

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael J. Barber

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Barber, Michael John, 1960-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 23, 2022
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:25:43).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate executive and engineer Michael J. Barber (1960 - ) worked at GE for forty years, becoming vice president of molecular imaging in 2012, chief engineer of GE Healthcare and COO of GE Healthcare Systems in 2013, president and CEO of molecular imaging and computed tomography in 2016, and chief diversity officer of GE in 2020. He retired in 2022. Barber was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 23, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2022_001
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive and engineer Michael J. Barber was born September 16, 1960, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Rozena and John Barber. He received his B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1982 from the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Barber joined General Electric (GE) in 1981 as an X-ray electronics engineer. He became an X-ray software engineer in 1983 and an X-ray software project leader in 1986. Barber then became manager of computer tomography (CT) diagnostics and firmware in 1989, manager of CT hardware engineering in 1991, manager of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) functional engineering (systems, service, hardware, and software) in 1995, and manager of the digital X-ray detector platform in 1998. He served as general manager of X-ray engineering from 2000 to 2001, general manager of global components engineering in 2002, and general manager of imaging subsystems and global components from 2003 to 2004. Barber was promoted to vice president of engineering for diagnostic imaging (X-ray, CT, positron emission tomography (PET), nuclear medicine (NM), and magnetic resonance (MR)) in 2005, vice president and chief technology officer of GE Healthcare in 2007, vice president of healthymagination for GE Corporate in 2009, and vice president of molecular imaging in 2012. Barber became chief engineer for GE Healthcare and chief operating officer of GE Healthcare Systems in 2013, president and CEO of molecular imaging and computer tomography in 2016, and chief diversity officer in 2020. Barber retired in 2022.

In 2014, Barber, Virgis Colbert, Valerie Daniels-Carter, Charles Harvey, and Cory Nettles formed Partners for Community Impact and acquired a minority ownership stake in the Milwaukee Bucks NBA team. Barber has served on the boards of the Milwaukee School of Engineering, the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Talix, and Catalent Pharma Solutions. Barber and his wife, Jacqueline Herd-Barber, along with Keith

Crawford and Perry Bishop, co-founded the Milwaukee School of Engineering's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers in 1980.

Barber holds an honorary doctorate in engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He was named a *Black Enterprise* Master of Innovation in 2009 and elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering in 2014.

Barber and his wife, Jacqueline Herd-Barber, live in Mequon, Wisconsin. They have two children, Lauren and Justin.

Michael J. Barber was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 24, 2022.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Michael J. Barber was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 23, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive and engineer Michael J. Barber (1960 - ) worked at GE for forty years, becoming vice president of molecular imaging in 2012, chief engineer of GE Healthcare and COO of GE Healthcare Systems in 2013, president and CEO of molecular imaging and computed tomography in 2016, and chief diversity officer of GE in 2020. He retired in 2022.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Barber, Michael John, 1960-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Barber, Michael John, 1960---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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GE

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## Occupations:

Engineer

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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## 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 Michael J. Barber, January 23, 2022. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:58 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_002, TRT: 2:31:59 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:14 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:49 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_005, TRT: 5:31:25 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:03 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Michael J. Barber, Section A2022\_001\_001\_007, TRT: 7:23:15 ?