

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

SPOHP LIGHT

Fall 2021 Newsletter

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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!



The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
241 Pugh Hall, P.O. Box 115215
The University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611



Director's Message:

Dear Friend of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program,

This has been the most challenging year in the history of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP). Our program transitioned to a completely new way of learning. We not only began doing our interviews via online programs and phone; we cleared out our offices and began working remotely to keep everyone as safe as possible during the Global Pandemic. Anchored by the organizational energies of Tamarra Jenkins and Deborah Hendrix, we've held countless staff and community meetings via Zoom. The phrase "You are still on mute, Dr. Ortiz!" has entered the folklore of our storied program. Back when Dr. Samuel Proctor founded UF Oral History, he probably did not foresee the kind of challenges we would face in 2021. On the other hand, he built a program designed to survive crisis. Consider that Dr. Proctor came of age during the Great Depression. He was a World War II veteran. As a pioneering Jewish American faculty member, Samuel Proctor saw the Holocaust up close in the experiences and traumas of family and friends; as a result, many of SPOHP's finest interviews are with Holocaust survivors, refugees, and people grappling with oppression. We are honored to keep Dr. Proctor's legacy alive! I hope that you find this newsletter to be a beacon of storytelling inspiration. As we slowly and safely return to face-to-face fieldwork, please let us hear from you. We want to hear your story!

Sincerely Yours,

Paul Ortiz

For more information, please visit: <https://oral.history.ufl.edu>

Follow us on social media @SPOHP



Upcoming Events

MFP Panel Event



Join us on October 12 at 2:00 PM to learn more about our past MFP trips and get involved for the future. For more information on this event, visit <https://fb.me/e/2rASZZBGK> or scan the QR code to the right.

OHA Conference

Join the Oral History Association (OHA) for their annual conference, occurring from October 9-14. The theme for 2021 is "Moving Stories." This conference will take place virtually. For more information on this event, visit <https://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/> or scan the QR code above to register.



Announcements

SPOHP Volunteer Program

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida is dedicated to providing public history support as a research center for students, faculty, and community members. SPOHP is a resource base for volunteers interacting with history materials in a variety of different ways, including transcribing, audio logging, and conducting oral history interviews for local and national archives. We focus on local community initiatives and social justice in Gainesville and the Southeast. For additional information contact SPOHP, call the offices at (352) 392-7168, and connect with us via email today: tamarraj@ufl.edu.

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month respects the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latinx Americans as they celebrate their heritage rooted throughout Latin American countries. SPOHP celebrates its Latinx Diaspora in the Americas Project, a collection with over 100 interviews. In 1968, California Congressman George E. Brown honored Hispanic heritage with a week that later turned into Hispanic Heritage Month. Congressman Brown sought to bring awareness of the achievements of the Latinx community and the Latinx Diaspora in the America's collection continues to strive towards achieving his vision.



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 below. 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)

The Black Faculty and Staff Recruitment and Retention at UF Oral History Project (BFRP) is currently conducting interviews with current and former Black professionals at UF. The goal of the project is to document any challenges experienced by Black professionals at UF and at every stage of their professional development. For more information about the project contact the project's coordinator, George Topalidis, at gtopalidis@ufl.edu.

Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South

SPOHP is excited to announce its 3-year collaboration with the Department of Linguistics and UF Libraries on a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The title of the grant is *Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South*.



The purpose of the grant is to create an online platform that will facilitate educators' access to the over 500 interviews in the Joel Buchanan Archive. This platform will weave together spoken and written word into teaching modules and lesson plans for ready integration into the classroom. More to come on this exciting project.



