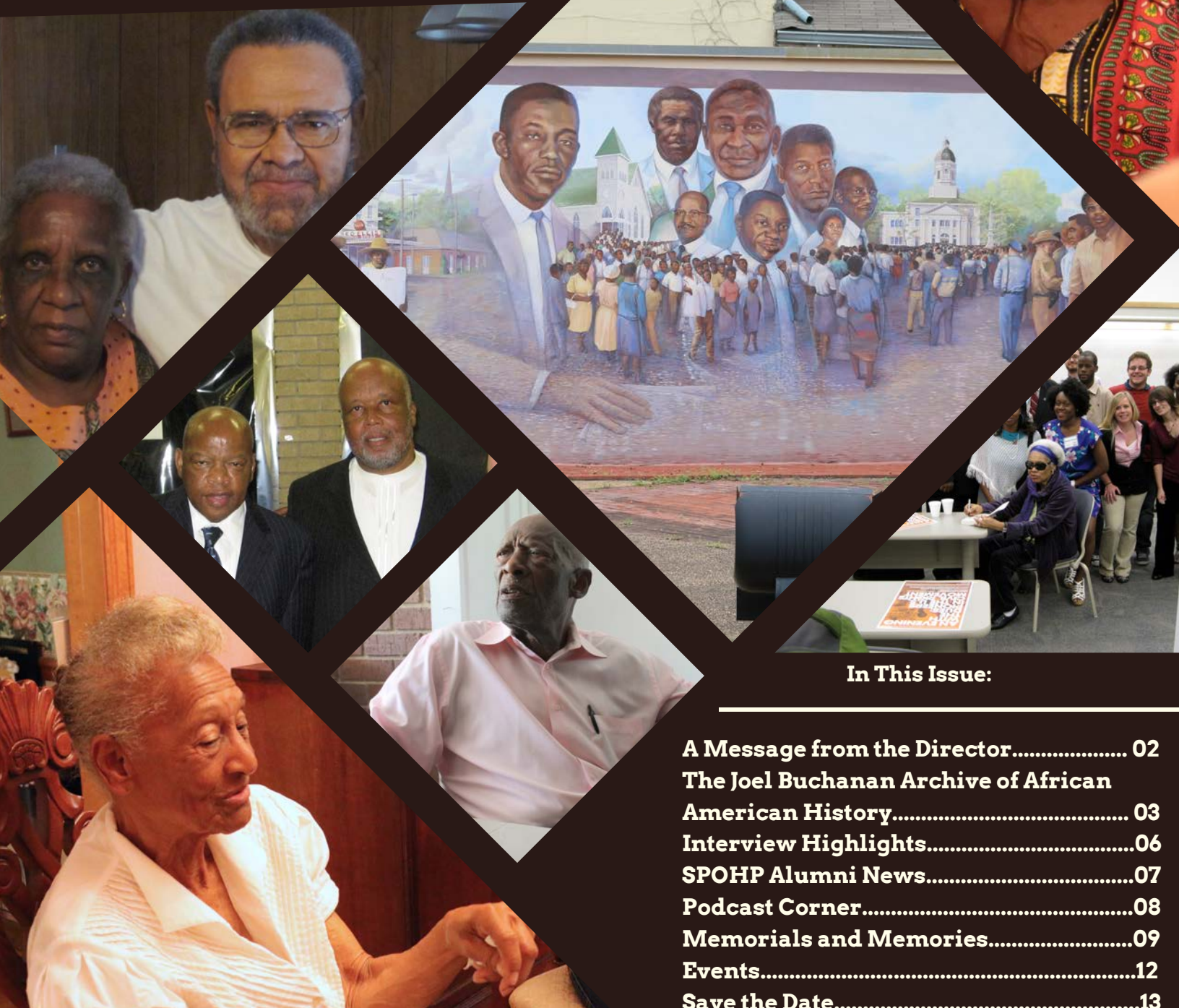


SPOHP LIGHT



In This Issue:

- A Message from the Director..... 02**
- The Joel Buchanan Archive of African American History..... 03**
- Interview Highlights.....06**
- SPOHP Alumni News.....07**
- Podcast Corner.....08**
- Memorials and Memories.....09**
- Events.....12**
- Save the Date.....13**

A Message from the Director

Welcome to the February 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.

