

MILESTONES

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

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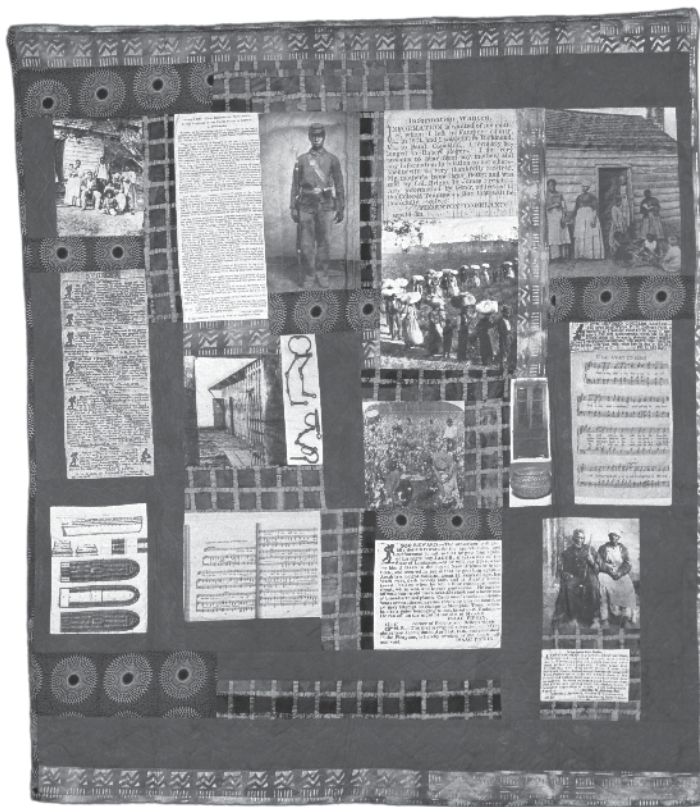
www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

Handmade, History Infused

Stone Center announces upcoming exhibit of African-American Quilts

Since its opening in August 2004, the Stone Center continues to build its reputation as a space for academic pursuits, community engagement, and cultural enrichment. The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum, located on the ground floor of the Stone Center, has served as an elegant and inviting exhibition space for the visual arts hosting *The Hewitt Collection of African-American Art*, *Letters from Home: The Art of Michael Harris*, and *Fleeting Memory, Enduring Legacy: The People of La Costa Chica, Oaxaca, Mexico*. From charcoal lithographs and oil paintings to mixed installations and black & white photography; the gallery and museum has served as a place for engaging various artistic expressions produced throughout the African Diaspora. With its upcoming exhibit, *Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives* the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery will provide patrons an opportunity to explore the place of the textile arts in African American history and culture.

Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives features twenty-one quilts designed and handmade by Heather Andrea Williams, assistant professor of history at UNC-Chapel Hill. In her collection Dr.



History Quilt by Heather Williams

Williams enlists vibrant colors and sensuous textures to render imaginative, informed—poignant, representations of the black experience in the United States. The book *Self Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom*, authored by Williams and published

by UNC Press in 2005, features one of her patchwork designs on its cover and illustrates the conjoining of her academic and artistic interests. In Williams's collection of quilts, each panel of the exhibit contributes to a compelling narrative interpreting black life; stitched, preserved, and evoked through material culture.

Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives will be exhibited in the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum from September 21–December 6, 2006.

In association with the exhibit, the Stone Center will host two reading and discussion sessions on quilting in the black experience. On September 28th, the discussion will focus on Elsa Barkley Brown's essay, "African American Women's Quilting: A Framework for Conceptualizing and Teaching African American Women's History" and on November 16th, Alice Walker's short story, *Everyday Use*.

The center also will sponsor a quilting workshop facilitated by Williams (date TBA).

The exhibit and programs are free and open to the public. All programs for *Inbetween Spaces* will be held in the gallery. ■

First African-American and Woman Mayor of Greenville, Mississippi to Deliver 2006 Stone Memorial Lecture

Heather McTeer Hudson, first African-American and woman to serve as mayor of Greenville, Mississippi, will deliver the 2006 Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture, November 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stone Center Hitchcock Room.

Heather McTeer Hudson knew that tough challenges lay ahead when she was elected mayor of Greenville, Mississippi in 2004. While many young and educated blacks might have left Greenville behind for the big city life, Hudson decided differently. After graduating from Tulane University Law School in 2001, she dismissed the possibility of becoming a high-powered attorney and decided to return to her hometown to make a difference. Displeased with the lack of progress that the city had made, Hudson decided that she wanted to help by getting involved in government.

Greenville, a city with an estimated population of almost 40,000 citizens, is not unlike many small towns in the South. Greenville is no stranger to racial divide,

controversy, and tough times. Located in the Delta region of Mississippi, blacks comprise nearly 70 percent of the city's population and according to Hudson, remain "...on the bottom, in terms of education, health and economic development." The Delta region has historically been one of the poorest regions in the country.

While Hudson acknowledges that Greenville has great resources and a great educated and trained workforce, her main goal as mayor is economic development. She hopes to lower the crime rate, build affordable housing, and attract large companies and jobs. Mayor Hudson is no stranger to helping build economic opportunity; while in college she spent a summer in Kenya, East Africa with the Crossroads Africa program helping to train women in business.

Mayor Hudson also recognizes that racial reconciliation is another important challenge for Greenville. A 2004 poll by the *Delta Business Journal Online* indicated 86% of respondents believed that racial issues are still an obstacle in Mississippi.

Mayor Hudson is currently an attorney with McTeer & Associates Law firm. Her other

Greenville civic activities include co-founding a non-profit organization called Project Give Back. She is also the Executive Director of the McTeer Foundation, a non-profit organization that serves over 25 Mississippi School districts and over 2,000 students. In addition, the National Conference of Black Mayors recently elected her to serve as 3rd Vice President.

The Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture is the signature program of the Center. It features accomplished and distinguished African-American female lecturers whose work embodies the spirit and vision of Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone.

This lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Stone Center at (919) 962-9001 or visit www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter. ■



Hudson

Students Use Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships to Travel and Study Abroad

Stone Center fellowships contribute to UNC-Chapel Hill's campus internationalization efforts

This fall 2006, Tiffany Okafor and Jonathan Pourzal will return to the UNC-Chapel Hill campus intellectually inspired and culturally enriched after using Stone Center Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships (UISF) for travel abroad during summer 2006. The annual fellowship program, funded through a generous gift of an anonymous alumnus, is administered by the Stone Center and gives students from underrepresented groups up to \$2,500 each to pursue study or academic research abroad.

Okafor, a junior majoring in dramatic art, used her fellowship to travel to England where she worked with two local theatre companies; the Apples & Snakes Performance Poetry Company and the Theatre Royal - Stratford East. Following her summer abroad, Okafor's immediate plans are to use the experience to research, write, and develop a one-hour theatrical production while long term, she hopes to establish a theatre company.

Pourzal, a junior journalism and mass communications major, used his fellowship to return to Uganda to conduct further research examining the cost and benefits of different models of community economic projects including microfinance and income generation activities. He plans to use the information collected to develop an internship program through the Student Movement to End Child Suffering, a student group that he founded at the University in 2005.

A major purpose of the Stone Center's Undergraduate International Fellowship program is to assist the University's efforts to internationalize the campus. In addition to these fellowships, the Stone Center also presents a Harvey E. Beech award to one student each year. The \$1,000 Beech award is named in recognition of the late Harvey E. Beech, one of the first African-Americans to graduate from the University. These fellowships support international travel and study for those students

who might not otherwise have the financial resources to participate in an international studies program.

Since 2004, several students have benefited from The Stone Center Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships. While on a mission to enhance their academic, personal and professional development, the past fellowship recipients traveled to such places as Africa, Morocco and England.

These fellowship recipients traveled to the following destinations:

- Christina Lee – Bamako, Mali
- Clayton Perry – Accra, Ghana
- Amy Oraefo – Ghana and Nigeria
- Mejs Hasan – Stockholm, Sweden
- Maurice Hines – Morocco

Strengthening the University's international focus and outreach is a top priority for UNC at Chapel Hill. Chancellor Moeser has designated 2007 as a year of international focus for Carolina, in conjunction with the opening of the 80,000 square-foot Global Education Center. The Global Education Center is unique among American colleges and universities in its effort to bring together in one integrated facility the three major components of international education: student and faculty services, academic instruction and programs, and research. The new building's design reflects UNC-Chapel Hill's essential values as a public university, nurtures intellectual exploration and innovation, and speaks proudly of its global vision. It will serve as a vibrant hub of

international activity for students, faculty, staff, alumni, North Carolina citizens, and national and international guests. The building will be named in recognition of a \$5 million gift from the FedEx Corporation.

The FedEx Global Education Center is currently under construction on the western end of campus near Pittsboro and McCauley streets and is to open in early 2007. Beginning with the dedication in the spring, the University plans to launch a yearlong series of activities and programs highlighting UNC at Chapel Hill's international assets and aspirations.

The new Global Education Center will house in one place all international and area studies programs for the College of Arts and Sciences, include spaces for interaction among students, faculty and visiting scholars, provide classroom space and a videoconferencing center, and serve as a research center for visiting foreign and U.S. scholars, as well as graduate and professional students. The programs slated to move into the building include the Office of Study Abroad, Office of International Student and Scholar Services, Curriculum in International and Area Studies, Carolina Asia Center, University Center for International Studies, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, African Studies Center, Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, Center for European Studies, Institute of Latin American Studies, and the Global Research Institute. ■

**A MAJOR
PURPOSE OF THE
STONE CENTER'S
UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL
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PROGRAM IS
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UNIVERSITY'S
EFFORTS TO
INTERNATIONALIZE
THE CAMPUS**

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Finding the Genome: Community Genetics Forum 2006

On September 15 and 16, the community will converge in Chapel Hill and Durham for The Community Genetics Forum, a series of workshops and events intended to engage the community in a dialogue on issues surrounding advancements in genetic research. The Forums are organized by The Department of Social Medicine.

The Forum is co-sponsored by several local and national organizations including UNC at Chapel Hill, The Parr Center for Ethics, the Stone Center, the National Human Genome Research Institute, Duke University, The North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics, the Durham County Library, the National Institute for Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences.

The Community Genetics Forum includes open ended community conversations, a film and discussion series, and targeted educational outreach. Each event will explore community thoughts on social, ethical and legal implications of The Human Genome Project, and inform the public on genetic science and

the future of genetic technologies for our health and well-being.

The Human Genome Project (HGP), an international research effort to map the human gene sequence, was completed in April 2003 and has allowed scientists to view the human genome from an entirely new perspective. The Community Genetics Forum will enhance public knowledge about the HGP, the future of genetic technology, and will also entail learning from the public about interests and fears they

have in hopes to separate fact from fiction and understand their concerns.

In support of this project, The Stone Center will host a lecture/discussion with Fatimah Jackson, leading anthropologist, biologist and researcher on genomics and DNA testing in the African-American community. Jackson will be the guest speaker for the Stone Center's African Diaspora Lecture Series on October 3, 2006. She has written extensively on genomics including *African American Responses to the Human Genome Project*. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Parr Center for Ethics.

The Stone Center will also screen the documentary film *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, on October 24, 2006. The film focuses on the life of Darryl Hunt, a black North Carolina man who was wrongly convicted and sent to prison for rape and murder. However, DNA evidence exonerated Hunt several years later. The film screening is co-sponsored by the UNC School of Law.

For more information about the Community Genetics Forum, contact Barbra Rothschild at (919) 966-3024 or visit <http://genomics.unc.edu/cgf>. ■

THE COMMUNITY GENETICS FORUM WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE HGP, THE FUTURE OF GENETIC TECHNOLOGY, AND WILL ALSO ENTAIL LEARNING FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT INTERESTS AND FEARS THEY HAVE IN HOPES TO SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION AND UNDERSTAND THEIR CONCERNS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FINDING THE GENOME: GROUP INTERESTS IN GENETIC RESEARCH AND TESTING

Friday, September 15, 2006

UNC CHAPEL HILL MICROBIOLOGY RESEARCH BUILDING

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

FINDING THE GENOME: COMMUNITY GENETICS FORUM 2006 RECEPTION

Friday, September 15, 2006

SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

STONE CENTER TERRACE

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Faculty and students are welcome to attend.

