

Last July, The Bracero History Project, coordinated by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (SNMAH), the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, and the Institute of Oral History at the University of Texas at El Paso began an ongoing cross-country, cross-border effort to collect, document, exhibit, and share the history and voices of the bracero program.

The goal, of this grass-roots effort, is to create a national consortium of museums, universities, and cultural institutions to focus on this critical piece of history and to focus on the social and cultural aspect, how it affected the families, the towns in Mexico, their children and their communities. Funded by a \$48,000 grant from the Smithsonian Latino Center for the first year of research, SMAHH has teamed with other major universities including USC, and Brown University, and their students to capture the oral histories of the braceros.

The Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement has scheduled an appointment with Steve Velasquez, associate curator for the SNMAH on Wednesday, June 21 at 11:30 to discuss the possibility of service learning students contributing to this historical project. Currently, Frank Barajas has expressed an interest in having his student participate. However, other courses being offered in Fall 06 could be a natural fit as well:

Narratives of the Working Class- Professor not listed (examines the lives of working people from various approaches and methodologies)

Historian's Craft – Frank Barajas (survey course on the writing of history, utilizing oral interviews and other material in the writing of history)

Narratives of Southern California – Frank Barajas and Joan Peters (studies the narratives, oral, written and filmed, of SoCal)

Social Problems In Service Learning Context – Professor not listed