I saw many of you at last month's wonderful Mississippi Freedom Project virtual public program. I am hoping that you will join us this month for our joint program with UCLA's Latino Policy and Politics Initiative titled: The Florida Paradox: How Diverse Communities are Transforming the Sunshine State on Wednesday, February 24 at 3 pm EST (registration link below). The event will spotlight the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the efforts of community organizing, civic engagement and electoral developments in Black and Brown communities in Florida.

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!

Sincerely Yours,

Paul Ortiz

Director and Professor of History

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



Joel Buchanan Archive

Interviews

The Joel Buchanan Archive of African American History at the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is one of the preeminent archives of Black history in the country. Three academic pillars constitute the archives. They are the oral history interviews themselves, our education efforts, and our community events.

The Joel Buchanan Archives houses over 700 oral history interviews, all focused on Black history in Florida. Our valued narrators have helped us record stories about the Civil Rights Movement, Integration, personal memories about famous figures in Black history, African-diaspora heritage and more. The interview highlighted below is narrated by activist Dan Harmeling, who remembers his days demonstrating throughout Florida.



Attorney John Due interviewed by Dr. Paul Ortiz



Laura Dixie interviewed by SPOHP students

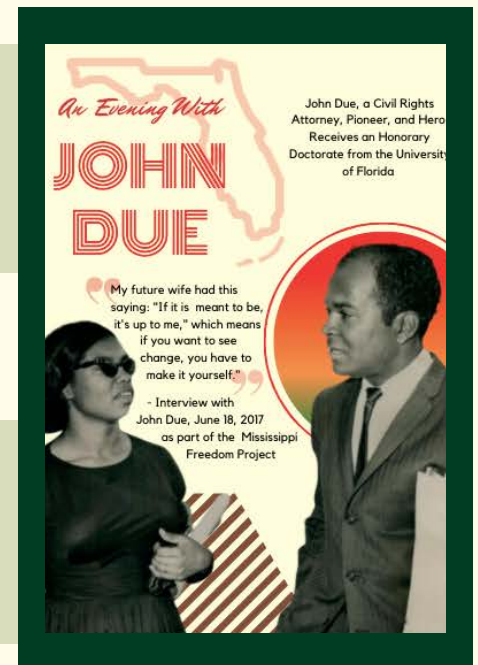
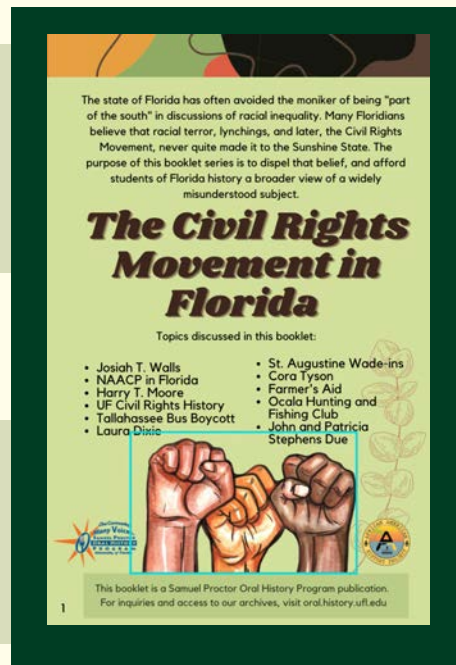
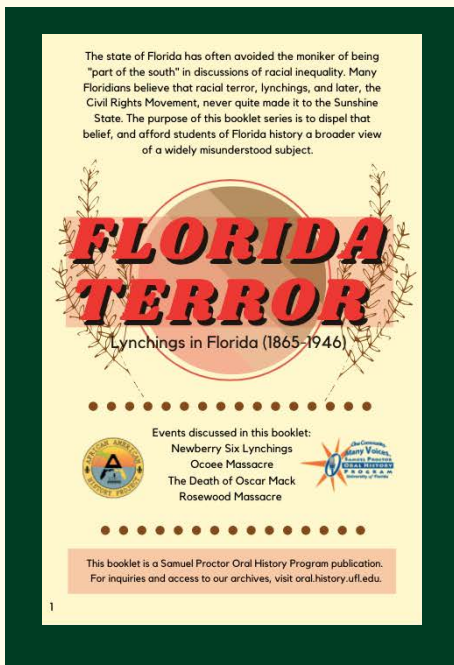
"A group of about twelve people, six faculty and six students or something like that - I forget now - went down to Ocala. Judy Bennett [or Brown] and I were not eligible to go because we had already been arrested in a demonstration in Tallahassee. So we weren't a part of the group, but other people were. But as soon as the picketing got underway for about thirty minutes with the NAACP there - but also all the students and faculty from there were all White - the police came and picked out only the White demonstrators and arrested them [for] "Disturbing the peace." Well they never [were] formally charged. They never had an arraignment. They just dropped [the charge]. But the initial charge was that they would incite a riot. Their idea [was] that if Whites and Blacks were on a picket line together, the people of Ocala would start to riot, which just shows the mentality that these people had."

