

# MILESTONES

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

spring 2010 · volume 8 · issue 1

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



top right:  
Wendy Phillips, *La Limpia Series #12*, 2004

above:  
Lucía Mendez, *Servidoras de Misterios con Flores para los Seres III*, Acrylic on Canvas, 72"x14"



## EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE WOMENS' ROLES IN SPIRITUAL HEALING PRACTICES

From February 4 – April 30, 2010, The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum will feature the work of Wendy Phillips, an Atlanta-based photographer, and painter Lucia Mendez from the Dominican Republic, in a show entitled *La Sombra y el Espíritu: Women's Healing Rituals in the Diaspora – The Work of Lucia Mendez and Wendy Phillips*. This exhibition supports Carolina Performing Arts and its Creative Campus Initiative's yearlong programmatic focus on Diasporas. This project also marks the first collaboration between the Stone Center and Radames Rivera of Galeria Exodo in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

*La Sombra y El Espíritu* brings together two innovative artists whose meditations on rites, rituals and women's roles as healers, provide us with a new window on spirituality in the diaspora.

Wendy Phillips has been working with communities in Mexico and other areas in South and Central America for the past 15 years. She is particularly known for her iconic photography from Afro-Mexican communities in La Costa Chica, Oaxaca, and Guerrero. Her most recent work, the *La Limpia*

and *La Sombra* Series, are conceptual projects where she uses the camera to record the organic connections between the natural and spiritual worlds, and the ways that the ordinary aspects of life may often lead us to more complex understandings of our existence.

This same theme is also evident in the work of Lucia Mendez. Mendez' work reflects her interest in both our material investment in ritual and worship, as well as the subtlety implicit in our performance of those rituals. She examines this interplay by exploring the relationships between gesture, the attitude of the body, and women's practices of spiritual conversation. Her work, emphasizing the community among women in spiritual collectives, highlights possession, ablution, communion and absolution.

An opening reception for the exhibition will be held on February 4 at 7 p.m. at the Stone Center. Both artists will attend to speak about their work. Regular gallery hours are Mon–Fri, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and is closed on University holidays. ■

## THE STONE CENTER TO HOST VENEZUELAN STUDENTS FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

During the spring 2010 semester, the Stone Center will host six students from the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento (IUB), as part of a broader collaborative project. The student's visit constitutes the first of several planned activities under a Memorandum of Understanding between IUB and the Stone Center through UNC at Chapel Hill. That agreement paves the way for a number of joint activities including study abroad and student exchanges, faculty staff exchanges, and joint research activities.

The student's will visit the campus for 8 weeks as part of their experiential English language proficiency program. While here they will visit various parts of the campus, attend special programs, visit other local and regional campuses, and make field trips to historically significant sites. The students will be accompanied by two faculty members from IUB and will also participate in several conversations with UNC students. The students will live with families in surrounding communities.

Persons interested in meeting the visiting students should contact the Stone Center at (919) 962-9001. ■



Instituto Universitario de Barlovento students studying in the library

## UNC JUNIOR AWARDED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND STUDY FELLOWSHIP

The Stone Center awarded Melissa Santiago the fall 2009 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship for study abroad. Santiago, a double major in international studies and Spanish, will spend the spring 2010 semester at Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico. She hopes to strengthen her language skills by taking Spanish courses and living with a host family.



Melissa Santiago

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 25 study abroad fellowships.

The study abroad fellowship, funded through the generous gift of an 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. ■

## THE SPRING 2010 UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FELLOWSHIP

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is currently accepting applications for its spring 2010 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship (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 summer or fall 2010 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's Web site at <http://sonjahaynesstonectr.unc.edu/programs/forms/uisf>. The deadline for applications is March 30, 2010. For more information on the fellowship, contact Joscelyne Brazile at (919) 962-9001 or email [brazile@unc.edu](mailto:brazile@unc.edu). ■

## UNC IN VENEZUELA STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM TO BEGIN FALL 2010

The UNC Study Abroad Office and the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History will offer a fall semester-long study abroad program in Higuero, Venezuela, entitled **Venezuelan Aspects of the African Diaspora (VAAD)**. The program is a culmination of conversations between the Stone Center and the IUB over the past four years. The IUB was founded in 1991 and is one of few historically black institutions of higher learning in Latin America.

