**BODY AND SOUL: PAUL ROBESON, RACE AND REPRESENTATION**

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

Paul Robeson is perhaps one of the most important African-American figures in U.S. history. His unmatched talents as an athlete, actor, singer, cultural scholar, author and political activist brought him a great deal of fame and notoriety. This fall, the Stone Center pays tribute to Paul Robeson by featuring an exhibit based on his life and legacy in the Center’s Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum. The exhibit titled *Body and Soul: Paul Robeson, Race and Representation*, opens with a special reception on Tuesday October 9 at 7 p.m. The exhibit, on display through January 25, 2008, features photographs, rare movie posters, personal letters and other ephemera on loan from the Alden Kimbrough and Mary Kimbrough Collection.

Born in 1898 to a former slave, Robeson rose to fame as an actor and singer in the 1920’s and 1930’s. “He was one of the few in the early 1930’s who was like Muhammad Ali in terms of people knowing who he was,” said Kimbrough, “He was the most well-known black person of his time.” In addition to being a versatile singer and actor, he was also a scholar. He graduated from Rutgers University, where he was a celebrated athlete and his class valedictorian. He then attended Columbia University where he received a law degree. He found work at a law firm in New York but racial conflict on the job caused him to quit, which led him to pursue his acting and singing talents. Some of his most notable work included *All God’s Chillun Got Wings* (1924) and *The Emperor Jones* (1925). His trademark song, “Ol’ Man River”, established him as one of the most popular singers of his generation. He became an international star, performing benefits throughout the world.

In the 1940’s, Robeson’s outspokenness against inequality and racism in the U.S. and abroad, made him the focus of FBI surveillance for years. “He lost his voice in terms of outreach to Black America,” said Kimbrough speaking about the government’s inquiry of Robeson. Weary and depressed during those years of government scrutiny, Robeson retired from performing in the 1960’s and lived in Philadelphia until his death in 1976. Kimbrough wishes that more people knew about Paul Robeson and his importance to American history, “I go to high schools and ask if anyone has heard of Paul Robeson and most had not heard of him.” Exhibit hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; the exhibit is closed on University holidays and weekends.

In recent years, the Stone Center’s Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum has served as an inviting exhibit space for a variety of visual arts that critically examine the African diaspora including *The Hewitt Collection of African-American Art*, *Imaginings of African-American Lives*, *Mexico and In-between Spaces: Textured Imaginings of African-American Lives*, and *The People of La Costa Chica, Oaxaca*, all on display through January 25, 2008.

**POET AND PLAYWRIGHT TO DELIVER AFRICAN DIASPORA LECTURE**

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

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

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

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

The African Diaspora Lecture is an annual series that presents lectures, roundtables and debates on a variety of subjects from the African diaspora.
The Directors Undergraduate Administrative Leadership Fellowship (DUAL) provides an undergraduate student an opportunity to serve as an intern and work closely with the Director of the Stone Center. The intern will participate in staff, Board and other key meetings, work on specially designed projects, assist the Director in drafting project, program and special reports and attend outside meetings where possible and appropriate.

The DUAL intern will receive a monetary stipend or other appropriate award for completing the program. The DUAL Fellowship is an 8 week program (October 1–November 30 and February 1–March 30) and is open to all registered UNC at Chapel Hill sophomores, juniors and seniors in good academic standing. The deadline to apply for the fall DUAL Fellowship is 5pm on September 14, 2007.

Applicants for the DUAL internship will be selected on the basis of their scholarship, campus and off-campus participation in service activities, clarity in describing goals for the internship, sense of social responsibility and the quality of recommendations submitted in support of their application. Applicants must submit the following:

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

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

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

New Opportunity for Undergraduate Students

THE 2007 STONE CENTER DIRECTORS UNDERGRADUATE ADMINISTRATIVE leadership fellowship

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INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

STUDENTS RECEIVE STONE CENTER FELLOWSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD

Angela Harper and Brian K. Seymour II, seniors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received $2500 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowships from the Stone Center to study abroad this past summer. The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, awards up to $2500 for academic research or study in an international setting to UNC students from groups who are underrepresented in international study and travel programs. A selection committee evaluates applicants on their academic records, extracurricular activities, financial need and objectives of their intended international experience.

- Harper is double majoring in international studies and sociology. She worked this past summer with two anti-slavery groups: Anti-Slavery International in London, England and The Association of People for Practical Life Education (APPLE) in Ghana, West Africa.
- Seymour, who is majoring in philosophy, studied this summer in South Africa. His program, “South Africa: Education and Social Change,” is sponsored by the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT.

