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SPOHP LIGHT

A Message from the Director

Welcome to the 2nd online issue of *SPOHP Light*! On behalf of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida, I am so grateful for your continued support of the work that our students, staff, and volunteers do to interview individuals from all walks of life. Storytelling is more important than ever—especially during a global pandemic. Learning about the struggles of communities grappling with the COVID 19 crisis is educational and inspiring at the same time. SPOHP-trained staff and volunteers are currently doing (virtual) oral histories with essential workers who are putting their lives on the line every day. Our student interns are interviewing members of local Catholic institutions whose social justice mission has helped to sustain our region during difficult times.

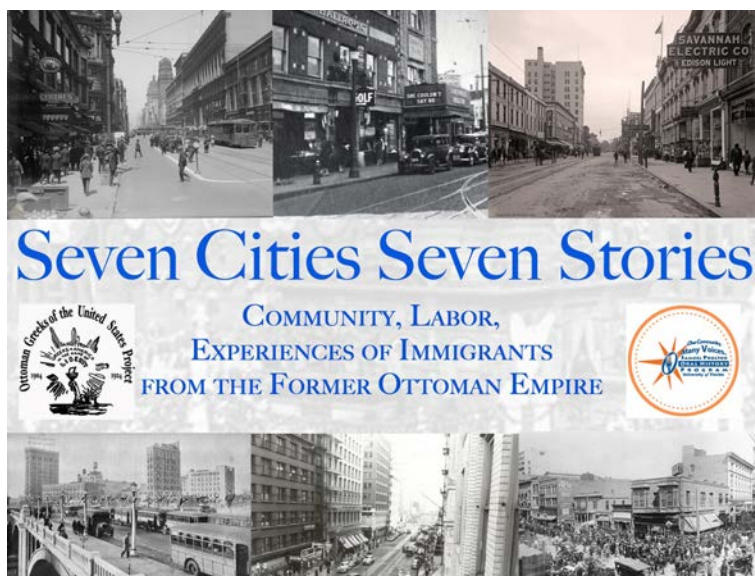
As a third-generation military veteran, I am especially proud of SPOHP's Veterans History Project which is profiled in this issue of *SPOHP Light*. The Proctor Program sends an audio copy of every interview that we conduct with a military veteran to be deposited at the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project. In recognition of Veterans Day, we are sharing with you the remarkable story of Dr. David Pawliger who served as a field surgeon in Vietnam for thirteen months.

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program relies on the guidance and support of our growing network of sustainers. If 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 what our students' research!

David Chalmers, SPOHP's dear friend, emeritus history professor and World War II veteran, passed away this week. Professor Chalmers (1927-2020) was the author of several extraordinary books on the civil rights movement. David was unfailingly kind and generous with his time. He gave many guest lecturers for our students and he was a frequent participant in SPOHP's public programs. David was a man who "walked the talk." He was an ardent supporter of student activism and the local civil rights movement. In honor of David's memory, I urge you to VOTE next week!

Sincerely Yours,
Paul Ortiz

Ottoman Greeks of the United States Project (OGUS)



This past summer, SPOHP staffer George Topalidis collaborated with Dr. Denise Matthews to create a seven-part online presentation series highlighting the experiences of Ottoman Greek immigrants and refugees to the United States in the early 20th century. The seven cities include Jersey City, Somerville, Cleveland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tacoma, and Savannah. To view this presentation series, you can visit the link <https://bit.ly/3oI1X4U>

Mr. Topalidis also wrote an op-ed titled "An Anti-Racist View of Looting," which addresses the agency store owners themselves carry in the destruction of property and looting of stores. He references an interview from the Ottoman Greeks of the US project to offer a nuanced analysis and remind others of the responsibility store owners and boards of corporations bear as stewards of their communities. To read this piece, visit the link <https://bit.ly/34FrnYG>



Veterans History Project



Though SPOHP's Veterans History Project had to limit its usual robust outreach to veterans, veterans' organizations, and veteran events in the community this past year, SPOHP employees have been able to conduct oral histories via ZOOM. All of our histories are placed into two major repositories for access to the public: The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's collection at the University of Florida Libraries' Digital Collections (<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/oral>), as well as at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center's Veterans History Project (<https://www.loc.gov/vets/>).

One of the most compelling veteran's oral histories we've collected in recent years was last fall's interview by Dr. Ortiz with longtime Gainesville resident Dr. David Pawliger (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sa8U4gykKE&t=147s>). Dr. Pawliger served for thirteen months in Vietnam at a field hospital, tending not only to the wounded, but to local Vietnamese people as well. But his Vietnam experience is only part of his story, which could easily fit into other SPOHP projects such as Gainesville local history, University of Florida history, and particularly Civil Rights history. It is in this last category where Dr. Pawliger speaks of his experience as a first-day intern in the emergency room at the Birmingham hospital, where, on September 15, 1963, they received and attended to the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9npwiTjnfE&t=95s>

Public Program Highlights



The Achebe | Baldwin Symposium just took place last week, on October 22-23, 2020. This symposium was originally scheduled for April 3-4, 2020, and highlighted the 40th anniversary of Baldwin and Achebe's historic conversation at the University of Florida. The symposium provided an experiential learning opportunity through oral history, memoir, and artifact and encouraged literary engagement.

