

**Oral History Association 2015 Annual Meeting  
Tampa, Florida**

**Samuel Proctor Oral History Program Presentations, Events, and Sponsorships**

*Thursday, October 15*

Veterans of WWII Tell Their Stories (Roundtable)

3:00 - 4:30 p.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Florida Salon 1

-Ann Pauline Smith

-Donald Obrist

-Deborah Hendrix

Chair: Dr. Paul Ortiz

Abstract: Forty years ago, Samuel Proctor began the Oral History Program at the University of Florida. Prior to that he had taught reading and arithmetic to illiterate Army recruits at Camp Blanding, forty miles from Gainesville. Now the Oral History Program is directed by Paul Ortiz, the current president of OHA. The second director of our program, Julian Pleasants, began the Veterans History Project recognizing the aging of those who had served our country in battle and who had valuable history to impart. Today, our World War II collection is over 260 interviews and continues to grow. We will present a sampling of WWII stories exemplifying the impacts on the veterans, themselves, their family and communities, students at the University of Florida, and those of us--all volunteers--who collect, transcribe and archive these stories, partnering with the Library of Congress. All have been changed by these oral histories.

The stories will be complemented by brief audio clips or contributing photos that tell gripping stories in primary source material. Naive young boys from rural America who became men overnight, rose to the call of country. Boys from inner cities who had never seen a rifle answered the swell of patriotism of the country. Sons and daughters of military families continued the expectation of defending the Constitution. And, in associated interviews, we present prisoners of war, citizens of enemy countries, and Japanese United States citizens who were interned in the wave of fear that swept the country.

Many veterans remember their experiences and have put them in perspective of the life they made afterwards. Others have been crippled by nightmares, panic attacks, substance abuse, and aggression for the seventy years since the war ended.

Documenting the Black Freedom Struggle, Then and Now (Panel)

3:00 - 4:30 p.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room 3

-Jana Ronan, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

-Claudia Thornton Frazer, Cowles Library, Duke University

-Adrienne A. Cain, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library

-Elizabeth Gritter, Indiana University Southeast

Chair: Todd Moye, University of North Texas

Abstract: The first two papers of this panel discuss how Civil Rights activists and their allies risked their lives in the struggle for racial justice during Freedom Summer. What can we learn from these stories fifty years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act? The second two papers compare past narratives of African American experiences in two U.S. cities with the present day "slow-rolling crisis" of African American relations with police.

Media of Resistance: Narrating Social Change in Photography, Paintings, and Music (Panel)

3:00 - 4:30 p.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room 2

-Carol Quirke, SUNY Old Westbury

-David Dunaway, University of New Mexico

-Michael Kilburn, Endicott College

-Vivian Elaine Sponholtz

Chair: Hana Griff-Sleven, Museum at Eldridge Street

Abstract: The diverse collection of papers in this panel explores how artistic media such as photography, painting, and music become avenues for both narrating and enacting social change. From the working-class documentary photography of Arthur Leipzig, to the paintings of environmental activist Margaret Ross Tolbert, to the music of folk artists, and to musicians associated with the Czech Underground movement, these four authors use oral history to engage questions related to the possibility of resistance through art.

Gator Tales (Performance)

7:30 - 9:00 p.m., Tampa Bay History Center, TECO Hall

-Alachua County African American History Project

Abstract: This original play devised and directed by Kevin Marshall, professor of theatre at University of Florida, in conjunction with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, features the unique stories of African American students at the University of Florida over

the past 50 years. The character's stories are drawn from the SPOHP oral history archive and the Alachua County African American History Project.

The performance of Gator Tales is made possible by the Florida Humanities Council and is free and open to the public.

*Friday, October 16*

Beyond the Interview: Oral History Education for the 21st Century (Roundtable)

8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room 2

-Debbie Ardemendo, Apollo Theater

-Erin Conlin, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

-James Richard Karmel, Harford Community College

Chair: Allison K. Tracy, Stanford Historical Society, Stanford University

Abstract: OHA's Education Committee presents a panel on oral history projects that challenge secondary, community college and university students to move beyond the interview. Panelists analyze project results that emphasize the ways in which their use of oral history contributed to the fulfillment of educational goals and outcomes relevant for 21st century students.

Debbie Ardemendo discusses the Apollo Video Oral History Project at Wadleigh Secondary School in New York City. Students learn to document oral history interviews and video production, applying foundational filmmaking tools and theory while recording personal accounts of historical events from a variety of interviewees. Specifically featured will be the documentary "When Injustice Speaks." Students conducted oral history interviews with community activists and were asked to consider, analyze and reflect on their own community impacts.

