

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program Leads Panels, Sponsors Events, Hosts Performances at Oral History Association 2015 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida

Gainesville, FL—The Oral History Association (OHA), the national professional organization for students and practitioners of oral history, will hold its annual meeting this year in Tampa, Florida at the Marriott Waterside Hotel. The University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) will host a variety of events, performances, panels, and roundtables at the conference with staff, students, and alumni. SPOHP Director Dr. Paul Ortiz currently serves as the OHA's president.

The Oral History Association annual meeting enables students and both emerging and established scholars to network and learn valuable skills. The 2015 meeting theme, "Stories for Social Change and Social Justice," focuses special attention on the power of oral history to uncover links between political and cultural change and to inspire civic engagement.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, the afternoon roundtable "Veterans of WWII Tell Their Stories," will feature SPOHP's Veterans History Project, an ongoing collection in partnership with the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, with project coordinators Ann Smith, Don Obrist, and Deborah Hendrix. Also that afternoon, Jana Ronan, the Chair of George A. Smathers' Library West and Principal Investigator of a 2013-2014 mini-grant between the Library and SPOHP for the Mississippi Freedom Project, will present results of the collection during the panel, "Documenting the Black Freedom Struggle, Then and Now."

During the evening on Thursday, the UF College of the Arts' School of Theatre and Dance and SPOHP will host an encore performance of "Gator Tales" at the TECO Hall at the Tampa Bay History Center. "Gator Tales," a dramatic oral history performance devised and directed by Kevin Marshall, draws from SPOHP's Alachua County African American History Project to tell the stories of the first students to integrate the university. The performance is made possible by the Florida Humanities Council, and is free and open to the public.

On Friday, Oct. 16, SPOHP alumni Dr. Erin Conlin will present on the OHA Education Committee's morning panel, "Beyond the Interview," which will discuss methods of challenging secondary, community college and university students to move beyond the interview. Dr. Conlin is an assistant professor of history at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Awards presented by the OHA recognize outstanding achievement in oral history collection and education, and SPOHP's Mississippi Freedom Project, a growing archive of interviews with civil rights movement veterans and notable residents of the Mississippi Delta, will be honored this year with the Elizabeth B. Mason Small Project Award during the meeting showcase on Saturday, Oct. 17. Project coordinator Sarah Blanc will accept the award.

Also on Saturday, Elaine Sponholtz, a graduate student associated with SPOHP, will present her oral history research with environmental activist Margaret Ross Tolbert, in contribution to the "Media of Resistance: Narrating Social Change in Photography, Paintings, and Music" panel. Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas coordinator Génesis Lara will present on the roundtable, "From Oral History to Community Action: Latino Youth Building Community and Transforming Social Discourses," about the *Nuestras Historias* project and documentary celebrating the 20th founding anniversary of UF's Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures. SPOHP alumni Candice Ellis (George Washington University) and Sarah McNamara (UNC-Chapel Hill) will be presenting on their doctoral research on the roundtable, "Re-thinking Florida's Political Past: Oral History, Social Change, and Social Justice."

SPOHP will also sponsor the plenary session, "Documenting Ferguson: Oral History, Virtual Technologies and the Making of a Movement," with Makiba Foster of the Documenting Ferguson project at Washington University, and Professor Donna Murch of Rutgers University, author of *Living for the City*, and SPOHP alumni and Dream Defender Nailah Summers. The session will explore issues of historical recovery posed by the mass protests against state-sanctioned violence after the shooting of Michael Brown last August.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, graduate coordinators of SPOHP's Alachua County African American History Project, Dr. Ryan Morini, Randi Gill-Sadler, Justin Dunning, and Anthony Donaldson, will present on the roundtable, "#NoLaughingMatter: Disrupting Racial Oppression in the New South." The project has amassed a collection of over 400 interviews with Blacks in Florida and the greater South, and the panel will discuss Jim Crow oppression, segregation, and the struggle for social change.

Also on Sunday, project coordinators across SPOHP will present at the "Standing with Elders: Fieldwork in the South," including Diana Dombrowski, coordinator of the Poarch Creek Project, Jessica Taylor with the Appalachian Social Change Project, Génesis Lara of the Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas Project, Sarah Blanc with Mississippi Freedom Project, and Patrick Daglaris, with the Virginia Tidewater Main Street Project. The panel will highlight recent fieldwork initiatives and discuss resulting student work, examining academic legacies of earlier oral history work and solidifying contemporary networks for advancing scholarship. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians will also present on the Poarch Creek Project research partnership with SPOHP on the panel, "Poarch Band of Creek Indians: Digitization Brings Tribal Elders to Life."

For more details about the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's involvement with the 2015 Oral History Association meeting, please visit <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> or call the program office at 352-392-7168. The Oral History Association website <http://www.oralhistory.org/> provides more information about the conference.

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