

# MILESTONES

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

spring 2009 · volume 7 · issue 1

[www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter](http://www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter)

Photo by Ryan Joseph



far left:  
Maya Freelon Asante  
at the Brandywine  
Workshop, Philadelphia,  
PA, 2008

left:  
Allan R. Freelon, Sr.,  
Tissue Ink Monoprint &  
Photographic Print,  
12" x 20", 2008

## SOLO EXHIBITION INFUSES TISSUE PAPER, PHOTOGRAPHY AND FOUND OBJECTS

BY NATHANIAL SHELNESS, Stone Center Curatorial Fellow

Maya Freelon Asante will install 'FREE' in the Stone Center's Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery this spring. The solo exhibition, opening January 29, 2009 at 7 p.m. with an artist reception, will trace Freelon's artistic trajectory from abstraction to figuration while also exploring notions of time and value. Freelon trained formally at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, however, she sees her work as a departure from Western art history. Since discovering a water-stained package of tissue paper in her grandmother's basement, she has been intrigued by the fragility of tissue paper and the beautiful stains that can be created by exposing tissue paper to water. Contemplating the ostensibly ruined tissue paper, Freelon began to think of notions of value and permanence in art and began to develop further the aesthetic possibilities of tissue paper.

For the exhibition, Freelon plans to combine tissue paper with photography, painting, and various found images on a scale ranging from the miniature to the monumental in her site-specific installation at the Brown Gallery. Once installed, the works

will change with time exposure to air currents and sunlight. The viewer is not asked to relate to these sculptures as fixed objects in time but rather to the tension between their fragility, the grandeur of their scale, and the vibrancy of their color.

Freelon's artistic philosophy is steeped in African and African-American traditions. She likens her creative process to the quilter's ability to transform discarded fabric into a usable and often beautiful quilt. This approach is most evident in the artist's most recent work. Through her own process called "tissue ink monoprint," Freelon transforms the scraps of tissue paper left in her studio into objects of permanence and reflection. The tissue is reworked, photographs or other ephemera are collaged, and each piece becomes representative of a steadfast and permanent history. The familiar faces that pepper these works engage the viewer's memory; their presence in the monoprint collages calls upon a history both personal and communal. This history is enhanced by the organic cohesion that characterizes Freelon's oeuvre; despite the diverse media she works with, her work reveals a careful contemplation and a unique ideological viewpoint.

A Durham native who has attended the North Carolina Governor's School and the Durham School for the Arts, Freelon will return to the Triangle to serve as the Stone Center's spring 2009 artist in residence. She will also lead workshops with UNC students, Communitarity, and others.

'FREE' will be on view in the Brown Gallery through March 27, 2009. The gallery is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. except university holidays and closed on weekends. The Brown Gallery serves as an exhibition space for critical examination of the art and history of the African diaspora. This exhibition follows the fall 2008 exhibition, *Black Dreams and Silver Screens*, which provided a historical examination of black filmmaking through film posters and other ephemera. Recent exhibits include *Body and Soul: Paul Robeson, Race and Representation*; *PepperPot: Multi Media Installation, Meaning, and the Medium in Contemporary African Diasporic Art*; *Inbetween Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives*; and *Radicals in Black and Brown: Palante, People's Power, and Common Cause in the Black Panthers and the Young Lords Organization*. ■



## THE STONE CENTER AWARDS THREE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND STUDY FELLOWSHIPS



Jessica Royals

Three undergraduate students were awarded Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships by the Stone Center for study abroad. The fellowship awards UNC at Chapel Hill students from underrepresented groups up to \$2500 toward academic research or study in an international setting. A selection committee evaluates applicants based on their academic records, extracurricular activities, financial need and objectives of their intended study abroad. Since 2003, the Stone Center has awarded more than 20 study abroad fellowships. Recipients for fall 2008 include:

**Jessica Royals**, a junior journalism major, will spend spring 2009 in Sevilla, Spain studying art, language, literature, history and politics in the Language, Society and Cultural Studies (LSCS) Program.

**Raquel Aguirre**, a sophomore international studies major, will travel to Morocco in spring 2009 to participate in the SIT Morocco Migration Studies Program, where she will also conduct an independent study on migrants in the workplace.

**Andrea Jones**, a sophomore elementary education major, will attend classes in spring 2009 at the Universidad San Francisco De Quito in Ecuador.