THE HUMAN GENOME AND BEING HUMAN: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON OUR DNA, HEALTH, VALUES, AND HERITAGE

Saturday, September 16, 2006

THE NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
DURHAM, NC

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

AFRICAN DIASPORA LECTURE SPEAKER DR. FATIMAH JACKSON

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

7:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM *THE TRIALS OF DARRYL HUNT*

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

7:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

Communiversity Youth Program Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary

Since 1992, the program has been synonymous with growth, change, and opportunity for many youth in surrounding African-American communities

Perhaps no one envisioned the Communiversity Youth Program would blossom into the extremely successful program that it is today. Nonetheless, the Stone Center's cornerstone program will celebrate 15 years of educating young people in the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities. The program was created to honor Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone, for whom the Center is named.

The Communiversity program is comprised of several after-school skills development and cultural enrichment components, and is managed by a full-time director and run with the support of University student volunteers who teach and mentor participants. The program components educate, empower and expose participating community youth to various aspects of African and African-American culture and history along with other cultural traditions through alternative teaching methods.

The program is designed to empower children with tools that help them to build lifelong skills essential for academic success and for future roles in community leadership. To help celebrate the 15-year milestone and the program's significance in the community, over the course of the 2006-07 academic year the Stone Center plans to invite Communiversity graduates to speak about their experience in the program.

Throughout its 15-year history the program has had several directors; each helping to strengthen Communiversity's connections to the Chapel Hill/Carrboro City school systems and each working to ensure the highest level of commitment from student volunteers. In July 2005, Lotticia Mack became the coordinator and with her arrival, the program began its year with a renewed sense of purpose. Mack, a former English teacher with Fairfax

Giordon Rose poses for the camera



Titiana Williams (participant) learns how to Jazz Dance with Iman Kehir

County Schools in Virginia who brought new vitality and strength to the program says, "an overwhelming dedication to continuing the legacy of Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone has been consistent throughout the school years. In fulfilling her vision, Communiversity continues to train, mentor, and tutor future leaders."

Mack's strong background in public education allowed her to hit the ground running. She implemented Communiversity's first pre-test for students, designed to assess the student's reading levels before the session began. Mack also made changes to the program's Homework Assistance component by insisting that students are always working even if they don't have homework.

Of course the program wouldn't be what it is today without the tireless efforts of its site coordinators and counselors. The program has become so popular that many student volunteers return year after year. In fact, Mack says that she has no problem recruiting volunteers who want to work for the program. She credits the familial like environment and strong commitment of everyone involved with the program's success. "The impact that Communiversity has had on our participants' cultural enhancement and academic development is truly exceptional. We have worked together as a family committed to the greater good for the children in our program, and for that I am grateful," says Mack. This is surely a sentiment that Dr. Stone herself would likely share.

For more information about Communiversity, contact Lotticia Mack, Communiversity Director at (919) 962-9001. ■



Syretta Lyons assists Dominick Wick with his homework

Important 2006 Communiversity Dates:

- September 6th
Parent Orientation
- September 9th
Volunteer Orientation
- September 11th
First day of Communiversity

Volunteer Applications are available on line at www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER for BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter



*Spanish translation available for programs by request.



Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

A special section of the 2006 Diaspora Festival addresses the theme: *Diaspora to Diaspora: African-American/Southeast Asian Encounters.*

The festival opens on Thursday, September 14 with Sophia Kaushal's feature-length film, *Dreams & Passions*, where Indian born Sara and an African-American exchange student meet and set off a dramatic chain of events.

DIRECTOR SOPHIA KAUSHAL AND CO-WRITER/CO-ACTOR JON POINDEXTER WILL PARTICIPATE IN A Q&A DISCUSSION AFTER THE SCREENING.

★★ *Special Program* – Join Sophia Kaushal and Jon Poindexter at the Apple Store, Southpoint Mall in Durham on Wednesday, September 13 for a demonstration/discussion on the making of *Dreams and Passions*, their feature length film was made on a Macintosh computer.

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film – An Evening of Short Films

Join us and writer/director Leena Pendharkar, as she screens and discusses her short film, *This Moment*, the story of Uma, a 20-something Indian American woman and her African-American boyfriend John Ray, who surprises Uma with a marriage proposal. Uma finds herself at a crossroads between following her heart or her father's wishes for her to marry an Indian man.

We will also screen *Library Majnu*, A modern day Romeo and Juliet story with a Bollywood twist, and *We're Indian and African: Voices of the Sidis*, Beheroze Shroff's examination of the African roots of India's Sidis.

wednesday,
sept. 13

thursday,
sept. 14

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
HITCHCOCK
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
free

monday,
sept. 18

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
HITCHCOCK
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
free

Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives

The Stone Center proudly presents *Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives*, a colorful collection of beautifully textured quilts by Dr. Heather Williams, assistant professor of history at UNC at Chapel Hill. Through the traditional art of quilting, Williams uses vibrant colors, textures, fabrics and poignant images to chronicle the lives of African-Americans.

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7 P.M.

GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY, 10 A.M. – 7 P.M.

sept. 21
– dec. 6

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
ROBERT AND SALLIE
BROWN GALLERY AND
MUSEUM

Discussion of African-American Women Quilting: A Framework for Conceptualizing and Teaching African-American Women's History, an essay by Elsa Barkley Brown.

