

THE SAMUEL PROCTOR ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

SPOHP LIGHT



Director's Message

Dear Member(s) of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Community,

Welcome to the February issue of SPOHP Light. Greetings to all SPOHP family members wherever you live!

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program relies on the guidance and support of our growing network of sustainers. If are an alumnus or you have a story that you want to share, please let us know! Whatever the case, thank you for being a member of the SPOHP community. We look forward to continuing to provide you with exciting updates about what our program.

Sincerely Yours,

Paul Ortiz

For more information, please visit: <https://oral.history.ufl.edu>
Follow us on social media @SPOHP



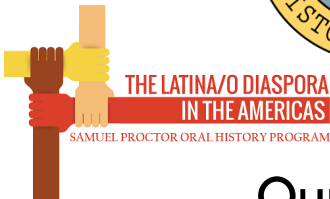
About Us

Our Mission



SPOHP is an award-winning, social-justice research center engaged in experiential learning initiatives all over the world. Our team of student researchers, interns, volunteers, and staff are dedicated to gathering, preserving, and promoting living histories of individuals from all walks of life.

SPOHP is committed to using critical historical inquiry and digital humanities production to encourage civic engagement and dialogue between the past, present, and the future.



Our Work



SPOHP supports diverse projects such as those listed above. We also encourage students to pursue their own projects if interested. Visit <https://oral.history.ufl.edu/projects/> to learn more about our work.

Project Updates

The Joel Buchanan Archive of African American History (JBA Collection)

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The Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South (RAAOHGS) team has continued working with interviews in the JBA Collection to make these stories more accessible to the public. These efforts include the creation of lesson plans to reanimate the way we teach African American history to K-12 students. To stay updated on this ongoing project, please connect with the team via social media.



A fieldwork team interviewed alumni of Central Academy High School (CAHS). CAHS, the first Black high school in Palatka, was also the first Black high school accredited in Florida. The interviews took place at Bethlehem Baptist Church and were facilitated by Rev. Tommy Rodgers and Dr. Rebekah Cordova.

Interviews will resume in March: if interested in participating, please contact adolforomero@ufl.edu.

For more education and anti-racist resources, visit <https://oral.history.ufl.edu/research/anti-racist-resources/>.



Project Updates

Mississippi Freedom Project (MFP)



Join us for the 2022 Mississippi Freedom Project, an annual oral history fieldwork trip through the Mississippi Delta. Last summer, our field researchers conducted interviews with African American elders and community members from the Florida Panhandle, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. SPOHP researchers had the opportunity to visit Elaine, Arkansas and uncover details about the disenfranchisement and mass killing of Black sharecroppers in the 1919 Elaine Massacre. In Glendora, Mississippi, the team traveled to the Emmett Till Historic Center and toured the grounds where fourteen-year-old Emmett Till once walked and where his fate was sealed at the hands of white supremacist agitators. To conclude the trip, SPOHP fieldworkers attended the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and toured the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. Those interested in the 2022 MFP trip should register via the following link for more information:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdM6qdJZ-b-BeZTcME52-p_5jlcXz3mRX6ibUkdGdLZsB9Kw/viewform.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdM6qdJZ-b-BeZTcME52-p_5jlcXz3mRX6ibUkdGdLZsB9Kw/viewform)



Project Updates

Latinx Diaspora in the Americas Project (LDAP)



On April 19, UCLA and SPOHP will be hosting an event that will focus on the impacts of the 2022 midterm election on the Latinx community. Suzanne Gamboa, a national reporter for NBC Latino and NBC news, will moderate the event. Panelists for the event include Carlos Barberena, a Florida state Senate candidate; Andrea Cristina Mercado, Co-Executive Director of Florida Rising; and Santra Denis, Executive Director of Miami Workers Center. Panelists will discuss issues regarding voter suppression, restoration of voting rights for felons, the \$15 minimum wage initiative, and the impacts of COVID-19 on the election. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3t7PzzK>.

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative



Project Updates

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars (MFOS) Project



SPOHP's Technology Coordinator, Ms. Deborah Hendrix, is working on the final edits for her documentary film on the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars (MFOS) Program. She developed this film using interviews collected by students in SPOHP's oral history internship course. In addition to highlighting the importance of the MFOS program, this documentary also includes educational components for teaching about first generation students and the issues they face.

