

MILESTONES

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

fall 2007 · volume 5 · issue 2

www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

BODY AND SOUL: PAUL ROBESON, RACE AND REPRESENTATION

STONE CENTER EXHIBIT PAYS TRIBUTE TO LEGENDARY ENTERTAINER & ACTIVIST PAUL ROBESON

Paul Robeson is perhaps one of the most important African-American figures in U.S. history. His unmatched talents as an athlete, actor, singer, cultural scholar, author and political activist brought him a great deal of fame and notoriety.

This fall, the Stone Center pays tribute to Paul Robeson by featuring an exhibit based on his life and legacy in the Center's Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum. The exhibit titled *Body and Soul: Paul Robeson, Race and Representation*, opens with a special reception on Tuesday October 9 at 7 p.m. The exhibit, on display through January 25, 2008, features photographs, rare movie posters, personal letters and other ephemera on loan from the Alden Kimbrough and Mary Kimbrough Collection.

Born in 1898 to a former slave, Robeson rose to fame as an actor and singer in the 1920's and 1930's. "He was one of the few in the early 1930's who was like Muhammad Ali in terms of people knowing who he was," said Kimbrough, "He was the most well-known black person of his time." In addition to being a versatile singer and actor, he was also a scholar. He graduated from Rutgers University, where he was a celebrated athlete and his class valedictorian. He then attended Columbia University where he received a law degree. He found work at a law firm in New York but racial conflict on the job caused him to quit, which led him to pursue his acting and singing talents. Some of his most notable work

included *All God's Chillun Got Wings* (1924) and *The Emperor Jones* (1925). His trademark song, *Ol' Man River*, established him as one of the most popular singers of his generation. He became an international star, performing benefits throughout the world.

In the 1940's, Robeson's outspokenness against inequality and racism in the U.S. and abroad, made him the focus of FBI surveillance for years. "He lost his voice in terms of outreach to Black America," said Kimbrough speaking about the government's inquiry of Robeson.

Weary and depressed during those years of government scrutiny, Robeson retired from performing in the 1960's and lived in Philadelphia until his death in 1976.

Kimbrough wishes that more people knew about Paul Robeson and his importance to American history, "I go to high schools and ask if anyone has heard of Paul Robeson and most had not heard of him." Exhibit hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; the exhibit is closed on University holidays and weekends.

In recent years, the Stone Center's Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum has served as an inviting exhibit space for a variety of visual arts that critically examine the African diaspora including *The Hewitt Collection of African-American Art*, *The Art of Michael Harris*, *Fleeting Memory*, *Enduring Legacy: The People of La Costa Chica, Oaxaca, Mexico* and *Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives*. ■



Paul Robeson, *The Mighty Man in Roark Bradford's Play with Music, John Henry, 1940.* Photo Courtesy of the Alden and Mary Kimbrough Collection.

POET AND PLAYWRIGHT TO DELIVER AFRICAN DIASPORA LECTURE



Micere Githae Mugo, a poet, playwright and professor of African-American studies at Syracuse University, will deliver the Stone Center's African Diaspora Lecture on October 5, 2007. She will speak at 4 p.m. in the Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room. The African Diaspora Lecture is free and open to the public.

Born and raised in Kenya, Mugo became a citizen of Zimbabwe after being forced into exile in 1982. Mugo lived in Zimbabwe until 1994, following which time she moved to the United States. As a youngster, Mugo demonstrated her academic talents. She became the first African child in Kenya to gain admission to the prestigious all white Limuru Girls School. Oxford University offered her a scholarship; instead, she attended Makerere University in Uganda to complete her undergraduate studies.

After completing her teachers training, Mugo became a high school teacher and head mistress at two all-girls high schools. During her teaching tenure, she received the globally competitive Commonwealth Scholarship Award for graduate studies, which allowed her to attend the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, Canada. At the University, she completed her master's and doctoral degrees in literature.

