From January 26 - April 24, 2017 the Stone Center’s Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum will host noted artist Philemona Williamson for an exhibition entitled La Sombra y el Espíritu V: The Beautiful Somewhere: The Art of Philemona Williamson.

Williamson, a native New Yorker, currently resides and works in Upper Montclair, New Jersey and has a studio in Bloomfield. Her paintings depict children and adolescents, which come from her imagination and some from her own childhood. Williamson's most popular medium is oil on linen.

Williamson received a bachelor's degree from Bennington College and a master's degree in painting from New York University. Among her awards are a Joan Mitchell Foundation grant, Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Her work has been shown in many one-person and group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad, including the IV Bienal Internacional de Pintura en Cuenca, Ecuador, in 1994. She is represented in numerous private and public collections, including the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina; Hampton University Museum, VA; Sheldon Art Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE; Mott-Ward Art Collections, Flint, MI, and AT&T.

Williamson's commissions include Seasons, 18 fused-glass panels for the MTA's Art in Transit program at the Livonia Station in Brooklyn, and Folktales from Around the World, four glass mosaic murals for the New York City Board of Education at the Glen Oaks Campus School, Queens.

An opening reception for the exhibition featuring an artist talk by Williamson will be held on January 26, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Stone Center. La Sombra y el Espíritu V: The Beautiful Somewhere – The Art of Philemona Williamson will be on display through April 24, 2017. The gallery is open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. or by appointment. For information on the exhibition call (919) 962-9001 or visit www.stonecenter.unc.edu.
THE FRIDAY CENTER AND STONE CENTER JOIN TOGETHER TO PRESENT “POWER!” STOKELY CARMICHAEL AND THE LANGSTON HUGHES PROJECT

“Power!” Stokely Carmichael

On Friday, February 17, the Stone Center, in collaboration with the Friday Center, will present “Power!” Stokely Carmichael, a play written and performed by actor and playwright Meshaun Labrone and directed by Jennifer Knight.

In June 1966, during the last great march of the Civil Rights Movement, a young activist changed the battle cry from “Freedom Now!” to “Power!” Now, on the 50th Anniversary of this march, witness the rise of Stokely Carmichael, who would become the energizing force of the Black Power Movement. In this blistering one-man show, you will be transported back to the summer of 1966 and encounter multiple characters that Stokely Carmichael encountered during the days of the Civil Rights Movement. The production is tense, funny, heartbreaking, informative, engaging and non-stop entertaining. Witness the resurrection of the leading voice of the Black Power Movement, Stokely Carmichael, in this most timely production. Prompted by the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin and inspired by his time working as a corrections officer at a Florida maximum security prison, Meshaun Labrone wrote “Power!”

Meshaun Labrone is an actor, playwright and teacher. “Power!” Stokely Carmichael is Labrone’s second solo show. Labrone received international recognition for his first solo show, Right to Remain...Topaz: Shakur, performed in 2011 at the Tata Theatre (Off-West End), London and in the 2012 Capital Fringe Festival. In the play, Labrone explores Shakur’s love of William Shakespeare and highlights the parallels between The Young Black Male and Richard III.

Jennifer Knight is a writer, director, and actor. Knight is a company member at Rorschach Theatre, where she appeared in After the Flood, After the Quake, and Nevermore. She has also worked with Folger Theatre (Assistant Director, The Ganning Table), Source Fest, Spooky Action, The Disreputables (Literary Manger), Artists’ Initiative, Unexpected Stage Company, Tsunami Theatre, and ASIA. Hernomologues and poetry have been performed at the Kennedy Center. Knight is a graduate of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts.

Performance at 7 p.m. at the Stone Center. Admission is free, advance registration is requested. Call (919) 962-3000, (866) 441-3683, or email fridaycenter@unc.edu to register.

The Langston Hughes Project

On March 5, at 3 p.m., the Friday Center, in collaboration with the Stone Center will present The Langston Hughes Project, Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz.

2017 will commemorate the 90th anniversary of the passing of Langston Hughes (1902-1967). Hughes was one of the leading voices of the Harlem Renaissance and one of the most renowned poets in American history. The Langston Hughes Project is based on Hughes’ poem, Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz. This poem served as Hughes’ social commentary for the struggle for freedom and equality among Africans and African Americans in the 1960s.