Dr. Heather Williams will lead a discussion of Elsa Barkley Brown's essay that uses quilting as a metaphor for exploring African-American women's history and experiences.

thursday,
sept. 28

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
ROBERT AND SALLIE
BROWN GALLERY AND
MUSEUM

2006-07 Visiting Artist Sekou Sundiata

In association with the Carolina Performing Arts Series, The Stone Center welcomes visiting Artist-in-Residence and acclaimed poet Sekou Sundiata. The multi-faceted performance poet will share his talents and wisdom with the UNC at Chapel Hill community during his residency.

oct. 3 - 5

THE STONE CENTER

African Diaspora Lecture Series

The Stone Center welcomes Dr. Fatimah Jackson, professor of applied biological anthropology at the University of Maryland, and a leading researcher on bioethics, genomics and DNA testing in the African-American community. Dr. Jackson will address the implications of DNA and genomics research for African-Americans, particularly the use of DNA to trace African ancestry.

CO-SPONSORED BY THE PARR CENTER FOR ETHICS.

tuesday,
oct. 3

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
HITCHCOCK
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM



UNC

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE
CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE
AND HISTORY

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

150 SOUTH ROAD, CAMPUS BOX 5250
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-5250

2006 fall

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*

This documentary film explores the tribulations of Darryl Hunt, the Winston-Salem, NC man who was tried and convicted of the 1984 rape and murder of Deborah Sykes. The State of North Carolina tried Hunt twice – first in 1985 and again in 1989, both trials resulted in a guilty verdict. Throughout the ordeal, Hunt proclaimed his innocence and even declined a plea bargain. Dogged pursuit of his case by a dedicated group of lawyers and supporters kept Hunt's case alive. Finally, in 2004, DNA evidence freed Hunt.

AFTER THE SCREENING OF THE FILM, PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION WITH DARRYL HUNT, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS LEGAL TEAM, AND RICKI STERN AND ANNIE SUNDBERG, THE FILMMAKERS.

Co-sponsored by UNC School of Law.

2006 Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture: Heather McTeer Hudson

The 2006 Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture welcomes Heather McTeer Hudson, the first African-American and the first woman to serve as mayor of Greenville, Mississippi. A Greenville native and Tulane University Law School graduate, Hudson dismissed the possibility of becoming a high-powered attorney and decided to return to her hometown to make a difference by becoming involved in local government.

**tuesday,
oct. 24**

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
HITCHCOCK
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

**thursday,
nov. 9**

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
HITCHCOCK
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Discussion of Alice Walker's *Everyday Use* with Dr. Heather Williams

Dr. Heather Williams, designer and creator of the pieces featured in the *Inbetween Spaces* quilt exhibit, leads a discussion of Alice Walker's short story, *Everyday Use*.

Quilting Workshop

A great opportunity to learn the art of quilting – facilitated by Dr. Heather Williams, this workshop ties in with the *Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives* quilt exhibit.

**thursday,
november 16**

7 P.M.
THE STONE CENTER
ROBERT AND SALLIE
BROWN GALLERY AND
MUSEUM

date tba

THE STONE CENTER
ROBERT AND SALLIE
BROWN GALLERY AND
MUSEUM

THE
SONJA
HAYNES
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for BLACK
CULTURE
AND
HISTORY

www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

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.



Stone Center Plans Exciting Line-Up for Diaspora Film Festival

The Stone Center is gearing up for another exciting line-up of films that explore various corners of the African Diaspora and beyond. The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Films will feature an array of films exploring topics that raise serious political and social issues. The festival opens on September 14 with a special series entitled *Diaspora to Diaspora: African-American/Southeast Asian Encounters*. The films include *Dreams & Passions*, *This Moment*, *Library Majnu*, and *We're Indian and African: Voices of the Sidis*.

Dreams & Passions, directed and produced by Sophia Kaushal, examines the relationship between Indian born Sara, played by Kaushal, and Danzel, an African-American exchange student played by Jon Poindexter, the film's screenwriter. *Dreams & Passions* was selected as a finalist in the feature films category at the 2006 Hollywood Black Film Festival.

On September 18 the series continues with a series of short films including Leena Pendharker's *This Moment*, which

explores the interracial relationship between Uma, a 20-something Indian woman and her African-American boyfriend John Ray. Uma is forced to choose between following her heart or traditional Indian culture.

This Moment has been screened at numerous film festivals around the country including the Hamptons International Film Festival, the Harlem Film Festival, and the Women of Color Film Festival. Also on the shorts program is



Film still from *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*

Paul Angunawela's *Library Majnu*, described as a "modern day Romeo and Juliet with a Bollywood Twist".

The final film in the shorts program titled *We're Indian and African: Voices of the Sidis*, directed by Beheroze Shroff, examines descendants of Africans living in modern-day India. This documentary explores the lives of the Afro-Indian Sidis of Bava Gor village in Gujarat. The men and women talk about the challenges of their work as caretakers of the shrine of their ancestral saint Bava Gor. The

documentary also gives a glimpse into the spiritual legacy of the Sidis through the Parsi devotees of Bava Gor in Bombay. The film played at the 2005 Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles and at the 2005 Zanzibar International Film Festival in Tanzania.

Director Leena Pendharker will participate in a Q&A following the showing of her film, *This Moment*, and will also lead the discussion of *Library Manju* and *We're Indian and African*.

In October, the festival takes a different turn as

it shifts focus with the showing of *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*. This documentary film explores the tribulations of Darryl Hunt, a black man in Winston-Salem, NC convicted twice of the rape and murder of Deborah Sykes, a white copywriter for a Winston-Salem newspaper in 1984. Hunt was finally exonerated and released in 2004 after DNA testing proved his innocence. A panel discussion following the film screening will include Darryl Hunt, one of the

members of his legal team, and Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg, the filmmakers.

This powerful film has earned several awards including Best Documentary at the Sedona Film Festival (2006), Nashville Film Festival (2006), and Palm Beach International Film Festival (2006) and received great reviews at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. *The Trials of Darryl Hunt* will premiere on HBO in 2007.

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Films 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, call (919) 962-9001. ■



Film stills from *This Moment* (above, top) and *Dreams & Passions* (above)

Stone Center Welcomes Acclaimed Poet Sekou Sundiata as Resident Artist

In association with the Carolina Performing Arts Series, the Stone Center welcomes nationally acclaimed performance poet Sekou Sundiata as artist-in-residence for 2006-2007. During his residency, Sundiata will share his thoughts and wisdom with the UNC at Chapel Hill community by engaging in a variety of campus activities. Sundiata is best known for *The America Project*, which consists of a cluster of public engagement activities and the music theater performance, the 51st (dream) state. *The America Project* is Sundiata's contemplation on America's national identity, its power in the world, and its guiding mythologies. This work is co-commissioned by Carolina Performing Arts.

