

# THE SAMUEL PROCTOR ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM'S

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

# SPOHP LIGHT

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**SAMUEL PROCTOR  
ORAL HISTORY  
PROGRAM**  
University of Florida



# Director's Message



WELCOME

Dear Friends of SPOHP,

Welcome to this 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.

Our students and staff have been busier than ever. We have been conducting oral history workshops for communities across the region and giving Hispanic Heritage Month lectures in the United States, Latin America and Europe.

We are currently putting the finishing touches on a documentary film on the 15th anniversary of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program at UF. Geared to help first-generation college students succeed at the University of Florida, MFOS has played a critical role in improving equity in higher education. The film highlights the experiences of students, alumni and program founders in creating the vision for MFOS. As a first-gen student myself, I am thrilled that we are screening the premier of this documentary on November 7, during the National First Generation College Celebration week.

I am sad to report the passing of the Proctor Program's second director, Professor Julian M. Pleasants. Dr. Pleasants taught at the University of Florida for 46 years. He won 13 teaching awards, wrote ten books, and directed SPOHP during the critical first decade of the 21st century. Julian was also very active in the Oral History Association, and the entire oral history community is mourning his passing. Professor Pleasants was an exceptional program director and we created the Julian Pleasants Oral History Travel Award in his honor.

I was able to share with Julian during what turned out to be our final conversation that Ms. Allison Mitchell, a history Ph.D. candidate at the University of Virginia and SPOHP/UF alumna, is our newest Pleasants Award winner. Allison's dissertation research is on the struggle of African Americans to vote in Florida, a topic near and dear to Dr. Pleasants as well. We will dearly miss Julian, but I rejoice in knowing that we will carry on his terrific legacies as a teacher, scholar and oral historian at the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

Sincerely Yours,

*Paul Ortiz*



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

Follow us on social media @SPOHP



# About Us

## Our Mission

SPOHP is an award-winning, social-justice research center engaged in experiential learning initiatives all over the world. Our team of student researchers, interns, volunteers, and staff are dedicated to gathering, preserving, and promoting living histories of individuals from all walks of life.

SPOHP is committed to using critical historical inquiry and digital humanities production to encourage civic engagement and dialogue between the past, present and the future.

## Our Work

SPOHP supports diverse projects such as those listed below. We also encourage students to pursue their own projects if interested. Visit <https://oral.history.ufl.edu/projects/> to learn more about our work.



# Project Updates

## The Joel Buchanan Archive of African American History (JBA Collection)



Shortly after classes began at UF, SPOHP field researchers traveled to Washington, D.C, the nation's capital to document the stories of families impacted by police brutality. SPOHP field researchers attended a powerful art installation followed by a rally organized by the families of victims. The following day, the field researchers conducted over 60 interviews with families from all over the country, documenting the stories of their loved ones, and amplifying their calls for justice. Two goals in mind were to reopen the cases and provide independent investigations, and secondly, indict and convict the officers who have not been held accountable.



## Latinx Diaspora in the Americas Oral History Project (LDAP)

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The Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures and SPOHP have jumpstarted interviews with UF Latinx students. As an on-going collaboration, HSA will be conducting and transcribing interviews. SPOHP holds roughly 50 interviews in the Nuestras historias collection. The collection will be used to showcase Latinx experiences at UF.



In collaboration with the Latina Women's' League, SPOHP has committed to interviewing Peruvian producers and scriptwriters focusing on indigenous populations. We would also like to highlight a subcollection of interviews, titled "Testimonios of the Queer Peruvian Diaspora." To view these interviews, please visit <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzMFflzfI0ETcDWPQvd4ZiaNEjRm-3Izc> or scan the QR code to the right.



## Florida Naturalist Project (FNP)

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The Florida Naturalist Project seeks to document the contemporary degradation of Florida's water systems.

The project emphasizes many different facets of ecosystem management as possible and includes testimonies from archeologists, policymakers, biologists, activists, and everyday individuals. In conjunction with the History of Florida Water Management project – SPOHP aims to create a cohesive narrative that explains the destruction of water resources. We hope this project can help inspire and invoke the changes needed to save our most valuable ecosystems.



# Community Collaborations

## Alachua County Community Remembrance Project



Ten Oral Histories were conducted for the Alachua County Community Remembrance Project collection.

Members of the Newnansville subcommittee collaborated with SPOHP, and the Alachua Public library in the city of Alachua to conduct interviews with seasoned elders. The Alachua community is actively engaged in community conversations about race and related cultural and socioeconomic disparities, including poverty. This project is an extension of the Soil Collection, which is an event that recognizes and honors the untold and less documented victims of racial violence and terror lynchings. To listen to these interviews, scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixEIILE99HU>.



## READI Award Recipient

On July 14, 2021, Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees, Director and Tribal Archivist, accepted the READI award on behalf of her team representing the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The READI award recognizes the exemplary work for increasing diversity in the government archives and records management profession. Programs such as the legacy series Evening with the Elders present and "encourage a more inclusive environment with a lasting impact." To learn more about the award, visit <http://online.flipbuilder.com/akmothershed/hcot/>.