Recently voted the “Best Live Performance” for 2016 by the Jazz FM Awards in London, UK, The Langston Hughes Project is a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes’ kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite, featuring the Ron McCurdy Quartet. Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz is a twelve-part epic poem which Hughes scored with musical cues drawn from blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie woogie, bebop and progressive jazz, Latin “cha cha” and Afro-Cuban mambo music. German heder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso, and African drumming – a creative masterwork left unperformed at his death. By way of videography, this concert performance links the words and music of Hughes’ poetry to topical images of Ask Your Mama’s people, places, and events, and to the works of the visual artists Langston Hughes admired or collaborated with most closely over the course of his career.

The Langston Hughes Project is designed to share the brilliance of Langston Hughes who was first and foremost a storyteller. He had the ability to bring people together with his writings, often celebrating our similarities rather than our differences. While much of his writings were focused on the African Diaspora, his message and stories resonated with people of all races, religions and creeds. The Langston Hughes Project will inspire people to become even more curious about our past and to gain a better understanding of how we as a people can learn to live, work and play better together. The performance will leave participants with a heightened level of curiosity about their own heritage and will help strengthen communities throughout the world. The Langston Hughes Project offers a powerful message of healing, faith, and the triumph of the human spirit.

Performance at 3 p.m. at the Friday Center; reception to follow at 4 p.m. at the Friday Center. Admission is free, advance registration is requested. Call (919) 962-3000, (866) 441-3683, or email fridaycenter@unc.edu to register.

Event Co-Sponsors

The Friday Center; The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History; University Relations, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Division of Workforce Strategy, Equity and Engagement; Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies; Center for the Study of the American South; Program in the Humanities and Human Values; Carolina Dining Services; Carolina Black Caucus; Carolina Student Union; Institute for African American Research

For more information about events, please call the Stone Center at (919) 962-9001, email stonecenter@unc.edu or visit www.stonecenter.unc.edu.
Beginning in January, the Stone Center will host a 5-part Writer’s Discussion series featuring book readings and discussion with local UNC faculty as well as authors from across the nation. Two special events in the series will include lectures with author Iris Morales on January 31 and Daniel Sayers, who will deliver the African Diaspora Lecture on March 25, both events will take place at the Stone Center. The series is co-hosted with the Bull’s Head Bookshop and will take place at the Bookshop unless otherwise noted.

Iris Morales | Through the Eyes of Rebel Women: The Young Lords: 1969-1976
January 31 at 7 p.m., Stone Center, Hitchcock Room

Through the Eyes of Rebel Women: The Young Lords: 1969-1976 is the first book about the experiences of the women members -- “a story within a story” -- told from the inside out. The Young Lords Organization emerged in New York in the late sixties to fight poverty, racial and gender inequality, and the colonial status of Puerto Rico. Women in the Young Lords organized to build a people’s movement and fought the “revelation within the revolution” believing that women’s equality was inseparable from the society’s progress as a whole. Morales Through the Eyes of Rebel Women chronicles the revolutionary rise of the Young Lords, the contributions of women, and the group’s decline.

Iris Morales is a community activist, attorney, educator, film maker, former executive director of the Union Square Awards. She currently works as the director of the Manhattan Neighborhood Networks El Barrio Firehouse Community Media Center.

Daniel O. Sayers | A Desolate Place for a Defiant People: The Archeology of Maroons, Africans, and Enslaved Laborers in the Great Dismal Swamp
March 23 at 7 p.m., Stone Center, Hitchcock Room

In the 250 years before the Civil War, the Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia and North Carolina was a brutal landscape -- 2,000 square miles of undeveloped and unforgiving wetlands, pot bogs, impenetrable foliage, and dangerous creatures. It was also a protective refuge for marginalized individuals, including Native Americans, African-American maroon, free African Americans, and outcast Europeans.

In the first thorough archaeological examination of this unique region, Daniel Sayers exposes and unravels the complex social and economic systems developed by these defiant communities that thrived on the periphery. He develops an analytical framework based on the complex interplay between alienation, diasporic exile, uneven geographical development, and modes of production to argue that colonialism and slavery inevitably created sustained critiques of American capitalism.

Daniel O. Sayers is associate professor of anthropology at American University.

Dr. Ange-Marie Hancock, Associate Professor of Political Science and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California, delivered the 24th Annual Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture at the Stone Center on Monday, November 14 at 7 p.m. The annual lecture honors the late Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone, a University of North Carolina professor and Center advocate.

