MILESTONES

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

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stonecenter.unc.edu | 919-962-9001



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Stone Center Family,

As we turn our focus to the year ahead, it gives me great pleasure to announce that this academic year our initiatives and programming will orbit around the central theme of "Solidarity." Now, more than ever, our world needs examples of compassion and collaboration.

As we embark upon this journey together, let us remember the adage "it takes a village." We need only look to the legacy of Black life to see how the power of solidarity can move mountains and enact transformation. I am optimistic that we will harness our collective energy for good. I have no doubt that our programming for this entire academic year will inspire and unite us all.

In my time as your new Director, I have been awestruck by your unwavering dedication. Thank you for your continued support, and for welcoming me into the Carolina community. I am deeply honored to steward the Sonja Haynes Stone Center, and I am confident that together, we will make the year ahead one of our finest yet.

I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you as I embark on a Director's Tour. Be on the lookout for my visit to a city near you!

Yours,

Dr. Rhon



Connect With Us + Get Involved







The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History



*Youtube*Sonja H Stone Center



Website stonecenter.unc.edu

ATA GLANCE: FALL EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

September

SLATE 2023 Research Symposium

September 12-13 | Hitchcock Room | 6pm

SLATE Research Scholars presented their projects alongside their Faculty Research Fellows and Mentors at this two-day annual hybrid symposium.

Director's Tour Begins

September 29 | Atlanta, GA

Director Dr. LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant traveled to Atlanta, GA for the first in-person Meet & Greet and to share her vision for the Sonja H. Stone Center.

October

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film -

October 3 - November 2 | Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

The annual free Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film opened its Fall 2023 run with the first of 6 screenings that showcased over 25 films from 13 countries.

Gallery Exhibition Opening Night

October 11 | Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery | 6:30pm

We Happen to Be, Just Being, Love Expressions opened for viewing at the Stone Center's Brown Gallery and Museum. Community members, faculty, and staff gathered for this reception featuring remarks by the Dr. Rhon, Dr. Danielle Hiraldo (Director of the Amereican Indian Center), and the three artists.

November

Writers Discussion Series featuring Prof. Blair LM Kelley

November 2 | Hitchcock Multipurpose Room | 5:30pm

Diretor of the Center for the Study of the American South and Joel R. Wiliamson Distinguished Professor of Southern Studies joined Dr. Rhon in conversation about her book *Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class*.

Communiversity Career Panel -

November 11 | Stone Center Auditorium | 9am

The Stone Center hosted a Homecoming and Black Alumni Reunion weekend panel featuring distinguinshed alumni to celebrate the legacy of CYP and empower current students.

Stone Memorial Lecture by Prof. Erica Edwards

November 14 | Stone Center Auditorium | 6pm

Acclaimed scholar Dr. Erica Edwards delivered the annual lecture in memory of Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone. Dr. Edwards is Professor of English and African American Studies at Yale.

FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT F

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film is the Sonja Haynes Stone Center's annual free event showcasing films from all corners of the African diaspora. It illuminates multifaceted narratives that explore cultures, histories and global Black experiences. Many screenings are regional premieres and feature commentary from filmmakers, local scholars, and leaders as part of the Stone Center's commitment to fostering meaningful dialogues. The 2023 Diaspora Film Festival features 28 films from 13 countries.

OCTOBER 3 | RELIGION, FAITH, SPIRITUALITY AND AFRO-FUTURISM

Faith in Blackness: An Exploration of AfroLatine Spirituality

Dir: Charles Reynoso | USA | 2023 | English | 27 min This documentary explores dynamic identities of AfroLatine people, their myriad of faith traditions, and their journey for a home, a faith in Blackness.

Assaman

Dir: Katrina Brook Flores | USA, Senegal | 2023 | English | 15 min A love story with the future kaleidoscopes in a cosmic twin

Are We There YET

Dir: Marisa L.R. Prince | USA | 2022 | English | 36 min A documentary following frustrated Believers of Color Calvin Lee and Marisa Prince on their cross country road trip to better understand the doctrines and nationalism surrounding the American Christian Church.