Mugo's work includes six books, a co-authored play and numerous internationally anthologized poems. Her book of poetry, *My Mother's Poem and Other Songs* (1994), is available at UNC at Chapel Hill's Davis Library. She is an internationally known speaker who has delivered keynote addresses at gatherings and events all over the world. ■

The African Diaspora Lecture is an annual series that presents lectures, roundtables and debates on a variety of subjects from the African diaspora.



STONE CENTER HARVEY E. BEECH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Stone Center is currently hiring for its new Harvey E. Beech Professional Development Internship Program. The program is open to all full-time UNC at Chapel Hill sophomores, juniors and seniors in good academic standing. Interns will earn a \$1200 stipend for successfully completing the 10-week program. Selected students interested in receiving credit for the internship will need to coordinate with their academic departments. Students may apply for one of the following internships: Public Relations & Communications, Curatorial/Gallery, Program & Cultural Project Management and Community Education (Communiversity). Applications are available at the Stone Center, Suite 215 or on the Stone Center website at www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter. The deadline for applications is **September 4, 2007**. Call the Stone Center at 962-9001 for more information. ■

► INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

STUDENTS RECEIVE STONE CENTER FELLOWSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD

Angela Harper and Brian K. Seymour II, seniors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received \$2500 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships from the Stone Center to study abroad this past summer.

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, awards up to \$2500 for academic research or study in an international setting to UNC students from groups who are underrepresented in international study and travel programs. A selection committee evaluates applicants on their academic records, extracurricular activities, financial need and objectives of their intended international experience.

Harper is double majoring in international studies and sociology. She worked this past summer with two anti-slavery groups: Anti-Slavery International in London, England and The Association of People for Practical Life Education (APPLE) in Ghana, West Africa.

Seymour, who is majoring in philosophy, studied this summer in South Africa. His program, "South Africa: Education and Social Change," is sponsored by the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT.

The fellowships, funded through the generous gift of an anonymous alumnus, contribute to university efforts to internationalize the campus community. Upon their return, fellowship recipients share their research and experiences in a public forum arranged by the Stone Center. ■



Angela Harper



Brian K. Seymour II

New Opportunity for Undergraduate Students

THE 2007 STONE CENTER DIRECTORS UNDERGRADUATE ADMINISTRATIVE leadership fellowship

The Directors Undergraduate Administrative Leadership Fellowship (DUAL) provides an undergraduate student an opportunity to serve as an intern and work closely with the Director of the Stone Center. The intern will participate in staff, Board and other key meetings, work on specially designed projects, assist the Director in drafting project, program and special reports and attend outside meetings where possible and appropriate.

The DUAL intern will receive a monetary stipend or other appropriate award for completing the program. The DUAL Fellowship is an 8 week program (October 1–November 30 and February 1–March 30) and is open to all registered UNC at Chapel Hill sophomores, juniors and seniors in good academic standing. The deadline to apply for the fall DUAL Fellowship is 5pm on **September 14, 2007**. Applicants for the DUAL internship will be selected on the basis of their scholarship, campus and off-campus participation in service activities, clarity in describing goals for the internship, sense of social responsibility and the quality of recommendations submitted in support of their application.

Applicants must submit the following:

- Letter of Intent (limit three pages, double-spaced).
The letter should address the selection criteria described above
- An official or unofficial transcript
- Two letters of recommendation (faculty, staff or community member)

Submit application packet to Stone Center, DUAL Fellowship Program, CB #5250 or drop it off at the Stone Center, Suite 215. *For more information about the program, contact Olympia Friday at 962-7265.*

BLACKNESS INSIDE/OUT



DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM
OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 13

2007 theme explores Black identity

The Stone Center's 2007 Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film continues this fall with the screening of four films that raise political and social consciousness. The festival theme, *Blackness Inside/Out*, explores alternative constructions of Black identities and the ways 'Blackness' is seen in cross-cultural contexts. The festival opens on September 13 with the film *Follow Me Home*, starring Alfre Woodard. The film, directed by Peter Bratt, explores intercultural race relations through the lives of four artists, one African-American, one Native American and two Latino cousins, who embark on a cross-country road trip to paint a mural on the White House. Along the way, they meet a mysterious African-American woman, played by Woodard, bearing a deep secret. The travelers soon discover they are also on a road to self-discovery. Lakota Harden, a Native American activist and diversity trainer will moderate the discussion following the film.