Chancellor Folt provided welcome remarks to the standing room only crowd of UNC faculty, staff, students and community members. The subject of Dr. Hancock’s lecture was, Scaling Up Stories for Justice – a Role in Black Lives Matter for Every Sector of Our Community. The lecture covered what philanthropy, social movement activists, scholar activists, allies and policy makers can do to ensure sustainable social transformation toward incorporating Black humanity into the United States.


If you missed the lecture, you can view the video via the Stone Center vimeo page at vimeo.com/stonecenter.
GRANTS AVAILABLE TO FACULTY FOR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN ART, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

Grants of up to $4,000 are available for UNC at Chapel Hill faculty who use their creative talents, knowledge and skills in African American and diaspora arts and culture to imagine novel approaches to contemporary issues. Sonja Haynes Stone Center Art, Culture and Creativity grants supports innovation, imagination and artistic excellence that seeks pathways to a more just and sustainable future for all.

Art, Culture and Creativity grants anticipate and recognize exceptional promise in creative thinkers who, outside of regular academic responsibilities, are imagining how the arts and cultures of African Americans, and the diaspora inform new interdisciplinary approaches to social justice, globalization, gender studies, and the digital horizon. Art, Culture and Creativity grants can also be used to support faculty work that addresses the relationship between place and identity in the context of art and creativity.

The grant supports and encourages humanistic inquiry through music, theater, dance, visual arts, digital and media arts, literature, architecture, and any other form of activity that provides an outlet for creative expression.

The grant can be used: to support contemplative work beyond initial conceptualization; for planning and development; or for the implementation and presentation phase of the grantee’s creative project. Proposals should identify a final project such as a lecture, a performance or performance piece, a publication, an exhibit or exhibit piece, a multi-media presentation, or a presentation in a format selected by the grantee. Application packages should include:

- A current CV including a listing of previous creative work and activity.
- A statement of not more than five typed, double spaced pages:
  + that briefly summarizes your educational and professional background;
  + that describes your intended work or project and its conceptual and intellectual groundings; and
  + that describes the nature of your final product

In addition please include copies, or links to, representative samples of your best work.

Written works or excerpts of written works (plays or other theater performances, video or radio scripts; prose and poetry; works of non-fiction, etc.) cannot exceed a sample of 15 pages. Please send 4 copies or sets when submitting films, videos, audio and music recordings, or reproductions (digital versions and/or photographs) of visual art.

Please include the names and email and telephone contacts of two references familiar with your artistic and creative accomplishments and goals who are willing to respond to questions from the selection committee. Please let us know if you wish for any of these samples to be returned to you, via UNC campus mail.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M., APRIL 7, 2017.

Applications should be sent to Stone Center Faculty Grants in Art, Culture and Creativity, 150 South Rd., CB#5260, Rm. 215, UNC at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill NC, 27599-5260. These guidelines are also available on the Stone Center website at stonecenter.unc.edu. UNC at Chapel Hill faculty from all ranks and from all categories are eligible to apply. Graduate students are not eligible. Awards will be chosen by a committee composed of Stone Center staff, community representatives, and creative individuals from various fields of endeavor.

Grant awards may, by request, be provided with an office space in the Stone Center for the term of the grant. In some instances Stone Center performance spaces may be used for presenting completed projects or works. Grant awards will be responsible for submitting a brief report on their activities at the end of the grant period.

The art, culture, and creativity grant programs are supported by the Wells Arts Fund, Harvey Beich Fund, and Cultural Gift Fund.

STONE CENTER SUPPORTER AND FRIEND, STEVE WING PASSES AWAY AT 64

The Stone Center lost a great supporter and friend with the passing of UNC Professor and environmental justice activist, Dr. Steve Wing. Wing was an active participant in many Stone Center programs, specifically the Stone Center’s Social Justice Series. Wing and fellow activist Naeema Muhammad, of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, lead multiple discussions during the Center’s long-running series. The pair engaged students, faculty and community about environmental issues impacting our state in the context of social justice, activism and environmental justice.

Wing, associate professor of epidemiology at UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health, had been a member of the public health faculty since 1985. Educated at Vassar as an undergraduate and having earned a master’s degree in sociology at Duke, he completed doctoral studies in epidemiology at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983. His long list of honors reflects the social causes for which he worked so diligently – an award from the Concerned Citizens of Tillery and Land Loss Fund, an advocacy group for an underserved black community that has advocated staunchly for environmental justice (1997), a certificate of honor from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (2003), the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Research Integrity Award (2009), the American Public Health Association Environment Section’s Homer N. Calver Award (2011), the Self-Determination Award from the Black Workers for Justice (2014), and the John O. Blackburn Award, presented by NC WARN, a nonprofit organization focused on stemming climate change through advocacy for clean energy (2016).