The Harlem-born Sundiata has written and



performed in highly-acclaimed, award-winning performance theater works and is currently a professor at Eugene Lang College in New York City. Some of his notable accomplishments include being featured in the Bill Moyers' PBS series on poetry and appearances on Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam (HBO). In addition, Sundiata has recorded two albums: the Grammy-nominated *The Blue Oneness of Dreams* (1997) and its successor, *longstoryshort* (2000).

In the spring Sundiata returns to campus for a performance of the 51st (dream) state at Memorial Hall scheduled for January 26, 2007. He will also lead a Citizenship Dinner for the Stone Center where audience members will be invited to participate in a discussion about citizenship and civic consciousness. ■

For 2006-07, the Stone Center's annual Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film returns with an exciting line-up of work from independent directors from around the world and features a special section entitled *Diaspora to Diaspora: African-American/Southeast Asian Encounters*. This part of the festival will examine some of the issues surrounding African-American/Southeast Asian relations that first captured popular thought with the 1993 release of Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala*, starring Denzel Washington and Sarita Choudhury. Another film, *Bhaji on the Beach*, set in Great Britain, followed that same year and included a subplot featuring a love affair between a black man and a Southeast Asian woman. Even in an age when youth cultures have crossed lines of race and ethnicity much more frequently than in the past, any type of casual pairing of blacks and Southeast Asians are rare in U.S. popular culture and particularly in film. The films included in this series will explore some of the underlying reasons for this state of affairs.

DIASPORA TO DIASPORA: AFRICAN-AMERICAN/SOUTHEAST ASIAN ENCOUNTERS

Thursday, September 14 @ 7 p.m.
• *Dreams & Passions*, Sophia Kaushal

Monday, September 18 @ 7 p.m.
• *This Moment*, Leena Pendharker
• *Library Majnu*, Paul Angunawela
• *We're Indian and African: Voices of the Sidis*, Beheroze Shroff

A highlight of the festival will be the screening of *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*.

Tuesday, October 24 @ 7 p.m.
• *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern

Donor Generosity Contributes to Success of Stone Center

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 the first-time donors to the Stone Center for the 2006 fiscal year through June 27, 2006:

Carol Brown Alan	Cherry Ophelia Crawford	Kerry Lee Haynie	Gloria Mittman McNeill	Francis Armando Perez Suarez
Iris Nixon Anasine	Marjorie Lancaster Crowell	Joseph Cooley High	Barbara Butler McPherson	Jr.
Doretta Davis Anderson	Anthony Wayne Cummings	Vanessa Hodges	Charles Everette Mills	Linda Daniek Sutton
Angeline Monique Antonio	William Alexander Darity Jr.	Ronald Stuart Holland Jr.	Wanda Tucker Moore	Terita Sutton-Williams
Adrienne Pruden Ashby	Bernice Howard Davenport	Frances McFarland Horne	Mary Nunn Morrow	Maxine McMahon Swalin
Deborah Ann Austin	Kenya Tanganyika Davis	Emma Worthy Howard	Michael Moseley	Ira Stanley Sykes
Caroline Susan Austin	Francine Dalton Davis	Sonia Lenise Huntley	Denise Michelle Murrell	Angela Lisa Talton
Elbert Lee and Dr. Katrina Avery	Russell Morgan Davis	Lynn Moody Igoe	Lewis Horace Myers	Dorothy Elliott Thomas
David Kelsey Baker Sr.	Chasiti Adrella Dawson	Jokena Charissee Smith Islam	DeVetta Holman Nash	Michael Anthony Thompson
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Gloria Berry-Holly	Russell Lee Dula	Opal Ellis Jones	Derwick Lydell Paige	Donna Helen Triptow
Crystal Darvin Biles	Roberta Ann Dunbar	Gregory Jones	Carmel Mary Paleski	Eli Taylor Ullum
Elroy Donald Black Jr.	Joretta Durant	Royce Etienne Joyner	Monica Glynn Parham	Jonathan Blaine Vaughters
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Patricia Brewton	Sharon Lynette Elliott	Cyrus Baldwin King	Darryl Antonio Piggott	Charles and Dr. Shirley Weiss
ToNola Doris Brown-Bland	Sidney Horace Evans Jr.	Yolander Montez Lane	Dwight Alonzo Porter	Christy McCall Welborne
Angela Rebecca Bryant	E. J. Fleishman	Maryalice Quinn Larson	LeShawndra Nyrae Price	James Alphonso Wellons
Sylvia Karen Bullock	Roy DeVonne Flood Jr.	Lisa Maria Lavelle	Nedra Harris Purvis	Von Best Whitaker
Rosemarie Burton	Elson Sylvester Floyd	Sheritha Parnice Lee	Rupa Cook Redding-Lallinger	Norman Earl Whitten Jr.
Franklin Eugene Caldwell	Vivian Leeper Ford	Alba Myers Lewis	Mary Louise Brown Reed	Deborah Cherrie Wilder
Craig Warren Carlson	Maurice Keith Foushee	Timothy Lockett	Pamela Ann Reid	J Rayvon Williams
William Carr	Carl Raynard Fox	Kadarra Nakia Lowe	Coretta J. Roseboro	Richard Tyrone Williams
John Kenyon Chapman	Teresa Michelle Frazier	Timothy Shawn Lucas	Denise Olivia Ross	Lawana Weeks Williams
James Peter Charles	George W. Gaffney	Archie Mack Jr.	Kathleen A. Rounds	Carolyn Mayo Williams
Rodney Eugene Check	James Arthur Garriss	Nadine A. Madden-Russell	Denise White Sampson	Billy Myles Williams
Nadine Channelle Christopher	Astrid Lauren Gatling	John Rolf Madsen	Cynthia Cornelia Saunders	Joel Kobina Winful
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Lynn Evette Clarke	Erica D. Glover	Elmira Mangum	Mary Winne Sherwood	Laura Anderson Wright
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Monica Renee Cloud	Sonya Jones Goodlett	Christopher Sargent Martens	Marnite Shuford	Edith Juanita Wright
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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, 2005-2006.