Naming Number Two (No. 2), stars celebrated African-American actor Ruby Dee as Nanna Marie, the matriarch of a large Fijian family. Nanna Marie wonders what has happened to the elaborate feasts and gatherings once common in her family. She decides to force her self-absorbed family members to throw a traditional Fijian party, so that she can name her successor as head of the family. The film challenges and goes against casting norms by featuring Ruby Dee as Nanna Marie.

The festival continues on October 2 with *Skin Complex*, a film that deals with race and cultural issues from an interesting and unique approach. Directed by actor and producer Craig Harris, the film's central character is a Harvard educated professor who is fed up with



the judgments and limitations of being black. He considers undergoing a controversial "race-change" operation but must first confront his dying father and the rest of his family about his decision. Craig Harris will lead a discussion following the film. This screening is co-sponsored by the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The film festival concludes on November 1 with the screening of *Son of Man (Jezile)*, a politically charged adaptation of the story of Jesus, set in contemporary South Africa. In the film, Jezile (Jesus) travels the country preaching non-violence and speaking out against political and government corruption. Soon the government grows suspicious of his teachings, which ultimately leads to the death of Jezile.

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film is the Stone Center's twice a year series featuring primarily independent film from all corners of the African diaspora. All screenings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Stone Center at 962-9001.



Naming Number Two (No. 2)



Son of Man (Jezile)

BLACKNESS INSIDE/OUT

September 13 // 7pm

Follow Me Home
The Stone Center
Theatre and Auditorium

September 20 // 7pm

Naming Number Two
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose
Room

October 2 // 7pm

Skin Complex
The Stone Center
Theatre and Auditorium

November 1 // 7pm

Son of Man (Jezile)
The Stone Center
Theatre and Auditorium

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film is the Stone Center's twice a year series spotlighting film from all corners of the African diaspora. Many screenings feature commentary by the directors, scholars and performers. The fall 2007 Festival opens on September 13 with a special series entitled *Blackness Inside/Out* that explores alternative constructions of Black identities and the ways 'Blackness' is seen in cross-cultural contexts.

Beth and Daniel Okun Collegium Fund Provides Support for Innovative Projects

COLLEGIUM PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT OF UP TO \$5000

The Stone Center is seeking projects to support for its Beth and Daniel Okun Collegiums. The Beth and Daniel Okun Collegium Fund is a recurring award endowed by a generous gift by Beth and husband Daniel Okun, Kenan professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering with additional support provided by the Carolina Performing Arts Creative Campus Initiative. The Collegium Fund supports a term-long study/research project by a team made up of graduate and undergraduate students and faculty. Collegium projects are eligible for support of up to \$5000.

The gift provides for the award of support funds for collegium study groups composed of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill faculty, undergraduate and graduate students and staff where appropriate.

The Collegium Fund is intended to encourage faculty-student engagement in joint

study and learning activities outside of the classroom. The broader objective is to support the academic mission of the University by enhancing the academic climate on campus.

A funded study group will engage in a term-long, or longer, project in Africana studies (i.e., African-American, African, Afro-Latin, etc.). This year additional proposals that focus on the subject of UNC's Creative Campus Initiative under the auspices of the Carolina Performing Arts Program will also be considered (go to <http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org/> for more information). Projects may be undertaken in study or other group format where key or critical issues may be examined in-depth over the course of the term. Examples of other projects may include preparation of collaborative articles or publications, or preparation of a panel presentation for a conference or other academic gathering. Since the Okun Collegium Fund

is interested in promoting collaborative study by a wide-range of constituencies, the selection committee is encouraging the submission of innovative proposals.

