H. Murphy, Jr. in Baltimore, Maryland. There, Taborn was mentored by NAACP president Kweisi Mfume; and met publisher John Jacob "Jake" Oliver, who helped him secure a business loan from the Maryland National Bank. Taborn was soon inducted as the youngest member of The Presidents' RoundTable, Inc., where his fellow entrepreneurs of color included Parks Sausage Company CEO Raymond Haysbert, Sr. Later in 1981, Taborn inaugurated the Black Engineer of the Year Awards with engineering professors Eugene M. DeLoatch and Lucius Walker. Eleven historically black colleges participated in the ceremony, which honored top black achievers in science and technology. Taborn also created the Women of Color in Technology STEM Conference to recognize female engineers like Nancy Stewart and Sherita T. Caesar.

Career Communications Group.

Minorities in technology.

Women in technology.

African American publishers and publishing.

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_006, TRT: 0:29:34 ?

Tyrone Taborn created the 'Success Through Education' television program in 2000. On the show, celebrities like actress Jada Pinkett Smith talked about peer pressure, violence and sexism among children, and vignettes of successful African Americans, like engineer Sherita T. Ceasar, were also featured. Later, Taborn held a black U.S. military panel on terrorism at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. The debate was broadcast on C-SPAN, and the panel consisted of speakers like Lieutenant Colonel Joe N. Ballard. In addition, Taborn served as a contributor for the Baltimore Sun newspaper; authored a monthly technology column for the Jubilee Baltimore, Inc. magazine; and, in 2006, wrote a chapter on digital technology for Tavis Smiley's book, 'The Covenant with Black America,' which was featured on The New York Times' bestseller list. After its release, Taborn hosted a national speaking tour with his fellow contributors, philosopher Cornel West and black studies scholar Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

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-.

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section A2007_218_001_007, TRT: 0:20:34 ?

Tyrone Taborn wrote "Separating Race from Technology: Finding Tomorrow's IT Progress in the Past." Published by the MIT Press in 2007 as a chapter in 'Learning, Race and Ethnicity: Youth and Digital Media,' this publication was edited by media professor Anna Everett, and funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Taborn also reflects upon his family, life and legacy, and concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore.

Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section
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Video Oral History Interview with Tyrone Taborn, Section
A2007_218_Taborn_Tyrone_06_MED_002, TRT: 0:40:32