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STONE CENTER ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2005–6 school year marked an important milestone for the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History. We completed our second full year of operation in the new Stone Center building and set new performance and service records along the way. We also successfully completed the fourth year of our Strategic Plan and, along the way updated several aspects of our administrative work to better accomplish the objectives and goals we set for ourselves. During the coming year, and as we finish the fifth and final year of the Strategic Plan, we will once again focus our attention on improving ourselves in three areas that define our work: scholarship and scholarly initiatives; arts and cultural programming; and, social justice outreach.

This last area, social justice outreach, signals a change from previous years when we described our service to communities outside of the campus as community service outreach. We decided that our work in this area should reflect some important social and political realities about the problems and issues we addressed in our community work. First, we acknowledge that each of these issues or problems had underlying social causes that could not be ignored, and that were often related to inequities in the social order. We still felt that we had an obligation to continue to offer service to the community and work to alleviate problems. But we also determined that we needed to offer ways for students and other campus community members to develop an analysis and critique of the underlying causes of those problems.

For us, this approach effectively transformed community service outreach to social justice outreach the moment we committed ourselves to service only after we made a similar pledge to work to eliminate the underlying causes of specific problems. During 2005–6 we formalized this new conceptualization of our outreach work by changing some aspects of our Community Youth Programs, the longest running program at the Stone Center (entering its 15th consecutive year of operation); and by working to help develop two additional local initiatives.

The first is Our Children's Place (OCP), an initiative of a coalition of Triangle area



activists and public officials who are concerned about the fate of children of incarcerated mothers. Our Children's Place is designed to allow children to live with their mothers in a residential nonprofit facility, while the women are serving their sentences for nonviolent offenses. This innovative program is designed to break the intergenerational cycle of crime, poverty, substance abuse and family violence and to enhance each child's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. OCP represents an alternative approach to separating the child from the mother for reasons of maternal incarceration.

The second initiative is the Cultural Committee of African-American/Latino/a Alliance. The African-American Latino/a Alliance is a developing coalition of Black and Latino workers organizations and activists working to build unity between the two communities. Their goal is to avoid conflicts at the workplace and in the community and to develop a culture of cooperation and struggle. The alliance focuses on organizing, historical studies and political education. But the members are also engaged in intentional efforts at fostering an appreciation of the similarities found in the respective cultures, including common roots, and their applications to the struggle for social justice. Music, painting, dance, poetry and other forms of popular culture are being explored to complement the Alliances organizing and mobilization strategy.

OTHER COLLABORATIONS OF NOTE

Besides our support for the African-American History Month Lecture and the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, the Stone Center co-sponsors, jointly sponsors or supports the work of many other departments/offices within the university. At least 30 percent of Stone Center programming and project work is conducted as part of a collaborative effort.

In the fall the Stone Center, with support from the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) combined its support for internationalization of the campus, with its focus on social justice outreach, in a series of programs on human rights in the African diaspora in the Americas. The first program featured a month long Diaspora Human Rights residency by Afro-Peruvian human rights activists Monica Carillo and Milagritos de la Rosa. In a series of presentations on campus, in community settings, and

on other campuses, they spoke with various audiences about the human rights situation of Afro-Peruvians as well as the general situation of human rights descendants in the Americas.

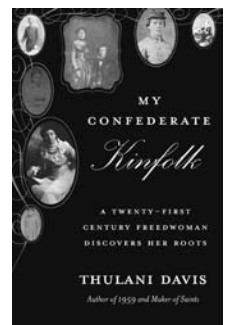
This latter theme was taken up in the second program in the series that featured Zulia Mena, and Afro-Colombian leader and activist who was also the first Black woman to be elected to Congress in Colombia. Accompanying her was human rights worker Gimena Sanchez-Garzoli of Peace Brigades International. Both emphasized the perilous position of Afro-Colombians in the ongoing violence that has gripped Colombian society for the last twenty years. They also presented information on the plight of internally displaced communities that represent one of the largest such populations in the world. Of great interest to attendees at a Brown Bag Lunch held as part of the visit of Mena and Sanchez-Garzoli, was their report on the development of Peace Communities as for innocent Colombians to avoid the sectarian violence that threatens their lives on a daily basis.

Our collaboration with UCIS to sponsor this series of Human Rights residencies and brown bag lunches reinforces our overall objective of providing challenging forums, outside of the classroom, where students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community can discuss key contemporary issues and problems.

A similar collaboration with the Southern Historical Collection, sponsors of a visit by author Thulani Davis and historian Taylor Branch, highlighted two approaches to African-American history. Davis, an acclaimed novelist and playwright, presented her latest book, *My Confederate Kinfolk*, and took a journey through her family's past in this compelling intersection of genealogy, memoir, and reconstruction history. This event was also co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library at UNC-Chapel Hill. While highlighting another aspect of African-American history, Branch spoke about *At Canaan's Edge*, the last in a trilogy of works on the Civil Rights Movement and its most prominent figure, Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch spoke to a packed audience in the Stone Center Theatre and Auditorium, where the staff of the Southern Historical Collection and the Center for the Study of the American South served as hosts.

The Stone Center regularly joins the Southern Historical Collection in various projects and supports their work to preserve African-American culture and history as part of their overall mission to document southern history.

Throughout the year the Stone Center has worked on numerous projects with one of its closest campus partners, the Institute for Latin American Studies (ILAS), which shares our interest in Afro-Latin issues, among other concerns. Our collaboration with ILAS, along with our close relationship with the curriculum in Latina/o Affairs, assures that the campus



Peyton Harris assisting Shekenta Torain with the day's lesson.



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

will have continued access to programming and projects that are concerned with the Black presence in Latin America and the Black presence in Latin communities in the U.S. During 2005–6 The Stone Center, ILAS and the Curriculum in Latina/o Studies jointly sponsored twelve programs.

