GAINESVILLE, FL - To commemorate Veterans Day, on November 11, 2015 at 6:00 pm the University of Florida Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) and the Matheson History Museum will host a public program entitled, “Sentimental Journey: World War II Here and Over There.” The event will take place at the Matheson History Museum and will feature a multimedia exhibit of World War II memorabilia from Camp Blanding and oral histories from the SPOHP Veterans History Project.

Event speakers include UF History Professor Steven Noll and Veterans History Project Coordinator Ann Pauline Smith. Dr. Noll’s presentation will focus on World War II’s influence on the Gainesville community, and Ms. Smith’s presentation will explore the impact the war had on Gainesville’s overseas servicemen. There will be a question-and-answer session following the presentations, as well as a community reception.

SPOHP’s Veterans History Project, founded in 2000, is a collection of 300+ oral history interviews with veterans of military conflicts from the Civil War to present day, in partnership with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Topics of inquiry include a range of military conflicts, including oral histories of veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, military operations in Central America, the Gulf War, the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, and more.

The event is free and open to the public, and is co-sponsored by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, the Matheson History Museum, and the University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Parking is available on the east side of the Matheson History Museum, as well as the Law Office of Attorneys Folds and Walker, and the Kirby-Smith Administration Building. To learn more about SPOHP or the Veterans History Project, visit http://oral.history.ufi.edu/projects/vhp/. To RSVP on Facebook, visit https://www.facebook.com/events/1036331849763938/