



SPOHP LIGHT

July 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear SPOHP Community,

Welcome to SPOHP's Mid-Summer Newsletter! Thanks to your support and guidance, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program was one of a handful of university-based oral history programs in the United States that remained operational during the Global Pandemic. Working in partnership with community-based organizations and other universities, SPOHP was able to conduct scores of oral histories with frontline healthcare workers and immigrant laborers in the Gulf South who have been heroes in the struggle against the Global Pandemic.

Accessibility is our middle name! Our Joel Buchanan Archive project in African American history received the wonderful news earlier this summer that we have received a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will allow us to share our Black History interviews with K-12 teachers in Florida and beyond. A bit earlier in the year, we received a processing grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Trust that will allow us to make our archival collections of Native American oral histories much more accessible to Native American nations & groups as well as educators and community organizations.

Our students, staff and volunteers are so excited to be able to bring the process of planning for oral history fieldwork throughout the country. We continue to conduct many of our interviews, workshops and public programs via "Zoom." We have discovered that this method has allowed us to reach new neighborhoods and rural communities throughout the Americas.

As you read this summer newsletter, I invite you to give us a call, send us a letter or email. We want to hear from you! In the meantime, have a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you for being a part of the SPOHP family.

Sincerely Yours,

Paul Ortiz

Director and Professor of History

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JBA UPDATE

ST. AUGUSTINE AND PENSACOLA COLLECTIONS COMPLETE!

The Joel Buchanan Archive is proud to announce the completion of both our St. Augustine and Pensacola collections. Spanning almost 100 interviews, these collections document the narratives of the African American communities in Pensacola and St. Augustine during the Civil Rights Movement and onwards. These interviews will now be accessible to the public through the UFDC.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANT

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP), Department of Linguistics, College of Education (COE), the All Y'all Social Justice Collective, and George A. Smathers Libraries (Libraries) received a grant in total of \$350,000 to co-produce, test, and disseminate a new online interface and accompanying curriculum modules customizable for use in formal and informal educational settings—unleashing the hidden content of 500 civil rights oral histories collected in the Gulf South. Click [here](#) for more information.



CURRICULUM PROJECT

SPOHP has developed a lesson plan template that allows teachers to incorporate oral histories into their curriculum planning with ease. SPOHP is utilizing this lesson plan template for a recent Florida state mandate that now requires teachers across the state to educate their students about the Ocoee Massacre of 1920 per Florida state standards.



ALACHUA COUNTY SOIL COLLECTION & A.S.J. ALLEN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

On June 25th, SPOHP hosted Rev. Allen's descendants at the Lowe's Family Memorial Garden. On April 2, 1904 white landowner J.L. Shaw shot Rev. Allen over an encroaching fence. Historians today believe this lynching had much more to do with Allen's prevalent presence in the Black community, rather than private property. Speakers at the reception included UF President Kent Fuchs, Commissioner Charles Chestnut, IV, City of Alachua Vice Mayor Shirley Brown and SPOHP Director Paul Ortiz. On June 26th, SPOHP attended a soil collection ceremony hosted by the Alachua-Newnansville Community Remembrance Project committee and the Equal Justice Initiative to honor the lives lost to lynchings in Alachua County. Click [here](#) to read more about Rev. Allen.

BLACK FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Under the guidance of Dr. Sharon Austin, the Black Faculty Recruitment and Retention Oral History Project was established in 2020 as part of UF's Racial Justice Initiative. The goal of the grant funded project, first, is to provide a holistic perspective of Black professional development for those considering the academic career path. Second, the project aims to capture the challenges faced by Black professionals at UF so that future generations may learn from them. Please contact the project coordinator for more information by clicking [here](#).

JBA'S "RACE AND REMEMBRANCE" PODCAST LAUNCH

This **ten-episode podcast series** explores stories from our JBA Collection, which aims to document the African American perspectives and experiences. The themes explored include racial terror in 20th century Florida, the Civil Rights Movement in North Florida, the prevalence of academic and professional racial discrimination within the University of Florida, and struggles for racial equity today. It is our hope that this series will amplify the often-ignored stories of Black communities at UF, in Florida, and across the nation.