The Instituto Universitario de Barlovento (IUB) will host the program. IUB is part of the higher education system of Venezuela and is located in the Barlovento region of the country that has a significant African descendant history. The VAAD study abroad program is structured to take advantage of IUB's strategic location in this region that is noted for the persistence of cultural practices that can be attributed to African and diasporic (creole) histories.

The program will feature courses on African diaspora cultures and cultural politics in the Americas, Spanish language study at the advanced beginner and intermediate levels, and a comparative course on Blacks in the wider diaspora.

The application deadline for fall 2010 is February 18, 2010. UNC at Chapel Hill students interested in the program should visit the Study Abroad Web site at <http://studyabroad.unc.edu> for more information and application instructions. ■

Curiepe Festival in Venezuela.  
Photo by A. James.



# 2010. Spring

## PROGRAM CALENDAR

WWW.UNC.EDU/DEPTS/STONECENTER

**Monday January 18, 2010 | 7 pm**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

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

This annual event will explore Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy through music, poetry and spoken word. Community members, faculty, staff, and students will convene to celebrate Dr. King's life and work. The program will feature performances by the Triad Youth Jazz Society and the UNC acappella group Tar Heel Voices. A reception will follow the free program.

**Thursday February 4, 2010 | 7 pm**  
**The Stone Center**  
**The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum**

### Opening Reception:

### La Sombra y el Espíritu: Womens' Healing Rituals in the Diaspora: The Work of Lucia Mendez and Wendy Phillips

**On display thru April 30, 2010**

*La Sombra y el Espíritu* highlights women in spiritual practice through new work by Atlanta-based photographer Wendy Phillips and paintings by Dominican artist Lucia Mendez. Free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Mon-Fri, 10 am – 7 pm; closed University holidays. Call 962-9001 to schedule a group tour or for more information.

**Thursday March 25, 2010 | 7 pm**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

### African Diaspora Lecture Series

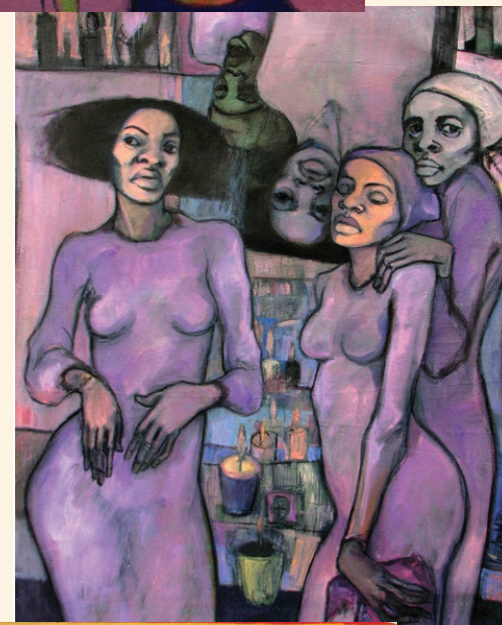
Lisa Green, associate professor of linguistics and founding director of the Center for the Study of African American Language at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will deliver *Dialects and the Marketplace: Language, Education, Identity, and Attitudes*. The lecture is free and open to the public.

**Thursday April 22, 2010 | 6 pm**  
**The Stone Center**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

### Community Youth Programs End of Year Ceremony

This program is Community's annual end of the year ceremony to reflect on successes of the past year and to recognize outstanding students and volunteers. A reception will follow the program. Contact Lotticia Mack at 962-9001 for more information.

Call the Stone Center at 962-9001 or email Ursula Littlejohn at [ulittlej@email.unc.edu](mailto:ulittlej@email.unc.edu) for a complete list of spring 2010 programming and events.



above, top: Lucia Mendez, *Con los Seres en la Cabeza*, Mix Media on Canvas 12" x 9"

above, middle: Lucia Mendez, *La Reunión*, Oil on Canvas 30" x 24"

above, bottom: Lucia Mendez, *Servicios Bajo el Altar*, Acrílico en tela 16" x 20"



Wendy Phillips, *La Limpia Series #25*, 2005



Wendy Phillips, *La Limpia Series #10*, 2006



Wendy Phillips, *La Limpia Series #16*, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

THE SONJA HAYNES  
 STONE CENTER  
 for BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

# A Look Back at FALL 2009

## Collaborative Study Abroad Project

The Stone Center hosted Geronimo Sanchez and Alejandro Correa, administrators from the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento (IUB) of Venezuela, in September to discuss plans for a study abroad project. The Stone Center has been working with IUB over the past four years to design a joint collaborative project that will provide faculty and student exchanges. A semester-long study abroad program at IUB, Venezuelan Aspects of the African Diaspora (VAAD), is scheduled to begin in fall 2010.