-Dan Harmeling AAHP 362B

Joel Buchanan Archive

Education

The JBA team, in partnership with Alachua County Public Schools and new SPOHP team member Dr. Rebekah Cordova, are writing education booklets and oral history lesson plans for K-12 students in Florida. Our current project focuses on Lincoln High School as a case study for understanding the process of integration in Florida. JBA has also produced educational booklets on racial terror and the Civil Rights Movement. These booklets will be made available online in the coming weeks. These efforts are all in the spirit of Joel Buchanan himself, a legendary educator in the Gainesville area.



Joel Buchanan

Joel Buchanan (1948-2014) was a beloved civil rights activist, historian and librarian in Gainesville and at the University of Florida. Joel was an indispensable member of the community, a tireless speaker who gave countless lectures and informal talks to elementary, high school and college students about the histories of segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and Gainesville. The naming of this collection is meant to pay homage to Joel Buchanan's vision of history and social justice.

SPOHP continues to interact with many other great scholars and educators. These relationships allow for unique learning opportunities to be shared. Here is a [link](#) to Dr. Lawrence Guyot's workshop with SPOHP students and organizers in Mississippi.

Joel Buchanan Archive

Events

JBA has held many events focused on Black history. In just the last year, we helped organize the commemoration of African American Studies 50th anniversary at the University of Florida. JBA also partnered with Florida A&M University professor Keith Parker to host the 64th annual Tallahassee Bus Boycott celebration. Finally, JBA hosted a public program to celebrate civil rights attorney John Due receiving his honorary degree. The JBA team is committed to collecting and archiving invaluable narratives of the lives of African Americans in Florida, and will continue spotlighting key historical events and people featured in those narratives.



SPOHP's national From Segregation to Black Lives Matter Symposium in 2019 marked the formal opening of the Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History at the University of Florida, as well as the 10th anniversary of the African American History Project. Click this [link](#) to read reviews and reflections on the symposium.



In response to the global pandemic, SPOHP worked new ways to provide educational programming virtually for our audience. Here are links to some of the latest events hosted in 2021:

Click [here](#) to watch the Attorney John Due Honorary Doctorate celebration and you can click [here](#) to watch the Mississippi Delta 12 years of testimonials program.

Interview Highlight

Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons is a retired Professor Emerita in African American and Religious Studies at the University of Florida. She played an active role in the Civil Rights Movement through her work in SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) and in 1966, formed the organization's first major Southern urban project, Atlanta Project of SNCC. Since her years in SNCC, she has worked with various women's groups and established an academic focus of Islamic law and its impact on Muslim women. She is a prolific speaker on college campuses and universities and is featured in several films on the Civil Rights Movement and on women & Islam. To learn more about Dr. Simmons's work, click [here](#).