One of our most important and well-attended programs was the visit by the scholars from the Future of Minority Studies Research Project. The Stone Center and ILAS joined forces with American Studies, Women's Studies, Modernity/Coloniality Study Group, the English Department, the School of Education, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the University Program in Cultural Studies to bring professors Satya P. Mohanty of Cornell University, Linda Martin Alcoff of Syracuse University, Michael Hames-Garcia of the University of Oregon, and Paula M. L. Moya of Stanford University to discuss their new book, *Identity Politics Reconsidered*. Based on the ongoing work of the agenda-setting Future of Minority Studies national research project, *Identity Politics Reconsidered* reconceptualizes the scholarly and political significance of social identity.



Identity Politics Reconsidered

THE SCHOLARSHIP OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The Stone Center is always challenged in its programming in the arts and culture. From its inception the Center has been concerned with the connections between the performance and practice of Black culture(s) and the ways that the academy understands these expressions. During 2005–6, the Stone Center sponsored a symposium series entitled, *Black Popular Cultures/Black Popular Struggles*, that examined the intersection of culture and struggle in people-centered expressions of art and Black aesthetics. Starting from the notion that culture has always been a means for preserving specific ways of life for Black peoples, we followed that thread of logic to try to uncover the politics embedded in those same cultural projects.

The opening program in the series featured Bakari Kitwana, cultural critic and author of the *Hip-Hop Generation*, among other texts, and Raquel Rivera, journalist, sociologist and author of *New York 'Ricans From the Hip-Hop Zone*. Another program in the series offered a critical view of sport and the Black athlete explored the ways black athletes operated within the sociopolitical contexts of their times. Panelists included Hanif Omar, host of WNCU-FM's weekly sports show *Fast Break*, former UNC basketball All-American Pam Leake, former UNC and NFL football standout Jason Brown, and UNC football standout Tommy Davis (signed by the New Orleans Saints in the 2006 draft).

These, and other programs offered as part of



Bakari Kitwana and Raquel Rivera

the symposium series attracted audiences from across the campus and from throughout the entire triangle region. The Center's popular and annual *Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film* attracted critical filmgoers, scholars and others to view new offerings from around the world. The fest opened with two offbeat but interesting offerings, *Girlbeat: The Power of the Drum*, and *Oaxaca Hoops*, a short film made in Oaxaca, Mexico, where basketball is the number one sport and pastime. This year's festival was augmented by a special series devoted to an eclectic set of films deemed too avant-garde for general audiences. This program of independent shorts and features was called the *Beneath the Underground Film Series*, and also attracted a solid set of hard-core film aficionados interested in cutting edge work.

RESIDENCIES

The Stone Center hosted three resident artists during the year, all who donated significant time to take their art to the community as well as to other units on the UNC at Chapel Hill campus. In the fall Poet and activist Suheir Hammad joined the Stone Center as artist-in-residence. Recipient of the Audre Lourde Writing Award from Hunter College, the Palestinian-American poet is the author of three books of poetry including *Born Palestinian*, *Born Black*, *Drops of this Story*, and her latest release, *Zaatardiva*. During her stay she led the Center's Hekima Book and Discussion group (featuring her work, *Born Palestinian*, *Born Black*), and a held a book signing for *Zaatardiva*, in association with the Bulls Head Bookstore. She also held workshops in the community for students from the New Horizons Writing Workshop sponsored by Spirit House.

In the spring the Stone Center welcomed Willie Perdomo, one of most well-known and regarded Latino writers, and the author of three collections of poetry including *Smoking Lovely*,

Suheir Hammad



which won the 2004 Beyond Margins Award from the PEN American Center. Perdomo's itinerary included a workshop and community reading of his work at New Horizons Writing Workshop; a reading at the Mary Lou Williams Center at Duke; and a two week writing workshop at the Stone Center for the campus community and others.

The spring also brought Lyndon Barrois, a Los Angeles based artist and film

animator, to the Stone Center for a short-term residency. Barrois is one of the few African Americans working in computer-generated film animation at this level in Hollywood today. The award-winning animator is best



Barrois

known for his work as supervisor or director of animation for such films as *Elektra*, *I Robot*, *The Matrix Revolutions*, *The Matrix Reloaded*, *Scooby Doo*, and *Kung Pow: Enter the Fist*. Barrois is also known as the innovator behind

“gumation”—characters fashioned from chewing gum wrappers and captured through stop-motion filming. While in residence Barrois visited classes in the School of Journalism, the Department of African/Afro-American Studies, the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence, and the Community Program of the Stone Center. Barrois also conducted an open workshop at a Brown Bag lunch.

INTERNATIONALIZING STONE CENTER COLLABORATIONS

Beyond our work highlighting human rights of Afro-Descendants in Latin America, we have been more focused this year in connecting to specific groups and institutions, particularly in Colombia and Venezuela. In May of 2005 I, as director of the Stone Center, traveled to Caracas, Venezuela to take part in an Afro-Descendants Conference sponsored by the Afro-Venezuelan Network, a group of non-governmental organizations (ngo) working collectively to ensure the rights of Black communities. Representatives from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean

were in attendance along with others from the United States. Important messages and expressions of support were included in the presentations by government ministers from Venezuela, Brazil and Cuba while ngo representatives of Afro-descendant groups from Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, Haiti, Guyana and other states delivered reports on

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

specific sectors in their countries.

While at the conference, I traveled to Higuerote in the Barlovento region of the country to meet with administrators at the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento, one of the only historically Black institutions in Latin America. On two subsequent visits, one in August 2005, and the most recent in May 2006, I reconnected to these same officials as they

celebrated the initiation of African and Afro-Venezuelan Studies in one of the university systems. In the coming year we hope to hold further meetings and to discuss avenues of cooperation. During the same period I also traveled to several areas of Colombia including Quibdo in Choco region where I visited the Universidad Tecnologica del Choco, and its Center for Afrocolombian and Indigenous

Studies. Recently this institution established a National Documentation Center for Afro-Colombian Cultures in partnership with several Colombian agencies, the U.S. Department of State and the Colombia Program of Georgetown University. Again, the Stone Center has been invited to participate in this project as a partner and, in the coming year, we hope to explore this possibility. ■

Selected Programs 2005-6

Beneath the Underground Film Screening

Girl Beat: The Power of the Drum and Oaxcan Hoops

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2005

Human Rights Brown Bag Lunch

Monica Carrillo and Milagritos de la Rosa

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2005

Co-sponsored by the University Center for International Studies

Bakari Kitwana Book Signing

SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2005

WILSON LIBRARY PLEASANT FAMILY READING ROOM

Black Popular Cultures/Black Popular Struggles Symposium

SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2005

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

Boricua

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2005

Book Discussion with Lawrence Blum

"I'm not a Racist, but..."