SPOHP Alumni Highlight



Dr. Justin Dunnivant is a former graduate coordinator for the Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History at SPOHP. He holds a BA in History and Anthropology from Howard University and an MA and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Florida. Dr. Dunnivant is an Academic Pathways Postdoctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt University's Spatial Analysis Research Laboratory. In Fall 2021, he will join the faculty of UCLA's Anthropology Department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Dunnivant's current work in the US Virgin Islands investigates the relationship between ecology and enslavement in the former Danish West Indies. He has conducted archaeological research in the US Virgin Islands, Belize, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Gambia. Dr. Dunnivant's research has been featured by National Geographic, Vox and Science Magazine. To view recent media coverage of Dr. Dunnivant's research, please scan the QR code below or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sTZxGnPp14&feature=emb_logo.



Podcast and Interview Highlights

Use the QR code above to listen to the newly-released episode from the Farm Worker Association of Florida Podcast Series. Hear from an interview with Marvelous Rogers as she discusses the difficulties that she and her family faced as migrant fruit contractors in Winter Park, Florida. For more episodes from this project, or to view the other podcast series that SPOHP has produced, please visit <https://anchor.fm/spohp>.



FWAF: Farmworker Interviews

In observance of Labor Day, we want to highlight one of our Farm Worker Association of Florida interviews. In an interview from July 24, 2018, Jasmin Avila describes her family's experiences as immigrants and agricultural workers in the cities of Pierson and DeLand. She discusses the difficult working conditions, the realities of living paycheck-to-paycheck, and the discrimination faced by many in similar situations.



It's just another job that nobody likes to do but people have to do it to get money here. And it just made me not want to be in that situation for the rest of my life. Just working, waking up early. Just your back hurting all the time, you know... But they would be, oh, come pick this up and there was so much mosquitoes. You always got to be aware of snakes. Or there was no toilet there. You would just have to go in the forest with toilet paper, and then you would eat lunch there... It's just not really a job that you want to do every day for the rest of your life and just waking up knowing that you have to do that. It sucks.



Mississippi Freedom Project



This summer, students traveled throughout the South to uncover the legacy of the past. During the Mississippi Freedom Project trip, field researchers interviewed community members impacted by the brutal events of the past, including the 1919 Elaine massacre. Traveling throughout the Mississippi Delta, participants uncovered a lost legacy. Join us on October 12 to learn more about participating in the upcoming MFP trip.



Students and staff on a Mississippi Freedom Project Trip with Civil Rights leader Patricia Stephens Due

Scan this code or visit <https://fb.me/e/2rASZZBGK> for more information on the October 12 MFP event.



Latinx Diaspora in the Americas Oral History Project (LDAP)



Latino Film Festival 2021

In collaboration with the Latina Women’s League, SPOHP has committed to interviewing Peruvian producers and scriptwriters focusing on native tribes in Peru. Producer and Director Pedro Javier Dinos Chauca documents the traditions, rituals, and search of identity of multiple Amazonian regional groups such as the Awajún Ayacuchana, Kukama Kukamirias, Shushug, and Amahuaca. Chauca examines how COVID-19 has impacted the native communities and the deforestation of the land. In a second interview, Shirley Vela discusses the sexism and high suicide rates among native Peruvian women. Vela concentrates on health-related aspects and the exploitation of the Amazon’s water source and its effects on the community of Yarinacocha.



Julian Pleasants Oral History Travel Award



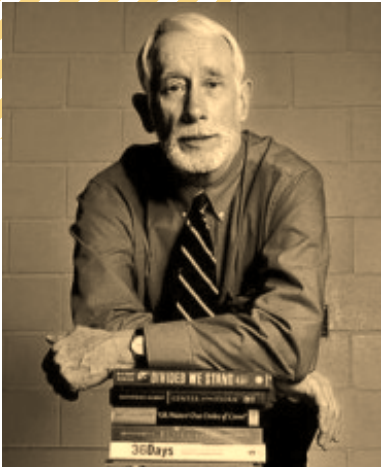
The Julian Pleasants Oral History Travel Award provides recipients with a \$2,000 stipend, institutional support, and archival access to our substantial oral history collections. We are excited to begin working with Ms. Allison Mitchell, who will conduct research in our Joel Buchanan Archive of African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

Allison Mitchell



Allison Mitchell, a Ph.D candidate at the University of Virginia, is currently working on her dissertation entitled "Battle for the Ballot: A History of Black Electoral Politics and Voter Suppression in Florida, 1940s-2010s," tracing the history of political activism and efforts to combat voter suppression among Black Floridians. One of Allison’s completed projects on a Black community is titled: *Eatonville: Holding on to History*. Here, she emphasizes the relevance of documenting and sharing Black American history.