Dr. Wing will be sorely missed by the Stone Center and we are sincerely grateful that he shared his time with the Stone Center and our community.

NBA STAR AND TAR HEEL ALUM BRENDAN HAYWOOD TO SERVE AS COMMUNIVERSITY AMBASSADOR

Former UNC basketball standout and recently retired NBA star Brendan Haywood, has signed on to play a major role in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center’s Communiversity Youth Program. Haywood, a lifelong public servant and supporter of youth programs and charitable causes nationwide, has agreed to serve as a Communiversity Youth Program (CYP) Ambassador in addition to his previous involvement as a cornerstone supporter. The Communiversity Youth Program (CYP), which serves local K-8th grade students, is one of the Center’s longest standing program and is currently in the midst of its 25 years of programming. Brendan’s gift and his active participation will help the program educate, inspire and empower Communiversity’s young scholars. In 2012, Haywood’s Foundation donated $10,000 to Communiversity. Since Brendan’s initial gift of $10,000 in 2012, the program has continued to grow, and has established partnerships with local organizations and restaurants such as Lantern, to provide unique learning experiences for scholars.

Brendan played for the Tar Heels from 1997-2001 earning second team All-ACC and All-America honors his senior year. He was a first round draft pick in 2001, and before retiring in 2015, won a championship ring as part of the Dallas Mavericks in 2011. Brendan now spends his days as a basketball analyst for CBS, ESPN and NBATV.

“This partnership has been a long time coming and I’m glad to announce it. From working with the Center in the past I’ve realized that my vision for giving back to the community and state align perfectly with Dr. Stone’s and it’s an honor to create a deeper connection. Together we’ll do great things and make an even bigger impact,” said Haywood.

Since its inception in 1992, CYP has connected the vision of Dr. Stone and the work and resources of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center with the UNC campus community and local and state communities through service-learning, social justice outreach, and arts and cultural programming. Working in cooperation with other University departments and the Chapel Hill Carrboro school systems, CYP has established lasting relationships and built an important bridge between the University and these communities.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR BROWN GALLERY 2018-19 EXHIBITION SEASON

The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is accepting proposals for exhibitions for the period September 2018 – December 2018; and January 2019 – May 2019; and September 2019 – December 2019. Proposals will be accepted from established and emerging artists, or groups presenting new and challenging works that reflect the mission of the Stone Center and the Brown Gallery and Museum. We are interested in work in a variety of media and techniques that may not fall within traditional boundaries.

The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2017. Your proposal should provide background on your concept for the exhibition, a statement on how it fits into the mission of the Brown Gallery and Museum, and all artists that will be included in the show. Submissions should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the following support materials:

• A brief artist’s statement, and/or short narrative about the your work;
• A current CV or resume, listing all previous exhibitions if applicable;
• One of the following: a slide sheet of 15 to 20 35mm slides; or a CD with 10 to 15 digital images in jpeg format, or documentation in a DVD or digital samples online. All slides or digital images must be numbered and identified accompanied by a list indicating title, date, medium and dimensions (height x width x depth).
• Do not send original works of art.

Visit the Stone Center’s website for more information on the Gallery and its mission www.stonecenter.unc.edu. Gallery and Exhibition Guidelines can be found on the dropdown menu under “the building”.

Please send all submissions to:
Brown Gallery Art Committee
The Stone Center for Black Culture and History
150 South Rd., CB#5250
UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5250

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SEAN DOUGLAS FELLOWSHIP AND UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Sean Douglas Leadership Fellows Program

The Sean Douglas Leadership Fellows (SDLF) Program provides an opportunity for undergraduate students interested in gaining practical experience in planning and managing arts, cultural and academic programs while serving as an intern at the Stone Center and working closely with the Director and Stone Center staff.

Sean Douglas Fellows will receive a stipend for completing the program. The internship covers a 10-week period and is open to all registered UNC-Chapel Hill sophomores, juniors and seniors in good academic standing who are majoring in African American and African diaspora arts and cultures. The deadline to apply for the Full SDLF is March 7, 2017 at 5 p.m.