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

Angela Harper

Brian K. Seymour II
The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

OPENs ON SEPTEMBER 13

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

2007 theme explores Black identity

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

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

The festival continues on October 2 with "Skin Complex", a film that deals with race and cultural issues from an interesting and unique approach. Directed by actor and producer Craig Harris, the film’s central character is a Harvard educated professor who is fed up with the judgments and limitations of being black. He considers undergoing a controversial “race-change” operation but must first confront his dying father and the rest of his family about his decision. Craig Harris will lead a discussion following the film. This screening is co-sponsored by the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film is the Stone Center’s twice a year series featuring primarily independent film from all corners of the African diaspora. All screenings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Stone Center at 962-9001.
Beth and Daniel Okun Collegium Fund Provides Support for Innovative Projects

MILESTONES · FALL 2007

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

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

The Collegium Fund is intended to encourage faculty-student engagement in joint study and learning activities outside of the classroom. The broader objective is to support the academic mission of the University by enhancing the academic climate on campus.

A funded study group will engage in a term-long, or longer, project in Africana studies (i.e., African-American, African, Afro-Latin, etc.). This year additional proposals that focus on the subject of UNC’s Creative Campus Initiative under the auspices of the Carolina Performing Arts Program will also be considered (go to http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org/ for more information). Projects may be undertaken in study or other group format where key or critical issues may be examined in-depth over the course of the term. Examples of other projects may include preparation of collaborative articles or publications, or preparation of a panel presentation for a conference or other academic gathering. Since the Okun Collegium Fund is interested in promoting collaborative study by a wide-range of constituencies, the selection committee is encouraging the submission of innovative proposals. Any project that provides for an intellectually stimulating and critical experience for faculty and students is eligible providing it meets the general criteria of the Okun Collegium Fund.

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

STONE CENTER WELCOMES VENEZUELAN VISITING FELLOWS

Alejandro Correa-Ortega and Geronimo Sanchez-Gonzales

will serve as the Center’s International Visiting Fellows from October 6 through 10

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

Founded in 1991, The Instituto Universitario de Barlovento began as a community initiative. Located on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, the University has the distinction of being the first and only institution of higher learning in the area, providing young people in the region an opportunity to pursue higher education. The University opened with just 250 students but now boasts enrollment of more than 2,800 students. The University has a staff of 150 professors who teach subjects ranging from tourism to computer science. Because the school is a part of a network of national universities, students enjoy free services such as transportation and dental and medical services.

During their residency, professors Ortega-Correa and Sanchez-Gonzales will talk about their work with the Afro-Venezuelan Network, a collection of civil society organizations that advocate for the rights of Black and Indigenous Venezuelans. Sanchez-Gonzales is a member of one of the commissions examining the issue of minority rights in the Venezuelan constitution. Both visitors will be available for conversations across the campus.
**Fall 2007**

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

*Follow Me Home*
Thursday, September 13, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Theatre and Auditorium

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

*Naming Number Two*
Thursday, September 20, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

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

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

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

*Son of Man*
Thursday, November 1, 2007 // 7pm
The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

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

**African Diaspora Lecture Series**
Friday, October 5, 2007 // 4pm
The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

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

**International Visiting Fellows**
Saturday, October 6 - Wednesday, October 10, 2007 // Programs TBA
The Stone Center

Alejandro Correa-Ortega and Geronimo Sanchez-Gonzales, professors at the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento in Higuerote, Venezuela, will serve as the Center’s International Visiting Fellows from October 6 through 10. The Instituto Universitario de Barlovento is one of the few historically black institutions in Latin America. For information on scheduling either Ortega-Correa or Sanchez-Gonzales please contact 919-962-9001.
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;*
- *Asks 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.*
The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History continues its mission with the financial support of the many alumni and friends who give generously to the organization. These individuals are key to the center’s current and future efforts. The Stone Center greatly appreciates and recognizes donors to the Stone Center for the 2007 fiscal year through June 30, 2007:

For more information please contact: Timothy Minor, ’94 · Director of Development for Centers and Institutes · 208 W. Franklin Street · Chapel Hill, NC 27599-6100
The Stone Center welcomes Mora Beauchamp-Byrd as its new assistant director. Mora previously worked as the assistant director for Mellon Initiatives in Research and Academic Programs at The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. In her new role, she will work closely with the Stone Center director, development officer and advisory board to create and implement the Center’s development and fundraising plan. Her duties will also include international project and program planning. Mora is currently a doctoral candidate in art history at Duke University. She holds two master’s degrees—a M.A. in art history from Columbia University in New York and a M.A. in visual arts administration from New York University, where she also received a B.A. in art history.

Mora brings a wealth of fundraising, grant writing and program administration experience to the Stone Center. She has held several positions at prominent arts and cultural centers including director and curator of the Visual Arts Department at the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University and curator and director of special projects at The Caribbean Cultural Center in New York. Since joining the Stone Center, Mora is adjusting to her new role and the UNC campus. “I was drawn to the Center’s continuing programmatic focus on African diaspora culture and history and the tremendous opportunities afforded by the spacious new building,” she said.

“I am so pleased to be joining the staff at the Stone Center at such an exciting time and look forward to working with Dr. Jordan and the rest of the impressive staff.”

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