OCTOBER 10 LOSS, GRIEF, TRAUMA, HEALING, INCLUSION

Confirmation

Dir: Nana Fobi Duffuor | USA, 2023 | English | Ghana | 11 min Maame, a God-fearing mother wanting the best for her son Kojo, must confront her fear of accepting his sexuality or risk losing him when he befriends an out young man at church.

Lijen (My Child)

Dir: Yesmalem T. Yeshaw | USA, Ethiopia | 2023 | 17 min An Ethiopian man struggles to cope with the loss of his daughter. His American wife turns to his roots to help him face reality.

For Them That Prey

Dir: Mmakgosi Anita Tau | USA | 2022 | English | 13 min Sadi, a young woman, is perpetually harassed in both reality and in her subconscious at a motel as she attempts to enjoy a night of sleep in this psychological drama.

Dir: Aude Konan | UK | 2022 | English | 13 min When a schoolgirl is triggered by sexual harassment, she and her friends must come to terms with their own experiences and prejudices.

Gratitude My Father, Obalue

Dirs: Gil Alves, Wendel Assis | Brazil | 2020 | Portuguese | 6 min This film's purpose is to immerse in an embodied relationship to our ancestors and the religious imagery universe of candomblé, a religion of African origin in Brazil.





OCTOBER 5 | EXCLUSION, MARGINALIZATION, HISTORICAL INJUSTICE

Oversight Dir: Lorna Kidjo | Canada | 2022 | English | 15 min

Erin, a white woman, and Farah a young woman of colour, cross paths in a

Don't Forget the Champagn

Dir: Vitor Reis | Brazil | 2023 | Portuguese | 15 min

A social thriller that features a newlywed couple who, after receiving daily gifts from the groom's boss, leave for a honeymoon in a hotel that seems to have more to reveal than they imagined.

Hats

Dir: Michelle Pascal | UK | 2022 | English | 10 min

Eve, is a middle-aged black-British barrister, whose mother, Girlie, has just moved into a Dementia care home where she's the only Black resident. Because Girlie worked for forty years as a nurse's assistant in the UK, she believes she is still working.

Road of Lava

Dir: Karen Bryson | Cuba | 2022 | Spanish | 27 min

Afibola is an afrofeminist and queer activist, trying to teach their son Olorun how to grow up to be a free black man, despite the obstacles around them.

"Gromonmon"

Dir: Laurent Pantaléon | Réunion | 2022 | Other | 11 min In La Réunion, fleeing slaves go to live free in the highlands and build a kingdom: the inner kingdom.







OCTOBER 17 | MIGRATION, CROSS CULTURAL CONNECTION, LOVE

The Promise

Dir: Stephane H Ahidjo | Italy, Cameroon | 2023 | 75 min Sabrine, a young Tunisian, to honour her father's last will, embarks on a journey to Cameroon. Her mission is to bring a letter to the family of her father's friend, a migrant who died in the Mediterranean trying to reach Italy.

Dir: Jaiden Thompson | USA, 2023 | English | 10 min A love story with the future kaleidoscopes in a cosmic twin encounter.

2023 DIASPORA FILM FEST SCHEDUL

OCTOBER 24 | SHARED SOCIETY, CONTESTED SPACES, OPPORTUNITY, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Digging In

Dir: Nathan Lee Johnson | USA | 2023 | English, Spanish | 40 min Who controls what we grow and eat? Who pays the price for a changing climate? Activist and host Masika Henson explores these issues as she journeys through the American food system.

Biking While Black

Dir: Yolanda Davis-Overstreet | USA | 2022 | English | 29 min An important look at the joys and challenges of biking while Black and the need for a transit future rooted in justice and equity.

The Orchestra Chuck Built

Dir: Christopher Stoudt | USA | 2023 | English | 22 min Through The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, — the largest majority Black orchestra in the USA — Chuck creates life-changing opportunities for his community that didn't exist.





