Hello! My name is Kryslynn Collazo and today I will be speaking on why it is important to collect and preserve documents about diverse groups.
I will be highlighting the necessity to collect and preserve documents about diverse groups in order to ensure their stories will not be told by outsiders who have limited knowledge or no connection at all and how the collections of these materials have led to the shrinking the divide of barriers through community involvement and education.
Our Records are Proof…

- To how we were an inclusive society
- To how we were taught to respect ethnicities and cultures
- To how we were taught these groups add to and shape the larger community
- To future generations to have and go back to
- To how the growth of diversity at an institution has transformed the surrounding community

So, why must we preserve these documents well because our records are proof. Quickly read slide

#5
Challenges

• Older Materials or Newer Materials
• “Silence” of groups on campuses / in communities
• Decline of Outreach
• Diverse content mixed into larger collections
• Large Institutions → Small Archives

Of course, there are challenges that come about when collecting materials

#1 → Archives tend to collect older materials, so that the organizations can retain their newer materials. However, these materials can be lost or never transferred as a result of contact not being continual after the first transfer or a turnover at institutions and in the groups.

#2 → Silence or rather gaps in what is collected which can lead to the silencing of a group if that gap is not realized, i.e. lost, missing or misinterpreted information

#3 → Due to a various amount reasons archivist may not reach out to groups so the outreach between us and the groups can be lost

#4 → Materials become mixed which makes it harder to find materials, makes it harder to get a fuller understanding of that group because it is only showing in the context of that larger collection

#5 → Many archives are small and the people or institutions they are servicing are larger so there is lack of space and time to properly outreach and to have the luxury to separate materials → which leads to materials being mixed, which leads to the decline of outreach which results in gaps and loss of contact. These are all connected and can lead to a domino effect.

NOTE: BIAS OR ... NOT THOUGHT OF NECESSARY
Diverse Collections at SCUA

- Dr. Cyndia M. Muñiz's Hispanic Organizations at the University of Central Florida Collection (Muñiz)
- University of Central Florida Black Faculty and Staff Association Records
- University of Central Florida Brown, Black & White Collection
- University of Central Florida Office of Diversity and Inclusion Records (ODI)
- In Progress
  - Women & Gender Studies

At UCF SCUA there are 100 or so collections spread across Special Collections and University Archives. I worked on the University Archives side which as 4 distinct diverse collections: **QUICKLY READ SLIDE** and is currently processing its 5th: **QUICKLY READ SLIDE.**
However an honorable mention is the Black Student Union Research, which is a great example on how preserving diverse voices and how archives are great tools. BSU is not an official collection, but came out of BSU Historians who would come to SCUA in search of their organization’s history. These researchers did not realize they would have to search through several collections to get a clear understanding. Senior Archivist of University Archives brought Brandon on as an intern to create a clear and understandable historical timeline of the organizations history. Brandon included where he found the information in case future researchers wanted to see the original documents themselves. Although I did not conduct the BSU Research, I did preserve and create the finding aids for University of Central Florida Office of Diversity and Inclusion Records (ODI) and the Dr. Cyndia M. Muñíz’s Hispanic Organizations at the University of Central Florida Collection (Muñíz).
The first collection I processed was ODI. ODI has been a leading force in UCFs effort in building an inclusive culture for all students, faculty and staff by promoting diversity and inclusion practices and policies since 1994. The office came from former UCF President John C. Hitt as a response to his goal to “become more inclusive and diverse” when he became president in 1992. Hitt understand how UCF’s landscape was changing and assigned a task force to appraise services accessible to minority students and study the diversity and attitudes on campus between 1992-1994. Through this group came the ODI and with the office came a flood of events, programs, workshops, certifications, organizations that help facilitate their goal to help the UCF and the community be more inclusive by exploring and discussing human diversity.
Nguzo Saba Celebration
University of Central Florida

• From the May 5th, 2000 celebration
• Only known professionally made copy that has been made accessible to the public
• VHS copy is no longer working
  • Digitized version stored on SCUA drive is available to view