FLORIDA QUEER HISTORY PROJECT

PERUVIAN QUEER HISTORY

"My project on the testimonios of the Queer Peruvian diaspora is a labor of love. Testimonio provides an opening through which Queer Peruvians in the diaspora can name their experiences and rewrite history to offer a radical potential for Queer presents and futures. It has been a true gift meeting each person who has chosen to share their story with me, and I sit in deep gratitude as I do this work." - Maria Saldana, FQH Coordinator

OTTOMAN GREEKS OF THE UNITED STATES (OGUS)

The Ottoman Greeks of the United States Archive at the University of Florida's Digital Collections has been updated with photographs donated by Mr. George Makredes. Mr. Makredes's family immigrated from the town of Alaçati - on the Ottoman Empire's Aegean coast - to Somerville, Massachusetts in the early 20th century. They settled in an area of Somerville which came to be called Brickbottom. Brickbottom was an enclave for immigrants and refugees from Alaçati. To view the complete collection search for the keyword "Izmir" in the archive's search bar by clicking [here](#).



COLLABORATIONS

MARTIN COUNTY COLLABORATION

Charlene Thompson, Lloyd Jones, and other members of the Martin County Black Initiatives, Inc. were given instruction on their newly purchased gear in a workshop led by Deborah Hendrix, Adolfo Romero, and Kasamba Kokayi. SPOHP is partnering with Martin County to develop and preserve its local archives and community members' stories. Stories include the history of Salerno School, which serviced African American students for many years.



JULIAN PLEASANTS ORAL HISTORY TRAVEL AWARD

The Julian Pleasants Oral History Travel Award provides recipients with a \$2,000 stipend, institutional support, and archival access to our substantial oral history collections. We are excited to begin working with **Ms. Allison Mitchell**, who will conduct research in our Joel Buchanan Archive of African American History.

PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to SPOHP's very own Vasilios Kosmakos on winning a merit based scholarship from the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. Vasilios is the second University of Florida winner of this national award for his academic excellence. He is a sustainability and international studies double major and president of the Wildlife Society, and a lead organizer of the Save the McCarty Woods campaign.

ROTHMAN DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

SPOHP proudly announces that our star volunteer, George Topalidis, was selected for the Rothman Doctoral Fellowship. George's dissertation argues that knowledge produced from the application of a "Whitening Process Model" results in the reification of white supremacy, but can, and should instead be used to lead individuals towards an anti-racist praxis. George will present his findings at the Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere's Synergies conference to be held in Spring 2020. Click [here](#) for more information about George's research.

AWARDS



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT DIANA DOMBROWSKI

Ms. Diana Dombrowski is starting a graduate program in Energy and Resources at UC-Berkeley this fall. Ms. Dombrowski joined SPOHP in 2012. For four years she helped organize resource education, outreach, and SPOHP's volunteer program and developed news releases, and advertisement designs to support SPOHP's public programs. Ms. Dombrowski coordinated the Poarch Creek Project, a digitization initiative of a legacy oral history collection originally conducted in the 1970s with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHT DR. ROBERT ZILLER

For our interview highlight we proudly present Dr. Robert Ziller, interviewed by Ray Eberling. Dr. Ziller participated in key battles of World War II. The Veterans History Project has captured important recollections by American Veterans of all American wars. To view Dr. Ziller's interview please click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

- **People Power Book Launch - July 16th at 1 pm**

- Join SPOHP's Dr. Ortiz along with co-editor Dr. Wesley Hogan in partnership with the Elaine Legacy Center for the hybrid launch of a new book collection, *People Power*, on **July 16th at 1pm CT**. *People Power* features contributions from leading scholar-activists. This is a community organizing town hall. The event will take place in Elaine, Arkansas and also on Zoom. Register for zoom at tinyurl.com/PeoplePowerBookLaunch0716.

- **13th annual Mississippi Freedom Project Trip - July 12th-19th**

- The MFP is an award-winning fieldwork initiative focused on interviewing civil rights veterans and participants of Freedom Summer in 1964, but also includes the voices of contemporary activists, local politicians, labor organizers, educators, and students throughout the Mississippi delta. Each year the research team records new interviews for the Mississippi Freedom Project Archive.

- **Pensacola Oral History Trip - August 3-5**

- Contact Mr. Adolfo Romero for further information. Adolfhorromero@ufl.edu