NOVEMBER 2 | CHILDREN AND THE NEXT GENERATION

Conquito

Dir: David Ontoria | Spain | 2022 | Spanish | 15 min

Malik suffers racist harrasment and bullying in his school. Maider, his only friend, turns her back on him. Malik's parents try to help him change his situation, but Malik just wants his friend back.

I.T.I. (Ignore the Ignorance)

Dir: Maya Jai Pinson | USA | 2023 | English | 8 min

Justin, left with a life-altering injury from an accident that claimed his mother's life, struggles to embrace his dreams of playing basketball until he has an unexpected visit.

Intersectionality

Dir: Diane Powell | USA, 2023 | English | 14 min

How a young girl with autism handles the Intersectionalities & other difficulties in her life.

Beauty Mark

Dir: Sanaa Wilkins | USA | 2021 | English | 5 min

Don't allow what you're going through to stop you from doing what you love.

Monochromatic

Dir: Karen Bryson | UK | 2022 | English | 13 min

The inevitable moment a six year old girl realises the world operates with bias when it comes to the colour of her skin.

Dir: Ashley Meier United States | English | 6 min

In a metaphorical world where specific groups of people are stripped of their voice, a girl learns the power of one and how to use it to fight for those who cannot be heard.

Pedigree

Dirs: Brittney S. Harris, Russ Fulmore | USA | 2022 | English | 8 min

A first-time protester sharing her emotional experience with being arrested and disrespected, Pedigree is a solo performance short film about personal acceptance and recovery from the inexplicit influences of racial hatred and violence.









OCTOBER 26 | AGING, CAREGIVING, ROOTS & FAMILY CONNECTION, HOME

The Pillow

Dir: Sherean Darcel Jones | USA | 2022 | 6 min

Edith Bowser is put to the test of "Til Death Do Us Part" when her controlling, disgruntled husband, George begs her to take him out of his misery and euthanize him.

Day 6

Dir: Tiffani Bliss Brown | USA | 2022 | English | 36 min

In the short span of six days, a hardworking, loving, fiercely devoted son must come to terms with the pain and finality of losing his beloved mother to Alzheimer's while struggling through his feelings for her newly hired nighttime caretaker.

Bite of Bénin

Dirs: Brad Herring, Adé Carrena | USA, Benin | 2023 | English, French | 36 min Chef Adé travels back home to understand her African heritage and reclaim her identity through food and the Béninese women who mean so much to her.



AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ROCK N ROLL



Stop by the Stone Center library to learn the Black history of Rock and Roll! Discover how African Americans pioneered and influenced these timeless musical genres.

On display Fall 2023

| Stone Center library | 3rd floor



Director's Tour

SONJA HAYNES
STONE CENTER FOR
RESEARCH IN
BLACK CULTURE
AND HISTORY

Building together. Connecting community. Sustaining growth.

Join the conversation.

Dr. LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant

Stone Center Director Documentarian Scholar



(#)

SPRING 2024



GET READY HEELS



FALL 2023 GALLERY EXHIBITION

WE HAPPEN TO JUST BE, JUST BEING, LOVE EXPRESSIONS

TRANS(ENDANT KINSHIP AND SOUL (ONNE(TIONS OF BLACK & INDIGENOUS (OMMUNITIES

The Stone Center proudly welcomed **We Happen to Just Be, Just Being, Love Expressions** to the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery on Ocober 11th, 2023. A collaborative endeavor with the UNC American Indian Center, it showcases works by artists of Native and Black ancestry whose art deal with the shared histories and intertwined struggles of Black and Indigenous communities.

The artists' distinct approach is rooted in their lived experiences as persons from backgrounds of mixed heritage. **MONICA RICKERT-BOLTER**, a Chicago-based visual artist and journalist, curated the exhibition. The collaborative also features works by two other artists including Tacoma, WA based visual artist **PAIGE PETTIBON** whose work is influenced by her multicultural background, and multi-genre artist **STARLA THOMPSON** who designs her own regalia and is a regular practitioner of the Jingle Dress Dance also known as the "Healing Dance."