Photo by Marcelo Rondon, The Fine Print Magazine

Reflection

Dr. Zoharah Simmons is Gainesville's very own freedom fighter. Working alongside her as board members at the Civic Media Center, and within the Gainesville community, has taught me that hope, above all things, is the strongest force out there. When thinking of Dr. Simmons' experiences, wisdom, and how far she was (and is!) willing to go because of her sense of hope and justice, only the word "profound" can come close. Many people of my generation consider the deplorable injustices of segregation in the distant past, but elders in our community, like Dr. Simmons, remind us that the summer of 2020 was not all that different from the Civil Rights Movement. We continue to combat remnants of segregation today, all of which was a remnant of slavery. It is an honor to know Dr. Simmons and pay witness to her truth and courageous spirit, and to organize events with her. Thank you for all you do, Dr. Simmons!" - authored by Heather Halak, owner of Third House Books, Gainesville, FL.

SPOHP Alumni News



Nicole Harris

Nicole Harris is an English and History teacher at Gainesville High School. Ms. Harris also teaches honors African and African American History, and developed a new course called "Africa and Its Diaspora," in which she and her students analyze the global contributions of African peoples. Recently, Ms. Harris utilized interviews from our JBA archives to help students understand and reflect on the Black experience in Florida and the United States. In 2017 she was awarded Teacher of the Year at GHS, and was named Alachua County's 2021 Teacher of the Year. As a SPOHP alumna and educator, Ms. Harris embodies Joel Buchanan's spirit, and we are so excited to see what she will accomplish in the coming years. To learn more about Ms. Harris' work and award click [here](#).

Podcast Corner



World War II: An African-American Man's Perspective

For the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's Fall 2014 Intern Class, Solmie Mitchell discusses his diverse roles as a clerk, soldier, trainer, and supply person in an African-American unit stationed in the Pacific. After the service, Mitchell became a Pullman Porter and an extremely active member of the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters. To listen to the interview, click [here](#).

Stephan Mickle and Evelyn Marie Moore Mickle: Integrating the University of Florida

This podcast explores the value of diversity at the University of Florida in Gainesville. It also documents the challenges faced by the first African American students who integrated into the University. This podcast was edited by Emily Nyren and Kimberly Withum. Please click [here](#) to access the podcast.

Please subscribe to the SPOHP Podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts. To subscribe, access the Spotify or Apple Podcasts app on your computer or cell phone, and search for "SPOHP Podcast" or click [here](#) to access both podcasts on Anchor.

Memorials & Memories

Over the course of SPOHP's fifty-three years, the Program has had the honor of working with some amazing people, and we would like to honor our departed friends. These individuals have made an ineffable impact on SPOHP's students and staff alike.

Judge Stephan P. Mickle



SPOHP was deeply saddened by the passing of Judge Stephan P. Mickle on January 26 of this year. Judge Mickle was born and raised in Gainesville. He was the first Black student to graduate from the University of Florida, the second Black student to graduate from UF law, and the first practicing Black lawyer in Alachua County. Judge Mickle was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida in 1998. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Evelyn Marie Moore Mickle, who has achieved a few firsts of her own, as the first Black graduate of the UF College of Nursing.

If you are interested in learning more about Judge Mickle's life and career, here is the [link](#) to his oral history interview.

Click [here](#) to listen to a podcast about the isolation that Judge Mickle faced as one of the first UF students of color and about Mrs. Mickle's experience of being asked to transfer out of the University of Florida.



Memorials & Memories

Fred Levin

Frederic Levin, a longtime friend of SPOHP, has sadly passed on January 12, 2021. Mr. Levin was the chairman of Levin, Papantonio, Rafferty, Proctor, Buchanan, O'Brien, Barr, Mougey, P.A., in Pensacola. Mr. Levin spent his career litigating and pursuing justice against large corporations. We are thankful to have recorded for posterity his memories, and a snapshot of his ideals and legacy. Please find his oral history [here](#) to learn more about Mr. Levin's life accomplishments.