Any project that provides for an intellectually stimulating and critical experience for faculty and students is eligible providing it meets the general criteria of the Okun Collegium Fund.

Funds will be available at the beginning of the fall term and will be administered through the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History. For application information, visit the Stone Center's web site at www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter. If you have general questions, contact Trevaughn Eubanks at 962-9001. ■



left: Alejandro Correa-Ortega speaks with his students

STONE CENTER WELCOMES VENEZUELAN VISITING FELLOWS

Alejandro Correa-Ortega and Geronimo Sanchez-Gonzales will serve as the Center's International Visiting Fellows from October 6 through 10

Over the last several years, the Stone Center has connected with Afro-descendant groups and institutions in Columbia, Venezuela and other countries in the Americas. This fall, the Center continues work with these regions by inviting professors from the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento in Higuero, Venezuela, to participate in programs centered on Afro-Latino rights. The Instituto Universitario de Barlovento is one of the few historically black institutions in Latin America. The professors, Alejandro Correa-Ortega and Geronimo Sanchez-Gonzales, colleagues at the University, will serve as the Center's International Visiting Fellows from October 6 through 10.

Founded in 1991, The Instituto Universitario de Barlovento began as a community initiative. Located on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, the University has the distinction of being the first and only institution of higher learning in the

area, providing young people in the region an opportunity to pursue higher education. The University opened with just 250 students but now boasts enrollment of more than 2,800 students. The University has a staff of 150 professors who teach subjects ranging from tourism to computer science. Because the school is a part of a network of national universities, students enjoy free services such as transportation and dental and medical services.

During their residency, professors Ortega-Correa and Sanchez-Gonzales will talk about their work with the Afro-Venezuelan Network, a collection of civil society organizations that advocate for the rights of Black and Indigenous Venezuelans. Sanchez-Gonzales is a member of one of the commissions examining the issue of minority rights in the Venezuelan constitution. Both visitors will be available for conversations across the campus. ■



THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER

for BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

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Fall 2007

Blackness Inside/Out: The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

Follow Me Home

Thursday, September 13, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Theatre and Auditorium

Follow Me Home, directed by Peter Bratt is a poetic tale exploring intercultural race relations through the lives of four artists, one African-American, one Native American and two Latino cousins, who embark on a cross-country road trip to paint a mural on the White House. Along the way, they meet a mysterious African-American woman, played by Alfre Woodard, bearing a deep secret. During the trip, they each learn things about themselves as well as each other. The film stars Benjamin Bratt and Jesse Borrego and features an appearance by Salma Hayek. Lakota Harden, a Native American activist and diversity trainer will moderate the discussion following the film.

Naming Number Two

Thursday, September 20, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Naming Number Two explores the challenges that families endure to stay connected to one another. In the film, a Fijian family's bond has grown worn and tattered through the years, which leaves Nanna Marie, the family matriarch, wondering what has happened to the elaborate feasts and gatherings once common in her family. Nanna Marie decides to force her self-absorbed family members to throw a traditional Fijian party, so that she can name her successor as head of the family. The film challenges and goes against casting norms by featuring celebrated African-American actor Ruby Dee as Nanna Marie.

Skin Complex

Tuesday, October 2, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Theatre and Auditorium

Skin Complex is a fascinating film that deals with race and cultural issues from a unique perspective. Chris Harrison, a Harvard educated professor, is fed up with the judgments and limitations of being black. As such, he considers undergoing a controversial race-change operation. First, he must reluctantly confront his dying father and the rest of his family about his decision. Along the way, he is forced to contend with his fiancé, who is white, and with an 'advisor' who has undergone the reverse transformation from white to black. Craig Harris, the director, will lead a discussion after the film. This screening is co-sponsored by the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Son of Man

Thursday, November 1, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Son of Man is a retelling of the story of Jesus, set in contemporary Southern Africa. In the film, Jezile is born in Judea, a troubled country in Southern Africa. After civil war breaks out, Jezile travels the country preaching against political and government corruption. Before long, government officials grow suspicious of his teachings, ultimately deciding to restore order by eliminating the opposition—Jezile. *Son of Man* was the first South African film to be featured in the Sundance Film Festival.

