

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jayfus Doswell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Doswell, Jayfus, 1972-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jayfus Doswell,
Dates:	January 17, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:56:46).
Abstract:	Entrepreneur Dr. Jayfus Doswell (1972 -) is the founder of Juxtopia, LLC, and Juxtopia Group, Inc., where he has served as president and chief executive officer. Doswell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 17, 2013, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_011
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entrepreneur Jayfus Tucker Doswell was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1979. His mother, Brenda Tucker Doswell, was an educator and entrepreneur; his father, Ronald Jayfus Doswell, a social worker and historian. As a child, Doswell attended Baltimore City Public schools and enjoyed playing classical piano and violin in the Baltimore Youth Orchestra and competing in Tae-Kwon-Do and Kung-Fu tournaments. In 1995, Doswell graduated from Oberlin College with his B.A. degrees in psychology and computer science. His B.A. thesis was presented at Williams College in Massachusetts. He went on to earn his M.S. degree in systems and computer management from Howard University in 1998, and his Ph.D. degree in information technology from George Mason University. Doswell contributed his dissertation to the creation of the IEEE Virtual Instructor Pilot Research Group (VIPRG), where he is co-director.

As early as 1997, Doswell discussed the implications of virtual reality learning technology in *Black Issues In Higher Education*. While earning his Ph.D. degree at George Mason University, Doswell conceived of Juxtopia, LLC and the Juxtopia Group, Inc., which develop products to integrate into a human's daily routine and provide services to improve human health and learning. Doswell's findings have been published in various scientific journals. Doswell has also consulted with different companies and organizations, including Maryland Medical Systems, CompuServe, Lockheed Martin, BearingPoint, Scientific Applications International Corporation, Virtual Logic, TRW and the National Cancer Institute Center for Bioinformatics. He was appointed as the chair of Biotechnology at Sojourner Douglass College, while also developing the biotechnology curriculum for Baltimore City Public Schools. In 2010, Doswell was named distinguished professor at Elizabeth City State University.

Doswell has served as a board member for several organizations such as, the American Public Health Association Health Informatics and Information Technology special interest group and American Telemedicine Association. He is also active in many professional organizations, including the Association of Computing Machinery, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and the National Society of Black Engineers. Doswell has several inventions that are patent pending at the U.S. Patent Office.

Jayfus T. Doswell was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 17, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jayfus Doswell was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 17, 2013, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entrepreneur Dr. Jayfus Doswell (1972 -) is the founder of Juxtopia, LLC, and Juxtopia Group, Inc., where he has served as president and chief executive officer.

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:

Doswell, Jayfus, 1972-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Doswell, Jayfus, 1972---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Engineer

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Jayfus Doswell, January 17, 2013. 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 Jayfus Doswell, Section A2013_011_001_001, TRT: 1:30:11 ?

Jayfus Doswell was born on February 24, 1972 in Baltimore, Maryland. He traces his maternal ancestry to William Tucker, the first African American born in the United States in 1624. Tucker's descendants migrated from Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia to Newport News, Virginia where Doswell's

mother, Brenda Tucker Doswell, was born. Doswell's maternal grandfather was an entrepreneur who owned a dry cleaning business and a produce company; he was also a Mason and Doswell's maternal grandmother was an Eastern Star. Doswell's mother graduated from the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia and earned a master's degree in special education from Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland. She also sang in the Morgan State Choir under the direction of Dr. Nathan Carter. Doswell's father, Ronald Doswell, was raised in Baltimore's Lafayette Courts projects. Doswell talks about miscegenation in his paternal family history and his paternal grandfather's work as a shipyard welder after World War II.

Video Oral History Interview with Jayfus Doswell, Section A2013_011_001_002, TRT: 2:29:03 ?