Julian Pleasants Remembrance



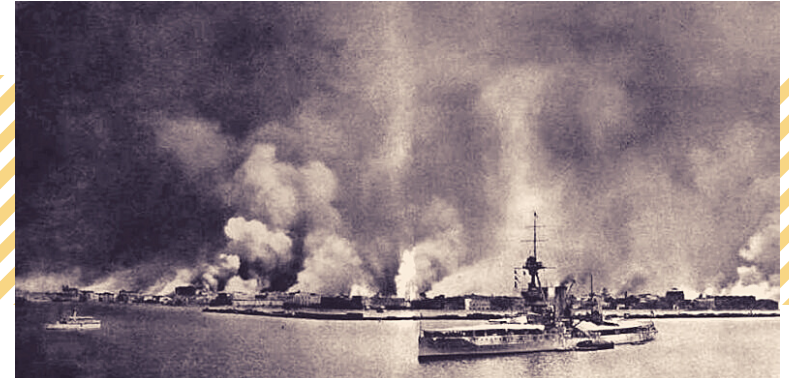
With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Dr. Julian Pleasants, Director Emeritus of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program from 1996 to 2007 and beloved history professor at the University of Florida for thirty-seven years. Dr. Pleasants joined UF in 1969 and specialized in twentieth-century U.S. History and Southern History. As the director of SPOHP, Dr. Pleasants advanced our mission to "gather, preserve, and promote living histories of individuals from all walks of life."

During his tenured career, Dr. Pleasants earned twelve teaching awards, including the title of Outstanding Professor in 1972 and again in 1974, the Teacher of the Year for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in 1989, and the Faculty Award for Excellence in Instruction for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1989. After his retirement in 2007, Dr. Pleasants' respected legacy lives on in the scholars who receive the Julian Pleasants Travel Award. We admire and honor the memory of Dr. Pleasants and offer our sincere condolences to all who were blessed to know him.

For more information on Dr. Julian Pleasants, visit <https://oral.history.ufl.edu/welcome/staff/dr-julian-pleasants/> or scan the QR code to the right.



Ottoman Greeks of the United States Project (OGUS)



From September 13 to September 17 of 1922, a holocaust engulfed the Ottoman city of Izmir. Almost one hundred years to the day, on September 9 of 2022, the Center for Greek Studies, the Center for European Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program are organizing a two-day symposium that focuses on the political and social events which culminated in the destruction of the city through a decolonial lens. The symposium will take place at the Reitz Student Union over two days with a three-night stay at the Reitz Union Hotel beginning with registration for the presenters on Friday, September 9, 2022, at 6:30 pm and ending on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 4:00 pm. For more information and to submit an abstract, visit: <https://ogus.oral.history.ufl.edu/events/fall-2022-symposium/>.

Call for papers!



Community Outreach



Scan this QR code to hear our first MFOS podcast episode!

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Project (MFOS)

SPOHP has uploaded just under 50 transcribed interviews of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program. SPOHP will produce a documentary of MFOS history for first-gen week in November. Follow us on our social media to receive updates regarding this project. To learn more about the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program at UF, visit <https://opportunity.ufl.edu/>.



Church Collaborations

SPOHP is partnering with the St. Augustine Episcopal Church to chronicle historical facts of the church, once established for Anglicans of "color" around 1889 until it was formally closed in 1970.



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' experiences. Stories include the history of Salerno School, which serviced African Americans students for many years.