We Happen To Be, Just Being, Love Expressions explores themes of soul connections and kinship that transcend preconceptions of race and identity as well as love and affection centered around family moments and intimate relationships, including those that exist between siblings, parents, and partners.



Rhoda, Richard and Baby Richard by Paige Pettibon



Guests at opening night in the Brown Gallery and Museum.



Mothers Uplifting Daughters by Monica Rickert-Bolter



MURAP WRAP-UP

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER!

We are proud to announce that the members of the 2023 cohort of the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program completed their summer of programming! MURAP, which finished its 29th year, is designed to increase diversity and inclusive excellence in higher education by recruiting and training bright undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds and preparing them for success in Ph.D. programs in the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts at UNC-Chapel Hill and other universities.

This year's cohort came from colleges and universities across the nation, including HBCUs, (e.g., Howard), PWIs (e.g., UNC Chapel Hill, Stanford), and HSIs (University of Puerto Rico, Goshen College). They researched various topics including the use of music to alleviate pain and emotional trauma; the relationship between financial aid and degree completion in Hispanic serving institutions; and why, besides incumbency advantage, lower level political executives such as mayors are so successful at retaining their office, even when the economy is not performing well. For MURAP application information, please visit stonecenter.unc.edu.



MURAP '23 COHORT

STUDENT FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Sophia Bowers is a nutrition major at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC- Chapel Hill. Her research project this summer highlighted how the lack of diversity and representation in food producers contributes to food insecurities in communities of color. Under the guidance of Dr. Fenaba Addo (Public Policy), Sophia researched the role that Black farmers play in food access for underserved communities of color. Ms. Bowers will continue her education by pursuing a Ph.D. in a public health-oriented topic. Below is a synopsis of her project "Putting Down Roots: The Black Farmer Experience and Barriers to Provide Food Access in North Carolina."

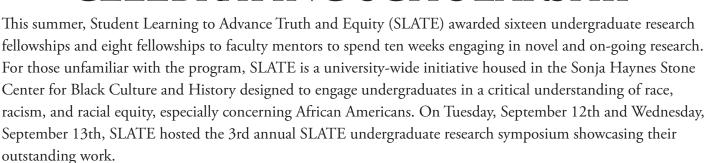


SOPHIA BOWERS

Since enslavement and post-Civil War sharecropping, African Americans have played a crucial role in the United States' farming and food systems. However, extant policies and discriminatory practices have caused a 98 percent decline of Black farmers in the food system over the past century. With North Carolina being the state that has experienced the most land ownership loss by Black farmers in the U.S., this project focuses on the barriers and successes that Black farmers experience in continuing to produce food at local farmer's markets. Farmer's markets specifically have been historically White regulated spaces that erect barriers for Black businesses to sell their products. Orange County, the only county to hold a Black farmer's market, creates an environment that encourages Black producers and sellers to come. Using a mixed methods approach, this study both analyzes data on NC farmers and farms, and interviews with a select group of farmers located in Orange County, NC. A key deliverable of this project is to compile data that will be represented in a live dashboard using Microsoft tools with the goals of centering the voices of Black farmers to illuminate the conditions that have decreased Black representation in the food markets and raising awareness of the priorities and challenges facing local Black farmers. - Sophia Bowers.

SLATE SYMPOSIUM

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP



Undergraduate Research Fellows

Adalia Winters Grant Alexander
Andrea Brown Hannah Garner
Belamy Counou Justin Clyburn
Claude Hutto II Melvina Greene
Cyria Olingou Shelby Freeman

Erin Mazur Sklyer Clay

Shreya Shenoy

Sydney Tyson

Edie Moyers

Faculty Research Fellows

Christopher Clark Cynthia Current Kathleen Fitzgerald Lisa Calvente Ronald Williams II Sarajanee Davis Seth Kotch Simona Goldin