The program can be viewed either through AccelEvents or via the link <https://bit.ly/2HliDIu>. Interested in hearing a clip of the conversation that took place between Baldwin and Achebe at UF? Check out our YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDZuZyDALMI&ab_channel=SPOHP111!



This month, the Oral History Association held a round table titled "Celebrating a 50-Year Oral History Collaboration between the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the University of Florida." Panelists included Dr. Deidra Dees and Charlotte McGhee Meckel of the Poarch Creek Nation alongside current and former SPOHP staffers Grace Chun, Patrick Daglaris, Diana Dombrowski, Deborah Hendrix, our director Paul Ortiz. In this meeting, panelists discussed the past, present, and future of this initiative that has led to over 200 oral history interviews with tribal elders.



SPOHP Podcast Series



SPOHP Podcast: Ms. Betty DuBose

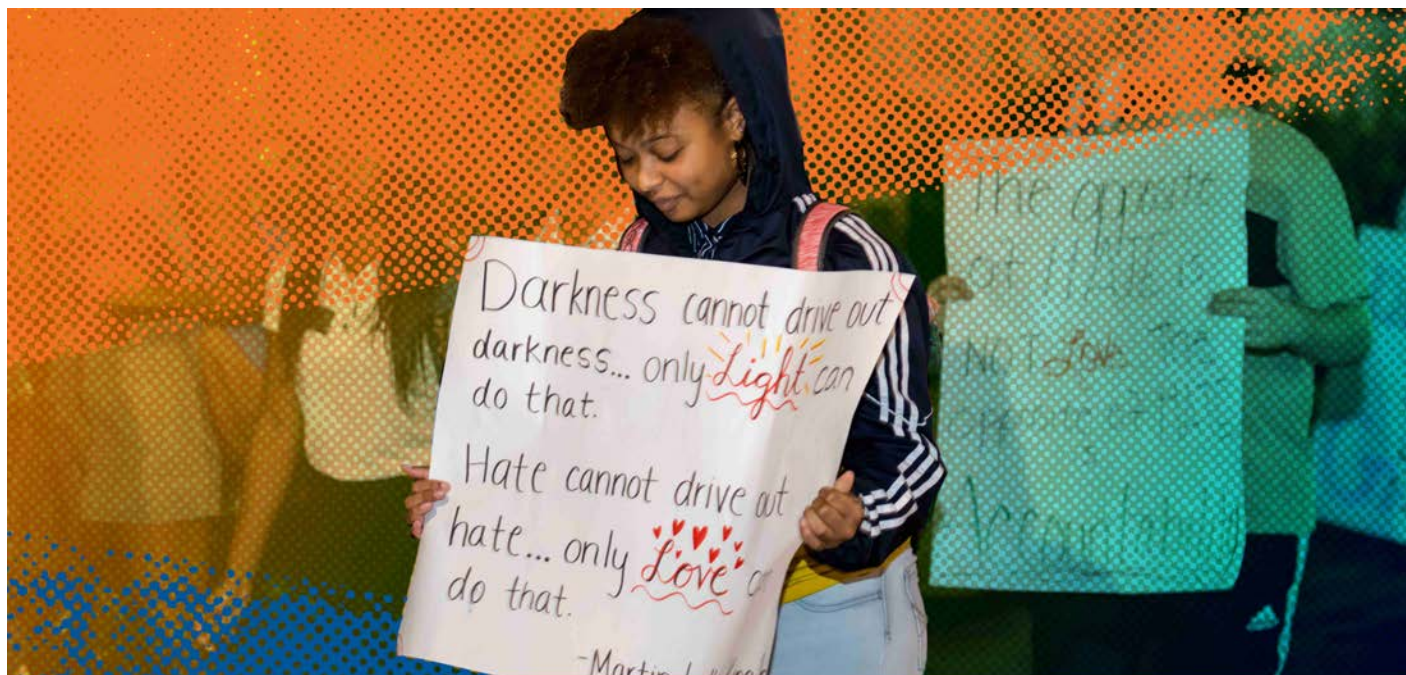
In this podcast episode, Ms. Betty DuBose describes the process of working with the other farmworkers and the adverse health effects she has suffered from being inundated with pesticides, including diabetes, back problems, and heart issues. Ms. DuBose worked in the farms of Apopka, Florida from childhood until they closed in 1998.