Erin Conlin discusses her use of oral history in classes at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Conlin's students complete oral history assignments that connect major class themes with those found in narrators' lives. Using these themes, students develop interpretive projects like podcasts or films that challenge them to think and process information like historians.

James Karmel discusses oral history at Harford Community College. Dr. Karmel's students conduct interviews, analyze them and self-reflect for a meaningful learning experience. They also complete "self-reflection" assignments which articulate how oral history illuminates both universal and personal history. His students have utilized digital applications to create themed video clips from interviews on subjects related to the 1960s for Harford Voices, a digital oral history exhibition at: <http://harfordvoices.org>.

The panel will also engage the session audience in an open discussion on oral history and education for secondary and undergraduate students. Ideally, the discussion will

focus on topics pertinent to the presentations, such as the challenges of using student-conducted interviews to support thoughtful and substantive engagement in oral history.

*Saturday, October 11*

From Oral History to Community Action: Latino Youth Building Community and Transforming Social Discourses (Roundtable)

8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Florida Salon 2

- Génesis Lara
- Natalia Ochoa (Chair)
- Carmen Lopez Ramirez

Abstract: This round table explores the ways in which Latino students and youth use their own life experiences, personal journeys and narratives to transform their communities and become activists in predominantly white institutions and discourses. In this context, the practice of oral history becomes a tool for identity building and community activism in an effort to create new spaces for representation. The kind of oral histories presented in this panel demonstrate the ways Latino students and youth utilize oral history practices to understand and transform their identities by sharing life experiences and common histories of struggle and personal empowerment. This process of identity claiming and dynamism has opened up spaces to challenge stereotypical and imposed discourses of Latinidad in the United States. Therefore, Latino youth have created their own spaces to empower themselves through oral history practices by finding strength and motivation to become activists in their communities. This round table offers three examples on how Latino youth have used oral history practices and new media technology to create a space where voices and realities often located at the margins become the core of activist efforts and practices. The three projects discussed in this round table are: Nuestras Historias, Alcance Project, and Familias Unidas: Amor y Comunidad Project.

Re-thinking Florida's Political Past: Oral History, Social Change, and Social Justice (Roundtable)

8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room 1

- Candice Ellis, George Washington University
  - Sarah McNamara, UNC-Chapel Hill
  - Jeanine Navarrete, UNC-Chapel Hill
  - Cyrana Wyker, Middle Tennessee State University
- Chair: James Clark, University of Central Florida

Abstract: the state of Florida frequently stands at the apex of political debate. From immigration reform to civil rights, gun control to healthcare reform, and labor rights to economic development, Florida politics incite contention on the local and national stage. In the midst of the state's political turmoil, public disputes often ignore historic concerns

and the lived realities of Florida citizens. Oral history, however, has the power to overcome the space between the past and present by connecting the dissonance between historical memories and historical realities. This roundtable addresses the role of oral history in re-thinking Florida's political past. Panelists will discuss space between historical memory and public narrative in regard to Cuban Americans and Cuban refugees in Miami, marriage equality in the Bay Area, environmental policy in central Florida, and urban renewal in Tampa. Together, panelists will explore how the voices, actions, and memories of Florida citizens act as powerful elements in the struggle for social change and social justice in the Sunshine state.

Sponsoring: Documenting Ferguson: Oral History, Virtual Technologies and the Making of a Movement (Plenary Session)

10:15-11:45 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Florida Salon 6

- Nailah Summers, Dream Defenders, Civic Media Center, Mississippi Freedom Project
- Professor Donna Murch, author of *Living for the City*
- Makiba Foster, Documenting Ferguson project at Washington University

Abstract: This plenary session will explore issues of historical recovery posed by the mass protests against state sanctioned violence after the shooting of Michael Brown last August. As national attention turned to this little known city in St. Louis County during the summer of 2014, an explosion of youth activism, social media production, and migration of youth of color from many regions across United States made it a flashpoint for long standing grievances about law enforcement killings of unarmed citizens. Documenting this mass protest in real time raises a number of important issues for oral historians and academics, including how to best obtain oral interviews that represent broad swaths of different communities affected by the protests, whether or not utterances in social media might also be included as part of oral testimony, and finally how might archivists, researchers and academics work together to best preserve this living history. Professor Donna Murch, author of the oral history based book *Living for the City*, will host a dialogue with Makiba Foster of the Documenting Ferguson project at Washington University, along with local activists from Florida and St. Louis.

Oral History Awards Showcase (Roundtable)

3:15-4:45 p.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room 2

- Sarah Blanc
- Diana Dombrowski
- Jana Ronan

Abstract: Recipients of the 2015 Oral History Association awards will present their work.