The study abroad fellowship, funded through the generous gift of an anonymous alumnus, contributes to the University's efforts to internationalize the campus community. Upon their return, fellowship recipients must share their research and experiences in a public forum arranged by the Stone Center. ■



Andrea Jones



Raquel Aguirre

## THE SPRING 2009 UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FELLOWSHIP

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is currently accepting applications for its spring 2009 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships (UISF). The Stone Center, established in 1988 to support the critical examination of all dimensions of African and African-American diaspora cultures, created the UISF program in support of the university's effort to globalize the campus and internationalize the curriculum. Fellowship recipients are awarded up to \$2500 toward academic research or study in an international setting. Through the fellowships, the UISF program hopes to increase the participation of students of color and other underrepresented students at UNC at Chapel Hill in travel and study abroad programs. Students who plan to study abroad in the summer or fall of 2009 and who are in good standing and enrolled full-time are eligible to apply for the fellowship. Full instruction and applications are available at the Stone Center, Suite 215 or on the Center Web site at <http://sonjahaynesstonectr.unc.edu/programs/forms/uisf>. The deadline for applications is March 30, 2009. For more information on the fellowship, contact Gaynelle Williamson at (919) 843-1894. ■

## THE STONE CENTER TO HOST HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOLARS FOR TWO-DAY RESIDENCY

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Stone Center will host human rights activists Grace Chang and Margo Okazawa-Rey for a two-day residency on March 19 and 20 that will include class visits and a roundtable discussion. Chang and Okazawa-Rey will lead discussions on trafficking, migration, labor, and the proliferation of militarism.

Chang, associate professor in the Department of Feminist Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara, is a writer and activist in struggles for immigrant, labor and welfare rights of migrant women and women of color in the United States. She is the author of *Disposable Domestic: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy* (South End Press, 2000). Her most recent book, *Trafficking by Any Other Name: Transnational Feminist, Immigrant and Sex Worker Rights Responses*, will be published in 2010 by New Press.

Okazawa-Rey is a professor in the School of Human and Organization Development at

the Fielding Graduate University and Professor Emeritus at San Francisco State University. Her work, informed by a lifetime of activism, is published in journals such as *Affilia*, *Social Justice*, *Peace Review* and the *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*. Okazawa-Rey is also the co-editor of *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed (McGraw-Hill, 2007). She is a co-founder of the East Asia-U.S.-Puerto Rico Women's Network Against Militarism (now International Women's Network Against Militarism), and is active in PeaceWomen Across the Globe. Her current work examines the connections between militarism, economic globalization, religious fundamentalisms and impacts on women.

Chang and Okazawa-Rey will be available for conversations across the campus. For more information, please contact the Stone Center at 962-9001 or email Ursula Littlejohn at [ulittlej@email.unc.edu](mailto:ulittlej@email.unc.edu). ■



# Spring 2009

## PROGRAM CALENDAR

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

# THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER for BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

WWW.UNC.EDU/DEPTS/STONECENTER



**Monday January 19, 2009**  
**7 p.m.**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

### He Was a Poem, He Was a Song

The Stone Center's annual MLK holiday program examines King's legacy through music, poetry, and spoken word. Community members, faculty, staff and students will come together to celebrate Dr. King's life and work. The program will feature musical selections by Bradley Simmons of the Duke Djembe Ensemble and local jazz quartet, R-EFFEcT, led by saxophonist Ron Baxter. A reception will follow the free program. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library.

**top left:**  
**Water Damage, Digital Photograph, Boston MA, 2007. Photo by Maya Freelon Asante.**

**top center:**  
**Border Crossing, Tissue Ink Monoprint, 15" x 25", 2008**

**top right:**  
**Free, Tissue Ink Monoprint, 23" x 30", 2008**

**Thursday January 29, 2009**  
**7 p.m.**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum**

### FREE by Maya Freelon Asante Artist Reception

FREE, a solo exhibition by Maya Freelon Asante, opens with an artist reception. Through a process called "Tissue Ink Monoprint," Freelon Asante transforms scraps of tissue paper left in her studio into objects of permanence and reflection. The tissue is reworked, photographs or other ephemera are collaged, and each piece becomes representative of a steadfast and permanent history. The exhibit will be on display through March 27, 2009. Gallery hours will be Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; or by appointment; closed University holidays and weekends.

### CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN BELL TOWER PARKING LOT

A lengthy construction project in the Bell Tower Lot will disrupt parking for most Stone Center programs. If you have any questions, please contact the Stone Center at 962-9001.