Florida Naturalist Project



From February 2nd to 4th, SPOHP field researchers traveled to Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida to conduct oral histories with scientists, charter boat captains, professors, and community members to gain an understanding of the water degradation that is occurring in the state of Florida. This project is an extension of the Florida Naturalist Project and Florida Water Management Collection. To view these interviews and more of this project, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzMfFlzfI0ERIxwXGkSYwYUbc4IKszGjt>.



Project Updates

Veterans Oral History Project



SPOHP is pleased to be able to report that our Veteran's History Project has resumed collecting the important stories of our brave and honorable service members. Processing the interviews is continuing to ensure these rich records can be made accessible to the public through our Library of Congress partnership.

In honor of Black History Month, we would like to highlight some memories of service members who discussed their experiences when returning from the war front. Many of the oral histories contain insights on race relations in the military and we encourage everyone to listen to these interviews in their entirety and learn more about the treatment of Black service members and veterans in the US. To hear the interview with Mr. Thomas Durr, please scan the QR code below or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M--Ta4_tF9w.



Project Updates

Doris Duke Native American Oral History Revitalization Project



This multi-year project includes multiple university oral history collections. SPOHP continues its collaboration with UF archivist, Guinnessa Mahar, and the library team in outreaching to tribal representatives of the Poarch Creek, Catawba, Cherokee, Seminole, Lumbee, and Mississippi Choctaw. This work will improve transcription quality, give additional privacy protections to the tribes and nations, and improve accessibility to these interviews, which Samuel Proctor and his graduate students began collecting in the late 1960s.

Poarch Creek Project



SPOHP is currently working with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to help uncover the content of twenty-one audio cassette recordings of Tribal Member interviews that come from the Venus McGhee Prince Collection, circa 1994. Venus McGhee is a Tribal Member who interviewed Tribal elders for her senior thesis at Harvard University, and is now the Vice President of Compliance at Wind Creek Casinos & Hotels.

Project Updates

Ottoman Greeks of the United States (OGUS)



The OGUS Project is happy to announce our first road trip since the onset of the pandemic! In May of this year, our researchers are planning to visit Austin, Dallas, Galveston, and Houston, Texas! If you are a descendant of immigrants or refugees from regions of the late Ottoman Empire that overlap with contemporary Turkey (Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, Imbros, Tenedos, the Marmara Islands), and you are interested in having your family's history documented for research purposes, please contact us at the following address:

<https://ogus.oral.history.ufl.edu/welcome/contact-us/interview-scheduling/>.



Deborah Hendrix's Projects



Deborah Hendrix is working on her annual projects with the Global Studies and Spanish Studies programs at UF, offering continuing education credits for faculty and producing a documentary film with students. Additionally, her weekend fieldwork trips with Assistant Director Adolfo Romero and Gainesville community members continue to produce rich and important interviews for the JBA collection.

Community Collaborations

Black Thursday Exhibit

Please visit the Matheson History Museum to view its newest exhibit: "We're Tired of Asking: Black Thursday and Civil Rights at the University of Florida." The exhibit, curated by SPOHP staff member Alana Gomez, will run for a year, and highlights the arrest of sixty-six Black students on the University of Florida campus during a peaceful demonstration in 1971. To view the virtual exhibit, please scan the QR code below or visit <https://express.adobe.com/page/99TNtM7IKRDKV/>.



Gainesville Sun Research

In collaboration with the Gainesville Sun, SPOHP is sifting through and analyzing the newspaper's historical archives in order to document its portrayals of racial injustice. Twentieth-century media was utilized as a tool for perpetuating stereotypes and generalizations. By studying how the Gainesville Sun depicted certain issues and people we are hoping to gain a better understanding of its positionality on racism and racial terrorism within the Alachua County area. To join this project, please email lauratamayo@ufl.edu.

Community Collaborations

St. Augustine Episcopal Church



SPOHP staff interviewed Rev. George Guy and Charmine Gibson to uncover the history of St. Augustine Episcopal Church, the first church to serve Anglican people of color. Their interviews will help to create a historical marker celebrating this history. St. Augustine Episcopal church building went through many transitions, from church, to school, to daycare center.

Oak Hammock at UF Project



The Oak Hammock Oral History Project launched on February 11, 2022. The project documents the origins and development of this vibrant retirement community in Gainesville, Florida in interviews with the early visionaries and founding board members, the planning and construction group, and Oak Hammock's earliest founding residents. Aside from documenting the history of the community's development, this project offers an opportunity to engage with and learn from these inspiring individuals. To view these interviews, scan the QR code below or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLwqZ_XZPyM&list=PLzMFflzfIOERGBIM48RJLV6pUoSDiWxZN.