Jayfus Doswell talks about how the white Doswells impregnated their black slave women. His paternal grandparents, Jim and Louise Doswell, were sharecroppers in Blackstone, Virginia prior to moving to Baltimore, Maryland. The ancestors of Doswell's paternal grandmother worked on the Carter's Grove plantation near Williamsburg, Virginia. Doswell's father, Ronald Doswell, was raised in the Lafayette Courts projects of Baltimore and attended Dunbar High School before serving in the Vietnam War. His father graduated from Morgan State University and Howard University and then later worked as a social worker while owning and managing several properties in Baltimore, Maryland. Through his father, Doswell met lawyer William "Billy" Murphy, Jr. and HistoryMakers Robert Mack Bell and Larry Gibson. Doswell's mother also worked for U.S. Congressman Parren Mitchell. Doswell describes his parents and their personalities.

Video Oral History Interview with Jayfus Doswell, Section A2013_011_001_003, TRT: 3:28:49 ?

Jayfus Doswell describes his earliest memories and the sights, sounds, and smells of his childhood in Baltimore, Maryland. Doswell played piano and violin, and practiced martial arts. He attended Mount Royal Elementary School, and Fallstaff Middle School and describes his two home environments after his parents separated when he was ten as well as his first argument with his father, Ronald Doswell. When Doswell was twelve years old, his mother, Brenda Tucker Doswell, landed him a starring role in a Parker House Sausage commercial. The company's owner, HistoryMaker Raymond Haysbert, Sr. would later become an important mentor to Doswell. Doswell used his earnings from the commercial to purchase his first computer, a TI-99, and subsequently taught himself computer programming. In 1987, Doswell enrolled at Calvert Hall College High School, a private Catholic school, but his negative experience there led him to transfer to Baltimore City College a year later.

Video Oral History Interview with Jayfus Doswell, Section A2013_011_001_004, TRT: 4:28:55 ?

Jayfus Doswell was self-disciplined from an early age and taught himself computer programming. He describes his experience at Baltimore City College in Baltimore, Maryland where he became interested in neuroscience after reading "Gifted Hands" by HistoryMaker Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr. and "Jurassic Park" by Michael Crichton. At age fifteen, Doswell and his band won first place at "Amateur Night at the Apollo" in New York City, New York. Although Doswell was a classically trained musician who enjoyed composing and performing, he chose not to become a professional musician. Other extracurricular activities in high school included dance, choreography, tennis, and taekwondo. Doswell describes his decision to attend Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio and his mentor there, Yolanda Cruz. As a Ford-Mellon Research Scholar at Oberlin College, Doswell's researched the use of virtual reality interventions to assist learning in underserved populations. After graduating in

1994, he was hired by CompuServe.

Video Oral History Interview with Jayfus Doswell, Section A2013_011_001_005, TRT: 5:28:26 ?

Jayfus Doswell became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity while attending Oberlin College. After graduating in 1994, he was hired at CompuServe. Doswell talks about the beginning of his career as a software engineer and his mentor at CompuServe, Michael Johnson. While at CompuServe, Doswell also developed a program to teach embryonic biology for his mentor at Oberlin College, Yolanda Cruz. In 1996, Doswell began graduate studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C. while working for Lockheed Martin. After obtaining his master's degree, Doswell went on to George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Before graduating with his Ph.D. in 2005, Doswell founded his own company, Juxtopia, in 2001. Doswell describes the company's first conceptual product and how he trains company interns. He also talks about research and development at Juxtopia, the company's work on wearable augmented reality, and Google Glass.

Video Oral History Interview with Jayfus Doswell, Section A2013_011_001_006, TRT: 6:31:22 ?

Jayfus Doswell describes the sources of funding for his company, Juxtopia, LLC. He also describes two forms of augmented reality and the state of intellectual property and patents on augmented reality goggles. In 2012, the opening of Doswell's non-profit organization, JUICE Lab was attended by the Governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley. The lab provides disadvantaged students with training in entrepreneurship and information technology. Doswell talks about his apprentices in the program as well as Juxtopia's collaboration with the Emerging Technology Center (ETC) at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. In 2010, Doswell was honored for his leadership by the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore. He describes the general public's ignorance about software engineering. He also talks about his hobbies, his legacy, what he would do differently, how he would like to be remembered, and his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He comments on his parents' view of his success.