

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!

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3m3y79>

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

@SPOHP

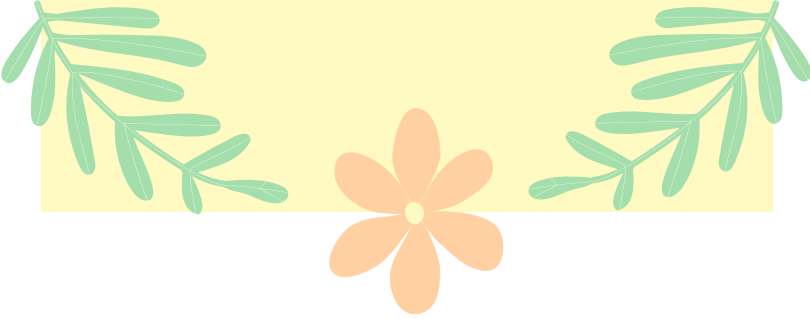
The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
 241 Pugh Hall, P.O. Box 115215
 The University of Florida
 Gainesville, FL 32611

SPOHP LIGHT

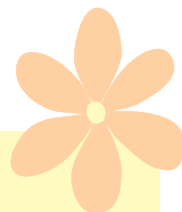
The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

In this Issue:

Director's Message.....	2
About Us.....	3
Project Updates.....	4
Community Collaborations.....	9
Interview Highlight.....	12
Alumni and Volunteer Highlight.....	13
Graduate Highlights.....	14
Upcoming Events.....	15



Director's Message



Dear Samuel Proctor Oral History Program Family Members,

Thanks to your continued support, SPOHP continues to impact the lives of more students and underserved communities than ever. In this newsletter you will read how our students, staff and volunteers sustained oral history excellence in the face of the global pandemic. You will find out about exciting new collaborations with environmental scientists, survivors of genocide and university-based centers including the Latino Policy & Politics Initiative at UCLA.

Our just-concluded Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South national webinar program drew an audience of over one hundred people who learned how our NEH-funded research project is using Artificial Intelligence to bring African American history lesson plans to K-12 classrooms.

Even as I write this, SPOHP is gearing up for our annual Mississippi Freedom Trip. Former students continue to contact us to share how this trip changed their lives. Alumni of MFP are now lawyers, labor organizers, teachers, doctors—among other professions—and they cite their time interviewing civil rights veterans as being a defining moment in their decision to dedicate their lives to social justice and liberty for all.

Your generosity allows the Proctor Program to thrive and to grow. Stop by and visit us anytime, in person or virtually! Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and to the vision of Dr. Samuel Proctor.

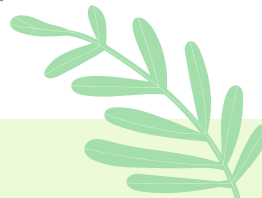
Sincerely Yours,

Paul Ortiz

Professor of History & Director,
Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

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

Follow us on social media @SPOHP!



Upcoming Events

April 19th at 2 PM: Latino Policy and Politics Institute Webinar



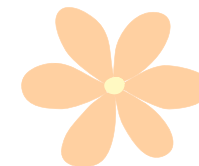
Our upcoming webinar, *Looking Ahead: The Politics of Florida and the 2022 Midterm Elections*, will examine upcoming ballot issues and what they imply for the rest of the country. Joining the SPOHP team is the Latino Policy and Politics Institute from UCLA. Guests will include Andrea Cristina Mercado, Santra Denis, Carlos Barbarena, and Evelyn Pérez-Verdía. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/LookingAhead-RSVP>

April 25th at 12 PM: Allison Mitchell's "Battle for the Ballot" The Struggle for Voting Rights in Florida Webinar



Please join the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program for a special webinar presentation on Monday, April 25 at noon on the history of voting rights struggles in Florida by Allison Mitchell, recipient of SPOHP's Julian Pleasants Travel Award for outstanding research in oral history. To register for the event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mryya99v> or scan the QR code above.

