

SPOHP is always here for you!

Now we mean it more than ever! We are always exploring new ways to provide you with 24-hour access to the thousands of oral histories in our online database.

SPOHP is working with the UF Digital Library Center and the Florida Center for Library Automation to produce a digital catalog of our archive. The project has three motives: To allow interviews to be catalogued online, making the collection accessible and searchable from anywhere in the world; to preserve irreplaceable interviews, previously recorded on degrading, outmoded media; and to permit interviews to be linked with complementary archival holdings at the

University of Florida, resulting in unique and mutually reinforcing sets of primary sources on a broad range of historical topics.

This project will rescue historical materials available nowhere else, while providing a wider audience with vastly improved access to these resources. This new technology will also allow the UF Libraries to include audio and video clips in our collection.

Caleb and Michele Grimes, UF graduates, have generously provided \$25,000 to support our digitization project. We are grateful for their gift.



Donate to SPOHP

Please make a contribution to continue our efforts to collect and preserve oral histories. E-mail SPOHPatUF@gmail.com or call 352.392.7168 and present the receipt number you receive in the mail and we will send you a personalized thank-you gift.

Donate online at history.ufl.edu/oral

Checks should be payable to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc. **Please indicate that you are donating to SPOHP.**

Mail gifts to:

Linda Raney
Gift Processing Manager
University of Florida Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 14425
Gainesville, FL 32604-2425



One Community, Many Voices Issue 01 Summer 2011

Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/The-Samuel-Proctor-Oral-History-Program-SPOHP/119445054778416>



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OneCommunityManyVoices

STUDENTS AT SPOHP

SPOHP provides a productive research environment for students across limitless disciplines involved in the practice of oral history.

UNDERGRADUATE

SPOHP staff Sarah Blanc and SPOHP Intern Max J. Gelber were both 2011 recipients of University Scholars Program funding for their senior theses.

Congratulations to SPOHP Intern **Rebecca Burgan** for receiving the first Ann Regan Research Award for her research on former Black Panther Assata Shakur.

Congratulations to SPOHP staff **Sarah Blanc** for receiving this year's Daniel J. Koleos Undergraduate Research Award through the Department of History for her research on the Poor People's Campaign.

GRADUATE

Congratulations to SPOHP graduate coordinator **Jenn Lyon** on her acceptance to a highly competitive internship with the Smithsonian Institute's African American History and Culture Museum in Washington D.C.

Graduate coordinator **Nicole Cox** has received the Arthur W. Thompson Award for the most outstanding article in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* during the past year. Nicole's essay was titled "Selling Seduction: Women and Feminine Nature in 1920s Florida Advertising" and it appeared in the Quarterly, Volume 89, no. 2, (Fall 2010): 186-209.



Director's Message: Sustainers' Campaign

Welcome to *One Community, Many Voices*, a newsletter from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida! I am asking you to help us sustain the exciting research activities that you will read about in this newsletter. We believe that history can be stimulating for young and old alike—but we need YOUR support to keep going!

At the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, we believe that oral history is an indispensable method of studying the past. Listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history—not to mention the way we approach scholarly questions as well as public policy debates. The passionate stories found in oral history interviews serve as great tools to excite and encourage people of all ages to study the past. Our students, staff and volunteers are committed to using oral history as a way to promote scholarly excellence and human dignity.

This Issue:

Our 4th Year in the Mississippi Delta

2010-2011 Events in Review

Veteran's History Project

New Podcasts

SPOHP needs your help in order to sustain and build upon our research, teaching, and service missions. We know that money is tight during these difficult times. However, I also want you to know that a donation of even \$25 or \$50 dollars can make a big difference in our ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations of our world's citizens.

We strive to make oral histories of individuals from all walks of life accessible to as wide an audience as possible. However, we need your help to do this! I hope that you will consider making a modest contribution to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. At UF Oral History, we believe that one of the best investments we can make in our future is an intensive study of our past.

Thank you for your consideration! I remain,

Sincerely Yours,
Paul Ortíz
Director of SPOHP
Associate Professor
of History,
Affiliated Faculty in
Latin American
Studies & African
American Studies



What have we been up to lately?

Dario Fo Collaboration

In the fall of 2010, we entered into an exciting collaboration with Italian Nobel Laureate Dario Fo, whose current artistic work involves a series of creative projects on the history of the Seminole Wars in Florida. We have been consulting with Dario and helping his writers understand the connections between black history, slavery, the Seminole struggle for freedom in the 19th century, and contemporary historical "amnesia" about these struggles in the United States. Dario's film crew came to Gainesville on October 11 and spent two days working with our staff to identify primary sources that emphasize the critical role that Native American & African American freedom fighters played in Florida's history.

6th Annual Gainesville Latino Film Festival

At SPOHP, we endeavor to promote greater cultural awareness in our community. SPOHP was a co-sponsor of the 6th Annual Gainesville Latino Film Festival sponsored by the Latina Women's League of Gainesville. On October 16, Director Paul Ortiz gave a lecture for the festival and introduced Wayne Ewing's film "The Border Wall" which tells the stories of Mexicans attempting to create better lives for themselves in the US. That same month, Ortiz gave a public lecture at the North Florida Veterans Hospital on the topic of Hispanic Heritage Month that was attended by 63 employees. Heritage is a valued principle of oral history, and we embrace such celebrations in our community.

Florida Opportunity Scholars

We are increasingly exploring social issues impacting students, staff, and faculty at UF. SPOHP undergraduates conducted interviews with first-generation college students at UF who are recipients of the Florida Opportunity Scholars scholarship for first-generation college students in need of support. The stories of Florida Opportunity Scholars, many of whom have endured enormous odds to attend UF, have been sobering to those of us who too easily take our opportunities for granted. In turn, the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program is using these interviews to build support for the continuation of this important program.