African Diaspora Lecture Series

Friday, October 5, 2007 // 4pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

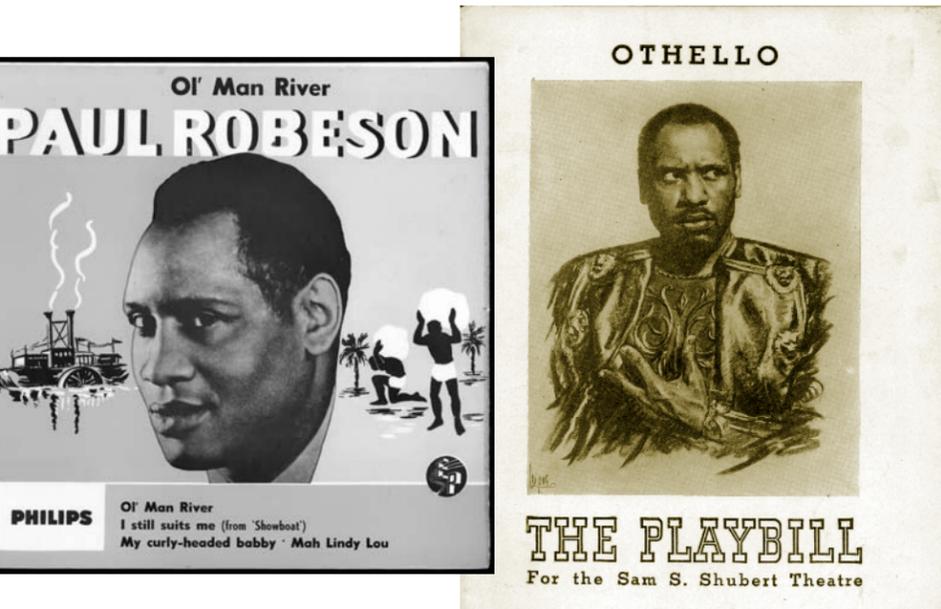
The Stone Center welcomes Micere Githae Mugo as this year's African Diaspora Lecturer. Mugo is a Kenyan poet, playwright and community activist whose work includes six books, a co-authored play and numerous internationally anthologized poems. Mugo is chair of the Department of African-American Studies at Syracuse University.

International Visiting Fellows

Saturday, October 6–
Wednesday, October 10, 2007 //
Programs TBA
The Stone Center

Alejandro Correa-Ortega and Geronimo Sanchez-Gonzales, professors at the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento in Higuierote, Venezuela, will serve as the Center's International Visiting Fellows from October 6 through 10. The Instituto Universitario de Barlovento is one of the few historically black institutions in Latin America. For information on scheduling either Ortega-Correa or Sanchez-Gonzales please contact 919-962-9001.

2007 Fall



Body and Soul: Paul Robeson, Race and Representation

Tuesday, October 9, 2007–Friday, January 25, 2008
The Stone Center Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum
Opening Reception Tuesday, October 9 at 7 pm
Gallery Hours Monday–Friday 10 am–7 pm; Closed University Holidays

The Stone Center pays tribute to Paul Robeson by featuring an exhibit based on his life and legacy in the Stone Center's Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum. The exhibit, on display through December 10, features photographs, rare movie posters, personal letters and other ephemera on loan from the Alden and Mary Kimbrough Collection.

Criminal/Justice: The Death Penalty Examined

During 2007–08, **Carolina Performing Arts** will facilitate a yearlong conversation, *Criminal/Justice: The Death Penalty Examined*. This will be a campus-wide exploration of the events and issues that lead to capital punishment in our society. Through collaborations with faculty, students and staff in departments and centers across campus, the project will feature performances, photography, art exhibits, historical exhibits, a film series, a student debate, a lecture series and panel discussions. See below for a brief list of planned events for fall 2007. For more information, visit www.carolinacreativecampus.org.