"I thought it would be good to bring Muhammad Ali in to town, to Pensacola, to speak to the young people here about just getting along. Here he was, a Muslim. So, I put together an event that brought all of the seniors of the high schools in the area to come to the civic center where Muhammad Ali and Governor Chiles and Roy Jones would all be speaking to them. By the time they came here, Ali just could not talk. But his wife, Sonji Ali did speak and did a very good job. Governor Chiles did an excellent job. I am sure Roy said something. But the night before the event, Governor Chiles and Roy Jones and Muhammad Ali, we had an event to raise money for something, I don't remember. Ali and Governor Chiles spent the night and I left the two of them speaking together. I went on because I had to emcee the event the next day. I went to bed. They were together. Several weeks later, I got the two letters from Governor Chiles. One of them basically saying it was the most significant event in his life, or something along those lines. The two of them were able to sit down and talk. Ali was a superstar" - Fred Levin

Memorials & Memories

Sam Price



The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica

Samuel ("Sam") Price passed away at the age of 94, on January 23, 2021. He was a lifelong Jacksonville resident, his parents were Isser and Rae Price. Graduating high school in Jacksonville he served as a Seaman First Class in the Second World War from 1944-1946 as a Tin Can Sailor aboard the USS Gainard, a destroyer ship in the Pacific Ocean theater. After the war, like a great many Second World War veterans, Sam attended the University of Florida. Returning to Jacksonville, he and his brother Jack Price became a builder of projects ranging from housing to shopping malls. In 1979, he and his late brother, Jack Price endowed the The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida, formally dedicated in March 1981, in honor of Sam and Jack's parents, Isser and Rae Price. Those who knew him were struck by his zest for life, his passion for travel, and his commitment to his family and the Jewish community. He will be deeply missed. Check out his oral at this [link](#).

Events

The Florida Paradox: How Diverse Communities Are Transforming the Sunshine State

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative Present

THE FLORIDA PARADOX



HOW DIVERSE COMMUNITIES ARE TRANSFORMING THE SUNSHINE STATE
FEB 24 3PM EST 12 PM PST

JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS FLORIDA POLITICS, ITS NATIONAL IMPACT, AND THE LATINX AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZERS MOBILIZING A DIVERSE ELECTORATE IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSIONER
REINA SACO

NEW FLORIDA MAJORITY
ANDREA MERCADO

UF
DR. PAUL ORTIZ

UCLA
SONJA DIAZ

FL RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION
MARQUIS MCKENZIE

SOUTH FL PEOPLE OF COLOR
RONI BENNETT

REGISTER ONLINE
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/6XLV5NZJ](https://tinyurl.com/6xlv5nzj)



UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative



CLAS CONNECTED
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Join us Wednesday, February 24, when the Latino Policy and Politics Initiative (LPPI) at the University of California, Los Angeles and SPOHP's Latinx Diaspora in the Americas Project at the University of Florida, will host a national webinar focused on Latinx and African American coalition building in Florida in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In honor of Black History Month, we will also highlight the unique experiences of Afro-Latinx people during these challenging times.

The event will spotlight the efforts of community organizing and electoral developments in Black and Brown communities in Florida. Featured speakers, all experts in their designated fields, will discuss issues that affected Floridians during the 2020 election ranging from voter suppression to passing the \$15 minimum wage ordinance and the impact of the Pandemic. Please click [here](#) to register for the event.

Save the Date



- **February 20th, 2021: Alachua County Soil Collection**
 - SPOHP would like to invite you to a Community Soil Collection Ceremony Saturday, February 20th at noon. The Gainesville Subcommittee will host this event at the Alachua County Administration Building. Please keep in mind that in-person attendance will be limited due to COVID-19. This event will be live-streamed on the Alachua County Community. **Please click [here](#) to register for the event.**
- **March 15th, 2021: Julian Pleasants Travel Award**
 - The Julian Pleasants Oral History Travel Award is designed for applicants whose oral history work would benefit from access to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's 8,000+ archive of interviews in the University of Florida Digital Collections housed at George A. Smathers Libraries. To learn more about the award and past recipients, you can visit the [website](#)! To apply for the award click [here](#).
- **March 23rd, 2021: Volunteer Workshop**
 - Interested in getting involved with SPOHP and learning about what it takes to create oral histories? Learn the process and techniques that SPOHP uses to conduct and transcribe interviews, and discover the diverse collections SPOHP has available. SPOHP will host an introductory volunteer meeting through Zoom on March 23 at 6:00 pm. Click [here](#) to access the online meeting.

See you there!

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

Follow us on social media @SPOHP