An Evening with the Dues

SPOHP's most popular public history program was our "Evening with the Dues" event on February 16. An audience of 363 people (we counted!) came to hear Patricia Stephens Due and John Due discuss their remarkable lifetime of community organizing and activism. Patricia Stephens Due was instrumental in the founding of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in the early 1960s in Florida, and John Due has been one of the state's most important labor lawyers.

Union members from as far away as Miami attended this event. One participant reflected, "I felt as if I had been exposed to a new way of thinking. Dr. Due's speech made me realize that I should not only learn about my history through the usage of books but also through family members and through those elders within my community who have lived through and who were a part of the civil rights movement."

Another person added, "The Dues remind us that the only quality needed to make history is commitment. Although the talent and leadership of the famous figures of history cannot be undermined, our understanding of the past will not be complete if we undermine the participation of

equality and justice not only by their continued activism, but by sharing their story with us." The event garnered extensive media coverage and helped to promote our ongoing research in African American history.

Haitian Labor Enslaved: From Haiti to Florida!

We have deepened our involvement in North Central Florida by organizing and co-sponsoring public history programs that are accessible to all. SPOHP was a national co-sponsor of Farmworker Awareness Week in 2011. On the first day of the five days of events, we hosted a panel at our downtown public library titled, "Haitian Labor Enslaved: From Haiti to Florida!"

We organized this panel in response to a slavery case that is currently being tried in Alachua County. This panel was composed of legal and human rights scholars and advocates who discussed the origins of human trafficking in Haiti, the Caribbean, and the United States, with an emphasis on Florida.

We are producing an educational DVD of the program that will be distributed for free to educators and scholars. The

audience reacted very positively to the event. "As a listener," one community member related, "I was surprised that human trafficking even exists in the United States. I often think of impoverished, third-world countries when human trafficking comes to mind. It is a total shock to know that my home state of Florida is actively involved in this lewd and lascivious business...I hope that people continue to shed more light on this issue in the future." The panel helped to spark an ongoing dialogue about the reemergence of forced labor in our region. SPOHP is also providing a UF history graduate student with a \$500 stipend to conduct oral history interviews in Haiti this summer on human rights and labor issues.

In Case You Missed It...

The 2010-2011 academic year was full of entertaining and informative public programs organized by SPOHP. Here are a few highlights...

"The Dues remind us that the only quality needed to make history is commitment."

COINTELPRO 101

SPOHP co-sponsored a symposium held at the Civic Media Center in April, 2011 on the history of the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program, titled "COINTELPRO 101." At this symposium, the history of government surveillance of activists was explored. We are producing a DVD of this event that will be used by teachers and community organizers in future educational initiatives.



Mississippi Freedom Project Approaching 4th Year

In September of 2011, SPOHP will make its way to the Mississippi Delta for its fourth trip. Thanks to generous continued funding from Mr. William DeGrove, SPOHP is able to continue its collaboration with the Sunflower County Freedom Project collecting oral histories of civil rights activism in the region.

In September of 2010, SPOHP took eleven students to the Mississippi Delta for year 3 of our collaboration with the Sunflower County Civil Rights Organization. We interviewed members of the Catfish Workers' Union as well as organizers of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and the Poor People's Campaign in the Delta. We share all of our interviews with the Sunflower County Freedom Project, and these are being used in local educational initiatives.

One student reflected, "One of the greatest aspects of the trips are the unscheduled adventures that inevitably come along. This year, the community picnic in Glendora and

the speech given by Emmet Till's cousin was the most inspirational moment for me. It showed how the movement was not only driven by sense of community in the 1960s, but that it continues to bring a sense of community to the area today."

The Civil Rights History Panel at Delta State drew a very large turnout. The panel featured Alan Bean, founder of the Friends of Justice, Margaret Kibbee, a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee as well as Profs. Curtis Austin, and Akinyele Umoja. We also held a panel discussion and shared student reflections when we returned to Gainesville.



The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is entering into a new research collaboration with the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project in order to build a public archive featuring the experiences of Florida war veterans from World War II to the present. All oral histories of war veterans that SPOHP collects will be sent to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., as well as

stored in the archives at the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida. The Library of Congress will create a website with a short audio biography for each veteran detailing information about his or her service. The Veterans History Project became law in 2000 with unanimous support from the United States Congress. Be sure to contact SPOHP if you would like to be interviewed for this project!

SUPERB

People around SPOHP

One of SPOHP's newest volunteers, Sandra Kay Knapp Haile graduated April 30, 2011 with a BA in Women's Studies and Gender Research at UF. Kay's interest is in preserving the history of women, specifically as it relates to the art of quilting. Her research will continue by further interviewing women quilters in North Central Florida.

SPOHP's Anne Smith was recently highlighted in *The Gainesville Sun* for her highly active role in Gainesville's historical community. Along with coordinating the Veteran's History Project at SPOHP, Smith is also involved with the Matheson Museum and a volunteer transcribing program at the Alachua County Jail.

PODCAST Picks and Previews

This month, our featured podcast is with Sarah Carrol, the widow of Florida Confederate Veteran Henry T. Downing. Ms. Carrol talks about the Civil War and her own remarkable life in a 1975 interview with UF researcher Michael J. Hansinger. (Produced by: Jessica Taylor with the assistance of Deborah Hendrix.)

Last month, we featured an interview with Lieutenant Marion Gordy, a Purple Heart recipient who flew 7 combat missions over Nazi Germany and was shot down in 1944. To listen to all of SPOHP's podcasts, find them on the SPOHP Facebook page or download them with iTunes (URL listed on back).