*Sunday, October 18*

#NoLaughingMatter: Disrupting Racial Oppression in the New South (Roundtable)

9:30- 11:00 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room 3

-Randi Gill-Sadler

-Justin P. Dunnavant (Chair)

-Dr. Ryan Morini

-Anthony J. Donaldson

Abstract: The University of Florida's African American History Program has amassed a collection of over 400 interviews with Blacks in Florida and the greater South. Largely pulling from this collection-with regional emphasis in Florida and North Carolina-the following presentations engage Jim Crow oppression, segregation, and the struggle for social change.

With his presentation "We Don't Eat Negroes: Navigating Racial Oppression with Humor," Justin Dunnavant describes how people used wit and satire as a means of subverting dominant power structures and navigating Jim Crow oppression. Pushing the bounds of traditional notions of life under Jim Crow segregation, these humorous narratives demonstrate how youth, protestors, and everyday people challenged long-standing norms to bring about social change.

Recent scholarship has demonstrated that non-violence was neither monolithic nor the only strategy in the black freedom struggle. Ryan Morini's paper, "Nonviolence Protected By Rifles and Trip Wires: The Multi-Faceted Struggle for Freedom in Ocala, Florida," draws upon oral narratives and newspaper articles to discuss the strategies and successes of armed self-defense within the context of nonviolent social change in rural North-Central Florida.

In 1990, Harvey Gantt, a successful, black businessman and former mayor of Charlotte, N.C., challenged Jesse Helms, the ultra-conservative three-term Senator for his U.S. Senate seat. A.J. Donaldson will use oral history narratives with leading political figures to explore how racial politics impeded North Carolina's potential first black statewide elected official. Furthermore, he examines how Helms resurrected past racial fears to solidify victory.



Though scholars have acknowledged Zora Neale Hurston as a literary foremother to Black women writers, Randi Gill-Sadler's presentation "Wrasslin' Up a Future: Zora Neale Hurston, Oral Histories and Black Women's Activism" will theorize Hurston's oral histories as predecessors to the various types of activism by Black women on social media today.

Standing with Elders: Fieldwork in the South (Roundtable)

9:30-11:00 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, 3, Meeting Room

-Jessica Taylor

-Diana Dombrowski

-Génesis Lara

-Sarah Blanc

-Patrick Daglaris

Chair: Leslie Brown, Williams College

Abstract: Fieldwork is an invaluable resource for undergraduates, inspiring them through intellectual inquiry to break down their own barriers and return renewed and engaged to their own communities. For educators and their students, each trip is proof positive of the value of immersion to a liberal arts education, and the value of a liberal arts education to the next generation of professionals. University of Florida's fieldwork in the South destroys the myth of a monolithic region, exposing students to diverse narratives of resistance to exploitative labor relations and to cultural change. Continuing relationships with contributors to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's collections also opens a unique window to examine academic legacies of earlier oral history work and solidify contemporary networks for advancing scholarship.

Representing SPOHP's flagship trip to the Mississippi Delta, Sarah Blanc discusses student-driven oral history fieldwork which unites generations of activists to document the fight for equality in the 1960s. Appalachian Change Project coordinator Jessica Taylor, a Carolina native, discusses the unique advantages of cultivating fieldwork experiences for students in places where we are personally vested in social change. Patrick Daglaris collected oral histories the hard way by getting to know the residents of Mathews, Virginia, engaging in local activities such as crabbing and playing music, and creating lasting relationships. Diana Dombrowski focuses on the digitization of interviews conducted in the Poarch Creek Nation in the 1970s, discussing both modern academic partnerships as well as public programs surrounding the collection and evolution of methodology standards. Leader of the Ethnic Studies in Tucson trip Genesis Lara will present the outcomes of SPOHP's latest fieldwork initiative documenting the Ethnic

Studies Program in Tuscon, Arizona. Immersion compels the evolution of new methodologies and new relationships to add to archives and to soften the effects of institutional presence on our informants.

Poarch Band of Creek Indians: Digitization Brings Tribal Elders to Life (Panel)

9:30-11:00 a.m., Tampa Marriott Waterside, Florida Salon 1

-Deidra Suwanee Dees, Tribal Archivist, The Poarch Band of Creek Indians

-Ellen O'Barr, Tribal Records Coordinator, The Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Abstract: In 2013, the Office of Archives and Records Management at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians launched the new 'Evening with the Elders' program which became an overwhelming success and is still growing in popularity two years later. This monthly series features the audio recordings of renowned Anthropologist Dr. J. Anthony Paredes who interviewed tribal leaders in the 1970s and collected data on tribal history that exists nowhere else on Mother Earth. The Tribe partnered with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida to have these tapes digitized and transcribed. This session showcases segments of the interviews from this highly praised series which brings tribal elders to life in the modern-day community.