**Thursday & Friday March 19–20, 2009**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Spring Residency**

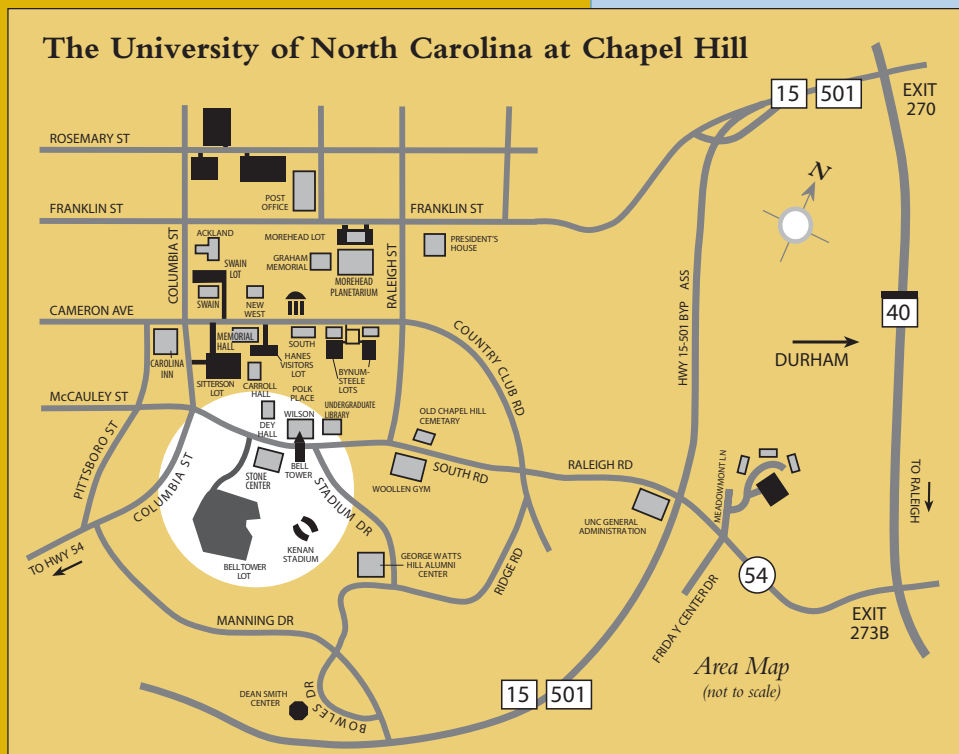
### Grace Chang and Margo Okazawa-Rey

The Stone Center will host human rights activists Grace Chang and Margo Okazawa-Rey for a two-day residency on March 19 and 20. On March 19, Chang and Okazawa-Rey will lead a roundtable discussion on trafficking, migration, labor, and the proliferation of militarism. The residency will also include class visits. For more information, please contact the Stone Center at 962-9001 or email Ursula Littlejohn at [ulittlej@email.unc.edu](mailto:ulittlej@email.unc.edu).

**Tuesday April 7, 2009**  
**7 p.m.**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

### African Diaspora Lecture

Anthony Bogue, a distinguished professor in the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University, will deliver the spring African Diaspora Lecture.



THE  
SONJA  
HAYNES  
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for BLACK  
CULTURE  
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## STONE CENTER CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

During the spring 2009 term, the Stone Center will co-sponsor a number of programs with other units from across the campus. These partnerships are an important part of our overall work and allow us to build relationships that lead to greater support for the academic mission of the University. Please help us to support the projects and programming of our partners.

Some of the spring 2009 partnerships include:

### March 18, 2009

Native American activist, author and political figure LaDonna Harris will serve as Elder in Residence for the spring semester at the American Indian Center. On March 18, the Stone Center will co-host a lecture featuring Harris, one of a series of events scheduled during her residency here at the American Indian Center. For a full schedule of events, visit the American Indian Center Web site (<http://americanindiancenter.unc.edu>).

### March 23–25, 2009

Latino/a Studies welcomes Cuban American literary voice Cristina Garcia on March 23–25. Garcia's works draw directly from the culture and traditions of her Cuban heritage. She will speak in the Stone Center Theatre on the evening of the 24th at 7 p.m. Visit the Latina/o Studies Web site for more information (<http://english.unc.edu/latina-o/speakers.html>).

### April 2–4, 2009

The Southern Oral History Program will present *The Long Civil Rights Movement: Histories, Politics, Memories* conference at the Stone Center. The conference is part one of a three year retrospect looking at Civil Rights across several decades and from diverse ethnic and social spectrums. Visit the conference Web site for more information (<http://lcrm.unc.edu/index.php/conference>).

### April 16–19

We will collaborate with the African Studies Center to host the *Gender, Islam and Health in Africa* conference that will examine issues and experiences of Muslim women in contemporary Africa. This series of events will be held at the FedEx Global Education Center from April 16–19. Visit the African Studies Center Web site for more information (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/africa>).