# SPOHP Alumni Spotlight



## Holland Hall

Holland is completing their registered internship in Mental Health Counseling at the UF College of Medicine's Division of Psychology, where they have spent the last several years developing a specialty in treating Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and anxiety disorders. Holland also works with UF's Arts in Medicine Program, where they serve as a mental health facilitator for Theatre Connect, an improv program for LGBTQ+ teens. Reflecting on their time at SPOHP, Holland has gratitude for the abundance of opportunities to connect with and learn from others from all walks of life. They are also thankful for the unique opportunity to combine theatre with oral history practices, and they continue to synthesize artistic expression with their clinical work.

# Remembrances

## Dr. Julian Pleasants

Dr. Julian Pleasants served as Director Emeritus of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program from 1996 to 2007 and was a beloved history professor at the University of Florida for thirty-seven years. In honor of his legacy, we would like to share the memories of colleagues, friends, and loved ones recounting Dr. Pleasants' kindness, wisdom, and devotion. For more information on his work and his legacy, please visit <https://oral.history.ufl.edu/welcome/staff/dr-julian-pleasants/>.

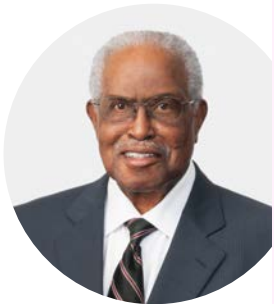


Dr. Pleasants was a very kind person, welcomed me, put me to work, became my history professor upon entering UF, and we did engage on many road trips filming oral histories. He never could get the computer to work well for him. He played basketball whenever possible, loved his dog Sunshine, was keenly interested in veterans, passionate about social justice, and had great get-togethers at his house for the then small oral history staff. He never lost his passion for writing and research, and never lost an opportunity to tell those around him how deeply he appreciated their assistance and how valuable they were. He will be greatly missed, and his influence on the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is assured a lasting legacy.

-Deborah Hendrix, Digital Humanities Production Coordinator at SPOHP



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of the Honorable Justice Joseph Hatchett, who served as the 65th Justice on the Florida Supreme Court from 1975 to 1979 before being appointed to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Jimmy Carter. As the first Black man to serve as Florida Supreme Court justice, Justice Joseph Hatchett broke down barriers and was a legal pioneer, a change agent, and a friend to all he knew. We admire and honor the memory of the late Justice Hatchett and offer our sincere condolences to all who were blessed to know him. To listen to the oral history interview with the Honorable Joseph Hatchett, please visit [https://youtu.be/Yo\\_Q2MMr7fw](https://youtu.be/Yo_Q2MMr7fw).



## Hon. Joseph Hatchett



# Interview Highlights

In honor of LGBTQ+ history month, we would like to highlight an interview from our Florida Queer History (FQH) project. In an interview from 2016, Marisa Haarhoff describes her experiences as a queer Black woman growing up in South Africa and later moving to the US for graduate school. Haarhoff covers topics ranging from Apartheid, the AIDS epidemic, and intersectionality to her own understanding and expression of queerness. In the quote below, Haarhoff explores her identity and the meaning of love. To listen to the full interview, visit <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00079395/00001> or scan the QR code below.



In church it was, well, God loves everybody except don't be gay, don't be a thief, don't be this, don't be that. So I didn't associate gayness with something that was loveable. And here I was in my life, my heart opened up in a way that I never thought it was possible. I had an existential crisis—What is love? What does it mean to love? What does it mean to want to be with someone? To want to share life with someone? I had to think about these things for the first time. There are not enough dishes I could wash, enough houses I could clean, enough babies that I could have that could ever amount to my understanding of what it means to love somebody. It's so simple, yet so complex at the same time that there's nothing you can do that actually is love. And it's so ungendered, it's so unsexed, it is its own thing. That to reduce it to a specific gender, to reduce it to a specific sex, to reduce it to a specific activity, is just that—it's reducing it.



# Announcements



## Race and Remembrance Podcast Series

SPOHP's podcast series, "Race and Remembrance," is now available on Spotify and other platforms. Using interviews from our Joel Buchanan Archive (JBA Collection), we confront themes of racial terror in 20th century Florida, the local Civil Rights Movement, the history of racism within the University of Florida, and the struggle for equity and justice today, while amplifying stories from the Black community. Visit <https://anchor.fm/spohp> to learn more and start listening!



This October, for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, remind loved ones to complete early detection screenings and take care of their health. To learn more, or donate to research and advocacy efforts, please visit <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month>.

# Upcoming Events

## MFOS Documentary

The Machen Florida Scholars Program and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program cordially invites you to attend the grand premier showing of a documentary titled, "From Hope to Expectation," which follows the MFOS Program's 15-year history.

The event will take place on **November 7th at 2:00 PM** in the Reitz Union. To RSVP email [jpendleton@ufl.edu](mailto:jpendleton@ufl.edu). To view the trailer, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mp8DQBmqJpo&t=30s> or scan the QR code below.



Connect with us on social media  
@SPOHP to stay up-to-date!

# THANK YOU!

## Donate!

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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!

**Connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on our work and upcoming events!**

**@SPOHP**



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