

Written by Patricia Turnier
Sunday, 20 May 2012 16:17



A New Jersey native, author Craig T. Williams wore many hats before becoming a writer. At Syracuse University, Williams earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. He is equipped with 20 years of personal experience in the construction industry. He comes from a family unit of thriving entrepreneurs and started his uphill path working as a laborer in the family business precisely for his uncle during summers. He moved on to help build a new family enterprise when his father made the keen decision to leave Corporate America and to develop his own construction empire. As such, Mr. Williams is a second generation General Contractor/Construction Manager, working for Pride Enterprises, Inc., a business he started in 1996 providing construction services to the public sector throughout the U.S. Clients include the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the General Services Administration.

Pride Enterprises' services comprise renovations, infrastructure, design/build projects and so on. Today, this leading firm handles all aspects of Construction Management, Consulting and Building. In just ten years since its inception, Pride Enterprises Inc. holds 21 active projects with a total contract value of over 20 million dollars. As President and CEO, Williams was honored

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as the *Small Business Administration's Entrepreneur of the Year* in 2005. He has also established a protégé firm, Fidelis Design and Construction, LLC, which has exhibited an explosive growth. It has an inclusive and diverse staff. It is noteworthy that Williams joined the committee of YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School, which provides high school dropouts with the opportunity to earn a diploma and attain vital job skills. Being involved in this youth organization helped Williams to realize his devotion to giving back to the community and mentor others. Besides working as an entrepreneur, Williams is propelled by a passion for research; his signature is Historical/Fiction. Having always been inspired by classic heroic tales like King Arthur, Robin Hood, and The Lord of the Rings, Mr. Williams became exceedingly aware that most of these stories did not feature heroes that he resembled.

Hence, it is through his latest business venture, Vintage World, LLC., that Williams marries his love for writing with the drive to chronicle the lives and achievements of those exceptional men and women whom he believes have been overlooked in the pages of world history. A multimedia arts and entertainment company, Vintage World maintains a methodology that is the literary equivalent of an archeological dig, with an ultimate goal to unearth a lost mythology whose timeless legends will entertain, educate and empower generations to come. The first fruit of this ambition, the original roman à clef

The Olympian: An American Triumph

, takes readers on a journey with Dr. John Baxter Taylor, Jr., a brilliant, athletic and good looking male, growing up at a time of sanctioned racial divide. Hence, Dr. Taylor triumphed against all odds and became the first African-American to win a Gold medal at the 1908 Olympic Summer Games in London, as the third runner of the 1600-meter medley relay team (comprised of himself, Nate Cartmell, Mel Sheppard and Billy Hamilton). Alas, Dr. Taylor died suddenly -- four months later, shortly after his Olympic victory -- of typhoid pneumonia at age 26, precisely on Wednesday, December 2, 1908 (

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, at his home located at 3223 Woodland Avenue, in what is now the heart of the Drexel University campus and only three blocks from Franklin Field. His obituary appeared in *The New York Times*

. It stated that he was "the world's greatest Negro runner." Having brushed away the dust of time to share this great story, Williams' telling of Dr. Taylor's legacy is the first of several projects bringing back to life forgotten icons.

It is noteworthy to mention that the book starts with a powerful quote of the prominent educator/scholar Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois: "There is in this world no such force as the force of a person determined to rise. The human soul cannot be permanently chained." Accurately, it illustrates the intrepid spirit of Dr. Taylor. In recounting his life, *The Olympian* depicts an individual who was never content to listen to others' opinions of his capabilities—not as an athlete, a student, or as a man. Less than fifty years after the abolition of slavery, in 1908 Dr. Taylor earned his degree as a doctor of veterinary medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also became one of the first members of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity:

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the first black professional organization.

The Olympian: An American Triumph by Craig T. Williams captivates the readers who become involved with the characters as the protagonist struggles with racism. Dr. Taylor had to come to terms with the high visibility as an athletic talent and paradoxically the invisibility of conferred by his skin color which makes one think of the powerful metaphor used by Ralph Ellison's classic Invisible Man

. In the book, Mr. Williams shares his passion for the legendary Dr. Taylor, thus, allowing the readers to experience different emotions. The well-researched book makes you laugh, cry and is definitely difficult to put it down once you started the reading. It is heartwarming, educational, inspiring and empowering. Moreover, it highlights other historical athletes from Dr. Taylor's era, such as Jack Johnson. The novel is captivating for its depiction of how a smart African-American athlete and veterinarian shrugged off the limited expectations of those around him and dared to aspire. Dr. Taylor exemplifies what can be accomplished with determination, boldness and spirit.

The untold tale of this hero comes to life through Williams' thoughtful and insightful narration. *The Olympian*

bridges all generations and ethnicities. This story of triumph is an inspiring universal tale. This compelling book should be translated into several languages. In addition, a book for school children of all ages and ethnicities should be created about Dr. Taylor's life. A U.S. postage stamp should also be issued in his honor. Prominent people like the Mayor of Philadelphia, Mr. Nutter has endorsed the book. He declared: "Craig Williams' new novel

The Olympian

allows us insight into the historic life of Dr. John Taylor – a graduate of our very own Central High and the University of Pennsylvania – who became the first African-American Olympic Gold medalist. It is a wonderful book highlighting a talented Philadelphian." Therefore, Craig Williams has been honored in the City Hall of Philadelphia.

Mr. Williams has been featured in several media such as *The Grio*, *CNN*, *ESPN Radio*, *The Michael Eric Dyson Show*, *the Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Huffpost Black Voices*, *the Art Fennell Reports*, *Black Enterprise* (magazine),

etc. It is important to note that Williams' enterprise Pride Enterprises was part of the Top 100 Black owned companies for the June 2011 issue of *Black Enterprise*

(magazine). Craig Williams presented the story of Dr. Taylor in the U.S. during Black history month 2012 via radio shows and so on. The public is looking forward to Mr. Williams' next endeavor. On a more personal level, he currently lives in Philadelphia with his wife and daughter.

Here, Mr. Williams talks mainly about his veiled fiction:

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The Olympian—An American Triumph

. In other words, he will share in this interview the life and times of Dr. Taylor, an all too fitting piece within the coverage of the 2012 Olympic in London. Mr. Williams presents to us the first African-American to win an Olympic Gold Medal, U.S. sprinter John Baxter Taylor Jr. who led a remarkably uncommon life. For years, the inspiring story of this American hero has remained tragically unexplored, thankfully we have Mr. Williams to revive this iconic figure's memory. Our webmag Mega Diversities is honored to be the first foreign (Canadian) media to make an interview with Mr. Williams about his book.

[The Olympian-An American Triumph is part of our Top 20 Books for Spring 2012:

http://megadiversities.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=173&Itemid=72]

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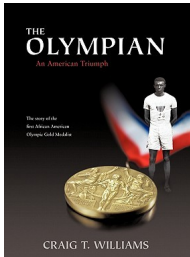
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<http://vintageworld.com/> www.theolympian.net

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The book is available on www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.
On the BarnesandNoble.com site, search for the book by the author name Dr. John B. Taylor.