ODI has made strives within in the UCF and inadvertently the Orlando area. Through the materials gathered we have documents from its inception, various programs supported by them, events flyers and a handful of those events recorded. For example, their annual diversity week, or the creation of the Inclusion Champion both of which explore the themes and goals Hitt intended. The office has also supported the continual success of diverse groups on campus. This image is a recording of the 2nd ever Nguzo Saba celebration. This celebration recognizes and celebrates the scholastic achievement of graduating minority and first-generation students at UCF. When I originally viewed the tape is worked well, however shortly after the tape stopped working. Luckily, our digital initiatives were able to salvage it and now it is only viewable on the share drive at the archives. This event is a primary source to the celebrated success of those graduating students and the beginning of other Special UCF Graduations that were to come including Nuestra Graduación, which is supported by LaFaSa and began under the HSI Initiative. This tape is the only professionally made copy that has been made accessible to the public and due to the condition, this part of their history is only visible at the UCF archives.
The second collection I worked on was the Muniz collection. Dr. Muñiz came to SCUA to research Hispanic students, staff, and faculty at UCF using the Hispanic and Latin* (Latin, Latino, Latina). Her research led to the learning of the first Parent Spanish orientations which were held in 2006 and the creation of the timeline hosted of the HIS homepage. As a result of this visit, Dr. Muñiz gained an appreciation to preserving documents and transferred materials from various Hispanic organizations including the founding documents and information on Borche de Oro, CREAR Futuros, Hispanic Heritage Month, Juntos, LaFaSa, Puerto Rico Student Association, LASA, and other various diverse student organizations and groups. Most noticeably is the information regarding UCF’s efforts in gaining HSI status. All of these organizations have not only empowered minority students, but have allowed for the bridge between them and the majority to be stronger. These organizations and the corresponding documents are primary sources to how the UCF landscape has and continues to change. Unlike, in the past, they are in control of their own narratives.
UCF became a Hispanic Serving Institution in 2018. In order achieve this status, universities must meet these three main requirements to get the status: Minority race/ethnicity, Need-based students, and Core expenses. HIS institutions show how an institution is moving forward and how they have shown how minority students’ success is equally important. UCF worked to ensure this occurred and through the comments we received SCUA has first-hand accounts of these efforts. It was a group effort; however, the voices of those minorities are a main focal point and played a large role in ensuring they achieved not only this status, but to use their influence to help others.
Hurricane Maria

Although many organizations and universities helped with the relief effort after Hurricane Maria struck the Caribbean, specifically Puerto Rico the effort and awareness of UCF is truly remarkable. Florida, specifically central Florida has been a hot spot for Puerto Ricans and the growth of the population has increased greatly over the years. As the university was making strides in taking on the HSI status and having these open conversations this tragedy was a chance to show that they understood and wanted to help the Hispanic community. Through the documents given to SCUA by Dr. Muñiz, the universities relief efforts are highlighted in the email conversations and event flyers all discussing ways to help, show support, and plans of actions between various UCF figures prominently the Puerto Rican Student Association. UCF was one of the first universities in Florida to welcome these displaced 200 and more students who left their homes to finish their educations. This was made possible by the universities extending in-state tuition not only for that semester but for a full academic year. Due to UCF unique position and ever-growing diverse student population it was a priority to have these students feel welcomed and offer assistance.
“Is my group not important enough for materials to be gathered?”

Closing Remark  ➔ It is for this reason it is necessary to preserve diverse voices is for a group or person because we do not then it can lead to the question of why they are not important enough. For example, Hurricane Maria is a significant chapter in the Puerto Rican Narrative. The efforts that followed to ensure their recovery and growth is something that needed to be gathered and saved. If it wasn’t THEN does their tragedy not matter? Is there struggle not relevant enough? And that’s not true. The events that followed Hurricane Maria shaped the island, Florida, Central Florida, and specifically UCF. The stories and lives of the majority and minority shifted and no one was not affected. By all means we do not have all the documents from those efforts or documents on various diverse group, plus UCF’s story is small panel in the larger image, yet by starting here/small and getting the knowledge out more then we can understand or begin to understand the significance of why the preservation of stories from various groups can lead for us to close the gap that has created the asking of this question and raise our tolerance of diverse groups.
Thank you for your time! Are there are questions?