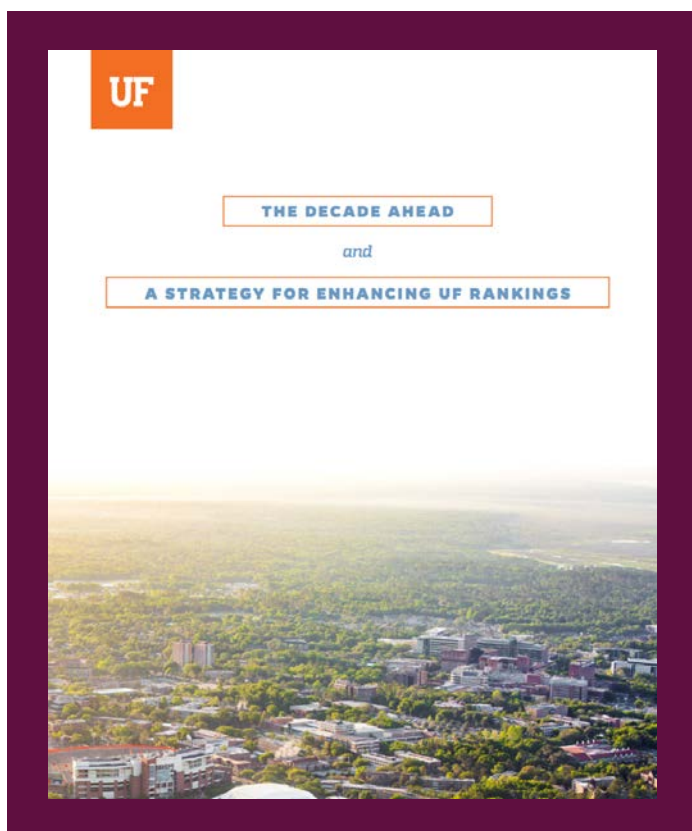
With farmworkers being essential yet marginalized, SPOHP has shed light on the Apopka community by releasing new Podcast episodes through the Farmworkers Association of Florida.

The series will also provide information on what the community leaders have been working on to help out the community, including educational training, and will speak on the specific challenges and approaches inherent in dealing with migrant farm laborers.

Racial Justice Plan

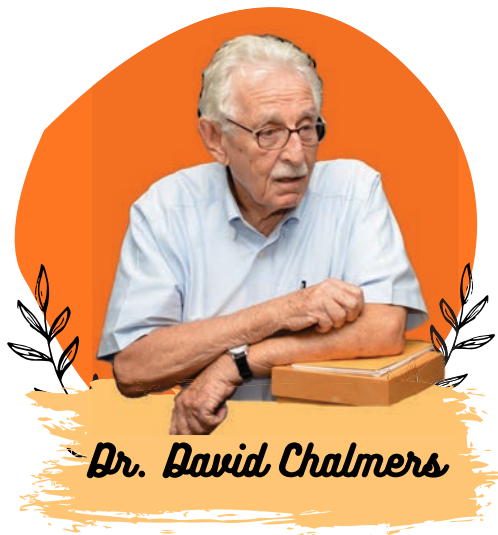


SPOHP is contributing to UF's racial justice plan by providing resources on African American history, anti-racism and racial justice at the university. In 2015, a task force of representatives at UF established the university's aspiration of being a university that Florida, the United States, and the world can look up to for leadership in the coming decades. UF is asking for students, faculty, and alumni to be part of this process, and President Fuchs announced this summer that UF will be taking steps against racism as part of a year dedicated to the Black experience, racism and inequity.



Memorials & Memories

Over the course of SPOHP's 53 years, the Program has had the honor of working with some amazing people. The year 2020 has been monumental, and SPOHP would like to honor some of our friends who have passed on. These individuals have impacted the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's students and staff alike. Click on their image to view each person's oral history, with the exception of Ms. Lily Zhan.



Save the Date



- **November 3, 2020: Election Day!**

- **Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) Workshops:**

- **November 19, 2020 at 2p: Using Oral History in the Classroom**

Oral histories can enhance all academic disciplines. Underlying biases and misinformation can be counteracted by new, fresh material offering a new perspective on well-known events. Weave African American histories into the fabric of your courses using oral histories from the Joel Buchanan African American History Project. Discover how to access the oral history archives via the multiple portals.

- **December 3, 2020 at 2p: Conversations for Connections: Racial Justice and UF**

This workshop will highlight the connection between ongoing campus and national issues focused around racial justice initiatives. Learn more about President Fuchs racial justice pledge and Provost's Glovers support of the flagship Joel Buchanan African American History Project. Discover strategies for helping students identify with the topics being taught.

- **December 10, 2020 at 3p: Embracing Oral History as an Art Form**

Explore ways to incorporate oral history practices in your course and teach students how to use interview skills to share information with audiences. Brainstorm ways to build connections between interviewing skills and your classroom curriculum. Demonstrate how oral histories and interviews can be used as tools for sharing advancements made in your career field. Incorporate interviews and podcasts as creative classroom assignments to encourage students to develop lasting skills that accompany content knowledge.

- **January 27, 2021: Spring 2021 Virtual Program**

- During this event, we will discuss the Mississippi Freedom Project's student-led fieldwork trips, including opportunities, exposure, and valuable information they gathered as part of their research.

See you there!