Alejandro Correa (left) and Geronimo Sanchez during their September visit to UNC at Chapel Hill



above, top: LP21 perform for a capacity crowd in UNC's Memorial Hall

above: Members of LP21 instruct workshop participants on traditional Afro-Puerto Rican dance

## Los Pleneros de la 21 Workshop and Performance

In October, the Stone Center hosted Afro-Puerto Rican musicians Los Pleneros de la 21 for a two-day residency. The residency coincided with the Creative Campus Initiative, a yearlong University-wide project initiated by the Office of the Executive Director for the Arts. Students, faculty and community members enjoyed a free public workshop with LP21 on October 15. More than 1500 people attended the ensemble's free concert in Memorial Hall on October 16.

## The Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture by Farai Chideya

Journalist, author and cultural critic Farai Chideya discussed race and representations in new media on November 5. A luncheon featuring Chideya and students from UNC at Chapel Hill and Shaw University was held earlier in the day.



Panelists left to right: Donna Omile, Farhana Ahmed, Danielle Johnson, Johnson Adefila and Hadiyah Muhammad

## The Neo African Americans Film and Panel Discussion

The Stone Center screened the documentary, *The Neo African Americans*, as part of its annual Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film. An interactive discussion featuring a panel of students and faculty balanced with audience questions followed the screening.

## Hekima Film Discussion Series

In the fall, the Stone Center screened three short films during lunchtime as part of its new initiative, the Hekima Film Discussion Series. The films in the series focused on various themes including the historical and contemporary movements of African peoples.

## The Art of Hamid Kachmar

From October 8–December 4, the Moroccan-born artist exhibited several of his works in the Center's Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum. Kachmar's artwork is representative of the colors, textures, landscape associated with his homeland. An opening reception was held on October 8 with Kachmar in attendance.



Hamid Kachmar discusses his artwork with attendees at the opening reception

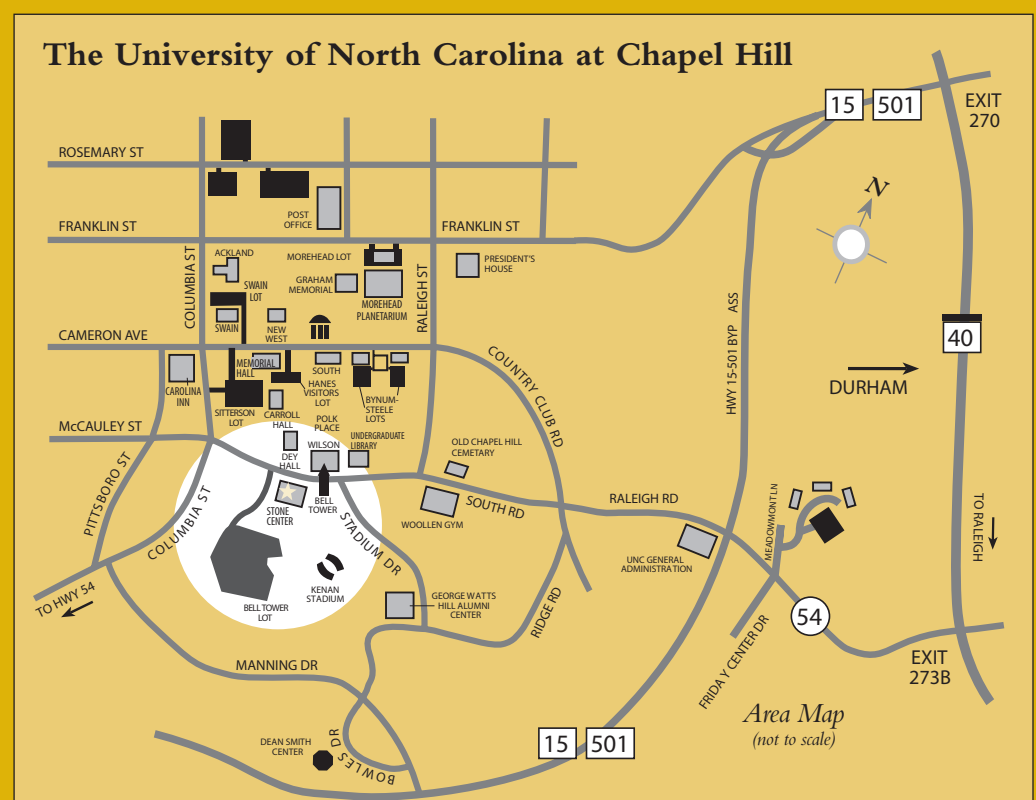
Farai Chideya poses with attendees and Robert Stone-El (left) son of Sonja Haynes Stone