Upcoming Events

African American History Meets AI in the 21st Century Classroom



On April 5th at 4:00pm EST, faculty and student panelists will discuss how they are utilizing Artificial Intelligence to make UF's Joel Buchanan African American Oral History Archive accessible to scholars and K-12 students through a new National Endowment for the Humanities-funded collaboration between SPOHP, UF Libraries, UF Department of Linguistics, and the All Y'all Social Justice Collective titled "Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South." For updates on this event and more, follow our social media @SPOHP!

Allison Mitchell (Julian Pleasants Scholar) Research Presentation

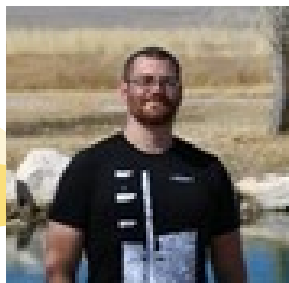


SPOHP is proud to introduce Allison Mitchell, recipient of the 2021 Julian Pleasants award, past volunteer, and alumna of UF's History Department and African American Studies Program. Currently, Ms. Mitchell is a PhD candidate at the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia. We are excited to announce an upcoming presentation of her research, date to be determined. Stay connected with SPOHP to receive updates on this and other events! In the meantime, scan the QR code below to read a recent article written by Allison Mitchell.



Alumni Highlight

Dr. Ryan Morini, PhD



Dr. Ryan Morini, who earned a PhD in Cultural Anthropology, has been an integral part of SPOHP. His main research focus is heritage politics and social memory among Newene (Western Shoshones) of central and eastern Nevada. Through that work, he started the Newene Nap Collection at SPOHP.

Starting in 2010 as a Graduate Assistant and later transitioning to Associate Director, Dr. Morini worked extensively on SPOHP's African American History Collection, which is now part of the Joel Buchanan Archive. During his time at SPOHP, Dr. Morini worked on conducting local interviews in Alachua county and further afield, including multiple trips to White Springs. In collaboration with the Ocala Civil Rights Movement veterans, Aldjenatu Rosemary Florence and Mary Caroline Williams, Dr. Morini conducted interviews with groups such as the Ocala Hunting and Fishing Club. As an instructor, Dr. Morini taught various courses, including the Black and Latinx History of the Gator Nation.

Interview Highlight

Ms. Ellen Louise Buchanan Jordan



In honor of Black History Month, we would like to highlight an interview with Ms. Ellen Louise Buchanan Jordan, the aunt of Mr. Joel Buchanan, for whom the JBA Collection is named. This interview was conducted on February 5, 2022 by Ms. Sherry Sherrod DuPree and Garlende Greene-Grant. Ms. Jordan was born in Jonesville, Florida on January 12, 1922, and recently celebrated her hundredth birthday. In this interview, Ms. Jordan discusses her family and childhood, as well as her adult life in Jonesville, Newberry, and Gainesville.

With her positivity and humor, she shares her experiences within the local community, offering a rich personal and cultural history. To listen to the full interview with Ms. Ellen Louise Buchanan Jordan, please scan the QR code below or visit https://youtu.be/SAfAs6Z_zFo.



Announcements

New Book Alert: 50 Years of African American Studies at UF

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SPOHP invites all to read the recent publication *African American Studies: 50 Years at the University of Florida*, a ground-breaking book co-edited by Dr. Paul Ortiz and Dr. Jacob U'Mofe Gordon which documents the history of the African American Studies Program at UF. This remarkable book will be promoted at the Sunshine State Book Festival from April 9-10, and is available as an ebook for free online at <https://ufl.pb.unizin.org/africanamericanstudies/>.



Race and Remembrance Podcast Series

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SPOHP's 10-episode podcast series, "Race and Remembrance," is now available on Spotify and other platforms. Using interviews from our Joel Buchanan Archive (JBA) Collection, we confront themes of racial terror in 20th-century Florida, the local Civil Rights Movement, the history of racism within the University of Florida, and the struggle for equity and justice today, while amplifying stories from the Black community. Visit <https://anchor.fm/spohp> to listen and learn more!

THANK YOU!

Donate!

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program relies on the guidance and support of our growing network of sustainers. If you are an alumni or you have a story that you want to share, please let us know! Whatever the case, thank you for being a member of the SPOHP community. We look forward to continuing to provide you with exciting updates about our students' research!

Connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on our work and upcoming events!

@SPOHP



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