

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program Earns 2015 Diversity Award from the Society of American Archivists

Gainesville, FL—The Society of American Archivists (SAA), North America's oldest and largest archival professional association, recognized the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's social justice research initiatives with the annual Diversity Award at its annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio this August.

Founded in 1936, SAA is the premier archival association in the Americas. The SAA's Diversity Award recognizes outstanding contributions in advancing diversity within the archives profession, SAA, or the archival record, as demonstrated by significant achievement in the form of activism, education, outreach, publication, service, or other initiatives. The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) was recognized for ongoing work documenting community organizing and social change, including the Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas Project (LDAP).

The Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas Project (LDAP), newly founded in 2014, is a growing archive of 100+ oral histories dedicated to creating space for Latina/os to share their historical experiences related to identity, immigration reform, labor conditions, education, and civil rights. In the last two years, LDAP produced two documentaries and led a field research trip to Arizona to document the Mexican American Studies program in the Tucson Unified School District. During the 7-day trip, researchers recorded the voices of students, community leaders, parents, and educators affected by the policy conflict.

The Diversity Award also recognizes the efforts of SPOHP's major ongoing projects, including the African American History Project, Mississippi Freedom Project, Native American History Project, and others that create opportunities for students to engage in gathering, preserving, and promoting living histories.

LDAP coordinators Génesis Lara and Brittney Mejia accepted the award on behalf of SPOHP on August 21, 2015. Lara is a SPOHP alumna and graduate of the University of Florida History Honors program, beginning doctoral study in history at the University of California - Davis in September. Mejia is a senior studying history at the University of Florida.

Oral histories from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program are available online through the University of Florida Digital Collections (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu>). Documentaries and service learning films from the Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas Project are also available on SPOHP's YouTube account (<http://youtube.com/spohp111>).

For more details about this and other collections, please visit <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> or call the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at 352-392-7168.

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