Announcements



SPOHP recently started the "Voices of Centenarians" collection. SPOHP is putting out a call for individuals who are 100 or more years old. The interviews are of utmost importance as they recount a segment of time that has not been documented. If interested in participating, please email hendrixd@ufl.edu.

In need of a summer job? Do you enjoy reading stories from the past? Want to learn your local history while you transcribe? Join the SPOHP team! If interested in working at SPOHP, please email tamarraj@ufl.edu.

Graduate Highlights

Emma Donnelly

Emma Donnelly is graduating with a Bachelors of Arts in History and Spanish and minors in Latin American Studies and Anthropology. In the coming years, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology.



Jared Revis

Jared Revis will graduate with three degrees—Political Science, History, and Japanese—that reflect the broad curiosity he has. After graduation, he will work for a few years in the JET Program, teaching English in Japan.



Georgia Lambert-Jones

Georgia Lambert-Jones will be graduating with a Sustainability major and two minors in Economics and Entomology. After graduation, she will be applying to the Rinker School's Construction Management Graduate Program.



About Us

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

African American History Collection (JBA)

The JBA team is currently working on creating a complete research index that will include over 1,000 interviews from the African American History Collection. This source will be used for future collaborations and aid in curriculum development for K-12 schools and university classrooms.

Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South (RAAOHGS)

The Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South Project is supported by a multi-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This project is continuing to build the foundations for the creation of K-12 classroom curriculum, as well as teacher professional development modules focused on African American Language (AAL) and Oral History methodology. Topics for curriculum have been established for 2022 which include content focused on The Black Church and Civil Rights, Portraits of Civil Rights Activists, and Black Schooling Desegregation.

The Linguistics team has been busy processing several dozen oral histories within the JBA collection so that their transcription honors authentic African American Language (AAL) features, as well as voice. These annotated and re-processed oral history files will be the foundation for the curriculum creation and community outreach goals of the grant.

Alumni Highlight

Jennifer Romero



Jennifer is a Gator graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications. After departing from SPOHP, Jennifer worked at the College of Education for two years as a videographer, where she created many engaging videos and honed her craft. Jennifer now works at UF Advancement as a Multimedia Specialist doing what she loves most: video production.

Volunteer Highlight

Lauren King

Lauren King has been part of the SPOHP family since 2021, and this semester she is assisting with planning the 2022 Mississippi Freedom Project's oral history fieldwork trip to multiple states throughout the Delta. SPOHP thanks Lauren for all her great work.

Interview Highlight

Mary Hobbs Wilson Ross



SPOHP had the honor to go out to the Montechuca area and interview Ms. Mary Hobbs Wilson Ross who recently turned 101 years old. Ms. Hobbs provided an uncanny recount of her life as a child and shared memories of growing up in Jerusalem, Florida, now known as the Montechuca area. This work is in collaboration with Dr. D. Ayoka Jasey Sowa-La. To hear her full interview, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rku6iPVWt14&t=1989s> or scan the QR code below.



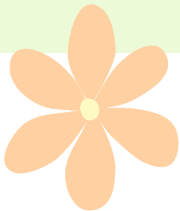
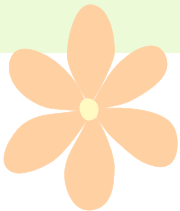
Mississippi Freedom Project (MFP)

SPOHP is excited to announce its upcoming 14th annual trip to the Mississippi Delta. From July 25 to August 1, students will document oral histories with civil rights veterans, community leaders, and social justice activists across the Delta region. This year, SPOHP is partnering with EPIC (Everyone Participates in the Constitution), a coalition of organizations focused on addressing the structures and historical contexts that preserve racism, extremism, patriarchy, and intolerance. Groups involved in EPIC include The Elaine Legacy Center, The Ida B. Wells Museum, SPOHP, OMNIA, and Forum Foundation. Any students interested in joining us for this week of field work are invited to apply. To access the online application, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yy8zhsmn> or scan the QR code below.