Faculty Research Mentors Renée Alexander Craft

Renée Alexander Craft LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant

RESEARCH TEAM SPOTLIGHT

SLATE Undergraduate Research Fellows Justin Clyburn and Shelby Freeman have been working with their SLATE Faculty Research mentor, Public Policy Research Associate Professor Simona Goldin. They submitted their project, "Race and Racism at the University of the People: Developing Racial Literacy as a Way to Disrupt Racism" to the National Association of Multicultural Educators conference which will took place in Montgomery, Alabama in November 2023. Mr. Clyburn is a rising sophomore double majoring in Political Science and Hispanic Linguistics with a minor in Translation and Interpreting. Ms. Freeman is a rising sophomore majoring in Health Policy Management.



Undergraduate Fellow JUSTIN CLYBURN



Undergraduate Fellow SHELBY FREEMAN



Faculty Fellow SIMONA GOLDIN

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Linda Brown DouglasDirector of Volunteer Engagement,
UNC-Chapel Hill

LINDA BROWN DOUGLAS ('82)

Linda Brown Douglas is a highly regarded servant leader at Carolina, and no less so at the Stone Center. Every month of every year since 1995, the Douglas family has supported our innovative ideas, programs and initiatives including the naming of the Curtis Sutton Room, and the Seat Naming Campaign. In additon to being a stalwart supporter, Linda serves on our National Advisory Board, where she offers her keen insights and invaluable wisdom. A woman of many talents and a recipient of numerous honors, The Sonja Haynes Stone Center salutes Linda for her dedication and all that she continues to do for Carolina!

CELEBRATING



DR. JOSEPH JORDAN

The Stone Center team and community are grateful for Dr. Jordan's unwavering service as Director. Throughout his 20-year tenure, Dr. Jordan's committment to the exploration of Black life underpinned his successes in growing, sustaining, and shaping the Sonja Haynes Stone Center. We are grateful for his leadership and wish him well as he continues with his travel and academic pursuits.

WELCOMING



DR. KUMI SILVA

We welcome Dr. Kumarini Silva as the new Faculty Director of the MURAP Program. Dr. Silva's research is at the intersection of identity, politics, post-colonial studies, cultural studies, and popular culture. She is the author of *Brown Threat: Identification in the Security State* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016) and co-editor of *Migration, Identity, and Belonging: Defining Borders and Boundaries of the Homeland* (Routledge 2020).

COMMUNIVERSITY CORNER

EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Communversity partnered with on-campus clubs and organizations this past spring to create new and exciting scholarship programs. Communiversity partnered with Morehead Scholar Jazlyn Dunn ('26) from the esteemed UNC Blue Lighting Stomp 'n' Shake Cheerleading organization.

While the middle and high school scholars partnered with EROT on understanding spoken word poetry and creating their work, the elementary scholars worked with ArtHeels to create beautiful pieces of artwork. The scholars enjoyed getting to know the club members and themselves through art, from painting to coloring to origami. The younger scholars also worked with Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority in learning about music. They learned about their favorite songs, favorite artists, and all things music.



Spring '23 CYP scholars dancing with Jazlyn Dunn ('26.)

Communiversity is excited to continue its partnerships with EROT, Blue Lightning, Tau Beta Sigma, and ArtHeels this school year and expand partnerships with more on-campus clubs and organizations.

Visit www.stonecenter.unc.edu or call 919-962-9001 to learn more.

THE LIBRARY LOOK





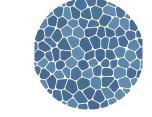
SWEET STUDY BREAKS

As part of the University Library's Spring 2023 Week of Balance, the Stone Center Library hosted an outreach event and served lemonade and cookies. We encouraged students to take lots of selfies at the library's lemonade stand.

The Week of Balance is held at the end of every semester during finals. It is a variety of activities that are intended to give students a chance to take a break from studying to relax and recharge. Students get to see the library as not just a book repository, but a welcoming space. It also gives the library the chance to highlight its resources and staff expertise. This is an opportunity for the library to appreciate our students and make a space for self-care and relaxation, because we just want to make sure that we help UNC students thrive.