Applicants for the SDLF will be selected on the basis of a combination of factors including scholarship, record of campus and off-campus participation in service/social justice activities, clarity in describing their objectives for participating in the program, and quality of recommendations submitted in support of their application.

Applicants must submit:

• A brief narrative of no more than 4 pages that addresses the criteria described above;
• An official or unofficial transcript (you may also include a brief resume outlining your extracurricular activities, awards, and other supporting background information);
• Two letters of recommendation (from a faculty or staff member that is familiar with you and your work).

Submit your application to stonecenter@unc.edu, or you may hand deliver to Christopher Wallace at Room 215, the Stone Center. For information call (919) 962-9001 or email chrislw@email.unc.edu.

Summer and Fall 2017 Undergraduate and Graduate International Studies Fellowship

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History will be accepting applications from UNC undergraduate and graduate students for its Summer and Fall 2017 International Studies Fellowship beginning January 21, 2017. Recipients are awarded up to $2,500 toward academic research or study in an international setting. Through the fellowships, the program supports the participation of students of color and other underrepresented students in travel and study abroad programs. Students who plan to study abroad in the summer or fall of 2017 who are in good standing and enrolled full-time are eligible to apply for the fellowship.

Full instructions and applications are available at the Stone Center, suite 215 or on the Center’s website at www.stonecenter.unc.edu/standing-programs. The application deadline is February 28, 2017. For more information on the fellowship, contact Chris Wallace at (919) 962-9001 or email chrislw@email.unc.edu.

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Applicants must explain how they will contribute to the mission of the Stone Center as a result of their study abroad experience. They should also explain how their academic, extracurricular and social activities during the academic year and the Summer/Fall study abroad fellowship will contribute to personal and professional development, and how they plan to share what they learn abroad via service/community work, outreach, or other means.

Applicants for the Summer Fellowship must be registered full-time at UNC-Chapel Hill for at least 6 hours during Fall 2017 and plan to participate in an academic program outside the United States. "Summer" and "Fall" are defined as the following: Summer 2017: May 21st – August 19th; Fall 2017: August 21st – December 19th.

Applicants for the Fall Fellowship must be registered full-time at UNC-Chapel Hill for at least 6 hours during Summer 2017 and plan to participate in an academic program outside the United States. "Summer" and "Fall" are defined as the following: Summer 2017: May 21st – August 19th; Fall 2017: August 21st – December 19th.

Applicants must submit:

• A brief summary of your personal, academic and professional background (maximum 1 page);
• A statement on how you plan to contribute to the mission of the Stone Center during your academic program abroad;
• A statement on how you plan to share what you learn abroad with others (maximum 1 page);
• A list of other extracurricular and community engagement activities since starting at UNC-Chapel Hill (maximum 1 page);
• A current 2016-2017 transcript (required).

Submit your application to stonecenter@unc.edu, or you may hand deliver to Christopher Wallace at Room 215, the Stone Center. For information call (919) 962-9001 or email chrislw@email.unc.edu.
HE WAS A POEM, HE WAS A SONG. UNC MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEK COMMEMORATION EVENT

A tribute to the legacy of Dr. King in verse and song, featuring local choirs, including the Hillside High School Choir from Durham, NC. The program will also include poetry and spoken word performances. This event is part of UNC at Chapel Hill’s annual MLK week celebration. This event is free and open to the public. To RSVP to this event please visit: www.stonecenter.unc.edu or call (919) 962-9001.

PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON

La Sombra y el Espíritu V: The Beautiful Somewhere: The Art of Philemona Williamson will be on display through April 24, 2017.

EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION, FEATURING ARTIST TALK BY PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON

Williamson, a native New Yorker, currently resides and works in Upper Montclair, New Jersey and has a studio in Bloomfield. Her paintings depict children and adolescents, which come from her imagination and some from her own childhood. Williamson's most popular medium is oil on linen.

Her work has been shown in many one-person and group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad, including the IV Bienal Internacional de Pintura en Cuenca, Ecuador, in 1994. She is represented in numerous private and public collections, including The Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina; Hampton University Museum, VA; Sheldon Art Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE; Mott-Warsh Art Collection, Flint, MI, and AT&T.

EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION, FEATURING ARTIST TALK BY PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON

January 26 | 7 p.m.
Stone Center Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum

For more information about events, please call the Stone Center at (919) 962-9001, email stonecenter@unc.edu or visit www.stonecenter.unc.edu.
February 17 | 7 p.m.  
Stone Center  

"POWER!! STOKELY CARMICHAEL PERFORMANCE"  

In June 1966, during the last great march of the Civil Rights Movement, a young activist changed the battle cry from “Freedom Now!” to “Power!” Now, on the 50th Anniversary of this march, witness the rise of Stokely Carmichael, who would become the energizing force of the Black Power Movement. In this blistering one-man show, you will be transported back to the summer of 1966 and encounter multiple characters that Stokely Carmichael encountered during the days of the Civil Rights Movement. The production is tense, funny, heartbreaking, informative, engaging and non-stop entertaining.

Admission is free, advance registration is requested. Call (919) 962-9001, email stonecenter@unc.edu or visit www.stonecenter.unc.edu to register.

March 5 | 3 p.m.  
UNC Friday Center  

THE LANGSTON HUGHES PROJECT PERFORMANCE  

Recently voted the “Best Live Performance” for 2016 by the Jazz FM Awards in London, UK, The Langston Hughes Project is a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes’ kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite, featuring the Ron McCurdy Quartet. Ask Your Mama: 12 Mood for Jazz is a twelve-part epic poem which Hughes scored with musical cues drawn from blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie woogie, bebop and progressive jazz, Latin “cha cha” and Afro-Cuban mambo music, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso, and African drumming – a creative masterwork left unperformed at his death. By way of videography, this concert performance links the words and music of Hughes’ poetry to topical images of Ask Your Mama’s people, places, and events, and to the works of the visual artists Langston Hughes admired or collaborated with most closely over the course of his career.

Admission is free, advance registration is requested. Call (919) 962-3000, (866) 441-3683, or email fridaycenter@unc.edu to register.

March 23 | 7 p.m.  
Hitchcock Room  

Daniel O. Sayers • A Desolate Place for a Defiant People: The Archaeology of Maroons, Indigenous Americans, and Enslaved Laborers in the Great Dismal Swamp (University Press of Florida, 2014)  

In the 250 years before the Civil War, the Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia and North Carolina was a brutal landscape. It was also a protective refuge for marginalized individuals, including Native Americans, African American maroons, free African Americans, and outcast Europeans. In the first thorough archaeological examination of this unique region, Daniel Sayers exposes and unravels the complex social and economic systems developed by these defiant communities that thrived on the periphery.

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April 11 | 3:30 p.m.  
Bull’s Head Bookshop  

Chérie Ndaliko • Necessary Noise: Music, Film, and Charitable Imperialism in the East of Congo (Oxford University Press, 2016)  

Since 1997, the war in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has taken more than 6 million lives and shapes the daily existence of the nation’s residents. While the DRC is often portrayed in international media as an unproductive failed state, the Congolese have turned increasingly to art-making to express their experience to external eyes. Author Chérie Rivers Ndaliko argues that cultural activism and the enthusiasm to produce art exists in Congo as a remedy for the social ills of war and as a way to communicate a positive vision of the country.

Chérie Rivers Ndaliko is a professor in the Music Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and co-director of the Yole!Africa cultural center in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

April 20 | 3:30 p.m.  
Bull’s Head Bookshop  

Paulette A. Ramsay • Afro-American Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation (NYU Press, 2016)  

Paulette Ramsay’s study analyzes cultural and literary material produced by Afro-Mexicans on the Costa Chica de Guerrero y Oaxaca, Mexico, to undermine and overturn claims of mestizaje or Mexican homogeneity. The author points to the need for an end all attempts at extending the discourse, whether for political or other reasons, that there are no identifiable Afro-descendants in Mexico. The undeniable existence of distinctively black Mexicans and their contributions to Mexican multiculturalism is patently recorded in these pages.

Paulette A. Ramsay is Senior Lecturer in Spanish, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. She is an interdisciplinary academic who has published widely in the areas of Afro-Hispanic literature and culture.
A special thanks to our loyal donors, and to our anonymous donors, who support the work of the Stone Center. Your generosity provided opportunities for students to travel and study abroad, supported numerous scholarly and social justice outreach initiatives, art and documentary exhibitions and the Communiversity Youth Program. We are deeply grateful for your support of the Stone Center this, and every year!

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Bobby R. Best            Vivian R. Leavens
Crystal D. Biles       Johnnie A. Lee
Pamela W. Bradsher      William H. LeNoir
Ashalia Brooks          Roy P. Linville
Gala N. Britt            Keremy L. Little
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