

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John X. Miller

PERSON

Miller, John Xavier, Jr., 1955-

Alternative Names: John X. Miller;

Life Dates: September 11, 1955-

Place of Birth: Henderson, North Carolina, USA

Residence: Alexandria, VA

Occupations: Journalist

Biographical Note

Journalist John Xavier Miller, Jr. was born on September 11, 1955 in Henderson, North Carolina to John Miller, Sr. and Betty Faison. Miller was raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School in 1973. He went on to receive his B.A. degree in journalism from Washington and Lee University in 1977.

Miller began his career with an internship at the Twin City Sentinel in the 1970s. From 1978 to 1982, he worked as a copy editor for The Roanoke Times & World News and as a sports copy editor for the Charlotte Observer. Miller then became an original staff member of USA Today when he was hired as the newspaper's sports copy desk chief in 1982. In 1991, he was named executive editor of The Reporter in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. In 1996, he was appointed as the managing editor of The Sun News in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. From 1999 to 2007, Miller worked at the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit Media Partnership (DMP), first as the Free Press' public editor, then as the DMP's director of community affairs.

In December of 2007, Miller was named chief executive officer of The Heat and Warmth Fund, a Detroit, Michigan-based nonprofit organization. Three years later, in 2010, he moved to the Hickory Daily Record, where he served as editor. In August of 2013, Miller became the first African American managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal.

Miller has served on numerous boards including the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, the Pew Center for Civic Journalism, the Michigan Humanities Council, and various American Society of News Editors and Associated Press Media Editors boards and committees. He was a founding member of the National Association of Minority

Media Executives and former board chairman of ARISE Detroit!. He has been a Pulitzer Prize Juror, a facilitator at the American Press Institute in Reston, Virginia, and was the first Donald W. Reynolds Distinguished Visiting Professor of Journalism at Washington and Lee University in 2005. Miller received the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in 1973 and the Spark Plug Award from the Chicora District BSA in 1997.

John X. Miller was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 13, 2014.

Related Entries

St. Benedict The Moor [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wiley Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

R.J. Reynolds High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington and Lee University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bachelor of Arts

Washington and Lee University School of Law [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Juris Doctor

Greater Dimensions College of Theology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Master of Divinity

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1991]

Instructor

The Sun News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199604 to 199908]

Managing Editor

USA Today [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198208 to 199101]

Deputy Managing Editor/Sports

Detroit Media Partnership, L.P. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200608 to 200711]

Director of Community Affairs

Detroit Free Press Charities [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 200608 to 200711]

Vice President

Winston-Salem Journal [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 201308 to ?]

Managing Editor

The Heat And Warmth Fund [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 200712 to 200911]

CEO

The Reporter [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 199101 to 199603]

Executive Editor

Washington and Lee University [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 200601 to 200605]

Donald Reynolds Visiting Professor of Journalism

Charlotte Observer [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 198107 to 198208]

Sports Copy Editor

The Roanoke Times & World-News [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 197806 to 198107]

Copy Editor

Hickory Daily Record [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 201006 to 201308]

Editor

Detroit Free Press [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 199909 to 200607]

Public Editor

Maynard Institute for Journalism Education [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Washington and Lee University School of Journalism and Mass Communications

[MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Maynard Management at Kellogg Program, Northwestern University [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Facilitator and Executive-In-Residence

University of Alabama Knight Community Journalism Master's Degree Program

[MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Covering Communities Project at the University of Kansas School of Journalism

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Organization of News Ombudsmen [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Michigan Associated Press Editorial Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Pew Center for Civic Journalism [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Associated Press Managing Editors Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

American Society of News Editors [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association of Minority Media Executives [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Founding Member

Michigan Humanities Council [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors Member

ARISE Detroit! [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Chairman

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

American Press Institute [MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to 2005]

Facilitator

Pulitzer Prize Awards [MEMBEROF]
[from 1994 to 1995]

Juror