Documenting White Anti-Racist Activism in the Gulf South (DGS)

In collaboration with the Alachua County Labor Coalition and the All Y'all Social Justice Collective, SPOHP has been awarded a grant by the Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere to establish a new digital history project that documents the anti-racist advocacy and activism of individuals who self-identify and can be externally categorized as White. More to come on this exciting new project.



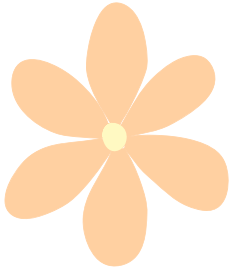
Florida Naturalist Project (FNP)

The Florida Naturalist Project documents Florida's ongoing water crisis. Over the course of the last several months the Florida Naturalist team conducted more than thirty interviews with a variety of stakeholders ranging from fishermen to policymakers, species specialists, and everyday people. The Florida Naturalist Project received the Haskell award by the Bob Graham Center, which supports interviews across the state. So far, we have conducted interviews about the degradation of the Florida springs in Alachua County, documented the effect of red tide blooms in St. Petersburg, and have obtained first-hand accounts of the ongoing devastation that is occurring to coral reefs and seagrass beds in the Florida Keys and Everglades. On our recent trip to South Florida, we conducted the first interview that SPOHP has completed with the Seminole tribe in 30 years. We concluded the year by presenting at the Bob Graham Center Research symposium and are currently in the process of writing several op-ed articles for the Tampa Bay Times and Gainesville Sun as well as creating a podcast. We are searching for volunteers! To get involved or learn more about the project, contact Vasilios Kosmakos at kosmakosv@ufl.edu.



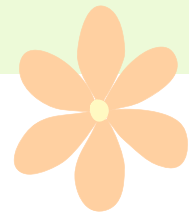
Putnam County and Palatka

Interviews continue in Palatka and Putnam County where we are focusing on collecting the stories of graduates of Central Academy as well as any student who attended Putnam County schools from 1954 to 1972. Our goal is to piece together a larger story about local civil rights activism, the timeline of school desegregation, and community efforts during this era. A few notable interviews collected include Ms. Sandra Gilyard, current Putnam County School Board member, and Ms. Cynthia Asia, a longtime educator and community advocate. Our partners include the Putnam County School District and the Putnam Alliance of Equity and Justice (PAEJ). We will continue to host interviews throughout April and May 2022.



Crescent City: Memorial Marker

On the morning of February 26th, 2022, SPOHP members Deborah Hendrix and Sebastiano Cocco helped to document the unveiling of the A. Philip Randolph Memorial Marker, which will be located in Long Station, Florida, on Old Highway 17. The unveiling took place in Crescent City where A. Philip Randolph was born in 1889, and was attended by community members and leaders, many of whom traveled from distant parts of the state. The event was a great success, and many committed to making this commemoration a yearly event.



Truth and Reconciliation: Alachua County Remembrance Project

Over 350 victims of lynching have been documented in the State of Florida, with dozens of Black men, women and children murdered throughout Alachua County. At least five Black people, including a child, are documented to have been lynched by White mobs in the Waldo, Campville, and Rochelle areas, including an unidentified Black child in Waldo (1892), Charles Wiley in Rochelle (1894), an unidentified man in Waldo (1889), Henry White in Campville (1913), and George Buddington in Waldo (1926). No one was ever held accountable for the deaths of these victims of racial terror. As part of the Truth and Reconciliation Remembrance Project, SPOHP participated in and recorded various soil collection ceremonies. In one of the soil ceremonies, four communities participated, representing Waldo (Joe Lipsey), Hawthorne (Mayor Jacqueline Randal), Campville, and Rochelle (Mr. John Nix).