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**STONE CENTER DONOR SPOTLIGHT:  
DR. PAULA NEWSOME, OD**

Paula Newsome’s accomplishments as an optometrist, entrepreneur and philanthropist are awe-inspiring. She is the first African American woman optometrist to open a practice in North Carolina and the first to become a fellow in the American Academy of Optometry. Her lengthy resume at Carolina is equally as impressive. She is a member of the Carolina Women’s Leadership Council, past member of the Board of Visitors, and a life member in the General Alumni Association. When the Stone Center was approved for construction, Newsome was one of the first to give a sizeable donation. After the building’s completion, Newsome joined her sorority sisters to name the Center’s dance studio.

In 2009, Newsome continues to be a leader in philanthropy and service at Carolina and in Charlotte, NC where she recently opened an 8400 square foot facility for her Advantage Vision Care practice. In addition to promoting healthy eyes, she believes in global service initiatives. In 1990, she went on her first mission trip to South Africa to perform free eye screenings. While there, she treated almost 1,000 needy people. Newsome also serves as an elementary school tutor and encourages students to set goals for themselves.

Newsome’s commitment to Carolina is unwavering. She continues to support Stone Center initiatives through annual giving and supports surrounding communities through her civic engagements with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America.

The Stone Center salutes Dr. Paula Renee Newsome for her dedication and service.



Dr. Paula Newsome

**SCHOLAR ON AFRICAN AMERICAN LANGUAGE  
TO DELIVER AFRICAN DIASPORA LECTURE**

**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 ANTHONY BOGUES, ABDUL ALKALIMAT, MICERE MUGO, AND FATIMAH JACKSON.**



Lisa Green

Lisa Green, associate professor of linguistics and founding director of the Center for the Study of African American Language at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will deliver the spring African Diaspora Lecture on Thursday March 25, 2010. Her talk, *Dialects and the Marketplace: Language, Education, Identity and Attitudes*, will take place at 7 p.m. in the Stone Center’s Hitchcock Multipurpose Room. Green’s research and scholarly interests include syntax of African American English, syntactic variation, and child language acquisition and the development of African American English. She is the author of *African American English: A Linguistic Introduction*. (Cambridge University Press, 2002) She has also written journal articles and book chapters on syntax and semantics of African American English. Her forthcoming book, *Language and the African American Child* (Cambridge University Press), will highlight her research on the development of language patterns in the speech of 3-5 year olds in African American speech communities. Green was named the fall 2009 Old Dominion Fellow in Linguistics at Princeton University.

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

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Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture & History

General Fund (6013) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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All gifts are tax-deductible.

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

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Community program participants gather for a group photo

## COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS ENTERS 18TH YEAR

The spring 2010 semester will commemorate Community Youth Programs' 18<sup>th</sup> year of providing services for K-12 students in the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and surrounding communities. Continuing in the tradition of past years, Community will provide cultural literacy enrichment, academic assistance, and service learning opportunities for participants at several sites including the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History and area high schools in partnership with the Youth Leadership Institute of the Blue Ribbon Mentors-Advocate Program.

The cultural literacy enrichment component will be enhanced through continual partnerships with the Durham Arts Council Creative Arts in Private/Public Schools (CAPS) and the Carrboro Arts Center to bring artists, authors, musicians, and other entertainers to facilitate workshops. A new partnership with the Carolina Playmakers Repertory Company will provide program participants the opportunity to interact with the casts of *The Big Bang* and *Young Lady from Rwanda*. The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the UNC Young Democrats will also facilitate activities, lessons, and workshops for participants.

Community continues to fulfill Dr. Stone's vision of community outreach. With the incorporation of new fundamentals and a growing list of partners and volunteers, Community will continue to promote the growth of students in the program. The program will begin the spring semester on January 19.