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2005

Co-sponsored by the Parr Center for Ethics

African American Art Collectors Exhibit

SEPTEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 15TH 2005

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

I Know What You Did Last Semester

OCTOBER 4TH, 2005

Resident Fellow Suheir Hammad:

OCTOBER 4TH-7TH, 2005

Human Rights Brown Bag Lunch

Norma Jackson, Gimena Sanchez-Garzoli and Zulia Mena

OCTOBER 10TH, 2005

Co-sponsored by UCIS

Sarah Jones Performance

OCTOBER 13TH, 2005

Co-sponsored by ECHO

Black Popular Cultures/Black Popular Struggles Symposium

R&B Soul Legacies

OCTOBER 17TH, 2005

Beneath the Underground Film Screening

Motherland: A Genetic Journey

OCTOBER 18TH, 2005

Stone Memorial Lecture

Malika Sanders

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2005

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

Negroes with Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power

NOVEMBER 14TH, 2005

Beneath the Underground Film Screening

Julia, All in Me; Nelly's Bodega

NOVEMBER 17TH, 2005

Black Popular Cultures/Black Popular Struggles Performance

With Hip-Hop Group Language Arts

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2005

Fleeting Memory Enduring Legacy:

The people of La Costa Chica, Oaxaca, Mexico Opening Reception

JANUARY 13TH, 2006

Co-sponsored by: the African American/Latino Alliance, the Institute for Latin American Studies, the Friends of the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum

He Was A Poem: An Evening of Poetry Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King

JANUARY 17TH, 2006

Co-sponsored by the Theta Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Thulani Davis Reading: My Confederate Kinfolk

JANUARY 23RD, 2006

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library at UNC-Chapel Hill

Willie Perdomo Residency

FEBRUARY 9TH - MARCH 7TH, 2006

Black Popular Cultures/Black Popular Struggles Symposium:

Sport and the Black Athlete

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2006

Co-sponsored by the Theta Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the Lambda Psi Chapter Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Hekima Reading Circle

The Piano Lesson by August Wilson

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2006

Sponsored by the Lambda Psi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Resident Fellow Lyndon Barrois

MARCH 6TH - MARCH 9TH, 2006

Touchstones: Tuesday Night Open Mic Poetry

MARCH 21ST, 2006

Co-sponsored by TRIBES Magazine, Durham's Spirit House arts collective

Author Junot Díaz

APRIL 4TH, 2006

Co-sponsored by the UNC-CH Latina/o Culture(s) Speakers Series, the English Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, the Institute for African American Research, and the Latino/a Studies Gift Fund

Micah Gilmer

Mzantsi! South African Hip-Hop

Presentation of a Student International

Research Project

APRIL 12TH, 2006

Day of the Poet

APRIL 20TH, 2006

Co-sponsored by the High School Literary Project, the School of Education, the Research Triangle Schools Partnership

Identity Politics Reconsidered

APRIL 20TH, 2006

Co-sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies, American Studies, Women's Studies, Modernity/Coloniality Studies, the English Department, the School of Education, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the University Program in Cultural Studies

Day of the Poet Open Mic

APRIL 21ST, 2006

Fast Facts

- The Stone Center held more than 80 programs and events during the 2005-06 academic year.
- Approximately 115 different departments, campus units, and student groups sponsored programs at the Stone Center.
- More than 2,500 people attended Stone Center programs and events during the 2005-06 academic year.

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Bright Future Ahead for Our Children's Place



When a child is taken from its mother shortly after birth the consequences can be damaging. What's worse, what if the new mother gives birth while incarcerated in a North Carolina correctional facility? It is estimated that 13 percent of North Carolina's female offenders are pregnant when admitted into prison. How can concerned individuals combat this growing problem? A statewide non-profit initiative is proposing a solution called Our Children's Place that would keep mothers and their children together and to help break the cycle of poverty and crime.

When it is established, Our Children's Place (OCP), modeled after similar programs in other states, will allow children of non-violent offenders to live with their mothers in a highly structured living environment. As a participant, the mother would receive in-depth counseling, job skills training, parenting classes, and substance abuse treatment if needed. By giving children the opportunity to form healthy relationships with their mothers, the program would be considered an investment in their future. Statistics show that mothers participating in these kinds of programs are less likely to revert back to criminal behavior. OCP board members believe that this program would be much more cost effective than other alternatives and has plans to work with university researchers who will follow the children and mothers throughout the program to monitor its success.

OCP plans to renovate a building in Butner, NC, which will house the mothers and their

children. The new facility will also offer infant care and pre-school. To reach its goals, the organization is seeking \$3.7 million dollars for this renovation project. To date, the organization has received grants from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Governor's Crime Commission, the State of North Carolina and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

Strong supporters of the group include North Carolina State Senator Ellie Kinnaird, House Representative Margaret Dickson, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole and Stone Center Director Joseph Jordan. Jordan is an OCP board member and firmly believes in its mission. A fundraising concert was held at the Stone Center in 2005 to help OCP reach its goals. Other supporters of the program include endorsements by the Covenant with North Carolina's Children and the Office of Congressman David Price.

For more information on Our Children's Place, please contact Sarah Shapard at (919) 698-6624 or via email at rsshapard@cs.com. If you would like to make a donation to the program, please send your tax-deductible donations to:

Our Children's Place
c/o Summit House Shared Services
122 North Elm St. Ste. 910
Greensboro, NC 27401 ■