Gainesville Sun Research

Throughout the semester, SPOHP has been conducting research within the Gainesville Sun historical archives, gathering information on racial violence and media representations of these injustices in Alachua County. We have discovered multiple lynchings and aided in the creation of historical markers to commemorate many of the lives lost to racial terrorism. We will continue inviting students and volunteers to help us search through these microfilm records. For more information or to get involved, please contact Laura Tamayo at lauratamayo@ufl.edu.

Ottoman Greeks of the United States Project (OGUS)

It has been an exciting academic year for the OGUS project. Our researchers began an exciting 12-episode video series entitled *Remembering 1922*, that features experiences of migration, escape, and expulsion from the Ottoman Empire. Click here to access the series, visit <https://tinyurl.com/36n2apcs> or scan the QR code below.

Moreover, we are preparing for our upcoming virtual conference on September 10, 2022, which commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the destruction of the city İzmir. Finally, our researchers are preparing for a research trip to Texas in May of this year to interview descendants of immigrants and refugees from the late Ottoman Empire.



Latinx Diaspora in the Americas Project (LDAP)

The LDAP team would like to highlight an interview with former Program Director for Hispanic/Latinx Affairs and Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, Bianca Quiñones. She discusses her experiences at la Casita and the work she contributed during her three years at UF. Ms. Quiñones will be missed by the UF community. To access the interview, visit <https://youtu.be/tQ5cGshw7G8> or scan the QR code below.



Veterans History Project (VHP)

SPOHP's dedicated VHP coordinators, Ray Eberling and Don Obrist, have stepped down from their positions to enjoy retirement and family. The Program has benefited immensely from their leadership for more than 22 years of combined service. Their coordination of the VHP allowed the collection to flourish and we would like to express our deepest appreciation to them. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Paul Ortiz at [portiz@ufl.edu](mailto:pportiz@ufl.edu).

Doris Duke Native American Oral History Revitalization Project

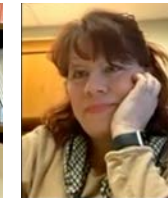
The Doris Duke Native American Oral History Revitalization Project is funded by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. SPOHP continues to work with this project in collaboration with the UF libraries and representatives of the Poarch Creek, Catawba, Cherokee, Seminole, Lumbee, and Mississippi Choctaw. This collection includes 1,005 interviews collected since the late 1960s by tribal members and Samuel Proctor's graduate students. The collection is being revitalized with audio optimization and re-transcription to ensure quality and accuracy in sharing the voices of Indian narrators. On April 5th and 6th, workshops and presentations were conducted amongst seven university archives who met to bring new life to the collections and envision the future of oral history in Native Communities. UF was represented by the Primary Investigator of the Doris Duke grant, Ginessa Mahar, who shared the progress of the work.

Community Collaborations

Route 66 Volunteer Work

Spring 2022 volunteers worked on the Route Sixty-Six COVID Collection, a treasure of over 100 interviews conducted by Michael Comerford. Volunteers worked towards completing transcripts and abstracts for this project. SPOHP volunteer, Jared Revis, shares his reflections on the interviews: "I think one of the first things I can say about working on the Route Sixty-Six Project is that you'll hear a lot of different things. I heard very tragic stories with people on the verge of tears, I had people say that it wasn't too bad or that it gave them time to think about family and life, and there were middle ground stories. There were plenty of people that said things to make you double-take and doubt their sanity. It really showed how different people's lives are across the country."

Oak Hammock Oral Histories



We are excited to announce that our YouTube channel now features 27 interviews with residents, leaders, and planners of Oak Hammock, a continuous care retirement facility in Gainesville, Florida. These interviews have been incredibly fascinating, providing insight into what makes this retirement community such a special part of the Gainesville and University of Florida community. Some of our favorites are with Ms. Brenda Thomas and former UF President, Dr. Bernie Machen. Be sure to check out some of these interviews by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/ycksd55y>