These four items are just a glimpse at some of the varied efforts that we will continue to advocate and we hope that every Stone Center supporter will join us in ensuring the success of these endeavors. ■

## HISTORY QUILT ON PERMANENT DISPLAY IN STONE CENTER

The Stone Center unveiled its new history quilt following the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture in October. Heather Williams, a UNC at Chapel Hill associate professor of history, created and designed, *In Remembrance, In Reverence, In Respect*, a 12 feet wide and 14 feet long quilt. The quilt, on permanent display in the Stone Center Theatre lobby, recognizes prominent blacks of UNC and of the Stone Center. The quilt may be viewed during normal Stone Center operating hours. ■



## Distinguished Brown University Professor to Deliver African Diaspora Lecture

Anthony Bogues, professor and chair of the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University, will deliver the spring African Diaspora Lecture on April 7, 2009. In 2007, he was named a Harmon Family Professor of African Studies, an endowed professorship. Bogues' major research and writing interests are intellectual and cultural history, radical political thought, critical theory, and Caribbean and African politics and literature. He is associate editor of the journal *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism* and a member of the editorial collective of the journal *boundary 2*. He is also a visiting professor at The Centre of Caribbean Thought, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus and honorary professor at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He is currently working on questions of power and its relationship to violence and death; the relationship of historical trauma to freedom; and the political aesthetics of Caribbean and African literature. He is convener of the international project Exploring African and African Diasporic Knowledges.

Bogues is the author of *Black Heretics and Black Prophets: Radical Political Intellectuals* (Routledge, 2003) and the forthcoming *Empire of Liberty: Power, Imperial Freedom and Desire* (University of New England Press, 2008).

The African Diaspora Lecture is an annual series that presents lectures, roundtables, and debates on a variety of subjects from the African diaspora. Past lecturers have included Abdul Alkalimat, Micere Mugo, and Fatimah Jackson. ■



Photo by John Abromowski

## Stay Connected to The Stone Center

The Stone Center offers several ways to stay connected and up-to-date about the latest Stone Center programs and initiatives. Through numerous online tools, you can view live Web streams of programs and program photos and video clips.

### Facebook

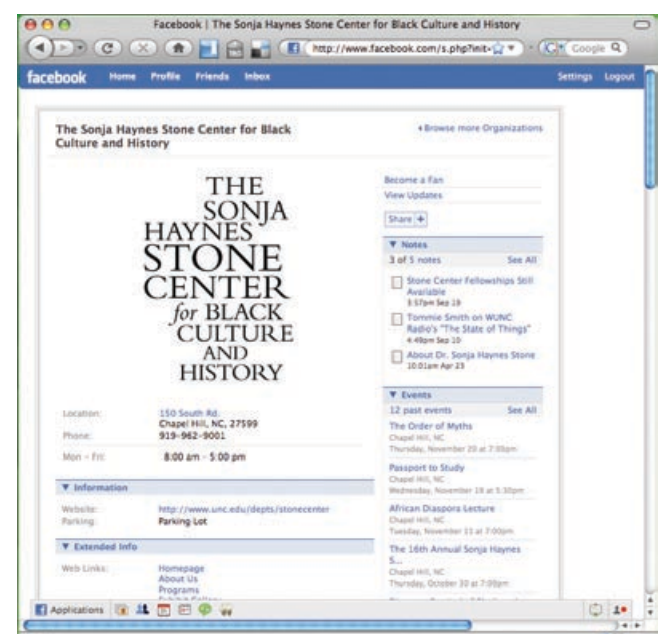
Find us on Facebook! Learn about the latest programs, fellowship opportunities, and view photos and video clips on the Stone Center Facebook page.

### Online Photo Gallery

View a repository of Stone Center program photos in our online photo gallery. Visit <http://gallery.me.com/stonecenter> to view photos from past Stone Center programs and events. You can also subscribe to the Stone Center's photo gallery RSS feed.

### Live Web Streams

The Stone Center offers an opportunity to view live Web streams of lectures and other programs from the Stone Center Web site. Visit <http://sonjahaynes-stonectr.unc.edu/programs/multimedia> to access a video archive of past programs. ■





## THE STONE CENTER PROUDLY ACKNOWLEDGES BERNARD E. BELL AS A SPOTLIGHT DONOR

As Bernard Bell prepares for a fundraiser benefiting the Stone Center, he paces about his Washington D.C. home meticulously as if he's emulating how forthcoming guests will move about his space throughout the evening. Dressed in a fraternity shirt reminiscent of his days at UNC, he juggles the bustle of caterers, incoming phone calls and arrival of Stone Center staff with ease.