In a world where the pressures of academia can be overwhelming, UNC University Library's "Week of Balance" serves as a shining example of how educational institutions can proactively invest in the holistic growth and success of their students.

SEAN DOUGLAS LEADERSHIP FELLLOWS



SETTING THE EXAMPLE



Krystal Lacayo ('25)

Krystal Lacayo is a 3rd year student studying Environmental Studies and Urban Planning. She is curious about how communities are made physically, as well as their social development that aid their sustainability and longevity. With a passion for her learning and seeing a need in her community, Krystal has previously created a nonprofit organization in her senior year of high school to aid Black students during the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020. Arriving at Carolina, Krystal delved deep into her community efforts, creating Mo' Control Media Group and subgroup HBUNC as outlets for Black students to stay up to date on current, campus information and engaged with one another. Prior to beginning at the Stone Center as a Sean Douglas Leadership Fellow, Krystal studied abroad in South Africa, learning of colonial influences on the Black indigenous citizens and structural racism while also working in the informal settlements of Cape Town. Her work overseas led her to contribute to her campus community as a fellow at the Stone Center. In her first semester, Krystal completed her personal project, "UNC Black Leadership Seminar" where multiple professors and professionals in various sectors spoke on how community can be built and sustained, specifically by Black young adults. This current semester, Krystal is serving as the liaison between Black organizations and the Stone Center to find best practices for both entities. She looks forward to continuing her work with the Stone Center.



Nyjah King ('24)



 ${f N}$ yjah King is a senior with a double major in Psychology and Human Development Family Sciences. Nyjah is interested in the development of black children and destigmatizing mental health in African-American communities. Her current project focuses on redesigning programming for Communiversity, the Stone Center's longest-running program, where she has worked for the past three years as a program coordinator. She is Co-President of We Wear the Mask, a mental health organization focused on destigmatizing mental health in Black communities. Nyjah is a co-author of a paper through the CIRCLE lab and will publish a paper on the impact of Afro-textured hair and products on FMRI scans. She is also a proud member of Ebony Readers Onyx Theater, UNC's premier spoken word group. Over the summer she studied abroad through the CIEE program in Accra, Ghana at the University of Ghana Legon campus where she took classes on intercultural communication and worked as a teaching assistant at a preschool. As a current Sean Douglas Fellow, Nyjah hopes to continue her work engaging scholars through Communiversity, while designing programs that encourage Black youth to excel. After graduation, she plans to work in international education, specifically in African Francophone countries, and eventually receive a Ph.D. in Counseling. In her free time, Nyjah enjoys writing poetry, listening to music, hanging out with friends, and creating art.



IN MEMORIAM

OUR COMMUNITY IS VAST, YET WE COLLECTIVELY FEEL EVERY LOSS. THE STONE CENTER ACKNOWLEDGES THE MULTIPLE TRAGEDIES THAT HAVE TAKEN BELOVED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

WE SPEAK THEIR NAMES.

SPEAKING THE NAMES OF THOSE WE HAVE LOST HELPS US REMEMBER AND HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY. IT ALSO PRESERVES THEIR MEMORY IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BY ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR IMPACT AND LEGACY. IN MANY CULTURES THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN DIASPORA, THE SPOKEN WORD HOLDS A SPECIAL POWER, AND SAYING THE NAMES OF THE DEPARTED IS A WAY OF KEEPING THEIR SPIRITS ALIVE IN OUR COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS.

WE SPEAK THEIR NAMES!!!

Vaughn A. Booker

(1982 - 2023)

Instructional Specialist. Stalwart Supporter. Advocate.

Elijah J. Hawkins-Maynor

(2000 - 2023)

Loved Laughter. Loved life. Loved God.

George L. Hill, Jr. (2002 - 2023)

Leader. Athlete. Bright Light.

Conen T. Morgan

(1981 - 2023)

Political Strategist. Rising Star. Beloved Husband.

Sustainability. Perpetuity. Support.

The Stone Center

