

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ivan Yaeger

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Yaeger, Ivan
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ivan Yaeger,
Dates:	March 10, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:02:56).
Abstract:	Inventor and nonprofit executive Ivan Yaeger (1967 -) invented the Yaeger Prosthetic Arm, and served as founder and CEO of Yaeger Companies and the Yaeger Foundation. Yaeger was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 10, 2017, in Miami, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_063
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Inventor and nonprofit executive Ivan Yaeger was born on June 7, 1967 in Miami, Florida to Elliott Yaegar, Jr. and Ollie Yaegar. He attended Miami Shores Elementary School and North Miami Junior High School before he graduated from Miami Central Senior High School in 1984. Yaeger went on to earn his B.B.A. degree in business management and organization from the University of Miami in 1988. While at the University of Miami, Yaeger filed his first patent for the Yaeger Prosthetic Arm, a prosthetic arm controlled through activating sensors on the human body. He also began the Yaeger Innovative Products Corporation in 1996 and became its chief executive officer. In 1991, Yaeger began working as a pupil advocate for AESOP, a mentoring program for minorities within Miami Dade Public Schools. Yaeger then founded the Yaeger Foundation, Inc. in 1995 which in 1997 started the Technology Leaders Initiative, a workshop program for students of all ages. During the same year, Yaegar became the corporate relations manager for INROADS, Inc. In 2000, Yaeger founded Yaeger Companies, which combined all of his previous endeavors under the name of one company. He gained national attention when he created prosthetic arms for an eleven-year-old named Diamond Excell, who was born without arms. Yaeger filed another patent in 2006, for a mechanical hand kit that was used in the Technology Leaders Initiative.

In addition to his work with the Yaeger Foundation, Yaeger also served his community through service on a variety of boards that included the Wellness Committee for Miami Dade Public Schools and the Miami Children's Initiative.

Ivan and The Yaeger Arm have appeared in over one hundred broadcasts and publications such as *The Today Show*, *National Medical Association Journal*, M.I.T Inventor of the Week Archive, The Johns Hopkins Newsletter, *Jet* magazine, *People* magazine and the United States Patent & Trademark Office's website and Minority Inventors: America's Tapestry of Innovation video.

Yaeger has been recognized and honored for his innovations and community involvement many times. In 1992, he received the Father Surrogate of the Year Award from the Urban League. In 2002, the U.S. Patent Office named

him as a distinguished innovator. He was also the recipient of the ICON Award in 2006 and the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2011. Yaeger was inducted into the Miami Dade Public Schools Hall of Fame in 2017.

Ivan Yaeger was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 10, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ivan Yaeger was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 10, 2017, in Miami, Florida, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Inventor and nonprofit executive Ivan Yaeger (1967 -) invented the Yaeger Prosthetic Arm, and served as founder and CEO of Yaeger Companies and the Yaeger Foundation.

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:

Yaeger, Ivan

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Yaeger, Ivan--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Inventor

Nonprofit Executive

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 Ivan Yaeger, March 10, 2017. 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 Ivan Yaeger, Section A2017_063_001_001, TRT: 1:29:02 ?

Ivan Yaeger was born on June 7, 1967 in Miami, Florida to Ollie Sharpe Yaeger and Carl Yaeger, Jr. His paternal great-great-grandfather, Elliott Yaeger, Sr., was a German attorney who married a wealthy free black woman. They gave birth to Elliott Yaeger, Jr., who became a successful real estate developer in New Jersey. Yaeger's paternal grandfather, Carl Yaeger, Sr., trained as a doctor, as did Yaeger's father. They were often harassed by jealous whites in northern cities. Yaeger's mother was born into a family of educators in Florida. She grew up in Miami, and earned degrees from Bethune-Cookman College and the University of Miami. Yaeger was raised with three older siblings from previous marriages. When he was five years old, his family moved to Miami Shores, Florida, a wealthy white area. He attended Miami Shores Elementary School, and enjoyed learning about science and nature with his father. In the seventh grade, Yaeger became interested in prosthetics and built a mechanical arm for a science project.

Video Oral History Interview with Ivan Yaeger, Section A2017_063_001_002, TRT: 2:29:09 ?

Ivan Yaeger developed his first prosthetic arm prototype as a seventh grade student in Miami, Florida. He went on to attend Miami Central Senior High School, where he joined the Future Business Leaders of America, the Junior Engineering Technical Society, and competed in oratory. He received a scholarship to study biology at the University of Miami. When Yaeger was eighteen years old, he received his first patent for a prosthetic arm with a rotating wrist. The following year, he founded the Yaeger Innovative Products Corporation. He changed his major to business management, and wrote his company's business proposal as his senior project. By the time he graduated in 1988, Yaeger owned a multimillion dollar patent portfolio. In 1991, he began working with the Afrocentric Enhancement, Self-Esteem Opportunity Program to mentor African American boys in Miami-Dade County. He established the Yaeger Foundation in 1995, and began working as a human relations consultant with INROADS, Inc. in 1997.

Video Oral History Interview with Ivan Yaeger, Section A2017_063_001_003, TRT: 3:30:37 ?

Ivan Yaeger mentored students in business and technology through INROADS, Inc. In 1997, he created the Technology Leaders Initiative, a curriculum that taught inventing, material science, commerce and business. In 2000, Yaeger founded The Yaeger Companies, which consolidated his family's real estate, healthcare, education, consulting and manufacturing businesses into one corporation. After reading about Diamond Excell, a girl born with no arms, Yaeger volunteered to design and build her prosthetic arms through the Yaeger Innovative Products Corporation. The eighty thousand dollar project was completed and delivered in 2001. Next, Yaeger established the Bionic/Robotic Hand Kit Competition, which encouraged students to build and modify their own robotic arms. He received the Icon Award from the City of Miami in 2006. In 2009, he began the construction of Yaeger Plaza, which included medical offices, senior housing and retail space. Yaeger also describes the advancements in prosthetic technology.

Video Oral History Interview with Ivan Yaeger, Section A2017_063_001_004, TRT: 4:34:08 ?

Ivan Yaeger continued running The Yaeger Companies after the death of his father, Carl Yaeger, Jr., in 2010. At the time of the interview, he planned to continue developing prosthetic devices, which were becoming cheaper and easier to manufacture using 3D printing technology. Yaeger describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, and talks about his family. He also reflects upon his life and how he would like to be remembered. Yaeger concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.