*I continue to invest in the Stone Center because it is symbolic of the wonderful time I had at UNC.*

- Bernard E. Bell, Senior VP  
TV One

The son of agricultural science and home economics professors from Greensboro, NC, Bernard's passion for entertaining is only matched by his desire to give back to his alma mater, an experience he describes as "the best time of my life." For him, the Stone Center represents "the struggles of the past, embraces the achievements of the present, and gives us a platform to plan for a more perfect future."

Amid the chaos of preparation, Bernard pauses to ask staff members about the Stone Center's needs. As

discussion of budgetary cuts and decline of private donorship arises, the wheels are evidently spinning. He later takes this information to twenty-five guests, challenging them to increase their commitments to monthly gifts. His call to give was answered by several attendees, who logged onto <http://giving.unc.edu> and pledged monthly gifts to different areas of the Stone Center. In addition to his annual gifts, Bernard led these efforts with his own monthly pledge. For him, this is a gift of gratitude to UNC at Chapel Hill and the Stone Center for being an integral part of his success story. ■



Bernard Bell '82 talks to Joia Nuri during the Stone Center's Washington, DC reception

unc.edu and pledged monthly gifts to different areas of the Stone Center. In addition to his annual gifts, Bernard led these efforts with his own monthly pledge. For him, this is a gift of gratitude to UNC at Chapel Hill and the Stone Center for being an integral part of his success story. ■

## A LOOK BACK: HIGHLIGHTING FALL 2008

This past fall, the Stone Center welcomed Olympian Tommie Smith for a conversation about his experiences at the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City. Smith is known for giving the black power salute on the Olympic victory podium. The image became one of the most vivid and iconic in sports history. Smith also discussed how his life had been impacted by his actions at the Olympic Games. *A Conversation with Tommie Smith* was a part of the Stone Center's reflection on 1968/69. In addition, the Stone Center screened, *Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed*. The documentary directed by Shola Lynch, chronicles Shirley Chisholm's 1972 U.S. presidential bid. The reflection on 1968/69 concluded with the 16th Annual Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture with Judy Richardson. Richardson, a Civil Rights historian, lectured on the relevance of the Civil Rights Movement.

Other highlights include a packed performance by UNC alumnus E. Patrick Johnson. Johnson performed *Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales*, a one-man show based on stories collected for his latest book, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*; the exhibit *Black Dreams and Silver Screens: Black Film Posters, 1921-2004* in the Robert and Sallie Brown

Gallery and Museum; the fall edition of the Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent film included six films that highlighted contemporary and historical assumptions, beliefs, and traditions regarding race, skin color and cultural identity; Abdul Alkalimat, an information and library science scholar on the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discussed *eBlack Studies: Revolution in the Revolution*. ■

**Right: Tommie Smith discusses his experience at the 1968 Summer Olympics**  
**Below, left: E. Patrick Johnson performs Pouring Tea**  
**Below, right: Black Dreams and Silver Screens opening reception**



### Yes, I want to support the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

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I prefer my gift to go toward:

- Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture & History
- General Fund (6013) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- History Art Fund (6206) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Communitarity Program (6021) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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Enclosed is a check for:

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I prefer to make my gift over the next year.

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Office of University Development  
PO Box 309  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-9931

All gifts are tax-deductible.

For more information please contact: Joselyne Brazile · Assistant Director · Stone Center · CB 5250 · Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5250

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## Communiversality Youth Programs

### FALL 2008 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Theta Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated committed to educating Communiversality students about advancements in technology. Sorority members created and implemented lessons that focused on basic to advanced technological innovations. The sorority also donated educational materials including books, flashcards, and games to Communiversality Youth Programs during the Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture on October 30, 2008. This academic year, ten members of the sorority have committed time to Communiversality.
- Communiversality Youth Programs collaborated with the Carrboro Arts Center to bring Kevin Locke, a Native American storyteller and ring dancer to facilitate a workshop with participants.
- The African American Dance Ensemble facilitated a three-day residency with Communiversality on-site students. The students learned about various African cultures and enjoyed South African Gum Boot lessons.
- Mike Wiley performed his one-man play on the life of Jackie Robinson for Communiversality's off-site component Team Hargraves.

### SPRING 2009 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Communiversality will start the spring session on January 20, 2009
- The 14-week program *In Our Voices: The Youth Review of the Arts and Humanities* will begin in the spring. The focus will shift from a print publication to an online journal for participants.
- The Communiversality end of year ceremony will take place on April 23, 2009.

