SPOHP is always here for you!

Now we mean it more than ever! We are always exploring new ways to provide you with 24-hour access to the thousands of oral histories in our online database.

SPOHP is working with the UF Digital Library Center and the Florida Center for Library Automation to produce a digital catalog of our archive. The project has three motives: To allow interviews to be catalogued online, making the collection accessible and searchable from anywhere in the world; to preserve irreplaceable interviews, previously recorded on degrading, outmoded media; and to permit interviews to be linked with complementary archival holdings at the University of Florida, resulting in unique and mutually reinforcing sets of primary sources on a broad range of historical topics.

This project will rescue historical materials available nowhere else, while providing a wider audience with vastly improved access to these resources. This new technology will also allow the UF Libraries to include audio and video clips in our collection.

Caleb and Michele Grimes, UF graduates, have generously provided $25,000 to support our digitization project. We are grateful for their gift.

Donate to SPOHP
Please make a contribution to continue our efforts to collect and preserve oral histories. To donate online, visit history.ufl.edu/oral and present your gift. Checks should be payable to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc.

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Undergraduate
SPOHP staff Sarah Blanc and SPOHP Intern Max J. Galber were both 2011 recipients of University Scholars Program funding for their senior theses.

Students at SPOHP
SPOHP provides a productive research environment for students across limitless disciplines involved in the practice of oral history.

Graduate
Congratulations to SPOHP staff Sarah Blanc for receiving this year’s Daniel J. Koleos Undergraduate Research Award for her research on the Poor People’s Campaign.

Director’s Message: Sustainers’ Campaign
Welcome to One Community, Many Voices, a newsletter from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida! I am asking you to help us sustain the exciting research activities that you will read about in this newsletter. We believe that history can be stimulating for young and old alike—but we need YOUR support to keep going!

At the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, we believe that oral history is an indispensable method of studying the past. Listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history—not to mention the way we approach scholarly questions as well as public policy debates. The passionate stories found in oral history interviews serve as great tools to excite and encourage people of all ages to study the past. Our students, staff and volunteers are committed to using oral history as a way to promote scholarly excellence and human dignity.

SPOHP needs your help in order to sustain and build upon our research, teaching, and service missions. We know that money is tight during these difficult times. However, I also want you to know that a donation of even $25 or $50 dollars can make a big difference in our ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations of our world’s citizens.

We strive to make oral histories of individuals from all walks of life accessible to as wide an audience as possible. However, we need your help to do this! I hope that you will consider making a modest contribution to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. At UF Oral History, we believe that one of the best investments we can make in our future is an intensive study of our past.

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Sincerely Yours,
Paul Ortiz
Director of SPOHP
Associate Professor of History,
Affiliated Faculty in Latin American Studies & African American Studies
What have we been up to lately?

Dario Fo Collaboration

In the fall of 2010, we entered into an exciting collaboration with Italian Nobel Laureate Dario Fo, whose current artistic work involves a series of creative projects on the history of the Seminole Wars in Florida. We have been consulting with Dario and helping his writers understand the connections between black slavery, slavery, the Seminole struggle for freedom in the 19th century, and contemporary historical phenomena such as today’s struggles in the United States. Dario’s film crew came to Gainesville on October 11 and spent two days working with our staff to identify primary sources that emphasize the critical role that Native American & African American freedom fighters played in Florida’s history.

6th Annual Gainesville Latino Film Festival

At SPOHP, we endeavor to promote greater cultural awareness in our community. SPOHP was a co-sponsor of the 6th Annual Gainesville Latino Film Festival—a continuance of this important program.

Ortiz gave a public lecture which tells the stories of Mexicans and Puerto Ricans who went to the United States in search of freedom in the 19th century, and...the origin of the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program. The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is...to build a public archive featuring the experiences of Florida war veterans from World War II to the present. The Library of Congress will create a website with a short audio biography for each veteran detailing information about his or her service. The Veterans History Project became law in 2000 with unanimous support from the United States Congress. Be sure to contact SPOHP if you would like to be interviewed for this project!

In Case You Missed It...

The 2010-2011 academic year was full of entertaining and informative public programs organized by SPOHP. Here are a few highlights...

Mississippi Freedom Project Approaching 4th Year

In September of 2011, SPOHP will make its way to the Mississippi Delta for its fourth trip. Thanks to generous continued funding from Mr. William DeGrove, SPOHP is able to continue its collaboration with the Sunflower County Freedom Project collecting oral histories of civil rights activism in the region.

The Civil Rights History Panel at Delta State drew a very large turnout. The panel featured Alan Bean, founder of the Friends of Justice, Margaret Kibbee, a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee as well as Prof. Curtis Austin, and Akinyele Umoja. We also held a panel discussion and shared student reflections when we returned to Gainesville.

Florida Opportunity Scholars

We are increasingly exploring social issues impacting students, staff, and faculty. SPOHP’s undergraduate conducted interviews at UF with faculty and residents of the Florida Opportunity Scholars scholarship for first-generation college students in need of support. The stories of Florida Opportunity Scholars, many of whom have endured enormous odds to attend UF, have been so inspiring that we too are taking our opportunities for helping students at UF.

Mississippi Freedom Project

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