Staged Reading of *Death of the Innocents*, September 8th, Memorial Hall
Sponsors: Carolina Performing Arts & Communication Studies

The inaugural event in Carolina Performing Art's series on *Criminal/Justice: The Death Penalty Examined*, a staged reading of the UNC Summer Reading *Death of the Innocents*, directed and adapted by Artist in Residence Joseph Megel, UNC at Chapel Hill Communication Studies Department.

Coyote on a Fence, October 12–16, Kenan Theatre
Sponsors: Department of Dramatic Art

A play about the friendship that develops between two men on death row. Directed by Ken Strong.

Parade, November 12–13, Memorial Hall
Sponsors: Carolina Performing Arts, Department of Music & Communication Studies

A musical about the story of Leo Frank who was tried for the murder of a young girl and ultimately hanged by the townspeople; a compelling drama examining issues of prejudice, anti-Semitism, racism and the death penalty.

Scott Langley: Death Penalty Photography Exhibit, Fall 2007
Sponsors: Carolina Performing Arts

The Death Penalty Photography Documentary Project is an eight-year product of exploring capital punishment through the photographer's lens.

COMMUNIVERSITY NEWS

Community begins on September 11, 2007. Parent orientation will take place on September 6 at the Stone Center. The Community Program is looking forward to new partnerships with the Carrboro Arts Center and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

CONSTRUCTION ALERT

The initial phase of the Bell Tower Development Project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2007. This construction project will severely limit and eventually eliminate parking in the Bell Tower Parking Lot. The project is expected to continue through winter 2011. For more information and updates, please visit the Facilities Planning & Construction website at <http://www.fpc.unc.edu/CIP/Projects.asp?Project=32>.

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER for BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

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The Stone Center works with numerous departments and units of the University to help promote interdisciplinary inquiry, as well as focused examinations from various interdisciplinary and disciplinary perspectives.

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History:

Is a Center for culture, research, outreach and service;

Questions what it means to be of African descent in the Americas and how Black identities, cultures and histories in the diaspora are constructed; and

Critically examines the role that culture and identity play in social change and community development.



UNC
THE SONJA HAYNES STONE
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Donor Generosity Contributes to Success of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History continues its mission with the financial support of the many alumni and friends who give generously to the organization. These individuals are key to the center's current and future efforts. The Stone Center greatly appreciates and recognizes donors to the Stone Center for the 2007 fiscal year through June 30, 2007:

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We have come this far by faith, perseverance and collective effort. Thank you for generously supporting our programs and mission.

— The Staff and Board of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006–2007.

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MORA BEAUCHAMP-BYRD JOINS STONE CENTER
AS NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Beauchamp-Byrd

her new role, she will work closely with the Stone Center director, development officer and advisory board to create and implement the Center's development and fundraising plan. Her duties will also include international project and program planning. Mora is currently a doctoral candidate in art history at Duke University. She holds two master's degrees—a M.A. in art history from Columbia University in New York and a M.A. in visual arts administration from

The Stone Center welcomes Mora Beauchamp-Byrd as its new assistant director. Mora previously worked as the assistant director for Mellon Initiatives in Research and Academic Programs at The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. In

New York University, where she also received a B.A. in art history.

Mora brings a wealth of fundraising, grant writing and program administration experience to the Stone Center. She has held several positions at prominent arts and cultural centers including director and curator of the Visual Arts Department at the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University and curator and director of special projects at The Caribbean Cultural Center in New York.

Since joining the Stone Center, Mora is adjusting to her new role and the UNC campus. "I was drawn to the Center's continuing programmatic focus on African diaspora culture and history and the tremendous opportunities afforded by the spacious new building," she said. "I am so pleased to be joining the staff at the Stone Center at such an exciting time and look forward to working with Dr. Jordan and the rest of the impressive staff."

The Stone Center staff is pleased to have Mora join the team and looks forward to working with her. ■

